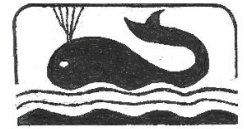




THE PROBUS CLUB OF MOSMAN COMBINED INC



PO Box 264, Mosman NSW 2088

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ABN: 96 728 384 926

Fun and Friendship in Retirement

PRESIDENT:	Rob Taggart	0411107025	MEMBERSHIP:	Sarnie Hay	0400471607	ACTIVITIES:	Robyn Yates	0407432642
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						WELFARE CONTACT:	Liz Parsons	0417977533
TREASURER:	Helmut Regelein	0417247415	NEWSLETTER:	Don Napper	0407600649		Margaret Badger	0403315319
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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:	Margaret Badger	0430315319	CLUB AMBASSADOR:	Barry Starr	0417905170	PUBLIC OFFICER:	Laurie Smith	0438267920
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SPEAKER COORDINATOR:	Heather Jenkins	0409191083	SOCIAL CLUB:	Gill Napper	0412543385			
CLUB LUNCHES:	Jennifer Walker	0414727350	FINANCIAL REVIEWER:	Rob Brown	0467232444	GREETING TEAM:	Keith McDonald	Sally Cullen Jenny McDonald

No. 429

NEWSLETTER

28 January 2026

* **Next Meeting: Wednesday, 28 January 2026**

* **Venue: Mosman Art Gallery Hall 10:30 – 12:30pm**

Doors will open at 10:00am

* **Speaker: Duncan Adams** - *The Planned Balmoral Aquatic Reserve*

Duncan believes that Nature must be incorporated into big cities, if only because of the important role it plays in the mental health of citizens. He considers that both Balmoral & Chinaman's beaches have suffered marked ecological declines in recent years, especially in their biodiversity. His vision is to establish a new aquatic reserve that incorporates both beaches and reverses this decline.

Member's 5-Minute Spot: Ian Hume- *Professor Hume's Koala Cookies*

◆ Next Meeting (25 February, 2026): Fire & Rescue, Mosman

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.

New Member: Robyn Reid

Robyn was born in New Zealand and lived for much of her life in Auckland. One of her two daughters moved to Australia, with Robyn also moving here in 2011. She worked for 13 years as a documentation supervisor in the foodstuff export industry. Robyn aims to see as much of Australia as possible, so far ticking Tasmania, Broome, Lightning Ridge and the Indian Pacific off her bucket list. Next year, it will be a coach tour from Sydney to Darwin.



20-Year Probus Membership Milestones: Trish & Graham Levido and Sue Webb



All three photos above are courtesy of Peter Reeves



Probus South Pacific Limited Golden Anniversary

Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) is marking a significant milestone in 2026, celebrating 50 years since its inception in Australia in 1976. The Probus concept originated in England ten years earlier, the first Probus Club being established by the Rotary Club of Caterham in 1966. Probus is now a worldwide movement active in 23 countries.

The first Probus Club in the South Pacific region was the Probus Club of Kapiti Coast, New Zealand, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Paraparaumu in 1974. This was followed across the Tasman in 1976 by the formation of the Probus Club of Hunters Hill sponsored by the Hunters Hill Rotary Club. It is the latter Club's golden anniversary that is being celebrated by PSPL this year. Probus has grown into a vibrant network of social clubs spanning across all states and territories of Australia and supporting more than 90,000 members across 1,300 clubs.

Her Excellency, the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor General of Australia, has acknowledged the vital contribution to retirees and semi-retirees that Probus has made in Australia over 50 years in the following letter:



Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC Governor-General of
the Commonwealth of Australia

Golden Anniversary of Probus in Australia

I am delighted to extend my warm congratulations to Probus Clubs throughout Australia as you celebrate 50 years of service to our community. The strength and longevity of Probus Clubs reflect the dedication of your members and the tireless efforts of those who have given their time to leadership and service.

