

Grey Matter



April 2026 Newsletter of the Greythorn Probus Club

Post: PO Box 85, Balwyn North, 3104

Email: info@greythornprobus.org.au

Web: <http://www.greythornprobus.org.au>

Members at the MU building in March



A good busload had a great day out at
Sovereign Hill



Lunch in the Ballroom at Werribee
Mansion after enjoying the rose
garden



Secret Men's Business ain't so secret
any more



ROBERT'S REFLECTIONS

Welcome to the first edition of Robert's Reflections. To be more precise for me it's actually the second time around to put something together on a monthly basis as to where we have been and how we are faring as a club.

The mission statement in PROBUS is to foster Friendships, Fellowship and having Fun and I will do my very best to achieve that for you with the support of the Management Committee and Event Conveners. BUT, another key objective this year will be for me to ensure that this club will continue to prosper and that can only happen if we have a vibrant Management Committee for the following year 2027- 28 .

We do not want to be in a situation where we have to close our club on our 20th Anniversary due to a lack of volunteers to serve on the Management Committee.

My nature is such that I will not be leaning on individuals to join the committee, as many members may well have very good reasons not to serve on a committee and I will respect that. I am also aware that many people have already filled major roles and contributed Time and Effort in the past. However, I may still enjoy a chat as we go along during the year.

On reflection, it would be remiss of me not to recognise key achievers. One such person is our Immediate Past President Judy Brophy. Judy will be serving on her 13th consecutive year as a Committee Member. I am sure all the members appreciate the hard work you have done over many years. Many thanks Judy.

Activities in March were plentiful and April is shaping up the same way. it was good to hear that the bus trip to Sovereign Hill was very successful. The weather forecast was certainly not encouraging, but the day itself turned out to be good. A strong list of theatre shows in the months ahead is also very encouraging.

Robert Van Woerkom (President)

APRIL MEETING

Our next meeting will be held at the North Balwyn Uniting church Hall, Duggan Street North Balwyn on Tuesday 14 April commencing at 10 am



The guest speaker will be Greg de Moore. Greg is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Sydney's Westmead Hospital and an Author of several books. His topic will be **Tom Wills – first wild man of Australian sport.**

Born in a district near Canberra, Tom Wills was sent by his father to Rugby School in 1850 at the age of 14 where he established his skills as a fine cricketer. He returned to Australia and established a reputation as a high profile sportsman, and although he led a turbulent and rebellious life, he is credited with being the founder of Australian Rules Football.

APRIL Birthdays

Neville JOHNS	4
Diane O'BRIEN	4
John FLEIGNER	13
Astrid PHELAN	18
Phil BOLGER	28
Glenys CHALK	30
Peter HARMAN	30

WELFARE

As your new 'go-to' member for welfare reports, I look forward to hearing from you if you have, or hear about, any needy folk within our Probus group that may benefit from our assistance or support. At this stage I am pleased to report that, to my knowledge, there are no members currently unwell or disabled. So my message is for you all to enjoy our beautiful autumn weather and I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting. Please send information to welfare@greythornprobus.org.au

Heather Trumble

2026-2027 Committee

President	Robert van Woerkom
Vice President	
Secretary	Kerryn Williams
Treasurer	Ron Johnson
Welfare	Heather Trumble
Membership	Marty Malone
Trips and Outings	Judy Bailey, Pene Whiteley, Vivienne Newman
Newsletter	Jack Morgan
Guest Speakers	Peter Gillett
Immediate <u>Past President</u>	Judy Brophy
Christmas Lunch	Margaret Cox & Barbara van Woerkom
Financial Reviewer	Marty Malone
Archives/Web	Russ Dawe
Hospitality/Morning Teas	Ros Richmond & Anne Balfe

Members News

Immediate Past President, Judy Brophy was invited by the Governor, Margaret Gardner, to attend an afternoon reception at Government House on Thursday 9th April to mark the 50th Anniversary of Probus Clubs in Australia.

