



Alison and I have lived permanently in Pearl Beach since February 2015, having moved to Australia from the UK. After spending our first year in Sydney, we quickly realised that Pearl Beach was where we wanted to build our future.

I currently work full-time as Regional Chief Technology Officer for Hewlett Packard Enterprise. My background is in engineering — before transitioning into IT over 30 years ago, I worked as a Design Engineer for companies such as Philips Electronics and Marconi. This technical foundation has given me a strong problem-solving mindset and a hands-on approach to projects of all kinds.

In the UK, Alison and I were both active in our village community. I served for many years as a Governor at two of our children's schools, while Alison ran playgroups and chaired a small charity supporting the village school. That sense of community involvement came with us to Pearl Beach, where we both joined the PBPA soon after discovering it.

I joined the Executive Committee in 2018 as an Ordinary Member and have since served as Assistant Secretary, Vice President, and currently, Secretary. Although I continue to work full-time, I remain deeply committed to contributing to our community wherever my skills can add value. My strengths lie in IT, engineering, carpentry, DIY, contract definition, and data analytics. I'm methodical, detail-oriented, and enjoy creating practical solutions that make a difference.

Over the past 18 months, I have been particularly proud of several achievements as a member of the Executive Committee. Chief among these has been managing and co-developing the new PBPA website. This new platform is far easier to maintain, enabling more Executive members to contribute and share updates. I also introduced a new membership system that simplifies joining, improves management for the Executive, and allows for more personalised communication with members.

Beyond my Executive role, I am actively involved in several PBPA subcommittees and working groups, including Hall & Environment, Finance, and Constitution & Guidelines. I also help support community events and manage electronic ticketing systems to streamline participation.

My commitment to our environment runs deep. I am a member of the Arboretum Committee, where I have served since 2020, as well as the Environment Subcommittee. Protecting and preserving the natural beauty and biodiversity of Pearl Beach is a personal priority.

Looking ahead, I am keen to continue serving on the Executive to consolidate and expand our progress. My immediate focus will be on training Executive members to make full use of our new digital systems — particularly in publishing news, managing events, and communicating effectively with members and subscribers.

I also remain steadfast in my belief that Pearl Beach should prioritise its environment and community over tourism growth and resist Pearl Beach becoming a large holiday resort. The decline in permanent residents — increasingly replaced by investors — has, in my view, contributed to the loss of trees, wildlife, and even local amenities such as the shop and café. I will continue to advocate for a sustainable, resident-focused Pearl Beach.

Gary Phillips