

**The Probus Club  
of Seaforth**



# NEWSLETTER

**March 2026**

**Volume 36 Issue 1**

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## **March Meeting**

**Tuesday 24th**

**Seaforth Bowling Club**

### **Meeting Agenda**

**9.30** Registration, morning tea and fellowship.

**10.00** Guest Speaker: David Hunt — *The Unauthorised History of Australia.*

**10.50** Business — followed by Annual General Meeting.

*If not attending, please inform: Peta Cass, [petahcass@gmail.com](mailto:petahcass@gmail.com).*

**April meeting: Tuesday 28th**

## **President's Message**

**March 2026**

As my year in the box seat comes to an end I'd like to cast a few reflections over my year at the top.

After having been an Indian all my life and always contributing in some way or another it was quite a leap out of my comfort zone to take on this role, especially following in the footsteps of perfectionists both Judith and Colin Carpenter. Yes very daunting to say the least, but decided all I could do was be myself.

Having joined Seaforth Probus twelve years ago I have completely changed as a person, from someone who could barely string two words together to someone who can talk into a microphone. Thanks mostly to Robyn Ogborne and Trevor Wallin who I would class as 'professional encouragers'. With just a few words and looks of 'you can do it' they both played a big part in my change, though I strongly suspect they are completely unaware of how much they have both helped me. Thank you both immensely.

Getting members to say the YES word has been very challenging on many occasions. Early on I asked a member to do a Memorable Moments talk, to which she readily agreed saying YES but after several follow ups I'm still waiting for that acceptance to come to fruition. So YES doesn't always mean a YES.

We have such an incredible, amazing, talented and capable group of members in our club, that it has been very easy to find a perfect fit when required.

One such instance was finding a replacement for Anne Creek, who was unable to attend the Governor of NSW's afternoon tea at Government House for the 50 year Anniversary of Probus. Thank you to the calm and unflappable Lili Koch who will now be representing our Club. (A couple of members suggested that as Club President I should go, but since I find it difficult to behave myself for five minutes, an hour and a half was way out of the question).

Thank you members for making it so easy for me to tick off another box and to get over the finish line with relative ease.

Keep up the FUN FRIENDSHIP and FELLOWSHIP you all do it so darn well!

VALE JAN MURRELL — condolences Looloo, Jenn and Rob, and families.

**Hazel Sellin**



*New inductees Sue Belford and David Gibbs with President Hazel Sellin.*

## **Coming Events, Registrations and Payments 2026**

**April 22 (Wed) — \$2.50 Day Lunch at The Tramsheds Le Garçon at Forest Lodge — Glebe,**

**July 27-28 (Mon-Tues) — Bathurst and Abercrombie Winter Yulefest Tour — contact OnCourse Tours now to book your place — Cost \$675 pp.**

**Credit card, cash or cheque payable to the Probus Club of Seaforth Inc**

**Seaforth Banking information: BSB — 032 294; Account No. — 690735**

## Current Membership 74

### Guest Speaker

#### David Hunt — *The Unauthorised History of Australia*

David Hunt will be telling tall tales and true from his bestselling and award-winning Australian history *Girt* books *Girt*, *True Girt*, and *Girt Nation*. Learn how Australia became Australia; which Australian prime minister talked to the dead, and why camels are bad news. There will be an opportunity to purchase his books for \$25 each so please be prepared!

*Susan Stead, Dianne Swan*



February Guest Speaker Ian Thompson.

### Welfare Report

I have spoken with Mary Bacon's niece regarding a fall that Mary had at home, that unfortunately has resulted in

### Activities

#### Walking Group

#### Clontarf Reserve to Spit Bridge

Monday, April 13

**Walk Details** — Meet around 10.45 am in the Clontarf parking area. Then we will walk along part of the Manly to Spit Bridge walking track to the Spit Bridge and back to Clontarf in time for the club's picnic and sausage sizzle.

