



## THE BRIDGE

December 2025

Newcastle /Kurri Kurri Tour deposit required \$100

### December Speaker

This month instead of a speaker we will be entertained by the ukelele group based at the Holy Name of Mary Parish Hall, Hunters Hill. The words will be on the screen .so you can sing along with the group.

During the event you will be tasked to answer five tricky questions. The table with the most correct answers will be declared club smarties and share a box of Smarties.



### UPCOMING EVENTS, OUTINGS AND TOURS

#### Xmas Lunch Reminder

Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> 12 noon for 12.30pm. This year we will return to Massey Park for our Xmas lunch. The cost to members is **\$35**. The actual cost has been reduced by a \$20 subsidy from the club funds.

#### New Year Picnic

Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup>

Picnic at 5pm Kissing Point Park. Bring food, drink and chairs. Make it your new year resolution to attend. A pleasant evening by the river. A glass of wine and good conversation. Should be ample parking by the big silver fishes.

#### Tour of Newcastle and Kurri Kurri

February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2026

(Wednesday and Thursday)

Tour of Newcastle and Kurri Kurri. Train from Central to Newcastle where a bus will meet us at 11am. Guided tour of Newcastle. Accommodation at Rydges Hotel. Lunch and dinner at own expense on day 1. Day 2 Tour of street art at Kurri Kurri including lunch and a drinks at Hunter Valley 4 Pines the Farm (known for its craft beers) followed by wine & cheese tasting at the Fat Cow.

***Joan needs definite names this meeting plus a \$100 deposit.*** Total cost \$425

#### Hunters Hill Theatre

Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>



**Exit Laughing.** When the highlight of your life for the past 30 years has been your weekly bridge night with the girls, what do you do when one of your foursome dies?

A RIP roaring start to 2026 season.

*Names to Marlene McPherson and payment no later than February meeting.*

### **Tour of Parliament House with lunch at Strangers Restaurant**

**Cost \$65.00**

Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026

Guided tour of Parliament House at 11.30am followed at 12.30 by a lunch at Strangers Restaurant. Your choice of one main and one dessert from the a la Carte menu.

Drinks at own expense

Strangers Restaurant is situated within the Parliament House.

The event is limited to 24 guests.

Names please to Jan and Rob Gray

### **Naval Historical Society Harbour Trip**

March Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

Those attending have paid a \$20 deposit.

The balance of \$50 is now due.

Payment at this meeting please.

Convenor Joan Lloyd

### **Longreach and Winton Tour**

July 2026

A Legendary Week Outback

Organised by Trade Travel

6 days 5 nights \$5198 (twin share)

Joan Lloyd is the organiser.

### **Proposed Tour of NE NSW**

**October 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>**

Visit the sights at Bellingen, Nimbin, Ballina, Yamba, Coffs Harbour. Includes Trade Travel tour host, luxury coach travel, 7 nights quality

accommodation, breakfast, lunch and dinner as per itinerary (18 meals), All entry fees, cruise and guides.

Full Cost \$3398 (single supplement \$708)

***Names to Wayne Brown. \$200 deposit will be required when booking.***

### **In Planning**

#### **a) Metro Magic**

Travel around the new Metro system stopping to look at the amazing new stations and ending at Rouse Hill for lunch at own expense. Members can make the return trip at their leisure.

b) Visit to the new Sydney Fish Market.

### **Birthdays this Month**

CARMEN DAY
DINAH BARRON
ANNETTE MATHEWS
PETER EICHHORN
CAROL GIBBS
ROB GRAY
FRANK MAHER
DIANNE MITCHELL
KAY SAGGERS

### **CLUB DETAILS**

**MAIL BOX** - PO BOX 358 Gladesville NSW 1675

**EMAIL** - Contact us via the CONTACTS PAGE on our website

**WEBSITE** - GLADESVILLEPROBUS.com

**BANK DETAILS** - Westpac BSB 032184 Account No. 345869

When making a direct deposit please include your name and event if possible.

