



Newsletter



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would think that a number of our members would have been or are due to be in my position of a couple of weeks ago when I was asked to undertake a driving test to renew my licence for another two years. I duly presented to the RTA at Brookvale and after a lengthy wait undertook a thirty five minute driving test with an instructor beside me. We went through all the back streets and lanes of Brookie and the instructor finally said "you were pretty good". I hadn't realised that I had the option of having a tester coming to my front door and going for a short drive around the block. I'll do this next time when it's up for renewal in two years.

I have been reading my good friend Richard Scolyer's book Brainstorm about his current battle with brain cancer. It is an inspiring read and all of us who know what a decent man Richard is wish him the very best. He is applying the principles that he and Georgina Long applied to the treatment of melanoma which have greatly reduced the number of deaths from that disease.

Wishing you all the very best for the festival season and may your Christmas stocking be full of goodies and that 2025 brings you good health and joy.

Reg

Reg Richardson AO, President

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 Feb 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 Your Diary

- Tue 10 Dec** Xmas Lunch, Manly Golf Club
- Tue 14 Jan** Annual BBQ and High Tea
- Wed 19 - Fri 21 Mar** Marvellous Mudgee

Personal Corner

The next Personal Corner will be in Feb 2025, and will be given by **Ted Kraegan**. Ted had a career spanning over 50 years at the Garvan Institute, culminating in heading the Diabetes Research Group. He will highlight aspects of the research, with focus on some of the advances and novel findings.

Congrats to Stewart Horwood

Stewart will be conferred Life Membership in a brief ceremony during the Xmas Luncheon in recognition of distinguished contributions to our Club over a very long period.

Report on the Blue Mountains and Zig-Zag Railway Tour, 20-22 November



In November 27 intrepid Probus travellers enjoyed a 3-day tour taking in the sights of the Blue Mountains and taking a ride on the reopened Zig Zag Railway near Lithgow. The group stayed two nights at the beautifully restored Carrington hotel in Katoomba and dined in the Ballroom and the Grand Dining Room. Fabulous meals steeped in history.



Other enjoyable and interesting tour highlights included Everglades House and gardens at Leura, a visit to the stunning Echo Points & 3 Sisters, the Portland Foundation Silos art precinct, Mt Piper Power Station and the iconic and acclaimed engineering feat of its time, the Zig Zag Railway. Lunches were also a stand-out tour feature with magnificent meals at the Alexandra Hotel Leura, Wallerawang Hotel and Wildwood gardens near Bilpin.



A great time was had by all, with positive comments all round. We were ably looked after by our OnCourse coach Captain John who delivered us home safely and on time. **Ian Doig**



In Memoriam - we are saddened to note the passing of Colin Moore and John Wood in November

A/Prof Colin Moore was educated at Scots and studied Medicine at Sydney University. His specialty was Paediatric Urology. During his professional career he had worked for ten years in Abu Dhabi for the Royal family. Colin joined Probus in 2022 and with his wife Lyn enjoyed the meetings and a number of outings. Colin particularly enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow Probians. He has had health issues this year and declined in the past few months. Colin died of Motor Neuron Disease on 8 November. **Mike Walker**

I first met John Wood through his wife Yvonne who was a member of the same ladies golfing group as my late wife Jean. It was John who introduced me to Probus in 2007. Over the years we have enjoyed many social occasions both in and outside Probus. During his funeral the family shared photos showing his interest in flying, time in the Air Force, and the time he first set eyes on his wife to be, Yvonne, in the IBM office lift, and many other happy memories. John will be dearly missed by Yvonne, his family and friends. **Ron Lever**

Stewart's 'Last Stroll' - Hidden and Interesting North Sydney, Monday 25th November

We couldn't have picked a better day. The stroll was postponed one week due to concern of recent light rain causing slipperiness in parts of the walk. We had glorious weather and we enjoyed walking through winding paths and negotiated some challenging steps amongst pockets of trees and dense vegetations. We also encountered a couple of brush turkeys. There were some beautiful water views around the historic Anderson Park where Charles Kingsford-Smith famously took off on 17 July 1934. We walked past the decommissioned Sub Base Platypus, caught the North Sydney Ferry and finished off with a satisfying lunch at the Mosman Duck Hotel. And before we said good-bye we all thanked Stewart for his mighty effort in four years of strolling! **Y L Kwan**



DETAILS OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Annual BBQ and High Tea - Tuesday 14th January 2025. 4.30pm, Balls Head Reserve, Waverton

We provide the sausages, onions, bread and butter, plates, utensils, and cups and the wine and juices. Sign-on with Graeme Adam outings@probusneutralbay.org. Limited fixed seating, so bring a fold away table and chairs, nibbles, and perhaps a salad, sweet treats, tea or coffee. Add beer, if you would like one before wine/soft drink. Cost \$20 pp. Payment details on flyer.



Marvellous Mudgee/Rylstone/Gulgong! Self-drive and Coach Tour 19th - 21st March 2025

Savour this stunningly beautiful, historic wine and food focussed region in the company of Probus Neutral Bay friends. A three day/two-night adventure with option to stay longer. Tour Mudgee Arts Precinct, dine at Lowe Wine, sample Rylstone olive oils, lunch at De Beaurepaire Wines, visit Gulgong Pioneer Museum, Opera House and Henry Lawson Centre. And there's more! Guest speaker, fun and prizes. Full details in flyer. Sign-on at general meetings or Graeme Adam at outings@probusneutralbay.org



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). We will be having 4 weeks off – last bowl in 2024 will be 11th December and we resume on Wed 15th Jan 2025. Call **Peter Cornish on 0421 012 538** for more details. All regular players and beginners are welcome to play and socialise.

Pickleball Every second Thursday at Willis Park, Eastern Valley Way, Castle Cove from 9:30 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 Our final play of the year will be on Tue 3 December. Following recess over Xmas/New year, we will resume in Feb 2025. Venue is Willis Park Eastern Valley Way Castle Cove courts. From 10 am to 12 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Tennis is followed by coffee and a social chat. All members are welcome. Please contact **Peter Turner on 0428 611 456** for details.

Golf Murray Mair welcomes all members to play, generally on Fridays on a local course. There will be no play in December. 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 Ahoy! Sailing will be in recess, possibly until February 2025. Please stay tuned for updates. **Captain Ross Bruwel 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**. Typically a game lasts for about 1.5 hours, at 4pm each Thursday.

11 Feb 2025 Guest Speaker - Ian Thompson - Iconic Australian Inventions of Our time



Some Background on our Speaker

After graduating in Chemistry in 1969, Ian worked in Sydney as an industrial research chemist in the chemistry manufacturing industry for over 20 years. During this time he worked on the development of products for the control of insect pests on agricultural crops, farm animals and domestic pets. He then worked in the area of urban entomology, in the control of insect pests that invade the home, like mosquitoes, cockroaches, houseflies and the like. He holds six patents for the urban pest control division of the company.

Ian retired in 2008. Since then he has become a well known figure in Sydney u3a. He regularly presents talks on a variety of topics in many Sydney u3a venues, Probus and other volunteer organisations. We look forward with great interest to his presentation on 11 February 2025.

11 March 2025 Guest Speaker Evan Penn - OnCourse Tours New Hope [Charity], Cambodia

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