



Castle Hill & District Probus Club Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

Narelle Brown, Community Engagement Officer, EWON Energy and Water Ombudsman, NSW.

Ombudsmen – are free, fair and independent, EWON looks after Electricity and Gas customers in NSW and some Water customers. Its website (www.ewon.com.au) has many useful factsheets and advice.

The Ombudsman will try to resolve a customer's complaint with their provider company first, then offer the customer a call back within two days from someone in a higher level in the company. If the issue is not dealt with the Ombudsman will see the complaint through to resolution. Customers are able to lodge a complaint by phone, in writing or online.

Common Complaints are:

Billing issues; debts and arrears; (the company must give you time to pay and also must provide you with alternative ways of payment), disconnection or reconnection of supply; errors in metering; difficulties in organising payment plans; connection or transfer issues; termination fees; changing companies; marketing, and customer services.

Rebates for Electricity, Gas or Water bills are available under certain circumstances:

Low Income Household Rebate – no late payment fees. (for holders of Pension Concession Card, Health Care Card or DVA).

Gas Energy Rebate

Medical Rebates – for those who cannot regulate body temperature due to illness,

Life Support – for those with a need of machines, sleep apnoea, ventilators, electric wheelchairs.

Customers are responsible for providing meter access, there are some common issues with getting your meter read, such as dogs in your garden, locked gates, and spiders, wasps or snakes in meter box. If the meter cannot be read you will be sent an estimated bill, the law says the provider only has to read the meter once a year. Fire fighters, if faced with a fire, also need access to disconnect power.

Residential and small business customers in New South Wales can visit Energy Made Easy, enter their postcode and immediately compare gas and electricity offers available to them. This service is provided free of charge for consumers at www.energymadeeasy.gov.au

Some Energy Savings Resources

Do an energy audit - walk around your house and see what is plugged in.

Lighting – CFLs save energy, LED most efficient, last 5 times longer and 100% recyclable.

Air Conditioners – suggested temperatures Winter 18-21C Summer 24-26C.

Standby power – 7% of your bill, (clock radio, microwave, tv, dvd, computers, monitors).

Heating – choose a heater that turns off when it reaches a set temperature, only heat the room you are using, dress for the weather, drape a blanket over you when watching tv and turn off heating at bed time.

Water – dripping taps use up to 200L per day. Fix leaks in toilets and taps. Use water efficient showers.

Our Speaker next month will be Wendy Cornish who will be comparing "The Armstrong Boys"



Meeting Notes

Ian welcomed all members and visitors. As of next week emails will be coming from Bruce Armour, who is our Communications Officer.

Last week we said goodbye to a dear friend, Jan. She will be sorely missed, there is not a person here who was not touched by Jan in some way, wishing everybody Happy Birthday. She was loved by all and will always be missed. It was a lovely service last week and we are very pleased to see Paul here and he thanks you all for the love and support you have given. A memorial book is at the back of the hall, please everybody remember to add something to the book.

A Few Reminders

Lunch will not be at the Club today due to lack of numbers, there will be no more lunches here for the time being.

Reminder to members to cut down on the congestion at the event tables, please put money in envelope before you go to the tables.

Roy Coulsen, Public Officer

The vote on the changes to the Standing Resolution 21 and the introduction of a new Standing Resolution 24. Voting by members only by show of hands and minimum of 75% to be approved.

Amendment changes to Standing Resolution 21 was passed with approval.
New Standing Resolution 24 had majority vote but not the 75% required and therefore defeated.

Treasurer's Notes

Today the Treasurer added, for your notice, a copy of year to date budget. We are on track with 90% income recovered, only tea money to come as income.

Membership and Attendance

Adele asked that with our permission she would like to carry on in Jan's role, there was applause and affirmation. She added that Paul wanted to thank you all for all you have done and your attendance at Jan's funeral was wonderful.

Events and Excursions

Please make sure husbands and wives are on separate lines on the sheets so it makes counting easier. Make sure your name is on interest sheet not just on payment envelope and do not mark paid on the interest sheet.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 13TH DECEMBER 2016

IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND

FIRSTLY Put your name on the interest sheet

THEN If you wish to organise a table of 10 with other members, put ALL 10 names on an allocated table list.

IF YOU ARE NOT PART OF AN ORGANISED TABLE GROUP

You will be able to choose a seat at any of the unallocated tables ON THE DAY.

