

# Asquith Mixed Probus Club ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



General meeting 6 February 2025



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 **sixteenth** 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 2024-25

As reported under Membership later, there were 140 members at the end of the 2024-25 year.

*Annual Report 2024-25*

Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc. (AMPC)

37 Alan Avenue, Hornsby 2077

This *Annual Report* compiled by Jeremy Steele

All AMPC enquiries to President 2024-25: Jim Jeffries  
9940 3056, mobile 0401 428 950

## 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 7 March 2024 and Thursday 6 March 2025.

## COMMITTEE 2024-25

At the March 2024 Annual General Meeting the following were elected:

### *Officers*

President	Jim Jeffries
Vice-President Elect	Vacant
Vice-President	Vicki McPherson
Acting Secretary	John Davies*
Treasurer	Angus Dougall

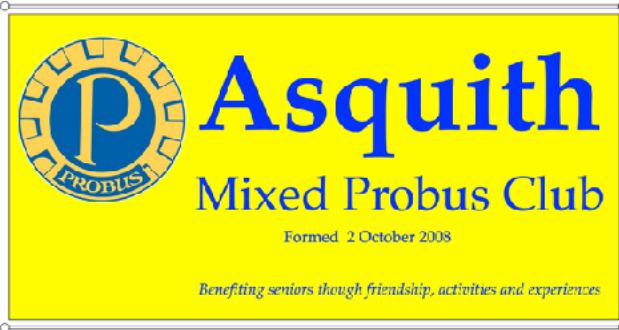
### *Committee*

Bulletin	Sylvia Gratton
Hospitality	Judy Thompson
Membership	Barry Willick
Assistant Membership	Denise Mayhew
Walks Representative	Dianne Watson
Programme (Speakers)	Jim Jeffries
Tours/Excursions	Trish Taylor
Welfare	Nita Shields
Assistant Secretary	John Davies
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Past President	Sandra Death

\*Ruth Barwick, Secretary, from April 2024

# The year 2024-25

## President's Report



I was most pleased to be selected as your President for 2024-25. There was the expected learning curve but the Committee were always most supportive. I met many people and made new friends, so I do recommend a spell on the Committee for all.

I became aware of difficulties new members may face when first joining our meetings. So I have urged members to be aware of these people and include them in your respective groups.

Like many Probus Clubs we have had difficulty in persuading members to participate in the running of the Club. However, I am pleased to report that all important positions will be filled at the Annual General Meeting in March.

So I would like to thank our Committee and all the other people involved in club activities for their many achievements during the year.

I wish to acknowledge the following, who are those who make the Asquith Mixed Probus a success. Trish Taylor, who has looked after the numerous activities, outings and experiences during the year, and Yenda Holland who arranged the six-day trip away to the Griffith Spring Festival. Laurie Keaton for the Walks program, which is always popular; the effort involved in organising the walks contributes to making membership of the Club so worthwhile.



I also acknowledge our hard working secretary Ruth Barwick, our treasurer Angus Dougall, the Bulletin editor Sylvia Gratton, the superintendent of Welfare Nita Shields, Judy Thompson, whose efforts in Hospitality resulted in successful outings and events, notably the Club's Christmas lunch and Bobbin Head breakfast; and the longstanding membership officer, Barry Willick, who also regularly brightens the general meetings with fables and foibles.

The Club would not succeed without the contributions of the versatile Robert Allison (auditor, webmaster and leader of the men's group), as well as Mary Glasby (500 Card Club), Pam Clarke (Mahjong), Carol Channon (Dolls for the Hospital), John Channon (Fifth Thursday Barbecues) and Robert Montgomery (Jigsaws) and George Gates (Exchange Table). Thanks are due to all, and let us look forward to another successful and happy year in 2025.

Finally I encourage members of the Club to help out in running any of these activities, or to suggest new activities, especially if they have a personal ability or interest in them. They would be more than welcome.

