

# PROBING THE BRIDGE

July 2025

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Combined Probus Club of  
Northbridge Inc

PO Box 233  
Northbridge, NSW 1560

## President

Bev Piper  
0413 742 846

## Vice-President

Gordon Kenny  
0439 013 616

## Secretary

Heather Skeen  
0412 611 399

## Treasurer

Dick Watson  
0431 160 587

## Membership

Judy Smith  
0422 537 044

## Past President

Peter McNair  
0415 242 628

## Community Liaison

Ros Kenny  
0439 430 726

## Travel

Carol Jones  
0437 494 667

## Activities/lunches

Marlene Black  
0480 264 237

## Theatre

Dawn Spinks  
0410 313 084

## Newsletter

Penny Lye  
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## Speakers

Malcolm Lye  
0449 191 246

## Welfare

Kerrie Williams  
0407 914 699

## Catering

Jan Loiterton  
0407 732 255

## Public Officer

Roger Williams  
0422 882 306

## From the President

The King's Birthday weekend certainly reminded us that winter had arrived. It brought very cold conditions as well as a wonderful cover of snow in our ski fields. It reminded me that our Treasurer Dick had an accident there last year while skiing where he managed to break a few bones. I don't know if he is returning to ski this year – if so we need him to return in good shape to "balance our books" as he does so beautifully.

Peter McNair, Judy Smith and I attended the Willoughby Probus Information and Partner Day at Chatswood organised by Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL). Their aim was to help Management Committee Members to lead their Clubs through a successful year. It gave the opportunity and encouraged the participants to share ideas, experiences and to network. It reminded us that Probus was originally formed for retirees of PRO (professional) and BUS (business) people, but this is no longer the focus. It is now for semi-retired and retired people from any background with the emphasis on Fun and Friendship in retirement. I think our Northbridge club provides that opportunity. However, we do need to maintain the standard. It takes members to participate in the events that are organised; offer their services to become part of the Management Committee; offer suggestions on what other activities the members may like to see introduced or any suggestions they would like to make. Perhaps we may do an informal suggestion box at one of our meetings. If you have any ideas please approach any one of our Committee.

We are looking forward to the Yulefest in the Hawkesbury on July 19 and 20. Carol has a group of nine members organised with the On Course Travel group. I wonder if Santa will be there to greet us!! One of the pluses with this tour is that they pick up from your home and return you back.

Roger, our Public Officer, with his sub-committee of Malcolm and Gordon, has integrated the changes required from PSPL into our Constitution and Standing Resolutions (formerly By-laws). Hence you will see circulated the Motions which require passing at the General Meeting, at which Roger will explain what the changes are.

Just Lunch organised by Jan and Heather was a very different cuisine at Bamiyan Afghan restaurant in Crows Nest. Eighteen of us enjoyed the experience. And don't forget to join the \$2.50 Club outing to Bronte Beach on August 7. I did hear that \$2.50 seniors' fare is about to increase!!

*President Bev*

***Our next meeting will be held at Northbridge Golf Club on Monday, July 21 starting at 10am sharp. If you can't attend, please contact Judy Smith 0422 537 044 before the meeting.***



**A  
happy,  
busy  
month**



**Above:** A group of 18 sampled an interesting array of Afghan food at Bamiyan Restaurant in Crows Nest at the third outing for Just Lunch..

**Left:** The first group that enjoyed its outing to Fullerton Hotel, the old GPO in Martin Place.

**Centre:** The Grand Staircase is a feature of the hotel.

**Centre right:** The second group at lunch on an upper dining room, with dark pink chairs and white table linen setting the scene. The meal, elegantly presented on individual trays, is shown below.

**Below left:** Carvings around the façade of the building are seldom noticed, but have interesting stories to tell about Sydney's history. .

*Thanks to Lis Friis, Paulette Beverley and Malcolm Lye for photographs.*



**Right:** Plenty of chat at the monthly Coffee Catchup at Inner Cravings. Only part of the group is shown.





## 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.**

### July 19 to 20

#### **On Course tour Yulefest in the Hawkesbury**

Cost single \$700, share \$615 per person. Stay and enjoy a Yulefest dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hawkesbury Valley. Tour of Windsor and the Hawkesbury region with the famous heritage guide Judith Dunn OAM. Nine members have paid and are looking forward to the tour.

### Tuesday, July 29

#### **Baha'i Temple and lunch at Mona Vale Golf Club**

Leaving Northbridge Golf Club at 10.15am. Lunch is at own expense, coach is \$25 pp. Two seats are available; all payment to be made at July meeting.

### Thursday, August 7

#### **\$2.50 Club outing to Bronte Beach**

We will meet at the foot of the Town Hall steps at 10.45am to catch a train to Bondi Junction where we will take a bus to beautiful Bronte Beach. There we'll have lunch at our choice of eateries. Then a short stroll to the beachfront before we go back to take the bus to Bondi Junction and train to Town Hall Station. Next we can catch the Metro from the nearby Gadigal Station to Victoria Cross Station adjacent to the North Sydney Council Chambers, and bus home.

