

**Probus Club of
Wahroonga East**
2003 to 2012



**The Second
Ten Years**





Reminiscences of Twenty Years Enjoyment in our Club

Roy Lawrence – Charter Member and President 1994-95

Peter Langford, our first President and convenor, spoke at the ten years Celebratory Dinner giving the highlights of the first ten years of the Club's existence and how the Probus concept had worked so well. In fact in his view the Club had exceeded everyone's expectations in how much its activities played in adding to the life of members retiring from the all-consuming routine of daily work life.

As a fellow charter member, I also attest to the value of the Probus idea of an association of retired people who join together in a club, the basic purpose of which is to provide regular opportunities to keep our minds active, expand our interests and enjoy the fellowship of new friends. The Club quickly became part of my life and continues to be so. Amongst my memories is the very large number of members who have contributed to the Club's success by volunteering their time and skills. Rarely has a member rejected a request to help and then to my knowledge only for an understandable reason. This is a wonderful basis for a great Club of people.

In the early days there were a couple of issues which required debate but these were worked through. One decision was to allow/invite our wives to all our meetings –not common practice in most Probus Clubs then and now. I believe that practice has been a main strength of our club, especially in the success of the social life of the Club. Only recently was I invited to speak to another Probus Club, envious of the success of our many activities, and whilst naturally I gave credit to the calibre of our members I added that the Club owed much to the wholehearted support of our ladies. We continue that approach with our invitation to wives of deceased members to remain connected if they wish to do so. Some do, some do not - over to them. Whatever they do we wish them well.

Our archivist, Ian Davidson, tells me we have lost eighty nine members, many deceased unfortunately - others leaving for a variety of reasons. Incidentally I like the idea of having an archivist for two reasons - one it shows our intention to go on forever and the other in case we forget something that happened in the past. All of the eighty nine have left their mark on the Club but I would like to mention five of them: Max Primrose our first Editor, George Laxton who introduced us to computers, Ray Arthur to investments, Bill Artis Vice President in our first year and President in the following year and Malcolm Stewart Secretary of the Club. I find it interesting that each year about a fifth of the club - twenty members - are involved in various voluntary roles in the Club.



Most of our interest groups have continued to thrive since their gestation at various times of the twenty years. One or two have disappeared whilst others have fluctuated in member interest as we would expect in a live and changing people association. The convenors of the activity groups have therefore been many over the years and every one of them has made a great contribution to the success of our Club. They are too numerous to mention or to single out.

A major decision of the Club after about fifteen years was to encourage future membership to be at a lower age and to show a history of enthusiasm so that they can take over the tasks of leading the Club in future. We, charter members and other long-term members, can now sit back and enjoy the efforts of the 'newies', who already have shown the same willingness and ability to progress the Club as their predecessors. The alternative decision for us was to 'slowly fade away into the west' as some Probus clubs have done and are doing.

So the future of the Club is very sound and we all look forward to many enjoyable Probus years together.



**PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST
2002 - 2003**

PRESIDENT

John Julius



VICE PRESIDENT

Howard Vains

SECRETARY

Ian Davidson

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Roy Freeman

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dr Jim White

TREASURER

Kevin Fellow

BULLETIN

Max Primrose

SPEAKERS Ian McCredie

David Royall

Prof. Bruce Mansfield

John Butter

John Zehnder

Brenden Riordan

Bob Davis

Evan Whitton

Dick Stone

Trevor Waters

Rex Gunton

Harry Griffiths

Surprising Libya

Macquarie University

The Oldest Industrial Company In Australia

Life of An International Geologist

Australian Volunteer Coastguard

Fascinating World of the Honey Bee

Serial Liars

His South American Saga

Spires of St. Mary's Cathedral

Railways in the Future of Sydney

Memories of Stiffy & Mo

DAY TOURS/FUNCTIONS Ken Conway

10th Anniversary Dinner – Berowra

Visit Calga Springs Sanctuary

Tour to Joadja Creek

Sydney Airport Tour

Christmas at Jamberoo Valley

Fairground Follies Alexandria – Musical Instruments

Progressive Dinner

Prawn Luncheon

Christmas Lunch – Pymble Golf Club

BBQ

LONG TOURS Ian Lucas/Raoul Desoe

Tasmania - 11 days

Merimbula - 5 days

PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST
2003 - 2004

PRESIDENT
Howard Vains



VICE PRESIDENT

Ian Lucas

SECRETARY

John Spurrett

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Roy Freeman

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

John Julius

TREASURER

Kevin Fellew

BULLETIN

Max Primrose

SPEAKERS John Sim

Hon. Peter McInerney

Mim Biem

Richard Smart

Dr Ian Collins

Peter Kell

Hon. Phillip Ruddock

Vic Martin

Henry Badgery

Snr. Sgt. Don Eyb

Clive Lucas

The Law & the Media

Energy After 60

All About Australian Consumers Assn

From Hippocrates to Modern Medicine

Do You Want to Get Rich Quick?

