

# Asquith Mixed Probus Club ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26



Christmas lunch 4 December 2025



The **Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc.** was formed by the Rotary Club of Berowra on 2 October 2008.

Club No: 9003799 • District: 9680 • Inc. No.: 9890687

This is its **seventeenth** annual report

## NAME

[Constitution: 1]

The name of this club shall be the Asquith Mixed Probus Club Incorporated

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

[Constitution: 4]

The purpose of the Club is to advance intellectual and cultural interests among persons who are retired or semi-retired. To this end, the Club will:

- (a) hold regular meetings and arrange activities that provide opportunities for members to stay engaged and connected through social interaction.
- (b) strive to be seen as a worthwhile organisation by the local community.
- (c) be non-political and non-sectarian. The Club will not endorse any candidate for public office and will not take any action with the intention of influencing the policies or decisions of governments. However, the merits of any public question may be the subject of study or discussion at a Club meeting for the information of members.
- (d) not be, or be seen to be, a fundraising body. The Club may participate in community service activities provided that such activities do not involve the raising of funds for the benefit of a third party, including for a specific purpose, cause or charity and that individual participation is entirely voluntary.

## MEMBERSHIP

[Constitution: 5]

- (a) Membership is open to retired and semi-retired persons.
- (b) Applicants for membership, with the exception of the foundation members, must be approved by the Management Committee.
- (c) No person will be denied membership of the Club for reasons of race, religion, political persuasion or any other reason that would constitute unlawful discrimination.

The maximum membership of the club shall be 150 members.

[Standing Resolutions: 6]

The Management Committee shall endeavour to maintain a gender balance of not more than 60% of any one gender.

[Standing Resolutions: 7]

## Membership 2025-26

As reported under Membership later, there were 111 members at the end of the 2025-26 year.

## MANAGEMENT

[Constitution: 7]

(a) The Club will be managed by a Management Committee comprising a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other members as provided for in the Club's Standing Resolutions.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

[Constitution: 8]

(a) An annual general meeting for the election of the Management Committee must be held on or before 31 March each year.

## Meeting dates

The annual general meeting was held on Thursday 6 March 2025 and Thursday 5 March 2026.

## COMMITTEE 2025-26

At the March 2025 Annual General Meeting the following were elected:

### Officers

President	Barry Willick
Vice-President Elect	Mal Steel
Vice-President	John Davies
Secretary	Ruth Barwick
Treasurer	Angus Dougall

### Committee

Bulletin	Sylvia Gratton
Tours/Excursions	Trish Taylor
Welfare	Nita Shields
Programme (Speakers)	Jim Jeffries
Hospitality	Jane Platts
Membership	Denise Mayhew
Walks Representative	Jim Jeffries

Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Past President	Jim Jeffries
Assistant Membership	Robyn Lee

### Annual Report 2025-26

Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc. (AMPC)

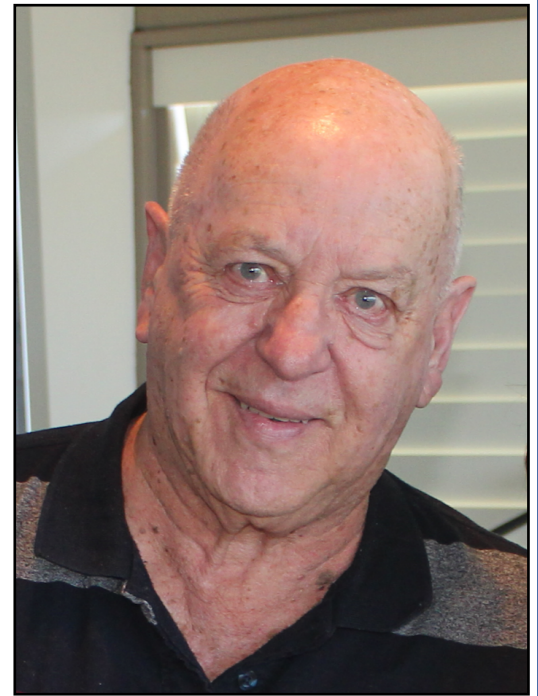
37 Alan Avenue, Hornsby 2077

This Annual Report compiled by Jeremy Steele

All AMPC enquiries to President 2025-26: Barry Willick  
02 9653 2285, mobile 0419 985 458

# The year 2025-26

## President's Report



It has been a privilege to serve again as your President during this year. This is my fourth term.

The committee elected in March 2025 has carried out their duties in a very capable way making my role enjoyable.

