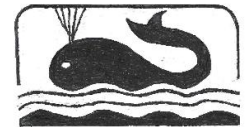




THE PROBUS CLUB OF MOSMAN COMBINED INC



PO Box 264, Mosman NSW 2088

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ABN: 96 728 384 926

Fun and Friendship in Retirement

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CLUB LUNCHES:	Walker							

No. 426

NEWSLETTER

24 September 2025

* **Next Meeting: Wednesday, 24th September 2025**

* **Venue: Mosman Art Gallery Hall 10:30 – 12:30pm**
Doors will open at 10:00am

* **Speaker: Danike Armytage – *Big Stories Little Films***

Danika Armytage, founder of *Big Stories Little Films*, believes that the greatest gift we can give to our families are our stories. She walked away from her successful TV career to create films that share life stories, family history and wisdom between generations. Danika will discuss the inspiration behind her company, screen examples of her films and show how everyone can easily record their life stories, even simply using their phone.

◆ Next Meeting (22 October, 2025): Jennifer Wainwright – *The Story of Nurse Bessie Pocock*

Member's 5-Minute Spot: Ann Hornbrook

YOU ARE INVITED TO COME TO A CLUB LUNCH AFTER THE GENERAL MEETING

Members and guests are invited to join a Club lunch after each meeting. It is held upstairs in the Upper Duck Restaurant, Hotel Mosman, Military Rd, Spit Junction, just a short walk from the Mosman Art Gallery.

From the President

Volunteering Vibe

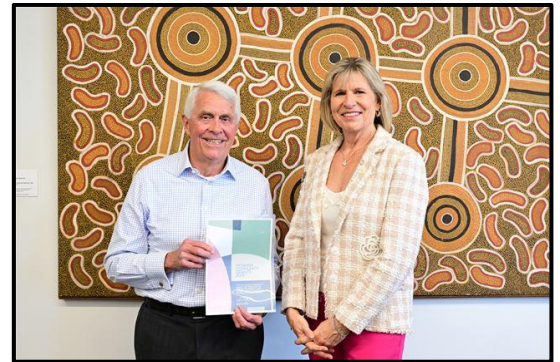


Listening to last month's Guest Speaker from the Activities tables, a tap on the shoulder and without a word, the unmistakeable gesture of a curving index finger to "follow me". With alacrity. Behold, an elegant fully set table and two unknown well-dressed ladies, conducting a dress rehearsal (see photo) for the upcoming Mosman Art Gala (Tables \$2,500 - \$20,000;

individual tickets \$250.) Taciturn, thoughtful, insightful, helpful. Soooooo..... Sarah Fennamore! Thank you. Makes our Christmas lunch look like a big bargain at \$80.

Reports back from the first \$2.50 Fun & Friendship Outing to Australia Square have whet an appetite and Pamela McLeland led a visit to Leura with a few indulgences and a good day out based on Sarnie's report in the last Newsletter.

The return of Trivia Nights after a 5 year 'rest' is another response to Members' feedback with Quizmaster Graham Levido leading the way. Lock in 5:30 – 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mosman Library Creation Space going forward.



Accepting the Mosman Council's Community Grant for the Club's new computer

MEMBER'S EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

When you are attending any Mosman Probus Club activity, including Club meetings, all events listed in the Newsletter under Activities and the \$2.50 Club outings, tours, lunches etc, could you please ensure that you always have your easily accessible emergency contact details with you. These could be on the Probus provided card in your wallet or on an emergency app on your phone. In the event of an emergency, this information will be a great help to the activity organiser to let your family or others know should you have an accident, fall or other problem.

Dates for Your Diaries: Activities

Robyn Yates

Bookings now available for:

✱ 18 October (Saturday): **Some Enchanted Evening. 2:00 pm** performance at the **Glen Street Theatre, Belrose**. As the last performance by the Sydney Musical & Opera Society was so well received, **10 tickets** will be available for this new production. Simon Militano is again in the lead role with a cast accompanied by a rich orchestration, including performances by renowned harpist, Justina Varkuleviciute. This performance is a theatrical celebration of Broadway. **Cost: \$45 per ticket. 2**

✱ **Wednesday 10 December: Christmas Lunch at Mosman Art Gallery at noon.** Enjoy a musical interlude with canapes and drinks before being served a very special traditional lunch & pudding. **Cost: \$80pp.**

Current activities:

✱ **18 – 23 September: 6-day OnCourse Bellingen Gourmet Adventure** Mosman Probus members are on this tour.

