

PROBING THE BRIDGE

July 2026

Private and confidential for Probus use only



Combined Probus Club of
Northbridge Inc

PO Box 233
Northbridge, NSW 1560

President

Gordon Kenny
0439 013 616

Vice President

Judith Dunstan
0411 488 078

Past President

Bev Piper
0413 742 846

Secretary

Heather Skeen
0412 611 399

Treasurer

Dick Watson
0431 160 587

Membership

Judy Smith
0422 537 044

Community Liaison

Peter McNair
0415 242 628

Travel

Carol Jones
0437 494 667

Activities

Marlene Black
0480 264 237

Theatre

Katherine Kelaher
0407 230 944

Newsletter

Penny Lye
9958 7566
0411 988 630

Speakers

Malcolm Lye
0449 191 246

Welfare

Kerrie Williams
0407 914 699

Catering

Jan Loiterton
0407 732 255

Public Officer

Roger Williams
0422 882 306

From the President

I am sure we all enjoyed last month's speakers, the eminent lawyer Nicholas Cowdery AO KC and the intrepid skydiver Warren King. Can you believe Warren was nervous about speaking to us and then tells such a hair-raising tale? Now to meet the rest of the team for 2026-27.

We welcome Vice President, Judith Dunstan to the team. Professionally, Judith was a lab technician and later retrained as an accountant. She has served on committees at other Probus clubs and kindly volunteered for this position on our committee.

Treasurer Dick Watson had an illustrious career with Westpac, serving overseas and reaching senior executive level. A bon vivant, he enjoys a lifestyle which includes skiing, golf and outdoor adventures such as outback wilderness safaris. He is certainly a very active nonagenarian.

Membership Officer Judy Smith had her own business specializing in advising businesses and accounting. She is very artistic – etching is her favoured medium and she regularly exhibits at art shows. She is a very passionate artist.

Kerrie Williams has been looking after Welfare for Probus for many years. She is extremely community-minded and has volunteered in numerous roles over the years. I know I look forward to the words of wisdom she gives us every meeting.

Public Officer Roger Williams, although not now a committee member, is a past President and Membership Officer. A solicitor by profession, he attends to the club's legal and Probus South Pacific obligations. Last year he led the sub-committee to rewrite our Standing Resolutions and Constitution. Past President Bev Piper is still working enthusiastically on the committee, lending her experience to discussions.

Finally, the catering team of Jan Loiterton, Louise Kerr and Diane Burley is doing a great job getting our morning tea to us every month. Louise and Diane are fairly new members and we welcome them to the team.

Our club is indeed fortunate to have so many dedicated and quality people to keep things running smoothly. I am sure they would be pleased to hear feedback from members (especially if you think they are doing a great job).

In closing I would like to remind you of the Anniversary Probus Picnic to be held on August 3. Please keep your fingers crossed for a lovely sunny day.

Cheers, **Gordon**

Our next meeting will be held at Northbridge Golf Club on Monday, July 20 starting at 10am sharp. If you can't attend, please phone or text Judy Smith 0422 537 044 before the meeting. Judith Dunstan will be our five-minute speaker.

Happy snaps



Above & right: Just Lunch at The Alcott.



Above, below & below right: A very pleasant \$2.50 outing. The group caught the B-Line bus to Narrabeen and enjoyed lunch at the H₂O café on the edge of Narrabeen Lagoon.



Above: Some of the Probians who went to this month's Coffee Catchup at Northbridge Plaza.



Dates for your diary

July 21 – 23

On Course Tours, Canberra Yulefest

This tour is booked out.

Thursday, July 23

May Gibbs' Nutcote, Neutral Bay

The cottage is an historic property on a slope down from Wallaringa Ave to the harbour. Cost of \$35 includes tour and lunch (sandwiches, tea or coffee). We will meet there at 11am. Parking is limited if you drive. Catch the 225 bus on the corner of Wycombe Rd and Military Rd down to the stop in Kurraba Rd, corner of Wycombe Rd. Walk down Wycombe Rd and Wallaringa Ave is on your left, only a very short way. Turn left and Nutcote is on your right. Payment at July meeting, please. There are plenty of places available.

Monday, August 3

Probus 50th Anniversary Picnic, 12 noon

We are off again, fingers crossed. The list of people who have paid will be available at our meeting for you to confirm or opt out. Please bring your own chair and beverages - hopefully a hat too. Nibbles, BBQ and sweet treats all included in the \$10 cost.

Monday, August 10

Coffee catchup, 2.30pm

Join an informal gathering of members for coffee at Inner Cravings at Northbridge Plaza. It's hosted by Kerrie Williams and there is no need to book. It is scheduled for the second Monday this month because the Anniversary Picnic is on the first.

Wednesday, August 12

Fiddler on the Roof, Theatre Royal 1pm

All tickets have been taken. The coach will pick us up at Northbridge Golf Club at 11am and return after the performance around 4.30pm.

Thursday August 13, 12 noon

Just Lunch, Antica Dining, 196 Miller St, North Sydney

Two courses for \$80. Beverages at your own expense. Beautiful Italian food in a beautiful old house. Book your place at the July meeting.