The secretary Ruth Barwick and the treasurer Angus Dougall have been a great support along with my two vice-presidents Mal Steel and John Davies who, along with Jim Jeffries, took care of redoing the Constitution and Standing Orders. A big thank you for that.

We have had some wonderful outings and trips away arranged by Trish Taylor and her committee.

The walks group led by Laurie Keaton have had some very interesting walks with numbers increasing.

Jim Jeffries has introduced some very interesting speakers for us to hear.

Nita Shields has been very active in the welfare role keeping on top of the members' happenings.



Jane Platts has done a wonderful job of arranging eating out activities along with the Birthday BBQ and the Christmas lunch.

Sylvia Gratton has been very faithful in bringing up-to-date information and amusing clips each month in our Bulletin.

Denise Mayhew to my relief has taken over the membership duties along with assistance from Robyn Lee, and is settling into the role very well.

Lastly not forgetting those tasks that help the club to be what it is, the book stall, puzzles, jokes, mahjong, cards, dolls, Fifth Thursday BBQ, the new carers group, the men's coffee club, our auditor and web master. I hope that I have not left anyone out.

We have been saddened by the passing of four foundation members, Vince Hughes in March, Mary Potter in September, Richard Slater and Barbara Williamson in December and member Mary Power also in December.

And a big thank to all our wonderful members for helping to make our club so good.

*Barry Willick*

# Committee Reports

## Secretary

*The role of Secretary is a standard one. The current occupant, Ruth Barwick, is charged with looking after the administrative interests of the organisation. This mostly means preparing the agendas for meetings, and writing up the minutes. Another function is to manage the correspondence of the organisation not directly handled by other officers. There is the occasional document to be submitted to Probus South Pacific, representing 'correspondence out', while various commercial interests send fliers and the like seeking business from the outings organiser, or the bank sends occasional statements.*

*Ruth Barwick reports as follows for the year 2025-26*



The year 2025 was my second in the role as secretary. It seemed a daunting prospect when I took it on after the AGM in 2024. No-one else had nominated for it, and so somewhat reluctantly and hesitantly, when I was approached, I agreed to do it. Somebody had to. There seemed such a lot to do.

Having done it for two years now I find that it can actually be good fun, in a way. You go to the main meetings, are up at the front and can see everything going on. Then at the committee meetings you

can see how the Club really works, how issues are dealt with and decisions arrived at, for the benefit of members.

The paperwork in the role of secretary can seem daunting, but it is really not very hard at all. A club like AMPC is not a huge corporation, we are not dealing with millions of dollars or gigantic projects. We are a small club with the object of doing useful things for the enjoyment of the members. Much the same happens month after month, year after year. And so the minutes and agendas follow more or less the same pattern time after time. There is not much more to it. There is the correspondence in and out, and telling the members about it at the meetings.

The secretary's role is a wonderful opportunity just to be part of what is going on in the Club. The Club itself is a worthwhile activity for people in their retirement years, and the committee roles within it, including that of secretary, are a way of contributing in turn to the Club. Everyone on the Committee helps, supports and respects what the other members are trying to do, making up a team that gets things done. Some people are naturally quite good with figures, others with writing, others with organising, others with caring, and each ends up

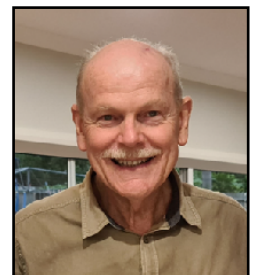
in a committee role that he or she is naturally suited to, and can do fairly easily. I hope there are other members who in turn would like to have a go at being secretary. For me so far it has been very rewarding.

*Ruth Barwick*

## Treasurer

*The treasurer superintends the income, expenditures, and all financial aspects of the Club. He or she prepares a monthly summary of the financial standing of the Club and presents this to the membership, and to the Committee, for information. The treasurer prepares an annual budget for the Club, in consultation with the president, and also recommends the level of the Club membership fees. The Treasurer also superintends the audited accounts of the Club, which are published in the Annual Report. The treasurer is an executive member of the Management Committee, along with the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary.*

*Treasurer Angus Dougall reported for the year as follows:*



The revenue and expenses that have been budgeted for the 2026 year have the assumption of revenue of \$9335, and expenses of \$10 415. This should leave the Asquith Mixed Probus Club with a deficit of \$-1080.00.

It would seem that this adverse situation for the 2026 year will be fully compensated by the positive results we have enjoyed for the past sixteen years. In reality we move forward into the 2026 year with an accumulated surplus of \$19 982.43 at 8 December 2025.

