

# Asquith Mixed Probus Club ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



AMPC meeting at Magpies Waitara in November 2023



The **Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc.** was formed by the Rotary Club of Berowra on 2 October 2008.

Club No: 9003799 • District: 9680 • Inc. No.: 9890687

This is its **fifteenth** annual report

## NAME

[Constitution: 1]

The name of this club shall be The Asquith Mixed Probus Club Incorporated

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

[Constitution: 2]

(a) The purpose of this club shall be to advance intellectual and cultural interests among adult persons who have retired or are semi-retired from their former occupations.

(b) It will hold regular meetings and arrange activities to provide opportunities for fellowship, the development of acquaintance and social interaction.

(c) It shall strive to be seen as a worthwhile organisation by the local community.

## MEMBERSHIP

[Constitution: 3]

(a) Membership of this club shall be open to retired and semi-retired professional and business people and others from any worthy vocation who appreciate and value opportunities for social contact with others in similar circumstances.

(b) Membership of this club shall be primarily for residents of Asquith & surrounding suburbs and districts.

The maximum membership of the club shall be 150 members. [Standing Resolutions: 6]

The Management Committee shall endeavour to maintain a gender balance of not more than 60% of any one gender. [Standing Resolutions: 7]

## Membership 2023-24

As reported under Membership later, there were 146 members at the end of the 2023-24 year.

### *Annual Report 2023-24*

Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc. (AMPC)

9 Warruga Crescent, Berowra Heights 2082

This *Annual Report* compiled by Jeremy Steele

All AMPC enquiries to President 2023-24: Sandra Death 9476 3551.

## MANAGEMENT

[Constitution: 4]

The Club shall be managed by a Management Committee, comprising a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer (collectively "Committee Members"), and such number of other members of the Management Committee ("Officers") as provided in the By-laws or the club's Standing Resolutions.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

[Constitution: 5]

An annual general meeting for the election of Committee Members and Officers shall be held on or before March 31 of each year.

## Meeting dates

The annual general meeting was held on Thursday 2 March 2023 and Thursday 7 March 2024.

## COMMITTEE 2023-24

At the March 2023 Annual General Meeting the following were elected:

### *Officers*

President	Sandra Death
Vice-President Elect	Jim Jeffries
Vice-President	Denise Mayhew
Secretary	Pam Slater
Treasurer	Angus Dougall

### *Committee*

Bulletin	Sylvia Gratton
Hospitality	Rhonda Wilson
Membership	Barry Willick
Walks Representative	Dianne Watson
Programme (Speakers)	Jim Jeffries
Tours/Excursions	Mal Steel
Welfare	Vicki McPherson
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Assistant Tours/Excursion	Suellen Steel
Past President	John Davies



## The year 2023-24

# President's Report



It has been an honour and privilege to serve as your President this year.

This year has been of further growing the club with new members and working with a great Management Committee to make Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc. *the* best possible Club for you, the members. I thank you for the opportunity you have given me—especially your enthusiasm and support in this role.

Our Club is entering its 16th year, and we are always keen to have new members involved in the running of this vibrant organisation. They bring new skills and ideas, which are always needed to grow our club for the future.

I have had two Vice Presidents who have given me great support, and I am sure that President Elect Jim Jeffries will fulfil the role of President in an outstanding manner.

I especially wish to thank Pam Slater for the tireless, efficient and mature way she has carried out the tasks of Secretary. This is a very important role in the life of our club. Thank you, Angus Dougall, for managing our Club finances.

What can I say again this year about our club Bulletin editor, Sylvia Gratton? I think each monthly issue speaks volumes on how

professional Sylvia is in the production of our Bulletin: thank you, Sylvia.

Thank you to our Tours and Activities Organisers, Mal & Suellen Steel. Our wonderful committee of Yenda Holland, Helen Nancarrow and Lula Andersen have been researching great value outings and they have provided us with a varied and extremely interesting program this year: thank you, too.

A very big thank you to everyone who has helped over the past year in the running of our vibrant club. Volunteering is such an excellent way to meet the members both old and new.

I wish the incoming Committee every success for the coming year and encourage members to become more involved in our club. By becoming involved you will meet more people, and by joining in the various activities the more friendship, fellowship and fun you will have in your lives.