Our Bendigo Bank Sponsor

Presentation night by Inner East Community Banking, Bendigo Bank, of our sponsorship of \$2200 for 2026, President Robert, Immediate Past President Judy & Kate Bellamy our Community Engagement Advisor, Bendigo Bank



An Apology from Judy

Last month I omitted to thank Roy Price for being Convener of the Discussion Group for the past 6 years.

Each month Roy presented a topic of interest which enabled ongoing discussion for participants.

He thoroughly researched each presentation, and we are very thankful for his dedication to his position as Convener.

Roy will Convene 'Did You Know' in each month's Grey Matter, an activity you can participate in and discuss with your fellow Greythornites simply by scanning the QI code/s. Of course, we all learnt, very quickly, about QI codes during Covid--- who would have thought?

Thank you, Roy.

Judy

APRIL 2026 ACTIVITIES

Solo	2nd
Scrabble	6th
Committee meeting	7th
Canasta	8th
Wine, Cheese & Bocce	10th
Greythorn General Meeting	14th
Creative Pursuits – Georges Remembered	16th
Garden Appreciation – Williamstown Botanics	17th
Third Sunday Lunch	19th
Walking for Enjoyment	20th
Film and Lunch	21st
Discussion – Iran: past, present & future	21st
Theatre – Spirit of the Anzacs	22nd
Book Group 1	23rd
Book Group 2	23rd
Investors	28th
Secret Men's Business	28th
Have Myki - Warburton	29th

DIARY DATES MAY 2026 AND BEYOND

Scrabble – Host Angela Johns	4 May
Committee, Harp Hotel Boardroom	5 May
Canasta	6 May
Solo – Host Joan Teele	7 May
General Meeting	12 May
Bright Tour	11 May – 15 May
3 rd Sunday Lunch	17 May
Walking for Enjoyment	18 May
Film & Luncheon	19 May
Discussion Group	19 May
Dine Out – Philippe's Restaurant	20 May
Garden Appreciation – Whisper Garden	21 May
SMB	26 May
Investors	26 May
Shepparton Art Museum	26 – 28 May
Book Groups	28 May
42 nd Street, Babirra Music Theatre	6 June
They Sang at Carnegie Hall	10 June
The Broadway We Love	15 July
Pretty Woman – The Musical	19 August

AUTUMN IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

We're heading off on an exciting 5-day tour to the beautiful town of Bright:

A full week of fun, fresh air, and exploring!

Departure: Monday, 11 May 2026,

Return: Friday, 15 May 2026

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS: TO DESIGNER TOURS

We do not have the max 30 people to get our Trip for \$1095:00, So the price has been increased by \$55:00 per person.

Meaning **the cost is now \$1150 per person twin share**, Single supplement is still \$80:00 per person per night total \$320:00. Which equals \$1150:00 plus \$320:00 Total \$1470. Less Deposit Paid \$200:00 leaving \$1270 to be paid by 4th May to **Designer Tours**, Comm Bank **BSB** 063 546 **Acc** 100 631 62. **ref** your name. When paid please email designtours@bigpond.com SMS Judy Bailey 0401 569 971 and Pene Whiteley 0417 034 441

Balance due and payable by 4 May 2026
Convenors: Pene Whiteley 0417 034 441 Judy Bailey / Vivienne Newman

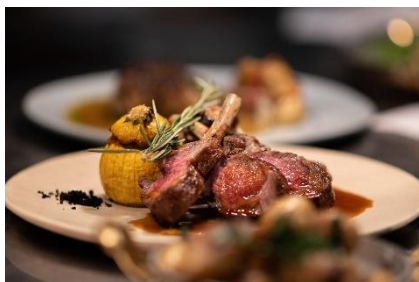
DINE OUT

12.00 noon Wednesday 20 May 2026
PHILIPPE RESTAURANT
115 Collins Street, Melbourne



We are delighted to once again offer this outstanding French Restaurant for our next Dine Out. The offer consists of your choice of entrée and main or main and dessert. This is served with a free glass of wine, beer or soft drink. Coffee is not included

Price is \$65 per head



Phillippe is accessible by any tram travelling along Collins St. Alight at the second stop after entering Collins St from Spring St (stop no. 7) 101 Collins St. Walk just a few steps, enter via George Parade. Philippe is located on the right. It is then necessary to descend several steep steps into the restaurant.

