



Probud Club of Melbourne North Inc

Newsletter: No 8 August 2026 Reg. No. A0030616K.8

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Web Address: <http://melbnprobud.org>.

Meeting Venue: Windy Hill, Essendon

President: Susan Olszewski 0448 999 904

Secretary: Kathy Detering 0409 251 590

Treasurer: Mary Sullivan 0432 509 837

Newsletter Editor: Ron Barratt 0413 752 099 ron.barratt@optusnet.com.au

Guest Speakers: Marie Daffey 0408 592 912

Membership Officer: Michael Watson 0490 878 835

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President's Message

Hello everybody,

It is wonderful to see spring is slowly making its presence felt and to see all the spring flowers blooming and the trees slowly showing new buds.

On August 12 a group of our members visited Government House and highly recommended the tour and the lunch afterwards at Young and Jacksons.

Later in the month Gerri and Ron Barratt held a book viewing at their home. The rare 1860s book of Melbourne wildflowers was illustrated and produced by Ron's ancestor. Gerri spent hundreds of hours creating embroideries of the illustrations

Feedback was that it was a wonderful morning. A great big thank you to Ron and Gerri.
Looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on August. 25

The greatest gift you can give someone is your time because when you give your time, you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back.

In friendship,

SUE OLSZEWSKI

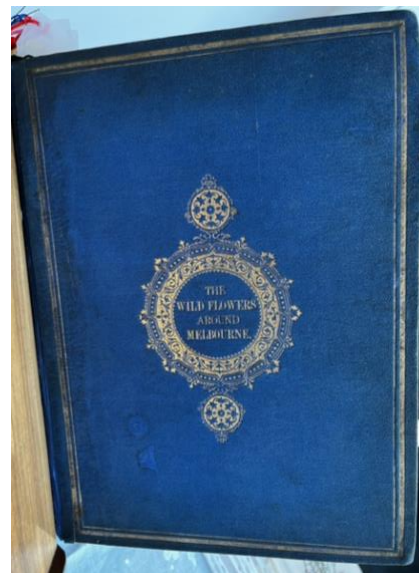
Guest speaker

Clare Scerri is a local Essendon mother.

Her daughter Catherine works and lives in the Philippines. She works for Bahay Tuluyan, a children's rights organisation working to fulfill children's rights and to prevent and respond to abuse and violence against children.

Historical family book

Fourteen club members joined Ron and Gerri Barratt in their home to learn the history of a rare family book. Ron's great grand aunt, a botanical artist, spent nine years in Melbourne in the 1850s collecting and illustrating wildflowers. She produced her own book called *The Wildflowers Around Melbourne* when she returned to England. Her Melbourne descendants have a copy. Other copies are in the National Gallery in Canberra, the State Library of Victoria the Royal Botanic Gardens Library.



Gerri also showed a series of embroidered pages reproducing the pages from the book, a task that consumed hundreds of hours.

Government House visit



Twenty one members enjoyed a most informative tour of Government House.
The tour was followed by a lovely lunch at Young & Jacksons.
Thanks once again to Maureen Scully.

August birthdays

Jensine Hough, Beverley Burnside, Colleen O'Riley, Marie Barbera, Carmel Rayner, Roslyn Jones, Annette Simpson.

Vale

Our ever-vigilant club historian Vic Ryall reports:

Helen Barber, wife of past member Graham, has passed away. Helen was not a club member, but often came along to club events such as trips and Christmas lunches. A fellow resident at Drummond Place let me know about Helen's passing.

Former member Margaret Launkonis passed away aged 84. She was a member of the club since November 2001. For a decade she was active in planning for club trips away. She was a very caring member, with responsibility for club welfare for some years. In later years she became a Friend before leaving a year ago when she was in care and no longer able to be involved in club activities.

I was in communication with Past President Dorothy Milburn about Helen and Margaret. Dorothy celebrated her 90th birthday early last month.

Club website

Lin Rigby looks after the Probus Melbourne North website.

The website address is: <https://melbnprobus.org>

The What's On page is: <https://melbnprobus.org/welcome/whats-on-test-trial/>

then click on the blue *i* information symbol (for info on meetings, films or trips).

There are other pages, but the What's On page will give up to date information.

Next meeting August 25

Deadline for the next newsletter will be September 11