

Grey Matter

AI edition



June 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>

ROBERT'S REFLECTIONS



Once again May turned out to be another very busy month full of events, outings, lunches, a bus Trip to Bright for a 5 day stay and a train journey to Shepparton for a 2 day stay visiting local museums. All this is a real credit to the Convenors who relentlessly facilitate the many events on a regular basis during the year. In the meantime arrangements are underway for our 19th Anniversary Signature lunch at the Greenacres golf Club on Tuesday 14th July.

In the background a few of our members Russ Dawe, Ron Johnson, Judy Brophy and Peter Gillett have been working away putting our best foot forward in the submissions to Council for a grant. If successful, this will defray some of our costs for funding specific events and projects that benefits the membership and is in line with council requirements. Applications are now closed.

However, none of these activities or working groups will continue indefinitely without a strong and active Management Committee. We currently still have two vacancies and are very likely to face at least three retirements at the end of this year. This is not sustainable in the long term.

On a more positive note from Marty our Membership Officer, we have already welcomed several new members to the Cub over the past few months, including Colleen Moore, Patrick Poppins, Tony Shou and Klaus Klapp.

At our General Meeting on 9th June, we are also delighted to induct five more members: Bill and Glenys Stringer, John and Marie Dowling, and Bruce Wilson. Together, they bring a wide range of interests and experience, including photography, union leadership, teaching, music, singing, social justice, charity work, football and swimming. We look forward to getting to know them all and to their active involvement in the club.

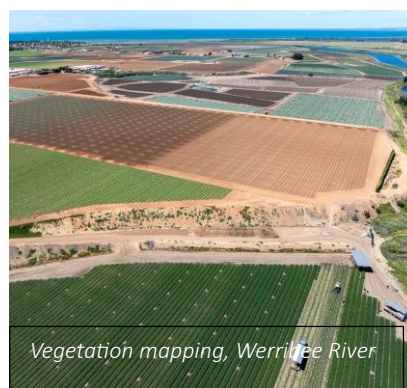
Robert Van Woerkom (President)

June Meeting

The June meeting of the Greythorn Probus Club will be held on **Tuesday 9 June** at the North Balwyn Uniting Church (St Aidan's) hall commencing at 10:00am

Our guest speaker for June is **Michael Green** from Drift Media of Inverloch who will talk about:

The Sky's the Limit: How Drones Are Reshaping Our World



Vegetation mapping, Werribee River

Drones are making a massive change to life. They are now, perhaps, the main weapon in warfare. But their value is vast for peaceful applications. Mike Green, a commercial CASA licenced Drone pilot and drone business operator will tell us how our environment, our farms, buildings, infrastructure – the list is endless – are managed today.



(they don't all look like Kermit – even if green.
This is the Mavic3 Pro Drone.

Welfare

Cards of support have been sent to Barbara Van Woerkom and Elaine Provan owing to recent family bereavements, and to Jan James who is currently in Peter James rehab after a fall.

Heather Trumble

Welfare@greythornprobus.org.au

50 Years of Probus in Australia

Heather Ewart has been recruited as the PSPL 50th Anniversary Spokesperson. [Click on the pic](#) to listen to her message.



Birthdays

Rhonda BROWN	1
Veronica McLELLAN	1
Marilyn POOLE	2
Stanley PETZALL	7
Vivienne NEWMAN	8
Barry WATTS	8
Charles POVEY	9
Kevin O'CONNOR	19
Dick JOHNSON	24
Neville DANIEL	24

JUNE 2026 ACTIVITIES

Scrabble	1 June
Committee meeting	2 June
Solo	4 June
42 nd Street, Babirra Music Theatre	6 June
General Meeting	9 June
Canasta	10 June
They Sang at Carnegie Hall	10 June
Discussion note 2 nd Thursday @ 11am	11 June
Walking group	15 June
Cinema & Lunch	16 June
Garden group – Strathdon House & Orchard	18 June
3 rd Sunday Lunch	21 June
Zelman Symphony, Beethoven Festival, 2:30pm	21 June
Creative Pursuits	23 June
Investors EOFY Dinner, Box Hill RSL	23 June
Tramboat Cruise	24 June
Book Groups	25 June
Secret Men's Business	30 June
Scrabble	6 July
The Broadway We Love	15 July
Pretty Woman – The Musical	19 August

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH



Celebrate the
19th Anniversary of our wonderful Club
at-GREENACRES GOLF CLUB
51 Elm Grove, Kew East
on TUESDAY 14th JULY 2026 at 12.30

It will be a two course lunch well subsidised by the Bendigo Bank. The cost to Members is \$60 & Non Members \$85.

