



THE PROBUS CLUB OF MOSMAN

COMBINED INC

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mosmanprobus@gmail.com

ABN: 96 728 384 926



Fun and Friendship in Retirement

CLUB CONTACTS

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Immediate Past President:
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Club Ambassador: Barry Starr
Speaker Officer: Heather Jenkins
Greetings Team:
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Heather Jenkins
Dawn Willis
Book Exchange: Vichy Clapano
Club Lunches: Jennifer Walker
Cinema Club: Gill Napper
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Jenny Cottrell
Financial Reviewer: Rob Brown
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CLUB NEWS

Meeting on Wednesday, 26 August 2026

Newsletter photos to: margaret@cremorne1.com

Meeting Apologies to be sent to: mosmanprobus@gmail.com OR 0478 051 950

Venue: Mosman Art Gallery Hall

10:30 – 12:30pm

Doors will open at 10:00am

Today's Speaker: Dr Claire Galea

Head of Research at United Way Australia

"Changing Children's Lives One Book at a Time"

Australia is experiencing a low level of literacy with negative impact on future generations. This presentation is based on breakthrough PhD research undertaken in partnership with United Way Australia and Macquarie University. Its aim is to build programs and best practices that are changing lives locally and internationally by inspiring a love of books in children whilst developing their key early literacy skills to set them on the path to educational success.

Member's 5-minute Spot: Margaret Badger

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 23 September 2026

CLUB LUNCH AFTER THE GENERAL MEETING ... YOU'RE INVITED

Members and guests are invited to join us at a Club lunch after each meeting, held upstairs in the Upper Duck Restaurant, Hotel Mosman, Military Rd, Spit Junction, (next to Boronia House), a short walk from the Mosman Art Gallery.

I'm sure you all agree Michael Atherton's talk at our last meeting was wonderful! The story of his life as a composer, performer and author was certainly one of the most interesting presentations I have had the pleasure of hearing during my time with Probus. There is a brief overview of his presentation later in the newsletter, together with some photos.

Since our last meeting, we have also enjoyed a number of activities. The Theatre Group had several good films to choose from this month, including *The Odyssey* and the quirky, thought-provoking film *The Blue Trail*, which we saw and enjoyed very much. Graham's questions at the latest Trivia Night at Club Bradley were a little more merciful than usual — and great fun! It's wonderful to see this activity becoming more popular each month.

Other activities have included our theatre party to *Fiddler on the Roof*, a visit to the new Sydney Fish Market, and the \$2.50 Journey to the Sea Cliff Bridge at Coalcliff. It's great to see such a variety of activities on offer and, even better, so many members taking advantage of them.

Members may have noticed that our last couple of meetings have seemed a little busier, with longer queues for morning tea. That's because we have had more people attending!

It has been pleasing to see the number of visitors coming along to our recent meetings. While member attendance has remained stable at around 66 — a very good result considering the chilly winter weather — the number of visitors has increased to between 10 and 14 at each meeting. Even better, many of those visitors are deciding to join us.

We have already welcomed five new members over the past two meetings: Sandra Berrick, Diane Gallery, Helen Palmer, Brigit Martin and Jeff Deakin. Two more new members will be welcomed at our August meeting. Most of our new members have been introduced by existing members, so the competition for Sarnie's end-of-year prize for member introductions is certainly hotting up!

At the same time, visits to our website continue to increase month by month. In July, visits to the Mosman Probus Club website were **44% higher than in June**. It's encouraging to see that the website is attracting increasing interest, both from people wanting to find out more about our Club and from members looking for news, information and details about our activities.

Later in this newsletter, you will see that our Editor has included some useful tips about benefits that may be available to members who qualify. These include information that could simplify your Opal Card experience and another possibility that may help offset electricity costs. Thanks to Trish Taggart for bringing this information to our attention. If you hear about any other benefits or useful information that could be of interest to members, please let us know so we can share them.

Several items from our recent Management Committee meeting are worth mentioning.

The Club is planning to hold a cocktail party to celebrate **50 years of Probus South Pacific**. This will be held at the Mosman Club on **22 October**. More information will be provided at our next meeting.

We are also going to introduce a Sunday morning **"Meet for Coffee"** at Café Jam at **10:30am on the third Sunday of each month**. This will be an informal opportunity for anyone who would like to pop along, enjoy a coffee and have a chat with fellow members.