The Treasurer's Report, both annually and monthly, takes a good deal of time each month and year, and requires a fair amount of detailed work to be assessed.

Whilst the time taken to present the accounts each month takes a day or two to finalise, produce and present to the management committee, and annually to the AMPC club, there is a certain amount of satisfaction to be had in this work.

This will be my last year as your treasurer, so I would like to thank all those who have been kind enough to support this role in the Asquith Mixed Probus Club.

*Angus Dougall*

## Membership

*The role of the membership officer is to keep a watch over the membership, seeking to achieve a full enrolment of 150 while maintaining a gender balance within the limits of 60:40.*

*He or she receives applications for membership, refers them to the committee for consideration, procures membership badges, manages awards for those reaching 80 and 90 years of age, and keeps a record of attendance at meetings.*

*As membership officer, Denise Mayhew reported for the year 2025-26 as follows:*



At the time of writing this report we have 111 members including Life Member Laurie Keaton and Honorary Member Keith Carson.

Two Foundation Members passed away in 2025, Vince Hughes in March and Mary Potter in September, and then in December we learnt that Richard Slater and Barbara Williamson had also passed away, both being former Foundation Members. All will be sadly missed and we pass our condolences on to their families.

We welcomed four new members in 2025, plus two former members who chose to resume their membership, which was great news.

Three members resigned through the year and in December another three decided not to renew their membership for 2026.

With promotion of our club in 2026, I hope we will be successful in building our membership numbers back to where they were two years ago, or at least very close to it.

I thank the Membership Assistant Robyn Lee for the much appreciated help she has given me over the year.

*Denise Mayhew*

## Administration

### Website

*The Club has had a website since 2017. Sections include:— Home: Club and Probus information, purpose, who may join;*

*—Management: Constitution, policies, office bearers; membership, welfare and forms. 'Committee only' (password from the Secretary): minutes, agendas, Bulletins back to Club formation in 2008.*

*—About us: monthly events schedule, operations, presidents list, annual reports back to 2012*

*—Events: those forthcoming*

*—Activities and interest groups: areas and those responsible*

*—Bulletins and editors to 2018*

*—Photo gallery: sample selection of Club moments*

*—Probus*

*South Pacific: link*

*Webmaster Robert Allison reports:*



Our website contains

general information about our club for the benefit of the general public. This includes our recently updated constitution, information for the benefit of the members of the club, and some information exclusively for committee members. The activity on our website has mainly been keeping the information up-to-date. The Club's *Bulletin*, which contains valuable information about forthcoming activities, costs, deadlines etc., is loaded onto

the site each month. The site may be viewed at [www.asquithmixedprobus.org.au](http://www.asquithmixedprobus.org.au)

Robert Allison

## Welfare

*WELFARE: The health, happiness and well-being of a person or group.*

*WELL-BEING: the state of being comfortable, healthy and/or happy.*

*Some of the responsibilities of the Club's welfare officer are to keep in touch with sick or bereaved members, or those who are in need of moral support or physical help; and to advise the Executive Committee if support is needed, either by member visits or transport to meetings.*

*The welfare officer may keep in touch with members by telephone or personal visits.*

*Nita Shields is the Welfare Officer and reports as follows:*



The past year has been a busy and rewarding one in attending to the welfare of AMPC members. Throughout 2025 I have continued to provide support for the physical, social, and general wellbeing of members, with the aim of helping them remain active within the Club and maintain valuable social connections.

With the consent of members who are unwell or recovering from injury, I have provided monthly updates at group meetings regarding their wellbeing. These updates are intended to encourage ongoing

social contact and, where appropriate, assistance from fellow members. I have also submitted a written welfare report to the Committee each month, outlining any matters of concern relating to member welfare.

When notified of a member experiencing health or welfare issues, I have made regular phone calls and sent text messages, as well as visiting members in hospital or rehabilitation facilities when possible. Contact has also been maintained with next of kin to stay informed of members' whereabouts and current condition.

Additional support provided throughout the year has included sending birthday messages and condolence cards, making numerous phone calls regarding ongoing care needs, transport arrangements, medical appointments, and providing lifts to meetings where required. Chocolates have continued to be made available for members celebrating birthdays during each month.

Sadly, the Club has lost several members during the year. Many members have attended funerals to show their respect and support for those who have passed, reflecting the strong sense of care and community within AMPC.

Overall, 2025 has demonstrated the continued importance of welfare support within the Club, and I thank all members who have assisted in maintaining connection, care, and compassion for one another.