Everyone welcome

Due to popular demand we will be entertained once again by the fabulous guitarist Jason Vorherr.

Payment required to Ron Johnson Treasurer **by Friday 26th June**. When payment is made please notify **Convenors-Barbara Van Woerkom - , & Margaret Cox -** and please advise Barbara or Margaret of any dietary requirements.

Have Myki will Travel

FRIDAY 10TH JULY 2026

RONE AT CHADSTONE

Part of the inaugural *Light to Night Festival*. It's the inner workings of a home to explore and consider what it is that truly makes a space a home.

RONE@chadstone.au

We have limited free tickets for the 11am session on Friday 10th July. Lunch after.

Meet at Box Hill bus stop (upper level) shopping centre for the 9.34am 903 bus to Chadstone Shopping Centre arriving at 10.07am

**Convenors: Judy Bailey
Pene Whiteley**



Boroondara's Morning Music Season 2 kicks off on Tuesday 21 July with:
Elvis Forever.

Scrabble 1st Monday

MONDAY 6 JULY

Monday 1 June 2026 at 1.30 pm, host was Anne Ponsford.

Monday 6 July 2026 at 1.30 pm host will be Glenys Chalk. Please let Glenys know on if attending.

Convenor: Glenys Chalk-

Tramboat cruise

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE, 10.15 AM

Victoria Harbour Ferry Terminal

Our cruise departs from Victoria Harbour Ferry Terminal at 10.30 am for our adventure along the Yarra and Maribyrnong rivers.



Please be at the Ferry Terminal *no later than 10.15am when boarding commences.*

Take Tram 75 or 70 Tramline from Flinders Street, to stop D3, or Docklands Tram 86 from Southern Cross Station, corner of Spencer and Burke Streets, alighting at D2.

Alternatively, you can walk from Southern Cross Station, and the terminal is a short 10 – 15 minutes stroll past Marvel Stadium.



We disembark for lunch at the Anglers Tavern, before returning by tram boat to the Ferry Terminal

Arrival at approximately 2pm. DURATION: 3.5 hours.

Bookings and Payments for this outing are now closed.

Organiser: Jan Coffey, MOBILE:

Solo 1st Thursday

THURSDAY 4 JUNE AT 1:30PM

Margaret Cox will host play in June. Please advise her on 0419552684 if you will be playing.

Convenor: Denise Powell –

Our thanks for the support from

Nelson Alexander

Estate Agents, 278 High St. Kew 3101

Call Christopher Ewart 0419 897 979 or our office on 9854 8888. cewart@nelsonalexander.com.au

Canasta 2nd Wednesday

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE AT 1:30PM

Play at Denise Powell's home. Please advise Denise on if attending.



Convenor: Denise Boschetti

Walking for Enjoyment 3rd Monday

MONDAY 15TH JUNE 10.00AM

WALK MAIN YARRA TRAIL, WARRIGAL PARKLANDS

Meet in the carpark off Beverley Rd Heidelberg Melway 32 C4. Coffee at the Greenery.

Convenor: John Astle –

Film Luncheon 3rd Tuesday

TUESDAY 16 JUNE

PALACE CINEMA, WHITEHORSE RD BALWYN

Name and time of film will be announced at Meeting. Please have CORRECT MONEY (\$12) in named envelope.

Optional lunch at EAST & CO.

Convenor: Joan Teele

Discussion 2^d Thursday

THURSDAY 11 JUNE

Note change to 2nd Thursday morning at 11:00am, Board Room at the Harp hotel unless otherwise advised. Topic and leader to be announced shortly.

