



THE COMBINED PROBUS CLUB

OF

COONARA-CHERRYBROOK INCORPORATED

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Andre Maas

As my term as President comes to an end, I would like to sincerely thank the Management Committee, our Group Leaders, Event Coordinators, our ever-entertaining Joke Meister, and Michael Parkinson for their commitment, enthusiasm, and hard work throughout the year. Your collective efforts have ensured that our Club continues to be a welcoming, vibrant, and enjoyable place to belong.

At the beginning of the year, the Committee agreed that we wanted to make our General Meetings more engaging and enjoyable for members. To achieve this, we reduced the volume of formal reporting and introduced Group Leader presentations, along with the popular *"This Is Your Life"* segment. These initiatives have been very well received and have helped us learn more about the people who make up our Club, strengthening our sense of connection, fellowship, and community.

As a committee, we set ourselves several key objectives for the year, focusing on financial performance, participation, membership growth, marketing, and succession planning. I am very pleased to report that we have achieved, and in many cases exceeded, our key targets across all these areas. In addition, we have updated the Club's Constitution and Standing Resolutions and are currently implementing a Risk Management Policy. It has certainly been a busy and productive year.

On behalf of all our members, I would like to thank the Committee for their hard work and dedication to the Club. A great deal of effort goes on behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly, and there are several Committee members who have served in their roles for many years. They often work tirelessly without much recognition, and I would personally like to thank them for their guidance and support over the past two years.

I would also like to acknowledge our outgoing Committee members, Paul Cashman, Leon Creed, and Sue Waesch, and thank them for their dedication and hard work over many years of service.

I warmly welcome our incoming Committee, led by our new President, Leonie Lawson, and Vice President, Geoff Murray, and wish them every success in the year ahead.

As I have often said, the beating heart of our Club lies in the activities and events it offers. We are fortunate to have outstanding Group Leaders and Event Coordinators who provide wonderful activities, memorable events, and enjoyable weekends away that enrich our lives with fun and friendship. On behalf of all our members, I sincerely thank these leaders for the invaluable contribution they make to our Club.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all our active members who participate so enthusiastically in everything we do. Our Club truly thrives because members get involved, connect with one another, and embrace the opportunities for friendship and shared experiences.

I am proud to be a member of this fantastic Club and look forward to the year ahead. On a personal note, thank you for the honour and privilege of serving as your President.



The Committee 2025 - 2026

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leonie Lawson

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Vice President during the past year. My role as Vice President is to assist the Group Leaders with their activities but the Group Leaders are so efficient and confident they don't need much help, if any. We have a very strong program of speakers and activities all of which were well supported by members. This reflects the positive spirit and ongoing engagement within our Club.

I would like to thank President Andre Maas and the Committee for all their support shown to me in my role.

I am looking forward to my year as President working with our very efficient and capable Committee and our Past President

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Lyn Martel

This year we have continued to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the Castle Hill Bowling Club commencing at 10.30am. A schedule for Management Committee Meetings was organised and sent to Committee Members. Meetings were held at Castle Hill RSL on the first Tuesday of every second month commencing from April.

Communication has continued to rely mostly on email. While we still have a post box, most mail was received and sent electronically. Agendas for both Committee and General Meetings and Minutes were emailed out to members as relevant. Many issues have continued to be discussed and approved electronically, and financial transactions have been predominantly electronic. PSPL has continued to use primarily electronic platforms. Members of the Management Committee can now access the Administration section of the PSPL Website to update information.

A new Constitution and Standing Resolutions was discussed, updated and presented to the members for approval. They were submitted to PSPL, and a copy has been uploaded to the Club Website. I have coordinated the compilation and publication of the Annual Report for 2025 – 2026. A decision was taken to use Calibri 12 point for all official documentation.

The AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 17th March. All relevant procedures in accordance with the Constitution will be observed. The Meeting has been advertised and Nomination Forms have been distributed. A copy of the Annual Report and the Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 has been sent to members prior to the AGM. A copy of the Minutes of the previous AGM was also emailed to members.