*Jim Jeffries*

# Committee Reports

## Secretary



*The role of Secretary is a standard one. The current occupant, Ruth Barwick, 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.*

*Ruth Barwick reports as follows for the year 2024-25:*

I had big shoes to fill when I took over Pam Slater's role as Secretary after last year's AGM. Everyone was so kind, and people even thanked me for 'saving the club', presumably because a club cannot operate without a secretary. I had been a member of AMPC for only a year, and like many people joining Probus, knowing little about how it operates, I had not

envisaged a future on the Committee. I had never been a secretary, nor what I termed a 'Committee type', and had to both learn and relearn many computer skills not used since my teaching career. A steep learning curve. I had never prepared agendas or minutes and I thank Jim Jeffries our president for working with me on these essential aspects of the job. But I have to admit that I feel blessed by the friendships formed with others on the Committee and also with other club members through walks, excursions and dining out experiences. I look forward to my first 'away' tour with the club later this year. Deeper involvement enhances the sense of engagement and real enjoyment of club membership. I cannot promise to equal Pam's astonishing record of 7 years as secretary but I give her full credit for this impressive effort. A hard act to follow indeed! Thank you to my fellow Committee members for your support, hard work and friendship. I look forward to another great year at Asquith Mixed Probus.

*Ruth Barwick*

## 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:*

For the year ending 31 December 2024, the AMPC club has an excess of income of \$748.38 over expenses, which is not a masterstroke of budgeting, but should be seen as a reasonable estimation from your treasurer, having obtained approval from both your committee and as presented to you all at an earlier monthly meeting in 2024.

Additionally our club has a net assets figure of \$14 883.54. This simply means that every member has an interest in the club of approximately \$106.31 each. For one reason or another, when a Probus Club closes, the residue of funds (if any remain) is returned to Probus South Pacific.

My thanks go to Robert Allison who again this year has audited our accounts. His eye for detail is appreciated and I believe he will be this club's auditor for the December 2025 year. My observation is that his views and attitudes to our club are exemplary.

It is pleasing to me that members are maintaining payments for activities by using the envelope system at monthly meetings, or by making direct EFT deposits into our Probus bank account.

Once again I thank the committee members for the various views expressed by you all, and it is noteworthy and pleasing that again this committee has worked harmoniously.

Finally I would like to thank Jim Jeffries, who, as well as organising our regular speakers, has been an able and extremely competent president.

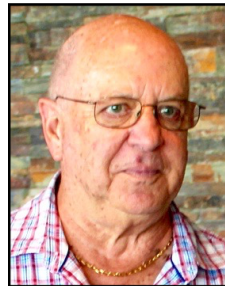
*Angus Dougall.*

## 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 2024-25 as follows:*

At the time of writing this report we have 140 members, which includes 1 honorary member.

And a lot of our members as yet have not paid for 2025.

One of our members reached the wonderful age of 100.

1 of our members Dale Young passed away in this past year and is sadly missed.

During the year we have welcomed 4 new members.

8 members decided not to renew their membership for 2024.

3 members resigned during the year.

At this stage we still have 32 Foundation members but have been told 2 may not renew for 2025.

*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 Davies, AMPC Ambassador for 2024-25, reports as follows:*

John Channon has been the AMPC Ambassador 2017-24. The primary function that PSPL envisaged for the role, promotion of membership, has meant little to AMPC with membership close to its maximum of 150.

I volunteered to take on the role as an interim measure. There was almost no activity in our Cluster during the year. At its one meeting, which I attended, there was little idea sharing that we were not already aware of, and the Committee took no further action to promote our Club.

I am standing down at the 2024-25 AGM. The Committee has decided not to appoint an Ambassador for the present.

## 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 Probud 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." The immediate Past President, Sandra Death, reported as follows

There are no specific duties attached to the position of past president, and the role might be perceived by some as a do-nothing one. And to some extent it is. But a past president does have experience, attends all the meetings of the Committee, and with some acquired wisdom and experience may help to ensure that decisions made are more likely to be good ones than bad. As past president and committee member without portfolio I was around and about all the time, and was able to lend a hand here and there, as for example mixing with the members at general meetings, listening to their stories and ensuring that they are happy and safe.

Sandra Death

## 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 2024-25 Sandra Death



combined the role of Historian with that of Public Officer.

Sandra Death

## Website

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

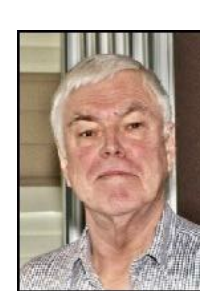
Sections of the website include:—Home: basic Club and Probud information, purpose and who may join;

—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.