NO LIFT IS AVAILABLE.

Numbers are limited so please book early.

Payment is required by 6 May 2026.

Convenors: Barbara van Woerkom 0407 332 064

Margaret Cox 0419 552 684

Theatre

Bookings –Barbara Mathews 0423 628 852

Pretty Woman

Wednesday, 19 August 2026 @1.00 pm at The Regent Theatre in A Reserve in the Stalls.

Tickets have been purchased and will be distributed at the April meeting.

A Beautiful Noise

Wednesday, 23 September 2026 at 1.00 pm at The Princess Theatre in Dress Circle

A new and extremely popular new musical featuring the numerous works by Neil Diamond. Cost is \$91.00 and must be paid by the July meeting. **Please put your name on the list at the next meeting interested.**

42nd Street

Saturday 6th June at 1.30pm at The Round.

Come along and listen to the lullaby of Broadway. The score is full of Broadway hits like We're in the money, Dames and many more.

Cost is \$58 and must be paid by the May meeting at the latest.

Bookings –Mary Dunn 0409 967 310

SPIRIT OF THE ANZACS

Wednesday 22 April @ 11am at the Round.

Tickets will be distributed at the April Meeting

BERNADETTE ROBINSON:

THEY SANG AT CARNEGIE HALL

Wednesday 10 June @ 11am at The Round

From Billie Holiday to Maria Callas and the unforgettable night Judy Garland recorded her best-selling album, this legendary venue has created melodic history.

Cost is \$22.00 and must be paid by the May meeting at the latest.

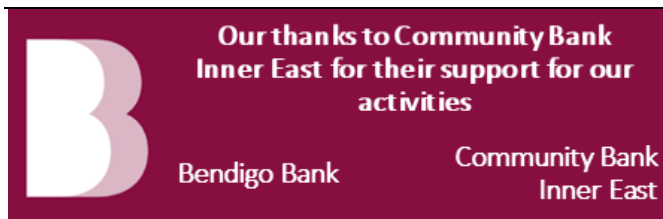
THE BROADWAY WE LOVE:

PROMAC'S 40TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

Wednesday 15 July @ 11am at The Round.

Star Australian Tenor Roy Best will be joined on stage by Michelle Fitzmaurice, William Schmidt and Christopher McKenna to showcase their love of Broadway.

Cost is \$22.00 and must be paid by the June meeting at the latest.



Third Sunday Lunch

Sunday 19th April at 12 noon
 Venue: R.S.L Box Hill
 26-28 Nelson Road, BOX HILL
 For bookings contact Diane O'Brien on 0417 357 467
 by 17th April
 Convenor: Diane O'Brien 0417 357 467

Garden Appreciation

**Friday, April 17 9:30am, @ Southern Cross
 MT MACEDON VISIT REPLACED**

The great majority of members who had indicated attending the Macedon Cemetery, Avenue of Honour & Forest Glade Garden visit on Friday 17 April preferred, in current circumstances, to have a more local outing. Consequently, due largely to fuel prices and potential shortages coming up **THAT VISIT HAS BEEN CANCELLED.** and replaced by a local outing for the same date.

After reviews of prospective locations, the replacement is a visit the Williamstown Botanic Garden followed by lunch at FiFi's by the Beach close to the gardens.

The garden is one of the oldest Botanic Gardens in Victoria having been designed in 1856, opened in 1860.



Golden Elm Lawn
 Williamstown Botanic Gardens

If you wish to attend, please notify Liz and/or put your name on the list at the General Meeting so the lunch booking can be confirmed.

Meet at under the clock at Southern Cross Station by 10:30am prior to catching the 10:54am train to Williamstown Beach (probably from platform 14) – *free travel on public transport.*

The Whisper Garden and Cranbourne Botanic Gardens

Thursday 21 May, 10:30am

The Whisper Garden is a private garden that backs onto the Botanic Gardens. Meet at 10:30 and David Duncan will talk with us for about an hour on how he has developed the native bushland to better provide for indigenous animals and support their access to the Botanic Gardens.. (There is no charge for David's talk).