The Migration Program

Reflections & Current Banking Issues

What Am I Bid?

History of NSW Mounted Police

The Early Queensland Homestead

DAY TOURS/FUNCTIONS Ken Conway

Sydney Art Gallery – Picasso Exhibition

Cruise Pittwater

Tour Mt. Wilson

David Parsons Concert

Hunter Valley Tour

Christmas at Mandalay

Progressive Dinner

Nepean River Cruise

Leura Gardens

Prawn Luncheon

Christmas Lunch – Avondale Golf Club

BBQ

LONG TOURS Keith Galloway

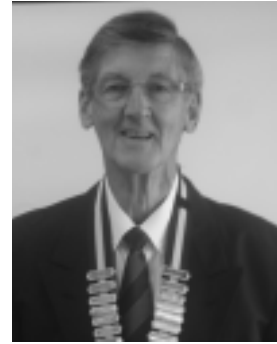
Noosa Tour - 7 days

PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST

2004 - 2005

PRESIDENT

Ian Lucas



VICE PRESIDENT

John Spurrett

SECRETARY

Andrew Bean

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Roy Freeman

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Howard Vains

TREASURER

Kevin Fellow

BULLETIN

Max Primrose

SPEAKERS Ian Davidson

Andrew Lusher

Paul Delprat

Elizabeth Ellis

Ian Ramage

Dr Neil Conn

Gary Nash

Dr James Wright

Dr Brendon Nelson

Dr Ron Wainberg

Jerry Frenkel

Sydney Harbour Pilot

Julian Ashton Art School

Memories of Macquarie Street

You Can Be An Historian

Fmr. Administrator Northern Territory

From Russia to China to Australia

Medico / Media Presenter

Minister for Education

Recycling and Waste Management

The Garvan Institute

DAY TOURS/FUNCTIONS Ken Conway

Celebratory Dinner at Warrawee Bowling Club

Buffet Lunch on Sydney Harbour

Science Centre and Planetarium – Wollongong

Port to Port Guided Tour

Fighter World at Williamstown

Christmas at Mandalay

Progressive Dinner

Springtime at Kariong

Canberra Floriade (2 nights)

Hawkesbury River Safari

Prawn Luncheon

Christmas at Warrawee Bowling Club

BBQ at Bobbin Head

LONG TOURS Keith Galloway

Milton Village & Scenic Hinterland (12 days)

Murray River Tour (11 days)

PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST

2005 - 2006

PRESIDENT

John Spurrett



VICE PRESIDENT

Cliff Marriott

SECRETARY

Andrew Bean

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Roy Freeman

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Ian Lucas

TREASURER

Kevin Fellow

BULLETIN

Ian Lucas

SPEAKERS Ian Davidson

David Claydon

Hugh Anderson

David Nutley

Graeme Mclean

Jason Lea

Ray Knight

Matthew Geracitano

Lesley Martin

Mick York

Isolda Martyn

Islam

Outback Experiences – Aboriginal Issues

Marine Archaeologist

Young Drivers Awareness Program

Chocolates

Ned Kelly Isn't Dead

Drug Awareness, Rehab & Management

U3A

“James Craig”

Perils & Pleasures of Writing Historical Novels

DAY TOURS/FUNCTIONS Hugh Anderson

Visit Micro Surgery Unit

Day in Paradise – Pittwater

Horsley Park Dressage

Mt. Tomah Botanic Gardens

Historic Parramatta Tour

Christmas at Mandalay

Progressive Dinner

Hawkesbury River Cruise

Prawn Luncheon

Christmas Lunch – Killara Golf Club

BBQ

LONG TOURS Keith Galloway

Cameron Corner (12 days)

Oberon & Yerranderie (6 days)

PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST

2006 - 2007

PRESIDENT

Cliff Marriott



VICE PRESIDENT

Ian Davidson

SECRETARY

Andrew Bean

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Peter Jones

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

John Spurrett

TREASURER

Rob Giacometti

BULLETIN

Ian Lucas

SPEAKERS Hugh Anderson

Vic Cramer

Robert Ampt

Dr Anne Prescott

Elizabeth Giles

David Smithers AM

Kamahl

Air Comm. Geoff Brown AM

Roger Perkins

Louise Sauvage

Snr Constable Colin Crome

Experiences of A Test Pilot

The Town Hall Organ

Education. Where is it Going?