—Probud South Pacific: this is a link to Probud information.

The webmaster is Robert Allison who reports as follows:

The website fulfils multiple purposes. Information about our club is available to the general public. Information is available to members in a conveniently accessible form rather than having to access their own devices, such as bulletins. Similarly committee specific information is available to our committee. Its address is [www.asquithmixedprobud.org.au](http://www.asquithmixedprobud.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 2024 saw five new or partial walks conducted, and two cancelled owing to extreme



weather conditions. Anne and Russ Dorey, Kevin and Dianne Watson, Paul Campbell and Juliana Luk, Paul Sorrell and Nick Speyer, and observer Stan Jedovnicki, assisted in the organising of the walks. Jen Hammersley documented the walks in photographs for the Bulletin. John and Carol Channon hosted a walks Organisers' Night held in November.

The intention of an organiser of walks is to provide a variety of walking locations, and in 2024-25 this was certainly achieved.

Laurie Keaton

Leads: person in charge  
New: Walk not previously offered

Mth	Venue	Att end	Comments / Leads
Jan	Bridge/ Barangaroo	(41)	Cancelled
Feb	Balls Head	22	Laurie
Mar	Centennial Park	30	<b>New</b> / Laurie Anne Russ Bruce
Apr	Meadowbank/ Concord	24	Paul Paul Juliana Laurie
May	Seacliffe Bridge	33	<b>New</b> / Kevin & Dianne
Jun	Silverwater	30+ 1	<b>New</b> / Laurie Anne Russ
Jul	Cooks River	32	<b>New</b> / Laurie Nick
Aug	Parramatta River	32	<b>New</b> / Laurie Kevin Stan
Sep	Drummoyne	(29)	Cancelled
Oct	Sydney Park	23	Laurie
Nov	Organisers' Night.	24	xxx

## 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. In 2024-25 these were arranged by Trish Taylor



Her report follows: January commenced with good company, great food and water views at the Newport Hotel on Sydney's Northern Beaches Peninsular. A relaxing start to the New Year.

In February we enjoyed a three-hour Sydney Tall Ships cruise sailing past stately homes of Sydney Harbour, enjoying lunch and exploring Goat Island with a guide.

In March we were treated to an interesting day at the NSW State Library. We viewed exhibitions ranging from early Australian colonial paintings to films recreating events from our military history as well as award-winning photography covering news, sport and portraiture.

In April we visited the Children's Medical Research

Institute, where researchers work tirelessly to understand children’s genetic diseases. We were treated to morning tea and lunch and listened to very informative speakers.

In May we experienced a five-day tour of the Victoria High Country. We shared this tour with a smaller group from Castle Hill Probus Club. The colours of autumn were breathtaking . Our base was Myrtleford, and from there we visited the historic towns of Beechworth, Yackandandah, Mt Buffalo, Bright and Corryong. There was a wine tasting and lunch platter at Courabyra Wines, near Tumbarumba, then Tumut on to the final stop at Cooma Cottage, Yass. Thanks are due to last year’s tours organisers, Mal and Suellen Steel, for setting up this wonderful trip away.

In May we also had morning tea at the Vanilla Cream Cafe within Amaroo Park, in nearby Annangrove. This was an enjoyable morning with everyone enjoying conversation and good company.

In June we travelled to Warragamba Dam and Western Sydney (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport. It was an early start but a beautiful day for seeing the dam, Sydney’s principal water supply, and, after lunch at the Wallacia Hotel, the new airport still under construction at Badgerys Creek, where there was an informative presentation.

In July we were treated to a Winter Lunch Special at Watsons Bay, at either Doyles on the Beach or, according to preference, Doyles on the Wharf Takeaway. It was a glorious day to be out on the harbour

On a wet, drizzly August day we experienced an informative private tour of the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The wonderful, knowledgeable guides helped us interpret many of the paintings.

In September, once again on the Harbour, we toured Garden Island Dockyard, the location of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) base. This was an extremely interesting and informative day led by ex-Navy guides. We were fortunate to see HMAS Canberra in dry dock; we listened to the history of Garden Island and viewed the beautiful Naval Chapel.