This month, I'd like to acknowledge some of our members who volunteer behind the scenes to help make our meetings run smoothly. Vichy Clapano makes it possible for members to exchange books by bringing along new books each month and taking home those that have not been selected. Jennifer Walker performs the important task of booking our tables for lunch at the Duck after each meeting. Ashlear Britt and Jenny Cottrell make sure we all get our morning tea or coffee — always with a smile.

These contributions may be easy to overlook, but they make a real difference to the enjoyment and smooth running of our Club. So, when you see Vichy, Jennifer, Ashlear or Jenny next, please remember to say “**thank you**”. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

POSITION VACANT Assistant Secretary Only needed should the secretary embark on interstate or overseas tours. Applications to the Secretary	POSITION VACANT CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER Needed to record events at monthly meetings, not many skills needed, just a smartphone or similar. Applications to the President
PROBUS TRIVIA NIGHT Join us for Trivia Night on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month (except January), from 5.30pm at the Warringah Bowling Club (renamed ‘The Bradley’), 74-82 Bradleys Head Road, Mosman. Stay on afterwards for dinner at the Club. Conact: barryastarr@gmail.com	CINEMA CLUB at the Orpheum We meet at 3pm on the FIRST MONDAY of the month at the Orpheum for the movie of your choice, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. Contact: gillnapper@gmail.com to join the list.

NEW MEMBERS	<i>Jenny & Keith McDonald</i>
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We welcome two new members, inducted at the Probus meeting on 22 July.



Brigid Martin Brigid continues to work part-time in Early Childhood Education - Long Day Care, which is where most of her working life has been spent. She also volunteers as a JP at the Mosman Library. Brigid was previously a member of Dee Why Probus. Brigid’s interests include reading, walking, family and grandchildren	Jeff Deakin Jeff is a statistician with experience in mining research, databases and various software technologies. He spent 20 years as joint principal of a software consultancy company. He also served as a financial services volunteer support for NFP counsellors. Jeff’s interests include tennis, table tennis, wine and AI.
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MEMBER'S 5-MINUTE SPOT

Sarnie Hay

Thank you to TrishL and Dawn who supported me with my 5-minute talk at the July meeting. It was indeed a pleasure to find other like-minded people in the Club, who are passionate about fashion history, sustainability, and vintage styles.



Trish Levido holding a Pru Acton Mod miniskirt dress with its bold pop art print from the early 1960's.



Dawn Willis showing a Trent Nathan flowing, bohemian maxi-dress from the late 1960's.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Robyn Yates

DETAILS, BOOKINGS & PAYMENTS AT ACTIVITIES DESK AT MONTHLY MEETINGS;

or **BOOK & PAY BY E.F.T. to:** Westpac Account: BSB: 032 097; Account number:750 233.

Account name: The Probus Club of Mosman Combined Inc.

[Identify deposit with your name & event, then email bank receipt to mosmanprobus@gmail.com]

Fri 11 Sept	Navy in Sydney West Harbour Cruise, King Street Wharf 3, Darling Harbour with the Navy Historical Society of Australia The 9:30am- 1pm tour is co-ordinated by Waverton Probus. Sold out. Participants meet at 3 King Street Wharf, Darling Harbour. Arrive at 9:30am for boarding at 9:45am. Morning tea will be served onboard. Detailed information on the tour and getting to the cruise will be emailed to participants approximately 1 week before departure.
Mon-Fri 21-25 Sept	A Taste of Canberra in Bloom, Oncourse. Cost is \$1,795pp with \$440 single supplement. This includes all experiences, meals, accommodation, and luxury coach travel as listed in the day-by-day itinerary. Final payments should have been made in July. OnCourse Tours. has organised for home pick-ups at the start & end of the tour. Participants will be contacted by OnCourse. The tour includes visits to the Fedra Olive Grove, National Portrait Gallery, Royal Australian Mont, the Deep Space Communications Complex, Old

	Parliament House, Tulip Tops Gardens, the Australian War Memorial, Bungendore & the Blackwattle Alpaca Farm. Accommodation will be at Hotel Kurrajong, Canberra.
Thurs 22 Oct	Probus 50th Birthday Celebration at the Balmoral Room in The Fernery, Mosman Club All Mosman Probus members & visitors are invited to join us to celebrate 50 years of Probus in Australia on Thursday, 22 October. Substantial canapes will be served from 4pm-6pm . As members do not usually drink more than one or two alcoholic/non-alcoholic drinks, it is cost effective for us to purchase our own drinks at the bar. As 4-6pm is 'Happy Hour' at the Mosman Club, drinks are substantially discounted for Mosman Club members. Currently there is no joining fee for the Mosman Club, so guests can join on or before the day. Cost is \$46pp .
Tues 3 Nov	Melbourne Cup Lunch at The Duck. Booked. Waiting for the venue to provide costs
Wed 9 Dec	Christmas Lunch, Art Gallery, Mosman. Advance notice. Booked. Awaiting final costs

