

# THE 'MEAD



## Northmead & District Probus Newsletter

### Our Next Meeting

**January 20**  
**9.30am for 10:00am**

NBC Sports Club  
166 Windsor Road  
Northmead NSW



### A Word from Barbara

### Caring for You



Are you OK? We are all about caring for each other. If you know a member of our Club who needs a hug, let our wonderful Welfare Officer **Jan** know 0428 080 848

Be Kind. Take Care. That's **our** Probus.

### The 3Fs of Fellowship

The best attribute of being a Probus member lies in our creed - the 3Fs (with a twist). Our Northmead & District Club is dedicated to **Fun**, **Friendship** and ... **Food** (read that as conversation at lunch, dinner, walking, making, playing or just a 4pm wine).

### Our Website

To HELP you stay informed of the events/ excursions/ Interest Group happenings, our Northmead & District **Website** has it all. IT is EASY to access. Open Google. Type in Probus Northmead & District and 'voila.'

### Paying for an Event

Pay direct to our Northmead Bank Account. Cite Event Number.

**BSB 112 879**

**A/C 470889027**

Here's to the 'holiday' season.

It has been such an exciting and active six months since our inauguration as Probus Northmead & District. We now move into 2020 heading towards our first AGM in March, but before that we have a twilight bbq, Musical, Lunar New Year Dinner, an afternoon Wurlitzer Concert, and if you like tomatoes, a Tomato Long Luncheon (promise - no bulls rampaging). We will also have a chance to bush walk on Cockatoo Island and enjoy Max Gillies in Senior Moments 2.

Unfortunately, at our last meeting, we had a technical meltdown. Our speaker, storm chaser Ian Moore, was unable to show us some of the footage of a certain chase he was on in USA. And yes, it was somewhat embarrassing. The good news is that a discussion with NBC has resulted in (fingers crossed) the issue being resolved.

The grand finale to our 'Meaders' Probus year was our Christmas Party at Springfield House. Everyone dressed for the occasion, including quite a few outfitting themselves in very Christmassy gear. Make sure you scroll through this newsletter, the '**Mead**', for a squiz at some of our Merry 'Meaders. A fabulous luncheon and entertainment from a group of ukulele players added to a spectacular day. Big thank you to Jenny Dwyer on our Events Team for her meticulous organisation, resulting in a great end to our first six months as a Probus Club.

Merry Christmas everyone .... see you in the New Year.

Got a Senior  
Moment to  
share?

## Senior Moment

Send your very very short story to  
Newsletter Editor at  
[lcglangford@gmail.com](mailto:lcglangford@gmail.com)

### January Guest Speaker Wendy Bull JP CMC



A beautiful crisp day in May. I walk about a kilometre to the local shopping centre such was my joy at having woken to a perfect day.

Wandering into the shops, I suss out the bakery, thinking "Hmm.... On my way home, I must pop past and get one of those bread and butter puddings or some apricot tarts."

I continue towards the Chemist. I remember my reason for coming here - to buy uh... some uh 'senior nappies'. You know what it's like... you get older and your bladder works hard to embarrass you, despite your pelvic floor exercises.

In I go. Purchase a month's supply of *Poise*, very comfortable adult nappies. Pay.

Just at that exact moment, a mate waves at me. We chat. Laugh. Agree to catch up early in the next week.

*Poise Liners* under my arm, I saunter into the parking lot. Now where is my car?

Ahh, there it is. Cruising over to the passenger's side, I open the door and drop my *liners* on the passenger seat. Quite a large package for only 60 *liners*.

And then... a voice... questioning me! "What are you doing, lady?", asks a *mature* man, sitting in the driver's seat. And then it hit me... I had walked here. OOOh those Senior Moments!

Well! What a start to 2020. Our Guest Speaker will have you giggling as she shares a number of real stories - that's right her stories really happened - as a **Civil Marriage Celebrant**.

While most of the weddings she attended as celebrant were magnificent affairs of the heart, there were enough marriage events that had her either laughing or cringing in amazement.

Let me introduce Wendy Bull.

