



PROBUS CLUB OF KILLARNEY HEIGHTS

22 Wallace St, Willoughby, NSW 2068

ABN 62 621 547 226

No 407

MARCH 20TH - GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MEMBERS ONLY

PRESIDENTS REPORT



The days are getting longer – it is Autumn after all – but the humidity continues to be high, and the warm weather persists. I hope that everyone is finding the weather to their liking, and that the colder days won't be with us again for some time. Our thoughts are with those feeling the effects of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, and its aftermath.

Last month we had had as our Guest Speaker, Tony Bonner. Tony's presentation was most entertaining, and covered a wide range of topics, including, but not limited to his main theme, which was the dangers of the ocean, and the common sense required when swimming at surf beaches.

Grahame Reinthal's fulsome appreciation of Tony's presentation is included in this Newsletter.

The February 27th lunch at Balgowlah RSL, organised by Gerard de Jong, was well attended, with around 30 of our members and wives present, good food and excellent company making for a most enjoyable outing.

As mentioned last month, Ken Fletcher has our mid-year Luncheon (Thursday 10th July at Cromer Golf Club) well in hand, and is presently finalising arrangements for our Christmas Luncheon, which is scheduled to be held on Monday 15th December at Monash Country Club. Details of both will be provided closer to the events.

At last month's General Meeting, I indicated that Brian Skingsley had been nominated as a Life Member of our Club, and that the nomination had been unanimously approved by the Committee. Brian is a very worthy nominee for Life Membership. He has already been the longest serving Committee member for our Newsletter (the past 9 successive years) and has concurrently been our Club's Treasurer for the past two years. He is always one of the first members you will see on arrival at our monthly meetings, collecting money for our morning teas, and checking you off on our attendance records. He updates our Register of Members listing, and maintains our website. Brian helps in many other ways, and is the first point of contact for a number of our less mobile members, and our Widows in Contact. Brian is a highly valued member of our Club. Conferring of the Life Membership can only be made by a Special Resolution, passed at a Members' General Meeting. **Notice of the Special Resolution to confirm Brian as a Life Member, to be voted upon at the General Meeting on 17th April, is attached with this month's Newsletter.**

Notice of this month's Annual General Meeting, which is a **Members Only meeting**, was emailed to members on 27th February, and included a voting proxy, for use by any members who are unable to attend the AGM, to cast their votes on any of the AGM Agenda items. The Notice included information on those members who have offered to serve on our Club's 2025/26 Committee. As no nominations have been received for some of the positions on our Committee (all positions were

detailed in the Notice), the Returning Officer overseeing the election of the new Committee will call for nominations for those positions from the floor.

And, although I've expressed my thanks to the present Committee members in my annual President's Report, which has been sent to members and will be tabled at the AGM, I would like to record again my appreciation for their hard work over the past two years, and the generous support that they have given me as President. To the past-Presidents and other members who have offered their encouragement and advice during my terms as President, I am truly grateful.

Our Committee looks forward to seeing you at our General Meeting and AGM next Thursday, 20th March.

Rob Beaton - President 99757515 robjbeaton@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

As of 10th March we have 74 active members and 6 non-active a total of 80 members

SPEAKER FOR March & April 2025

March 20 th Members only Andrew Jones - Radio Northern Beaches History and Goals	April 17 th Members & Partners Mark Ricard - Model Aircraft [To be confirmed]
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FUNCTIONS

Christmas in July' Thursday, 10th July, 2025

Christmas in July' event, we have now confirmed Menu and Prices

for this year's Function.

DATE: Thursday, 10th July, 2025

COMMENCING TIME: 12 noon

LOCATION: Cromer Golf Club, Cromer

An official invitation will be supplied with our April Newsletter with all details. Please lock in the date for this great Lunch

. Ken Fletcher FUNCTIONS M: 0473229002

WINE APPRECIATION

Don't forget next wine appreciation day March 27th at Glenaeon community centre

Gather at 2 pm for 2.30 commence

Today's drop will be Pinot Noir / Red Burgundy ?