In October we experienced a six-day trip to the Griffith Spring Festival in the Riverina region of the state. The AMPC group was treated to green farming country, beautiful local gardens, Altina Wildlife Park, 20 km south of Griffith, and the nearby Southern Cotton

Gin where they learnt about the cotton industry and the ginning process, then a walk through more than sixty citrus sculptures in Griffith, with next a wine tasting and an Italian meal at Giuseppe’s. Thanks are due to Yenda Holland for organising this outstanding trip.

In November, members enjoyed a tour of Cochlear Manufacturing on the Macquarie University campus. The tour to see bionic ear hearing devices was extremely interesting and it was amazing to learn how precise and labour intensive each of the processes was in order to make a Cochlear Implant.

The above outings and trips would not be possible without the help of the Tours Committee —Yenda Holland, Jim Thompson, Lula Anderson and Sandra Lees—whose help, and ideas, and assistance in planning, resulted in these outings and trips this last year. A huge thank you to you all.

*Trish Taylor*

*This picture relates to the 5th Thursday BBQs on pp.13 and 14. It could not be made to fit there.*

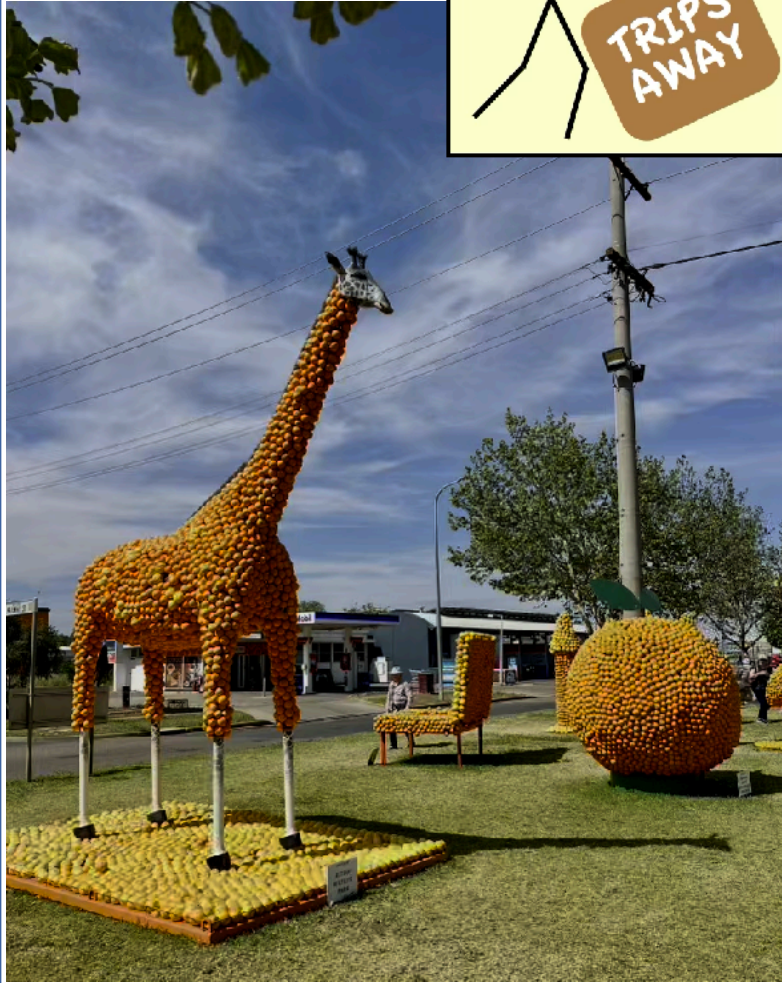


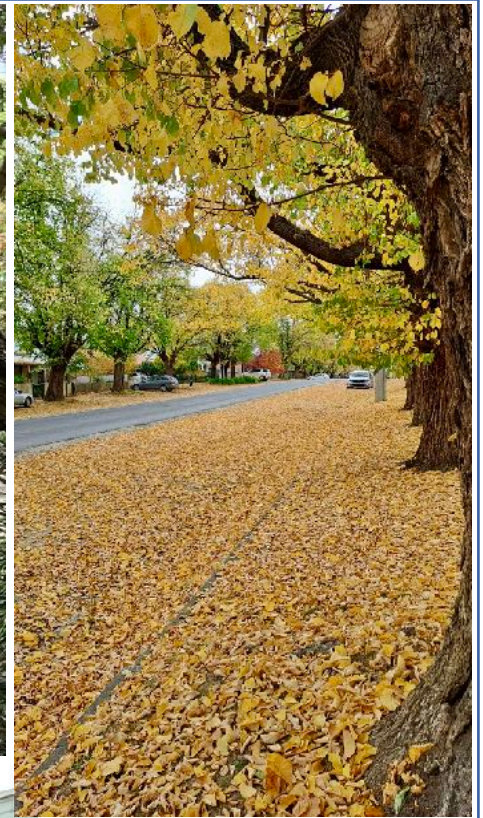


Those who were on the High Country Explorer tour: Anne Dorey, Anne Heaton, Russ Dorey, Sylvia Gratton, Judy Paton, Lula Anderson, Yenda Holland and Karl Sperka



- Feeding the wildlife at The Red Stag (during the 5 day High Country Explorer tour) : Anne Dorey
- Griffith Spring festival an orange giraffe, one of the many amazing exhibits in the citrus sculpture display
- Tumut Broom Factory (clean sweep by Mal & Suellen Steel)





*Sydney Park, St Peters, just above the weir*

*Autumn Colours 5 Day High Country Explorer, Beechworth*

*Strathfield Station: Trish Taylor, Margaret Muir, John Davies, Wendy Velthuyzen, Barry Rooke, Mal Steel, another member, Heather Rooke*

*Warragamba Dam*

*Badgerys Creek airport: Angus Dougall, Kevin Brogan, Karl Sperka, Sunny Dougall*