### **2025 Management Committee Members**

President	Martin Kinsky
Vice President	Lynne Cook
Treasurer	Wayne Browne
Secretary	Prue Haddon
Membership Officer	Chris Ellis
Welfare Officer	Marlene McPherson
Communications	Peter Lewis
Events Officer	Joan Lloyd
Past President	Meg Milne
Lunches Organiser	Rob Gray
Speakers Convener	Anne Kinsky

**EVENT LIST FOR 2026**  
compiled on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2025

<b>January 2026</b>	<b>Thursday 15</b>	BYO	Picnic at 5pm Kissing Point Park. Bring food, drink and chairs. Make it your new year resolution to attend. A pleasant evening by the river. A glass of wine and good conversation. Should be ample parking by the big silver fishes.
<b>February</b>	<b>18 and 19</b>	\$425	Tour of Newcastle and Kurri Kurri. <b><i>Please make sure you have paid the \$100 deposit.</i></b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Monday 2</b>	\$65	<b><i>NEW.</i></b> Guided tour of Parliament House at 11.30am followed by 2 course lunch (choose from the menu) at 12.30 in the Strangers Dining Room. Drinks at own expense. <b><i>Names at December meeting and payment ASAP.</i></b>
	<b>Friday 13th</b>	\$70	Naval Historical Society of NSW. For all those attending who have paid the \$20 deposit, <b>balance of \$50 is now due.</b>
	<b>Sunday 29</b>	\$32	HH Theatre – <b>Exit Laughing.</b> <i>Names to Marlene McPherson and payment no later than February meeting.</i>
<b>June</b>	<b>Sunday 21</b>	\$32	HH Theatre – <b>Chapter Two</b> by Neil Simon. This delightful play examines true love and asks whether finding a soulmate can happen more than once in a lifetime.
<b>August</b>	<b>Wednesday 12 to 17</b>	\$5,498 + \$800 ss	<b>Winton and Longreach.</b> <b><i>\$200 deposit due now and firm numbers at December meeting.</i></b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Sunday 13</b>	\$32	HH Theatre – <b>Black Coffee</b> by Agatha Christie. Who doesn't love an Agatha Christie whodunit?
<b>October</b>	<b>Sunday 4 to Sunday 11</b>	\$3,398 + \$798 ss	<b><i>NEW</i></b> Visit the sights at Bellingen, Nimbin, Ballina, Yamba, Coffs Harbour. <b><i>Names to Wayne Brown. \$200 deposit will be required when booking.</i></b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Sunday 6</b>	\$32	<b>HH Theatre – Don't Dress for Dinner.</b> A philandering husband weaves a convoluted web of marital treachery to spend an idyllic weekend away in the countryside with his mistress.

**What did St Joseph and St Mary have in common?**

A silly question but a strange answer.

Both are celebrated in different suburbs by magnificent church buildings constructed of 240 million year old Hawkesbury Sandstone, and thanks to smooth organisation by Joan Lloyd a number of us had the pleasure of guided tours in the last few weeks. Joan deserves a medal for her arrangement of outings this year but I don't think Probus runs to medals, so this mention in dispatches will have to serve. Many thanks Joan, your efforts are much appreciated.

Sandstone for St Josephs College came from a local quarry on the edge of the Lane Cove River The sources of sandstone for St Marys Cathedral are more diverse. Yellow-block stone for the northern end of the cathedral was quarried by the Saunders family from two pits in Pyrmont, one named Purgatory and the other Paradise. They had a third pit there known as Hell Hole but that is not recorded as being used in the

cathedral. The younger southern end of the cathedral was constructed of stone from a quarry in Clyde St., Bondi which was operated by Loveridge and Hudson and for a short time by Melocco Stone. The most recent part of the cathedral are the towers which are a steel structure clad in slabs of artificially coloured sandstone from Wondabyne near Gosford. And just to add a little flavour, the high altar is carved from limestone that was shipped across the Tasman from Oamaru in NZ.

As for those fabulous floor mosaics, with their terrazzo and composite stone all of them were done by Melocco Brothers, principally by Peter (Pietro) Melocco who was born in northern Italy, trained in New York and used his first profits from St Marys to bring his brothers to Australia. Cardinal Moran engaged him for a mosaic in the Chapel of the Irish Saints and almost certainly for the baptistery. It took Peter 13 years to complete the mosaic in the crypt which is a work of international heritage significance.

In the 1950s Melocco moved into concrete construction work. That side of it was later taken over by Blue Metal Industries and then Boral. Dimension stone is still handled by Melocco Stone based in Dandenong, Victoria and Sam the Paving Man (doesn't have quite the same ring does it?) in Adelaide.

You want to know more about this incredible Italian/Australian family see *Painting with Stone* by Zeny Edwards. I have asked Ryde Library to buy a copy.

One more thing – the Létourneau organ, turns out this company has nothing to do with the big earth movers I speculated about but they do have quite a story in their own right. See: <https://www.letourneauorgans.com/>

Amazing isn't it? Even cathedrals and church schools can stir an atheist geologist.  
Peter Mitchell

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Below is my Xmas card to you.

The Sturt Desert Pea - the right colour for the season.

When working west of Broken Hill, if I was lucky, I stumbled across them.

They grew on the southern slopes and flowered for a short time.

