



PROBUS CLUB NEUTRAL BAY

www.probusneutralbay.org

Newsletter

AUG 2025

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Mike Walker

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Ted Kraegen AO

Imm. Past Pres

Reg Richardson AO

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Ian Ashbrook AM

Treasurer

David Bruce-Steer

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Ross Bruwel

Ian Doig

Kevin Fitzpatrick

John Metcalf

Barry Stone

Peter Turner

Enda Bannan

Nick Baines

Chris Gingell

Yiu Lam Kwan

CLUB ROLES

Archivist

Kevin Fitzpatrick

Bowls

Peter Cornish

2.50 Club

Brian Thomas

Croquet

Rob Wright

Cycling

Bob Pearce

Golf

Murray Mair

Hon Auditor

David Lloyd

Hospitality

Enda Bannan

Lost Soles Strollers

Brian Thomas

Meetings

Enda Bannan

Membership

Peter Turner

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Movies

David Bruce-Steer

Music, Art

Reg Richardson AO

Newsletter

Yiu Lam Kwan

Ted Kraegen AO

Pickleball

Murray Mair

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Paul Shea

Sailing

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Speakers

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Tennis

Peter Turner

Tours, Outings

Ian Doig

Chris Gingell

Website

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Welfare

Kevin Fitzpatrick



Hello Members and Associates

For those of you who missed it we had an inspiring guest speaker last month, Ms Jennifer Philips, the Community Relations Manager for the Children's Medical Research Institute who spoke about genetics and DNA. Jennifer is involved in fund raising and has been part of the team that set up the Jeans for Genes campaign since its inception. You could have heard a pin drop in the auditorium during her talk. There is a brief outline of her history and presentation in the July minutes.

In early July Ted Kraegen and Ian Doig attended a Probus Information Day at Chatswood sponsored by Probus South Pacific. The theme was attracting new members and effective club leadership. This was an opportunity to bench mark our club and ensure the Committee are doing everything possible for our Club to remain strong and viable. The feedback has been positive.

The \$2.50 outing to Cockatoo Island was a very interesting day by all accounts with a significant increase in numbers attending. Well done Brian and Ros.

The Winter Feast was a wonderful event at the Abbotsford Rowing Club, great conviviality amongst the 98 members and partners who enthusiastically attended. Everyone I spoke to was praising the venue and food. Peter Cornish retrieved a flyer from the archives that promoted the Winter Feast in 2020. The menu was similar and for the same cost. Imagine no increase in five years! That lunch was organised by Bob Pearce who was in attendance, and James Richie, who was unfortunately unable to attend due to ill health. There were seven past presidents in attendance at the lunch, which made me think about the collective noun for a gathering of presidents. The answer is an "EMINENCE" of presidents, rather fitting actually. Congratulations and a big thank you to John Metcalf for his organisation of such a great event.

And I would like to extend a warm welcome Chris Gingell to the Committee. He will be partnering Ian Doig in Tours and Outings.

Stay warm and keep well.

Regards

Mike, President

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 12 Aug 2025**, from 10.30am in the Norths Leagues Club Auditorium

10.30 - 10.50 General business

10.50 - 11:00 Personal Corner

11.00 - 11:20 Morning Tea

11.20 - 12:20 Guest Speaker

12.20 - Questions and Wrap Up

CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR DIARY

Tue Aug 19 Strollers - Centennial Parklands

Fri Aug 29 Chat and Chew - The Oaks

Tue Sep 16 2:50 Club - Bowral by train and the Tulip Festival

Wed 24 Sep Dangar Island Day Tour

PERSONAL CORNER

This month's Personal Corner will be given by **Ted Kraegen**. 2022 marked the 150 year anniversary of the completion of the Overland Telegraph Line from Darwin to Adelaide. Ted will explain why this has special significance for his family.

ACTIVE RETIREES DIGITAL MAGAZINE

From our Secretary: Are you getting this quarterly digital magazine? It's worth a read. Access it at probusouthpacific.org. Click on Active Retirees and follow the prompts. Why not sign up to have it delivered automatically to your email inbox. **Ian Ashbrook**

Report on the Winter Feast - 22 June 2025 Many thanks to members for the strong support for this year's Winter Feast - a record 98 members, partners and guests attended another enjoyable lunch at one of our favorite venues, Watergrill at the Sydney Rowing Club, Abbotsford. The weather and venue were at their best and the sumptuous three course lunch, together with wonderful company, was enjoyed by all. **John Metcalf**



Our Pickleballers Are Getting Noticed!!

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in Australia for good reasons. It is designed to be enjoyed across generations, and men and women can play together as equals. We have a regular weekly booking at the Voyager courts in Chatswood (see photo). We have been invited to give a demonstration to residents at a large and quite well known retirement village in the Lower North Shore. We are happy to be 'ambassadors' for the sport since we believe it is really beneficial to people of our age demographic. Our leader Murray will be attending with two mixed pairs to do the demonstration. Who knows? We may get a few applicants to join our Club! **YL Kwan**



Report on the Cockatoo Island Stroll Tuesday 15 July 2025



THE STROLLERS AT COCKATOO ISLAND Under a grey sky and on a chilly morning, the Probuss Neutral Bay Strollers set off from Greenwich Wharf and Circular Quay to the largest island in Sydney Harbour. It was nice to welcome some newcomers to the Strollers, as we adventured around, through, and over the island. All agreed that Cockatoo Island was full of interest and surprises. Highlights were, docks, slipways, cranes, industrial buildings, tunnels from one side of the island to the other, great harbour views, and the penal settlement on the top level.