# 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 some interesting speakers last year ranging from Bee Keeping to living with dementia.

Ray Rees discussed the Sydney Heritage Fleet and Margaret McDonald told us how electric cars led to her romance.

Paul Baker caused some alarm by making his arrival in a Fire Engine for his presentation.

We received a history of Meals on Wheels from Alex Kane and Nathan Tilbury outlined the extraordinary accomplishments of our local celebrity- Edgeworth David..

Donna Ward spoke about dementia and our well known speaker- Graham Sims talked about little known aspects of the infamous Bea Miles.

A summary of speakers in 2024 follows and your suggestions are always welcome.

## Speakers in 2024-25

January	Ray Rees	The Sydney Heritage Fleet
February	Margaret McDonald	Electric cars
Mar	No speaker	AGM
April	Norm Webb	Bee keeping
May	Alex Kane	Meals on Wheels
June	Nathan Tilbury	Edgeworth David
July	Donna Ward	Living with Dementia
August	Nathan Tilbury	The Quarry Development
September	Cheryl Cartwright	The Airport Help Desk
October	Paul Baker	Hornsby Fire and Rescue
November	Graham Sims	Bea Miles

Jim Jeffries  
The Speaker Seeker

# Bulletin

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 20 copies 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 2024-25 is Sylvia Gratton, who reports as follows.



The Bulletin is a monthly

edition which I try to limit to 12 pages.

It gets sent to all members who have an email address and those who don't can collect a printed copy at the General Meeting or have it posted out to them if they are not there.

Bendigo Bank Berowra prints 20 copies for us free of charge which is much appreciated.

Members are informed of various activities that occur during the year including Tours/Excursions, Dining Out and Walks, not forgetting Mah-Jong and 500 Cards!

Sometimes we have reports including photos of various events that members have enjoyed.

There is a Treasurer's Report and Committee Notes on what has been discussed at the Committee Meeting.

At the back of the Bulletin is an Upcoming Events Table which has proved very popular