Wendy has seen it all. From the bride who showed up in red at her Greek wedding and NOT the traditional virginal white, causing a furore from the groom through to 100+ guests to a wedding wearing an array of T-shirts and jeans, and casual sun frocks, Wendy's stories are nothing less than memorable anecdotes of her experiences as a wedding celebrant. She notes that the "bride in black was a nice change from white, creamy white, very creamy white, ivory, very ivory, light ivory, light champagne and champagne gown choices."

Some of her stories involve a bride, pregnant with twins, who goes into labour during the ceremony. How about the rather drunk best man who becomes fascinated by the gold fish being used as table centrepieces... he swallows the lot. Then there was the bride who only discovered her groom was already married when Wendy, as celebrant, asked. And how about being asked over the 'phone if she was a pretty celebrant - yup - the couple did not want an ugly one marrying them.

Wendy is, indeed, a gifted writer, born story teller and highly entertaining public speaker.



## Events & Excursions

THE EVENTS TEAM has put together a range of events for you to enjoy this quarter. Talk to any of the **team members at our meeting** or **contact them** (see last page of newsletter).

If event *requires* payment, ensure **name of event** and **event number** is noted on your payment reference. Any payment issues call Treasurer Lynne Curby on 0432 679 751 with details of event.

EVENT	DATE	TIME	COST
<b>At The Riverside Theatre</b>			
#205 Les Miserables	February 15	2pm	\$45
#207 Senior Moments 2	March 10	2pm	\$55
#206 No Pay? No Way?	April 4	2pm	\$84
<b>Excursion</b>			
#500 Dangar Island	March 31	10am	\$48
<b>Concert</b>			
#208 Wurlitzers	March 15	2pm	\$22
<b>Foodies</b>			
Lunch at the Club	January 20	12pm	no set price
#106 Lunar New Year Dinner	January 22	6pm	\$34
Evening BBQ Lions Park WH	January 29	5pm	BYO everything
#107 Wine & Cheese	February 6	5pm	TBA
<b>Active Games</b>			
#301 10-Pin Bowls & Dinner	April 23	4pm	\$35



### QUIZ

First correct answer wins this month's prize. Text your answer to Linda on 0417892309

Which of these people were married to Elizabeth Taylor?

- a. Richard Burton
- b. Richard Burton
- c. Robert Taylor
- d. Lassie

# INTEREST GROUPS

Our Probus Club is only as DYNAMIC as YOU!

## Walkie Talkies

Convenor

Next MeetUp

Cockatoo Island

Patrick Vallely 0403161515

March 18

*Enjoyed an Event or  
Interest Group  
Session?*

## Mookies

Convenor

Next MeetUp

The Man called Ove January 6

The Other Wife February 4

Debra Sheath 0421998434

Winston Hills Pub 11am

*Share your story or  
photos about your  
experience.*

*Go ahead.*

## Mahjong & Cards

Convenor

Next MeetUp

Jan Field 0428080848

Every Monday 1-3pm @ NBC

*Your Newsletter  
Editor (click on link)  
will be happy to  
receive your  
contribution.*

## Fleurs Club

Convenor

Next MeetUp

Sandra Joy

February 16 10am

Tomato Festival & #

#402 Longest Tomato Lunch 12.30pm \$65

Royal Botanic Gardens

Contact THE CONVENOR of the Interest Group to ensure you know: Time and date \*  
Meet up point \* Purchasing tickets \* Cost

## Biblical Wisdom —————contributor Kent Pigeon

Outside the bottle shop, I found a lost wallet that contained \$50 cash but nothing to identify its owner.

I pondered over what I should do - hand it in to the store manager? Treat it as a windfall - pocket the cash?

I then thought to myself, "What would Jesus have done?"

So I promptly walked into the bottle shop and turned it into wine....



“Retirement gives you the time... to recreate yourself through a **sport, game or hobby** that you always wanted to try or that you haven’t done in years.”

*Steve Price*

*How to Survive Retirement*



## John Waters: Bob Dylan Revisited



### 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature

"All I can be is me —  
whoever that is."

*"I loved the show..  
despite a few sound  
issues. Brilliant Dylan  
numbers and some lovely moments."*

On a wild day in November  
The wind was really up -  
As we gathered at The Winston,  
To watch the Melbourne Cup.

Barb laid her bets on the favourite,  
Mer De Glace simply the best.  
Sue nodded - had EVERY sweep ticket,  
She winked, grinned and confessed.

