



# *In Friendship*

Newsletter of the Probud Club of Kerrimuir Inc.

DECEMBER 2025

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Hello Everyone,*

*Our year is almost over and Christmas is just around the corner. I know this is a busy time for all.*

*As this will be our last newsletter for 2025, I would like to thank you all for your participation in our Club activities this past year. So many good things offered and always well attended.*

*Our Club runs many social activities which are always open to all members.*

*We like the idea of being inclusive rather than having smaller specific groups within our membership.*

*This approach seems to be working well as was evident at our recent Christmas lunch. Most of our members attended and it was certainly a day of fun, food and friendship for all.*

*We now "take a break" until early in the new year.*

*Please look at the dates in this newsletter for activities planned for January and early February.*

*This coming year, 2026, we plan to have our first meeting on January 22nd. The committee felt that a break from November to February was just too long so we decided we will begin our Probud year in January.*

*Please put that date in your new diaries and be ready with renewed energy and input for 2026.*

*As President, I want to say thank you to our secretary Mark, and to all our happy, hard working committee for the effort they have put in, it has been a pleasure working with you.*

*My thanks also goes to the members of our Club, although not on the committee, who have contributed to our successful year.*

*A big thank you to Lesley for producing our monthly newsletter and for keeping an eye on our web site whenever needed.*

*I will sign off now with my very special wish for you all.*

*May the peace of Christmas be with you, may you enjoy whatever plans you have made for the holiday season and I hope that Peace, Comfort and Joy be the gifts you receive.*

*Anne. x*



Anne Carruthers  
President  
Probud Club of Kerrimuir

# A Lithuanian Christmas

*From Lita Hviid*

**Lithuanian Christmas** tales often centre on the magical and mystical events of Christmas Eve, known as *Kūčios*, where the natural and spiritual worlds intertwine. These stories blend ancient pagan beliefs with Christian traditions and focus on family, reflection, and fortune-telling.

## Key Lithuanian Christmas Tales and Beliefs

- **The Talking Animals** One of the most widespread tales is the belief that at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve, animals in the barn or stable are granted the temporary gift of human speech, as they were the only witnesses to the birth of Jesus. Many children in Lithuania would traditionally try to stay awake to hear their pets talk, though some traditions suggest that only Mary, Joseph, and the Christ child heard them, and overhearing them as a human might foretell doom or a divine message.
- **Spirits of the Departed** The *Kūčios* meal itself is a time to honor deceased relatives. It is believed that the souls of departed loved ones return to the family home on Christmas Eve. An empty place is often set at the table for them, with a candle lit on the plate to make their spirits feel welcome to join the family in the meal. The food is left on the table overnight for the spirits to feast.
- **Fortune Telling Straws** A popular activity, especially among young people, involves pulling a single, random piece of straw from under the white tablecloth after the meal. The nature of the straw is believed to predict one's future: a long straw suggests a long life; a thick one, a rich and happy life; and a bent straw, a change in one's path. Unmarried individuals also use this and other charms to predict when they might marry or the nature of their future spouse.
- **The White Reindeer/Elk** Some traditions mention a white elk or reindeer that runs from the forest, bringing Christmas with it in the moonlight, a sight children might glimpse if they peer out the window late enough.



The fortune telling straws were then used to make Christmas Tree decorations.

These narratives and traditions highlight the importance of family, remembrance, and a deep connection to nature and the mystical world during the Lithuanian Christmas season.

**Our Activities :** Details & Sign up sheets available at our meeting  
Contact Val Donnelly unless otherwise advised

**Next C&C Jan 7<sup>th</sup>**

## COFFEE 'N CHAT

@ 10:30 am on the first WEDNESDAY of each month

**moon&spoon North Blackburn**

Just come along and enjoy a cuppa and a  
great morning of fun and fellowship



### Buffet Lunch

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 12.00 o'clock**

**Manhattan Hotel** Heatherdale & Canterbury Road Ringwood

**\$27.00. Senior price per head**

### Afternoon Tea

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00 pm**

**Warren Glen Nursery**

Ringwood-Warrandyte Road  
Warrandyte



### Morning Melodies

With

**Brendan Scott**

**11:00 am Wed Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**@ Lilydale International  
471 Maroondah Hwy Lilydale**

*No cost for the Show*

*Morning Tea \$2.00 Donation  
going to the CFA*

*Lunch at your cost if you wish to stay  
Extensive Seniors Menu  
Bistro Pre Orders from 10,00 am*

### Bright Tour 2026

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Mon 27<sup>th</sup> April**

**Cost: \$795.00 per Person**

**Includes: 1 night in Echuca**

**3 nights at Bright Chalet**

**Secure your booking with a deposit**

**For all enquiries call Val Donnelly**

**0416 273 413**



## Christmas jokes from Lita and others

Why did the red-nosed reindeer help the old lady cross the road?

*It would have been Rudolph him not to!*

What is the best Christmas present?

*A broken drum*

*—you just can't beat it.*

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

*Claustrophobia.*

What is every parent's favourite Christmas Carol?

*Silent night.*

What do they sing at a snowmen's birthday party?

*"Freeze a jolly good fellow"*

How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 8lb 2oz when he was born?

*They had a weigh in a manger.*