Since the establishment of the first Probus Club in 1976, your organisation has played a vital role in enriching the lives of retirees and semi-retirees by fostering friendship, fellowship and active engagement. For half a century, Probus has helped Australians remain socially connected, intellectually stimulated and involved in their local communities.

As Governor-General, I promised to put care, kindness and respect at the heart of my work. I talk about care in all of its forms across our country, from care for each other and for those who care for others, to care for our democracy and institutions, care for the way we discuss the issues of our time, not with anger, but with respect and kindness.

At Probus, you have care, kindness and respect deep in your commitment to inclusiveness, volunteerism and lifelong learning. As a community, you make a lasting contribution to wellbeing across cities, towns and regions nationwide. I have seen and continue to celebrate the profound impact of Probus in the lives of many of my family members, and in the communities I have visited across Australia.

I hope all Probus Clubs will celebrate this significant milestone throughout 2026. I thank all involved with Probus for your enduring contribution to Australian life and wish you every success in the years ahead.

From the President

December - January 2026

Happy New Year to all, a year when we'll celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Probus. There's a lot to be proud of and thankful for both at the global and Club level. Mosman Probus was chartered in 1982 and remains a vibrant Club, notwithstanding the challenges facing all Probus Clubs – having sufficient volunteers to effectively run the Club and its' affairs. These will be guided by the new Constitution and Standing Resolutions which Members voted to adopt In November 2025.

Our last event for 2025 was the Christmas Lunch which saw a big team effort deliver what we've been told was a most enjoyable experience. Thanks to all

volunteers, especially Robyn who worked tirelessly to ensure every detail came together for the occasion.

2025 also saw the passing of Joan Groth after a long and productive life. The Newsletter contains an informed, Probus-focussed obituary which gives a lens on what she did for the Club, whilst acknowledging that her generous and public spirit reached many fields beyond.

2026 activities kicked off with the traditional picnic at Balmoral enjoyed by a mix of regulars and some prospective members, not to mention some flying friends who again sought to share the Napper victuals!

Dates for Your Diaries:

Activities

Robyn Yates



Mosman Probus
Xmas Lunch at the
Mosman Art Gallery



Enjoying the Rotary Regatta
Photo courtesy Margaret Badger





* Wednesday 4 February: Theatre party for **Pretty Woman: The Musical** at **1pm**. The venue is **the Theatre Royal**, MLC Centre King Street Sydney. Only 2 tickets remaining **\$96pp**.

* Thursday 26 February: a 3-course meal at **Refettorio** in Surry Hills. The meal is created using food donated to OzHarvest. No spaces available with a waiting list in place.

* Monday 9 March: **Secrets of the City Circle Walking Tour**. Be at the **Central Station Concourse at 9:40am** for a tour from 10am-12:45pm. Starting at Central Station, Marc Cote will guide us through Sydney's iconic stations while uncovering their hidden stories. The tour will cover ghost platforms, wartime secrets & John Bradfield's visionary transport plans before finishing at the starting point. **\$25pp** for a minimum of 20 people. Participants can choose to stay to lunch at their own cost at a nearby venue. For those who want to travel together, advice re travel options will be provided.

* 27-31 March: 5 day escape to **Orange Food Week & the Mudgee Harvest** with OnCourse. This popular tour has been booked out. **Update: 1 person from Cromer cannot attend. 1 place is available on a first-in basis.**

* 30 April: **National Maritime Museum Behind the Scenes Tour, Darling Harbour**. Meet at the Museum entrance, Darling Harbour at **10am for 10:30am tour**. The cost is **\$24pp**. Following the tour, explore the museum. Lunch at Ripples Café Maritime Museum will be at our own cost.

* 21-25 September: **A Taste of the Capital in Bloom** with OnCourse. Join our friends from Bobbin Head Probus (from our highly successful Bellingen tour) for a diverse range of visits including the Fedra Olive Grove, National Arboretum, Deep Space Communication Complex, Tulip Tops Gardens, Bungendore & the Blackwattle Alpaca Farm. Brochures & booking forms will be available at the January meeting. **\$1,795pp** with a single supplement of **\$440**. A \$200 deposit needs to be paid to Mosman Probus to accompany the completed OnCourse form. 14 rooms available.