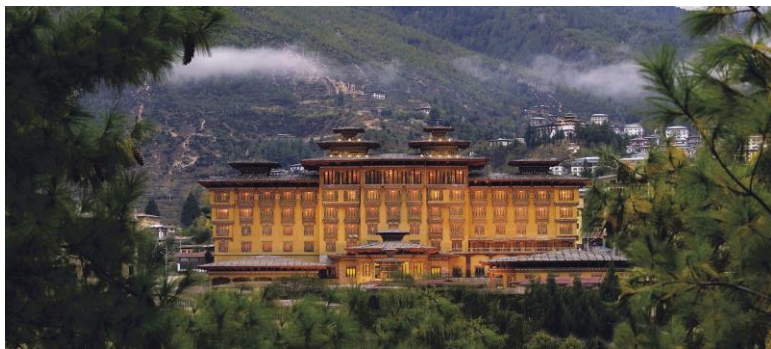
Guide dogs 31st August. Be at the club by 8.45 to board coach. Morning tea in Windsor, then the guide dogs tour. Lunch at the Richmond Club then to the Hawkesbury Regional Museum. Donations to the guide dogs is included in your payment.

Hunter Valley Gardens, 2 days and 1 night. Deposit \$100 now required, balance paid in Sept or Oct.

Tours

Not much more to add. The river cruise in Europe next year – always room for more.
Cowra trip fully subscribed, cherry blossom festival is on, final payment due at the Sept meeting.

Travellers' Tales from the Towarts



On our bucket list was a trip to Bhutan, the hidden kingdom in the Himalayas and only recently opened to tourists by the new King of Bhutan, and declared a country of National Happiness. It was to be Allan's 70th birthday whilst we were away so I secretly emailed the Taj Tashi hotel, where we were to stay, to request a surprise Birthday cake for the day, little knowing what I was unleashing.

At breakfast on day of birthday suddenly all staff gathered around Allan in the dining room, presented him with a lavish cupcake and sang Happy Birthday in English and Bhutanese. I was somewhat disappointed and thought is that it?

A manager called me over to give Allan a presentation special birthday lunch box for our day out and whispered, we have a big surprise for Mr Allan tonight. Arriving back at hotel after our excursion, another whisperer told me we were to be dressed in national Bhutanese dress for dinner, apparently a great privilege. A lady came to door with costumes in hand, but unsuspecting Allan tells her we didn't order that and sends her away. I finally get her back and we are handsomely dressed in costume, my hair is done and we are both escorted to have drinks with management.

We are then informed that 70 is a sacred age in the Bhutanese culture and we are to be given dinner in the King of Bhutan's suite and personally served by senior staff. We were served course after course, a Birthday cake, then Allan was solemnly presented a gift boxed decorated conch shell, a traditional specialist gift. When we left this wonderful hotel, the entire staff came onto the front steps to farewell Allan and wave goodbye. As my 70th was only 3 months away I asked how he was going to top that. He never did! Until the next adventure, *Barbara Towart*.

Club Activities

Volunteers to Run Groups

The Club is looking for Volunteers to run the Dinner Group for next year and the Photography Group.

Walking Group.

Anne Paice has been running the Group for almost a year. Walks are approx. 2-3hrs duration, most are graded as easy bushwalking on an uneven surface and steps, provided you are reasonably fit there are no problems. There are 20 or so members walking most months, if you are interested write your name down and Anne sends out an email before the walk with details of where to meet.

We had 23 people on our August walk. Starting at Milsons Point, we walked over the Harbour Bridge and through Barangaroo to the Fish Markets. We had a lovely sunny day and spent some time looking at the sculpture exhibition at Barangaroo. The highlight of the exhibition was a large glass ball which reflected the harbour bridge, the water, waves, rocks, trees and people upside down. It was a rather leisurely, but enjoyable, walk ending with a yummy lunch at the Fish Markets. *Anne Paice*.



\$2.50 Club



A record number of members (28) went to Richmond on our latest \$2.50 Club outing.

A nice easy train ride from Parramatta, picking up members along the way, saw us arrive in sunny Richmond in time for a stroll around the town and a sumptuous buffet lunch in the Richmond Club. A good time was had by all.