DETAILS OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The Lost Soles Strollers Outing Centennial Parklands Tuesday 19 August 2025

STROLLERS – CENTENNIAL PARK Join the Strollers for a ramble through Centennial Park. Our leader will be **Ted Kraegen** who knows the Park like the back of his hand. An easy amble through ever changing scenes of gardens, forests, boardwalks, open spaces, and lake-side trails. Add to that an ample supply of cafes and kiosks for refreshments on the way. **Meet at the light rail stop "Royal Randwick" at 10.00AM** on Tuesday 19th August. Catch a Randwick (not Kingsford Jn) tram to Randwick, or come by car. Join me for the walk - **Brian Thomas**. Let me know you are planning to come. brian.b.w.thomas@gmail.com or **0412 161 566**.



Chat n Chew Friday 29 August 2025

Yes, It's on again - 5th Friday of the month! The venue is **The Oaks at Neutral Bay**. **Time: 12 noon**. Guest speaker is **Les Miller** who will be regaling us on his sojourn in Antarctica. Contact: **Kevin Fitzpatrick 0416 151 195**

2:50 Club Outing Bowral by Train and the Tulip Festival Tuesday 16 September 2025



250 CLUB: TULIPS IN BOWRAL On Tuesday 16th September we travel to Bowral and back for \$2.50. **We leave from platform 23 at Central (upper deck, second front carriage) at 10.08 AM**. Change trains at Campbelltown and arrive at Bowral for lunch. Then a short walk to the park to enjoy the splash of colour which is the tulip festival (there is an admission fee). Perhaps a little bit of shopping before boarding the train for the homeward journey, much of which is through lovely rural countryside. To be on the list contact **Brian Thomas**. brian.b.w.thomas@gmail.com or **0412 161 566**.



Dangar Island Day Tour Wednesday 24 September 2025



Interest in the Dangar Island Outing on 24 September 2025 has been strong and we now have a full coach with 43 members & partners. The tour includes a 3 hour cruise on the Hawkesbury (morning tea and ploughman's lunch are included) departing from Brooklyn and a guided walk on the historic Dangar Island. **Coach pickup 8.45am at Norths**. Return coach trip to Norths arriving at approximately 4 pm. **Ian Doig**



OTHER REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Neutral Bay Probuss Beginners Croquet Group Mon 1 to 3pm Chatswood Croquet Club. Contact **Rob Wright** on **0416 161 863**

Roll Up Lawn Bowls Every Wed morning at 10 am at Norths Greens, St Leonards (near North Sydney Oval). Call **Peter Cornish** on **0421 012 538**. For more details. All regular players and beginners are welcome to play and socialise.

Pickleball We are now playing every Thursday at Willis Park, Eastern Valley Way, Castle Cove from 9:30 am until 11 am. We are always looking for more players. So if you have not tested your pickleball skills, please give it a go. No prior playing experience required. Contact **Murray Mair** on **0419 488 609**

Tennis All members and their friends are welcome on the first Tuesday of each month at Willis Park on Eastern Valley Way (Chatswood) from 10am to 12pm. Tennis is followed by coffee and a social chat at the café. Please contact **Peter Turner** on **0428 611 456**

Golf Murray Mair welcomes all members to play; generally play on 4th Friday of each month at a local course. Please contact **Murray** on **0419 488 609**.

Cycling We have a very active, regular cycling group led by **Bob Pearce** on **0400 291 373**. Normally Monday rides start at 10 am and Saturday rides start at 7.30 am from Milsons Point Railway Station or from Observatory Hill at 7.35am. Extra Riders Welcome!

Sailing Please note that sailing is currently in recess. Contact **Ross Bruwel** on **0421 817 106**

Movie Enjoyment At the Orpheum, Cremorne on the 4th Monday of the month. Contact **David Bruce-Steer** on **0455 655 451**.

Bridge Contact **John Pike** for details of online bridge on **0403 007 273**. Please note that **it will now be on every Wednesday instead of Thursday**, at 4 pm.

12 August 2025 Guest Speaker **NOEL PHELAN** "The Bombing of Darwin"



Our speaker Noel is well known to many of our members.

We first met Noel through previous presentations to us on "The Halvorsen Story", "The Sinking and Salvaging of The Costa Concordia" and "The history of Steam". He was also our host on "The Navy in Sydney Harbour East" cruise. Noel was a Team Leader at the Australian National Maritime Museum but has now retired. He has had a close connection with the water all his life. On a personal basis a director and sailing captain of his sailingclub. Noel is a Past President of Northbridge Rotary and in retirement is an active volunteer. Noel also spent several years with Marine Rescue and the Rural Fire Service.

The Bombing of Darwin during World War II involved two major air raids by the Japanese on February 19, 1942, targeting the city's port and military facilities. These attacks, part of a larger campaign, aimed to disrupt Allied operations in the region and were a significant event in Australia's wartime history. The attacks on Darwin continued until November 1943, with a total of 64 raids. The bombings were subject to wartime censorship, to initially downplay the scale of the events.

In his Presentation Noel will take us through the details of the bombing on that historic day in February 1942, and its effect on the people of Darwin.

9 September 2025 Guest Speaker

SIMON PERROTT

The Wayside Chapel