

BILGOLA PLATEAU

PROBUS CLUB



The Bilgola Plateau Probus Club was formed after an interest meeting held at the Newport Bowlo on 6 September 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Compliments of the Season to you all and thank you for your earnest support of our Management Committee during 2025. If any member has not enjoyed themselves at

any of our 2025 functions, outings, trips away and regular activities then they weren't really there!

I feel the tragedy of 2025 has been seeing so many 'experts' in the media telling us that whatever is customary or popular is wrong or dangerous; coffee, chocolate, ice cream, driving along our endless highways at 100mph, wine and eating meats!

Perhaps the solution may be to have fewer 'experts' and more advice in the media from fit and healthy older people. Especially any mothers and grandmothers.

Christmas and New Year will be upon us soon enough. It's time to mend any frayed relationships and hopefully cement meaningful resolutions for 2026. Remember not to wear out the batteries of your grandchildren's toys before they have had a chance to play with them!

There is 'wait list' for our Christmas Party on December 5th at Club Palm Beach. We have 88 people who have paid (we only booked for 80). I will do my best to ensure we are accommodated. To add your name to the 'wait list' contact Sue Walker, sues0408@gmail.com, as we usually have a few members drop out prior to the day.

We have a myriad of great prizes on the day for our Christmas Party raffle. On behalf of the Management Committee, I wish to thank everyone who donated the prizes – and an extra special thank you to Sue Walker for co-ordinating the RSVPs.

There is also a 'wait list' for our Long Reef Golf Club dinner at 6:00pm on Thursday 11th December. Contact Lyn Hope lynghope@gmail.com if you wish to add your name to the 'wait list'.

Management Committee

Mike Musgrave
President

E: mikeatnewport@gmail.com

Brian Cross
Vice President

E: bd.cross@outlook.com.au

Mary Musgrave
Secretary

E: maryatnewport@gmail.com

Ray Pride
Treasurer

E: raypride136@gmail.com

Mary Wearne
Membership Officer

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Jenny Goodwin
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Maree McEvoy
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Lyn Hope
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Shelley Barwick
Newsletter Officer

E: sbarwick7@icloud.com



There are 10 members who have indicated they are attending the CPR training at the Newport Surf Life Saving Club on the afternoon of Tuesday 16th December (exact time to be confirmed). Contact me at mikeatnewport@gmail.com if you have any questions.

We don't want to see you bored. Our on-line website has the details of all our regular activities and future outings under '**Calendar**' in the left-hand margin.

If I don't see you beforehand have a happy Christmas and a great New Year. I hope to see a few of you at the Pittwater New Year's Eve fireworks. We meet at Dearin Park, Kalinya Street Newport 7:00pm: contact Susan Blackmore (sbnewport@live.com.au).

**Warm regards,
Mike Musgrave
President**

DINNER AT PALM BEACH GOLF CLUB

One of the delights of living on the Northern Beaches is being able to go to dinner, surrounded by beautiful scenery.

A recent dinner at the Palm Beach Golf Club provided front row stalls overlooking the golf course and blue waters of Pittwater for the 14 members who were able to come along. Just about everyone had seafood for their main course - why wouldn't they!

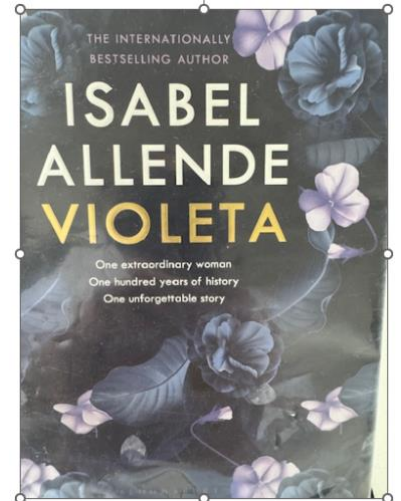
Thanks Robyn for organising a great outing for our Club.