**Walk time** — Three-quarters of an hour.

**Grade** — Some steps, mostly level but with good harbour views.

**Parking** — Free for Northern Beaches residents.



Michael Calloway, Gavin Kerr and your newsletter editor after receiving certificates for contributing "the Lions Share".

a lengthy stay in NBH, wishing her a quick recovery. To those members who have had cataract ops: good results all around will be great. If you have been under the weather, and with the cooler temperature on the way, hope all is going your way, and are able to join Probus for our meeting.

*Judith Doig*

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Helen Kerr 9; Pamela Reese 18; Trevor Wallin 26; Judith Doig 30.

**Enquiries** — Ray Isaacs, 0478 577 009; Hazel Sellin, 0422 524 021.

### Monthly Luncheon/Quick Quiz

We all had a great lunch and enjoyed the quiz at the Forest Fresh Markets, with a good roll up.

Let's do it all again at the next Probus Lunch/quiz, which will be at the Master Builders Club, Dee Why, on April 20, 12 noon .

If anyone knows of a new venue we haven't tried, with decent parking, please let me know.

*Carmen Anderson, 0422 412 184*

## Bowls Report

Sadly we have lost both Lee Murrell who passed on February 1, 2026 and now Little Jan Murrell on Thursday March 5, just 32 days apart.

Lee ran our Bowls for 23 years with Jan assisting him for the past few years.

We started the year with 15 regulars and we have now dwindled down to 11... hence our 10 week competitions are taking longer and longer to complete.

Players still pay \$10 each Thursday they play, which all goes to Seaforth Bowling Club, which explains our dwindling Kitty.

We're still having lots of fun ... there is just a lot less of us doing it!

We are 8 weeks into our current competition and there will be no bowls on Thursday 12th March, due to a few of us going on Great Ocean Road tour. We'll just keep chipping away and one fine day we'll announce a new winner of the Ric Clapp Trophy.

John Rose joined us for coffee/chat after bowls on 5th and was soon to fly off to Monaco for the Grand Prix. Awesome.

Great to have Jenny Grant back on the greens.

### Seaforth Probus Bowls

Kitty as at 31/3/2025	275.25
Less — Reg Green June 2025 prize, engraving	40.00
Less \$10 Christmas cake.	10.00

Balance as at March 2026	\$225.25
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*Hazel Sellin, Bowls Co-ordinator*

## Tech Group

The next Tech Group meeting will be at the Totem Club at 11 am April 14.

Members, interested in learning the ins and outs of their mobile phones, iPads and/or laptops, the vagaries of the Internet, spam and AI, etc, are more than welcome. It's not all serious — plenty of laughs ensured.

If you would like to join our Tech Group, contact Gavin Kerr at [ghmkerr@icloud.com](mailto:ghmkerr@icloud.com) or phone 0404 073 760.

## \$2.50 Opal Discovery Day

### The Tramsheds at Forest Lodge — Glebe

Wednesday, April 22

The heritage listed Rozelle Tramsheds closed in 1958. It underwent a redevelopment in 2010 as a food destination. Its architect was George McRae who also did the redevelopment of the city QVB building.

It opened in 2016 as *The Tramsheds* and is very popular on weekends with a Growers Market and Asian Market.

### Travel Program

Meet at Manly Wharf or Central Station.

### Manly group

Meet at the wharf for a 10.30 am ferry departure. Early birds can get a takeaway coffee at Max Brenners.

At Circular Quay we take the train on Platform 2 to Central Station. We walk through to the Grand Concourse for a group meetup.

### Group Meet Up

We all meet under the clock in the Grand Concourse, that overlooks the destination screen, between 11.15 to 11.30 am.

We catch the Light Rail at 11.30 am to Jubilee Park Station — about a 20 minutes trip. We will take a short 10 minutes walk to arrive at the front entry of the Tramsheds.

Time to walk the complex before lunch at Le Garçons for our 12.30 booking. Great menu and prices.

