



Beacon Hill Probus Club

"Activities with Friendship"

Meeting venue: **Manly Leagues Club, 563 Pittwater Road, Brookvale NSW 2100**
Meeting times: 4th Tuesday of every month (except December) at 10.30am
Next meeting: **27 January, 2026 10.30am**



From the President's Desk

Hello everyone,

December is usually a quiet time for Probus with no meetings, but we still managed to fit in a theatre show ("Holiday Inn") at Parramatta and participate in an event at Dee Why Gardens not to mention our Christmas party at the beginning of the month.

I also wrote to you about next year's committee, seeking your support.

On behalf of your committee, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Stay safe and well until we meet again in January next.

David McGrath
President



Guest Speaker

We're pleased to announce that our first guest speaker for 2026 will be **Annie Bartholomeusz** from **Proveda**.

Join us in January as Annie shares the latest updates on the recently launched *New Support at Home* program—what's changing, and how you can access the right services with confidence.

Proveda, formerly known as Community Care Northern Beaches, is a trusted not-for-profit service provider that has been supporting our community for more than 30 years. Their work spans a wide range of aged-care services, NDIS support, and specialist programs. With offices right here in Frenchs Forest, Proveda has a deep understanding of life on the Northern Beaches—and the unique needs of local residents.

Annie herself is very much part of that story. Having lived and worked on the Northern Beaches for over 25 years, she brings extensive experience in aged care and dementia care. For the past five years, she has played a key role in delivering Proveda's services, helping older adults and their families navigate the often-complex world of in-home support. Annie genuinely loves what she does, and her warm, practical approach makes even tricky topics easier to understand.

This will be an invaluable session for anyone wanting to stay informed about aged-care options—or simply to hear from someone who truly understands our community. We hope to see you there!

Book, Film, Theatre and Travel Group



We will be starting the New Year off on **Tuesday 3rd February 2026**, 11am at Manly Leagues Club.

Read lots over the holidays, go to the movies and to shows and report back on your travels.

Lynne

COMMITTEE

Executive

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David McGRATH

Vice President
Shirley HUNTER

Secretary
Jenny BOYLE

Assist. Secretary
Frances KEATING

Treasurer
Frank BUHAGIAR

Assist. Treasurer
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Membership
Natalia DUNKLEY

Assistant Membership
John HARTLEY

Outings, Activities & Tours
Shanelle BREUSCH

Assist. Outings, Activities & Tours
Shirley HUNTER

Book, Film, Theatre & Travel
Lynne McGRATH

Walks

Newsletter / Website
Ursula BEUTEKAMP

Welfare
Lynne McGRATH

Technology
Tony WHITE

ENQUIRIES

Phone: 0418 207 471 or
0406 993 445

email:
beaconhillprobus@gmail.com

Welfare

On our hospital/sick list are Barb M, Barb J, Di, Lynsey, Ronda and Robyn L, of course there are other members with ongoing treatment and we wish that you're all up and running around and able to enjoy the Christmas break. There have been reports of increased cases of colds and flu so keep up the vaccinations to fight them off. I hear there is a new vaccine for Covid out too. Stay well and see you all in January

Happy birthday to the birthday people starting off 2026...
Susie, Caroline, Ola, and Tony W
Happy Birthday to our January members!

Lynne



Events Calendar / Dates for your Diary



January 2026

Wed 14	10.30am	Committee Meeting	Manly Leagues Club
Tue 27	10.30am	General Meeting	Manly Leagues Club

February 2026

Tue 3	11.00	Book, Film, Theatre and Travel	Manly Leagues Club
Wed 11	10.30am	Committee Meeting	Manly Leagues Club
Tue 24	10.30am	General Meeting	Manly Leagues Club

March 2026

Wed 11	10.30am	Committee Meeting	Manly Leagues Club
Tue 24	10.30am	General Meeting	Manly Leagues Club

October 2026

Fri 23 - Fri 30		Murray River Cruise	
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The Murray River Cruise ... 23rd October - 30th October 2026

Our upcoming cruise on the Murray Princes offers more than just a cruise, visiting historic towns such as the German village of Hahndorf, a wildlife tour at Monarto Safari Park. We also have a two night stay on Kangaroo Island with a visit to the beach where you can have an up close and personal visit with the seals as they loll about on the sand or watch them as they waddle down to the water. There's also a visit to a Honey Farm, a Eucalyptus Oil Distillery and you can even get to hold and feed a Koala with so, so, so, many more wonderful experiences. If you'd like to come along please give Shanelle a call or simply add your name to the list at the next meeting.