Finally, again thanks to you for all your support. I know that you will again get behind the new incoming Committee with the same support you have given the Committee this year.

*Sandra Death*



## Committee Reports

### Secretary



*The role of secretary is a standard one. The occupant, this year Pam Slater, is charged with looking after the administrative interests of the*

*organisation. This mostly means preparing the agendas for meetings, and writing up the minutes. Another function is to manage the correspondence of the organisation not directly handled by other officers. There is the occasional document to be submitted to Probus South Pacific, representing 'correspondence out', while various commercial interests send fliers and the like seeking business from the outings organiser, or the bank sends occasional statements.*

*Pam Slater reports as follows for the year 2023-24:*

Another great year at Probus, plenty of activities to report on. Quite a few new members joined our club, which was good to see. Now it's time for some of these members to join the Committee in one role or another.

I will be standing down after 7 years as Secretary. From that, you can tell it's not a bad job to have, but we need new blood and there are a lot of younger faces out there now who can

take the reins. I have enjoyed the mateship of the Committee, but things change in our lives and we have to change with them. Thank you to the Committee for your support and attending to matters in a timely manner. I wish the new Secretary all the best, and I am happy to assist if required.

*Pam Slater*

### Treasurer

*The treasurer superintends the income, expenditures, and all financial aspects of the Club. He or she prepares a monthly summary of the financial standing of the Club and presents this to the membership, and to the Committee, for information. The treasurer prepares an annual budget for the Club, in consultation with the president, and also recommends the level of the Club membership fees. The Treasurer also superintends the audited accounts of the Club, which are published in the Annual Report. The treasurer is an executive member of the Management Committee, along with the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary.*



*Treasurer Angus Dougall reported for the year as follows:*

Again this year it is pleasing to see most members are paying for outings and other activities by using either the envelope system at monthly meetings or by making direct EFT deposits into our Probus bank account. In a similar manner, all our suppliers are being paid by EFT.

Generally in past years we have received membership fees much more promptly than is our experience this year.

Membership fees are due now, so please ensure that your fees are paid promptly.

As we did last year, your committee has been able to subsidise the 2023 Birthday Lunch at Bobbin Head—which support, as a non-profit club, we are delighted to be able to provide.

The budget for 2023 planned for expenses of \$10 595, whereas the actual club expenses came in at \$9706. For the 2024 year our budget has been set at \$11 470, which is somewhat up from the 2023 experience.

The committee seems to have worked harmoniously this year, and I would thank Sandra Death, who has been an able and competent president. Also thanks to Mal Steel for providing guidance and assistance with the various outings.

*Angus Dougall.*

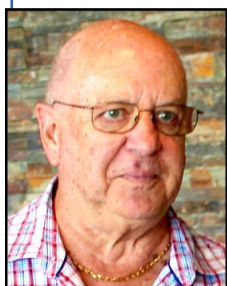
# Club administration

## Membership

*The role of the membership officer is to keep a watch over the membership, seeking to achieve a full enrolment of 150 while maintaining a gender balance within the limits of 60:40.*

*He or she receives applications for membership, refers them to the committee for consideration, procures membership badges, manages awards for those reaching 80 and 90 years of age, and keeps a record of attendance at meetings.*

*As membership officer, Barry Willick reported for the year 2023-24 as follows:*



At the time of writing this report we have 144 members, which includes one honorary member. And a lot of our

members as yet have not paid for 2024.

One of our members, Pat Heasty, passed away in this past year and is sadly missed.

During the year we have welcomed 8 new members.

Ten members decided not to renew their membership for 2023. One member resigned during the year.

At this stage we still have 35 Foundation members but have been told two of these will not renew for 2024.

*Barry Willick*

## Ambassador's Report

*Probus South Pacific (PSPL) in 2016 instituted a system of 'ambassadors', one for each Probus club. Because of the large area covered by PSPL, a system of regional 'clusters' was devised. Asquith Mixed Probus forms part of Cluster 12. Meetings of ambassadors are held four times a year, at which matters of common interest are discussed, and suggestions made for passing back to each club.*



*John Channon, AMPC Ambassador since 2019, reports as follows:*

Preliminary meetings to establish a system of 'ambassadors' representing participant Probus clubs took place at Probus South Pacific (PSPL) head office in Parramatta in 2016. Asquith Mixed Probus was placed in 'Cluster 12'. A Cluster is a group of approximately 10-15 clubs that join together to focus on member retention and growth.

