



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: **28 October, 2025 10.30am**

From the President's Desk

Hello everyone,

Well, what a smorgasbord of events we had over the last month – Paddy's Market, the Cook Islands, Zigzag Railway and a walk on North Head to boot! There was something for everyone and hopefully you were able to come along and enjoy an outing or two. Looking ahead we have a major event in the Probus Day picnic on 22 October with over 40 picnickers registered to attend. This time we have taken out "insurance" and barring a cyclone, the weather should not be an obstacle. My bet is that it will be a fine day anyway.

At our next meeting, I will be presenting the Probus Month awards so please come and congratulate the winners. These are members who have made an outstanding contribution to our club.

Lastly, thank you for unanimously passing the resolutions to adopt a new constitution. The document is now being registered.

Hope to see you at the picnic!

David McGrath
President

Guest Speaker

Meet **Peter Scope**, a licensed Driving Instructor with over 20 years experience under his belt. He is also an **Accredited Transport for NSW Older Driver Assessor** and has worked in this area for over 12 years conducting mandatory biennial Older Driver OnRoad Assessments for drivers aged 85 and above.

As a qualified **Rehabilitation Driving Instructor**, Peter has a deep understanding of the changes in driving ability that come with ageing. He is passionate about helping older drivers stay informed about these changes, how to manage them and when it might be time to hang up the driving gloves, rack the cue and consider alternative transportation options.

In his presentation, Peter will cover a range of topics, including licensing requirements, road rule changes, road rules you might not have even known existed along with fundamental safety guidelines.

His goal is to help senior drivers stay independent and mobile as long as possible by discussing safer driving techniques.

Book, Film, Theatre and Travel Group



Our last Meeting in September was well attended with Ursula sharing her travel experiences around Western Australia including a slide show, showcasing the rich red colours of the landscapes of this, our largest State.

Our next meeting will be the last for the year and will be held on 11th November, resuming again next February.

Lynne

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

David McGRATH

Vice President

Shirley HUNTER

Secretary

Jenny BOYLE

Assist. Secretary

Frances KEATING

Treasurer

Frank BUHAGIAR

Assist. Treasurer

Robert STEELE

OFFICERS & COORDINATORS

Guest Speakers

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

Pam was sent a card of get well wishes after she had a knee manipulation after issues of an earlier knee replacement. Bill's daughter has Covid and we have fingers crossed that Bill can avoid catching it. Hoping everyone else are keeping well.

Our birthdays for November are.....

Josiane, Shanelle, Don, Glenda, Frans, Jean, Maris, Adriana and Lyn B
A very Happy Birthday to all our November babies



Lynne

Technology

Windows 10 support will end on October 14, 2025. After this date, Microsoft will no longer provide free security updates, technical assistance, or feature updates for Windows 10. While your PC will still work, however Microsoft recommends upgrading to Windows 11 to maintain a modern, secure, and efficient computing experience.

Of course, if your computer does not connect to the internet there is no reason to be concerned about securing updates at all.

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 2025/2026

Tuesday 28 October Tuesday 25 November

No meeting in December 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

Badge Presentation

Welcome to two new members, Charmaine and Jeanne, who were presented with their badges at the last meeting.

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



Events Calendar / Dates for your Diary



October 2025

Sat	18	2.00pm	Some Enchanted Evening
Wed	22	11.00am	Picnic & Games day
Tue	28	10.30am	General Meeting

Glen Street Theatre
North Curl Curl Community Centre
Manly Leagues Club

November 2025

Tue	4	12.30pm	Melbourne Cup lunch
Tue	11	11.00am	Book, Film, Theatre and Travel
Wed	12	10.30am	Executive Meeting
Tue	18	11.45am	GPO Heritage Tour - Group 1
Thu	20	11.45am	GPO Heritage Tour - Group 2
Fri	21	11.45am	GPO Heritage Tour - Group 3
Tue	25	10.30am	General Meeting

Dee Why Builders Club
Manly Leagues Club
Manly Leagues Club
The Fullerton Hotel Sydney - Concierge
The Fullerton Hotel Sydney - Concierge
The Fullerton Hotel Sydney - Concierge
Manly Leagues Club

December 2025

Tue	2	TBA	Pittwater cruise and lunch
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Club Palm Beach

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.*

For more details on the these outings, contact

Shanelle Breusch
Activities & Tours Officer

Some Enchanted Evening

Saturday 18th October - Glen Street Theatre

12.30 Lunch Japanese Restaurant
Glenrose, then 2pm *Some Enchanted Evening* at the Glen Street Theatre - complimentary drink on arrival

Simon Militano (Baritone) and Justina Varkuleviciute (featured harp soloist) taking the audience on a theatrical journey.



