

**Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025**

**JENNIFER PHILPS BSc. Hons, Dip Ed – Children's Medical Research Institute.**



## **“GENETICS – The Future is Now”**

**An Introduction:** 1 in 20 children worldwide is born with a birth defect or genetic disease and 50% of all admissions to children's hospitals are due to genetic conditions.

Genetics is the study of how genes are passed down through generations and how they affect a person's traits and health. Genes are at the centre of everything that makes us human.

Genes determine a person's appearance, such as hair colour, eye colour, skin colour and height. They also determine a person's mental abilities and natural talents, and the likelihood of getting certain diseases.

No wonder your future is heavily influenced by the genes you have inherited.



**Our Guest Speaker: Jennifer Philps** – Jennifer is the Community Relations Manager at the Children's Medical Research Institute.

She started a teaching career in Glasgow in 1965 after majoring in genetics at Glasgow University. After her marriage to a veterinarian, they set off to Uganda on the Overseas Development Program where she taught in a remote village on the Sudan border. These were turbulent times in Uganda, so they ventured into the safer climate of South Africa where they stayed for 20 years raising three daughters. Jennifer taught in many parts of South Africa and immigrated to Australia in 1987 and continued her teaching career at Barker College.

In 1992 she had a sea change, leaving teaching to join a bio-medical company which fortuitously led her, a year later, to join the Children's Medical Research Institute as Community Relations Manager. The intention was to continue for a few years but 32 years later she still has “the best job in the world” giving her the ability to renew her avid interest in genetics and medical research.

A bonus was to assist in the fantastic work carried out by their fund-raising committees throughout Australia as well as being involved with the Jeans for Genes Campaign since its inception.

**She is considered the matriarch of the CMRI family and is much loved by all its past and present members.**

Recently Governor David Hurley presented a medallion to her for outstanding service to the CMRI. She was made a Life Member and referred to as “our national treasure”.

**Her Presentation:** Jennifer will touch on all the above and you can ask all those questions about what is in our genes.