

PROBING THE BRIDGE

August 2025

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Combined Probus Club of
Northbridge Inc

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From the President

“Rain, rain, go away” – what a wet winter we are having! Hopefully it is not encroaching too much on your everyday and special activities. I was so pleased I was able to share in the fun of the Yulefest in the Hawkesbury on July 19 and 20. On Course Tours picked us up from home, then on to a visit to the new Western Sydney International Airport, named after our first female pilot Nancy Bird Walton. Then lunch and on to the historical tour of Windsor, which Judith Dunn was to host. We were sorry she had to cancel due to ill-health, but her replacement presented a very interesting few hours expanding on Windsor and its landmarks. On arrival at our overnight stay at Crowne Plaza Hawkesbury Valley, Santa was there to greet us. The banquet Christmas dinner: prawns, oysters, Moreton Bay bugs, crab, together with a selection of cooked options, vegetables and salads, all followed by a massive range of desserts (yes, Christmas pudding and pavlova). All this was accompanied by wine and non-alcoholic drinks. (See the photos.) We returned via Camden.

I am wondering why there were only nine participants? We do have 125 members. For the club to be ongoing with such a successful reputation, we need more members taking part in the activities the Committee organises. The aim of Probus is to provide members with “Fun and Friendship”. So please let us know the reasons that some of the activities we are offering are not attracting full membership participation. If there is something else you would like to take part in, please tell us.

Unfortunately, the rain cancelled the \$2.50 Club visit to Bronte Beach, which attracted over 20 participants. I’m hoping this is just postponed and will take place in the near future. However, Marlene’s trip to the Baha’i Temple and Mona Vale Golf Club for lunch was able to proceed.

As the Resolutions presented at the last meeting by Public Officer Roger (with his sub-committee of Malcolm and Gordon) were passed, the changes required from PSPL to the Constitution and Standing Resolutions (formerly called By-laws) have been completed. We will be introducing a Motion at the next meeting to appoint another well-deserving Life Member to the club.

There was a shortage of seating at the July meeting, as we attracted 12 visitors. To avoid this situation, would it be possible for those wanting to bring a visitor to inform our Membership officer, Judy Smith, in advance so that visitor attendance can be catered for?

I heard that the Nude Solstice Swim in Hobart’s River Derwent attracted 3000 participants!! We have only a couple more weeks of winter and then spring.

President Bev

Our next meeting will be held at Northbridge Golf Club on Monday, August 18 starting at 10am sharp. If you can’t attend, please phone or text contact Judy Smith 0422 537 044 before the meeting.



Above: The Baha'i Temple at Terrey Hills formed an impressive backdrop for our Probians' photo. After visiting the temple, the group enjoyed lunch at Mona Vale Golf Club.



Above, left and below: Lots of laughter at the Yulefest dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hawkesbury Valley. Carol Jones said: "Nine of us had a great time, the food was overwhelming in quantity and selection and we all over-ate."



Left: Despite recent surgery to her face, Bev Piper carried out her role as President to induct Val Gomm (centre) and Lyn Barry at our July meeting.

Dates for your diary

Online payments to Probus Tours Account, BSB 062 215, A/C 10073196, please. If paying online, don't forget to register at the desk that you will be attending.

Tuesday, August 26

Sightseeing to Ku-ring-gai National Park

Coach leaves golf club at 10.15am, then out to West Head, with great views over Pittwater and Central Coast. Lunch at Cavallino Ristorante Pizzeria restaurant at Terrey Hills. Cost of \$80 per person includes coach, park entry and lunch; 16 places are available. Please pay at August meeting.

Tuesday, September 2

Just Lunch

The next lunch will be held at La Botte at 608 Willoughby Rd, Willoughby. There is some parking underneath the restaurant. Cost will be \$55, payable at the August meeting. Waiting list only.

Wednesday September 17

Here You Come Again, Theatre Royal 1 pm

All tickets taken and paid for. We will be departing by bus from Northbridge Golf Club at 11am and returning after the show.

Friday, September 19

Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, Terrey Hills



The wildflowers should be in bloom. We will have one hour guided (gentle) walk and talk. Cost of \$30

includes the coach and morning tea at the centre.

September 26-28

On Course tour to Cowra for Sukura Matsuri cherry blossom spring festival and visit to Mayfield Garden

With only two members registered for this tour, plus Carol herself, a decision was made to cancel.