Refugee Camps in Afghanistan

Sydney Olympic Bid

The Entertainment Industry

Operation Free Iraq

The RAS

Para-Olympian

Policing in Country Towns

DAY TOURS/FUNCTIONS Geoff Morris

Stanwell Tops / Royal National Park

Cabramatta Tour

Tour to NRMA Careflight

Dressage Horsley Park

ABC Studios -New Inventors

Jewish Museum & Italian Forum

Xmas at Mandalay

Progressive Dinner

Coach Britannia

Hunter Valley

History, Wine & Wilderness (1 night)

Prawn Luncheon

Christmas Lunch at Killara Golf Club

BBQ

LONG TOURS Keith Galloway

Wonders of Bellingen Valley (5 days)

Arkaroola, Innaminka & Birdsville (15 days)

Mildura – Mungo National Park (7 days)

PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST

2007 - 2008

PRESIDENT

Ian Davidson



VICE PRESIDENT

Howard Gardner

SECRETARY

Peter Jones

SERVICE DIRECTOR

John Huggart

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Cliff Marriott

TREASURER

Rob Giacometti

BULLETIN

Ian Lucas

SPEAKERS Hugh Anderson

David Marr

Aaron Fowler & Emily Stannard

Graham Anscoough

Ken Black

Murray Harlin

James Castrission & Justin Jones

Sir James Hardy

Nicholas Cowdery

Matt Gottard

Wendy Cornish

Journalist

School Captains Ku-ring-gai Hs

Recording Your Life History

The History of Morse Code

Bush Poet

Crossing the Ditch

Wine, Sailing & Philanthropy

NSW Director of Public Prosecutions

Australian Rugby Union Referee

What Makes A Good Joke?

DAY TOURS/FUNCTIONS Geoff Morris

Sydney Harbour – View Queen Mary

Newcastle Trip

Yarramalong Valley/ Mangrove Dam

Progressive Dinner

Georges Head Discovery

Lunch at Monash Country Club

ABC Ultimo Centre

Special Screening on Men's Health

Red Cow Farm & Berrima

Prawn Luncheon

Christmas at Pymble Golf Club

BBQ

LONG TOURS Keith Galloway

Snowy Mountains Explorer (7 days)

Eden, Lakes Entrance & High Country (9 days)

PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST

2008 - 2009

PRESIDENT

Howard Gardner



VICE PRESIDENT

Hugh Anderson

SECRETARY

Peter Jones

SERVICE DIRECTOR

John Huggart

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Ian Davidson

TREASURER

Rob Giacometti

BULLETIN

Ian Lucas

SPEAKERS Colin Goodchild

Martin Thomas

Colin Sutton

Fred Bowman

Prof Ann Goodchild

Steven Carruthers

Rex Doughty

Terry Carson

Dr John Douglas

Det.Supt Deborah Wallace

Ian Howden

Nuclear Power –Australia's Opportunity

Natl. Health & Medical Research Council

138 Squadron – Bomber Command

Research of Medicine At Macquarie Uni.

Submarine Attack on Sydney 1942

Planning Outcomes in Retirement

Schools in North Pakistan

Surgery for Hips & Knees

My Life of Crime

Aceh Tsunami & Rotary Project

DAY TOURS/FUNCTIONS Ian Maze

Berowra Waters, Cruise

Garden Island Navy Heritage Centre

Canberra – Turner to Monet Exhibition (2 nights)

Powerhouse Centre, Castle Hill

Rouse Hill Estate & the New Rouse Hill

Mid-year Lunch at Roseville Golf Club

Heritage Tour – Mahratta

Ettalong Beach Club Outing

Leura Garden Festival

Prawn Lunch

Christmas at Pymble Golf Club

BBQ

LONG TOURS Geoff Morris

Kimberley Wilderness Adventure (16 days)

New England Tour (7 days)

PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST

2009 - 2010

PRESIDENT

Hugh Anderson



VICE PRESIDENT

Dr John Douglas

SECRETARY

Peter Jones

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Ron Harvey

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Howard Gardner

TREASURER

Rob Giacometti

BULLETIN

Ian Cameron

SPEAKERS Colin Goodchild

Rob Darroch

John Elliston

Steve McGregor

Rev Jasper Engholm

Tarquin De La Forte

Tom Sweeney

Myrna Dodd OAM

Jack McBurney

Pamela Spruce

Bruce Batten

Secret Armies

Climate Change, Global Energy

Magnificent Machines - the Spitfires

Danish Church in Australia

Diamonds- Myth, Magic, Mystery & Love

The Plot Thickens

The Theatre of the Imagination

Bush Poetry & its Effect on Aust. History

Butlers & the Australian Butling School

HMAS Sydney

DAY TOURS/FUNCTIONS Ian Maze

Parramatta River Ferry Cruise

Progressive Dinner

Bare Island Fort & Kurnell

Windsor Heritage / Farm Trail

Mid-year Lunch at Roseville Golf Club

Lucas Heights & Bundeena Ferry

Tour to Picton

Canberra – Floriade & McCubbin Exhibition (2 nights)

