

# Newsletter

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Having been asked by our esteemed 'ringmaster' Kwan to write my swansong President's message, so here goes: I deliver my final President's message/Report hopefully not in the style of my fellow President Donald Trump, although unfortunately he's not retiring. Swansong normally refers to someone dying or retiring. Hopefully in my case it's the latter as I feel in rude good health. Well rude anyway.

I have really enjoyed my 12 months in the role and feel that I have brought a relaxed style to the position as that is my normal manner. Although it may be considered a small thing, I note a more relaxed attitude has eventuated because of less formality in what is an organisation based upon friendship and fellowship. Therefore there should be a lightness on formality.

I am pleased to report that our membership is in a very healthy state, with 15 new members joining in the 24 months up to Dec 2024. In addition it was great to welcome four members who put their hands up to assist or fill in various roles in the Club: Ian Doig, Enda Bannan, Paul Shea and Nick Baines. Hugh Seccombe together with Murray Mair launched pickleball as a new activity and that has easily become one of our best attended sporting activities.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all members of the Committee and the various office bearers without whose support nothing much would eventuate. I'd like to thank a few members in particular such as Kwan our ringmaster who guides us in his quietly knowledgeable way, Graeme Adam and Ian Doig for the meticulous way they have gone about organising outings, Kevin Fitz because of the cheerful and compassionate way he undertakes the role of Welfare Officer. Never has a person been more suited to that role. His monthly reports on the contacts he has made with the unwell and their families are always a highlight.

To those committee members, office bearers and activity organisers who are retiring we say a huge thank you for your dedication and support, and wish you well. They are: Graeme Adam, Brian Thomas, Barry Friere, Tony Michaels and Stuart Horwood.

We have had some wonderful guest speakers over the past twelve months and I would like to acknowledge Barry Stone for his mighty effort. And as someone who undertook a 2 years long Company Secretarial course back in the day, I would like to acknowledge that John Beckhaus writes the best minutes I have ever read. I have been on the board of 15 not for profits so I have read a few.

When King Charles visited the Melanoma Institute last November Barry Friere asked me if I had asked His Majesty if he was interested in joining Probos. Unfortunately I had not. However one would say in a nice way that we are a light hearted organization, and light hearted would not be the appropriate way to describe the King of England.

Cheers and best wishes to all.

Reg

**Reg Richardson AO Hon Fellow University of Sydney FCPA FCIS FCIM DipCM President**

## AGM & GENERAL MEETING

This month's meeting and the AGM will be held on Tuesday 11 Mar 2025, from 10.30am in the Norths Leagues Club Auditorium  
10.30 - 10.50 General business  
10.50 - 11:10 Annual General Meeting  
11.10 - 11:30 Morning Tea  
11.30 - 12:25 Guest Speaker  
12.25 - 12.30 Wrap Up & Group Photo

### 45th AGM

Agenda papers for the 45th AGM have been distributed by email on 16 Feb 2025. Please contact Secretary if not received.

Please note that we still need another Outings organizer to assist Ian Doig, and a Guest Speakers organizer to give the long serving Barry Stone a break!

## Club Activities for Your Diary

**Wed 19 - Fri 21 Mar** Marvellous Mudgee  
**Mon 24 Mar** Lost Soles Strollers: first outing for 2025 - Waverton to the Harbour Bridge  
**Fri 11 April** 2.50 Club: Sydney to Parramatta  
**Tue 15 April** Tour of Reg & Sally Richardson's Art and Sculpture Collection

## Welcome to New Members

Please extend a warm welcome to our two new members, **Peter Sheehan** from Gordon and **Dr Rod Kefford AM** from Kirribilli.

## You are NEVER Too Old!

Jim McCallum, our oldest member in the Club, is still winning ends at bowls, after driving himself to the Greens. Jim will turn 99 on 6th of March. Many happy returns Jim!



**Stop Press - Tour of Reg Richardson's Art Collection Tuesday 15 April 2025**

This tour is now over subscribed. There is no longer a wait list. **IMPORTANT:** Please email Graeme at [outings@probusneutralbay.org](mailto:outings@probusneutralbay.org) if you have signed on but cannot attend.  
**Graeme Adam**

### COMMITTEE

**President**  
Reg Richardson AO  
**Vice President**  
Mike Walker  
**Imm. Past Pres**  
Ian Ashbrook AM  
**Secretary**  
Brian Thomas  
**Treasurer**

David Bruce-Steer  
**Committee**  
Graeme Adam  
John Beckhaus  
David Bruce-Steer  
Ross Bruwel  
Ian Doig  
Kevin Fitzpatrick  
John Metcalf  
Tony Michaels  
Barry Stone  
Peter Turner  
Michael Walker  
Yiu Lam Kwan

### OTHER ROLES

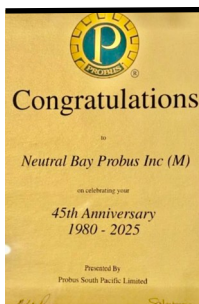
**Archivist**  
Kevin Fitzpatrick  
**Bowls**  
Peter Cornish  
**2.50 Club**  
Brian Thomas  
**Croquet**  
Rob Wright  
**Cycling**  
Bob Pearce  
**Golf**