BOOK CLUB NEWS

We are looking forward to reading this month's book, *Violeta* by Isabel Allende. Thanks to Jan for selecting it. The author is a prolific writer who has won numerous awards for her many books which include 19 novels, 5 non-fiction titles, and 3 books for young adults. Isabel Allende was born in Peru, raised in Chile, and now lives in California. Her books are often based around her personal experiences and historical-events.

Violeta is the 17th of her 19 novels and is built around a baby girl born in 1920 in a fictional country which bears some similarities to Chile. The Great War is over but the Spanish Flu is raging all over the world. What will the life of this baby girl involve? We can't wait to find out.



Last month's book, Jack Charles (*Born again Blakfella*), promoted lively discussion. It was an easy and interesting read, which afforded us the opportunity to see inside the life of a person who, when a baby of a few weeks of age, became a member of the stolen generation. There were differing opinions on some of the issues raised in the memoir which we enjoyed hearing.

COFFEE AT BAYVIEW

A lot of serious chatting about cricket, football, our economy and all sorts of important issues over a cuppa at Bayview Golf Club. Come and join us on December 11th at 10am!



OUR MELBOURNE ADVENTURE

So many experiences to remember - here's just a few:

Peter, our terrific bus driver and guide, Melbourne's quirky but very impressive architecture and laneways, the revamped area of the Docklands, the stunning Rose Garden at Werribee Mansion, driving down Melbourne's streets on a quiet Sunday morning, a scenic drive along Port Phillip Bay to Sorrento, the hustle and bustle of Lygon Street and a delightful car show at Portsea.

Stunning architecture at St Hubert's Winery, a delicious lunch at Mt Dandenong followed by shopping for the gentlemen at Olinda, the cruise along the Yarra, visit to the Art Gallery, amazing cakes at Brunetti's, the quiet surrounds of the Royal Botanic Gardens and a fabulous tour of the MCG! Oh... and of course there was the Melbourne Cup with never to be forgotten excitement, noise, sights, sweeps, bets, wins and losses.

Thanks Joyce for coordinating this trip for our Club.

PS: The weather didn't disappoint either with the usual 4 seasons on most days



LAST OUTINGS FOR 2025

REMEMBER, IF YOU WISH TO BOOK OR NEED FURTHER INFORMATION IT IS IN THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE

NOVEMBER 2025

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 8.30 AM
BREAKFAST AT WATER VIEW CAFÉ MONA VALE GOLF CLUB

RSVP to Virginia Moore:
virginiamoore315@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2025

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER - 12 NOON AT CLUB PALM BEACH, PROBUS CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

BOOK EARLY, PLACES LIMITED

Enquiries: sues0408@gmail.com

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER AT 6PM TWO-COURSE SET MENU DINNER AT LONG REEF GOLF CLUB, COLLAROY

RSVP Lyn Hope: lynghope@gmail.com

TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER AT A TIME TBA
CPR DEMO AND OTHER FIRST AID PROCEDURES AT NEWPORT SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB.

Contact: mikeatnewport@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY 31 DECEMBER AT 7PM NEW YEARS FIREWORKS DEARIN PARK NEWPORT

Contact: sbnewport@live.com.au

JANUARY 2026

WEDNESDAY 7 JANUARY 8.30 AM WAVE
GOODBYE TO THE ELVIS EXPRESS!
CENTRAL STATION

Contact: sbnewport@live.com.au

FRIDAY 9 JANUARY 4PM TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC GOVERNER PHILLIP PARK PALM BEACH.

Contact: robbynann@hotmail.com

MARCH 2026

THURSDAY 12 MARCH 11 AM PREMIER'S GALA CONCERT, ICC SYDNEY THEATRE, DARLING HARBOUR

BOOKINGS CLOSED, WAIT LIST ONLY

Contact: tricia412065@gmail.com

AUGUST 2026

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2026 AT 1PM
A NEW MUSICAL "WAITRESS" AT SYDNEY LYRIC THEATRE

BOOK AND PAY FOR YOUR OWN TICKETS - all information on website

OCTOBER 2026

SATURDAY 31 OCT - TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER - AUSTRALIA WINE AND TASMANIA CRUISE

Contact Trade Travel direct - see EOI for details. If you book the cruise please contact:

lynghope@gmail.com

JACARANDA MAGIC

We couldn't have asked for a better day - not only was it a perfect spring day, but the Jacarandas, not native to Australia, were everywhere to be seen along the edges of the Lane Cover River.

