PROBING THE BRIDGE

November 2026

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Combined Probus Club of Northbridge Inc

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From the President

It's hard to comprehend the passing of time! If you are like me, this year has flown by and as we are approaching the festive season again, I am in a reflective mood and looking back over 2026.

Two new events will become permanent fixtures in our program. One is the Picnic which was a huge success and the second is Just Lunch. The last lunch for the year was held at the Freeway Hotel and proved to be a real hit. An enjoyable meal was accompanied by a really excellent jazz ensemble. It was so good that some of our members felt inspired to take to the dance floor!

Marlene, Bev and their team have been busy organising the Christmas Lunch which is to be held at the **Bridgeview Hotel** at Willoughby on Monday, December 7. I know members will be asking why we changed the venue after so many years of having the Christmas lunch at Northbridge Golf Club.

The organisers felt a change of venue may be welcomed by members, specially as the Bridgeview Hotel catering and dining space have a great reputation, at a cost somewhat lower than the Golf Club. We also think that the change will add a bit of interest to the event this year. The Bridgeview Hotel has quoted a fair price and given us a very good deal. Some of our members have sampled the food and all agreed it was excellent. We will have our own room and bar and some special entertainment. Marlene will provide a map of where to find parking which is close by. I strongly encourage members to get behind your committee and support the event. I am sure it will be a great way to finish off the Probus year.

When reflecting on 2026 it is hard to go past the negatives of a world of conflict, discrimination, violence, global warming, inflation, poverty, racism and some very misguided world leaders. However, we are all fortunate, I believe, to live in Australia and enjoy the many positives, including being members of this great club where we can enjoy fun and fellowship on a regular basis.

Wishing everyone all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

President Gordon

Our next meeting will be held at Northbridge Golf Club on Monday, November 16 starting at 10am sharp. If you can't attend, please phone or text Judy Smith 0422 537 044 before the meeting.

Having fun!



Above: *Ros Kenny reports on Just Lunch at the Freeway Hotel: "It was a really great outing. A lovely meal in a very pleasant space. Members of the Sydney Jazz Club made us feel very welcome, even enticing some of us onto the dance floor."*

Right: *Members who visited Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden were treated to a table display of native flora and fauna.*

Below, left & right: *It was not the perfect beach day, but the intrepid travellers enjoyed their $2.50 Club outing to Bondi Beach nonetheless, with a tasty lunch at the Bondi Beach Hotel.*



Above: *The attractive dining room at the Bridgeview Hotel, Willoughby, where Northbridge Probus is holding its Christmas lunch this year.*







Look forward to some great guest speakers!



In November, at our last meeting of the year, we welcome **Hans Kunnen** as our guest speaker. Hans is a former economist who was staying at a New York hotel next to the World Trade Centre Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. His talk describes the chaos when the two planes struck the towers and how he managed to escape. His talk is entitled "The kindness of strangers" as he is very grateful for the people who helped him out of the emergency, to safety.

In January, our guest speaker will be entertainer **Paul Kearney,** presenting part of his "History of Rock and Roll" series of talks. The talk, which includes video clips of the musicians, will cover the 1950s and should be a real nostalgia trip for many of us.

Our own club member **Noel Phelan** will be returning as the guest speaker in February. He will be talking on one of his many maritime subjects, our intrepid "Women Sailors". Since his retirement from IBM, Noel served as a volunteer guide and speaker for Australian National Maritime Museum. He sails his own yacht and was captain of his sailing club for many years.

Attendance at meetings

Would all members please ensure they have their attendance noted at the membership table upon entry to the monthly meeting? A 'No Show' will be recorded if your name isn't marked off and this could affect your requirement to attend at least 50% of the meetings to maintain your membership of the club.

Didn't receive your emailed newsletter?

Every month, one or more members tell us they didn't receive their emailed newsletter. Sometimes it's because a member has changed his or her email address or we have it wrongly entered in our records (we have up to 150 email addresses to keep track of!)

Sometimes a member has accidentally deleted the email and it ends up in BIN or DELETED. And sometimes a member's server has rejected the email (perhaps because the server thinks the mass email mailout is JUNK or SPAM) and it puts the email into those files.

So, if you are missing your newsletter email, please first check in BIN, DELETED, JUNK and SPAM. If you still can't find it, let Penny or Malcolm know (mplye@bigpond.net.au) and they will try to make sure you receive your newsletter.

The summer break is a great time for reading ...

Our Probus club Book Table is a great place to find a book, whether mystery, romance, literature, documentary – whatever your taste. We have dozens of books, all donated by our club members, which can be borrowed by other members. There is no charge, no limit to number borrowed and no return policy! And if you really have time to kill over the holidays, we also have jigsaw puzzles. See Paulette or Penny at the table for help.



Dates for your diary

Friday, November 20
Visit to new fish market, $50



Our coach will leave the Golf Club at 9.30am, with a tour of the fish markets beginning at 10.30am. Lunch is at own expense; there are lots of food outlets. The tour is full, with a waiting list. Payment please at November meeting.

November 22– 25
On Course coach tour Newcastle, Port Stephens, Hunter Valley, Christmas lights
Travelling to Newcastle, accommodation Rydges Newcastle City. Hunter River launch cruise. Afternoon free time to explore the foreshore area. Next day we visit Nelson Bay and Port Stephens and back to Rydges Newcastle. The following day we visit places of interest in the Hunter Valley and stay at the Mercure Hunter Gardens. After dinner the tour will visit the spectacular light show in the gardens. Fourteen members have paid to attend. The tour is now fully booked.

Monday, December 7
Christmas lunch at Bridgeview Hotel, Willoughby Rd, 12noon, $65
Three course lunch (entrée, main, dessert) and complimentary drink on arrival. There will be beautiful entertainment plus quizzes and prizes. Payment please at the November meeting.
Free parking in carpark behind hotel, down Borlaise St (not Julian St, which has only one hour parking).

Sunday, December 13
Spirit of Christmas, Willoughby Symphony Choir, $70, 2pm
No transport provided; make your own way to The Concourse concert hall, Chatswood. Please meet Katherine at the box office near the lift to collect your tickets. She will be there from 1.15pm.

Wednesday, January 13, 2027
Neil Diamond musical A Beautiful Noise, Sydney Lyric Theatre, $110, 1pm
All tickets have been taken. Pick up will be from Northbridge Golf Club at 11am. The bus will deliver us back to the Golf Club after the show.

Thursday, January 21
We'll start the New Year as usual with lunch at Infuzions in Cammeray.

Wednesday, February 24
Noel Coward's Private Lives, $110
Theatre Royal 1pm
All tickets are taken. Payment is due at the November meeting or by direct transfer to the Tours Account. Details of transport at the January meeting.

February 25 to March 1
On Course tour Batemans Bay
Four nights, five days. Staying in the Sunseeker Motel Batemans Bay, visiting Bermagui, Tilba, Cobargo and the surrounding area. Approx cost from $1995. Sixteen members have registered and the tour is fully booked.

Wednesday, May 19
Moulin Rouge! The Musical, Lyric Theatre
Katherine is looking into tickets for this show and will have more details at the January meeting.

May 12 - 19
NSW Agricultural On Course tour
Seven nights, eight days. Travelling to Port Macquarie, Armidale, Moree, Lightning Ridge, Walgett, Narrabri, Quirindi. Unique outback attractions and farm experiences featuring country hospitality. Approx cost from $3995. Four members have registered for single rooms and there are no more available. Share rooms may be available.

Online payments may be made to Probus Tours Account BSB 062 215, AC 10073196. You still need to register at the desk.