Train Trip to Newcastle

Prawn Lunch

Christmas Lunch at Pymble Golf Club

BBQ at Bobbin Head

LONG TOURS Geoff Morris

Norfolk Island Trip (8 days)

Cairns, Gulf & Outback (15 Days)

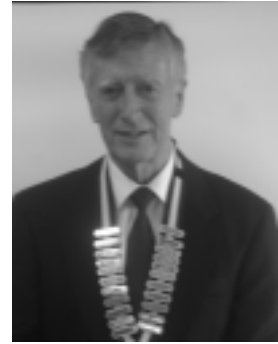
Bowral – Golf, Bowls & Bushwalking (3 days)

PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST

2010 - 2011

PRESIDENT

Dr John Douglas



VICE PRESIDENT

Peter Jones

SECRETARY

Peter Lovell

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Ron Harvey

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Hugh Anderson

TREASURER

Rob Giacometti

BULLETIN

Ian Cameron

SPEAKERS Andrew Marr

Bill Killingen

Dr Ian Collins

Peter Plowman

Dr Janda Gooding

Anna-Louise Bouvier

Patrick Dodd

Mike Pailthorpe

Dr John Deeble AO

Neil Inall

Bob Davis

Asian Rail Projects

Alternative Medicine

British Migrants in Post War Years

Gallipoli Revisited, Charles Bean & the Australian
Historical Mission, 1919

Learn to Feel Good & Move Better in Old Age

The Mitchell is 100

Textiles & Forensic Science

Big Questions in Healthcare

Food, Glorious Food

Natural Superiority of Left Handed People

DAY TOURS/FUNCTIONS Ian Maze

St Albans Heritage Visit

Progressive Dinner

Tour Newington Armoury

Brisbane Water Cruise

Mid-year Lunch at Roseville Golf Club

Port Stephens Visit (2 nights)

Cruising Sydney Harbour

Mt Wilson Gardens

Prawn Lunch

Christmas Lunch at Pymble Golf Club

BBQ at Bobbin Head

LONG TOURS Geoff Morris

Vietnam & Cambodia Trip (19 days)

Bowral – Golf, Bowls & Bushwalking (3 days)

Orange Tour (6 days)

PROBUS CLUB OF WAHROONGA EAST

2011 - 2012

PRESIDENT

Peter Jones



VICE PRESIDENT

Ian Maze

SECRETARY

Peter Lovell

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Ron Harvey

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dr John Douglas

TREASURER

Peter Brand

BULLETIN

Ian Cameron

SPEAKERS Andrew Marr

Lawrence Peak

Peter Plowman

Matt McCredie

Bob Grant

Jennifer Philps

Ceinwen Kirk

John Roberts

Michael Waterhouse

Doug Minty

Joan Giacometti

Atlas and the Large Hadron Collider – Voyage of Discovery

Wartime Convoys

Police Dogs

Developments in Education

Genetics - The Future is Now

Barangaroo

Managing Knowledge

Adventures on the New Guinea Goldfields between the Wars

The History of Time

An Australian Led Mongolian Orphanage

DAY TOURS/FUNCTIONS Peter Booth

Prince Henry Museum & Elizabeth Bay House

Progressive Dinner

Tobruk Sheep Station

Aust Motorlife Museum & Historical Aircraft Restoration Society

Mid-year Lunch at Roseville Golf Club

Mt Annan Gardens & Warragamba Dam

Northern Beaches, St Patrick's College & Bahai Temple

Prawn Lunch

Christmas Lunch at Pymble Golf Club

BBQ at Bobbin Head

LONG TOURS Geoff Morris

China Trip (19 days)

Bowral – Golf, Bowls & Bushwalking (3 days)

Canberra (3 days)

New Zealand Circumnavigation Cruise (14 days)

Bowls

Bernie Cookson

Of the many activities organised within Wahroonga East Probus Club, lawn bowls has played a very strong part during the last 20 years and is now enjoyed by about 40% of our members. Throughout each year, a number of Probus Clubs enter teams in up to six separate invitation days and three inter-club Shield matches. In addition to this, Wahroonga East has its own internal bowling fun day known as St Thongs.

As an example of the strong fraternity, in 2011 108 players from 18 different Probus Clubs, including 35 of our members, played in the various games. With this number of events, all interested bowlers have an opportunity to participate and it is obvious that bowls will continue to maintain its popularity as a well-supported Club activity.