Thanks again to Peter Phelan who raised the issue of **Australia's energy dilemma**. He reminded us that fossil fuels – particularly natural gas, diesel and aviation fuel – will be critical for many years to come. He absorbed us with a range of scientific reports that queried the 'conventional wisdom' of man-made CO₂ being the predominant cause of climate change and which pointed to cycles of Ice Ages and warm periods with significantly higher levels of atmospheric CO₂

Convenor: We need a volunteer to act as convenor of the group

Garden Appreciation 3rd Thursday

Thursday 18 June, 10:30am

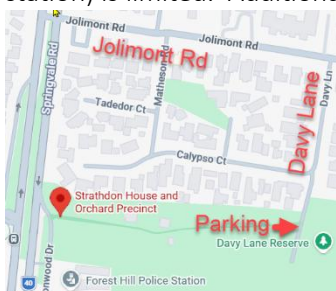
Strathdon House and Orchard

Strathdon is located at 449 – 465 Springvale Rd. Forest Hill, a 6 acre site that includes the original cottage built in 1893 and its orchard.

Meet at 10:30am for Devonshire tea in the veranda of the Mountain View room (cost \$10.00 PLEASE NOTE Strathdon is cashless) followed by a tour of the house and garden.



Parking on Springvale Rd entrance (near the police station) is limited. Additional parking is at the *Davy Lane* entrance at the rear of the site (access via Jolimont Rd. on the Canterbury Rd. side of the property). From this car park it is an easy 200m walk to the house.



Lunch after the tour has been booked at 'The Food Republic', 28-30 Blackburn Rd., Blackburn (just south of the Blackburn Railway station) 12:15pm.
Organiser: Pauline O'Brien

THURSDAY 16 JULY 10:30AM

THE GREENERY, 4 BANKSIA ST, HEIDELBERG

Meet at the Greenery at 10:30am and begin the day with a coffee and perhaps a tempting cake or scone.

At 11:00am the manager of The Greenery will take us around the displays, talk about them and answer any questions. Then we can explore the delights on our own.

The nursery has both native and exotic plants chosen for their suitability to local climates. Themed display areas show creative ways to combine plants, pots and garden materials.

The Emporium features homewares, gifts, art exhibits, furniture and decor items.

Lunch has been arranged at the Greenery.

Organiser: Elaine Provan

THURSDAY 20 AUGUST

TRAIN TRIP TO KYNETON

to see the daffodil displays in the lovely Botanic Gardens.

The gardens also have many significant trees that are of interest.

Detailed information next month. Discover historic Kyneton's boutique galleries, cafes and churches. Lunch will be at the Social Foundry.

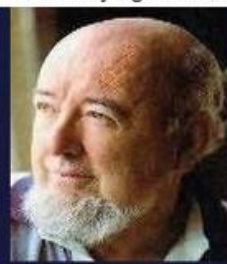
Convenor: Liz Dawe



"DID YOU KNOW..."

Thomas Michael Keneally, one of Australia's best-regarded and most prolific writers, was born in 1935 to Catholic parents of Irish ancestry. He was educated at St. Patrick's College in Strathfield, New South Wales, and studied first for the priesthood and later for a law career. He taught in a high school in Sydney from 1960 to 1964, marrying Judith Martin in 1965, a year after he had published his first novel, *The Place at Whitton* (1964). *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* (1972). Written through the eyes of an exploited Aboriginal man who explodes in rage. *Schindler's Ark* (1982), winner of the Booker Prize. Both novels filmed. Keneally has published over 35 novels, 18 works of non-fiction and several plays since his debut in 1964.

Now at 90 he has some doubts about ever completing another novel. He has just had his first rejection from his publisher. He and Judy have health issues. He has drifted trying to find a new purpose.



THIS IS A PDF FILE -TO VIEW & READ- ABOUT HIS ACHIEVEMENTS
SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW ON PHONE & IPAD.

THIS IS A BBC PODCAST WITH TOM AT HOME
SCAN QR CODE TO LISTEN ON PHONE & IPAD.



3rd Sunday Lunch 3rd Sunday

SUNDAY 21 JUNE AT 12 NOON

Venue: The Living Room

19 Anderson Street, TEMPLESTOWE 3106



For bookings contact Diane O'Brien on by 19th June.

Looking back to May - we enjoyed a great lunch, and wonderful company) at Chapter 3 in Canterbury.

Convenor: Diane O'Brien –

Creative Pursuits 4th Tuesday

23 JUNE, 11:00AM

JEWELLERY – venue and details to follow.

We are very excited that Adrian Dickson will speak about the upcoming CARTIER exhibition at the NGV.

