

PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST INC.

NEWSLETTER

25 May 2026

Editor: John Knight 0413 436393

Vol.35 No. 5

Website: <http://www.probusclubwahroongaeast.org.au/>



Our Club newsletter is published for the pleasure and information of our members only



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Stuart Armstrong 0403 989 119 sh.armstrong@outlook.com

I am writing these notes in our hotel room in Samarkand. Helen and I are finding Uzbekistan a most welcoming country with some amazing sights and history, the very heart of the Silk Road. We are in the lands conquered by Alexander the Great and by Genghis Khan. Marco Polo passed through here and brought Spaghetti to Italy.

The craftsmen of Samarkand stole the secrets of paper making from the Chinese and still make paper here the same way. The amazing mathematician al-Khwarizmi (Latin name "Algoritmi") wrote the first treatise on Algebra and gave his name to the Algorithm, and the great Astronomer Mirzo Ulug'bek named and plotted the precise location of over a thousand stars in the 1440s – without a telescope!

I am delighted to announce that our management Committee has been strengthened by the addition of Ron Wainberg. Ron is one of our newer members who has already taken on the role of Speaker Secretary.

More new members joined us at the last meeting – Richard Ames, Wayne Donaldson, Carol Whitehead and Helen Armstrong. We are planning for another three inductions at the May meeting. If you have more potential members in mind, please keep Peter Smith informed.

With all these new members, we are building up a backlog of Introductory talks. Therefore I am pleased to confirm that at the May meeting we will be having a talk from Peter Townsend, who joined us in February.

Finally, don't forget to keep up to date with the new activities – pickleball and cycling. And if any of you have more ideas for (perhaps less physically active) options, just let a member of the Management Committee know.



FROM THE SECRETARY

Colin Ashman 0412 948 101 c.ashman@bigpond.com

I have received a number of emails from PSPL regarding events for their 50th anniversary including wine offers, golfing and special discounts in a range of areas. To see what is available please check out the PSPL site – members area. [Click here](#) – you will need your email address and PSPL membership number.

For members who joined recently, I have your PSPL membership cards, please catch up with me during the May meeting to collect these.



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Peter Smith 94499108 0409 284 245 reachfar53@bigpond.com

It's been an exciting period for membership growth in the Club. We currently have 17 people who have indicated an interest in joining us. Of these 3 will be inducted at the May meeting with two more due to visit us to get a feel about what we do.

Thanks to club members who have introduced the idea of joining our club to friends - it is showing promising results for us. Please make sure you make everyone new and prospective very welcome when you meet them at our next meeting.

Monthly meeting: St Ives Club, 100 Killeaton Street, St Ives, 2075

Current meeting: Monday 25 May 2026

Next meeting: Monday 22 June 2026



WINE and DINE

Jim Fulton 0418 887 836

jimful@gmail.com

Joyful House Chinese Restaurant, Hornsby Mall. 6pm Tuesday 16 June

The next W & D event is a Chinese banquet at Joyful House Chinese restaurant in Hornsby mall. The cost is \$62pp and includes BYO wine.

The venue is on the ground floor near the other restaurants and there is plenty of parking in the mall.

Please advise Jim Fulton - jimful@gmail.com or phone 0418 887 836 if you are coming and pay \$62pp to the club bank a/c.

We still have plenty of room in this event at this new restaurant for us to try.



GUEST SPEAKERS

Ron Wainberg 0418 427 481

ronw@kemaro.com.au

May Speaker: Patricio Parrague

Patricio Parrague is a Chilean Australian philanthropist, photographer, and community volunteer known for his contributions to aviation heritage, local museums, and photography projects. His uncle, Roberto Parrague, a notable Chilean aviator, encouraged his interest aviation heritage and , particularly, the Catalina flying boats. He has been involved in preserving the history of these aircraft and contributed to restoration projects as a volunteer for the Catalina Flying Memorial in Australia

Patricio will tell a story about two aviators, one Australian and the other Chilean, who shared the same idea: to establish an air route across the South Pacific Ocean. They met and greatly enjoyed their friendship. Also, the talk will look at the participation of Australian Catalina flying boats that defended Australia against Japanese forces in World War II, including detail about the planes which these two pilots flew and their current whereabouts.



PICKLEBALL

Ian Cameron
Greg Starr

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Our members got together for an Intra-Club day at the PCYC Waitara on 1 May and enjoyed the afternoon with lots of laughs and missed shots. Some members are taking advantage of the regular social days on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for some extra practice.

Our next Intra-Club day is on 5 June from 1pm till 3pm at the PCYC Waitara - cheer squad members welcome.



INVESTMENT GROUP

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Howard Vains 9953 1087

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It is well nigh impossible to forecast how the Australian share market will perform over the coming months as we live in interesting times! The investment meeting will discuss the latest budget and its effect on the share market. Will the planned taxation changes influence your investment approach. Happy investing.