Our next trip in August will be to Sydney Park at St Peters. *Ken Carroll*

Book Club

This month's books were enjoyed by those who read them.

"Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes, which has recently been on at the movies, was inspired by a true story, and the real suffering and dilemmas of people with disabilities in the authors life. It is a romantic novel that asks the question, what do you do when making the person you love happy also means breaking your own heart? The book explores some dark issues, including the right to die with dignity, and the decision affects all those concerned. We rated this book 7 out of 10.



"The Last Painting of Sara De Vos" by Dominic Smith, is a mesmerising story that charts the collision course between a rare painting by Sara de Vos, a female Dutch painter of the Golden Age, an inheritor of the work in 1950's Manhattan, and a celebrated art historian who painted a forgery of it in her youth. This is a well written book that draws the three different strands of the story together really well. We rated it 8 out of 10.

The books we have chosen for the following months are as follows:

August 22nd: "Did You Ever Have A Family" by Bill Clegg and "The Convict's Daughter" by Keira Lindsey.
September 26th: "The Children Act" by Ian McEwan and "Notes From A Small Island" by Bill Bryson.
October 31st: "The Secret Chord" by Geraldine Brooks and "The Dry" by Jane Harper.

Hope to see you all next Monday. Happy Reading, *Anne Chinner.*

Craft Group



We had a great turnout for our July Craft Group. The majority of members were busy making the various Christmas Cards that Judy and Chris had patiently prepared for us, others were busy about their knitting. We had a celebration as another of our knitted blankets was completed. Thanks to Chris for her hospitality. *Jeanette Joyner.*



Camel Races Wednesday 27th July.



54 racegoers set off for Bankstown Paceway, most knowing that they could not bet! Why? After the first race we understood the reason.

No rules for these races. Going in the right direction was optional. All Jockeys had to win and some camels were just out for a lovely day that involved little exertion. After the first 30 seconds of the first race everyone at the racetrack realised one particular camel

(despite the rider) was ready for Rio and the others were carrying the bags!

Nevertheless, Margaret Ashfield managed to score a prize and all of us felt lucky because we had lost no money betting at the races. The food, drinks and camaraderie were A1 and well worth the trip to Bankstown. *Greg & Glenys Wearne*



The Calendar

A very good (and potentially more up-to-date) activities calendar is on the web site at: http://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/castlehillanddistrict/Activities_Calendar

Regular meetings:

Unless there is a clash with school or public holidays, in which case the change of date will be published in the newsletter

Mah Jong Every Monday	Craft Group 3rd Monday	Book Club 4th Monday	Walking Group 2nd Tuesday
Ten Pin Bowling 3rd Tuesday	Cards Group Last Tuesday	Board Games 1 st Thursday	Movies Group 2nd Thursday
BBQ Group 3 rd Thursday	Art Group 4th Thursday	Lunch Group 2nd Friday	\$2.50 Club Last Friday
Sunday 21 August	3.00	Radio Live at Hills Lodge	\$28.00
Tuesday 23 August	10.00	Photography Group – Quarantine Station	
Thursday 25 August		Dinner Group “Bar La Me” Dural	\$45.00
Wednesday 31 August	8.45	Visit to the Guide Dogs Centre, Glossodia	\$45.00
Friday 9 September	12.00	Luncheon Group “Eaton Gardens” Rouse Hill	
Friday 16 September	9.30	The Archibald Prize at the NSW Art Gallery	\$15.00
Friday 30 September	5.00	“Bring a Plate” Wine and Cheese Night	\$15.00
Sunday 9 October	4.30	“Boeing-Boeing” Pavilion Theatre	\$21.00
Friday 14 October	12.00	Luncheon Group “Woolwich Pier Pub”	
23/24 October		Mayfield Garden, Oberon	
Tuesday 1 November	1.00	Melbourne Cup Lunch	\$35.00
Friday 11 November	12.00	Luncheon Group “Baulkham Hills Sporting Club”	
Tuesday 15 November	8.30	Factory Outlet Tour	\$53.00
Tuesday 15 November	1.00	“Dream Lover” Lyric Theatre	\$65.00
Sunday 20 November	4.30	“Accused” Pavilion Theatre	\$21.00
22/23 November		Hunter Valley Gardens Lights Spectacular	\$400.00
Tuesday 13 December	12.00	Christmas Lunch, Allegro, Kenthurst	\$60.00