Thank you to those members of the Management Committee who stood in for me during the year when I was unable to attend some meetings.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES REPORT – Carolyn Powell

We began 2025 by scheduling our annual January Picnic Dinner at **Berowra Waters** for Friday **January 31**. This activity has become my nemesis – in early and mid-morning heavy rain was forecast for the remainder of the day, I rang the café at 11am and they confirmed that it was still raining so I cancelled the day but of course – as has happened before - the rain did stop and the sun was shining by 3pm!! Some brave souls decided they would go and had an enjoyable picnic dinner. At the time this report must be submitted to our Secretary Lyn I am hoping I don't have to make that decision again this year!

On Friday **March 7th** 80 of our members met at the King Street Wharf Darling Harbour for a **Naval Historical Society Harbour Cruise**. We cruised past 11 different sites to the East of the Harbour Bridge, before and after a delicious morning tea we learnt so much about activities and facilities of the Royal Australian Navy from 1788 to the present time. The entire morning was hosted totally by Naval volunteers.

Following our **March 18th** meeting and our AGM we enjoyed our annual **Changeover Lunch** at the RSL Bowling Club organised by Elaine Finch and Sue Badcock.

I had a second attempt at a **Berowra Waters Picnic** for Friday **April 4** and we were blessed with beautiful weather – this time for lunch as we were out of daylight savings time. 60 members enjoyed a very casual afternoon at what has become one of our favourite spots

Lynn Paterson organised a **“Radio Active Live”** afternoon at the Hills Lodge on Sunday **May 4**. It was great to go there after they had quite a break. It's always an entertaining afternoon.



On Friday **May 30** we had a delightful day trip to **Bare Island** at the mouth of Botany Bay. A fort was built in 1885 to protect Sydney from invasion “by the back door”. After the tour, which was so interesting, we had lunch at the Coogee Legion Club then headed home touring through La Perouse and some of the popular Southern Beaches.

Colleen Sherwood organised 2 **walking tours of the GPO** in **June**, one of our iconic buildings in the heart of our city which opened in 1874. The tour was fascinating, we went right down to the stables in the bowels of the building, stood in the old mail sorting room, telegraph room, lost letter room to name just a few – and of course we stood on part of the Grand Staircase preserved in all its Victorian splendour. We learnt a lot about our familiar historic building and the way the architects have moulded the original building with the modern Fullerton Hotel is quite extraordinary and superbly done.



On Wednesday **July 2** we had dinner at one of our long-term favourites – **Italian restaurant La Carretta**, now relocated to the Coonara shopping centre which was the usual feast of pizza and pasta. Liz, the now retired previous owner – came to help on the night to say hello to a lot of familiar faces, appreciating our support over so many years when they were located at the Cherrybrook shops.

Also, in **July** Dave Motte organised a 3-day **Yulefest getaway to Bathurst**. The Yulefest dinner was at Abercrombie House; a very grand Victorian Tudor mansion built in the 1870’s by a prominent local pioneering family. It was sold in 1968 to the Morgan family who have spent decades restoring it to a treasured heritage landmark and “museum” which is now open to the public for tours, high teas, weddings and events. Other highlights of the trip were a lap around Mount Panorama in the On Course coach (not as exciting as the Bathurst 1000 looks on TV), we visited the stunning Japanese Gardens and POW camp at Cowra, Ben Chifley’s Home – our 16th Prime Minister and the National Motor Racing Museum, an amazing display of everything on 4 wheels that had ever raced at Mt Panorama.

16 of our members supported the annual **Rotary Club Trivia Night** at the Cherrybrook Community Centre on Saturday **August 16**, funds helping to support victims of domestic and family abuse.

On **August 29th** we enjoyed a delightful day into town for a 3 course lunch at **The Little Snail** in Darling Harbour, a charming restaurant in a showcase part of our beautiful city.

In **September** Sue Waesch organised a trip to **The Red Centre** which was an excellent trip. First stop was the Anzac War Memorial in Alice Springs – then the amazing heritage listed Telegraph Station learning about the overland Telegraph line – 12 stations beginning in 1872 from Adelaide to Darwin to relay messages in Morse Code. We went to the Royal Flying Doctor Service – the world’s very first air ambulance service established in 1928. We walked through the Standley Chasm, visited the Alice Springs School Of The Air, the first of its kind in the world, now covering 1.3 million klms of outback Australia it has inspired similar distance learning in other parts of the world. At Kings Canyon 2 members did part of the difficult and daunting “Rim” walk while the rest of us enjoyed the Canyon floor walk. Then at Uluru we enjoyed the Field of Lights, the Sounds of Silence Dinner and of course Ayres Rock which has a majesty and a presence all its own which felt quite spiritual.