The major bowls event is the Probus Shield, first introduced and sponsored by Westpac in 1987. After a short time, Westpac ceased its association, sponsorship was then picked up by Prudential, who maintained support for another five years. Following this, and in the absence of any further external assistance, the event simply became known as 'The Probus Shield'.

This annual inter-club event is now in its 25th Jubilee year. From an original twelve participating clubs, it has grown to fourteen in friendly competition on the greens and hosted by the previous year's winner. In the last ten years, Wahroonga East has won the trophy on four occasions - 2002, 2007, 2008 and 2010. It was hoped we would retain the Shield in 2011 but it was not to be. This event is also healthy, well supported and should continue to be a competitive activity within the Probus organization.

The internal fun game known as 'St Thongs', is a pairs format played each year by Wahroonga East Probus members. 2012 will be the 7th year for this prestigious and highly regarded trophy, played between a side selected from Warrawee Bowling Club members and a composite St Thongs side from St Ives, Turramurra, Hornsby, Newport and Gordon Bowling Clubs.



St. Thongs 2009

The first year, 2005, was a draw and each year since then, has been won by St Thongs.

Another activity we all enjoy within the Club is 'Trips & Tours'. One short trip in particular not only provides travel to a holiday location, but allows members to pursue their favourite activity in the company of fellow members. This is now in its fourth year and we have so far enjoyed this pleasant 3 day outing at Bowral. Our bowlers, hosted by a nearby bowling club, have been teamed with the local men and women on the greens, followed by lunch provided by the lady members. Be it to Bowral or some other suitable location in the future, these small excursions have been so successful that their continuation is assured.

Looking back over the years, Wahroonga East Probus bowlers can be proud that they have played a strong part in furthering the close fellowship with other Probus Clubs; this augers well for the future.

Golf

John Spurrett

In plotting the progress of golf over our 20-year history, it is significant that the emphasis has always been on enjoyment. Stories related over lunch after each game have given praise to good results, even if they were qualified by remarks relative to the winners handicap and where on earth it came from and perhaps what would be more appropriate for next month's game. However this was always done in good fun and most banter was directed to individual events that brought either joy or despair as that little white ball did strange things after leaving the golf club - sometimes never to be seen again.

Golf is a great game for a club such as ours because it doesn't matter whether you are a regular club comp player or an occasional hacker, we all have fun together and it is the fellowship enjoyed on the day that brings us back together the following month.

The first outing of Probus golfers was at Narellan on 13th September 1993 and since then regular monthly (almost) games have been played at a wide range of quality courses over the past 20 years. From time to time the ladies have joined to keep us men honest and the most regular players have been Judy Marriott and Rosemary Hobbs. Visitors have always been welcome and good associations have been formed which have led to new memberships.

Statistics relative to our group are interesting. Over the first ten years the best score of 47 stable ford points was carded by Alec Wannan while since then the best has been 46 points by Ian Cameron. Howard Gardner gets the nod for consistency as a regular top three finisher and scored 44 points during both the first and second halves of our history.

John Sim and Bill Locke performed strongly over the first half and recorded 45 and 43 points respectively. David Hobbs and Dick Stone scored 44 and 43 points during the second half and both were well placed over the full 20 years.

One pleasing factor throughout our golf games has been the variation in winners and the quite unique situation that over eight games pass without repetition in placings.

A highlight to the clubs sporting calendar over the last three years has been outings to Bowral and our golfers have enjoyed play at Bowral Golf Club. The ladies came out in force and frankly gave the men a golf lesson. Lunch provided by the club in the most tranquil bush setting at the 10th tee has become the signature event of the day.

While participation over the first half recorded numbers between 20 and 25 per game and there has been a fall to 16 and 20 starters over the second half, many earlier players have turned to bowls and keep up the sporting spirit of our club.

It must be recorded that David Mitchell, who founded our golfing outings, ran these events for 14 years in a most outstanding way and has been the inspiration that has kept golf alive in Probus today. He has never missed a game and our golfers have a very big "thank you " to him for all his help throughout our history.



Outings

Peter Booth

There were five convenors for Outings and Functions in the decade: Ken Conwell, Hugh Anderson, Geoff Morris, Ian Maze and Peter Booth.

Lists of outings and functions appear in the year pages of this publication, so repetition of the list here is unnecessary.

Outings were ad hoc, of course, and the scope and range of them is a tribute to the inventiveness of the convenors. An inspection of the list of adventures shows how much we embraced this great city and hinterland of ours, enjoying them to the full and continuing to learn. In recent years the outings have been scheduled for the Friday after our monthly Probus meeting; this has helped to increase the numbers going on the outings.