Badge Presentation

David presented our new member Kerry with his badge at the last meeting.

We hope you will enjoy our monthly meetings, with interesting guest speakers and various activities whilst making new friends.



Technology



For any technology puzzles or problems please contact Tony White and he will try to help you or find a solution.

If there are recurring issues members are encountering then we will organise a specific training session on that topic as we have done in the past.



General Meeting Dates for 2026

Tuesday 27 January	Tuesday 24 February
Tuesday 24 March	Tuesday 28 April
Tuesday 26 May	Tuesday 23 June
Tuesday 28 July	Tuesday 25 August
Tuesday 22 September	Tuesday 27 October
Tuesday 24 November	No meeting in December



IMPORTANT PROCEDURES

- If you cannot attend a meeting please contact the Secretary or Membership Officer with your apology. Preferably by email to beaconhillprobus@gmail.com (put 'apology' or 'meeting apology' as the subject)
- If you need to leave the meeting early, please advise the membership officer, when you arrive and sign out when you leave indicating the time of your departure
- In the event of illness, members are encouraged to contact either the President or the Welfare Officer.
- **Permission for guests to attend must be obtained prior to the meeting by contacting the Secretary or Membership Officer.**
- Only fully paid up members are allowed to move/second motions and vote at meetings.
- **Please advise the Membership Officer of any address and/or contact details changes**



60's Rockin' Country Northern Beaches - 16 November 2025

(Report and photos by Lynne McGrath)

I think it is fair to say that Barb's concert was a 100% success making it extra special with its Christmas theme. People dressed in Christmas regalia 🎅 and the room was decorated with Christmas 🎄 decorations making it very festive 🎉

Eleven members and two visitors from Beacon Hill Probus attended the afternoon of live music, the final concert of the year. Great local artists entertaining with familiar songs that we sang along to or danced to or simply enjoyed listening to.

Rod came along especially for the lunchtime special of Singapore Chilli 🌶️ Crab 🦀 - my goodness what huge crabs they were as you can see from the photos both Rod and David enjoyed every finger licking' mouthful

There was a representative from Bear cottage and Barb was delighted to hand over a cheque — \$7,000 raised through this years' concerts and raffles plus a very generous donation of \$5000 making a grand total of \$12,000 a wonderful outcome. Well done Barb and her team, such a great charity to support .

Barb Mapstone would like to say a huge thank you to all those who have come to support her at the monthly music 🎵 concerts raising money for Bear Cottage 🏠

Next came the raffle draw, with 14 prizes to choose from, everyone waiting for their number to be called out. We had one winner on our table, well done Jenny.

The finale was a medley of Christmas songs which was a perfect way to finish a perfect day.



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Christmas Cruise and Lunch - 2 December 2025

Report by Lynne McGrath, photos by Ursula Beutekamp, Lynne McGrath, Charmaine Berte and Jennifer Trueman)

Shanelle!!!!!! — the frustrations and lack of communication in the organisation of our Christmas Party— well worth a medal 🏆

Nevertheless, a beautiful sunny day to start off our party day — a cruise on the beautiful waters of Pittwater, always offering a picturesque journey as we sailed from wharf to wharf. Some braved the outside of the ferry but most preferred the shelter of the indoors. Finishing our trip from where we started, Palm Beach, we then had a short stroll to the club. Here we were greeted by beautifully decorated tables, as we took our seats ready for lunch!!!

The large room we believed we were getting was divided by only a curtain, where, on the other side of that curtain another Probus club was also celebrating their Christmas dinner. This group had a choir to entertain them, which of course meant they also entertained us. Great to start with but as time went on it did make conversation rather difficult, not to mention curtailing what we had planned (always next year for that).

“The Times They are a Changin’” in our case not for the better as far as food was concerned — Not knowing how to exactly report on the food, I took some sayings from a few members — one suggesting “memorable”, one who thought the turkey was bacon, one who believed it had been “carved” with a razor blade, as it was so thin, another suggested a refund was in order. Another member stated...tastes like they caught a couple of bush turkey’s..... if that’s possible.

All in all Palm Beach Club made other clubs look like Michelin Star Restaurants. Plates came out with either hardly anything to plates that looked like they were feeding a football team, then of course there was the cold gravy. Just about to start our raffle draw when the other group started their draw, all 30 of them... Only one microphone meant we had to wait — finally our turn with 13 winners to take something home, CONGRATULATIONS.