Probus Day Celebration - Picnic & Games Day -

Wednesday 22nd October

Probus Month celebrations at the North Curl Curl Community Centre.

Lunch provided by the club, BYO drinks, further details by email.



Melbourne Cup Lunch

Tuesday 4th November

Join us at Dee Why Builders Club for Melbourne Cup lunch and to watch the race.

Complimentary drink on arrival. Prizes awarded for best dressed male and female

Cost: \$55.00



GPO Heritage Tour

Tuesday 18th November
Thursday 20th November
Friday 21st November

Discover the rich history of the former Sydney General Post Office building with the resident guide on the GPO Heritage Tour. Tour duration 90 min. with approximately 2,327 steps.

Maximum of 15 participants



Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 2nd December

Pittwater Cruise followed by lunch at Club Palm Beach

Cost \$55.00

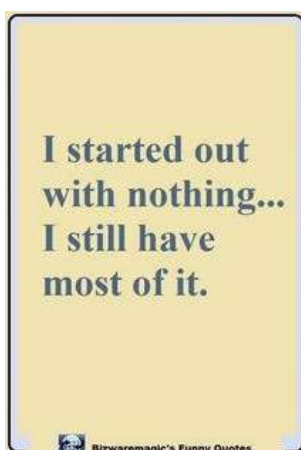
More details closer to the date



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.





ZigZag Railway - 12 September 2025

(Report and photos by Dorothy Chapman)

Seven intrepid members and one carer joined Narrabeen Lakes Probus Club for an enjoyable day trip with OnCourse Tours for an amazing experience visiting the Zigzag Railway at Clarence and Leura in the Blue Mountains. Our coach driver informed us that the blue mountains are not actually mountains but a plateau. Blue plateau does not have quite the same ring to it as blue mountains.

The historical timeline for the zigzag railway is from 1866 - 2025 and still operating, supported by unpaid volunteer staff who do an amazing job.

Pictures and information is available on their website corporate.resources@zigzagrailway.com.au.

The weather was very kind to us and the rhododendrons put on a great show of beautiful flowers. We were probably a week or two too early for the usual spring blossoms that Katoomba and Leura are famous for. David our coach driver took the bells line of road to Windsor and Richmond on our way up to the Zigzag Railway and the main road from Zigzag to Leura on our way back where we had a couple of hours of leisure time to browse the shops and have lunch.

Then the scenic drive from Leura past the three sisters and the skyway with amazing vistas of the Jamison valley. It was a wonderful experience enjoyed by all.

A big thank you to Helen Howes from Narrabeen Lakes Probus for inviting us to join them on this occasion and look forward to more occasions such as this one.



North Head Walk - 24 September 2025

(Report and photos by Lynne McGrath)

What a wealth of knowledge Caroline displayed on our walk around North Head Sanctuary. Caroline volunteers here three days a week in the nursery section with cuttings and seedlings and is part of a team replanting native plants after the 2020 fire that got out of control and destroyed 62 hectares.

A perfect sunny day for our planned walk with 16 of us enjoying our spectacular headland. Walks that have been strategically formed making it an easy and comfortable walk with pathways leading to lookouts giving us the best vantage points to take in our city, harbour and coastline views.

The native flowers dancing in the breeze as they displayed their beauty and splendour, an abundance of colour welcoming us as we walked by them.

One special feature was the hanging swamp, looking forever like a lake right on top of the headland, with a chorus of frogs 🐸 and birds 🐦 making their music 🎵 in this serene and beautiful hideaway.

The memorial walk, a time to reflect as you stroll over the paved pathway with engraved names of the men and women who have lost their lives in war. Here at the Gallipoli monument is planted the Lone Pine which remains a living link to the memory of those who fought at Gallipoli.

We lunched at the Bella Vista Cafe with its traditional and modern Italian cuisine, not only enjoying the food but also those spectacular views of our Harbour.

Thank you so much Caroline, for organising and guiding us on this walk, it was enjoyed by all of us.

PS notice one photo here of an older gentleman who stopped and chatted with us whilst we waited for everyone to be there. Some of you who went to the Sydney Mechanics Library may recognise him, or you may have read his books.....Thomas Keneally.....