On Wednesday **October 1** we tried a new dinner venue – the **Hills Garden Chinese** restaurant at North Kellyville which was a great success – a plentiful supply of huge platters of delicious food – thoroughly enjoyed by all 30 members. Sunday **October 12** saw 37 members heading to Argenton, a suburb of Newcastle, for our 14th **annual golf trip**. We were blessed with perfect weather every day. The Club Macquarie is a great venue, very accommodating to our needs, which made the trip so enjoyable. Every afternoon we looked forward to the “Fun, Friendship and Fellowship” gathering called “Happy Hour” on our own grassed quadrangle area where we share the news of the day followed by dinner each night in the Club bistro where again we have access to our own area. The non-golfers enjoyed a “Golf Craft” morning and a Putt Putt Golf competition organised by Ann Anderson and Margaret Hughes suggested a \$2.50 day into the city followed by a ferry ride across to the Stockton Pub for lunch, all very enjoyable days. Our Presentation of Prizes is the last afternoon at Happy Hour time. The winners of the “Ambrose Golf Day” – which is the third day - a fun day - was a team of 4 being Sheena Brown, Len Robinson, Bill Smith & Gary Wellard. Monday & Tuesday are the competition days, the runner up for the Champion Male was Bob White and runner up for the Champion Female was Sheena Brown. The Champion Male golfer for 2025 is Ron Powell and the Champion Female Golfer for 2025 is our newest member Gail White, congratulations to you both.

On Saturday **November 1** we had a most enjoyable night at the Hornsby RSL Club to watch Charlie Chech in his **Las Vegas Show**; he is a really delightful local young man who kept us entertained with songs that we knew all the words to – unusual these days! Thank you to the 30 members who responded.

Saturday **November 15** we had our ever popular **Wine and Cheese Night** which again was a great success – many thanks to Leonie Lawson for again opening her beautiful home to us also to Ron Powell and Geoff Murray who ran the bar all evening, and thank you to all the Angels who helped out in the kitchen and serving the food.

At our **November 18th meeting** we again had an amazing response from our members to support the West Pennant Hills Rotary's annual drive for items for their "Pamper Packs" delivered to carers of both genders and of all ages who cannot afford some of the essential personal items or "treats" that we maybe take for granted.

December 3, Sue Badcock & Elaine Finch organised our **Christmas Luncheon** at the lovely Entrata restaurant at Glenhaven. Wonderful to see many of our new members amongst the 107 attendees who enjoyed starting December with a great show of Christmas spirit.

On 7 dedicated Sunday afternoons from **February to May** and from **September to November** during the year Lynn Paterson arranged tables for "**Jazz In The Pines**" at Roughley House in Dural where members bring along nibbles/sweets/whatever to share, together with a wine or two while enjoying various jazz bands, a great way to while away a free Sunday afternoon.

I look forward to sharing another Probus year with you all, I am always looking for new ideas for dinners – lunches – days out. If you happen to stumble onto a BYO venue that would suit a Probus activity I would appreciate you letting me know the details and I will happily pursue it. The meals must be 'banquet/shared plates' style so the price is the same for everyone or alternatively a bistro/club type place where you pay for your own meal. My contact details are in the Chatter.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Sue Badcock

AGAIN, the question is, what happened to last year. It does not seem any time at all since the last report was written.

This year we welcomed Andre as President, and did he arrive with all guns blazing. He set KPI's for every Committee member, which I can tell you, came as quite a shock! I never thought that once I retired the dreaded abbreviation "KPI" would ever be heard again!

Anyway, all joke's aside, it has worked. We have had a very busy year with welcoming 32 new members. The introduction of the Facebook page, which Paul Sweatman keeps updated well, and members bringing along friends I am sure has worked in our favour. We also distributed brochures advertising our club around the area (we still have about 4000 left if anybody wants to do a letter box drop). We welcome you all and hope that you will find your time in the club very rewarding. It is so good to see many of our new members attending the functions, and getting involved already.