Then, drive to the Botanic Gardens for lunch and a walk or a bus tour around the gardens. Specific details will be provided for participants.

Convenor: Liz Dawe 0404 470 765

HAVE MYKI WILL TRAVEL

Wednesday 29 April

In April we are travelling to Warburton on Wednesday the 29th, leaving from Box Hill station at 10.05 am and arriving in Lilydale at 10.33am. Then by bus 683 to Warburton arriving 11.06am.

Things to see:- the Tourist Information Centre at the Water Wheel, with various displays; walking around the river with lots of sightseeing. Lunch will be at the Riverview Café and Wine Bar, 3373 Warburton Hwy

Catch the bus to return home at 2.13 pm arriving back at Box Hill about 5pm

Convenors:-Pene Whiteley 0417034441, Judy Bailey 0401569971 Vivienne Newman

Bocce

Our final W C & B for the season will be held at BECKETT PARK, BALWYN, Friday 10 April at 4:00pm. Enter via PARRING ROAD, off WHITEHORSE ROAD. (Greythorn Park is a construction site at the moment.) We will meet just to the right of the entrance, to the left of the toilet block.

Bring your wine, cheese, chair, card table & join us for a late afternoon of FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FRIENDSHIP.

You don't have to play Bocce', just come along & enjoy the company of your fellow Greythornians, cheer, jump up & down it's our final Bocce' Challenge for the season so the competition will be fierce!

If you would like a lift, please let me know.

See you on Friday, Judy

Canasta

Wednesday 8th April at 7.30pm

Will be held at the McClellan's home at 7.30pm.
Please advise Pat or Veronica on 0450 521 727 if attending.

Convenor: Denise Boschetti 0409556884

Scrabble

Monday 6 April 2026 at 1.30 pm, host was Liz Jericho.

Monday 4 May 2026 at 1.30 pm.

Host will be Angela Johns. Please let Angela know on 0408 171 945 Friday 1 May if attending.

Convenor: Glenys Chalk 0419 043 731

Solo

Please note that the April meeting for Solo players will be held at the home of Barbara Mathews on April with play commencing at 7.30 pm.

Please note change of time for play in May. On May 7th Joan Teele will host play commencing at 1.30pm.

Convenor: Denise Powell 0402 330 488

Investors

Tuesday 28th April 2026 at 7.30pm

The April meeting will be at the Greythorn Hub.

After last month's fiasco the "Worlds Peacemaker" might have solved His war and things will look better.

New members welcome.

Convenor: Charlie Boschetti 0428 556 441

Book Groups

Thursday 23rd April at 2:00pm

Book group 1

Book Group 1 will meet at The Balwyn Library to discuss "Three Boys Gone" by Mark Smith.

Convenor Stanley Petzall

Book Group 2

Book: "The Deal" by Alex Miller;

Hostess: Barbara van Woerkom

Please advise Barbara if you are unable to attend.

Convenor: Lyn Stavretis

Discussion Group

Tuesday 21 April 11:00am-Harp of Erin Hotel Boardroom

Our discussion on March 17 on aboriginal disadvantage, led by Peter Phelan, raised many questions – and will doubtless lead to further discussions about many of the

elements Peter brought forward – particularly Victoria's Treaty.

For April the discussion will be about **Iran** – past, present and future.

Iran is one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations with records going back to 4000 BCE. It was the site of an Islamic revolution in 1979 when the Shah was overthrown, and the country turned strongly against the USA and Israel. Since then, it has been a thorn in the side of many sovereign nations, and most recently the site of a war directed by Israel and the USA.

Dick Johnson will assist with images from at least one visit to the country – what things were like just a few years ago, and what they tell us about the country and its people. The war has destroyed much of its infrastructure and severely impacted its economy.

Where to from here? Back to the stone Age? Will the war have created an even more strongly anti US and Israel population? Will the regime become even more belligerent?

Come along and join the discussion – and continue it over lunch afterwards.