Thursday, August 20

\$2.50 outing to Balmain

We will meet at 10.45am at Wharf 5 at Circular Quay and about 11am catch a ferry to Balmain East. From there we will travel by the 442 bus to Balmain Town Hall, to lunch at the nearby quaint London Hotel. After lunch we take the 442 bus through Balmain across the Anzac Bridge to the

QVB building. There we can board the Light Rail to the Bridge St stop in the city for our journey home. Please see Peter McNair to register.

Tuesday, August 25

Auburn Botanic Gardens Japanese cherry blossom display

We hope to get tickets for this date; they are not available until late July. Cost of \$20 per person covers coach and entry. Lunch (own cost) will be at the Depot Brewery and Café in the Supercentre at Artarmon. This is a small brewery with all the stainless steel beer cylinders and several different beers to taste, plus a variety of lunches. Please register at the July meeting.

October 31 – November 10

Probus anniversary cruise with Trade Travel

Departing Sydney on the Celebrity Solstice, visiting Eden, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, Kangaroo Island (Penneshaw). Only balcony cabins are available: single cabin \$7950 per person, share cabin \$4000 per person. Drinks and Wi-fi are not included and can be purchased. Nine Northbridge Probus members have registered to do the cruise. The tour is now fully booked.

November 22– 25

On Course coach tour Newcastle, Port Stephens, Hunter Valley, Christmas lights

Four day tour, with two nights' accommodation at Rydges Newcastle City and one at Mercure Hunter Gardens. Features include a Hunter River launch cruise, a trip to Nelson Bay and the Port Stephens area and to places of interest in the Hunter Valley. On the third night we will visit the spectacular light show in the Hunter Gardens. Fifteen members have registered and accommodation (single and double rooms) has been secured. Register at the meeting if you are interested and Carol will try to get single/double rooms. Cost is \$1819 single, \$1495 share.

Sunday, December 13

Spirit of Christmas,

Willoughby Symphony Choir, 2pm

Celebrate the festive season with carols and timeless classics. Tickets \$72. No transport will be provided; make your own way to the Concourse Concert Hall, Chatswood.

Wednesday, January 13, 2027

Neil Diamond musical, A Beautiful Noise, Lyric Theatre, 1pm

The story of the legendary Neil Diamond. Cost of \$110 includes coach to and from the theatre. Payment due now.

Who will be speaking to us?

This month, our speaker will be **Michael Atherton AM** (pictured right), a distinguished composer, performer, scholar and author. He has studied literature and music, performed with the Renaissance Players and Musica Viva, and worked as a music therapist. He also has expertise in diverse musical instruments, particularly from Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, some of which he will play for us. He has written several books which will be on sale at the meeting.

At our August meeting, **Greg De Moore** will be telling us the story of Tom Wills, a remarkable early Australian sportsman who befriended Aboriginal people and learned their language. He went on to captain the first Aboriginal cricket team and also helped to create the game of Australian Rules football.

Dr Garry Lowder will return to speak to us in September about Alfred Russel Wallace, one of the most important and underrated 19th century natural scientists. Today, Charles Darwin receives all the attention and recognition for the origins of species and the theory of evolution, but Wallace may be more deserving.



Read any good books lately?

Our more recently inducted members may not be aware of the book table, tucked away as it is in a corner of the lounge area. It is a simple idea. You bring in books you have read and no longer want, and you can take whatever you choose. You don't have to bring a book to take one and there is no obligation to return the one you take. And it is all free. The only stipulation is no hardbacks, please. They are heavy and difficult to store.

And look out for jigsaw puzzles. They are sometimes available and work on the same system as books. If you need any more information, talk to Paulette Beverley.

Meet a new member



Elsa Engelbrecht was inducted at our June meeting this year. She is pictured with President Gordon Kenny.

I arrived in Australia from South Africa in December 2024, bringing with me a lifetime of work, resilience and community connection. I'm a mother to one son and a proud grandmother to two grandsons.

I was born in the gold mining town of Nigel and began my career at Barclays Bank in 1966 as a telephone operator, later becoming a Manager's Assistant. After moving to Ngodwana, I spent time as a housewife before taking a leap into business in 1987, owning amongst other things a combined restaurant/supermarket/cafe/shoe shop/swimwear/fishing tackle, a steakhouse and a beachside ice-cream shop.

In 1991, I moved to Eshowe, where I started a bottle shop and gradually expanded to two more, alongside a sweet shop, lingerie store, and fixed-price shop. I later established a bed and breakfast with self-catering accommodation.

Community has always been important to me. I took part in local agricultural shows, winning overall at the Lowveld Show in baking and bottling and receiving awards at the Eshowe Show. I was also actively involved in groups such as the Women's Institute, Garden Club, Lions, Ramblers, Round Table and the tennis club.

I have always valued helping others grow, and I'm proud to have trained three staff members who went on to start their own businesses. Now based in Northbridge, I am preparing to launch The Glassery, a glass rental business, and look forward to continuing this journey.

