



# PROBUS CLUB NEUTRAL BAY

www.probusneutralbay.org

## Newsletter

# April 2025

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

#### President

Mike Walker

#### Vice President

Ted Kraegen AO

#### Imm. Past Pres

Reg Richardson AO

#### Secretary/

#### Public Officer

Ian Ashbrook AM

#### Treasurer

David Bruce-Steer

### OTHER MEMBERS

John Beckhaus

Ross Bruwel

Ian Doig

Kevin Fitzpatrick

John Metcalf

Barry Stone

Peter Turner

Enda Bannan

Nick Baines

Yiu Lam Kwan

### CLUB 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

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

#### Pickleball

Murray Mair

#### Postman

Paul Shea

#### Sailing

Ross Bruwel

#### Speakers

Barry Stone

#### Tennis

Peter Turner

#### Tours, Outings

Ian Doig

#### Website

David Bruce-Steer

#### Welfare

Kevin Fitzpatrick



Dear Fellow Members, Partners and Guests,

This is my first Newsletter for 2025 as President. I am honoured to be leading Neutral Bay Probus in this our forty fifth year. We are fortunate to have a committee that is made up of a number of ex Presidents and others with various skills to assist in the smooth running of your Club. I was encouraged to join Probus in 2013 by a friend Bruce Carfree from the Willoughby Men's Shed. Bruce has now reached an age where he has retired from Probus.

I have found it a great club. However, you do need to attend the meetings, get involved with the various groups and join the outings when possible.

My wife Judy and I have two daughters and four teenage grandchildren whose company we really enjoy immensely and follow their sporting activities with great interest. My passion is sailing an OK Dinghy at Drummoyne Sailing Club. The OK is a one man International class. Over the years I have been fortunate to have sailed in numerous National and World Championships.

The reports I have received regarding the Marvellous Mudgee trip coordinated by Graeme and Virginia Adam have been spectacular. Thank you both for the effort you put in. I should also specially thank Graeme for all the tremendous energy and organisation skills he put into his role as Outings Coordinator for the past three plus years. We are all extremely grateful.

We have a number of events to look forward to over the coming months. The \$2.50 Club day trip Sydney to Parramatta in April, the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman prizes at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in June and the Winter Feast at the Sydney Rowing Club in July. I encourage you all to make the effort to attend.

There are also numerous sporting and cultural events offered by the Club which give everybody an opportunity to be involved.

As a final comment, make the commitment to support your Club, consider joining the Committee so Neutral Bay Probus remains strong and viable moving forward. I look forward to catching up with you all as the year progresses.

Mike Walker President

### NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 April 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 DIARY

**Fri 11 April** 2:50 Club Sydney to Parramatta

**Tue 15 April 2025** Reg & Sally Richardson Art and Sculpture Collection Tour (fully subscribed; no wait list)

**Tue 27 May 2025** Strollers - further details to be announced

**Tue 24 June** Archibald, Wynne & Sulman Prizes. Art Gallery of NSW

### PERSONAL CORNER

This month's Personal Corner will be given by **Paul Mottek**.

Paul's career was in property as a Project Manager in property development, including time in Lend Lease Corp. He holds a Bachelor of Building (Hon) degree together with a M Sc (Bldg).

Paul and Lyn live in Mosman and enjoy walking and travel.

**Annual Subscription Is Now Due**  
Pay \$85 by credit card or cash (exact amount) at meeting or by Electronic Fund Transfer  
BSB 082 302 A/C No. 28869 5672 Please include your name for reference

### VIGNETTES FROM THE 2025 AGM



Traditional Group Photo after the AGM



Changing of the Guards  
Reg welcomed Mike



Lunch after AGM



New members Peter Sheehan and Rod Kefford

### REPORT ON THE MARVELLOUS MUDGEE TOUR



Gourmet dining in the Oak Barrel Hall at the Lowe Winery



De Beaurepaire Wines director Richard de Beaurepaire explains the vineyard's unique characteristics