On 28 July we plan to visit **CARTIER** exhibition at the NGV.

Convenor: Elaine Provan

Book Groups 4th Thursday

Book Group 1

Book group 1 will meet on Thursday 25 June at 2 pm at the Balwyn Library to discuss *A Room Made of Leaves* by Kate Grenville.

Convenor: Stan Petzall

Book Group 2

Book group 2 will meet on Thursday June 25th at 2 pm

Book: *Butter* by Asako Yuzuki

Hostess: Joan Teele

Please advise Joan if you are unable to attend.

Convenor: Lyn Stavretis:

Investors 4th Tuesday

EOFY BOX HILL RSL, 7:00PM

Because poor old Donald can't work out how to bluff Iran, we have decided that our next meeting will be our EOFY dinner at BOX HILL RSL 7.00pm on 23 June.

Partners welcome

Convenor: Charlie Boschetti-

Secret Men's Business last Tuesday

OLIVE LANE, 30 JUNE, 9:30AM

Eighteen legends turned up for the May SMB Muster, bringing high energy and great conversation to an awesome, inclusive morning. While we missed those who couldn't make it, the vibe was top-tier!

We're kicking things up a notch! Our next session features the theme: "How I survived a near-death experience."

Don't worry—the "near-death" part isn't the meeting itself (those are always a blast!). We're simply adding some "carry-on" to our usual coffee and chatter. It's a chance to share the wild, meaningful, and slightly-risky-to-your-reputation stories that make life interesting.



"Secret Men's Business" is the highlight of the month. Don't miss the next one:

- **When:** Tuesday, 30 June
- **Time:** 9:30 am (Late risers welcome—we roll until 10:45 am)
- **Where:** Olive Lane Café, Balwyn North

Come for the coffee, stay for the stories!"¹

Convenor: Peter Gillett –

JULY GREY MATTER

If you wish to have your information included in the **July Grey Matter** copy MUST reach the newsletter team at newsletter@greythornprobus.org.au by 5:00pm, Tuesday 30 June.

Late information may miss out!

Strength training session for men, Thursday 11 June 2026, 2pm- 3pm at the Kew Seniors Centre

As we get older, maintaining strength and balance is key to staying independent and continuing to enjoy everyday activities. Delivered by YMCA during Men's Health Week, this free session provides tips to improve strength using simple exercises. Find out more and register: <https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/events/strength-training-men>

Contact Boroondara 'Active Ageing' via active.ageing.vic.gov.au or call (03) 9278 4777 to find out more about the **Boroondara Community Bus** which is available to Boroondara residents aged 65 and older.

¹ SMB-Well – this doesn't show an erudite editor – it was generated by AI from an initial text. Perhaps a subject for a chat in itself.

Theatre *various*

BOOKINGS FOR THESE: BARBARA MATHEWS –

Pretty Woman

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

Most tickets have already
been distributed.



A Beautiful Noise



Wednesday, 23
September 2026 @ 1.00
pm at The Princess
Theatre in the 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.**

Bookings for these: Barbara Mathews –

BOOKINGS FOR THESE: MARY DUNN –

BERNADETTE ROBINSON

10 JUNE

“They Sang at Carnegie Hall.” From Billie Holiday to
Maria Callas and the unforgettable night Judy Garland
recorded her best-selling album, this legendary venue
has created melodic history. Enjoy it all with Bernadette
in July. Tickets will be distributed at the June meeting.

THE BROADWAY WE LOVE

15 JULY

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.



Australian Ballet School (cont.)

Experience the energy and artistry of Australia’s finest
young dancers in a vibrant mix of classical and
contemporary works.

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

TENORI: MOMENT BY MOMENT

26 AUGUST



Showcases the talents of
Queensland’s powerhouse
singers: David Kidd, Stewart
Morris and Andrew Pryor.

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

Bookings for these: Mary Dunn –

Convenor: Barbara Mathews –

AUTUMN IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

We had a perfect week for travelling this spectacular
area of Victoria. Chilly mornings bring beautiful
sunshine and blue skies. We left Melbourne and
travelled to Yarra Glen for morning tea, then on to
Mansfield through the King Valley and into the Ovens
Valley to the High Country Motor Inn in Bright.