Captain Chris expertly steered us along the waterways whilst Guide Patricia, backed up by Helen, provided outstanding historical commentary of the area. We were given an uninterrupted view of the shoreline as we learnt about the founding fathers of Hunters Hill, the Jouberts, who distributed Jacaranda trees in the 1860s for the early inhabitants to plant in their gardens. It was definitely purple, purple, purple.

Thanks Janeen for organising a top outing for our Probus Club!



QUESTION TIME AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

I think we all had our eyes well and truly opened by the antics and rivalry of question time at Parliament House. As it was the last question time for 2025, most MPs were present in the house.

Questions were asked on a range of issues including planning, roads, education, childcare, policing, etc. One member was ejected for the remainder of question time; another for the remainder of the day!

Whilst it was often rowdy, it was good to see the camaraderie amongst members on opposing sides - and I'm sure they would have had lots of laughs over Christmas drinks later that evening. Thanks Lyn for organising a great outing for our Club.



BILGOLA PLATEAU PROBUS CLUB PROFILE: MEET RAY DRURY



Ray joined the Club at its formal meeting, making him one of our foundation members. Ray lost his beautiful wife in 2020 after 53 years of happy marriage, and although he manages well, he says it can feel lonely at times. Joining the Club was a way to stay connected and meet new people. He has made some good friends through the Club - though perhaps not as many as he'd hoped - possibly because there are fewer men than women, and the women tend to stay in their established groups.

Ray describes himself as a little introverted and shy. Even so, anyone who watched him dancing rock'n'roll at our last meeting would agree he certainly knows how to enjoy himself. Ray joins Club outings that look interesting to him, as long as his good friend Barbara, who he originally met at Pilates, and who is also a Club member, organises his bookings.

Ray grew up in the Canterbury-Bankstown area and, along with his father, became a passionate Bulldogs supporter. The team began in 1935 and won the premiership in 1938 - the year Ray was born - a coincidence that makes him love them even more. He now shares that passion with his son and son-in-law.

Ray left school at 16 and began work as an office boy earning five pounds a week. In 1954 he was encouraged to apply for a position at the Maritime Services Board and his application was successful. When he started with MSB, it was then located in a beautiful sandstone building at Circular Quay. That building now houses The Museum of Contemporary Art.

From the second floor, Ray had a clear view of the Sydney Opera House being built. He watched the land reclamation of Bennelong Point followed by the rise of the Opera House itself, and in 1960 he witnessed the first person ever to sing at the site — American activist Paul Robeson, who performed “Ol’ Man River” for the construction workers. After forty years with the Maritime Services Board, Ray semi-retired and continued working until around 2003 in various casual positions, including with *Pittwater Life* magazine.

Ray’s path to the Northern Beaches came about in an unexpected way. In the mid-60s he became engaged to a young woman who lived in Newport, and he decided to buy a block of land at Bilgola Plateau. Although the engagement ended, the land remained part of his life. In 1967 he married his wonderful wife Joy, and together they built a project home on the block, and raised their family there. Ray still lives in that home today, and he has a unique approach to house-work. He chuckles as he tells me he simply wanders around barefoot on the cork floors and sweeps up “when it feels a bit gritty.”

Ray played golf (very badly he says) at Avalon and Palm Beach, but gave up when his partners either died or retired due to ill health. In his mid-60s, Ray took up Pilates, and it has been part of his routine ever since. He credits it with his ongoing good health and flexibility — no hip or knee replacements for him. Looking back, Ray considers himself blessed: a happy childhood, enjoyable school years, a wonderful marriage, and cherished children and friends.