Andre also initiated back-up positions for committee members, and I am very pleased to advise that Ann Anderson has become my "buddy" and is helping with some of the recording of activities.

Our stats for the past year are as follows:

Total meeting attendance for the year was 1576 compared to 1350 in 2024, and we welcomed 92 visitors. A number of those visitors have subsequently joined.

Our activities have been very well attended. Total attendances for the year reached 3243, which was an increase of 545 over 2024.

Last year was a first for the Ladies. Marie Eyles topped the score attending 76 activities. Well done Marie. Also to be noted that Mah Jong has many dedicated followers. Geoff Murray came 2nd with attending 69 activities, and Mal Anderson very hot on his heels with 68 to take the bronze medal.

The most popular events of course were Lunches and Dinners, with 625 attendees. Golf again was second with 461 and third place goes to Miscellaneous trips and outings 288. The Theatre group attracted 238, so well done there. Many thanks to all our group leaders, without you volunteering your time we would not have interesting events to attend.

Once again, I look forward to another 12 months of serving on the Committee and enjoying many Probus events and outings.

MARKETING REPORT – Paul Sweatman

Coonara Cherrybrook Probus Club has been successful for the past 17 years. I saw the 2025 marketing challenge was to help maintain existing membership and attract new members. I took photos of our members at meetings and at activities and posted them on closed Facebook groups. We had a call to action - to contact our Membership Secretary. The team effort was successful and membership has grown.

More importantly, we have lived the Club ethos of fun, friendship and fellowship. The Committee under new President Andre Maas set some fairly ambitious objectives and I was very pleased to see them all met and exceeded. We have an active vibrant and caring club that is growing and is financially stable despite significant cost increases.

SPEAKERS CONVENOR'S REPORT – Geoff Murray

Our challenge every year is to find Guest Speakers who are not only interesting, entertaining, and informative but also speak about topics which are relevant to our members. During 2025, we invited a variety of speakers who gave presentations at our meetings on a very wide range of topics. Unfortunately, two of our speakers this year failed to present. One, because of an illness (subsequently rebooked) and the other because of an emergency at her workplace. Some presentations were on interesting and informative topics like The Thompsons of Thompson's Corner, Medical Adventures (Imagine), Danger was my Game and Search Dogs Sydney. Savings Finder was a presentation from Services NSW which provided helpful information to our members. Other presentations were a little more light-hearted and entertaining such as From the Ridiculous to the Sublime, Winston Churchill's Perceived Drinking Problem and The History of Rock and Roll (early 60's). Many of the speakers invited during the year came to us recommended, mostly by other Probus Clubs. We, in turn, pass on recommendations to them. The Committee thank all the Guest Speakers who gave up their time to speak to us. Feedback from members has been very positive this year, and we hope everyone enjoyed the mix of presentations as we look forward to 2026.

WEBSITE REPORT - Leon Creed

A report from WIX shows consistent web traffic for the period 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025.

	2025	2024
Unique visitors	601	568
Page views	3108	3287
Average time on page	57 seconds	1 minute
Average pages per session	2114	2119
Average sessions	3 mins	4 mins
Site sessions	1072	1082

A new website is being developed for 2026.

Thank you to Leon for his valuable contribution as webmaster for many years

WELFARE REPORT – Jan Duffy

Sadly 2025 has seen the passing of Geoff Roney, Toni Pearce, and Mike Duffy. Geoff was a Charter Member of our club and Mike a member for over 10 years.

Falls remain a concern with some causing long-term issues. Members had pacemakers, spinal surgery, hip and knee replacements during the year, all with good results. I keep in touch with members who are referred to me, by phone, email or text.

Some members want to keep their health issues private.

Keep well and look after yourselves in 2026.