Hazel and Arthur watched on in silence-  
Unruffled, they seemed to 'know',  
That the Race Time was fast approaching,  
The crowd was beginning to grow.

Pouring over the form guide was Debra,  
With Greg and Graham and Sue,  
Comparing each horse and the odds played  
Ignoring around them the queue.



## THE MELBOURNE CUP at the Winny

Outside Flemo, NUP THE CUP was mounting  
A determined demo indeed.  
Regardless, the gates flew open...  
And those horses were birds - flying free.

Master of Reality pushed passed De Glace,  
The crowd screamed with elation,  
But Vow & Declare - she grabbed that Cup -  
The race that stopped our Nation!

~ Robyn Newland

## Sydney Botanic Gardens Sculpture Walk



WELL Hello ...We really enjoyed you Probusians -your chatter, good humour and your compliments. Yeh! We're pretty cute, aren't we.



The **Mayor Koala** - resplendent in his robes, standing proudly in front of our iconic Sydney.



The **topiary koala** was a hit with everyone - remarkably similar to a green Blinky Bill.

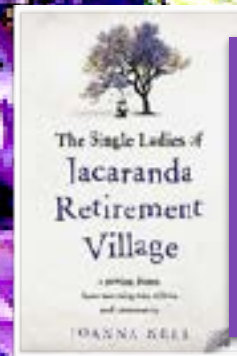
Lunch time entertainment was provided by a chip stealing kookaburra.



Botanic Gardens with members getting the stories '**behind**' some of the gardens statues, which some found quite '**cheeky**'.



~ Geoff Newland



If you enjoyed the excursion, you might enjoy this book.

## Fleurs and Walkie Talkies Jacaranda Walk

Starting at the 1892 Old School House, we ambled along Jacaranda filled walking trails - a relaxed hour and a half trek around Woolwich.



The harbour view, as always, was calming and inviting.

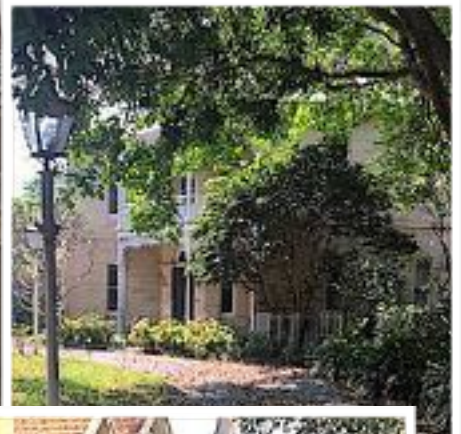
Our trail took us past the beautiful and

rustic Kelly's Bush and the old Woolwich Dock.

Did you know?

The *Jacaranda mimosifolia* are indigenous to Brazil and that jacarandas arrived in Australia via England early 19C.

The main landowner in Woolwich was obsessed with the beauty of jacarandas, thus this legacy has become a part of Woolwich.



**Ellen**, our guide, explained Woolwich's history, as we meandered past old homes, bordered by swaying jacarandas.

We even had a moment of awe as we gathered around the *oldest* surviving jacaranda planted in Woolwich.

And here's the more intriguing history of those trees in Woolwich:

**The local Catholic Nuns delivered the community's babies.**

**To celebrate each birth, mothers were each given a jacaranda tree to plant!**

A challenge for our 'Meaders!  
Got a STORY or POEM or  
ARTWORKS bubbling away.  
Send your contribution to  
**Newsletter Editor.**  
It can be anonymous, if  
requested.

### Caught Out!

"No pressure!" she said, "We can do this. We just need to keep a straight face and move forward into the throng."

"OK! Let's do it."

We had to work hard not to giggle at each other as we clawed our way across the sandstone brick road of the market.

It was only mid-morning and already the market was filled with people - a merry crowd who, unbelievably, stepped aside as we wiggled our way towards the food stalls.

Sitting on our tails, we gazed into the eyes of one of the stallholders, trying to look as innocent as we could, hoping that the sweet treats laying packed onto the stall table would soon be in our backpacks. Yup, we looked weird but people were smiling at us. Two long, strong lizards with backpacks.

As we opened our claws and accepted the first offering of a treat, we were both surprised to feel a warm hand patting our heads and down our necks.