Trip to the Cook Islands - 14 to 20 September 2025

(Report and photos by Lynne McGrath)

As one member rated it 5 out of 5 or 🖐 out of 🖐

We may have been on holiday, however, the 18 of us who travelled to the island found it to be an education, learning of the island's early history and culture.

Day one started with an Orientation Tour of the island with Mike our coach driver, explaining to us that there is only one road on the island, you either go clockwise or anticlockwise, no traffic lights, however, there are two roundabouts, no street names and no mail boxes.

This tour gave us great insight into their way of life.....how Christianity came, how the land they have is given to them but must never be sold passing down through generations. There are no retirement homes on the island as the elderly are cared for by the family and when they pass they are buried on the land with quite elaborate graves.

One highlight was a visit to a local school, the smallest of the island with just 80 students. Their principal, only young with the thought of bringing back their language to the island starting the teachings in this school with the hopes that one day this will carry through to all schools and be widely spoken throughout the island. The beautiful children were so eager to please with each class giving a performance in dance, song and story, their happy little faces warmed your heart. A scrumptious spread was prepared for us by teachers and parents, what we didn't know was that the children were anxiously waiting for us to leave so they could have what's left. I must say once I knew that I did feel guilty having two slices of cake 🍰, however I wasn't the only one, was I Susie 😊😊, believe me it was soooooo good. Don't worry there was certainly plenty of food left for the children and I'll bet a quid the teachers jumped on the queue too.

Another highlight was a trip on a glass bottomed boat where we could go snorkelling and swimming or simply stay on board and watch the sea life through the glass, all before heading to a deserted island for a very entertaining show and BBQ lunch with more swimming in warmer waters. With the crew entertaining us all the while on board playing a variety of musical instruments whilst singing with great gusto. It was a great day.

Our progressive dinner night was a real treat, being invited into the homes of three different families sharing traditional food and listening to the stories about their families and their history. We were treated as family members and made so welcome. A visit to Marie Nui Tropical Gardens did not disappoint displaying beautiful gardens filled with flowers, trees and tropical shrubs.

Our visit to a the local brewery where there was tasting of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages with a talk on how the brewery operates. A visit to a Farm Direct Pearl shop where quite a few of us "lost" a few dollars.

To top off our holiday experience we dined at the Te Vara Nui Polynesian Village, once again enjoying traditional food buffet style whilst being treated to a show extravaganza with both men and women dancing and story telling in spectacular traditional costumes, it was a stand out show.

Our whole holiday experience will be one not to be forgotten, 12 members and 6 relatives and friends all mingled together so well you'd think we'd all been best friends forever. Our accommodation, perfect in every way, with maybe eight steps to the pool from our room and a few more steps found us paddling our feet in the turquoise waters.

Shanelle we can't thank you enough for your tireless efforts ensuring everything ran smoothly and for looking after us with our many, many questions we all got so much out of our island holiday, a huge thank you from us all.



Bank Details: Westpac - BSB: 032-123, Acc. No.: 464223

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A couple was invited to a posh masked *Halloween* party. She got a terrible headache and told her husband to go to the party alone.

He, being a devoted husband, protested, but she argued and said she was going to take some aspirin and go to bed, and there was no need of his good time being spoiled by not going. So he took his costume and away he went.

The wife, after sleeping soundly for one hour, awakened without pain, and as it was still early, she decided to go to the party. In as much as her husband did not know what her costume was, she thought she would have some fun by watching her husband to see how he acted when she was not with him. She joined the party and soon spotted her husband cavorting around on the dance floor, dancing with every nice chick he could and copping a little feel here and a little kiss there.

His wife went up to him and being a rather seductive babe herself, he left his partner high and dry and devoted his time to the new stuff that had just arrived. She let him go as far as he wished naturally, since he was her husband. Finally he whispered a little proposition in her ear and she agreed, so off they went to one of the cars and had a little bang.

Just before unmasking at midnight, she slipped away and went home and put the costume away and got into bed, wondering what explanation he would make for his behaviour.

She was sitting up reading when he came in and asked what kind of a time he had. He said, "Oh, the same old thing. You know I never have a good time when you're not there." Then she asked, "Did you dance much?" He replied, "I'll tell you, I never even danced one dance. When I got there, I met Pete, John and some other guys, so we went into the den and played poker all evening. But the guy I loaned my costume to sure had a great time!"