BICYCLE GROUP – Rhonda & Russ Bush

This group rides on the third Friday of each month at different and varied locations, usually with a light lunch to complete the session. We generally have between 6 and 12 riders at each event which, in 2025, included, Prospect to West Guildford, Woy Woy to Gosford, Belfield to Tempe, Bella Vista/The Ponds/Rouse Hill, Kyeemagh to Sans Souci, Western Sydney Parklands, Sydney Olympic Park/Rhodes/Meadowbank, Beaumont Hills, Prospect to Abbotsbury and Chittaway Bay. Unfortunately, our annual, very popular, Bulli to Wollongong ride had to be cancelled due to rain. For the calendar year 2025 our attendance numbers were similar to previous recent years. Our rides are generally between 18 and 25 kilometres long and we aim to ride on defined bike paths, keeping road travel to a minimum, and then only in light traffic areas. We avoid hilly terrain as much as possible. However, the majority of our riders have now gravitated to battery powered assistance. These bikes enable our riders to travel further and negotiate hilly terrain with battery assisted power and so we have just embarked on some longer rides. However, we will maintain some of our rides as previously for the sake of our traditional pedal-only bike members. As such, we will indicate the grade of each month's ride so riders can determine if purely pedal power is sufficient.

We welcome suggestions for new rides with members offering to trial, then lead the ride, bearing in mind our requirements for the obligatory coffee/rest stop along the way and a good spot for lunch after the ride.



BOOK CLUB REPORT – Lesley Maker

Due to several of our original members leaving the Book Club for various reasons, our Book Club has joined with Kellyville Probus Group Book Club. This was due to Alan Vesperman being a member of both groups, Kellyville Probus has a vibrant book club with usually eight members attending meetings. This group are avid readers with varying tastes.

CARD FOR FUN GROUP REPORT – Jenny Davis and Colleen Sherwood

As the name suggests our group has had lots of fun this past year. We meet at the West Pennant Hills Sports Club, at 10 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. We mix the groups around at each meeting so we can get to know everyone and there is always laughter and chatter coming from the tables. Occasionally, we have an “At Home Game”. This is normally at the Davis household and occurs when our card day falls on a public holiday. We play in the morning, stop for lunch and then change groups and resume play in the afternoon. In 2025 it was on Australia Day. We are a friendly group and always happy to welcome new players whether they are experienced or eager to learn. We all had to learn at some stage! So, if someone has made a New Year’s resolution to try something new, we encourage them to come along.



CRAFT GROUP REPORT - Judith Gauci

Craft is always the first Wednesday of each month and is held at the WPHSC at 10am till 12pm. The Coffee Shop is open at 10am, so you can have a bite or drink when you arrive. We have around 8 ladies who come each month, and we all enjoy talking about our projects, showing off our skills and having lots of laughs. We had a fantastic Christmas Lunch at Heritage House and we all gave out our secret Santa present. Most enjoyable. We are looking forward to a great 2026 year, with more fun for the next 12 months.

GOLF GROUP REPORT – Geoff Murray

2025 was another exciting year for our valiant Monday Golf Group. Our golfers, ignoring blistering heat, torrential rain and overcoming early morning rises managed to play thirty-eight Monday competition games and two social games throughout the year. Six games were missed because of severe inclement weather. Overall attendance was high with an average of twelve players each week throughout the year. Competition was tight all year for all our regular weekly prizes as well as for the 'Player of the Month' awards and the prestigious 'Bob Smith Trophy'. Sought after 'golf ball' prizes (regularly donated back) were punctuated with a 'bottle of shiraz' prize once each month (none of which have been donated back). Our end of year presentation and BBQ at Rosnay saw Ivan Milicevic crowned as 2025 winner of the prestigious *Bob Smith Trophy* (highest total points scored in 5 out of 10 nominated games). Ivan, coming from second place in an extraordinary finish, scored an amazing 186 points in five games to snatch the award from Mal Anderson with 185 points. Dave Waterson was third with 184 points. What an amazing finish! Our award for the most number of 'firsts' throughout the year went to Bill Smith with 6 wins. Most number of 'seconds' went to Dave Waterson (5), most NTPs to Mal Anderson (16), and most 'Gobblers' to Geoff Murray (6). All winners received \$50 Dan Murphy Vouchers in addition to any trophies they may have received. The 'Player of the Month' competition saw the monthly awards shared by seven of the year's most consistent players – Geoff Clark, Charles Reid, Mal Anderson, Ivan Milicevic, Bill Smith, Sheena Brown and Wayne Steward. Competition was strong each month as players strived to get a mention, and their face, in *The Chatter*. Most importantly, the golfers really enjoyed the relaxing golf, the post-game camaraderie, the unbelievable tall stories and the post-mortem excuses. Noticeably, our weekly attendance peaked when we held BBQs throughout the year - clearly a call for more next year. We look forward to 2026 with more fun and more golfing challenges to conquer.