### Homebound

Depart after 2 pm we take the up escalators at the rear of the building for a round about route to the Jubilee Park Station. Light Rail departures every 10 minutes.

**Register** with Lorraine Sergent to assist with lunch booking. Either at the March meeting or phone 0410 184 895.

## Probus Club of Seaforth — Founded in 1990, Inc 1996

PO Box 339, Seaforth, 2092 <https://SeaforthProbus.Wordpress.com>

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# Minutes of General Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 Seaforth Bowling Club

**PRESIDENT:** Hazel Sellin opened the meeting at 10 am welcoming members and visitors.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Dianne Swan introduced our guest speaker Ian Thompson, an entomologist for 25 years. Ian graduated in Applied Chemistry and worked as a chemist developing products for the control of insects and pests. Arthropods are the most abundant on earth. Insects cover largest number. Spoke of life cycle of beetles, blow ly, cockroach, spiders and funnel web with 8 eyes, preying mantis — during mating, female bites male head off. Chop off head of cockroach and see how long it will run. Ants 8 legs. ALL BUGS are insects but all insects are not bugs! Ian has loved working with ants.

**ATTENDANCE:** 48 members, 8 apologies, 5 visitors.

**MINUTES:** Minutes were moved and seconded by Clive Sergent and Tony Gosling. Accepted.

**BUSINESS ARISING:** None.

**INDUCTION:** David Gibbs, Sue Belford. Badges given and official photographs taken. Numbers down to 72 and now back up to 74.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Helen Smith 15, Debbie Gibson 1, Douglas Creek, Jenny Grant 17, Peta Cass, Maggie Crosby 13.

**RESIGNATION:** Received from Stuart Sercombe after 10 plus years as Treasurer. His mobility is not good.

**WELFARE:** Mary Bacon has had a spell in hospital after a fall at home.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Financial. Bank balance \$6,984.89. We have money for upcoming events — April 13 Picnic, 21 people booked. \$5 chicken and salad.

Hazel called for the official photographer to take photos of how each of Hazel’s guys help. Michael, Treasurer, for doing his best despite health problems; Ray “doing lion’s share”; Gavin – already had two hats – now wears a third hat as he is the Registrar taking over from Peter Style. They are definitely Hazel’s “Supermans.”

**BOWLS:** Hazel has had the numbers. Eight attendees for two weeks; one week had six.

**OPAL DAYS:** Wednesday April 22 to the old Tramshed at Glebe. Information at the March meeting.

**LUNCH:** March 12 Tasting Deck. Forestway Markets. Great company and great food. Possibility of carpool if needed, Pamela Reese volunteering from Clontarf.

**WALKING GROUP:** Monday March 2, 9.30 for 9.45 at the ocean end of The Corso and walk to Shelly Beach.

**TECH GROUP:** Next meeting on Tuesday March 10 at the Totem Club. Gavin will field lots of questions on AI, Your family and your grandkids know — how about you? Seaforth Probus Club is on the Web.

**INVITATION:** We have an invitation from Probus South Pacific for clubs to celebrate Probus 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Margaret Beasley, the Governor, will host at Government House. Anne Creek to attend, but now unable and Lili to attend.

**NON-MEMBER’S MEMORABLE MOMENT:** John Kenniwell attended, as a visitor, the Opal Day at Woy Woy. He is a psychologist and a retired drug and alcohol counsellor. Hazel asked if he would speak on one of his memorable moments. Hazel introduced John and said she was scraping the bottom of the barrel!

John explained that people involved in drugs usually go before a magistrate and are sent to gaol. But give a drugee 12 weeks with John and there can be a better outcome. In one instance John found out that a young girl had been sexually abused by her mother’s partner, but was not believed. He spoke to detectives, there was a trial and it showed that she had been using drugs because of her trauma. Outcome — she has no more trauma. John says believe it if someone says abuse.