\$2.50 CLUB – UPCOMING OUTING

Pamela McLeland

Thurs 10 Sept	Bus ride B1 to Mona Vale The meeting place will be at the Spit Junction B1 stop (going north) at 10:30am. We will catch the B1 bus from there to Mona Vale. At Mona Vale, we will change to the 199 bus (runs every 10 mins) to Newport where we can enjoy a lunch by the water. You can return the same way - the B1 bus also runs every 10 mins. No booking required just turn up at 10:30 at the B1 stop near Bridgepoint. <i>Pamela McLeland 0412024704</i>
Thurs 8 Oct	Conservatorium of Music Free Lunchtime Concert A donation, however, is requested for entry into the concert, which is by the Con Jazz Orchestra. As we have to order tickets, if you would like to come, please put your name down at the Activities Desk at this week's meeting. Full details and transport arrangements in next Newsletter.

13 August – Discovery Tour of the new Sydney Fish Markets, Pyrmont

On 13th August, 17 Mosman Probus members and visitors explored the new Sydney Fish Market. As people were travelling from many different areas we made our own way to the venue by ferry, bus, train, metro, light rail, on foot or car. Quite an experience all round.



We met Sophie, an educator with the Fish Market Discovery Tours, at the meeting hub on the ground level. During the introductory talk Sophie noted that the Sydney Fish Market was jointly owned by the 1994 commercial fisherman from the old Fish Markets and the association which represented the wholesale

suppliers purchasing seafood at the auctions. The Fish Market is committed to sustainable fishing to ensure the future of the species & the livelihood of the industry. Sophie also mentioned her own link with Mosman through her grandfather.

The temperature decreased as we moved to the auction rooms and viewed the vast areas where the seafood is displayed between 2 and 4 am. The Dutch auction system was explained as we observed the timers used to manage 3 simultaneous, silent auctions. Auctions have moved with the times with some buyers participating in the auctions from remote locations.

After leaving the auction room, we caught the lift to the retail floor. As Sophie provided information about each species, she showed us snow crabs, gigantic mud crabs, lobsters, pipis (ideal for clam chowder) & oysters. Hun provided a very professional display of shucking oysters. He stated that he shucked 150 dozen oysters per day on Monday to Friday & 180-200 dozen oysters per day on the weekend.



We finished the tour on the deck overlooking Blackwattle Bay. Sophie discussed the risks faced by the crew on commercial fishing boats, their commitment to sustainable wild-caught fishing and their approaches which enabled the release of unwanted catch alive. As we looked at the fishing boats below, Sophie talked about individual fisherman & brought their experiences to life.

At the conclusion of the tour, we dispersed for lunch. Although we were given recommendations for cafes, restaurants & takeaway, members of our group headed off to find their preferred venue to taste the seafood of their choice. Everyone had an enjoyable day.

RECENT \$2.50 CLUB OUTINGS***Pamela Mcleland*****Friday 21 August – A \$2.50 Outing to Seacliff Bridge, Coalcliff**

On Friday 21st August, 13 members and 3 visitors boarded the South Coast train bound for the Seacliff Bridge. The train was on time and a few details of the trip were changed and we went all the way to Thirroul on the most beautiful sunny day. In Thirroul we enjoyed cakes, pastries and coffee at

the Saraven Bakery. Despite a huge crowd moving in at the same time the staff were wonderful and there were lots of take home boxes leaving.

We then got the local Bus to the choice of the Imperial Hotel at Coalcliff or to go over the Bridge and walk back. Whatever route that was taken, everyone was back at hotel at 1:00pm and enjoyed lunch overlooking the sea at our prebooked table for 16. Having left the hotel, it was very kind of the bus driver to wait for all of us to board and subsequently, for a ride back to Thirroul to catch the express train back to Sydney.

There was a problem on the rail track but that didn't seem to affect us other than the train being about 10 minutes late. It was a long day and quite a few of the group slept on the way back - no names mentioned. Thanks to all those who came and we could not have booked a better day to go to an area renowned for lots of windy days. Thanks for coming.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROBUS IN AUSTRALIA



It's been a busy year for Mosman Probus, with many activities and social events keeping us in good spirits while fostering fun and friendship. And, as the saying goes, "it's not over yet".