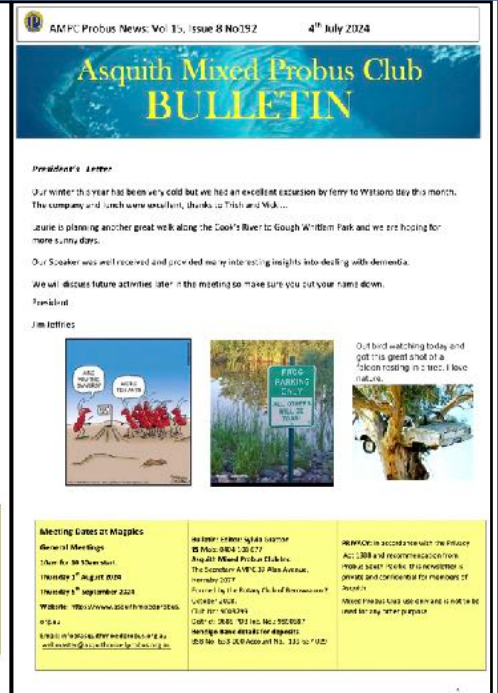
with our members as they can see at a glance what is happening over the coming 2 months. There are also contact names and phone numbers in case members need further information.

Contributions of jokes or matters of interest are always welcome from Members.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Bulletin over the past year and to the Committee for lending me their eyes. No matter how often items are checked, mistakes sneak through so someone else re-checking for me is very helpful. *Sylvia Gratton*



The June Bulletin featuring Mary Power, 100, on the front cover,



and the July Bulletin, with a falcon in a tree.

## 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.

Nita Shields is the Welfare Officer and reports as follows: It has been a busy year attending to the welfare of



AMPC members. I have attempted to maintain some assistance to the physical and social needs of members so that they may remain active in the club and meet socially. With permission from members who are unwell or have been injured I report monthly to the group meeting on their condition with the aim of maintaining social contact and assistance from other members if required. I report monthly to the Committee on any issues concerning members and provide a written report. When I am made aware of someone with a welfare need, I

make phone calls or send texts, make hospital or rehabilitation visits. I make contact with next of kin regarding the member's whereabouts and current condition. I have also sent birthday messages and condolence cards, made many phone calls regarding ongoing care, transport, doctor's appointments and lifts to the meeting. Chocolates are available for birthdays in that month. Many members have attended funerals this year to show their respect for members who have passed on.

*Nita Shields*

## Hospitality Dining Out

*The role of the hospitality officer is to promote the social character of the Club. He or she is always on the lookout for any activity that might be arranged that will encourage greater participation by members of the Club.*

*Hospitality Officer Judy Thompson reported for the year as follows:*

Another year of enjoying each other's company by dining out and general hospitality.

In May, 26 of us dined together at JOYFUL HOUSE, a Chinese restaurant in Hornsby: a happy time getting to know each other better.

Once again THE BIGGEST MORNING TEA was held at the home of Judy and Jim Thompson in June. The aim is to meet together, have fun, enjoy food and to raise money for the Cancer Council. This was very successful and \$610 was raised .

In August, we had Brunch together at THE CENTRE CAFÉ at Dural, a fun time with many attending.

The PROBUS BIRTHDAY celebration in October was at BOBBIN HEAD in the Pavilion. It was catered for by A Family Affair Catering and we were impressed with the service and quality of food. Sylvia Gratton and Jim Jeffries took off the interesting hat prizes.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH was at MAGPIES, organized by Vicki McPherson. The jokes, food and Santa's (George Gates') appearance as well as the carols made it a lovely time of Christmas cheer and goodwill.

BREAKFAST at BOBBIN HEAD was in February, and a Japanese meal at TORU restaurant in Hornsby in March.

Thanks to everyone for their participation and good humour.

*Judy Thompson*

## 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:*

The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the Pavilion at Magpies, Waitara, at 10 am. We usually start with a coffee then chat on whatever subjects come up. We usually finish at lunchtime and some enjoy lunch together. All men in the club are welcome: just come

along. It is best to join the mailing list as there are occasional changes to the meeting arrangements. Contact me on [robert.allison@optusnet.com.au](mailto:robert.allison@optusnet.com.au).

*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 are superintended by John Channon, who reports as follows.*

The 5th Thursday BBQs are now organised by John and Carol Channon, taking over from Lance and Barbara Williamson who did it admirably since the start. This activity has been enjoyed by friends in a pleasant environment.

You can get there via Galston Gorge, or via Pennant Hills Road and New Line Road. The Recreation Reserve is off Galston Road next to the Galston Indoor Aquatic Centre and opposite Galston High School.

A parking area close to the shed and clean toilet facilities are at hand.

The large metal-covered barbecue area has four free gas-fired stainless steel BBQs, maintained by the local council.