A first meeting of Cluster 12 was held at Warrawee Bowling Club on 28 September 2016. This was attended by Silvana Martignago and Monika Prasad (PSPL) and representatives of 19 clubs.

PSPL is organised into various 'districts', Cluster 12 forming part of District 9685. An Ambassador meeting of District 9685 was held on 15 March 2017 at Hornsby RSL, 10 members of constituent clubs

attending. A further meeting of District 9685 clubs was held on 14 June 2017, six representatives of clubs in Cluster 12 attending, together with two representatives from PSPL. A further meeting of this district was scheduled for September 2017.

On 22 January 2019 John Channon attended District 9685's Membership Development Conference at Perth House, Parramatta. Because of restrictions caused by Covid 19 further Ambassador meetings were suspended until 16 May 2023. At that meeting it was decided that:

1. Lists of contact details of club activities co-ordinators, as forwarded to Robert Plant (Ambassador for Warrawee PC), be sent to interested participating clubs;

2. Lists of speakers be shared among the clubs of District 9685.

As stated following the 16 May 2023 meeting John Channon submitted his resignation as Asquith Mixed Probus Ambassador, the position having been made untenable by the AMPC committee. However, this resignation was rescinded at a meeting of the management committee of AMPC, confirmed in writing on 27 June 2023.

At the August 2023 Ambassador meeting, attended by eight club representatives together with Monika Prasad (PSPL), it was not possible to hear what was going on owing to background noise.

No further meetings after this were scheduled for 2023-24.

*John Channon*



## Past President's Report

*The Immediate Past President is entitled to a position on the Committee for a year after he or she steps down. The guidelines from Probus South Pacific state that "this is not an elected position, but rather an appointment to offer support and advice and assist with the succession of the new President." John Davies, president 2022-23, reports:*

I was able to contribute to Committee discussions through the year. There



was, in particular, one task that I performed during my Presidency and was able to continue, and that was the compilation and presentation of the PowerPoint display of the meeting's

Agenda on the screen. To have the Agenda presented on the big screen in this way, with photographs and maps for walks and tours etc., is one of the positive benefits of our move to Magpies.

*John Davies*

## Public Officer

*The Public Officer is the liaison person between the Club and the State government NSW Fair Trading. The Public Officer is responsible for ensuring that the Club operates within its Constitution and within the requirements of the State Model Rules. Often there is little to do, but occasionally a matter of importance arises. It is the Public Officer who makes sure that it is handled correctly.*

*Sandra Death has occupied the position of Public Officer for the Club since June 2015.*

## Historian

*The AMPC was formed on 2 October 2008 yet who can remember everything about it? The minimum role of the historian (or archivist) is to maintain the records of the Club. These include:*

- secretarial (meeting papers: agendas, minutes, associated documents)*
- secretarial (correspondence)*
- financial (budgets, balance sheets, financial reports, etc.)*
- newsletters (the Bulletin) are now preserved on the Club website*

*—other reports, proposals etc.*



In 2023-24 Sandra Death combined the role of Historian with that of Public Officer.

## Website

*The Club has had its own website since 2017. It can be found by typing into Google or other browser 'Asquith Mixed Probus Club website', or by clicking on this link: [asquithmixedprobus.org.au](http://asquithmixedprobus.org.au)*

*Sections of the website include: —Home: basic Club and Probus information, purpose and who may join;*

*—Club Management: including sections on the Constitution and Club policies; office bearers; membership, welfare and forms. And there is a 'Committee only' section. For this section a password is needed, which the Secretary will provide to members. Here can be found the minutes of*

*Club, Committee and annual general meetings back to 2018, photographs of members, and Bulletin issues back to the formation of the Club in 2008.*

*—About us: basic Club information again, when meetings are held, a brief outline of Club operations, a list of presidents, and annual reports back to 2012*

*—Events calendar: all forthcoming events are listed, and events back several years*

*—Activities and interest groups: information on most of the areas shown in this annual report with coloured headings, with the names of the officers responsible*