Keith Penfold



MID DAY LUNCH

On Thursday 27 February thirty-two of us gathered for the lunch at the Balgowlah RSL. The food was good, well presented and inexpensive (I had seared salmon, salad and chips - \$17) - and the company was great. The bistro area slowly emptied as other diners finished but our Probus group just kept chatting on.

Another excellent event organised by Gerard deJong.

Tom Keating

CYCLING



We are riding every Wednesday, generally starting at 9.00 am. at Dee Why and riding, on cycle paths, to Narrabeen where we join non riders for coffee at Tramshed Café on Pittwater Road (adjacent to Ambulance Station), to have a chat.

Bryan Power 9452-3916 powerbryan@hotmail.com or Tom Keating and Keith Penfold

Speaker Report – Tony Bonner – 20th February

Our guest speaker today was Tony Bonner, a man of many parts, in more senses than one. His talk wove an interesting tapestry of life experiences through fame, self-destruction and redemption.

But first, as a past president of Manly Lifesaving Club, Tony highlighted the importance of understanding the dangers of the ocean and the need for education and common sense in swimming at surf beaches.

In particular, he talked about his role in educating not only young kids but also people new to our beaches (such as recent migrants to Australia) about the potential dangers of the surf. The emphasis is on knowledge and common sense!





He touched on taking a moment to analyse the surf before going in, looking at the way the waves are breaking, and identifying where rips, sandbanks and channels are. And, of course, if the beach is patrolled by lifesavers, to swim between the flags that they set.

And although they seem scary and powerful, rips such as “The Escalator” at the south end of Manly can carry a swimmer no more than 80 to 100 metres out to sea before they peter out and are typically no wider than 40 to 50 metres. So, armed with this knowledge, if caught in a rip, the trick is not to panic and definitely not to try to swim against it, but instead go with it, and perhaps swim across the width of the rip or wait till the rip ends, then swim for shore.

Apart from his lifesaving involvement, Tony talked quite extensively about his diverse career in TV, film and stage, involving acting, directing and more recently teaching at NIDA, with the TV role as the helicopter pilot in the ‘Skippy the Bush Kangaroo’ TV series being his iconic beginning. Interestingly but tragically, the helicopter used in the first episode of ‘Skippy’ was the very same machine the ABC was using when it fatally crashed in the Sydney CBD back in 1966!

Tony’s talk continued with a series of fascinating anecdotes about TV shows, films and stage productions that he has been involved in over the years, interesting acting techniques and tricks of the trade, and working with many actors of renown over the years, such as Ed Devereux, John Meillon, Frank Wilson, Paul Hogan and others. Significantly, he also shared with us that he had struggled with alcoholism, homelessness and suicidal ideations until an epiphany when he finally confronted his mortality and faced not seeing his children grow up. At that point, he gave up alcohol and cigarettes – he called them darts – and has been sober since then for over 35 years – quite inspirational! Overall, Tony’s talk today was a fascinating kaleidoscope of many anecdotes, was highly entertaining and generated lots of questions at the end.

Grahame Reinthal

Birthdays to 17 th April		Financial Summary Feb 2025
<p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <p>21 Ray Carden 21 Geoff George 24 Peter Watson 29 Keith Penfold 31 Paul Berger</p> <p>25 Violetta Bulfield 29 Annette Harding</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">April</p> <p>6 Nick Gill 6 Cliff Ventris 14 Andy Stollwitzer 14 Winston Horne</p> <p>12 Helen Gill</p> 	<p>Opening Balance . . \$5,964.05 Add income \$224.55 Less expenses \$376.37 — Closing balance . \$5,812.23 Less for payment . \$ 0.00 Money in reserve . . \$5,812.23</p> 
<p>If paying by EFT the banking details are BSB 062-295 10519860 Probus Club of Killarney Heights. Please make sure your name and event is given so that it can be properly applied. You should also advise the Treasurer and organiser, emails below</p>		

COMMITTEE 2024-2025

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Vice-President
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Walks
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<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>What</i>
Thursday 10 th July	Cromer Golf Club	Christmas in July Lunch
Monday 15 th December 2025	Monash Golf Club	Xmas Lunch
Thursday 27 th March	Glenaeon Community Centre	Wine appreciation