We cruised wherever it was possible to cruise, day and evening; we visited every important garden; we delved into our history, visiting stately buildings, museums, old settlements like Joadja Creek, Newington Armoury, Bare Island fort, Parramatta and sighting Aboriginal rock carvings. We inspected important institutions like Lucas Heights, specialist units within important hospitals, State Parliament, the State Library, UTS, Olympic Park, the ABC, Garden Island, NRMA Careflight, Williamtown air base and RAAF Richmond. We learned from visits to Industry: Port Kembla, Newcastle, the then-new John Fairfax print facility at Chullora, the Qantas air base and the Kurnell oil refinery. We visited exotic places such as Cabramatta and Chinatown and marvelled at how diverse this city of ours is. We inspected the Britannia State Coach and saw just how good our Australian dexterity can be. We ate meals in many unusual surroundings. And there was considerably more, all undertaken with the feeling of warmth that being inside our special Wahroonga East cocoon engenders.

During the decade, five regular functions became, or continued to be, part of the club's life. Chronologically they are:

- ***The Bobbin Head Barbecue:*** Taking everything with us except the kitchen sink, we gather at the barbecues at Bobbin Head at around Australia Day each year. In addition to cooking our own meals, we have great fun just socialising and sharing nibbles (and anecdotes) for an evening. In the last few years, various speakers were asked to address the group on the subject of "What does Australia Day mean to me?" All speakers so far have been excellent and go to prove yet again how diverse a group we are.



- ***The Progressive Dinner:*** This event is well attended each year. Initially, the event was held in winter, with guests visiting one host for entrée before driving to have main course with another before all participants went to meet at a central point for dessert and coffee. Towards the end of the decade, it was felt that making four car trips on a winter's evening was undesirable so the time changed to March and the entrees and main courses were chez the same hosts.
- ***The Mid-Year Lunch (formerly Christmas In July):*** Normally is held in June or July at a nice venue where members dress in jacket and tie and enjoy each other's company whilst partaking of fine food and wines. Comfort food.
- ***The Prawn Lunch:*** A much more casual affair. The usual venue is the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden in November; the fare is peel-yourself prawns (or chicken) with salad and desserts and a fine time is had by all. In a way it seems to signal the advent of the Christmas season and the atmosphere reflects that.
- ***The Christmas Lunch:*** This is the main event of the year and is the function that attracts the highest number of participants. The members and their ladies dress nicely and it is held at a prestigious location each year. In addition to fine food and wines, carols are sung (led for many years by John Sanders with accompaniment by Mae Wilby and assistance from Jean Lucas) and a genuinely warm and happy atmosphere prevails. Some prizes are presented and recently, a speaker has regaled us with some thoughts on Christmas.

We are so lucky to belong to this Club!



Long Tours

Geoff Morris

During 2002 Raoul Desoe looked after Long Tours.

We used Scenic Tours those days and we modified one of their standard Tasmanian Tours by staying longer in fewer hotels, eliminating the need to have "cases out by 7.30 am " every morning. This made our Probians' trip in March that year a very relaxed and enjoyable trip.

Following this approach, our next Long Tour was to Merimbula in late October '02, where we stayed at the just refurbished Black Dolphin motel for four nights, making day trips, boat trips and even managed to make time for a game of golf at the Pambula Golf course with Scenic Tours providing trophies. When this trip was announced, the interest was overwhelming. Instead of a large waiting list, we finished up with two of Scenic's coaches full with 80 Probians and wives.

Keith Galloway succeeded Raoul Desoe and handled Long Tours from April 2003 to May 2008.

During that period, there were 13 Tours ranging in length from 2 to 16 days. All were within Australia; North West almost as far as you could go; West into the Centre of Australia and South along the coastline.

The tours just emphasise the vastness and contrast of our country. The uniqueness of Lightning Ridge, the history of the Murray River, the fascination of a two-night stay in the Underground Motel at White Cliffs, Arkaroola and the Ridge top Tour to Sillers Lookout, Innaminka where the population varies from 14-16 and is steeped in Burke and Wills history, Birdsville and the red sand dunes at the commencement of the Simpson Desert, Ray Station and the history of the Tully and Durack families, the ruggedness and beauty of the Kimberleys, walking in to Mitchell Falls before flying out by helicopter, walking through the Bungle Bungles and then viewing them from a helicopter. These are only a few of the highlights but each Tour had one thing in common. We travelled with friends, some old friends and some new friends who would become old friends.

Until members participate in a Probus Wahroonga East Tour they will not know this experience. Tours are the quickest way to get to know your fellow Probians and the experience should be on the agenda of all new members and also older members who have not experienced a Tour.