### 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. Pay at July or August meetings.

### Tuesday, September 2

#### **Just Lunch**

The next lunch will be held at La Botte, in Willoughby Road. We are looking forward to a convivial Italian meal.

### Wednesday, September 17

#### **Here You Come Again, Theatre Royal**

All tickets have gone. Waiting list only. Payment of \$110 must be finalised by the July meeting by cash on the day or transfer into the tours account.

### 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 garden centre.

### September 26 – 28

#### **On Course tour Cowra – Sakura Matsuri**

#### **Japanese cherry blossom spring festival, plus tour of Mayfield garden**

Cost is \$990 twin, \$1234 single. The festival is held in the Japanese gardens with cultural displays, tea ceremonies, kimono try-ons and Japanese food stalls. Enjoy the displays of cherry blossom in the gardens and in Cowra. Included is a trip to Mayfield Garden. We will stay at Rydges Hotel, Bathurst. Three members have registered and places are still available for the tour.

### October 6 – 13

#### **Broken Hill with Silver City Tours**

Cost single approx \$3000 plus XPT Rail approx \$200. Travel by train to Broken Hill, fly home to Sydney approx \$400. Silver City Tours include accommodation in Broken Hill at the Ibis Hotel then one night in White Cliffs staying in underground hotel, plus Menindee, Kinchega National Park and historic Silverton. Eight members have registered; a deposit of \$500 is needed by July 31.

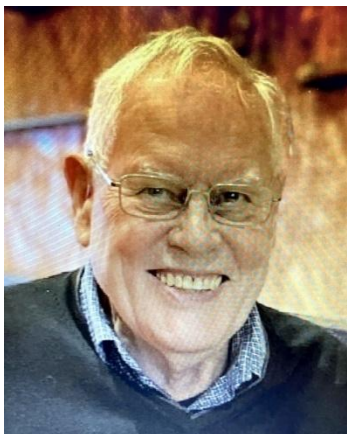
### Wednesday, October 22

#### **Back to the Future – Lyric Theatre 1pm**

Waiting list only. \$110 payment is due by cash or direct transfer into Probus Tours account.

### Monday, December 1

#### **Christmas lunch at Northbridge Golf Club**



## Speakers

Our speaker in July will be **Dr John Walsh**, a semi-retired orthopaedic surgeon, speaking about “Our body”. John studied in New Zealand, Australia and the UK and conducted medico-legal practices in London, Windsor (UK) and Sydney. For two years, he and his wife restored a chateau in France. He has published several books on medical and historical subjects, about which he speaks to organisations like Probus.

In August, retired **Chief Inspector Gary Raymond OAM** will talk on “Danger was my business”. The talk will cover the highlights of his long and illustrious career in NSW Police, including his roles in major crimes, disasters and rescues.

**Ian Thompson** will be our speaker in September. He will tell us about “Australian inventions that changed the world”.

## Have you used the book table?

New members may not know about the book table, which operates before the meeting and at morning tea time in the lounge. Members bring the paperbacks they no longer want and are free to help themselves to others. You are welcome to take part in the book exchange even if you don't have one to contribute. Jigsaw puzzles are also welcome, but please take them home if they're not chosen, as they are quite bulky to store.

## A member's story

**Catherine Turner joined our club in March 2024. She describes her interesting career.**

“Where would you like to teach?”, they asked. Naively, I believed the Department of Education really wanted to know, but instead they appointed me to Wallsend High School. In the 1960s Wallsend was a rough and ready community, renowned for coal mining and greyhound racing.

After 18 months the Department decreed that I should go to Taree “without delay”. It took me some time to navigate the country town social strata, but my degree guaranteed access to elite discussion groups! I remember wonderful summer days racing off to the surf after school or enjoying the hospitality of the golf club.

After a time at Kogarah, I joined Taree friends in Dawson Creek at Mile Zero of the Alaska Highway in Canada. There were exciting new sports such as curling, skating, skiing and the challenges of driving a car on ice in temperatures of -40 F. Studded tyres frozen square, heaters in the engine block, anti-freeze in the gas line and a handbrake never to be used in winter were commonplace.

Thence to Whitefriars Secondary Modern adjacent to the glass factory. I soon found out why they had vacancies for teachers in England!

Back eventually to Sydney with various educational roles at St Marys, Epping, Granville and Strathfield South High Schools.

Classroom teachers and principals acknowledge that they are both teachers and learners. My varied workplaces have showered me with the learning and wisdom of cultures, communities and values beyond my own. I am an enthusiastic promoter of the achievements of public education.

## Let's update your contact details

Please let me know if you have moved to a new address, changed your email address, no longer use your landline phone number or have a new mobile phone number.

Any changes can be sent to my email: [j787as@yahoo.com.au](mailto:j787as@yahoo.com.au) or I can make note of them at the next meeting. Thanks very much.

**Judy Smith, Membership**