

# THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE Inc

'The Young, Friendly, Fun Club'

## AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

Club Website: [www.ajcnsw.com/mpcov](http://www.ajcnsw.com/mpcov) or scan



The official publication of the Men's Probus Club of Valentine Inc.  
Private and confidential for Probus use only and no other purpose.

**The Club meets in The Tingira Community Church  
at 13 Neridah Road Belmont North  
4th Monday of each month at 10 am**

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### NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 28 AUGUST

**APOLOGIES** to Trevor Brown on 0488 469 119

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### OUR GUEST SPEAKERS are:

August '23	Michael Croxton	Topic:	On The Road 65+
September '23	Bob Cook	Topic:	Fortress Newcastle
October '23	TBA		
November '23	TBA		
January '24	Corren Ingersole	Topic:	Evolution of the Rubiks Cube

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### Current Activities

*WALKING AND COFFEE GROUP* - Meets every Wednesday morning, contact Ron Tooney our coordinator on 0409 467910 for more details.

*GENTLEMEN'S LUNCH - CHANGE OF VENUE* - Meeting at Belmont 16's at 11.45 for 12 noon lunch.

Contact John Benson our coordinator on 0437 043014 for further details.

## ***Current Activities Continued***

### ***INVITATION FROM WARNERS BAY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB -***

Our club has been invited by the Warners Bay Probus Club to join them on a tour of the restoration of a Catalina World War II plane. Partners are invited.

When: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Where: 13 Craftsman Close, Beresfield.

Time: Tour commences at 10 am. Meet at 9.45am on site. Morning tea included.

Tour Cost: \$10, pay on the day.

Lunch: Following the tour, lunch is at the Minmi Hotel at 156 Woodford Rd Miami.

Meals cost I been informed range from \$14 to \$20. If you buy two meals you **might** receive the second meal for half price.

**At our meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> August there will be an information sheet and a sheet for you to indicate if you wish to attend.**

***Any enquiries ring Brendan Mannion on 0412544647.***

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## **President's Report**

The atmosphere at our last meeting was good, with plenty of conversation at morning tea. Our team preparing and serving morning tea, provide service with a smile. Certainly, I am sure I speak for all our members in expressing gratitude to Ron, Brian and Ken for the contribution they make to the success of our meetings.

Wayne Cooper didn't let us down with a fascinating insight into the trials and tribulations of walking the Kokoda Track. Certainly Wayne is a man of many talents with a determination and drive, that makes for fascinating listening.

The good news is Member Austin Greener is again highly mobile having taken possession of a bright red scooter.

John

***John is still looking for a Vice President, Welfare Officer and Assistant Program Manager. Please seriously consider joining the team and taking on one of these rolls. There is ample experience you can draw on from other committee members to assist you in any of these vacant rolls.***

***The Vice President normally fills the Presidency position next Probus year.***

## **Hunter Wetlands Visit Report**

On Tuesday 15th August a group of members and partners visited the Hunter Wetlands.

We met at 10 am and participated in a 1-hour guided walk of the centre. Our guide Greg was extremely knowledgeable and the walk was informative and interesting.

We moved to the café and enjoyed lunch from a most comprehensive menu. A good day!!

Brendan Mannion

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### **Guest Speaker Section**

Wayne Cooper returned and spoke of his experiences walking the Kokoda Track or as he said 'climbing the Kokoda Track'. It was more of a spur of the moment decision and he included his mate, Ian. After investigating the various companies that undertook the Track he decided on a company in Cairns Queensland and the leader was an ex-SAS Officer.

Once decided and booked Wayne and Ian commenced training prior to leaving.

The departure day came and they arrived in Port Moresby and bused it to the starting point. The group left Owens Corner at 2.30pm for a five hour trek to Ua-Ule Creek. The participants carried 10 kilo packs while the porters carried 30 plus kilo packs that contained everything else that was need on the track. That first day was wet and tough going.

Day two Wayne cut his hand which was treated and on day 3 he became unwell and arrived at the camp site one and half hours behind the group. Day four he continued to deteriorate. The group had reached a point where Wayne could be airlifted out or walk another 14 hours before he could be airlifted out as the terrain was rugged and densely forested. The 'Commander in Chief' made the decision for Wayne to return to Port Moresby, no questions asked. Wayne spent time in Port Moresby hospital before being transferred to Cairns hospital and then finally John Hunter Hospital. The cut hand resulted in an infection.

Our group thought at that moment the talk was over, only 15 minutes or less into the hour of the usual presentation. However, Wayne continued to say after about a month at home he decided to return and complete the Track. His mate Ian didn't go with him the second time.

Having experienced the conditions on the Track he took a completely different approach in preparation. He was fitter and better equipped. He was the first into camp every day and mixed and enjoyed the local atmosphere and people.

Wayne talked about the battles and battle locations and adversities that the troops and enemies had to endure as well as the contributions that the 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels' made. He made mention of the courageous efforts of our soldiers.

At the conclusion of Wayne's talk he read a copy of a poem that he wrote that explained his experience of 'Climbing the Track'.

John McGrath thanked Wayne in the usual manner and our members applauded Wayne for his inspiring talk.

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## Book Corner

Browse our library and take what interests you or borrow from Ted's collection of interesting authors.

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## Seniors Energy Rebate

*A note from Alan Carter follows:*

### Apply for the Seniors Energy Rebate

**An electricity bill rebate for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders who do not receive income support from Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs.**

The NSW Seniors Energy Rebate helps eligible **self-funded retirees** pay their electricity bills.

The Seniors Energy Rebate is \$200 per household, per financial year and customers can apply for the rebate each financial year.

You will also receive a one-off \$500 National Energy Bill Relief Household Payment in financial year 2023-24 if:

- you meet the [eligibility criteria](#)
- your application for the NSW Seniors Energy Rebate is successful
- your household has not already received the National Energy Bill Relief Household Payment.

**Pensioners and veterans** may be eligible for the Low Income Household Rebate for [on supply customers](#) or [retail customers](#).

If you qualify to apply for the rebate, here is the link to apply online.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-for-the-seniors-energy-rebate>

## **BANKING DETAILS *for Payments to the Club***

GREATER BANK (details for making payment either on-line or at a branch).

BSB                      637-000  
Account                780356294

*(record your 'surname' + one word as a brief reference covering the purpose eg "Xmas", 'Fees', etc*

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## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023**

President	John McGrath 0405 887 881	Vice President	<b>Vacant</b>
General Secretary	Paul Rheinberger 0427 704 432	Assistant Secretary	Bruce Helman 0412 485 610
Membership Secretary	Robert Rae 0411 141 823		
Treasurer	Brian Sullivan 0431 068 729		
Events Coordinator	Roger Wakefield 0418 431 426	Ass Events Coordinator	Brendan Mannion 0412 544 647
Program Manager	Roger Wakefield 0418 431 426	Ass Program Manager	<b>Vacant</b>
Newsletter	Trevor Brown 0488 469 119		
Webmaster	Alan Carter 0411 425 668	Historian	Kevin Hepplewhite 0420 355 743
Attendance	Robert Rae 0411 141 823	Welfare	<b>Vacant</b>
Roving	John Benson 0437 043 014	Roving	Bob Maloney 0439 808 286

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