



PROBUS CLUB OF DOUBLE BAY INC.

NEWS BULLETIN: MONDAY 14 APRIL 2025

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President Gail Hill
Treasurer John Cooke
Secretary Lyn Sitsky
Mail: PO Box 272, Edgecliff, 2027

Meeting Place: Cruising Yacht Club of Australia
New Beach Road, Rushcutters Bay
Day: Third Monday each month except December
Time: 10.00am to 12 midday
Social Coffee meeting: 1st Monday of each month
10am Mia Café Edgecliff Centre
<http://www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/doublebay>

NOTE: NEXT MEETING 14TH APRIL

Chair: Gail Hill Speaker: Peter Thorpe Artificial Intelligence for Seniors

Abbreviated Minutes of the General Meeting held in March 2025

Opening: President David opened the meeting and welcomed members and visitors.

Visitors: Judy Lee; Ann Stuckey; Catherine Evetts, Denuta Aaron, Isabella Klompke and Charmain Foran.

Apologies: Sue Ferrier, Bess Morrison, David Hill, Dasia Black, Robin Hutcheon, Carolyn Killian, Lynn Parker, Jan Ashton, Andy and Michele Palmer, Naomi Mendelson, Joan Poulton, Margaux Davies, Anne and John Cooke, Mim Phillips.

Secretary: Minutes of the last meeting were approved and there was no business arising.

Treasurer: Warren stated that the current balance is \$5,013.62 which includes the subscriptions of 44 members who have already paid for the current year. He presented the Financial Statement for the year ending 29 February 2025. There was a surplus of \$329.97.

Entertainment: Gail Booth mentioned that two theatre events have recently taken place. David Williamson's *Aria*, at the Ensemble Theatre and *The Pirates of Penzance*, at the Hayes Theatre. The next show will be Mel Brooks, *The Producers*', at the Hayes Theatre on Thursday, 24th April, the cost is \$85.

Outings: Robyn Weihen announced two outings. On Thursday 20 March there will be a train trip to Woy Woy with lunch at the Fisherman's Wharf restaurant. On Wednesday 30 April there will be the Mount Wilson Autumn Colours Bus Trip, including Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens for lunch then to Bebeah Garden, Mt Wilson.

Robyn has also been in contact with Rose Bay Probus Club, and we have an invitation to join them whenever they have one of their Encore Tours, which would be at a cost of \$100. Robyn will advise further on this.

Membership: Doreen advised that we have 75 members and 5 resignations, including Clare and Joe Crompton due to ill health. Don Higson, a long-time member, has also resigned due to ill health. Clare was our Welcoming Officer and Doreen thanked her for her past help. Bess Morrison has taken over the role.

CYCA Liaison: Megan advised that there will be disruptions at the CYCA when renovations to the deck commence in April. We can continue to meet there but there is some uncertainty as to exact location. The restaurant will close but there will be a café in the upstairs bar area.

Speakers: Carole has a full program of speakers until July.

General Meeting prorogued for the Annual General Meeting.

President David opened the AGM and reminisced on his time as President. He thanked the committee for all the support throughout the years. He particularly mentioned Ken as the 'rock' of Double Bay Probus and other Life Members, Robin Hutcheon, Bob Sitsky and Doreen Cheong. He also thanked Kay Ashton for all her years in charge of finding speakers.

Ken announced the nominations received for positions on the committee and in the absence of any further nominations they were deemed to have been elected.

President: Gail Hill

Immediate Past President: David Lynch

Secretary: Lynn Sitsky

Treasurer: John Cooke

Membership: Doreen Cheong

Outings: Robyn Weihen

Entertainment: Gail Booth

Welfare: Frances Etty

Bulletin: Anne Cooke

Welcoming: Bess Morrison

CYCA Liaison: Megan Passmore

Assisting: Christine Moroney

Past President David invested Gail Hill as the new President. She thanked David for doing a wonderful job as President for the last two years. She also acknowledged Jill, for her role in keeping him able to attend meetings despite mobility difficulties for a while.

Warren presented the **Annual Financial Statement** which was accepted.

General business: Warren moved a motion for a new membership fee of \$80 and a joining fee of \$50 which was passed. He announced that David Hill is stepping down as Auditor and Alf Smith will take this role. The appointment of a Public Officer is yet to be finalised.

Welcoming Officer: Nairn suggested delegating a different member to assist the Welcoming Officer each month as a good way of getting to meet more members.

April Meeting: April 14th (replacing 21st April which is Easter Monday)
The 2025 AGM was closed and general meeting reopened Gail presiding.

Coffee break



Past president David Lynch
with new President Gail Hill

Guest Speaker: Robert Tickner, AO

In his current roles as Chair of the Justice Reform Initiative, Robert spoke on **Justice Reform**. Australia has followed the US model of locking criminals away, spending \$7 billion on running prisons and \$7 billion on Youth Detention Centres with very poor outcomes. After release, 80% of youth are back in detention within 12 months and the figures are similar for adult prisoners.

The Justice Reform Initiative is a cross-party body with support from eminent citizens, and prominent organisations who are lobbying governments to change the focus of the current system. It also looks at reforming how the victims of crime are treated, changing the focus from vengeance to a more collaborative and understanding model such as Enough Is Enough.

If we look at who is in detention, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found it is the uneducated, the mentally ill, the disabled, the unemployed and the drug and alcohol addicted. When it comes to children, as many as 80% are on remand but cannot be bailed as they have no home to go to. The Productivity Commission found that the operational cost to keep a young person in detention is \$1m p.a.

There are now some signs of a more enlightened approach in policy such as the Macquarie Correctional Centre in Wellington where the premise of treating the inmates with respect as humans and providing education and training has reduced the level of violence. At present 99% of public money is spent on incarceration and 1% on alternatives. The balance must be shifted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MT Wilson Autumn Colours Bus Tour (fully booked) Date: Wednesday 30th April 2025

*** If you haven' paid yet payment is due by 18th April

Departure times: 8:00am from Woollahra Golf Club, parking available.

8:30am from New Mclean St, Edgecliff (opposite No. 6 New Mclean St)

Lunch at own expense. Entrance to Bebeah Garden \$10 to be paid at garden

Cost: Bus trip \$15 per person, payable to: Account Name: Probus Club of Double Bay

BSB 032-053 Account No. 752675; Amount: \$15 Payer Name: i.e. your name; Description: Mt Wilson/ your surname

Please send online payment receipt to rweihen2190@gmail.com

Enquiries about outing to Robyn Weihen, 0416 464 606

Art galleries walk, Paddington Thursday, 22nd May

(See separate flyer)

Meet at 10am at the Edgecliff Centre at the Bakery, opposite the Sushi shop.

About 30 min walking some steps. Lunch at own expense Café Mia



'The Producers' Hayes Theatre Thursday 24th April

cost \$85. Enquiries Gail Booth