Geoff Morris succeeded Keith Galloway and handled Long Tours from May 2008 to March 2012.

Two new innovations were introduced during this period. Ian Maze (then handling Outings) introduced three-day Canberra/Port Stephens trips which have proven to be popular each year and Hugh Anderson (then President) introduced the concept of a self-drive three-day sporting stay at Bowral, which again is extremely well supported in September each year.

Over the 2008-2011 period, a total of fourteen Tours were enjoyed: Four Canberra/Port Stephens; three Bowral, one Kimberley (led by Keith Galloway), three Australian coach tours (New England, Tropical North Queensland and Orange), one Norfolk Island and two Asian Tours (Vietnam/Cambodia and China/Singapore). A Sydney/Sydney cruise around New Zealand was enjoyed by 20 people in February/March 2012.

The two Asian Tours were very successful. We were fortunate to have excellent and empathetic guides and the itineraries were fascinating. A group book was produced for each Tour, and should make interesting reading when future Tours like that are being planned.

THEATRE OUTINGS

Doug Ferdinands

Roy Lawrence had a long and distinguished role in managing the Theatre Outings until I took over at the beginning of 2010. Writing in the 10 year history Roy said “ A survey of members in our first year had shown some interest in theatre-going. Past President Roy Lawrence with the then President Tony Tinworth’s support, decided to test out this interest and organised a theatre night at the Marion Street Theatre to see – “ No Names No Pack Drill”.

From these humble beginnings Theatre Outings are now a core activity which is well supported by most members. Theatre outings to the City or other major destinations have an average attendance of 40 members and their guests. They enjoy a bus ride in free from the hassles of parking with good interaction both on the way in and after the shows. To liven up things on the way in, most members enjoy a glass of champagne with some cheese and biscuits while the non-drinkers partake of some orange juice. Surprising how the orange juice gets everyone talking.

Apart from the City shows, we also continue to support the two local amateur theatre groups, The Willoughby Musical Society which produces a fine range of three musicals each year and Pymble Players which provides a varied assortment of four live drama productions each year. Both groups offer a very high standard of entertainment despite their amateur status. Around 50 members continue to support Pymble Players each year with around 20 members supporting the Willoughby Theatre.

The bus outings are selected so they offer a variety of entertainment ranging from major leading musical productions to drama and circus performances. The selections are aimed at catering to as wide a range of tastes as possible, so that as many members as possible have an opportunity to participate. From approximately two outings a year we now have approximately five bus outings a year.

I must express my thanks to the many willing assistants who provide me waiter services on the bus serving the drinks and in particular Hugh Anderson, Ian Cameron and David Mitchell who are always ready and willing to assist.

A selection of the shows seen over the past 10 years excluding the variety of productions hosted by Pymble Players and the Willoughby Musical Society include:

2002	Oliver Mamma Mia	2010	The Edinburgh Tattoo West Side Story Jersey Boys
2003	The Lion King	2011	Dr Zhivago Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber Andre Rieu Concert
2004	Sleeping Beauty on Ice		Cirque du Soleil – Saltimbanco Hairspray Schools Spectacular Mary Poppins
2005	The Edinburgh Military Tattoo The Producers		
2006	Dusty Titanic		
2007	Keating		
2008	Billy Elliot		
2009	Buddy “The Buddy Holly Story” Guys and Dolls Wicked The Musical		

Fine Wine and Dine

Your Hosts the Craigs and Lawrences

How did our Probus Club survive the first nine years of its existence without the Fine Wine and Dining experience? We have made up for it since, with over forty dine-outs in the following eleven years. It is hardly surprising that the original organising team of the Craigs and Lawrences have continuously eaten and imbibed in our Club's interests and made no effort to pass the 'task' onto others. They have appreciated suggestions from members but have somehow endured the onerous responsibility to choose the right place. We have dined at over twenty five restaurants ranging from Pymble and Castlecrag to Mt Colah and Terry Hills- each one meticulously examined before acceptance. Over the years the C's and L's have been out dining/testing many many times –not always successfully- there have been many disappointments; there are some 'tired' eating places around our area. There have been two outings with over 90 participants and one of those, Costis at St Ives, is still remembered by many. The arrangement of good seafood with a fascinating old-timers jazz band was simply great and was repeated twice afterwards. Another over eighty diners was at Christina's at Castlecrag although we are still not sure whether it was the Lebanese food or the belly dancer was the star attraction. Twice we have combined with the Outings group in providing FW&D with a Hawkesbury cruise and then at Georges Head with an escorted look at the old army tunnels followed by lunch at the Barracks Restaurant. We have not exceeded a cost of \$40 at any FW&D and that figure has only applied in up-market places, mainly French. As expected Chinese, Italian and Thai cuisines have been the most visited but others have included Japanese, Korean, Goanese, German, Lebanese and Greek. We often speak with the Chef to find his favourites before finalising the menu. Naturally hard bargaining is a requisite for the task to keep costs down, although admittedly the final mention of cash payments (no messy credit cards) has given our bargaining strength an edge. Thanks to all our hosts who have contributed so much to every Fine Wine & Dine out. Thank you for joining us.



