

# PROBING THE BRIDGE

June 2025

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Combined Probus Club of  
Northbridge Inc

PO Box 233  
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## From the President

What a great meeting we had in May. Alison's five-minute dissertation on her early life in Brazil was so interesting – we need to get her to return to let us know in what direction the rest of her journey took. Steve Liebmann followed with an entertaining talk which gave us an insight into his wonderful career and highlighted memories of media stars and personalities. Looking forward to this month's speaker, geologist Dr Garry Lowder who will speak about "Gold." It is a remarkably interesting asset. The value of an ounce was US\$400 in 2005 and now 20 years later its value is about US\$3,300 per ounce.

Here we go into winter – soups, fires and the odd hot water bottle! It also gives us Vivid. What a wonderful way to present our beautiful city illuminated with the crazy coloured lights. Maybe some of you will venture out and witness the magnificent show it produces.

What a response Marlene has had to the tour of Fullerton Hotel (the old GPO). The demand has led to organising two separate groups on two different days.

Just a reminder for those who went on the Zig-Zag Railway tour, there is a \$30 extra payment required per participant.

The members on the Scone tour were so lucky to return without being caught up in the devastation of the flooding up north. I believe as they drove back from Tamworth on the Monday the rain didn't stop, and it was a challenging drive. At least they returned unscathed after having had an enjoyable few days away.

The next tour Carol has for us is the Yulefest in the Hawkesbury on July 19 and 20. It's so enjoyable being able to sample a traditional English feast in the cold conditions rather than on our Christmas Day which falls in hot summer. Don't forget to note in your diaries that our traditional Christmas lunch this year is being held on December 1.

Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) has organised an Information Day at Chatswood this month for Management Committee Members. Peter McNair, Judy Smith and I will attend, and we are anticipating some new ideas to inject into Northbridge Probus.

Roger Williams, Public Officer, has formed a sub-committee with Malcolm and Gordon to integrate the changes required from PSPL into our Constitution and By-laws. Hence you will see over the next couple of months proposed resolutions which will require approval by members at a general meeting at which Roger will explain the changes.

The King's Birthday weekend is coming up (it's been "the Queen's" for as long as I can remember). It is celebrated at this time to coincide with the finer weather in the northern hemisphere that benefits the outdoor ceremonies. Let's hope we get a bit of that finer weather as well.

*President Bev*

***Our next meeting will be held at Northbridge Golf Club on Monday, June 16 starting at 10am sharp. If you can't attend, please contact Judy Smith 0422 537 044 before the meeting.***



Photos: Ros Kenny, Paulette Beverley, Carol Jones

**Above left:** Carol Jones was one of the five who made up the group of 15 on the Scone trip. She said: "The weather was so wet, but we were lucky on the day of the Scone cup races, fine weather and we had seating in the grandstand where we could view the horses being mounted by the jockeys ready to race, also we could see the end of the race."

**Above:** Harry, the gentleman dressed for the occasion, was interviewed by Newcastle journalists for the TV news.



**Left:** "Wet, windy and wonderful is how the group of nine felt about the \$2.50 outing to Mosman," said Paulette Beverley. "Once safe from the elements we enjoyed a great lunch at Mosman Rowers, then later a dash back to the bus/wharf in the pelting rain. Lots of laughing and saggy umbrellas. Many thanks to the organiser, Peter McNair."

**Below:** A large group enjoyed the Agatha Christie play 'And then there were none' at the Theatre Royal. Dawn Spinks reported: "We had a full bus and it was a great day out with lunch and drinks as well as theatre. The bus was fantastic, so prompt and so helpful which makes the outing so easy."





## 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, June 17 & Wednesday, June 18 Fullerton Hotel, Martin Place**

There are five places available for Tuesday. The group will meet at the Pitt St Foyer at 9.45am for a guided tour followed by lunch (own expense). On Wednesday, the group will meet in the foyer at noon for lunch (own expense), then do the tour. Tour cost is \$25.

### **Thursday, July 3 Just Lunch, 12 noon**

Our next lunch will be at Bimiyan Afghan restaurant in Alexander Street, Crows Nest. There is a waiting list, so if you have booked please confirm your payment by the June meeting. Cost for banquet \$60 or for banquet and glass of wine \$72.

### **Monday, July 7 Coffee catch-up, 2.30pm**

Join other Probus members for coffee and a chat at Inner Cravings, Northbridge Plaza. It's held on the first Monday of every month. Just turn up.