Secret Men's Business

Secret Men's Business gatherings continue to be a great opportunity to share your latest happenings and be intrigued with what your fellow members are up to!

Never a 'dull moment' within a warm atmosphere of fellowship and conviviality.

Join us on the 28th of April to Olive Lane Cafe at 9.30am - maybe bring a friend for the experience!

Walking for Enjoyment

Monday 20th April 10.00am

Meet in the carpark off Station St. Box Hill ,(Melway 61 C4) behind the Bennettswood Bowling Club. Do not park in the area designated for the Bowling Club.

Convenor John Astle 0419895121

Scam or Spam?

I recently received an email purporting to be from a firm called **biotrk**. It appeared to refer to recent blood tests and claimed that it would show 'what your doctor didn't mention'. A google search brought up two **biotrk** references : **biotrk.com** and **biotrk.io** The country or top level code "**io**" refers to **British Indian Ocean Territory**. Don't click the links provided without checking with your health professional



FOOTY TIPPING

All 30 of last year's tipsters have returned to test their judgement, footy nous and luck in the 2026 Footy Tipping Competition. Alas, no new starters and none of our new members have joined to challenge our resident experts.

Just like the teams themselves, the ladder of footy tipsters has started to take shape. Some new names at the top, some of our old stalwarts still performing well and of course a few last year's leaders are faltering.

After Round 4, the joint leaders are Chris Thornton and Shirley Branigan with each having 26 correct tips. Over the Easter Round, Chris was our leading tipster with near perfect 7 correct tips from 8 matches.

Convenor: Peter Harman 0428 505 535

ACTIVITY GROUPS & CONVENORS

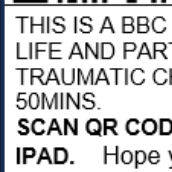
Scrabble	Glenys Chalk	1 st Monday
Solo	Denise Powell	1 st Thursday
Canasta	Denise Boschetti	2 nd Wednesday
Walking	John Astle	3 rd Monday
Film Luncheon	Joan Teele	3 rd Tuesday
Discussion	TBA	3 rd Tuesday
Garden Appr'n	Liz Dawe	3 rd Thursday
3 rd Sunday Lunch	Diane O'Brien	3 rd Sunday
Creative Pursuits	Elaine Provan	4 th Tuesday
Investors	Charlie Boschetti	4 th Tuesday
Book Group 1	Stan Petzall	4 th Thursday
Book Group 2	Lyn Stavretis	4 th Thursday
Dine Out	Barbara VanWoerkom	
	Margaret Cox	bi-monthly
Secret Men's	Peter Gillett	LAST Tuesday
Theatre	Barbara Mathews	various
	Mary Dunn	
Footy Tipping	Peter Harman	weekly
	Phil Pitsikas	in season

DID YOU KNOW...

-about the very successful detective mystery author **PATRICIA CORNWELL** she started work in a morgue as a technical writer. It was there working with a medical examiner that she was inspired to write. She created the character Kay Scarpetta, a crime fighting forensic pathologist, in the 1990s



THIS IS A PDF FILE -TO VIEW & READ- INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHOR. SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW ON PHONE & IPAD.



THIS IS A BBC PODCAST ON PAT'S LIFE AND PARTICULARLY A TRAUMATIC CHLDHOOD-ABOUT 50MINS. SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW ON PHONE & IPAD. Hope you enjoy this, Roy



Payment of Annual Membership Fee

Our fee structure is as follows:

EXISTING MEMBERS: \$60 for the current year.

The final date for fee payment is April 30.

If payment is not received by this date your name will not appear in the club directory.

Please EFT your payment to the club account:

BSB: 633 000 Account Number: 168 764 322

Description "membership fees" and your name as ID.

After you have made this payment, please notify Ron Johnson (Treasurer) and Marty Malone (Membership Officer) by e-mail.

Ron: 0419 306 560

Marty: 0438 503 139

If, you have decided not to re join for 2026 please let Marty know ASAP via e mail so as he can process this alteration for our records



before playing

enjoying the wine & cheese