✱ **Thursday 9 October: A memorable lunch experience with OzHarvest at Refettorio** 481 Crown Street, Surry Hills is fully booked. Information on how to pay for the meal & how to get to the restaurant will be available at the Activities table.

Advance Notice: Sarah has secured a booking for **15 people at Refettorio on 26 February 2026.** The people on the waiting list will have first option for the February booking.

✱ **Thursday 23 & Friday 24 October 2025: Blue Mountains Get Away: A luxury coach tour with Alura Coaches.** Members have booked to visit Blackheath, Govetts Leap Lookout, tour & enjoy high tea at the Hydro Majestic, overnight at Leura Gardens Resort, ride the Zig Zag Railway & lunch at Lithgow.

✱ **Tuesday 4 November: Melbourne Cup Lunch at The Upper Duck.** Be there at **12:30pm** in race day dress or just attend. Join in the sweeps & have a festive time upstairs at The Duck. Lunch & one drink are included in the **Cost:\$85.00pp.**

✱ **Friday 21 November: Sydney Rotary Regatta Lunch Cruise.** Members thoroughly enjoyed this activity in 2024. A good lunch onboard & the opportunity to have a bird's eye view of the racing boats. Speak to Rob at the Activities table to sign up for this event. **Cost: \$135pp.**

✱ **Friday 28 November: 2025 Schools Spectacular in the Qudos Bank Arena.** Only **4 tickets** at a **cost of \$52pp** are still available for the 2025 Schools Spectacular. The performance will start at **11:00am** in the arena. However, attendees can watch **SpecFest 2025** musical performances by individual students, marching bands and ensembles outside the arena from **9:15am to 10:30 am** or after the show. Information about transport to and from the performance will be available at the Activities table.

Upcoming: \$2.50 Club Outing - Woy Woy *Organiser: Pamela McLeland*

Wednesday 8th October

Directions: Take the 114 or 144 bus from Mosman to Crows Nest and then the Metro to Epping. We will meet at **Epping Metro Station** at **10:30am** then walk (2 mins) to the nearby **EPPING RAILWAY STATION** to take the train that leaves for Woy Woy at **10:45am**. The train travels alongside the pretty Brisbane Waters near Gosford and we will arrive at **Woy Woy** at 11:30am.

Then follows a 10-minute walk to The River where there are three choices:

1. A quick bite to eat with take-away from the restaurant and a ferry ride to Empire Bay and return. **Cost:** Adult \$20pp return;
Concession: \$10pp return. Bookings required for groups for this ferry (**Opal Card not accepted**).

2. Lunch at the hotel opposite the restaurant. Check out the menu at woywoyhotel.com.au
3. Finally, we can book the Wharf restaurant for groups of 8 and over, with a set menu costing \$75pp.

I think that the hotel (number 2) is the best bet. I probably should make an approximate booking so if you could please let me know if you want to do the hotel. This will allow me to make an educated guess of our likely numbers.

There are also a few interesting shops to look at.

The return trains leave Woy Woy at 2:10pm and 2:40pm.

Organiser: Pamela 0412 024 704 or pamelamcleland@gmail.com

Previous: \$2.50 Club Outing: Epping & Brush Farm *Sarnie Hay*



Fifteen brave members of the Mosman Probus \$2.50 Club gathered under grey skies at Epping Metro. We made our way to the Country Women's Association tea rooms at Eastwood, where the lovely ladies were waiting for us with baskets of freshly baked scones and tea.



After morning tea, we took the bus to Brush Farm, a rare early colonial mansion built in a Georgian style (see balcony view in photo below left). Gregory Blaxland built Brush Farm in 1820. Over the decades the house has had several owners. It was



restored by the City of Ryde in 2006.