Hazel thanked John and said she was then going to the cream rising to the top, Annette Kearns our new secretary after the AGM. Hazel said Annette has only been a member for 6 months and doesn’t know anyone’s name. She will have a helper. They will share the role. Annette is a Wonder Woman. Without Annette Seaforth Probus would have to fold up — now with a secretary we will survive.

**WINE DRAW:** Pam Reese, Gera Fussell.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 24.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.40.

**PRESIDENT** .....**SECRETARY** .....

**DATE:**.....

**Probus Club of Seaforth**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2025, Seaforth Bowling Club**

Acting President Clive Sergent opened the meeting at 11.17 am.

**MINUTES** from the March 2024 Annual Meeting were tabled and accepted by the meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None received for this meeting. President’s report was tabled and accepted.

Financials were checked and signed off by Clive Sergent. Accepted Des Mackney, seconded by Grahame Goldberg

**APOLOGIES:** Treasurer Michael Calloway was absent due to medical reasons.

Clive Sergent thanked the very dedicated Committee for overseeing our club activities. Said he was very grateful that it is a well organised structure. Behind the scenes are the Treasurer Michael Calloway, Editor and Distributor Ray Isaacs, Secretary Carmen Anderson, Recruitment Lili Koch and Welfare Judith Doig. A big thank you to this wonderful team and all the event organisers. Thanks also due to Peter Style our Registrar, Peta Cass our Attendance Registrar and Judith Doig for setting up morning teas. Clive especially mentioned 13 Past Presidents who are still in our club.

Clive Sergent welcomed Hazel Sellin to the office of President and announced the election of officers and the following committee members who were elected unopposed and inducted.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| PRESIDENT:         | Hazel Sellin                              |
| VICE PRESIDENT:    | Anne Creek                                |
| SECRETARY:         | Barbara Mackney                           |
| TREASURER:         | Michael Calloway                          |
| NEWS EDITOR:       | Ray Isaacs                                |
| WELFARE OFFICER:   | Judith Doig                               |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS: | Lili Koch, Lorraine Sergent, Pamela Reese |

Our new President Hazel Sellin gave a vote of appreciation to both outgoing President Colin Carpenter and Acting President Clive Sergent for their services in 2024.

Hazel told the members that being President of a Probus Club was something she never envisaged doing but when Colin was having such a difficult time getting a President for 2025 she informed him that she would be President. This was just three days before his horrific accident and she was so glad that he had one less worry. Hazel said she is keen to lead members on another year of Fun, Friendship and Fellowship.

Clive Sergent announced that the President will now wear a pendant instead of the heavy chain collar.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.43.

PRESIDENT.....SECRETARY .....

DATE: .....

# Proposed changes to Constitution and Standing Resolutions

To be proposed at 2026 AGM

## Motion 1

**Mover:** Raymond Isaacs

**Second:** Colin Carpenter

This meeting endorse the motion, passed at the general meeting held prior to our Annual General Meeting held on March 25 2025, that our membership Annual Fee be increased to \$90 — covering the annual membership fee and the monthly attendance fee.

*The reason for this motion is that the Constitution states that changes to annual fees must be passed at an Annual General Meeting. The Standing Resolutions requires any change needs to be passed by a general meeting; this being inconsistent with the Constitution, thus the motion to change the annual fees which was moved and passed at the March 25 meeting prior to the AGM needs to be endorsed by this AGM.*

## Motion 2

**Mover:** Raymond Isaacs

**Second:** Colin Carpenter

1. Standing Resolution 17-1 be amended to read “at a General Meeting.”
2. Standing Resolution 17-1 Paragraphs (b) and (c) be deleted. The remaining paragraphs be renumbered as appropriate.