### **July 19 to 20 On Course tour Yulefest in the Hawkesbury**

The tour is full, with 12 members registered. If interested, put your name on the waitlist. Cancellations do occur.

### **Tuesday, July 29 Visit to the Baha'i Temple**

Bus to the temple followed by lunch (own expense) at the Mona Vale Golf Club. Cost TBA.

### **Thursday, August 7 \$2.50 Club outing to Bronte Beach**

We will meet at the foot of the Town Hall steps at 10am to catch a train to Bondi Junction where we will take a bus to beautiful Bronte Beach. There we will 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.

### **Wednesday, September 17 Here We Go Again – Theatre Royal 1pm**

\$110 including transport to and from Northbridge Golf Club. There are just a couple of tickets still available for this performance. Payment must be made by cash at the June meeting or by direct transfer into Probus Tours Account as soon as possible. This should be lots of fun and will include all the songs we know and love from Dolly Parton.

### **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 garden with cultural displays, tea ceremonies, kimono try-ons and Japanese food stalls. Enjoy the displays of cherry blossom in the garden and in Cowra. 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 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 historic mining town Silverton. Eight members have registered; places are available.

### **Wednesday, October 22 Back to the Future – Lyric Theatre 1pm**

\$110 including transport to and from Northbridge Golf Club. Two tickets available for this performance, payment by cash at the meeting or by direct transfer into Probus Tours Account. This is a new musical taken from the iconic movie and should be very enjoyable and a bit different.

### **Monday, December 1: Christmas lunch at Northbridge Golf Club**

### **2026 tour January 29 to February 3 Gourmet Taste of Tasmania**

This tour has been cancelled due to limited availability of single rooms.

## Speakers



We have our usual interesting variety of speakers in coming months. Our speaker in June will be **Dr Garry Lowder** (pictured) talking about the remarkable history of gold. Garry is a geologist who spent more than 50 years in the Australian and global mining industries. He has worked widely across Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea exploring for new deposits of gold, silver and base metals. **Patty Larkins** will be our five-minute speaker.

In July, our speaker will be orthopaedic surgeon and author **Dr John Walsh** speaking about “Our body”. In August, retired Chief Inspector **Gary Raymond** OAM will give a talk entitled “Danger was my business” about his life as a senior NSW police officer.

## Getting to know her

**Trish Dunnicliff is to be inducted at our June meeting. She has an interesting story to tell.**

I am just going to give you a quick snapshot of my life until recently. In 2002 my husband John (who died in 2015) and I bought a cattle property in the Northern Territory, 2.6 million acres on the Barkley Tablelands. It was a large area of unwatered, unstocked land, so we set about developing it. It had very few watering points and very few old falling-down fences. We put in over 3000km of 75mm polypipe dug 60mm into the ground and ran it to 120,000 litre steel tanks, and troughs which are 4km apart. We started with 40 water points and got to 600, which enabled us to use this land for cattle. We started with 40,000 cattle and today there are 90,000 running happily. We built a house which took three years due to the wet season each year.

Life on Beetaloo was busy and challenging. For me, up early at 5am to cook breakfast for the men, usually about eight or nine of them, lunch and dinner each evening. A large garden and general office work kept me very busy. Every two weeks we had a trip to Katharine, 500k away, for stores and general pickup of batteries and whatever else we could fit in.

My daughter Jane and her husband now live at Beetaloo and run it. They have four children all educated with a governess to high school level (Year 7), on School of the Air. They then go on to boarding school and spend weekends with me! It was a great family life but now, without John, a sea change for me in Manly. Thank you all for including me as a member of Probus.

## Check out the book table

Our book table has been doing brisk business since its inception in 2019. Members are very generous with their donations of paperbacks and they are welcome to take a book even if they don't have one to contribute. Jigsaw puzzles are also welcome, but please take them home if they're not chosen, as they are bulky to store..



***If the world were a village of 100 people, it would include:***

- 57 Asians
- 21 Europeans
- 14 Americans
- 8 Africans
- 52 women
- 48 men
- 30 Christians
- 70 non-Christians
- 89 heterosexuals
- 11 homosexuals
- 6 owning 59% of wealth
- 80 living in poverty
- 70 illiterate
- 50 hungry or suffering malnutrition
- 1 dying
- 1 giving birth
- 1 owning a computer
- 1 with a university degree

*Thanks to Jan Loiterton*