Probus Clubs across Australia are holding events in October to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Probus in Australia. We will have our own celebration.

Our event will be held from 4-6pm in the Balmoral Room, a private room in **The Fernery, Mosman Club** on **Thursday 22 October**. We'll decorate the room for a festive mood enhanced by good company, canapes & drinks. The cost is \$46pp. without drinks & this is to our benefit as we don't need a lot of drinks to have fun & friendship.

The good news is that The Mosman Club's Happy Hour also runs from 4 pm to 6 pm. If you are a member of the Mosman Club, the drinks are significantly discounted with a glass of wine costing \$8. if you are currently not a member, membership of the Mosman Club is free.

So why not dress up for this special occasion. Wear something festive ready to celebrate fun and friendship for the 50th Anniversary in good old fashion style.

The Activities Committee:
Dawn, Monica, Sarah, Sue & Robyn

Seniors Energy Rebate — worth \$200 if you're eligible

The NSW Government's Seniors Energy Rebate is back open for the 2026/27 financial year (applications opened 10 August). It's worth \$200 off your electricity bill, but it only applies if you hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) — not a Pensioner Concession Card or DVA Gold Card, which have their own separate rebate. You must be the named account holder on the bill, and you can't claim this alongside the Low Income Household Rebate.

Apply online via Service NSW (you'll need a MyServiceNSW account), or in person at a service centre, or by phone on 13 77 88.

Opal Card — New "Tap and Pay" Option (and a deadline to know about)

Transport NSW has rolled out a new way to pay concession fares: linking your Seniors Card and a credit/debit card to your phone via a Transport Connect account, so you tap your phone instead of your physical Gold Opal card.

Important: if you go through the application and choose to switch to Tap and Pay, you have until the end of August to trial it. After that, your physical Opal card is deactivated — you can't go back to it once you've made the switch active.

If you're happy with your physical Opal card, you don't need to do anything — it isn't being taken away from you. This only affects you if you actively apply to switch.

If you do switch: any remaining balance on your physical Opal card isn't automatically refunded — you need to separately apply to Transport NSW to have it paid back to your bank account. Don't switch without doing this, or you risk losing whatever's left on the card.

TREASURER'S REPORT**Helmut Regelein****FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY 2026**

Opening Balance per Statement 01:07:2026 **\$ 15,031.42**

Credits:

Total Income **\$ 421.39**

Debits

Total Expenditure **\$ 3,158.35**

Closing Balance Bank Statement 30:07:2026 **\$ 12,293.96**

Estimated Liabilities:

Total **\$ 1,800.00**

Available Club Funds 30:07:2026 **\$ 10,493.96**

Emeritus Professor Michael Atherton AM: “LIVING FOR WORDS AND MUSIC”

At this month's meeting, members were treated to a wonderfully colourful account from Emeritus Professor Michael Atherton AM, composer, performer, author and one of Australia's most versatile musical figures, sharing stories from his life and career, timed with the release of his latest memoir.

Michael's story began in working-class Liverpool, he spoke of a Welsh, Irish, German and Viking heritage, a childhood in Liverpool and his first exposure



to musical instruments - a piano in his family home. At 15, his family emigrated to Australia as "Ten Pound Poms," a move he says changed the course of his life. From there, a series of unlikely jobs, including hospital cleaner, office boy and refinery hand, eventually gave way to university, the 1960s counterculture, and a guitar he could barely play at first.

What followed was a career most of us could only dream of: touring the world performing music drawn from Balkan, Middle Eastern, Turkish and medieval traditions, cultural exchange trips to China, and years spent as a music

therapist teaching guitar and songwriting to intellectually and psychiatrically challenged students. He later founded ensembles blending Irish, Middle Eastern, Balkan and Indigenous Australian musicians, a fitting reflection of his belief that "there is one race, a human race," expressed through music.

Michael closed with a fascinating detour into the social history of the piano in Australia, touching on its role in nation building and manufacturing, its presence in WWI hospitals for wounded and blinded soldiers, and its quiet but powerful role in women's history, before rounding off with a performance on his hurdy-gurdy, a medieval instrument that combines elements of a violin, a keyboard, and a bagpipe into one (see photo on right).

A rich, thought-provoking session. Our thanks to Michael for such a generous and moving talk.



(Lower two photos by President Peter & Suzanne Jones)