These days Ray remains fit and active. He attends Pilates twice a week, as well as an occasional exercise class and looks forward to Friday nights when he watches the Friday night football with his son. With his Pilates classes, love of footy, book club, gardening, and the occasional surprise appearance on the dance floor, Ray is a valued and lively member of our Club.

SB



Celebrating 50 Years of Probud in Australia

17 November 2025

Dear Management Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Organising Committee for the 50th Anniversary of Probud in Australia, with news we hope you will share with your members, as we approach the Golden Anniversary on February 3rd, 2026.

Throughout the year, PSPL will be showcasing the benefits of joining Probud, encouraging older Australians to enjoy more social engagement within their communities. In addition, we will embark on a major recruitment drive to attract new, active semi retirees and retirees to join a local Probud club through a range of marketing initiatives

We propose to assist Clubs by providing materials and information to complement your Club's planning of 50th Anniversary themed activities, including ways to connect with other Probud Clubs for larger celebrations or events.

Commemorative events will begin with a celebratory morning tea function hosted by our first Australian Club, the Probud Club of Hunters Hill's (Sydney) on February 3rd, 2026. We encourage all Clubs to mark this special day by having their own special morning tea, lunch or activity recognising the birth of Probud in Australia.

Another key date for the national social program will be Thursday October 1st, being the start of Probud Month 2026. We hope that every Probud Club will participate in our National Probud Picnic/Lunch which will be widely promoted in the lead up to October 1st.

Working groups have been established across Australia to help develop a number of regional and national activities including sporting events and tours. For example, a Carnival Line cruise organised by the Probud Association of Queensland departing Brisbane for the South Pacific has proven to be extremely popular. PSPL has also arranged a 10-day Probud party aboard Celebrity Solstice departing on 31st October 2026. With more than 100 Probud members already booked on the Celebrity Solstice, cabins are limited.

An innovative range of 50th Anniversary merchandise will also be produced along with a special pre-paid envelope produced by Australia Post and a special bottling of a fine French inspired luxury sparkling wine with an exclusive Probud 50th Anniversary label.

The PSPL Board has enthusiastically supported the formation of the 50th Anniversary Organising Committee. Participants include all State & Territory Representative Directors with our primary goal to contribute, guide and organise an inclusive program of festivities for this milestone anniversary.

As some members have indicated that they have not yet seen the 50th Anniversary offers in relation to both the 50th Anniversary cruise and sparkling wine offer, I ask that you share this with your fellow members:

To view the 50th Anniversary cruise offer, [click here](#). Please note that only limited cabins are available. To view the 50th Anniversary sparkling wine offer (which is currently open for pre-order), [click here](#).

2026 will be an amazing year for our community, where all Clubs will have the opportunity to highlight the social connections they provide to so many members across Australia. We look forward to hearing about your plans to celebrate this very special event.

Warm regards

Judith Maestracci AM

Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Committee

NOTICE BOARD

Club Bank A/c details



You can transfer your payment direct to the club's bank account.

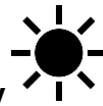
BSB 062205

Account No 10491254

Don't forget to identify your transaction.



Get in early



New outings and dining opportunities are continually being added to the Club's calendar on the website. Some have restrictions on numbers attending, so RSVP early to avoid disappointment.

Welfare



If you are aware of a member of our Club who is ill or in hospital, please advise our Welfare Officer **Di Cross** either by phone or email. bd.cross@outlook.com.au,
Ph: mobile 0412141455

Feeling a little under the weather?



If so, perhaps it's best to stay at home and away from Probus outings. We're in a vulnerable age group and germs can easily be transmitted among us. Thanks so much for your understanding.

Changed your details recently?



It's really important to notify our Secretary (currently Mary Musgrave, at email maryatnewport@gmail.com) if you change your street address, email address or phone no. As well as being used to update our Club's records and Probus South Pacific's database, these details can be used to email/phone you if you are sick, contact you for clarification of an outing, as well as a number of other items. If we don't have up-to-date records, you may miss out on enjoying all the benefits our club offers.