Update: Mosman Probus will collect the forms and OnCourse will invoice the deposit & final payment.

At the 2026 Mosman Probus Picnic



\$2.50 Club Outing: Wendy Whitely's Secret Garden

Wednesday 11th February

Leader: Sarnie Hay

One of the most spectacular public gardens in Sydney, Wendy's Secret Garden has been continuously created like a giant living painting since 1992, by Wendy Whiteley, artist in her own right, and wife and muse of Australia's eminent artist, the late Brett Whiteley.

Members with limited mobility may only access the uppermost sections of the garden via Clark Park. A series of ramps have been added within the garden to allow visitors to navigate the garden's levels with greater ease and gain access to the garden's lower level.

Getting There:

Take the 230 bus from Mosman to Lavender Street, opposite Cliff Street stop. We will meet at the corner of Lavender Street and Harbourview Crescent at 10:30 am. Those who need a coffee can get a takeaway. We will then make our way to Clark Park to contemplate the amazing view of the Bridge and Harbour. The garden is a short walk through the Park. You can sit under the giant fig and enjoy Wendy's garden or wander down to the lower level.

Lunch:

For lunch we can revisit a true bistro classic at LOULOU: *the Sandwich Américain* (those who went on the Australia Square trip will remember it fondly). You can enjoy it with your choice of house wine, beer, or soft drink – all for just \$25. However, if you prefer you can order from the menu. There is also a PETIT LOULOU: \$15 Lunch. You may like to indulge in a fresh salmon bowl or Mexicano bowl at SolBowl.

Vale Joan Groth

The Editor

Joan Groth passed away on the 27th December, 2025 at the residential aged care facility Lulworth House, aged in her nineties. Her funeral was held on the 14th January, 2026 at St Luke's Anglican Church, Mosman. A strong contingent of Club members was present at the funeral where the major eulogy speaker, Joan's daughter Helen, detailed Joan's quite remarkable professional career in finance to those present.

According to the Club's excellent 10-year Historical Reports covering her two decades of Club membership, Joan joined the Mosman Probus Club in June 2004 and quickly became involved in the administration of the Club. With the then President Judy Blanche, she established a storage facility for the Club's archives and records that she continued to manage at her home for the next 20 years until recently when President Rob took over its management.

Within a year of joining the Club, Joan was elected Club Secretary in 2005 and then re-elected in both 2006 and 2007. She stepped down from the role of Secretary when she was elected Vice-President in 2008, which was followed by her election as the Club's President in 2009.

Prior to this, in 2008 Joan had been appointed the Club's Public Officer, the member who interacts directly with the NSW Department of Fair Trading. She continued in this role for the next 13 years.

In addition, she was elected the Club's Honorary Auditor in 2014, a position she was to hold for the next 11 years. Her professional career as one of the pioneers in Australia of the use of machines in financial accounting meant that the Club was provided with a professional level of auditing at the end of each financial year.

The foregoing summary highlights the fact that Joan was an exceptional Probus Club member, occupying a continuous range of important positions in the Club's administration over her 20-years of Club membership. Joan's inspirational contribution to our Club, which is only one of a number of voluntary contributions she made to other clubs such as Rotary, has undoubtedly assisted our Club to prosper at a time when some other Probus Clubs have floundered administratively and then closed.

I am sure that all Club members join in sending their condolences to Joan's daughter, Helen, and to all of Joan's extended family and friends. Joan will be sorely missed.