It was an older man, with white hair in wisps across his head. He was in a wheel chair, a motorised one at that. We slyly looked at each other, our breaths held as if one. I could see in her eyes what she was thinking, "Mate, just act normal. Let the fella pat us. Makes it look like we are just part of the crowd. Be calm, we still have a few stalls to go before ..."

At that point, the Senior leaned over and whispered, "I know what you two are up to. Still trick or treating? Right? I watched you two lumbering along my footpath a few months ago. Along with a pumpkin and a witch and a skeleton type dragon."

Jen's 'tail' wiggled merrily. Mine was slumped on the brickworks, nervous that we were going to be called out. We were just having fun. Post Hallowe'en hilarity. And now this geezer might pull us up.

But no! The fella patted our heads again and suggested we follow him. Jen looked me straight in the eyes - it was clear. Follow.

With us in tow, he moved from stall to stall, patting our heads as stallholders grinned and filled our backpacks with yummy offerings. The joke was over by now and our initial idea of going to a few stallholders before jumping up and dancing arm in arm was beginning to feel rather worse for wear.

We 'flicked' our tails and began to back away from our 'mate', when he reached out and grinned, "Now c'mom. Up ya get. Dance. Sing".

We froze - each of us with one claw in the air; our tails rigid. How did he know? We did our best as we carefully stood upright, trembling with the thought that this ol' geezer knew something about us.

Dancing and singing our **Lizard Song**, the fella began to stand, and upon standing, he quickly moved his hands to his face and rip... a full head mask came off to reveal... our grandpop!

He laughed and cuddled us. The Sunday crowd clapped and clapped. Market Day at The Rocks and everyone knew but us!

~ Anonymous Probus 'Meaders

### **Once there was a lizard..**



Clink on link in **red** to the *Lizard Song*. Sing with your wee grandees. They will love it.

## November's Summer Twilight BBQ

John Curtain Reserve  
Winston Hills



A wonderful Wednesday evening of sharing stories and food and the laughter.... the laughter could be heard across the park according to one dog walker.

### Share Plates were Fabulous

Hors d'oeuvre fresh fruits-cheese-lentils-nuts-chippies

Salads pulled smoked salmon-fennel and mango-caesar

Dessert home baked banana and walnut cake

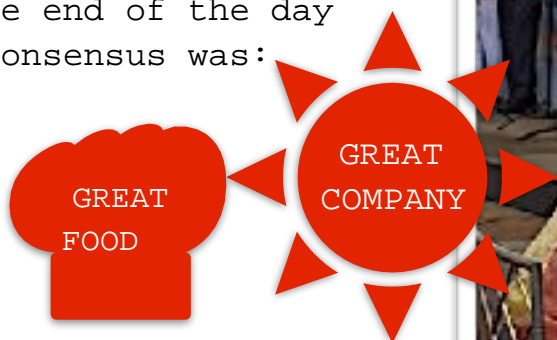
Red and sparkling wines, beer



## Our First Christmas Lunch

WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT, THE DAY STARTED WITH A TOUCH OF ADVENTURE.

At the end of the day the consensus was:



GREAT ENTERTAINMENT  
FROM THE UKULELE  
GROUP



Overall, everyone enjoyed themselves and had a GREAT DAY.

Thank you Geoff Newland & Scott Hale





Hope you had a wonderful festive season filled with fun, friendship, fellowship and, MORE

We ended our 2019 'Meaders' Probus year with a fantastic tribute to Dean Martin and Elvis Presley. Mick Gerace, along with a fabulous band, TBC, reached out to each of us... as the songs just kept on coming.



Mick's superb voice matched Elvis' 2 1/3 octave reach from a baritone low up to a tenor high. Thus we were rocked with perfect pitch renditions of *Burning Love*, *Now or Never*, *Return to Sender*... we didn't get *Hound Dog* but he did hit us with *Heartbreak Hotel* and *Blue Suede Shoes*. And *In the Ghetto* - what more can one say.



The hall was stunningly quiet as Mick reminded us of the background to this disturbing song written by Mac Davis. This link may interest you - click [In the Ghetto](#)

**STREETMED received donations from concert.**



## Northmead & District Probus Management Committee

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### NOTE

Your **MANAGEMENT TEAM** is here to help you. You are **VERY WELCOME** to call any of us if you have an issue, an idea, need clarification.