Learning about the great man at the Henry Lawson Centre

Twenty adventurous Probeans explored the Mudgee region 19-21 March. They imbibed and dined at two impressive wineries, taste-tested award-winning olive oils at an oil press, toured an art gallery and an opera house, and went back in time at two charming museums. Retiring events coordinator Graeme Adam has received positive feedback. "I wanted to take on this self-imposed challenge as a last hurrah. Mission successful".  
**Graeme Adam**

## Report on the Stroll, Monday 24 March 2025 Waverton to the Harbour Bridge



The Strollers enjoyed a leisurely walk from Waverton to Milson's Point, following the 1893 original North Shore railway. We walked under a cloudy sky enjoying the peaceful Sawmillers Reserve on the way. There were great views of the harbour. At McMahon's Point our destination was clearly in sight with only Lavender Bay separating us. A short cut was too tempting and Sydney Ferries obligingly provided the solution. Then the bus up the hill to the Kirribilli Hotel for lunch and a good chat.

### DETAILS OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

## Join Our First 2:50 Club Outing This Year! Sydney to Parramatta Friday 11 April 2025

Opal travel, some strolling, and early Australian history! Travel by river cat to Parramatta, light rail from Harris Park to Parramatta Square, and home by train. Highlights will include a visit to the beautifully restored Elizabeth Farm followed by lunch at the Commercial Hotel. Meet at **Wharf 5, Circular Quay on Friday 11 April at 9.00 a.m. (ferry leaves at 9.07)**. Please let Brian know if you are able to come by email: [brian.b.w.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:brian.b.w.thomas@gmail.com), or text **0412 161 566**.

## Reg and Sally Richardson Art and Sculpture Collection Tour - Tuesday 15 April 2025

***Tour of Richardson's Art Collection oversubscribed. If you cannot attend, please advise Graeme Adam by Friday 4th April at [outings@probusneutralbay.org](mailto:outings@probusneutralbay.org)***

## Next Lost Soles Strollers outing is scheuled for Tuesday 27 May 2025

Please stay tuned for further details from Brian. Put the date in your diary and join in to have some fun and fellowship!

## Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes 2025 Tuesday 24 June 2025

This is to confirm details for our guided tour of this popular annual tour event:

**Date:** Tuesday 24 June 2025. **How:** sign on with John Metcalf at General Meetings or email John at [johnmetcalf157@gmail.com](mailto:johnmetcalf157@gmail.com)

**Meet at entrance to the Art Gallery at 9:45 am** for a 10:00 am start. Duration of the tour is approximately one hour.

**Cost** is \$27.00 per person (unchanged from last year)

Coffee/lunch to follow - optional, at own expense - suggest Art Gallery Cafe.

### 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 29th April**. 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.

## 8 APRIL 2025 GUEST SPEAKER **JIM HAYNES OAM** AUSTRALIA'S MOST UNBELIEVALBE STORIES



The son of British migrants, Jim attended Sydney Boys' High and Sydney Teachers' College, taught in schools and universities in NSW and Britain, has two masters degrees from New England University and the University of Wales in the UK. He is a professional entertainer and has been since 1988.

Jim has written many songs, recorded for Festival, Sony, EMI and the ABC, had a national hit with 'Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga'. He is the Australiana expert on 2GB. He is also the author of 34 books. His latest publication, *The Big Book of Australian Yarns and Amazing Stories*, was a best-seller for publishers Allen & Unwin. He has worked in radio since 1986 and currently broadcasts three Australiana segments a week on Radio 2GB. In 2016 in the Australia Day Honour's List he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal, 'for service to the performing arts as an entertainer, author, broadcaster and historian'.

His presentation will include factual stories ranging from the poignant to the hilarious, the ridiculously Australian to the unexplained and spooky.

## 13 May 2025 Guest Speaker **Steve Liebmann OAM** The Ramblings of an Ageing Broadcast Journalist