Mosman Probus 2026 General Meeting Dates

1	Wednesday	28 January	7	Wednesday	22 July
2	Wednesday	25 February	8	Wednesday	26 August
3	Wednesday	25 March	9	Wednesday	23 September
4	Wednesday	22 April	10	Wednesday	28 October
5	Wednesday	27 May	11	Wednesday	25 November
6	Wednesday	24 June			

Financial Report: November - December 2025 *Helmut Regelein*

Opening Balance per Statement 01.11.2025 \$ 17,746.61

Credits:

Total Deposits for November-December \$ 2,181.62

Debits

Total Debits for November-December \$ 8,901.31

Closing Balance Bank Statement 31.12.2025 \$ 11,026.32

Estimated Liabilities:

Art Gallery Rent \$ 1,415.00

Estimated Liabilities: \$ 1,415.00
Club Funds 31.12.2025 \$ 9,611.32

Previous Speaker: Noel Phelan *Remembering the Costa Concordia*
Graham Levido



A Look Back at the Tragedy that Changed Cruising Forever. It has been over a decade since the world watched in disbelief as a modern, luxury cruise liner tipped over off the coast of Tuscany. For many, the sinking of the *Costa Concordia* brought back memories of the *Titanic*, proving that even in the age of GPS and modern engineering, the sea remains unpredictable — and leadership matters. Noel told the story of what happened that night, the engineering marvel that removed the wreck and where the people responsible are today.

The Night of the "Salute". On the evening of January 13, 2012, the *Costa Concordia* was carrying 4,229 passengers and crew, enjoying a calm Mediterranean night. The disaster began with a decision by Captain Francesco Schettino. He ordered the ship to deviate from its computerized route to perform a "sail-by salute"—a manoeuvre intended to bring the ship close to the island of Giglio so as to be able to wave to residents on shore. It was a fatal error. At 9:45 PM, the ship struck an underwater rock formation. The rock tore a 53 metre (174-foot) gash in the hull, flooding the engine room and plunging the ship into darkness.



The Rescue and the Controversy. As the ship began to list (tilt) heavily, chaos ensued. While many crew members bravely helped passengers into lifeboats, the Captain's actions made headlines for the wrong reasons. Captain Schettino left the ship before the evacuation was

complete. In a radio exchange that was broadcast around the world, a furious Coast Guard commander ordered Schettino to *"Get back on board!"* The Captain refused.

Tragically, 32 people lost their lives that night. However, thanks to the ship drifting back toward the shore rather than out to sea, over 4,000 people were saved.

An Engineering Marvel: Raising the Wreck. Because the ship sank in a protected marine park, it could not be blown up or left there. This led to the most expensive salvage operation in history (\$1.2 billion).

Engineers performed a manoeuvre called "parbuckling" whereby:

1. a massive underwater platform was built beneath the ship;
2. giant hollow steel boxes were attached to the side of the ship;
3. using hydraulic cables, the massive



vessel was slowly rotated upright—inch by inch—until it sat on the platform. The ship was eventually refloated and towed away to be scrapped, leaving the beautiful waters of Giglio pristine once again.

Where are they now? (2025 Update). Many may wonder what happened to Captain Schettino.

- The Sentence: He was the only person to serve prison time, receiving a 16-year sentence for manslaughter and abandoning ship.
- Current Status: He has been in Rebibbia Prison in Rome since 2017. Now, in 2025, he is 64 years old. He has served about half his sentence and is currently applying for "work release," which would allow him to leave prison during the day to work but return to his cell at night.

How Cruising Changed. If you have been on a cruise recently, you may have noticed a change in the safety drills. Before this accident, ships had 24 hours to perform the lifeboat drill. Now, maritime law requires the safety briefing to happen before the ship leaves the dock. This ensures that everyone knows exactly where to go before the ship is even in open water.

A Moment of Reflection: While the machinery and legal battles made the news, we remember the 32 souls lost and the brave Coast Guard members and island residents of Giglio who rushed into the dark water to save strangers. It is a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of disaster.

Privacy Statement: Information provided in this Newsletter must be kept private and confidential; it can only be used within the confines of Probus and shall not be used for any other purpose.