Nita Shields

## Public Officer

*The Public Officer is the liaison person between the Club and the State government NSW Fair Trading. The Public Officer is responsible for ensuring that the Club operates within its Constitution and within the requirements of the State Model Rules. Often there is little to do, but occasionally a matter of importance arises. It is the Public Officer who makes sure that it is handled correctly.*

*Sandra Death has occupied the position of Public Officer for the Club since June 2015.*

*The AMPC was formed on 2 October 2008 yet who can remember everything about it? The minimum role of the*



## Historian

*historian (or archivist) is to maintain the Club's records. These include:*

- secretarial (meeting papers: agendas, minutes, associated documents)*
- secretarial (correspondence)*
- financial (budgets, balance sheets, financial reports, etc.)*
- newsletters (Bulletin) are now preserved on the Club website*
- other reports, proposals etc.*

*In 2025-26 Sandra Death combined the role of Historian with that of Public Officer.*

# Principal activities

## Tours and Excursions

*Among the many benefits a Probus club can bring to its members are the occasional trips away, outings and excursions. In fact these are arguably the very best of all the things the Club offers. In 2025-26 these were arranged by Trish Taylor. Her report follows:*



### January

commenced with a lunch at Anglers Rest Hotel, Brooklyn. Twenty-one braved weather conditions and train disruptions. We all enjoyed happy company and good food.

**February** was an OnCourse coach journey through the Hills District to join a Nepean Belle Lunch Cruise—paddlewheeler on the Nepean River. The first stop was at Nurragingy Reserve for morning tea. We boarded the paddlewheeler at Jamisontown. Lunch was had as we travelled through the picturesque Nepean Gorge at the base of the heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park. After the cruise coach driver Peter gave us a tour of the Penrith area, including Panthers Penrith Leagues Club and its water sport facilities, the Sydney International Regatta Centre, the Penrith White Water

Stadium and Penrith Beach. We arrived home after a lovely day out in good company.

On a sunny autumn day in **March** we went on an extremely interesting guided tour of the Maritime Museum in which informative guides played a key role. The galleries were impressive as was the inspection of HMAS *Vampire*, which served in the Royal Australian Navy from 1959 to 1986. Many members ventured into the submarine, HMAS *Onslow*, decommissioned in 1999.

Also in **March**, there was a wonderful trip away to Lord Howe Island. We walked, swam, snorkelled, cruised or just relaxed. A cancelled return flight meant we had to stay another two days. We all coped admirably, making the most of our extra time on the beautiful, unspoilt island. Thanks go in particular to Yenda Holland for organising this adventure away.

In **April** we visited the intriguing and beautiful remaining buildings of the Parramatta Female Factory. Rhonda, one of the guides, was passionate and knowledgeable as she had a family connection dating back to when the Female Factory was in operation. The stories of the women's lives and of their survival were inspiring. Afterwards we dined at the

Parramatta Leagues Club. An interesting day for all.

On a beautiful sunny **May** day we boarded another OnCourse coach, travelling to Bare Island at La Perouse in the northern headland of the Kamay Botany Bay National Park. After morning tea overlooking Botany Bay we joined National Parks guides for a tour of Bare Island. Its rich history spans Captain Cook of 1770, fortification in the late 19th century to protect Sydney from perceived foreign threats, to serving as a veterans' home starting in 1912. Next was lunch at Yarra Bay 16ft Sailing Club followed by a visit to the La Perouse Museum. Another enjoyable and interesting day for our members.

On a beautiful chilly **June** day we boarded a ferry from Barangaroo, arriving at historic Cockatoo Island for an organised tour. Our guide spoke about convict life on the island and how many of the sandstone buildings and the graving dock had been built by them. From 1857 to 1992 the island was a major shipbuilding and repair facility playing a vital part in Australia's maritime history, contributing to both World Wars. Thanks go to Jim Thompson this time for organising such an interesting and enjoyable outing.



March: Lord Howe fig trees, *Ficus macrophylla f. columnaris*



Lord Howe Island's volcanic Mt Gower (875 m), left, and Mr Lidgbird (777 m)



March: Sydney Maritime Museum with replica HMS Bark Endeavour (Captain Cook, 1770) on the left