The weather, having been kind for most of the trip, decided to bucket down on us, while we waited at the bus stop. Expedition over, eight of us dined on Peking Duck. The others made



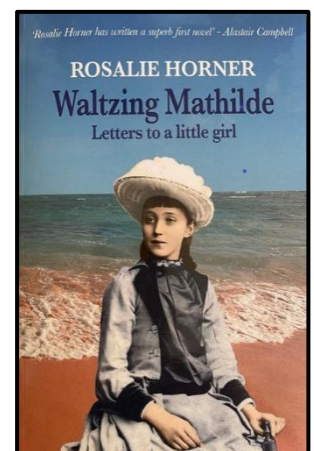
their way home, some with delicious scones in paper bags.

Previous Speaker: Rosalie Horner *Waltzing Mathilde-Letters to a little girl*



Rosalie's first historical novel, *Waltzing Mathilde - Letters to a little girl*, is based on the true story of her grandmother, Mathilde. She was raised in Germany until aged 12 by her grandmother whose advancing years forced her to give up Mathilde. This resulted in 1890 in Mathilde reluctantly traveling alone by ship from Germany to Australia to live with her uncle in Sydney. Ultimately, Mathilde made her home at 24 Moruben Rd, Mosman.

Rosalie's novel is a classic example of what is nowadays termed "creative nonfiction". Creative nonfiction combines the narrative techniques of fiction writing with the factual historical accuracy of nonfiction, exploring real-life stories through the author's creative imagination. It is a genre where authors use conventional storytelling techniques to imagine how storylines might have been set, how dialogues were conducted and how characters were developed. Invented characters may also be introduced. It tells what are historically true stories in an imaginative and engaging way, aiming to engage the reader at least as deeply as conventional fiction by providing a more familiar background. It is a genre that has been expanding exponentially in recent times.



An important feature of creative nonfiction is that the background of historical reality contained within the narrative of the novel has been thoroughly researched. Rosalie has detailed in her book the numerous historical institutions in Sydney, London, Hannover and Bremen that she consulted for her book. With reference to the title of the book, Rosalie in a foreword says that "*to waltz Matilda* is to travel with a swag (*Matilda*) containing all one's worldly goods", which is certainly what her grandmother did when she migrated to Australia. Rosalie then repeats the

more controversial statement that this Australian phrase is “derived from the German term ‘*auf der Walz*’ to travel in a circular fashion, leaving home to come home.”

Rosalie said that her book is composed of three parts: the first details Mathilde’s heartbreak on being told she was being sent away from her beloved großmutter and Germany; the second describes her sea voyage to Australia; and the third covers her settling into her new home in Sydney. Undoubtedly, Mathilde’s emigration from Germany ended her childhood.

The narrative of the book from the very beginning focuses on the orphan Mathilde, who was raised happily in Hannover for 12 years by her großmutter. Her own mother, Johanna, had died several weeks after Mathilde’s birth and her father had subsequently disappeared (any relevant records had been destroyed in WW2). In light of her increasingly imminent mortality and confronted by financial stress, Mathilde’s großmutter decided that Mathilde should go and live with her prosperous art dealer uncle, Willy Alderhaven, and his family in Sydney.

This decision forces Mathilde reluctantly to confront the greatest challenge of her life: the loss of country, home, family and friends, not to mention her beloved music studies. Being an excellent singer, her ambition had been to become a singer at the Hannover Opera House.

To travel to Sydney, Mathilde alone boards the SS *Kaiser Wilhelm II* (a passenger liner launched a year earlier) in Bremerhaven. *Kaiser Wilhelm II* carried 906 passengers and 140 crew. The 26,000 km (16,000 miles) journey took about 2 months.

On arrival in Sydney, the 1890s Depression was overshadowing all aspects of Sydney life. Music and especially letters from Germany helped Mathilde endure her subsequent life of drudgery, isolation and family tragedy as she navigated the darker side of Sydney’s art world in the employ of her Uncle Willy. A captivating Irishman wins Mathilde’s heart but she is met with betrayal.

According to one letter discovered in her effects after her death in 1964 at the age of 86, Mathilde did make one return visit to Hannover in 1950. This was her first visit in more than 60 years. She discovered that the centre of Hannover had been destroyed in WW2 and that only the walls of her former home had survived. The church where she was christened was also just a shell.

Rosalie said that she was keen to tell the story of her grandmother. It gives a voice to a woman, who like many such women, made a quiet yet important contribution to the development of Australia.