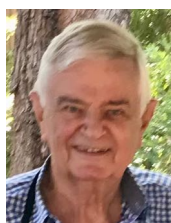


Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members, Ladies and Visitors



This is my last Newsletter contribution as President and my annual report to members. Firstly, I must say that it has been an honour and privilege to hold the President's position in such a large and prestigious Probud Club as Neutral Bay. Probud Clubs are all very different, reflecting the input, involvement and interests of their members. As by far one of the largest and, by including our ladies, possibly the largest Probud club in Australia, we are able to offer a wide range of activities and cater for many interests. That said, in this day and age, we are also competing with a whole raft of different things that are on offer and clubs must account for this, if they are to survive. Sadly we have seen the demise in the last decade or so of many traditional clubs which, in their time, thrived. Who would have believed, not so long ago, that bowling and golf clubs would close through lack of support or that some large city invitation only clubs would also be struggling. So, we must cater for our membership and be attuned to members expectations. Complementary to that, members must also be prepared to contribute towards the running of the Club.

I am pleased to be able to record that although we lost a number of members through the year, through resignation and passing, we have equally been able to induct a good number and our total membership has risen from 119 to 121 with 17 honoraries. Added to this are our wives/partners with some 95 listed and an average of 11 attending meetings. Notwithstanding, over 25% of our members attend very few meetings. Sadly our esteemed member Jim Jeans passed away after a short illness during the year. Jim was a veteran of both the British and Australian Armies and served a full tour in Vietnam as a Ground Liaison Officer with the RAAF's No5 Iroquois Helicopter Squadron and I again record our condolences to his family.

We are also seeing a number of our stalwart committee members wishing to take a break, so we are still looking for some key replacements. Along with our meetings, much of our success focuses on our outings and activities and I would like especially to thank Barry Stone for his outstanding achievements with our speakers, who have been of the highest quality, and Graeme Adam and Tony Michaels, ably and willingly assisted by Yiu Lam Kwan for the great range of activities that they have pulled together. Another key distinguishing feature of our club is our Newsletter. In two pages, we have a single point of reference for all that is occurring and it is no mean feat by Ted Kraegen, that this is somehow achieved. Ted is taking a break from this; but, I'm sure he will be keeping a close eye on Kwan who has stepped up to the role and has already shown that he is up to the task by producing the Dec23 edition.

There are many people who ensure the smooth running of our club, both within and outside the committee. While space prevents me from naming them all, I make special mention of our treasurer Barry Friere, minute secretary John Beckhaus, postmaster David Bruce-Steer and welfare officer Kevin Fitzpatrick, along with secretary Brian Thomas, membership officer Peter Turner and, of course, Mike Walker who orchestrates the meeting admin. I must also mention our stalwarts Ross Bruwel, who undertakes a lot of back office organising with Norths and John Metcalf whose deep background enables him to step in whenever there's a gap. For those who undertake the essential but non-committee roles, very special thanks as well. Interestingly, to the left of this report are some 25 names who all play important roles in running our club. My sincere thanks to each and every one of you.

Unfortunately, due to a long standing Covid impacted commitment, I will not be able to attend the AGM and handover. That said, despite some health issues and with the considerable assistance of Carolyn, to whom I'm also immeasurably grateful, these will be the only meetings that I have missed during my term. Again, I would like to wish Reg Richardson all of the best for his term as President and I look forward to continuing to be involved on the Committee under his watch.

Very best wishes, Ian

Ian Ashbrook, President

AGM & GENERAL MEETING

This month's meeting and the AGM will be held on Tuesday 12th March from 10.30am in the Norths Auditorium
10:30 - 10:50 General Business
10:50 - 11:10 Annual General Meeting
11:10 - 11:30 Break
11:30 - 12:25 Guest Speaker
12:25 Wrap-up and Group Photo

Annual General Meeting Agenda

The 44th AGM of members will be held at Norths Club, on Tues 12th March 2024 at approx. 10:50am.

- To confirm the Minutes of the 43rd AGM held on Tuesday 14th March 2023
- To receive the President's Report
- To receive the Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year ending 31 December 2023, the Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2023 and the Auditor's Report thereon.
- To Set the Membership Subscription for 2024/5
- To present the List of Club Activities.
- To elect the Officers and Committee: we have received the following nominations: Reg Richardson (President), Brian Thomas (Secretary), Ian Ashbrook (Immediate Past President), Graeme Adam, John Beckhaus, David Bruce-Steer, Ross Bruwel, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Yiu Lam Kwan, John Metcalf, Tony Michaels, Barry Stone, Peter Turner, Michael Walker (Committee). **Note:** Positions of Vice President, Treasurer and Tours/Outings (2nd position) to be decided.
- To reappoint the Honorary Auditor, David Lloyd

Club Activities for Diary

- Mon 18th Mar Lost Soles Stroll Manly
- Tue 19th Mar Sydney Cricket Ground Tour
- Wed 10th Apr Jazz 'n' Lunch Artarmon
- Fri 26th Apr 2.50 Club Cabramatta visit

February Sailing with Ross



COMMITTEE President

Ian Ashbrook AM
Vice President
Reg Richardson AO
Imm. Past Pres
Yiu Lam Kwan
Secretary
Brian Thomas
Treasurer
Barry Friere
Committee
Graeme Adam
John Beckhaus
David Bruce-Steer
Ross Bruwel
Kevin Fitzpatrick
Ted Kraegen AO
John Metcalf
Tony Michaels
Barry Stone
Peter Turner
Michael Walker