Murray Mair  
**Hon Auditor**  
David Lloyd  
**Hospitality**  
Michael Walker  
**Lost Soles Strollers**  
Nick Baines  
**Meetings**  
Michael Walker  
Enda Bannan  
**Membership**  
Peter Turner

**Minute Secretary**  
John Beckhaus  
**Movies**  
David Bruce-Steer  
**Music, Art**  
Reg Richardson AO  
**Newsletter**  
Yiu Lam Kwan

Ted Kraegen AO  
**Pickleball**  
Murray Mair  
**Postman**  
Paul Shea  
**Sailing**  
Ross Bruwel  
**Speakers**  
Barry Stone  
**Tennis**  
Peter Turner

**Tours, Outings**  
Graeme Adam  
Ian Doig  
**Website**  
David Bruce-Steer  
**Welfare**  
Kevin Fitzpatrick



During our Feb General Meeting we celebrated the occasion of our 45th anniversary with a wonderful reminiscence by our archivist Kevin of our beginning and some notable events in Australia and the world in 1980. We proudly displayed our 45th Anniversary Plaque (kindly made available by Probos South Pacific) and we also adopted a logo commemorating the occasion. Photo (left): L->R past presidents in attendance were: Ian Ashbrook, Roger Freney, Yiu Lam Kwan, Ross Bruwel, Reg Richardson (current President), Michael Baston, Neville Voges, Peter Cornish, Kevin Fitzpatrick. Absent from photo: Richard Hannaford

## DETAILS OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### 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. List of participants and payments have now been finalized.

Please email any queries to Graeme Adam at [outings@probusneutralbay.org](mailto:outings@probusneutralbay.org) Jayne Bentivoglio, Rylstone Olive Press (photo at right)



### Lost Soles Strollers Waverton to Harbour Bridge Mon 24 March 2025

We follow the old railway line from Waverton to Milsons Pt. On the way we will walk beside the harbour and visit the Sawmillers Reserve. From under the bridge we will catch the bus up the hill to the Kirribilli Hotel for lunch. Meet at Waverton Station at 10AM on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Please let **Brian Thomas** know if you are able to come. [brian.b.w.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:brian.b.w.thomas@gmail.com) or phone **0412 161 566**

### 2:50 Club Sydney to Parramatta Fri 11 April 2025

Brian Thomas has kindly taken over the reins from Tony Michaels in running our 2:50 Club. His first outing is Sydney to Parramatta – travel by ferry -light rail – train. There will be a stroll of approximately 2km, visiting six historic sites, to be followed by lunch. Come and enjoy the walk and the camaraderie! Full details next month. Contact **Brian Thomas** on **0412 161 566**

### Tour of Reg and Sally Richardson's Art and Sculpture Collection Tue 15 April 2025



Venue: the beautiful harbour-view home of our president and his wife, Reg and Sally Richardson, at 18 Wolseley Rd Mosman, off Middle Head Rd, Tues 15 April, commencing at 4pm sharp and finishing at 6pm. A tour of Reg's extensive collection of over 200 paintings and 60 sculptures, acquired over some six decades. Artists include Sir Sidney Nolan, Sali Herman, Rosalie Gascoigne, John Coburn, Tracey Moffatt, Rover Thomas, Emily Kngwarreye and Henri Matisse. Light refreshments by Serena Sanderson of Rose Bay. In 2024 Reg was made an Order of Australia for distinguished service to community health organisations and the visual arts. All enquiries to Reg please. Probus members and partners are guests of Reg and Sally. No charge. Please note that this tour is over subscribed and there is no longer a wait list (see Stop Press on P1). Email Graeme Adam at [outings@probusneutralbay.org](mailto:outings@probusneutralbay.org) if you have signed on and CANNOT attend.

## 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.

**Pickleball** We are now playing **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 playing experience required. Contact **Murray Mair** on **0419 488 609**

**Tennis** All members and their friends are welcome on the first Tuesday of each month at Willis Park on Eastern Valley Way (Chatswood) from 10am to 12pm. Tennis is followed by coffee and a social chat at the café. Please contact **Peter Turner** on **0428 611 456**

**Golf** Murray Mair welcomes all members to play; generally play on 4th Friday of each month at a local course. 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!** Join Captain Ross on his boat for a sail in the Middle Harbour. Next sailing is on **Tue 25 March**. 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** 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 Mar 2025 Guest Speaker - **Evan Penn** - The Work of the Australian 'New Hope Charity' in Cambodia



On Course Tours has run a number of very successful tours for Neutral Bay Probus. Evan is one of their directors and his family has had a long and meaningful connection with Cambodia, where his late father, Issy, established numerous schools and charities, including working closely with 'The New Hope Charity', dedicating himself to uplifting local communities through education, charity, and vocational training. A few years ago, Evan and his family also moved to Cambodia to support these efforts. Evan has a vast, first hand understanding of how the Not-for-Profit sector works in Cambodia and how to get effective results with limited resources. Evan is a lifelong entrepreneur having built numerous businesses in the technology and packaging sectors. Evan now spends a lot of his time working for the not-for-profit sector, where his passion to give children and teenagers the opportunity to get an education is paramount. He is extremely keen to share his experiences with us. It will be an enthralling presentation.

**8 April 2025 Guest Speaker Jim Haynes Australia's Most Unbelievable True Stories**

This is sponsored by KWIKKOPY 6/129-133 Military Rd Neutral Bay ph 9953 3077