October 6 – 13

Broken Hill with Silver City Tours

Cost single approx \$3000 for the tour. Flying Qantas to Broken Hill, train back to Sydney. Silver City Tour

includes accommodation in Broken Hill at the Ibis Hotel then one night in White Cliffs staying in underground hotel, plus Menindee, Kinchega National Park and the mining town Silverton. Eight members have paid the deposit of \$500 required to secure a place and the tour is full.

Thursday, October 16

\$2.50 Club outing to Woy Woy

We will be travelling by train for a one hour journey from Chatswood to Hornsby then over the Hawksbury River to Woy Woy where we will have lunch at the Woy Woy hotel before we return via the same route. (The plan is to meet at Northbridge Junction and catch the 267 bus to Chatswood.) More details next month. Please book with Peter McNair.

Wednesday, October 22

Back to the Future, Lyric Theatre 1pm

Waiting list only. \$110 payment is due by cash at the August meeting or by direct transfer into the Probus Tours account. Includes transport to and from Northbridge Golf Club.

Friday, October 31

Lunch at Forestville RSL

Meet in the foyer of the Forestville RSL at 12 noon for a walk along the Anzac Memorial Pathway, with its lovely plaques commemorating WW1 and WW11 (a flat walk about 15 minutes). Then we'll go back to the RSL for lunch. Drive yourself there; there is plenty of parking at the rear of the RSL.

Monday, December 1

Christmas lunch at Northbridge Golf Club

Wednesday, December 3

The Nutcracker, State Theatre 7pm

Fifteen tickets have been reserved for this event. Please put your name down; \$90 payment for ticket only by cash or direct transfer into the Probus Tours Account.

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Anastasia, Sydney Lyric Theatre 1pm

Cost of \$90 includes bus transport to and from the Theatre from Northbridge Golf Club. Twenty tickets have been reserved for this event. Please put your name down for this production. No payment is required at this point.



Speakers

As usual, we have interesting and entertaining guest speakers coming up. Our speaker at the August meeting will be **Gary Raymond OAM**, a former Chief Inspector of NSW Police. Gary had an illustrious career in the force and has many awards for his service. His subject is “Danger was my business”, with highlights of his long career, including major crimes, disasters, rescues and suicide crisis negotiations.

In September, **Ian Thompson** will be speaking on the intriguing subject “Australian inventions which changed the world”.

And **David Short** will tell us in October about the history, operations and achievements of that wonderful Australian creation, the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Enjoy doing a jigsaw puzzle?

There's quite a demand for jigsaw puzzles these days, so we're trying them out at the book table. Bring in one you have finished and take another. Our only request is that if yours is still on the table at the end of the meeting you take it home; they are quite bulky to store.

And of course we continue to welcome books from our generous members, but remember you may take part in the book exchange even if you don't have a book (or jigsaw) to contribute at the time.



A member's story

Lesley Berry was inducted in November 2024. She has had an interesting life.

I was born in India in 1947, just months before the country gained independence. My parents were British colonials, part of a family that had long settled in India under the British Raj. Independence came swiftly and violently, marked by the Partition—a line hastily drawn on a map by Winston Churchill near the end of World War II. It took little account of the region's complex religious and cultural landscape, triggering one of the largest and most tragic mass migrations in history. Millions were uprooted; up to 20 million people died in the chaos.

Caught in the violence, my parents decided to flee. They boarded the first available ship out of Bombay (now Mumbai) and arrived in Sydney, Australia, completely alone. The rest of our family had returned to Britain. My mother, raised in colonial privilege, had never cooked, cleaned, or even changed a nappy. Life in a migrant hostel on Sydney's outskirts was a difficult and humbling start.

Despite the hardship, my parents worked tirelessly to give my brother and me a better life. My brother went on to become a cartoonist and signwriter, eventually starting his own business and raising a family in Queensland. I followed my passion for science, graduating in medical science, working in pathology, and later teaching haematology and microbiology to pathology technicians in Sydney.

Only after becoming a parent myself did I fully grasp the depth of their sacrifices. Their strength, resilience, and willingness to start over in a strange land gave us the chance to thrive. Choosing Australia was, without a doubt, the best decision they ever made. It gave us freedom, opportunity, and a future we could never have imagined—and I will always be grateful to call this country home.



Have you had your flu vaccine?

Influenza (flu) is serious, but it isn't as scary if you're vaccinated.

The flu vaccine is free for people aged 65 and over and most importantly, it offers you the best protection from serious illness. You can get your flu vaccine from your GP or a pharmacist.