INVESTMENT GROUP – John Badcock

The Investor Group continues to meet at the Bowling Club at 10am on the first Tuesday of the month.

Our numbers have increased slightly, with the number of ladies at most meetings now greater than the number of men. The meetings are very casual, with most discussion being about the stock market and investment strategies. We also run a competition where each investor selects five shares that they think will increase in value the most in three months. As no "real" money is involved it is fun for all. (By the way, the ladies win most of the competitions.) It would be good to see more attendees, to share their investment ideas and hear the investment ideas of other members.

JAZZ IN THE PINES REPORT - Janet & Lynn Paterson

We have had another successful year as we meet monthly in the summer months in Dural. It is pleasing to see some new faces from time to time.

We usually have enough people to fill a couple of tables; however more attendees would always be welcome. We enjoy a good afternoon of Fun, Food and Fellowship.

LAWN BOWLS GROUP REPORT – Russ Bush

For the calendar year 2025 our attendance at Lawn Bowls has remained steady but sadly at low numbers, as it has done over the recent past years. We play social bowls with 3 other Probus groups, who have faced a similar decline in numbers over the past 5 years or so, namely Castle Hill, Oakhill-Dural and Glenhaven, on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at the Castle Hill Bowling Club. Our games are always played in a friendly environment, usually mixing our players with those from the other clubs. Plus, we enjoy a drink and chat after the games in the clubhouse where we try to solve the problems of the world, and we hope these fun days will entice new bowlers to come along and to join the Bowls Activity Group. It has been nice to see a few new lady participants towards the latter part of the year and look forward to a few more players, ladies and men. You certainly don't need to be an experienced bowler to come along; we can teach you the fundamentals and provide you with a set of bowls to borrow. Now that the Bowling Club has the new undercover synthetic green open for play, we can play in all weather conditions on a beautiful new bowling surface with lovely surrounds. We look forward to welcoming new members to the Bowls Group, experienced or otherwise, or the return of players who have not played for a while.

LIBRARY REPORT - Jan Motte

This past year has been very productive with an increased uptake of people borrowing books and adding to our extensive list of over 300 books. Unfortunately, we can't bring them all to the meetings but there is a catalogue where books can be reserved and then will be available at the next meeting.

MAH JONG GROUP REPORT - Marie Eyles

The Mah Jong Group sessions on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 10 am at the West Pennant Hills Sports Club continue to be well attended. Four members have joined the group in the past year taking the total to 16. Those members who started as beginners are now playing with the more experienced players with only a little assistance. Many of the group stay on afterwards for some social time. Anyone interested in joining the group would be most welcome.

MOVIE GROUP REPORT - Elaine Finch

This year we have watched a mixed bag of movies, some of these being: - Black Bag, Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy, Disney's Snow White, Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale, Mr Burton, Now You See Me: Now You Don't, Nuremberg, Spit, The Roses and The Travellers. It looks as if our years viewing for 2026 will kick off with "Song Sung Blue" with Hugh Jackman as our January offering and with some interesting releases to come later into the season.

Castle Hill events cinema has undergone some extensive renovations and alterations to its seating plans and configurations with sofas, recliner seats and smaller theatre sizes to make it more intimate, although this is very comfortable, it does mean some of us have to fight nodding off, laying there with our feet up and heads back!

So, if you are free any third Monday in the month come and join us, put your name on the list of Movie Groupers and be kept up to date on what we will be watching each month, remembering we always have a spot of lunch afterwards and a good discussion and “critique” of what we have just seen!

NEWSLETTER REPORT - Elaine Finch

As Coonara Cherrybrook Combined Probus Club are now into their 19th year of being, and as I reach the end of my 16th year as Newsletter editor, unfortunately, I still haven't had a stalwart Club member willing to come forward to become my understudy! It would be great if someone would volunteer to learn the ropes, as it is not a hard job, just learning to cut and paste in WORD, under my tutelage, and I'm a very patient teacher! (and the job is over and done **once** a month). I would like to thank Barbara McNamee for checking for my mistakes very faithfully this year as proofreader and all the Group Leaders and Committee members for getting their copy in promptly every month. Thank you all for reading it and I hope to keep you up to date on all the exciting things to do as Probus members for the coming year, all being well!

