



Probus Club of Neutral Bay
45th Anniversary 1980-2025

PROBUS CLUB NEUTRAL BAY

www.probusneutralbay.org

Newsletter

FEB 2026

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
- 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
- Pickleball**
Ted Kraegen AO
- Postman**
Murray Mair
- Speakers**
David Bruce-Steer
- Statistics**
Barry Stone
- Tennis**
John Beckhaus
- Tours, Outings**
Peter Turner
- Website**
Ian Doig
- Welfare**
Chris Gingell
- Kevin Fitzpatrick



Happy new year my fellow Probus members
I trust you had a restful Christmas and New Year Break.

Our Christmas lunch at Manly Golf Club was extremely successful again, with a very good turnout In excess of 100 members and partners enjoying the afternoon, there was great conviviality amongst all participants on the day. The Christmas Lunch is a special event in our yearly calendar which allows partners of members to join in and renew friendships.

We have already had our first event for 2026 being the annual High Tea and BBQ at Balls Head unfortunately due to inclement weather the day prior and also the morning of, our numbers were down. Fortunately the afternoon cleared up and a great occasion was had by all who attended. There are a number of members who need to be thanked for the effort they put in. Chris Gingell for organisation and coordination with the assistance of his wife Monique. The butter ladies for the bread and the BBQ team on the day for the sausages and not to forget the bar staff.

Ian Doig has already put out the first flyer for a day tour to the to the historic Joadja shale oil mining town in the Southern highlands. At the completion of the tour you will then move on to a Whisky Distillery and get the chance to sample the product. To make these tours viable members need to be willing to commit to come along and enjoy the day with your friends. We do understand that health issues as well as caring responsibilities can get in the road, however it is worthwhile to make the effort. Looking forward to catching up at the next meeting.

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

- Wed 18 Feb** Strollers, North Head
- Wed 18 Mar** Joadja Creek Heritage Tour
- Tue 24 Mar** Strollers: Rozelle, ANZAC bridge and the new Fish Markets

PERSONAL CORNER

Personal Corner this month will be presented by **Hugo Seccombe**. His career in Human Recourses Management includes working for large corporates followed by twenty years as a specialist remuneration consultant. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from Melbourne University. Hugo and Judy live in Milsons Point / Terrigal and enjoy travel, the theatre, friends and their seven grandchildren.

AT THE X'MAS LUNCHEON



UPCOMING EVENT JOADJA CREEK HERITAGE TOUR WED 18 MAR 2026 (refer to Flyer for full details)



We will visit the historic town, refinery and shale mines of Joadja, once home to 1,200 Scots. There are the fascinating history of its ruins, retorts, mining shelves, railway and inclines. Joadja town is set on 800 acres of glorious parkland and industrial archaeological site that is listed on the NSW Heritage register and arguably the most important heritage site in the Southern Highlands. Lunch is provided at Joadja. After lunch we will continue on with a tour and tasting at the Whisky Distillery and we will also stop at the Darrell Lea Outlet. Price pp is \$115 (based on min 30 pax) or \$133 (min 20 pax). **Last day of payment is by the General Meeting on Tue 10 Feb.** We need a few more to make 30. Come and join us! **Ian Doig**

VIGNETTES FROM THE BBQ/HIGH TEA AT BALLS HEAD RESERVE



THE FIRST STROLL IN 2026: NORTH HEAD WED 18 FEBRUARY

It will be an experience of military history, unique flora and a quarantine settlement - the Australian memorial walk and amazing views of towering cliffs, the harbour and the city skyline... The walk will be in two parts, with a coffee break in the middle.
By Ferry - Meet at wharf 2 at 9.40, to catch the 9.46 ferry to Manly. We will proceed to Bus Stand C, to catch the 161 bus to North Head, departing at 10.12
By Car - Those coming by car are welcome to join us at the North Fort café at 1045 for coffee. There is ample parking.
We will all return to Manly for lunch at the Hotel Steyne. Please let me know if you are planning to come. **Brian Thomas 0412 161 566** or brian.b.w.thomas@gmail.com



REPORT FROM THE CYCLING GROUP - THE MANLY RIDE

Six Neutral Bay Probus cyclists enjoyed a spectacular ride on Monday 5 January 2026 starting at the Manly Dam, then Manly beach and on to North Head, followed by lunch at the Bella Vista cafe.

From L to R: John Mattes, Allan Blake, Don Powell, Phil Vandervaere, Stuart Patterson and Ian Doig.

Our cycling group has enjoyed a long history of support from members and friends and has remained active ever since its inception. We ride twice a week most weeks - see separate entry for details under 'Other Regular Monthly Activities' below.

If you enjoy cycling and would like more exercise and social interaction contact Bob Pearce on 0400 291 373 to get your name on the mailing list.

John Mattes



OTHER UPCOMING STROLLERS AND 2.50 CLUB ACTIVITIES



The ever diligent Brian Thomas has already planned into April.

Tuesday 24th March - Rozelle: **Anzac Bridge and the new Fish Markets**

Monday 20th April 2.50 CLUB - **Train to Kiama**

Please stay tuned for further details.



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**.

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"