April: Parramatta Female Factory, built by convicts 1818-21



**AMPC** tours  
and trips  
away in 2025



May: Bare Island, La Perouse about 1-1.5 ha in area



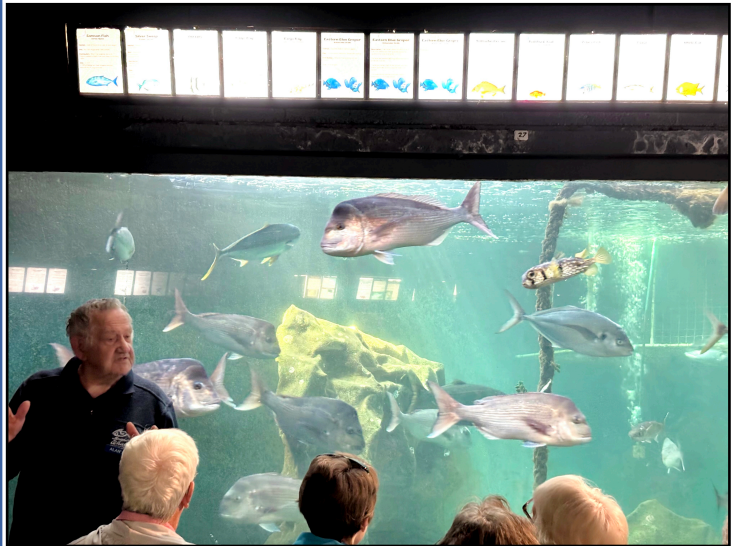
June: Cockatoo Island sandstone Mess Hall, part of the Prison Barracks Precinct, built between 1847 and 1851.



August: Hyde Park Barracks, designed by Francis Greenway and built 1811-19. L. Macquarie's name is below the clock



August: Hyde Park Barracks reproduction hammocks allowing convicts personal space of 0.6 by 2.1 m. This was very unpleasant accommodation



November: Merimbula Aquarium



November: Twofold Bay, named by George Bass in 1797 for its double bay shape



November: Aurora Australis display, a spectacular natural light phenomenon seen in southern latitudes such as Tasmania and sometimes further north. The northern hemisphere equivalent is the Aurora Borealis.



November: Mallacoota WWII Operations Bunker

In **July** on another chilly day we joined a private tour of the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes exhibition for an enjoyable day enhanced as so often by knowledgeable guides.

On a rainy freezing **August** day eleven AMPC members visited Hyde Park Barracks for a self-guided immersive experience. We heard stories of male convicts, immigrants, women in need, and how the Aboriginal nations were impacted by colonial settlement. Thanks to Sandra Lees for organising this particular day.

Very much better weather for our train ride in **September** to Lisarow and for the visit to the Hawkesbury Brewing Company. The meals, and tasting of craft beers and wines, and conversation all made the outing very worthwhile.

In **November**, thirty-one members had a trip away with Coach Holidays & Tours to the Sapphire Coast between Bermagui and Eden, where the sparkling of the blue waters had this area living up to its reputation. Our first night and base was the Coachman's Motel, Eden. From there we visited such beautiful towns as Central Tilba, Bermagui and Cobargo. In Eden we visited the Killer Whale Museum, hearing about the history of whaling, and "Old Tom", a legendary killer whale that guided the whalers to their prey. Then on the vessel 'Bubbles' we were treated to a display of whales

breaching on their journey to the Antarctic.

We also visited the Merimbula Aquarium, where an entertaining guide told us about courtship rituals of various marine animals. Then on to Tathra. After dinner some members were treated to the stunning lights of the Aurora Australis. How lucky could we be! We crossed the Victorian border to Mallacoota, visiting an Operations Bunker that had been one of the original headquarters of the RAAF Coastal Intelligence activities during WWII. After that it was homeward bound at the end of a second trip away in 2025, this one also organised by Yenda Holland. What a privilege it was to have had this amazing experience.

Also in the same month of **November** there was a coach outing with OnCourse, to Manly. Guides at the Manly Quarantine Station informed us that it had been an immigration and health facility from 1832 to 1984. Its purpose had been to protect Sydney from such infectious diseases as smallpox, bubonic plague, typhus and Spanish flu by quarantining incoming ships and their passengers. We learnt among other things that in 1975 some 215 Vietnamese children had been sent there as part of International Operation Babylift. After lunch at the Quarantine Station we were taken on a scenic tour home via North Head and the Northern Beaches.

*Trish Taylor*

## Walks

*AMPC is a club based on Thursdays. There are four or five Thursdays in a month, the first being allocated to the monthly general meeting and the second to the Committee meeting. Other Thursdays are for the Club's flagship activities.*

*The fourth Thursday is one such, and that is filled by the monthly Walk. Usually about 25-40 go on the scheduled outing. Often the strolls are not strenuous, but at other times it is tramping along bush tracks, frequently with outstanding views along the way. All walks offer the chance to join fellow members for a while, and find out what their interests are. Walks are one of the best ways for fulfilling the social side of the Club's objectives, which is why they are as popular as they are.*

*The Club is indebted to Laurie Keaton for his oversight of the walks over a number of years. Laurie Keaton reported as follows:*



**We began** the year with the usual summer evening walk through the Botanical Gardens and Mrs Macquarie's Point. The party enjoyed an outdoor supper and good company. We returned via the Opera House.