*—Club Bulletins: showing the editor, and Bulletins 2008–2018.*

*—Photo gallery: a collection of photographs of Club moments, such as pictures taken on walks. This area of the site is under development.*

*—Probus South Pacific: this is a link to Probus information.*

*The webmaster is Robert Allison who reports as follows:*



This year the activity on our website has mainly been keeping the information up-to-date. The club's bulletin contains valuable

information in particular about forthcoming activities, costs, deadlines etc. As some members have been having difficulty getting the club's monthly bulletin by email I remind members that current and previous bulletins are available on the site. I would be happy to receive feedback and suggestions from members on expanding/improving the site. View it at [www.asquithmixedprobus.org.au](http://www.asquithmixedprobus.org.au).

*Robert Allison*

## Principal activities

### Walks

AMPC is a club based on Thursdays. There are four or five Thursdays in a month, the first being allocated to the monthly general meeting and the second to the Committee meeting. Other Thursdays are for the Club's flagship activities.



The fourth Thursday is one such, and that is filled by the monthly Walk. Usually about 25-40 go on the scheduled outing. Often the strolls are not strenuous, but at other times it is tramping along bush tracks, frequently with outstanding views along the way.

All walks offer the chance to join fellow members for a while, and find out what their interests are. Walks are one of the best ways for fulfilling the social side of the Club's objectives, which is why they are as popular as they are.

The Club is indebted to Laurie Keaton for his oversight of the walks over a number of years. Laurie Keaton reported as follows:

The year 2023 saw an unprecedented three walks cancelled and another amended owing to weather conditions.

Variations to Public Risk Insurance has led to bush walks



Thirty-four walkers attended the May Hermitage Walk to Nielsen Park, with some continuing to Watsons Bay. Short and Long Groups paused after Milk Bay at a lookout sampling the sights of Sydney Harbour with city skyscrapers in the background. Straggler and Strollers enjoyed a social outing in Nielsens Park. There were three groups on this outing. The Straggler and Strollers group are not in the picture.

thanks to walk leaders and organisers for the year: Kevin and Diane Watson, Gai and Barry Brown, Russ and Anne Dorey, John Britten and Jeffrey Moore. Thanks also to Dianne Watson for representing us so efficiently on Committee.

Laurie Keaton

Date	Walk	Leaders	Attend
25 Jan	Mrs Macquaries Chair	LK /KW	34
23 Feb	W'craft to Greenwich*	LK/KW	25
23 Mar	Newcastle-Stockton	JB /KW	39
27 Apr	Fish Markets-Glebe	KW/DW	53 ++
27 May	Hermitage – W Bay	LK/K/DW	34
22 Jun	Narrabeen Lakes	BB/GB	46
27 July	Bundeena	LK/JM	31
24 Aug	Bicentennial Park	LK/A/RD	35
28 Sept	Seacliffe Drive#	KW/DW	Canc
26 Oct	Sculpture by the Sea#	LK	Canc
23 Nov	Lookouts# & Function	LK/K/DW	37
	* Walk amended # Walk cancelled ++ Record Attendance		

only being conducted where there are formed trails or paths. The activity has provided for members of varying abilities with two or even three categories accommodated.

A special

### Tours and Excursions

Among the many benefits a Probus club can bring to its members are the occasional trips away, outings and excursions. In fact these are arguably the very best of all. The master-minds of them in 2023-24 were Mal and Suellen Steel.

Their report follows:





Back row L-R Peter Nancarrow, Mal & Suellen, Karl Sperka, Barry & Gai Brown, Elaine Burke\*, Carol Chanon, John Clubley\*, Kay Mossie^, John C  
Middle row L-R Yenda H, Rhonda W, Robyn Rogencamp^, Seniet Abebe, Jenny Clubley\*, Trish Johnson, Sylvia G, Richard Bartholemew\*, Greg  
McKenzie\*, Richard Mossie^  
Front row L-R Kaye Hatch, Helen N, Ally McKenzie\*, Wendy Velthuyzen.

\* Friends or family of members

^ Other local Probus club members



Braving the blustery winds at the most southerly end of Eyre Peninsula at Whalers Bay. The wind comes directly from Antarctica just behind the group.





Barrington Tops: Morning tea beside Smiths lake. Three days were spent enjoying country hospitality in Gloucester and the Barrington Tops.