Bushwalking

Phil Dudgeon

There were approximately one hundred walks programmed during the second ten years of the club. They were mainly on the North Shore but we did cross the Harbour on a number of occasions and travel as far north as Dangar Island. These walks have given us an opportunity to appreciate the diverse range of flora and fauna in our Sydney region. The walks along the foreshores of the Harbour and the Lane Cove river afforded wonderful vistas across the water whilst the walks through the Blue Gum High Forests, the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark and Blackbutt Forests and the Sandstone Bushland where there were many wildflowers, made for spectacular walks. The photography group joined us on the Lane Cove river walk to record the scenes.

The walks were held in the mornings in summer, the afternoons in winter and we had some all-day walks including lunch. Many interesting discussions were held at the refreshment stops and we all enjoyed the homemade biscuits and cakes.

The walk around Castlecrag enabled us to see Walter Burley Griffin's design of the area and some of the Art Deco houses that he designed as well as the outdoor theatre which is still used. The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway (not in PNG but Concorde) and the walk across the Harbour bridge with lunch in the botanical gardens were most interesting experiences.

A recent innovation is the Club trip to Bowral which includes bushwalking. We have done walks along the Recreational paths recently completed by the Council and in the Gibbergunyah Reserve. On one of these trips, Geoff Morris brought along his "Blackberry" which showed the tracks in this bushland reserve. We were following a track shown on our map and discovered it was descending quite steeply and rather than going back, Geoff was able to guide us, cross country, to the fire trail leading to our cars. Also he was able to tell us how far we had walked.

The organisers for the bushwalks were John Gardner, David Boulton and Phil Dudgeon whilst Howard Gardner, Anne Stewart and Helen Gardner lead walks when the organisers were away.



Investment Meeting

John Linstead

Since the inception of the Probus Club, the normal morning monthly meetings, after a convivial luncheon, have been followed by the Investment Group meeting.

The Investment Meeting is primarily a forum where our members can exchange views on shares and other investments such as property and fixed interest. Remember for every seller of shares there is a buyer, so two diametrically different views of the same share are held. This is, of course, the fundamental dilemma of the market, but it is our personal view and money that counts.

We try to keep the meetings entertaining and no one should regard the views put forward as advice to either buy or sell. As always Caveat Emptor, Buyer Beware, applies and members must seek outside advice before proceeding on any financial transaction.

Over the past ten years we have been fortunate that many professional Advisors have made the trek to Turramurra Bowling Club to give us their views on the market. Stockbrokers, Fund Managers, Fixed Interest Advisors and, of course, our own members have freely given their time to talk to us.

If you have not been to an Investment meeting before, do come along. You may be pleasantly surprised at the acumen of your fellow members and, you may even think of some money making investments of your own, but we are not promising. Hope to see you over the next ten years.

Bridge

Andrew Bean

The Bridge Group was started by Ross Greg in 2002 and the highly successful format he devised has remained virtually unchanged ever since.

Every year between about 12 and 16 pairs have entered the competition to play rubber bridge. Over the course of the year each pair plays all the other pairs, commencing in February/March and the losing pair contacts the organiser who records the results. The competition is completed in November, and the results announced at the Christmas luncheon.

The actual matches themselves are as much social events as bridge matches. While the participant skill levels vary from good to pretty ordinary, each match is invariably a pleasant three-hour get-together at the home of one of the pairs, accompanied by nibbles/snacks and coffee/tea/drinks. In a distinct departure from normal bridge, conversation usually flows pretty freely in a relaxing, light-hearted atmosphere.

All club members are welcome to participate irrespective of skill level. All that is required is to advise the organiser not later than February each year that you wish to play.

Motoring Interest

Brian Caldersmith

The motoring group was formed as the result of a survey several years back and we have subsequently enjoyed a variety of outings including a visit to the annual classic car display at Eastern Creek and two quite different driver training courses. The first at the Peter Finlay Advanced Driver school at the now extinct Oran Park racing circuit and more recently at the H.A.R.T. Honda Australia Roadcraft Training Centre at St Ives.

The interest level has not been high enough within the club to support a continual monthly programme like other groups so it will continue from here as a special occasion activity.

One of the ways that will happen is the appearance of the H.A.R.T. team as one of the guest speakers next year.