In **March** we took a scenic bus trip from Woy Woy to Kincumber and a 3.5 km easy flat walk to Davistown around Empire Bay, then lunch at the Davistown RSL. We returned by ferry to Woy Woy.

**Next month** was an easy 4 km Woodlands Walk: Kellyville to Rouse Hill Stations. We arrived there by taking the new metro line from Epping to Kellyville.

The walk planned for **May**—Huntley’s point wharf to the Drummoyne sailing club via the Gladesville Bridge—was cancelled owing to bad weather.

**June** was Point Clare or Koolewong to Woy Woy. We enjoyed lunch at the refurbished Woy Woy Hotel.

And in **July** there was a fairly short walk from the Old Cremorne Wharf to the Mosman Rowers Club for lunch.

We had a walk across the Sydney Harbor Bridge in **August**, recovering with a coffee break in Windmill Street.

Lunch was at the Palisades Hotel then one group explored

Barangaroo while others took the metro home.

In **September** we appreciated the spectacular Middle Head vista from the Gubbuh Gubbuh to Georges Head track, completed within Sydney Harbour National Park in early 2025. On the way we inspected tiger traps and gun emplacements. Lunch was at a French style restaurant in the park.

In **October** we walked to the Kiama Blow Hole. ‘Long walkers’ started at Bombo, others at Kiama Station. Lunch was at the Kiama Leagues Club.

Our **final walk** was to have been to the beautiful Barnett’s Lookout but the proposed track was closed owing to planned bush reduction burn. We adjourned in good spirits to the Berowra RSL for dinner.

*Laurie Keaton*

## Fifth Thursday Barbecues

As mentioned in the Walks report the principal activities of the Club recur on Thursdays. In 2016 a regular event was set up for months in which there were five Thursdays: the ‘Fifth Thursday Barbecue’. These are now superintended by Carol and John Channon, who report as follows.



When there are five Thursdays in a month, the AMPC holds a barbecue off Galston Rd, next to Galston Aquatic Centre.

The recreation area features a large, modern, weatherproof shed. It might be somewhat

### Getting to 5th Thu BBQ via Galston Gorge

If you see the sign for Galston High School you have gone too far

You can also get there via Pennant Hills, Boundary, New Line and Old Northern Roads. Turn LEFT soon after Galston High

draughty if the wind blew, but it never seems to do that when we are there. The plentiful tables and chairs are located right next to the parking area, more than sufficient to satisfy the average attendance of 30-35 club members. Toilets are nearby. Attendees bring their own food and drinks, cutlery, cups, etc.

Meeting members and enjoying each other's company is the purpose of these functions.

Verbal communication and companionship are enjoyed by all in a pleasant environment.

Note the following dates:

- Thursday 29 January 2026
- Thursday 30 April 2026
- Thursday 30 July 2026

• Thursday 29 October 2026 subject to approval by the Management Committee. These months have five Thursdays— so does Thursday 31 December, but no barbecue that day for holiday reasons.

*Carol and John Channon*

## Other AMPC activities

### Program

We had an interesting range of speakers in 2025. We started the year with David Short's story of the vital service provided in rural areas by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Later, Michelle Parker told of how dedicated volunteers in the Sydney Wildlife Rescue organisation care for distressed or injured native wildlife.

Faye Yarroll introduced a very domesticated Hearing dog, which allowed the profoundly deaf to live a normal life.

A presentation by Oz Harvest revealed remarkable efforts to re-cycle food and provide for the needy. This contrasted with Ian Hemphill's talk on the benefits and application of spices in our foods.

We heard about the nursing scene during the swinging sixties in London by Eira Battaglia, and Giovanna Angeli outlined the cutting edge medical research at the Hunter Medical Research Institute.

John Cameron gave us a scare with warnings about computer scams, and Judith Dunn related



amusing epitaphs on headstones from some of the earliest cemeteries in the country.

Finally, Noel Phelan told of the little known but vital role played by the Navy at Gallipoli.

I also should mention Jim Thompson's brief talk at the AGM in March about the vital function played by our submarines in defending our country.

I look forward to finding speakers in 2026 to enlighten and amuse.

