

PROBING THE BRIDGE

November 2025

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Combined Probus Club of
Northbridge Inc

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From the President

As we approach the end of another year, November invites us to pause and reflect with gratitude on the many experiences we've shared and to feel excitement for the holiday season just ahead.

In this month's newsletter, we bring you a collection of updates and upcoming events designed to keep our Probus family informed, engaged and entertained. A special thank you goes to Penny, whose ongoing efforts in producing our newsletter each month are greatly appreciated.

Since 2023, October has been officially **Probus Month**, giving us an opportunity to celebrate all that Probus represents and to raise awareness within the wider community. The theme for **2025 Reinvent Your Retirement** was a perfect reflection of the spirit of exploration, learning and connection that our members embody. Our **Cluster Group's Probus Open Day** was by all accounts a great success. Probus South Pacific is encouraging clubs to start planning early for next year's celebration — perhaps a community barbecue or picnic to welcome new faces and showcase the pleasure of Probus membership.

While our meetings and guest speakers are always a highlight (and we're looking forward to hearing from **Jim Haynes** this month), Probus is also about friendship, fun and shared experiences.

Our annual **Christmas Luncheon** will be held on **December 1** at the **Northbridge Golf Club** — a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a festive meal, good company and some entertainment courtesy of **Paulette**, who never fails to delight us with her creative flair.

Our members have been busy exploring and enjoying a range of social outings! The **\$2.50 day trip to Woy Woy** was well attended, with 28 members taking part. We also enjoyed lunch at **Frenchs Forest RSL** on October 31 and at **Chill Vietnamese** restaurant on November 6.

For our theatre enthusiasts, the recent performance of **Back to the Future** was a hit — and we can't wait for our next cultural outing for the nighttime performance of **The Nutcracker Suite**.

As always, thank you to everyone who contributes time, energy and enthusiasm to make our club such a welcoming and active community. I look forward to seeing many of you at our next gatherings as we wrap up another wonderful year together.

All best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

President Bev

*Our next meeting will be held at Northbridge Golf Club on Monday, November 17 starting at 10am sharp. If you can't attend, please phone or text Judy Smith 0422 537 044 before the meeting. **There will not be a meeting in December. Next meeting will be held on January 27, 2026, on Tuesday because of Australia Day.***

An active club enjoying itself!



Lots of things to do in October.

From left top clockwise: enjoying the sun after lunch in Woy Woy with the \$2.50 Club; Broken Hill travellers visited the Flying Doctor Service; in Broken Hill they enjoyed a meal at the Palace Hotel, made famous by the movie *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*; some of the group of Probus members who attended *Back to the Future*; diners at Forestville RSL said the food quality and service were great.



BELOW: Meet our newest members, inducted at our October meeting. From left: Jan Simpson with proposer President Bev Piper and Annie Richards, introduced by Virginia Ware.





Dates for your diary

Online payments to Probus Tours Account, BSB 062 215, A/C 10073196, please. If paying for an activity online, don't forget to register at the desk that you will be attending, as well as identifying yourself with your online payment.

Friday, November 14

Naval Harbour Cruise

The cruise is full. Please be at Northbridge Golf Club early. The coach will leave at 8.30am.

Monday, December 1

Christmas lunch at Northbridge Golf Club, 12 noon, \$80



Lunch will be canapes, main course and dessert, plus a free drink on arrival. There will also be our great quiz, some lovely prizes and entertainment. Wear your most glamorous gear!

All money is to be paid at or before the November meeting.

Monday, December 8

Coffee catchup, 2.30pm

Join an informal gathering of members for coffee and a chat at Inner Cravings, at Northbridge Plaza. No need to book, just turn up. Hosted by Kerrie Williams. Note this month it will be the **second** Monday, due to the Christmas lunch.



Santa has a senior moment

Wednesday, December 3

The Nutcracker, State Theatre, 7pm

All tickets have been taken and paid for. There is no transport for this performance – everyone is to make their own way to and from the theatre. Dawn will be outside from 6.30pm with tickets for everyone.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

General meeting, 10am

First club meeting for the year, on **Tuesday** because **Monday is Australia Day**.



Thursday, January 29, 2026

Lunch at Infuzions

Restaurant, Cammeray

Names will be taken at the November and January meetings.

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Just Lunch

Venue and cost to be advised in January newsletter. Names and payment at January meeting.

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Anastasia, Sydney Lyric Theatre, 1pm



The cost of \$110 includes transport to and from the theatre. There are still a couple of tickets available for this performance. Payment is now due and payable either by cash at the meeting or by direct

transfer into Probus Tours Account.



Speakers

We all look forward to hearing **Jim Haynes OAM** (left) speak to our club in November on the subject “Memories of a baby boomer”. Jim is a well-known professional entertainer and author. He is perhaps best known as the Australiana expert on radio 2GB.

Good speakers are in demand and we have already booked several for our 2026 meetings. Our speaker in January will be **Sue Williams**, author of several best-selling books and journalist and travel writer. She will talk about the subjects of her last three novels, the leading citizens of colonial Australia.

In February, we will welcome back **Tom Sweeney OAM**, the long-time director, leader and enthusiast for the Willoughby Theatre Company. Tom is a highly entertaining speaker who will tell us about his decades of experience with the theatre.

The November meeting is your last chance to stock up on some reading matter for the summer break. Or maybe you'd like a jigsaw puzzle? See what you can find on the book table.

Can't find your newsletter? Try the club's website!

Our club has a simple website which includes all the basic information about our club. It includes the latest newsletter and copies for the past year.

*Just Google: **combined northbridge probus** and up will come our website. Use the tabs on the left side of the page to find the newsletter. Please have a look at it!*

A successful venture

On October 1, Cluster 9 made history by creating and holding the first ever Cluster Open Day. The event was supported by eight clubs: Crows Nest, Cremorne, Mosman, Neutral Bay, Northbridge, North Sydney, Waverton and Wollstonecraft.

We started the journey three months before the event, with little more than an idea and a group of enthusiastic, can-do Cluster representatives and on October 1 we had 121 registrations of potential new Probus members.

We retire from work not life and it was our goal to show the attendees how they could fill those gaps in their lives and social calendars. Our speaker, Paul Kearney, was specifically chosen because of his energy and content - Songs from the 60s.

Apart from nine registrations, all event registrations have been linked to clubs offering a “special invitation” to attend a meeting- that's 112 potential new members! For those clubs struggling with bringing in new members this could be an answer.

Bev Carlyon, Cluster 9 Coordinator

Meet a new member

Jan Simpson (pictured on page 2 at her induction):

I am delighted to now be a member of Northbridge Probus. I did my nursing training at RNSH then from the day it officially opened I worked in the theatre at Mona Vale Hospital for four years.

I met my future husband at the official opening and finally married him three years later. We had a son and two daughters who have produced eight lovely grandchildren, six boys and two girls.

I have spent the last 15 years enjoying wonderful memories of travels.

