



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
- Chris Gingell
- Yiu Lam Kwan

CLUB ROLES

- Archivist**
Kevin Fitzpatrick
- Bowls**
Peter Cornish
- 2.50 Club**
Brian Thomas
- Croquet**
Rob Wright
- Cycling**
Ian Doig
- 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
- Personal Corner**
Peter Turner
- Pickleball**
Murray Mair
- Postman**
David Bruce-Steer
- Speakers**
Barry Stone
- Statistics**
John Beckhaus
- Tennis**
Peter Turner
- Tours, Outings**
Ian Doig
Chris Gingell
- Website**
David Bruce-Steer
- Welfare**
Kevin Fitzpatrick



My dear friends

This is my last newsletter as your President. The AGM is being held in March and a new President will carry the Club forward through 2026.

It is also appropriate at this time to let you know I have enjoyed my term as President, but could not have succeeded without an excellent committee with a enormous range of skills on offer. So my sincere thanks to all of them.

I have also greatly appreciated the support from the membership during the year as well. There are some committee members who will be standing down at the AGM as they have contributed to the Club over a number of years. Perhaps now is the time to consider standing for the upcoming committee. Only by new people joining and bringing new skills will the Club remain strong and successful.

Jim McCallum joined Probus Neutral Bay back in 2005. In March this year Jim will turn 100. He will be celebrating this event with his friends and fellow bowlers at the Norths Bowling Club. Happy Birthday Jim from Probus Neutral Bay.

There are a number of 2.50 jaunts and other excursions coming up over the next few months. Please take advantage of these and enjoy the camaraderie with your fellow Probus Members.

Kind Regards

Mike Walker
President

UPDATE ON THE JOADJA CREEK HERITAGE TOUR

We have 30 people who have paid and confirmed their seat on the coach to Joadja on Wed 18 March 2026. Please advise **Ian Doig** at outings@probusneutralbay.org ASAP if you would like to join our Club outing to the Southern Highlands.

2026 Subscriptions Are Now Due

Please be reminded that your annual subscription of \$85 is now due. Please pay the Treasurer either by bank deposit with NAB (Probus Club of Neutral Bay BSB: 082 302; Acct No: 28869 5672) Reference: 'Your Name and Subs' or by credit card with Treasurer David at the General Meeting on 10 March 2026. **Ian Ashbrook**

UPCOMING AGM - An Important Message from Our Secretary - Please Read

Our AGM will be held on 10 March 2026 in conjunction with our normal monthly General Meeting and guest speaker; so, please attend as normal. We still have a couple of committee vacancies. Milton Cohen has kindly volunteered to take over the minutes from John Beckhaus which is much appreciated. How about volunteering to assist with either Outings or the Speakers Program? Both require minimum effort and will enhance your interest in our club. Come on and give it a go. Any queries contact Secretary Ian on **0417 430 940** or, preferably, ianashbrook@gmail.com
Ian Ashbrook

AGM & GENERAL MEETING

This month's meeting and the AGM will be held on **Tuesday 10 Mar 2026**, from 10.30am in the Norths Leagues Club Auditorium

- 10.30 - 10.50 General business
- 10.50 - 11:00 Annual General Meeting
- 11.00 - 11:30 Morning Tea
- 11.30 - 12:20 Guest Speaker
- 12.20 - 12:30 Questions and Wrap Up

CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR DIARY

- Wed 18 Mar** Joadja Creek Heritage Tour
- Tue 24 Mar** Strollers: Rozelle, ANZAC bridge and the new Fish Market
- Mon 20 Apr** 2:50 Club: Train to Kiama

PERSONAL CORNER

Due to the AGM, Personal Corner will not take place in the March 2026 General Meeting.

The "ARCHI" 2026

Fans of the Archi - make a note that **John Metcalf** will again be leading this popular annual event at the NSW Art Gallery. Mark the date: Tue 23 June 2026. More to follow.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
Roger Dethlefs (L) and Philip Kearney (M)



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Ian Ashbrook

Report on the NORTH HEAD STROLL - WED 18 FEBRUARY

On Wednesday 18th February, five brave souls set off to explore North Head as planned. The 35C forecast proved accurate, and it was not surprising that some decided that it was not for them. The stroll took us from the barracks of the artillery regiment, through various points of interest to the Fairfax lookout, with its sweeping view of the coastline, harbour and city skyline. The shady trees of the North Fort café, with its harbour view, was a welcome stop for morning coffee and lunch. And finally, we all enjoyed the fast ferry trip, to and from Circular Quay. **Brian Thomas**



OTHER UPCOMING STROLLERS AND 2.50 CLUB ACTIVITIES

The March Stroll – Tuesday 24th March - ANZAC Bridge and the New Fish Market.

Meet at 10.30 a.m. on the east corner of Victoria Rd and Darling St Rozelle (you can get there by catching a 500 series bus opposite Gadigal Metro in Park St). We will proceed to the ANZAC Bridge, and admire the beauty and the engineering feat of this suspension bridge. Then stroll on to the New Fish Market. After determining a meeting place for lunch, we will explore the numerous and varied seafood stalls. After lunch we shall complete the day by travelling to Central (or any stop on the way) by light rail. Let me know if you plan to come.

Brian Thomas 0412 161 566 or email brian.b.w.thomas@gmail.com



The First 2:50 Club Outing for 2026 - Monday 20 April 2026 - Train to Kiama

Stay tuned for further details.

Change of Convenor of the Cycling Group - a Big Thank You to Bob Pearce

Special thanks to Bob, a keen cyclist who has been a Club member for 26 years and the convenor of the very active Probus Neutral Bay Cycling Group. He has been organising weekly bike rides on Mondays around Sydney for members since 2022 following the COVID pause. Bob has now decided to step down from his role, and we thank him for a job well done for a Club tradition which has lasted since 2014! **Ian Doig**

Welcome News from the Lawn Bowls Group - Jim McCallum is Our New Centenarian!

The bowling group is having a small function at the Greens on **Wednesday 4th March** to anticipate bowler Jim McCallum's 100th birthday on Friday 6th. President Michael has agreed to be present. **Peter Cornish**

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 **Ian Doig** on **0419 568 400**. 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 March 2026 Guest Speaker **ANDREW LOW** "We Should Be So Lucky - To Be Australian"



Born in Namibia, Andrew moved to Australia at age eight, first to Mount Isa - where he grew up - before settling in Sydney. He has degrees in Economics and Asian Studies and has also studied at Tsinghua University and at the Harvard Business School. Over his career, he has held many key global roles, including Head of Asia for Macquarie Capital and Global Head of Investment Banking for CITIC Securities, the international arm of China's largest securities firm.

Andrew believes Australians are innovative, adaptable, and egalitarian. "Australians are disproportionately direct, resilient, and unafraid to 'have a go', which is why you find them excelling across the world—from The Americas to Asia to Africa to Europe." He explores Australia's unique success story, across a range of measures, challenging the idea that the country's prosperity is purely down to luck.

He is also the author of *We Should Be So Lucky*, which delves into the secrets behind Australia's remarkable success — and explains why its relative prosperity and quality of life are not merely a matter of luck.

In this presentation he examines the political, social, and economic structures that shape Australia's high quality of life, providing detailed insights for us as to why we are so luckyand what we need to do to stay that way.

14 April 2026 Guest Speaker

Mike Atherton AM

"Never Miss a Beat: Words on Life and Music"