*Jim Jeffries: The Speaker Seeker*

### Bulletin

Once again, the Bulletin, the Club's monthly periodical, has proved to be very helpful in

keeping members informed of what is happening, including upcoming



events, outings, hospitality, speakers, welfare, walks, dolls, mahjong, cards, books and puzzles, men's group, carer's group and 5th Thursday BBQs. There are so many interesting groups, some new over the past year.

The monthly Bulletin is either sent by email, or a printed copy is provided for picking up at the meeting by those for whom email is not an option. Bendigo Bank Berowra now print 15 copies for us free of charge, which we are very grateful for. They have done this for quite a few years.

There are reports for each event that has happened during the month, and quite often photos to go with these. There is also a treasurer's report. A committee notes section features what was

discussed at the last committee meeting.

A forthcoming Events Table on the back page has been popular, enabling members to see quickly what is to take place over the next two months.

I will be stepping down in March 2026. I thank everyone who has contributed over the past five years. I will miss being the editor but it is time for someone with new enthusiasm and ideas to take over. *Sylvia Gratton*

## Hospitality and Dining out

Another 'Hospitality and Dining Out' year has passed of enjoying each other's company by dining out and general hospitality.

In February 30 members attended brunch at Glenorie Bakery. There were laughs, stories, jokes, great food and drinks—especially the coffee.

In May Our Biggest Morning Tea was held in Thornleigh at my place. The food was mouth watering, giving time to spend with each other over a cuppa. We raised \$782 for the Cancer Council on this successful morning.

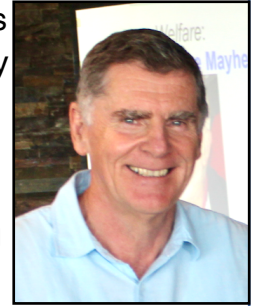
In October we celebrated our club's 17th Birthday at Bobbin Head, 64 attending. This made the event a success, helped by our BBQ and the variety of salads, with our birthday cake to

finish off the event.

In December we celebrated Christmas with Lunch at Magpies in the very same room where the monthly club meetings are held. The room and tables were decorated beautifully, the food was excellent and the staff were on hand to help when needed. Santa (George Gates) did a great job with his jokes, also helping me in picking out lucky tickets for a prize. Overall it was a fabulous day enjoyed by all. My gratitude goes to all who helped spread the Christmas cheer. And thanks to all who attended hospitality events for their participation and good humour. *Jane Platts*

## Book Exchange table

The book exchange facility has been very popular again in 2025-26. Generally located at the back of the meeting room it offers members an opportunity to bring books from home and exchange them for something they have not already read. There are about a hundred books on display at each meeting, and there is no limit to the number you can bring (within reason) or take.



There is always plenty of variety for the discerning reader. Most of the exchanging occurs before the meeting officially starts, so readers should get in early if they want sought after titles.

Damaged or mouldy books are not popular and rarely get taken home. Those in good condition are the much preferred. Books not immediately exchanged get displayed three times in total before they are placed in street libraries or similar. *George Gates*

## Dolls for the Hospital

As is mentioned earlier in this report, Barbara Williamson, who started the 'Dolls for the Hospital' initiative, died on 29 December 2025. The Dolls Group, deeply grateful to Barbara for her long and inspiring leadership, are determined to keep going. So we are still knitting, sewing and filling the dolls, and doing the faces. The dolls are presented to the Westmead Children's Hospital where the sick children really appreciate them. This past year we have been meeting at my home in Mount Kuring-gai, so no longer at Barbara's, on the Wednesday after the Probus meeting.



We enjoy morning tea and socialising while we fill the dolls that have been knitted by members of the group, doing the bodies, arms, legs and adding the faces for each doll. Many volunteers also take them home to do what is needed to them there. We have produced 925 dolls for the Children's Hospital this year, which is a fabulous effort by the volunteers. I am grateful to the volunteers who have lent their time and skill completing the dolls during the year.

*Carol Channon*

## Men's Group

The Men's Group continued to have meetings during 2025 at Magpies Club in Waitara at 10 am on the third Wednesday of the month. There is no agenda. We chat about matters of common interest. We usually order a coffee at the start before finding a table in the Pavilion at Magpies. After the meeting some members stay for lunch.

*Robert Allison*

[Robert\\_allison@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Robert_allison@optusnet.com.au)

## Mahjong

We have had another successful year with 16 women enjoying lunch and Mahjong. We generally get between 10

and 13 turning up each week. Games are played at 1.30 pm every Wednesday at the Asquith Bowling Club.

Mahjong can be played with either three or four players and, although luck is involved, it is more a game against yourself—testing the brain matter. New members are welcome: just contact me on 0416 216 962.