OTHER ROLES

Archivist
Kevin Fitzpatrick
Bowls
Peter Cornish
Cashier
Philip Brook
John Hirst
Cycling
Bob Pearce
Golf
Murray Mair
Hon Auditor
David Lloyd
Hospitality
Michael Walker
Lost Soles Strollers
Stewart Horwood
Meetings
Michael Walker
Membership
Peter Turner
Minute Secretary
John Beckhaus
Movies
David Bruce-Steer
Music, Art
John Brooks
Gerald Christmas
Newsletter
Ted Kraegen
Yiu Lam Kwan
Postman
David Bruce-Steer
Sailing
Ross Bruwel
Speakers
Barry Stone
Tennis
Peter Turner
Tours, Outings
Graeme Adam
Tony Michaels
Website
David Bruce-Steer
Welfare
Kevin Fitzpatrick

DETAILS OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Last Chance: Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) Guided Tour and Lunch Tuesday 19th March

Plus visit the SCG Museum. Meet 9.45am at SCG Gate A, Driver Avenue, Moore Park. Tour followed by optional lunch at Watsons Pub in the Entertainment Quarter. Get there by train or bus, connecting in CBD with light rail to the Stadium. Car parking in Entertainment Quarter, off Errol Flynn Boulevard (allow 10 minutes to park and walk.) Bring hats, sunscreen, rain attire, walking shoes.

Sign on with **Graeme Adam** at outings@probusneutralbay.org. **COST:** \$22 (tour only). Extended deadline March 12th - pay by Bank Transfer BSB:082 302 A/c. no: 28869 5672. NAB Neutral Bay. Name: Probus Club of Neutral Bay. Include your name and the words "SCG Tour" when making EFT payment. Full details in Flyer.



Lost Soles Strollers. Monday 18th March. Manly Foreshore Walk

We meet at 10.00am at the bus stop, corner Sydney Rd & Condamine St Balgowlah. Walk downhill to North Harbour Reserve, then the coastal walk to Manly passing Fairlight and Dalwood Beaches. Mostly level and paved with only a few stairs. Distance 4km. Lunch at a pub or take away. Options then a (free) tour of the Manly Art Gallery, or a 2km walk to Fairy Bower. **Email Stewart Horwood** at stewh444@tpg.com.au if interested.

Jazz 'n' Lunch in the Pub – Wednesday 10th April 11.30am

Great live music put on by **Sydney Jazz Club** at Freeway Hotel 115 Reserve Road Artarmon with good pub food from a varied menu. **Arrive by 11.30am sharp. After this time, the tables in the main section will very likely be gone.** Advance table reservations are not permitted, but you may arrive early (11.30am) and hold seats. Sign-on with Graeme Adam at general meetings or to Graeme at outings@probusneutralbay.org. \$15.00 per person. **Pay club secretary at the door, cash only – ATM available. Order and pay for your lunch and drinks at the bar, credit card or cash.** Last sign-on by Wednesday 7th April. Numbers limited as is a private function. We are close to limit on numbers. Full details in emailed flyer.



2.50 Club. Monday 26th April. "Streets of Saigon" Cabramatta

Meet at 9.30 am sharp at the York Street entrance to Wynyard. Using our OPAL cards, we travel {1 hour} via the T2 line to Cabramatta, then walk taking in the sights, sounds and smells of this unique corner of Vietnam in Sydney. Following lunch and more sightseeing, depart at 2.30pm back to Wynyard and beyond. Sign on with **Tony Michaels**, Outings and Events Co-coordinator outings@probusneutralbay.org Full details in emailed flyer.

OTHER REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Neutral Bay Probus Pickleball A new initiative for 2024 First session Monday 11th March 10.00 am to 12.00 noon at PCYC North Sydney. Currently 12 Probus members attending. If interested contact organiser **Hugh Seccombe** (hugh.seccombe@hotmail.com)

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.

Tennis. 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** **0428 611 456** for details.

Golf Murray Mair welcomes all members to play, generally on Fridays on a local course. Please contact **Murray** on **0419 488 609** for details.

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! For a great day on a comfortable cruising yacht, the "Renada", please contact **Captain Ross Bruwel** on **0421 817 106** for information or to book a place. Pick up at Middle Harbour Yacht Club at 10.30 am. **Next Sailing date Tuesday 26th March.**

Movie Enjoyment At the Orpheum Cremorne on the 4th Monday of the month. Contact **David Bruce-Steer** on **0455 655 451**.

Bridge. Please contact **John Pike** for details of online bridge on **0403 007 273**. Typically a game lasts for about 1.5hours, at 4pm each Thursday

March Speaker

Noel Phelan

Aust. National Maritime Museum



“The Golden Age of Steam”

In the mid-1900s the dominance of sailing ships in global trade and warfare culminated when the steam engine became the iconic invention of the industrial revolution 1760 – 1840. Steam ships and steam boats were a huge provider of people and goods transportation, but by the 20th century all but obsolete. Interestingly, some large naval vessels and submarines continue to be operated with steam turbines, using nuclear reactors to boil the water.

Noel Phelan, a Team Leader at the Australian National Maritime Museum, will cover all of the above. Undoubtedly, he will highlight and encourage us to visit The Sydney Heritage Fleet's two steam vessels – LADY HOPETOUN (Shown at right) and the steam tug WARATAH. In addition, the ANMM's steam yacht ENA in Darling Harbour. Noel has previously presented talks to us on "The Halvorsen Story" and "The Sinking and Salvaging of The Costa Concordia" and we can look forward to another excellent presentation.



April Speaker

Gordon Ingate

Super Sailor

“Sailor - 9yo to 98yo”