Barrington Tops: Hiking to the gold mine with indigenous ranger Beau, who showed members how to tell the difference between the itchy plants, and the poisonous ones at Barrington tops. His passion about his culture came through from his music and displays of indigenous tools and instruments that he had created.



Belgenny Farm: A full busload of AMPC members toured John MacArthur's Belgenny Farm.





The year started quietly with a **January** trip to the

Bayview Hotel in **Woy Woy** for a classic pub lunch with sunshine and a catchup with friends.

Glorious weather shone in **February** for an informative tour of the gun emplacements and underground plotting room at **North Head Fort**. Our two guides were fabulous. Some members took the opportunity for a swim.

**March** was hot as we took in two industrial tours in **Port Kembla**. Half our group went into the red-hot steel making plant of BlueScope, while the other half discovered how busy and profitable Port Kembla harbour is to the nation. The Coniston pub provided a sanctuary from the heat and a fabulous lunch.

In **April** we visited the beautiful **Mayfield Gardens** and the family's private estate, getting a behind-the-scenes look at the grounds during the Autumn Festival. We stayed in **Oberon** with Oncourse Tours and had many scenic experiences locally and in the **Blue Mountains** at **Mt Wilson** and **Mt Tomah**. **April** also saw members enjoy lunch and amble around **Dangar Island**.

**May** was a highlight as we met researchers at the **Children's Medical Research Institute** at Westmead. Members were treated to morning tea and lunch

as well as an educational talk on genetics and how researchers are curing childhood illnesses. We toured the labs and some were able to don lab coats and experiment on DNA. Our members also raised a tidy sum of money for research by shopping at their handcrafts store.

In **June** a knowledgeable guide showed us the **Archibald prize exhibition**, then we took ourselves around the new North gallery and its displays.

In **July**, 25 members and friends headed to the **Eyre Peninsula** for seafood, wine and sightseeing, right out to the Nullarbor. Those who did not travel to SA had coffee and cake catchup at Glenorie Bakery.

Forty-five members visited Camden in **August** to see John Macarthur's historic **Belgenny Farm**. This rural experience was capped off by lunch at the Camden Valley Inn and a wine tasting, plus a wine maker tour.

A huge group of 63 members enjoyed the **September Brisbane Waters** historical cruise. We discovered superb views and heard stories of the Coast's boat builders and other colourful characters, followed by a pub lunch back at Woy Woy.

Our committee had been researching great value outings when they came up with our **October** surprise: the 3-day trip to **Barrington Tops and Gloucester**. 31 members and friends enjoyed a great trip to

see the Tops and surrounding community, in order to understand what modern life is like on the land. All agreed it should have been longer.

The good weather came to an end when we had to cancel our **November** trip to see the Jacarandas at Kirribilli. Maybe next year.

Throughout the year lots of photos have been posted to our AMPC private Facebook page, so please catch up if you have not seen them.

A huge thank you to Lula Andersen, Helen Nancarrow and Yenda Holland for all their ideas, time and assistance in planning the activities this year.

*Mal & Suellen Steel*

## Program

*One of the principal features of a Probus club is the address by a good speaker at the monthly general meetings. The role of the organiser of the speaker program is to arrange a balanced collection of informed speakers for the year. In appreciation speakers receive a token payment to cover petrol money.*

*Jim Jeffries, the program organiser, reported for the year as follows:*

We had an interesting range of speakers this year.

Some dealt with history— early Sydney Town and its love affair with "RUM", the story of Hornsby's





own Ginger Meggs, and a nostalgic look at the early days of wireless.

A well-known historian provided a fascinating account of Kangaroo Island.

We learnt of the restoration of Qantas' first jet airliner, found in derelict condition in England, and of flying the old machine back to Queensland.

On a personal level a well-known wedding celebrant gave amusing insights into what can go wrong on the happy day; and we heard the extraordinary story of a girl raised in difficult circumstances becoming an internationally known concert pianist.

The very topical subjects of computer scams and renewable energy were discussed; and we looked at reducing the possibility of falls with the 'Stepping On' program.

For the Year 2024—in January we have a speaker from the Sydney Heritage Fleet, who will discuss the wide range of vessels available for the public to experience bygone days of Sydney harbour. Then in February the story of a shared love of electric cars, which led to romance between retirees.

