



PROBUS CLUB NEUTRAL BAY

www.probusneutralbay.org

Newsletter

NOV 2025

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President

Mike Walker

Vice President

Ted Kraegen AO

Imm. Past Pres

Reg Richardson AO

Secretary

Ian Ashbrook AM

Treasurer

David Bruce-Steer

OTHER MEMBERS

John Beckhaus

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

Hon Auditor

David Lloyd

Hospitality

Enda Bannan

Lost Soles Strollers

Brian Thomas

Meetings

Enda Bannan

Membership

Peter Turner

Minutes Secretary

John Beckhaus

Movies

David Bruce-Steer

Music, Art

Reg Richardson AO

Newsletter

Yiu Lam Kwan

Ted Kraegen AO

Pickleball

Murray Mair

Postman

Paul Shea

Sailing

Ross Bruwel

Speakers

Barry Stone

Statistics

John Beckhaus

Tennis

Peter Turner

Tours, Outings

Ian Doig

Chris Gingell

Website

David Bruce-Steer



Fellow Probos Members and Associates

A pleasant afternoon was had on Thursday the 22nd at the Mosman Art Gallery for a private viewing of the current Mosman Art prize exhibition. We were welcomed by the Artistic Director Stephen Alderton who gave us a brief history of the gallery and the significance of the Mosman Art prize. This is its 78th year and it is Australia's longest running art award. We were later taken on a guided tour of the paintings by Kelly McDonald the Assistant Director. We were provided with refreshments and canapés. Many thanks to our own cultural ambassador Mr Reg Richardson for organising the event.

I enjoyed a couple of hours with Kevin Fitzpatrick and other members at the Chat and Chew last Friday at the Oaks Hotel Neutral Bay. This event, held on the fifth Friday of a month, is worth considering if you like stimulating conversation and good company.

Our outings organiser Ian Doig has asked that I pass on to members that if you are putting your name down for an outing that you be prepared to pay promptly. We need to be able to confirm payment with numbers a month ahead of the actual outing. We don't have a booking until payment is made to On Course Tours. Attention to prompt payment will ensure we have a comfortable coach available on the day.

As will be mentioned further on in the newsletter don't forget to put your names down for our Christmas luncheon on Tuesday the 9th December at Manly Golf Club commencing at 12.00 noon.

New members are the life blood of all clubs. It is encouraging to see we are inducting new members regularly who want to enjoy what Probos Neutral Bay has to offer. Long may it continue.

Regards

Mike Walker

President

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11 Nov 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

Thu 6 Nov Lake Macquarie and William Dobell House Day Tour

Wed 19 Nov 2:50 Club - Historic Windsor

Tue 9 Dec Xmas Luncheon, Manly Golf Club

Tue 13 Jan 2026 BBQ and High Tea, Balls Head

PERSONAL CORNER

The next Personal Corner is to be given by **Reg Richardson**, our most recent ex President. He was born in Broken Hill and educated in Sydney. A qualified accountant, his career was in the management and ownership of diverse businesses. Reg was awarded an OA for services to the visual arts and for supporting a range of social welfare and medical research organisations. He has raised over \$130 million for charitable purposes.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Let's extend a very warm welcome to **Stephen Breckenridge**. In his professional career Stephen was a chartered accountant. His interests include rugby union, gardening and writing. He and Karen live in Mosman

PSPL M'SHIP CARD & No.

Contact Club Secretary if you need your PSPL membership card and/or membership number

EIGHT LOWER NORTH SHORE CLUBS JOIN FORCES TO STAGE PROBUS OPEN DAY: A REPORT

On 1st October, 121 potential Probos members attended the first ever Probos Day, staged by a group of clubs at the Mosman Art Gallery. Each club got two minutes to talk. From the enthusiastic pitch Graeme Adam made to the audience, all guests are now very aware of Probos Neutral Bay! A lively program included a slide show on Probos in general, and morning tea. Our table had prominent signage and a pile of our new leaflets and reprints of our activities. Those who registered with our club during or after the day received an information kit and an invitation to one of our meetings. John Beckhaus and Reg Richardson were very helpful in engaging with the visitors. The combination of pre-event marketing by all the clubs and the event itself has promoted a widespread understanding of all ten Probos clubs in the region. **Graeme Adam**



UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS: CHRISTMAS LUNCH & BBQ AND HIGH TEA

A reminder: time is running out to commit to these two very popular events.