Day 2 - We went to the Buckland Valley – old gold
mining area now dairy farms, vineyards, nut groves
and orchards. Beautiful country and full of autumn
colour. We visited Alpine Apple Orchard and got
some apples straight off the trees. We visited Mt
Buffalo Chalet (under restoration) and had
spectacular views from the many lookouts over the
Victorian Alps, Lake Catani and Dingo Dell.



On top of the world - or at least Mt Buffalo

Day 3 – Starting off with a visit to the Buckland Valley
and Pepo Farm for “naked” dark green pumpkin
seed/oil tasting. Very Interesting. Then it was off to
Yackandandah and Beechworth for lunch and free
time.



Day 4 – Off to the Keiwa Valley, Mt Beauty, Falls Creek Alpine Village, Rocky Valley Dam and then a walk to Wallace’s Hut. Just spectacular.

Day 5 – Heading home via the Eldorado Dredge, on to Glenrowan – Euroa and back to Melbourne.

Gary the bus driver was a very experienced alpine driver with great stories and commentary. Good tour leader Pat. No mishaps along the way and all got home safe and sound after a wonderful week away.

Judy Bailey

DID YOU MISS THE WHISPER GARDEN?

The Garden group visited The Whisper Garden in Cranbourne on 21 May and followed up with lunch and a tour of the Cranbourne Botanic Garden.



The Whisper Garden, created by David and Shari Duncan on what was, when they purchased their acre or so adjacent to the Cranbourne Botanic, a very bare area. It’s now a haven for the local wildlife and a wonderful collection of indigenous plants.

It’s not a beautifully manicured garden, but one that offers a calming space among the trees and flowers for that relaxing glass, a tranquil space in suburbia.

While the group has visited the Cranbourne Botanic Garden a couple of times previously, it’s important to note that it’s always changing – with the seasons, with the differential growth of plants, with planting changes.



Full attention as David explains his planting scheme

The Cranbourne Garden is one of the world’s top 25 “must see” gardens – the only other Australian garden to be on that list is the Sydney Botanic Garden. This visit coincided with the 20th anniversary of this national treasure. After a pleasant lunch the group enjoyed a guided tour of the garden – making everyone keen to come back to explore different areas.

Liz Dawe

CREATIVES ENJOY DEGAS TO PICASSO @ SAM

We did enjoy our trip to Shepparton, the SAM is an amazing building, surrounded by lovely native gardens, next to Victoria Park Lake with plenty of walking paths, birds and people enjoying the outdoors. In the afternoon we visited the MOVE Museum as well as the 200 years of History – Costume Collection by Loel Thomson – amazing exhibit.

Elaine Provan

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND PAYMENTS

Direct Debit (EFT)

Account No.

Please **always** insert your **name** and the **event** in the message/reference area. A single payment with each deposit is preferred to avoid incorrect attribution **Also email the relevant convenors or organisers and the Treasurer, Ron Johnson**, advising the activity/ies you have paid for into the club account.

FORWARD PLANNING

Solo	2 July
Scrabble	6 July
Committee meeting	7 July
Canasta	8 July
Discussion	9 July
International Day of Hope	12 July
General Meeting	14 July
The Broadway We Love – The Round	15 July
Garden group	16 July
3 rd Sunday Lunch	19 July
Walking for coffee	20 July
Film & Lunch	21 July
Book Groups	23 July
Secret Men’s Business (9:30am)	28 July
Creative Pursuits – CARTIER EXHIBITION NGV	28 July
Investors (7:30pm)	28 July
Australian Ballet School– The Round –	5 August
Pretty Woman – The Musical – Regent Theatre	19 August
Tenori – The Round –	26 August
A Beautiful Noise – Princess Theatre	23 September

Footy Tipping weekly in season

Can you believe it? We’re half way there (to the finals that is) and some of us really are ‘tipping on a prayer’. Lots of near misses and upsets are challenging the experts.

Congratulations to **Peter Ogier** and **Frank O’Brien** who have both, during May achieved perfect scores of 9 correct tips in a round. Also to be acknowledged are **Judy Lewis** and **Denise Powell** whose loyalty to their respective chosen teams has been rewarded.

Judy Lewis is on a hot streak and has rocketed to the lead two ahead of last month’s leader **Chris Thornton**.

Convenor: Peter Harman - & Phillp Pitsikas –