*Jim Jeffries  
The Speaker Seeker*



*The Bulletin is a monthly magazine of between 10 and 12 pages sent to all members with an email address on about the 22nd of the month. The others pick up, or have posted to them, one of 25 copies*

Jan 5	Jill Bruce	Kangaroo Is
Feb 2	John Cameron	Computer scams
Mar 2	No speaker	AGM
Apr 6	Ross Clements	Renewable Energy
May 4	M. Murphy	RUM- a distilled history
June 1	Norman King	Qantas
Jul 6	Erin Stubbs	Stepping on
Aug 3	Wendy Bull	Weddings
Sep 7	Ambre Hammond	Music
Oct 5	Nathan Tilbury	Ginger Meggs
Nov 2	Graham Sims	Wireless- Golden Years
Jan 4, 2024	Ramon Rees	The Sydney Heritage Fleet
Feb 1	Margaret McDonald and Hugh Sykes	Electric cars

*printed by the Bendigo Bank at no charge.*

*The Bulletin informs members about forthcoming events and outings, and includes notes on Committee meeting discussions, reports on finances and welfare, as well as summaries and photos of club events, and other items of general interest.*

*Space is usually available for items submitted by members.*

*The Bulletin Editor in 2023-24 is Sylvia Gratton, who reports as follows.*

The Bulletin is a monthly edition, which I try to limit to 10 pages in order to encourage members to read it.

Copies of the Bulletin are sent to members who have an email address and for those who do not, Bendigo Bank Berowra print us 20 copies free of charge to distribute at our General Meeting. Any remaining copies are posted out to members. We are very grateful for this free

community service that Bendigo offers us.



As well as the monthly reports from our various groups we have updated information

on finances, and Committee meeting discussions. We also have photos of recent outings and walks, and information about coming events and outings.

Members are encouraged to contribute to the Bulletin. I am always looking for help with jokes and items of interest.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed over the past year and to the Committee for their editing assistance.

*Sylvia Gratton*

## Other AMPC activities

### Welfare

*WELFARE: The health, happiness and well-being of a person or group.*

*WELL-BEING: the state of being comfortable, healthy and/or happy.*

*Some of the responsibilities of the Club's welfare officer are to keep in touch with sick or bereaved members, or those who are in need of moral support or physical help; and to advise the Executive Committee if support is needed, either by member visits or transport to meetings.*

*The welfare officer may keep in touch with members by telephone or personal visits.*



*Vicki McPherson is the Welfare Officer and reports as follows:*

I attended the funerals of member Patricia Heasty and of Ossie Isenegger's wife, Christine; may they rest in peace. Condolence cards were sent on behalf of AMPC.

Some of our members have experienced illness and operations this year. I rang and followed up on those that I knew about. Get-well cards have been sent on behalf of AMPC.

I can see, going through my diary, that good old COVID is still about. Take care out there.

I have rung or texted people on their birthdays. Sorry if I missed you, inevitable at my age. Also sorry I forgot to take birthday chocolates to the November meeting: I was berated by at least one member (who shall remain nameless). I hope everyone had a nice birthday.

I make a welfare report at the monthly meetings, only mentioning a name with the permission of the member concerned. And I submit a written report at the committee meetings.

I hope 2024 is a good year for all of us.

*Vicki McPherson*

### Hospitality and Dining Out

*The role of the hospitality officer is to promote the social character of the Club. He or she is always on*



*Hospitality Officer Rhonda Wilson reported for the year as follows:*

*the lookout for any activity that might be arranged that will encourage greater participation by members of the Club.*

Being new to the Hospitality role I experienced both problems to solve and great times.

#### Morning Teas

Morning Teas on our meeting days bought a few challenges. The occasional insufficient catering provided for the three serving stations, and confusion when stations were changed etc. Having volunteers at the stations helped with the people-flow during the break. Thank you Morning Tea monitors.

#### Dining Out

In October a successful day was had by a group of members who attended the Fiddler Hotel, Rouse Hill. Going by train and having half-price meals made it an inexpensive social lunch.

During the year, for something different a large group of members dined out at an 'all you can eat' Japanese Restaurant at Pennant Hills. Mixed feedback was received (mostly positive).