OUTINGS

Stuart Tatham

0412 443 648 tathams1@iinet.net.au

The Club had a very enjoyable outing on the Naval Historical Society's MV Bennelong charter vessel and the morning tea was excellent as expected. In all, there were 28 members attending and we enjoyed a fine sunny (mostly) day for the comprehensive tour of the naval facilities east of the Harbour Bridge.

We've hit a bit of a snag with the trip planned for Thursday 11 June 2026 to the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park with a casual lunch after the tour at a nearby café. At this time, we only have 11 starters and the Organiser's require a minimum group of 15 so please reconsider your plans for that day so we can confirm the minimum participants. Reports from members who have visited the Anzac Memorial in the past have rated it highly.

There are a couple of further day outings being prepared by Oncourse Tours including a Hawkesbury Ferry trip probably early August. I expect this outing information will be available in June.



THEATRE

John Poole

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Our next theatre outing is Pymble Players' "Midnight Murder at Hamlington Hall" on Friday 7 August immediately before "The Last Night at the Proms" on 8 August at Willoughby Concourse which is always a very popular event so a weekend of culture. After that we have the big one: "My Fair Lady" at the Sydney Opera House at matinee time (1pm) on Friday 30 September. We round out 2026 when we return to Pymble Players at the Zenith Theatre for "A Christmas Carol, a Ghost Story of Christmas" on 20 November. Still lots to look forward to so get your bookings in!!



ANCESTRY

Stuart Armstrong 0403 989 119 sh.armstrong@outlook.com

Apologies for my absence in May and June, but I assure you that I will be available once again for all of your genealogy queries in July. Meanwhile, I will be undertaking some sociable research on my own family when I participate in the Armstrong Clan gathering next month!



WALKING GROUP

Chris Wood 0418 227 811

chris@wood.id.au

Walking Group - Glebe Foreshore Walk

Sixteen intrepid souls (see photo) from Barra Brui and our club set off from Turramurra Station (and points south) down to Rozelle Bay station via the T1 Railway and the Light Rail. Cloudy weather with occasional light showers unfurled a few umbrellas but hats protected most of us. The new fish markets loomed up as we completed our walk across 3 parks looking north to Sydney's beautiful bridges.

Unfortunately, our arrival coincided with peak lunch hour so achieving culinary satisfaction was a bit tedious and difficult. Finding somewhere to sit even more so. This new facility needs management, signage and seats.

Walking Group - Cremorne Point Walk via Circular Quay

Our next outing is to Cremorne Point: an easy stroll with some mild inclinations and plenty of vistas. Join us on Thursday 9 July – between now and then I will do some reconnoitre so more details in the next newsletter.

Fitwalk (Every Tuesday 8.30-9.30am—a level 4 Km stroll with coffee to finish

We can just fit in a few more walkers each Tuesday (outside Woolies, North Turramurra).



**BRIDGE**

Ian Maze

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0419 697 125

mazes@themazes.com

The Bridge group continues to play on the second Monday each month at Huon Park Lodge games room. This month we had another successful session with good attendance.

New members are settling in quickly so we can still accommodate additional members. You will enjoy a pleasant afternoon of bridge and repartee amongst friends.

Please feel free to contact either Ian Maze or Joan Giacometti if you would like to try Bridge with us. The June date is a public holiday and will probably be changed; possibly to 15 June.

**TOURS**Stuart Armstrong
Jeni Locke0403 989 119
0400 751 216sh.armstrong@outlook.com
thelockes@hotmail.com**Yulefest in Canberra 1 to 4 July 2026 (4 days)**

Yulefest has become a popular annual event for the Club, and it is a great way for newer members to get to know people. Highlights include accommodation at the heritage-listed Hotel Kurrajong where our Yulefest supper will also be provided and a visit to the “Christmas in July” markets.

Notably we will be spending one afternoon at the War Memorial, with an opportunity to view the first phase of the new development and culminating in the “Last Post” ceremony. If you want a glimpse at what you can expect to see in the new museum, I recommend that you watch the series “A New Anzac”, available on SBS On Demand.

Because Stuart will be away, Jeni is leading this tour. All queries to Jeni, please!

New Zealand 5 to 18 November (14 days)

This tour is now fully booked, but people may drop out, so we are happy to keep a waiting list. The fantastic itinerary includes time on the West coast of the North Island and on the North West coast of the South Island, majestic areas not usually visited by tours, as well as an intensive exploration of the Marlborough wine region around Blenheim.

The tour concludes in Queenstown, from where we fly home. We have also upgraded our accommodation on the “Northern Explorer” train to include the full on-board dining experience!

Deposits have now been paid and the balance is due by 5 July. I recommend that you take out travel insurance, particularly because of the unusual prospect of changes or cancellations due to possible fuel restrictions. In Stuart’s absence, Dave Rigby is the point of contact for any queries.

March-April 2027

I know we said we would build an itinerary around the Melbourne International Garden Festival (MIGF) but there are a few spanners in the works. The MIGF is 22 March to 27 March and overlaps Easter (Friday 26 to Monday 29) and, to make matters worse, the Probus AGM is on 22 March.