*Pam Clarke*



## 500 Card Club

The 500 Card Club began in the 2015-16 year. It is a friendly and casual group that welcomes new

members. No experience is necessary and newcomers can be taught how to play this enjoyable old card game.

Sessions are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Magpies Waitara, at 10 am to about noon. It is free.

*Mary Glasby*



## Carers Group

*During the past year 2025-26 the idea came up about helping by caring. So the Carers Group was formed, led by Yenda Holland. She*

*explains what the group did in the report that follows:*

The Carers Group began in June 2025.

The idea was that people experiencing difficulties could talk to others about their difficulties, such as how to negotiate the aged care system or anything else that might confront them. After all, a problem shared is a problem halved.

It is altogether unstructured and non-formal, which is the point. People can get together every third Tuesday of the month, venues alternating between Asquith Golf Club and Club Berowra, for something to eat and a laugh. Those who attend appreciate being able to relax and not have to think about preparing a meal.

The real outcome is that the carers, who often find themselves isolated, now have somewhere to go where they, and their partners, are welcomed. Deep discussion only occurs when someone is struggling with something or feeling a little insecure and needing a bolster. It is all played by ear by everyone in attendance. Anyone who would like to join us, particularly those who live alone, would be welcome, and might contact me at a meeting or on 02 9477 3338.



*Yenda Holland*

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## 1 January – 31 December 2025

The Probus year runs from April one year to the end of March in the following year. AMPC follows this formula, running from a March AGM until the next March AGM. Because accounts have to be finalised before an AGM, the AMPC financial year has been decreed to be the same as

the calendar year. Consequently for this AMPC Annual Report 2025.26 the following AMPC Financial Report is for the year 1 January to 31 December 2025.

The Auditors have reported as follows:

<b>Asquith Mixed Probus Club</b>		
Inc No: 9890687		
37 Alan Avenue, Hornsby 2077		
<b>Income and Expenditure Report</b>		
For the period: 01-January-25 to 31-December-25		
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fees		\$8,651.00
Joining Fees		\$100.00
Visitors Fees		\$35.00
Interest Received		\$240.66
Miscellaneous Income		\$75.16
Sundry & Contra Accounts		\$-
Activity Surplus/Deficit		\$731.81
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$9,833.03</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Petty Cash—write-off	\$200.00	
Guest Speakers Advance—write-off	\$205.00	
Activity Surplus/Deficit	\$-	
Bank Charges	\$-	
Filing & Incorporation Fees	\$2,180.00	
Pins & Badges	\$26.22	
Printing & Stationary	\$84.10	
Sundry Expenses	\$23.70	
Venue & Morning Tea costs	\$5,245.00	
Website & Software	\$278.96	
Welfare	\$-	
Guest Speakers Fees paid	\$500.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$8,742.98</b>
<b>Net Surplus for full year</b>		<b>\$1,090.05</b>

<b>Asquith Mixed Probus Club</b>			
Inc No: 9890687			
37 Alan Avenue, Hornsby 2077			
<b>Statement of financial position</b>			
<b>As at: 31 December 2025</b>			
<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Cheque Account	\$15,517.32	Membership Fees in Advance	\$3,450.00
Bank Term Deposit	\$5,060.27		
			\$3,450.00
		<b>LIABILITIES -</b>	
		<b>ACTIVITIES PAID IN ADVANCE</b>	
		Macksville away trip 2026	\$1,667.00
		Newcastle Harbour lunch cruise	\$2,536.00
		Japanese midget sub attack	\$180.00
		<b>TOTAL CURRENT ADVANCE</b>	
			\$4,383.00
		<b>EQUITY</b>	
		Previous year's surplus from 2008 to 2023	\$10,906.16
		Surplus Brought forward from 2024	\$748.38
		Previous Year Surplus	\$11,654.54
		Current Year Surplus	\$1,090.05
		Total Member Equity	\$12,744.59
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$20,577.59</b>		<b>\$20,577.59</b>

**Asquith Mixed Probus Club Auditor's Report for the end of year 2025**

I have had meetings with the Treasurer, examined the Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement of Asquith Mixed Probus Club. I also examined the Bank Statements, Term Deposit receipt and supporting documents such as receipts, invoices and remittance advices kept by the Treasurer relating to the activities of the Club.

It is my opinion that the Financial Reports, as presented, represent a true and fair view of the financial position of the Asquith Mixed Probus Club and that its financial dealings throughout the year have been properly recorded.

I thank the Treasurer, Angus Dougall, for his cooperation and assistance.

Robert Allison