#### Birthday BBQ

Our October Birthday Bash at The Pavilion, Bobbin Head, was well attended. Weatherwise it was a perfect day, sitting under the shade eating sausage and salad followed by delicious birthday cake. A big thank you to all of the helpers: buying food, baking, cooking the barbecue, setting up the tables and food, cleaning up—the list goes on,



and too many names to thank individually. This brings out the friendship and camaraderie of being a Probus member.

### Christmas Lunch

Instead of our usual Meeting on 7 December, a Christmas Party was held at the Magpies.

Although I was not able to be present I arranged the event, even securing an appearance from a very special guest. The day was organised into the singing of carols, quizzes, prizes, food and drinks, laughter and a chance to get to know other members of our group. The event was hugely popular with 77 members attending.

A big thank you to Judy Thompson and team who stood in for me on the day. To John Davies, too, for the great work on the Christmas Carols. I have heard this day was very successful.

I will not be standing for this role next year so would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Committee for their hard work in making AMPC such a successful Club.

### Mens Group

Male members of the Club are invited to join the Men's Group. Meetings are held in the Pavilion at Magpies Club in Waitara at 10 am on the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings are not held only when there is a clash with other Club events. Every meeting is different, with easy and lively conversations on a range of topics.

*There is no agenda and topics arise spontaneously. Meetings last about two hours and some participants have lunch at Magpies after the meeting. All men in the club are welcome. To join the mailing list, contact*

*[Robert\\_allison@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Robert_allison@optusnet.com.au).*

*The coordinator, Robert Allison, reports as follows:*

We continued to have interesting meetings during 2023 in which we discussed a variety of topics. We usually order a coffee at the start before finding a table, and we always find lots to talk about. After the meeting some members stay for lunch.

*Robert Allison*

### Fifth Thu. BBQs

*AMPC is a club based primarily on recurring activities on Thursdays:*

- 1st Thu.: General meeting*
- 2nd Thu.: Committee meeting*
- 3rd Thu.: Outing*
- 4th Thu.: Walk*

*In 2016 a regular event was set up for months in which there were five Thursdays: the 'Fifth Thursday Barbecue'. These barbecues have since then been superintended by Lance Williamson, who reports as follows.*

When there is a fifth Thursday in the month the Club holds a barbecue. Galston Park offers a big weatherproof shed which, although draughty, is next to the parking area and toilets, and can take many more



than the average attendance of 36 AMPC members.

For these barbecues Barbara W. usually baked cakes, and provided mulled wine, sangria, punch and hot water for tea and coffee. Members bring their own food and drinks, plates, cutlery, cups. Afterwards the electric barbecues are left spotlessly clean.

Meeting members and enjoying each other's company is the purpose of the exercise, and a good time is had by all.

### Book Exchange table

*At the monthly meetings a table is set up on which books are displayed. There are jigsaws too. Members are invited to help themselves to any or as many of the items there, to take home and enjoy. This idea is exchange: to borrow, and return; and to provide any of one's own items for the exchange table.*



*The table is superintended by George Gates and Robert Montgomery, who report as follows.*

The book and jig saw puzzle exchange table is at the back of the Probus meeting room. It offers members an opportunity to bring books from home and exchange them for something they haven't already read. There are approximately 100 books on display at each meeting and

there is no limit to the number of books you can bring or take. There is always plenty of variety for the discerning reader.

Please note, damaged or mouldy books are generally not popular with members and rarely get taken home. So please bring books that are in good condition.

Books that are not immediately exchanged get displayed three times in total before they are placed in street libraries or similar.

*George Gates*

## Dolls for the Hospital

*The Asquith Mixed Probus Club undertakes just the one activity intended to be of benefit to others. This is known as 'Dolls for the Hospital'.*

This activity was begun by Barbara Williamson on her own in about 2011 when a conversation with a few



women started what is now known at the 'dolls group'. They meet at Barbara's home on the second Wednesday of each month to socialise and to produce a remarkable item: the knitted doll. Among the volunteers are those who knit, members who fill the dolls and sew the parts together, and others who make the faces and so complete the gift. During this period over

10 000 of these knitted dolls have been donated to Westmead Children's Hospital for distribution to the children, always very excited to receive one. Thanks are due to these volunteers for their assistance and contributions that allow our Probus Club to maintain this enjoyable and worthy activity. A special thank you to Carolyn Channon for her most valuable assistance during Barbara's absenteeism this year.

