

PROBUS CLUB NEUTRAL BAY

www.probusneutralbay.org

Newsletter

DEC
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

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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

Hon Auditor

David Lloyd

Hospitality

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Lost Soles Strollers

Brian Thomas

Meetings

Enda Bannan

Membership

Peter Turner

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Music, Art

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Newsletter

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Pickleball

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David Bruce-Steer

Sailing

Ross Bruwel

Speakers

Barry Stone

Statistics

John Beckhaus

Tennis

Peter Turner

Tours, Outings

Ian Doig

Chris Gingell

Website

David Bruce-Steer



My fellow Probus members and Associates, Merry Christmas!

This being my last newsletter for 2025 and as such it is appropriate that I acknowledge the support I have received from the general membership as well as my Committee.

Whilst not wanting to embarrass them I need to thank both Ian Ashbrook and John Beckhaus who have made my job as President a lot easier than it would have been otherwise. Thank you gentlemen.

Our Postmaster Paul Shea has decided to step down from the role. I would like to acknowledge his contributions over the last twelve months. Thank you Paul.

I look forward to catching up with you at the Christmas lunch on the 9th December at the Manly Golf Club and in the New Year for the BBQ and High Tea at Balls Head on Tuesday the 13th January.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families an enjoyable Christmas and safe and prosperous 2026.

Cheers

Mike Walker

President

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 10 Feb 2026**, 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 9 Dec Xmas Luncheon, Manly Golf Club

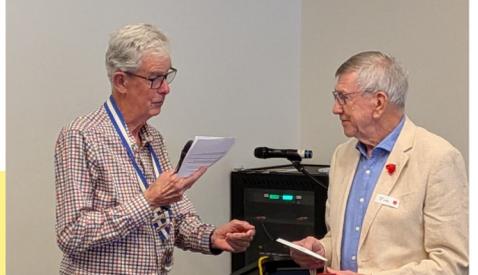
Tue 13 Jan 2026 BBQ & High Tea, Balls Head

Wed 18 Feb 2026 Strollers, North Head

PERSONAL CORNER

Feb 2026 To be announced

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER



Let's extend a very warm welcome to **Jim Barrett**. Jim's career was in property development. His interests include golf, current affairs and gardening. He and Helen live in Cremorne.

PSPL M'SHIP CARD & No.

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

REPORT ON THE LAKE MACQUARIE DAY TOUR THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2025



In early November, 22 members and partners travelled to Lake Macquarie, south of Newcastle for the day.

Firstly we visited the Ex RAAF base at Rathmines with a fascinating presentation by Bill Anderson, President of Rathmines Catalina Association. Rathmines Air Base was an important centre for the Catalina seaplanes which played a pivotal role in Australia's defensive operations during WWII. From 1942 they roamed the western Pacific region in covert night operations laying mines in enemy harbours and uncovering Japanese naval vessels by radar.

An excellent lunch with a superb view over the lake was enjoyed at the Wangi Wangi Workers Club which more than vindicated the recommendation from our Club President. Finally, a visit and presentation at the former Wangi home and studio of Sir Willaim Dobell, one of Australia's most prominent artists who won the Archibald Prize three times. We discovered the true story of Wangi's Gentle Genius Sir Bill, his life, his art and his stunning lakefront home named Allawah.

A great and diverse day was had by all, expertly managed and curated by Peter our OnCourse coach captain. **Ian Doig**

UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS: **CHRISTMAS LUNCH & BBQ AND HIGH TEA**

There has been a fantastic response to the **Christmas Lunch** to be held at the Manly Golf Club on 9 December. We are expecting 109 members and guests attending. Many thanks to the mighty effort of Chris Gingell in organising this most popular annual event!

And don't forget the **BBQ and High Tea** on 13 January 2026 at Balls Head - also organised by Chris, with help from a few friends.

If you want to come but have not yet signed on, you can still do so online via the outings inbox: outings@probusneutralbay.org



As we boarded the train at North Sydney, it felt as though it had been scheduled just for us as North Sydney was its starting point. There was great atmosphere as we occupied most of the upper deck of our carriage. The Kraegens joined us at Town Hall, making 24 the total number! An hour and a half later we arrived at Windsor and transferred immediately to a bus that took us into central Windsor. A stroll down the Mall followed, stopping for some window shopping, coffee and noting many colonial era buildings and landmarks before we arrived at the Hawkesbury District Museum. It has many interesting exhibits that highlight the history of Windsor (notably the bridge and floods) and its inhabitants from way past. After a quick look at the river and the bridge we arrived at the Macquarie Arms for lunch followed by bus and train home and general agreement that it had been a successful day. **Brian Thomas**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Good news! After the great success with both the **Strolls** and the **2:50 Club** outings this year, **Brian Thomas** will continue to organise these very popular activities in 2026. His diligent research and prior reconnaissance of the destinations (in no small measure aided by **Ros** - thank you!) ensure a sound foundation for success of these outings. The next stroll is planned for **Wednesday 18 February 2026 to North Head**. And of course, **Ian Doig** has already started planning for some fabulour tours in 2026. Look out for further details in the New Year.

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.

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!

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 experience required. Contact **Murray Mair** on **0419 488 609**.

Sailing Next sailing will be in the New Year. For more details. 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 Every Wednesday at 4 pm. Contact **John Pike** for details of online bridge on **0403 007 273**.



10 February 2026 Guest Speaker **RICHARD BROINOWSKI AO** "Has Australia's Foreign Policy been Trumped?"



In September 2023 Richard gave us an excellent presentation on "The Future of Australia's Foreign Policy.... Are we Heading in the Right Direction?" He is now back, by popular demand, to give his follow up presentation. Of course a lot has happened since then! In his second term as President Donald Trump has torn up not just trade rules but he has also instituted exhaustive policy of making America great again with some far-reaching global consequences.

Richard, a former Australian Diplomat, has a most impressive CV. On a more personal basisRichard was schooled in Melbourne and Adelaide. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree at Adelaide University in 1961 and was admitted to the Bar in Adelaide in 1963. He later earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard (1978). He is a member of Sydney Probus Club.

Some of the topics Richard will touch on in this presentation include the influence Donald Trump is currently having on: AUKUS, Regional Affairs, Palestine, Iran, Global Warming, Tariffs and Trade.

We can be assured it will be a very informative presentation.

10 March 2026 Guest Speaker **Andrew Low** "We Should Be So Lucky - To Be Australian"