If you are planning to attend the **Christmas Lunch** at the Manly Golf Club on 9 December, please sign on as soon as possible.

The last date of sign-on is 2nd December. For those who have already signed on for the Christmas Lunch, please ensure we have received your payment of \$100 per person. **The deadline for payment is also 2nd December.** Please note that no refunds can be made after this date.

And don't forget the **BBQ and High Tea** on 13 January 2026 at Balls Head! Please sign on and pay \$20 per person for this wonderful event.

Details on the Christmas Lunch as well as the BBQ and High Tea were emailed to members in early October and will be available at our November General Meeting. **Chris Gingell**

The Mosman Art Prize Exhibition Tour Wed 22 Oct 2025

Our 'Cultural Attaché' Reg Richardson ably facilitated this extremely successful tour at the Mosman Art Gallery on Wed 22 October. There were more than 50 members and guests in attendance despite the heat wave condition on the day. The occasion was enjoyed by all, and not just because of the cocktails and canapés!



Chat and Chew The Oaks

The date was changed to the 4th Friday to accommodate the date change for the November Committee Meeting. There were 8 in attendance and the atmosphere was jovial and lively as usual. We did a rapid best holiday experience ever. Everything from the Trans Siberian Rail trip, a call at Malta and to the extremes of Antarctica. **K Fitzpatrick**

Report from The Lost Soles Strollers Centennial Parklands Wednesday 29 October 2025

Eleven strollers (plus Robin's dog) enjoyed a slightly soggy tour of Centennial Park. As well as seeing the usual collection of wildlife including swans, ducks, newborn geese, pelicans, ibis and flying foxes, we were fortunate to see the rare sighting of a park turtle laying eggs near picturesque lake banks. Our tour included the historic Federation Pavilion and the Rose Garden (in full spring bloom), with a light lunch at the iconic "Spruce Goose" in the Park's centre. **Ted Kraegen and Brian Thomas**



DETAILS OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Lake Macquarie and William Dobell House Day Tour - Thursday 6 November 2025

28 members and partners have paid to attend the next Club outing to Lake Macquarie on Thursday 6th November. The OnCourse Coach will depart Norths at 8am and visit the Ex RAAF Flying Boat Base at Rathmines and the home and studio of artist William Dobell. Our coach will return to Norths around 5pm after lunch at the Wangi District Workers Club. **Ian Doig**

The Last 2:50 Club Outing of the Year! Historic Windsor Wednesday 19 November 2025

Settled in 1794 just 6 years after Governor Phillip sailed into Port Jackson, Windsor has retained many Georgian Buildings. We will travel by train and bus, walk down the recently refurbished plaza, visit the museum, the Hawkesbury bridge and have lunch at the oldest pub in Australia (The Macquarie Arms 1815).

Meet at North Sydney station on platform 3 at 9.50AM to catch the 10.00AM train. We will sit upstairs in the second front car. At Windsor we will transfer to a bus for the last 2 km. Let me know if you plan to come. **Brian Thomas** brian.b.w.thomas@gmail.au or 0412 161 566

OTHER REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Neutral Bay Probus 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 play 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**.

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 Next sailing will be on Tuesday 25 November. Note the date in your diary. 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.

11 November 2025 Guest Speaker **ALAN BARR** "The Viking Invasion"



Alan possesses a deep and abiding interest for English history, particularly with a focus on the Tudor and Stuart periods. He enhances his knowledge and expertise with biannual visits to the UK and Europe, visiting historic sites, libraries and other institutions. He regularly participates in specialised, historian-led tours in the UK. He is a frequent presenter to several chapters of the U3A and other community interest groups - such as Probus, and also serves as a registered cruise ship speaker.

Approximately a thousand years ago, the Vikings emerged as a powerful force that dramatically altered the trajectory of European history. Originating from the northern regions, these Pagan people were renowned for their raids and pillaging. They were also intelligent and resourceful individuals in their everyday lives, in areas such as farming and long-distance ocean rowing and sailing. Their most profound and enduring influence was felt in England and Ireland. In this presentation Alan will cover the reach of the Vikings in the 8th Century to Britain and beyond, why they travelled; where they went, their ships and their navigation techniques. He will explore their fighting skills, craftsmanship, religion and symbolism, their connection to France and Norman England and look at the end of their age in 1066.

10 February 2026 Guest Speaker

Richard Broinowski AO

Topic to be announced