*Sandra Death*

## 500 Card Game

*For members who like, or who have heard of and would like to try, the card game '500', there is a group of enthusiasts who welcome new participants. It is superintended by Mary Glasby.*



The 500 Card Club began in the 2015-16 year. It is a friendly and casual group that welcomes new members. No experience is necessary and newcomers can be taught how to play this enjoyable old card game.

Sessions are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Magpies Waitara, at 10am to about noon. It is free.

*Mary Glasby*

## Mahjong

*As with the '500' card game above, there is a group of Mah-jong enthusiasts, led by Pam Clarke, who reports as follows.*

We have had another successful year with 17 women enjoying lunch and Mah-Jong.



We generally get between 8 and 13 turning up each week. Games are played at 1.30 pm every Wednesday at the Asquith Bowling Club. Mah-Jong can be played with either three or four players and, although luck is involved, it is more a game against yourself—testing the brain matter. New members are welcome: just contact me on 0416 216 962.

*Pam Clarke*



The dolls sweatshop group: Barbara Williamson, Margaret Young, Pam Clarke, Trish Taylor, Jenny Gamble, Noelene Brogan, Helen Nancarrow.



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## 1 January – 31 December 2023

The Probus year runs from April one year to the end of March in the following year. AMPC follows this formula, running from a March AGM until the next March AGM. Because accounts have to be finalised before an AGM, the AMPC financial year has been decreed to be the same as

the calendar year. Consequently for this AMPC Annual Report 2023-24, the following AMPC Financial Report is for the year 1 January to 31 December 2022.

The Auditors have reported as follows:

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Asquith Mixed Probus Club			
Inc No: 9890687			
9 Warruga Crescent, Berowra Heights, NSW 2082			
Statement of Financial Position			
As at 31 December 2023			
Assets			
Cheque Account	\$12,501.14		
Petty Cash	\$200.00		
Guest speaker advance	\$205.00		
Bank Term deposit	\$5,060.27		
Total Current Assets			\$17,966.41
Current Liabilities			
Membership Fees in Advance	\$3744.00		
2023 Actual Income in Advance	~		
		\$3744	
Liabilities—Activities paid in advance			
Birthday Lunch	\$1203.75		
Christmas Lunch	\$273		
Victorian High Country	—		
Tall Ships Day Cruise	\$2349.50		
Total Current Advance Trip Payments		\$3316.25	
Equity			
Surplus/Deficit B/Fwd		\$10,065.56	
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)		\$840.6	
Total Member Equity			\$17,966.41

This report  
includes Year-End  
Adjustments.

<b>Asquith Mixed Probus Club</b>		
Inc No: 9890687		
9 Warruga Crescent, Berowra Heights, NSW 2082		
<b>Income and Expenditure Report</b>		
<b>1 January 2023 to 31 December 2022</b>		
Income		
Membership Fees	\$9,773.50	
Joining Fees	\$375	
Visitors Fees	\$60.00	
interest Received	\$96.51	
Miscellaneous Income	\$102.00	
Activity Surplus/Deficit	\$139.93	
Total income		\$10,546.94
Expenses		
Bank Charges	~	
Probus Administration Fees	\$2395.25	
Filing and Incorporation Fees	\$224.22	
Pins, Badges, etc.	\$159.97	
Printing and Stationery	425.99	
Sundry Expenses	\$213.16	
Venue & Morning Tea costs	\$5,662.50	
Website & Software	\$175.25	
Welfare	~	
Guest speaker Fees paid	\$450.00	
Total Expenses		\$9,706.34
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year to date		\$840.6

**Asquith Mixed Probus Club Auditor's Report for the end  
of year 2023**

I have had meetings with the Treasurer, examined the Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement of Asquith Mixed Probus Club. I also examined the Bank Statements and supporting documents such as receipts, invoices and remittance advices kept by the Treasure relating to the activities of the Club.

It is my opinion that the Financial Reports, as presented, represent a true and fair view of the financial position of the Asquith Mixed Probus Club.

I thank the Treasurer, Angus Dougall, for his cooperation and assistance.

Robert Allison