Would travelling over Easter deter members? Would members be interested in departing straight/soon after the Probus meeting and returning on Sunday 28 March? - so about 6+ days.

It would be a fly in/fly out tour. We're considering visiting gardens in Bendigo and Ballarat and, possibly, some Great Ocean Road scenery before returning home from Avalon.

Does it tweek your interest? Please give it your thought and, if even just slightly interested, let Jeni (on the Tours desk) know your thoughts on Monday. Unfortunately, with Easter involved, we need to move quickly to obtain accommodation hence the feel of urgency.

Yulefest July 2027

How about heading back to Abercrombie House in Bathurst, the scene of our first, and highly successful, Yulefest tour back in 2023.



CYCLING Michael Stokes 0451 760 641 mglstokes@yahoo.co.uk

Following the April Meeting, we have initial expressions of interests in the cycling group from 5 members, with rides being planned for late May and in June.

Members at all levels of bike competency are welcome - even if you don't have a bike, we can lend you one and provide transport!

If you missed my presentation at the April Meeting and/or would like to know more about the group, catch up with me during the morning tea break at the monthly meeting on 25 May.



**GOLF (Fred Barton 0414 252 666 fbarton@bigpond.net.au
Guy Wynn 9440 5612 0411 859 533 guy@castlebay.com.au)**



Nothing to report at this point in time but we're still active. So look forward to next month when we will have details of our next golf day.



**SPECIAL Barry Pulsford 9144 4373 0447 194 514 barry.pulsford@bigpond.com
EVENTS Barry Connors 9488 8542 0419 283 936 barry.connors@outlook.com**

Mid-Year Lunch at Miramare Gardens 12 noon on Friday 29 May 2026

Following the success of our Miramare lunch last year, we return to the same venue in 2026.

You will be greeted with a "welcome drink" that will be your choice of a glass of soft drink, sparkling white, white wine, red wine or beer. Further drinks will be available from the bar at your cost. The lunch will include the chef's choice of canapes, alternate drop mains and alternate drop desserts followed by coffee and tea. For all this, the cost is \$90 pp. The final date on which refunds will available for cancellations is 18 May.

For those who have not been to the venue before, even though the address is Mona Vale Road, the only access is via Myoora Road opposite the new hospital. Follow the long driveway to the underground car park. If you need further access information or need transport to the lunch, please contact Barry.

Prawn Lunch at Caley's Pavilion, St Ives Wildflower Gardens 12 noon on Friday 28 August

This will be the 30th prawn lunch and, while it is several months away, put the date in your diaries.

For new members, this is one of the feature events on our Probus calendar. It began in 1995 and we have missed just one with Covid in 2020 so this is our 30th, always at this bushland venue.

There has been no increase in the cost this year which stays at \$50pp. The choice of chicken is available for those who do not want to eat prawns – please advise on booking.

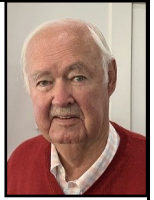
Drinks --- this is a BYO event for drinks (soft drink, beer and wine) and remember to BYO drinking glasses.

Bookings are now open. The date after which refunds will not be available for cancellations is 21 August.





RAMBLING ROADS (Jim Verco 9449 2847 0414 814 044 j.wverco@bigpond.com
 Bob Grant 9489 2804 0419 164 454 raigrant@bigpond.net.au)



Armidale Region 19 to 23 April 2026

In mid-April Probus provided its ninth Rambling Roads experience when members travelled to Armidale in Northern NSW. Although plans were initially formed about October last year, by March this year the international and national situation relating to fuel supply had become a concern.

Would we have access to sufficient fuel to get to Armidale? Or, having arrived would there be sufficient to enable us to enjoy some touring, or even to get home? Certainly, nobody wished to see a bunch of octogenarians stranded, homeless, five-hundred kilometres from the comforts of home.

After due consideration we resolved to risk all by adhering to our established plans, a decision which was amply vindicated during our five-day outing.



Armidale is a thriving rural township which serves its surrounding grazing country and which also caters for a number of State and Independent schools as well as the New England University. The effects of a serious drought did not detract from the enjoyment of the lovely countryside and the scenery afforded by huge gorges which incise the terrain.



Even with no water flowing in its waterfall, Wollomombi Gorge is impressive. So too is the engaging chapel constructed by the original owner of Gostwyck, a property just outside Uralla.



We were also impressed by various visits to Art Galleries, a motor museum, the poetry shared by a bush poet in Guyra, and visits to homesteads such as Booloominbah and the National Trust's Saumarez. McCrossin's social history museum in Uralla provided a wealth of information.



In a sophisticated setting such as Armidale, bush tucker is hardly a consideration, being delightfully replaced by some fine dining in various restaurants and where the experiences of the day were readily shared. Our fuel availability concerns having been alleviated, and fortified by our new experiences we were pleased ultimately to return to home territory.