SOLO TRAVELLERS GROUP REPORT – Ann Colless

We are a small group with about 10 regulars attending the meeting each month at the Castle Hill RSL Club in "Lucy's Bar" at 10.15am. At this meeting we discuss the venues for the Sunday Lunches and after we have chosen a couple of venues, we end up in the bistro for coffee, a chat and staying for lunch.



SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP REPORT – Ann Colless

The Sunday Lunch is the 4th Sunday of the month. We choose a different venue each month and last year we tried 3 new venues which were very successful. The attendance is 15 to 20 members each month and last year there were 8 new members joined us. It is a very social afternoon, good company, great food and wine. Come and join us, everyone is welcome.

TENNIS GROUP REPORT – Ron Powell

We are a small contingent of enthusiastic tennis players from 3 Probus clubs, Castle Hill, Dural and our Coonara-Cherrybrook with only 12 players in total. We would love to have more members join us. We have a lot of fun both on and off the court, enjoying the social side of the afternoon - including our tea and coffee break as much as we enjoy the tennis. We play social tennis to enjoy the comradery of Probus friends. We play at Belltree Crescent Castle Hill each Wednesday afternoon from 5 to 7 pm.

Enquiries: Ron Powell 0434 111 845. Email candrpowell4@gmail.com

THEATRE GROUP REPORT – Pat Bisby, Sue and Howard Patterson

In 2025 we provided Club members with discounted tickets to five musicals and two plays across the Theatre Royal, the Lyric and Capitol theatres. For the 2026 year we have had one musical already and are currently taking Expressions of Interest for tickets to 4 musicals and 1 play. New shows will be added as they are announced and ticket allocations become available.

If you haven't been to the theatre with us and are interested in attending one of our offerings, please come and talk to us. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

A big thank you to all theatre goers who purchased tickets in the past year, particularly those who have joined us for the first time, and we hope that you enjoyed the shows.

We look forward to continuing to provide Club members with access to quality entertainment at affordable prices.



WALKING FOR PLEASURE GROUP REPORT – Julie and Steve Dunesky

This year Walking for Pleasure has taken the participants to many unique locations such as Bayview, Cremorne Point, Bundanoon and Penrith. In all we undertook walks in ten locations within the Sydney and greater Sydney environs. In April we enjoyed a getaway to Bundanoon which included some walks in the local village and adjoining Moreton National Park.

The activity has been and will continue to be an opportunity to catch up with each other and share the enjoyment of the activity whilst keeping fit. The group travelled by car, caught ferries, light rail and buses to get to the starting points. Everyone is reminded to consider their limitations regarding each walk. Most walks were either a medium or easy grade taking about three hours and covering about eight kilometres. The Walking for Pleasure motto is "We try to walk rain, hail or shine", naturally walker safety is always considered.

A core group of about twenty-four walkers join our monthly walks which are accessible to almost everyone. An introductory talk prior to the walk is always provided to enable participants to further their knowledge of the history of the area. There is a mandatory coffee stop. Our walks this year have demonstrated the Probus motto, "Fun, Friendship and Fellowship".



WINE APPRECIATION GROUP REPORT - Rob Templeton

The Wine Appreciation Group held its inaugural meeting on Monday 7th October 2024, so we are now in our second year.

We are pleased with our average attendance of 17 members to our meetings (a high of 24 members and a low of 11 members which was a Monday of a Long Weekend).

The meetings are held at the Living Choice Leisure Centre, 15 Old Glenhaven Rd, Glenhaven on the first Monday of the Month from 4pm to 6pm.

As indicated for our Annual Report last year, the facilities are first class for our meetings with comfortable seating, a bar, refrigeration, glasses and washing up facilities.

The aim of the group is to sample four (4) different wines at the meetings and to expand your knowledge of the wines.

The cost to members is \$10 per person tasting. Members bring their own nibbles and can bring their own wines if they wish to stay longer and have a chat or happen to live on site.

Each of the four (4) tasting wines is poured with a measured 50ml per taste (approximately 2 ounces) to be able to give members a guide if they are intending to drive.

A large variety of wines has been sampled by our members in the past year and we are looking forward to our next meeting.