Bench seating is provided though some prefer to bring

their own picnics chairs. Bring your own food, drinks—and a good yarn.

Note the next occasions:

**AMPC 5Th Thursday BBQ 2025**

Thursday 30 January 2025

Thursday 29 May 2025

Thursday 31 July 2025

Thursday 30 October 2025

Thursday 29 January 2026

The above months have five Thursdays, hence the name.

*John Channon*

**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 and Julie Gates and Robert Montgomery. A report follows:

The book exchange table remained popular in 2024. It is set up at the back of the Probus meeting room and contains about 100 secondhand books. It offers members an opportunity to bring books from home and exchange them for something they have not already read. There is no limit to the number of books you can bring or take. There is always plenty of variety for the discerning reader. Note that 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 not immediately exchanged get displayed three times before they are placed in street libraries or similar.

*Julie and 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'. It was started in about 2010, possibly a little earlier, by Barbara Williamson.

The 'Dolls' group meets on the second Wednesday of the month. Owing to health issues of its founder, Barbara Williamson, the group is now led by Carol Channon at her home. The volunteer group members jointly produce knitted dolls, with some of them knitting the basic shape, others filling the dolls, sewing the parts together, and making the faces. In the past year around 700 dolls were sent to Westmead Children's Hospital for distribution as gifts to the children—who are always excited to receive one.

We thank all the volunteers for their assistance in contributing to this worthy ongoing project, which is also an enjoyable social activity for all. We especially thank Barbara for her years' long leadership of the group.

*Carol Channon, Sandra Death*

**500 Card Club**

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 10 am 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 16 women enjoying lunch and Mahjong. We generally get between 10 and 13 turning up each week. Games are played at 1.30 pm every Wednesday at the Asquith Bowling Club. Mahjong 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*

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## 1 January – 31 December 2024

*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 2022-23, the following AMPC Financial Report is for the year 1 January to 31 December 2024.*

*The Auditors have reported as follows:*

<b>Asquith Mixed Probus Club</b>		
Inc No: 9890687		
37 Alan Avenue, Hornsby 2077		
<b>Income and Expenditure Report</b>		
For the period: 01-Jan-24 to 31-Dec-24		
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fees		\$10,174.00
Joining Fees		\$103.00
Visitors Fees		\$85.00
Interest Received		\$240.66
Activities Surplus		\$128.48
Miscellaneous Income		\$94.20
Activity Surplus/Deficit		-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$10,825.34</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Activity Surplus/Deficit	\$ -	
Bank Charges	\$0.60	
Filing & Incorporation Fees	\$2,729.30	
Pins & Badges	\$107.57	
Printing & Stationery	\$180.84	
Sundry Expenses	\$217.40	
Venue & Morning Tea costs	\$6,300.00	
Website & Software	\$157.25	
Welfare	\$134.00	
Guest Speakers Fees paid	\$250.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$10,076.96</b>
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit for full year.</b>		<b>\$748.38</b>

<b>Asquith Mixed Probus Club</b>			
Inc No: 9890687			
37 Alan Avenue, Hornsby 2077			
<b>Statement of financial position</b>			
<b>As at: 31 December 2024.</b>			
<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>CURRENT LIABLITES</b>	
Cheque Account	\$9,418.27	Membership Fees in Advance	\$1,939.00
Petty Cash	\$200.00		
Guest Speakers Advance	\$205.00		
Bank Term Deposit	\$5,060.27		
		<b>LIABILITIES -</b>	
		ACTIVITIES PAID IN ADVANCE	
		Lord Howe Island–Mar. 2025	-\$5.00
		'Nepean Belle' cruise	705.00
		Maritime Museum	160.00
		Parramatta Female Factory	20.00
		Bobbin Head Breakfast 2025	110.00
		Saphire Coast Trip	300.00
		<b>TOTAL CURRENT ADVANCE</b>	
		<b>TRIP PAYMENTS</b>	\$1,290.00
		<b>EQUITY</b>	
		Surplus Brought forward from 2023	\$10,906.16
		Current Year Surplus	\$748.38
		Total Member Equity	\$11,654.54
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$14,883.54</b>		<b>\$14,883.54</b>

**Asquith Mixed Probus Club Auditor's Report for the end of year 2024**

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 Treasurer 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