Believe it or not, all in all we had a fabulous day with all these problems giving us something to talk, and yes, laugh about, even if we did go home a little hungry — the good news is, we won’t be going there next year hahaha! A well deserved thank you to Shanelle for her ordeal and getting us through the day. No doubt your own Christmas dinners will be of the finest, enjoy and have a wonderful and safe Christmas to all our members and their families.



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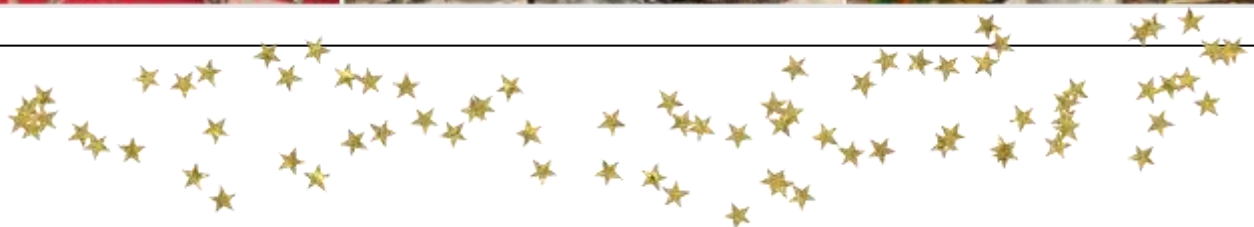
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'Holiday Inn' at Riverside Theatre - 11 December 2025

(Report and photos by Lynne McGrath)

A perfect Christmas event — the classic Christmas movie, *Holiday Inn*, on stage at the Riverside Theatre. Meeting at Wharf 5 at the Quay, taking the one and half hour journey on the Parramatta River by the Rivercat to Parramatta. A 15 minute walk to Church St to the 317 Restaurant for a delicious lunch — such a great variety, each having something different — of course “The President”, unbeknown to him, ordered the largest skewered kebab, needing a little help to finish it (see photo). After lunch a very very short walk to the theatre. I hope you all enjoyed the show as much as I did — the storyline was extremely close to the script of the movie, great singing and snappy tappers treating us to great dance routines. Familiar songs “Steppin’ Out”, “Easter Parade”, and the unforgettable classic “White Christmas”. The cast gave a splendid performance, transferring the movie to stage. A small ensemble, most playing more than one character — brilliant costumes with some extremely quick costume changes, all to give the audience a spectacular show full of fun and energy.

Making our way home catching a train to Wynyard with a character on board that was a leftover from Halloween (see photo). It was here we split to go our separate ways — the day not completely over for two members as they stumbled across the Sydney Christmas Markets a must browse before boarding the ferry back to Manly. A huge thank you to Shanelle for this fabulous day out getting us well and truly into the Christmas spirit.





On the 1st day of Christmas my True Love said to me,
"I've bought a big fat turkey and a proper Christmas tree"

On the 2nd day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into that turkey, a most delicious bird

On the 3rd day of Christmas, came the people from next door
and the turkey tasted just as good as it did the day B4

On the 4th day of Christmas came relations young and old,
We finished all the Christmas Pud and had the turkey cold

On the 5th day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried
But we were nice and warm inside, and the turkey we had curried.

On the 6th day of Christmas, the Christmas Spirit died
The children fought and bickered and we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the 7th day of Christmas my True Love he did wince,
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

On the 8th day of Christmas the dog had run for shelter,
He's seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the 9th day of Christmas, by lunchtime Dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again; this time as a risotto.

On the 10th day of Christmas, we were drinking home made brew,
And if that wasn't bad enough, it washed down turkey stew.

On the 11th day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting.
With chilly, soy and oyster sauce that turkey was revolting.

On the 12th day of Christmas, we had smiles upon our lips
Our guests had gone; the turkey too - and we had fish and chips!

Friends - please be careful

Yesterday I went to a Christmas party. I had a few
beers, followed by a few cocktails, followed by a few
shots....

I still had the sense to know that I was over the limit.
That's when I decided to do what I have never done
before: I took a cab home.

Sure enough, there was a police road block on the way
home, and since it was a cab, they waved it past. I
arrived home safely without incident. This was both a
great relief and a surprise because I had never driven
a cab before. I don't even know where I got it from
and, now that it is in my garage, I don't know what to
do with it.