*Paragraph 1. Is merely a “grammatical” correction.*

*Paragraph 2. Both paragraphs (b) and (c) are inconsistent with Section 7(c) of the Constitution and are not needed and, as such, meaningless. They should be deleted to prevent any confusion.*

## Motion 3

**Mover:** Raymond Isaacs

**Second:** Colin Carpenter

Insert in the Constitution, **Section 8 — Finance**, after subparagraph (e) Cheques in payment of accounts shall be signed by authorised signatories who shall be any two of the President, Vice President or Secretary;

- (f) Payment by electronic means may be made by:
  - (i) The Treasurer;
  - (ii) In the absence of the Treasurer, the President or Secretary.

*Straight forward — with the advent of electronic banking there is a need to amend the Constitution to cover the new process of electronic withdrawals.*

## PRESIDENT'S 2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT

One of Acting President Clive Sergent's final deeds before he retired last year was to purchase a "super duper, light as a feather Presidents Pendant", which has been an absolute delight to wear around my neck at our meetings.

Our previous very very heavy chain collar looked incredibly impressive but I envisaged myself collapsing under its weight — Clive, you are a genius!

My first big thank you must go to Seaforth Probus Club members for your help, support and friendship.

My second big thank you must go to Ray Isaacs, our Editor and Distributor and Walks Coordinator, who has covered all my inadequacies and supported me continuously and been at my beck and call all year. The whole dictionary would still not be enough to convey my thanks and appreciation.

Thanks also to Vice President Anne Creek who organised our Christmas Party at the Antler Room at Frenchs Forest Hotel; to Secretary Barbara Mackney for ably writing up our General Meeting and Committee Minutes. Working with you was an absolute pleasure, though I recall on one occasion we almost came to blows over the spelling of the word yay/yea/yeah/yeh (of course it was "yay" that got our YAY FOR THE DAY); to Treasurer Michael Calloway for handling our finances and stepping up and helping with functions etc. Michael is a real energiser bunny and a big contributor; to Dianne Swan and Susan Stead our Guest Speaker Coordinators, who are a "perfect match" and do an excellent job; to Lili Koch our Recruiter for introducing new members with her calm and friendly manner; to Judith Doig our Welfare Officer who keeps track of our members on the sick list and prepares refreshments prior to our meetings; to Peta Cass and Gail Gosling our Attendance Registrars for greeting members with their big smiles; to Pamela Reese our Culture Coordinator and Recruiting Assistant; to Clive Sergent our Tours Coordinator for our tours and getaways and purchaser of our new President's Pendant; Lorraine Sergent, our Opal Day Coordinator, for providing us with a fun day for \$2.50 (I love them); to Carmen Anderson and Grahame Goldberg our Luncheon/Trivia Coordinators; to Ian Smith and his army of helpers for organising our Annual Clontarf Picnic; and, finally, to Gavin Kerr our Technology Group Coordinator/Club Historian/and just recently has donned a third cap, namely Registrar. As President I am extremely grateful to you Gavin for taking on 'a lions share'.

During the year we've enjoyed tours to:

BRIGHT AUTUMN FESTIVAL, 4-10 May, 2025 OnCourse Tours;

MELBOURNE CUP CRUISE, 2-8 November, 2025 Carnival Splendour;

GREAT OCEAN ROAD and GOLDFIELDS EXPLORER, 11-18 March, 2026, OnCourse Tours.

### *DAY TRIPS/OPAL DAYS*

April 2025 — Lady Hopetoun Cruise (the night WWII came to Sydney Harbour)

June — The Juniors Club, Kingsford

August — Riverview Hotel, Balmain (once owned by Dawn Fraser)

September — Metro to Castle Towers and walk to Hillside Hotel for lunch

October — Eveleigh Railway Workshops and Coffee Grinding process and lunch

February 2026 — Woy Woy Hotel for lunch.

### *LUNCHEONS/TRIVIA*

April 2025 — Master Builders

May — Club Belrose

June — Totem Club

July — Christmas in July at SBC after meeting

August — Time and Tide Hotel

September — Frenchs Forest Hotel

October — Dee Why RSL

November — Balgowlah RSL Memorial Club

December — Christmas party, Antler Room, Frenchs Forest Hotel

February 2026 — Time and Tide Hotel

March — Tasting Deck, Forest Way Markets

### *GUEST SPEAKERS*

April 2025 — Denis Moore — Friends of Gallipoli

May — Constables Cain and McKinnon — Cybercrime and Scams

June — Faye Yarroll — Gift of Hearing  
July — Indigo Penn and Abbey Ridley — OnCourse Tours and Travel  
August — Eira Bish-Bataglia — The Silver Buckle  
September — Jennifer Philps — Children’s Medical Research Institute  
October — Peter Watson — Northern Beaches Men’s Kitchen  
November — Ken Moroney — Retired Police Commissioner  
January 2026 — Joseph Bataglia — Marine Rescue  
February — Ian Thompson — Introduction to Entomology

#### *MONTHLY WALKS/COFFEE*

April 2025 — Stoney Range Reserve, Coffee Moramba Street DeeWhy  
May — Bantry Bay to Garigal N.P. The Isaacs only... other walkers on Bright Trip.  
June — Bantry Bay to Garigal N.P. Coffee at Arndale Shopping Centre  
July — Manly Art Gallery to Fairlight. Coffee cnr Darley Rd and Wentworth St.  
August — walk cancelled. Coffee at Coco Republic, Hayes St, Manly Vale.  
September — Jamieson Park Narrabeen Lake. Coffee at War Vets.  
October — Long Reef Golf circuit. Coffee at Club house.  
November — Warriewood Wetlands. Coffee at Warriewood Shopping Centre  
February 2026 — Manly to Queenscliff Lagoon. Coffee in Wentworth Street  
March — Manly to Fairy Bower. Coffee at Fairy Bower.

#### *MEMBERS MEMORABLE MOMENTS*

Clive Sergent who had a gun held at his head; Robyn and Warren's day in Cairo; Des Mackney meeting Nelson Mandela, Gough Whitman and June Sutherland; Deirdre Lanskis who had a nap while driving her VW across Australia with husband and baby on board; Gary Enfield was offered a \$100,000 drug bribe; Anne Creek spoke of her involvement with childrens very large performing groups such as School Spectacular; Sue Stead who bought a reconditioned mobile and was woken at 11 pm and 3 am daily with the Canberra weather report; John Rose with his daredevil antics driving stunt cars back in his twenties and our ‘not quite a member yet’ John Kenniwell who turned someone’s life around and saved her.

At July’s meeting the following five members filled in time and saved me a lot of embarrassment:- Michael Calloway related how he got his first teaching job at Blacktown in Australia; Margaret Greig described how husband Mick got the hot bath massage in Budapest which he definitely didn’t want, and she didn’t; Clive Sergent took a Lear Jet to the Solomons with no toilet on plane; Ian Smith described his tour to Cape York and Helen Gulliford had a virtual reality journey in ancient Egypt, at Homebush. A big thank you to you all.

Such wonderful memories and exciting adventures between us all.

On 20th December, 2025 Sue Stead and myself represented Seaforth Probus and attended a Gallipoli Ceremony at Hyde Park Anzac Memorial organised by Denis Moore our April Guest Speaker. Governor General Sam Mostyn was in attendance.

#### **MEMBER FAREWELLS**

John Wippell April 2025, John Higson 25/5/25, Richard Whipp 20/6/25, Greta Whipp 12/7/25 — 22 days apart, Lee Murrell 1/2/26, Jan Murrell 5/3/26 — 32 days apart.

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As I hand the reins on to our incoming President, Anne Creek, I have absolutely no doubt whatsoever, that with her pedigree and pizzazz, she will have no trouble in restoring our meetings to their previous levels of decency and decorum.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to ‘give it a go’ and I hope you’ve all had some fun along the way.

***Hazel Sellin, President***