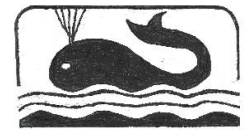




THE PROBUS CLUB OF MOSMAN COMBINED INC



PO Box 264, Mosman NSW 2088
mosmanprobus@gmail.com

ABN: 96 728 384 926

Fun and Friendship in Retirement

PRESIDENT:	Rob Taggart	0411107025	MEMBERSHIP:	Sarnie Hay Sally Cullen	0400471607 0406116810	ACTIVITIES:	Robyn Yates Monica	0407432642 0411424 674
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Peter Reeves	0418496505		Jane Chandler	0487389204		Anastasia Sarah	
SECRETARY:	Ian Hume	0478051950		Mona Deakin	0419532000		Fennamore	9955 1962
TREASURER:	Helmut Regelein	0417247415	NEWSLETTER:	Don Napper Margaret Szalay	0407600649 9904 1829	WELFARE CONTACT:	Margaret Badger	0417977533 0403315319
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:	Margaret Badger	0430315319	CLUB AMBASSADOR:	Barry Starr	0417905170	PUBLIC OFFICER:	Laurie Smith	0438267920
SPEAKER COORDINATOR:	Heather Jenkins	0409191083	SOCIAL CLUB:	Gill Napper	0412543385	BOOK EXCHANGE:	Vichy Clapano	0458515008
CLUB LUNCHES:	Jennifer Walker	0414727350	FINANCIAL REVIEWER:	Rob Brown	0467232444	GREETING TEAM:	Keith McDonald	Sally Cullen Jenny McDonald

No. 431

NEWSLETTER

1 April 2026

*** Next Meeting: Wednesday, 1 April 2026**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR MEETING

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

Doors will open at 10:00am

*** Agenda: 1. March Monthly General Meeting
2. Annual General Meeting**

Guest Speaker: Barry Starr will talk about the Hera Pre-School project in Timor-Leste. This is a long standing initiative that is strongly supported by the Rotary Club of Mosman. It delivers vital early childhood education to the local Timor-Leste community.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COME TO A CLUB LUNCH AFTER THIS MONTH'S MEETINGS

Members and guests are invited to join a Club lunch after this month's meetings. It will be held upstairs in the Upper Duck Restaurant, Hotel Mosman, Military Rd, Spit Junction, just a short walk from the Mosman Art Gallery.

The Quiet Revolution

For many years, the Probus mantra of fun and friendship in retirement has rolled on successfully, in our case since 1982 when Mosman Rotary initiated the inauguration of our Club. That our Club and Probus more widely was growing strongly was testament to the model and its' appropriateness for the time.

Having joined the Club in late 2022 and quickly become Secretary, the Management Committee lens provided a steep learning curve about how things worked behind the scenes and the emerging challenges ahead. Our late Past President and Auditor Joan Groth said "I've been waiting for you" and invited me to visit, ostensibly to discuss the Club's finances. On the way out via her garage, she pointed to the Club Archives and asked me where I was parked so I could fetch my car and take immediate custody of them! Refusal was not an option.

The Archives provided a trove of Club history, identified our Elders and pointed to our culture. It also revealed many outdated and inefficient internal processes which called for renewal and more contemporary, sustainable ways. While not widely known or recognised, Probus in Australia and New Zealand was under existential threat closing over 210 Clubs in the 3 years up to 2025, with one overwhelming reason – lack of Members willing to take on internal volunteering roles.

It was abundantly clear that what we were doing generally remained highly valued by Members but that the way we were doing it required substantial change. Beginning almost imperceptibly with the sorting, classifying, indexing and storing the Archives in 2023, a quiet revolution was begun at Mosman Probus and the genesis of our 2025/2026 Vision "TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE" had crystallised. In particular, the need for willing Member volunteers to operate the Club and mitigate the threat of closure required a strategic focus which was addressed on multiple fronts.

Given that the significant body of work that followed has been undertaken by successive Management Committees over the last 3 years, it would be inappropriate to identify current or past Members individually when key projects have often spanned multiple years and the Committee's makeup has progressively evolved. My appreciation has been conveyed individually and privately to those whom you'd recognise from being on the Newsletter cover over the last 3 years and some who have not. Thank you to all Management Committee members for your volunteer leadership over those years and to the people who supported you.

Within successive Management Committees, it is however appropriate to collectively recognise "4 Cornerstone Pillars" of successful Probus Clubs where Committee Leaders take on additional responsibility in making a compellingly attractive locus where fun, fellowship and friendship develop. Those pillars are: ACTIVITIES, GUEST SPEAKERS and NEWSLETTER, all based on a solid MEMBERSHIP foundation.

In each of these cornerstones over the past 3 years, the Club has been incredibly fortunate to have Committee Leaders who manage their portfolio with skill, insight, sensitivity, imagination, patience and an unflinching willingness to help Members. Never seeking recognition nor complaining about the inevitable crowding out that this work has on other priorities. Thank you all for exemplary service to fellow Members. **2**

Together, successive Management Committees have undertaken sustainability projects in the past 3 years which include:

- EMERGENCY CONTACT: phone familiarisation tutorials undertaken based on Member concern in the event of an “emergency”.
- TAP & PAY: established on a Square Reader platform, incorporating the Club’s first phone functionality. This required overcoming intermittent wi-fi connection at the Gallery, a steep learning curve with the Reader and negligible starting expertise.
- COMMITTEE ROLES: streamlined into logical work groups, relieving “overloaded heroes” who had accumulated extra tasks through their willingness and capacity.
- COMMITTEE POSITION DESCRIPTIONS: drafted specific to Mosman Probus modus operandi to aid succession through explicit understanding of each main volunteering task.
- MEMBERS INFORMATION WORKBOOK: Work in progress. Club data mapped, related processes identified, outputs to be generated being discussed, privacy considerations and access protocols being developed. Will feed into Club data base. Potentially to integrate Activities and Club Financials.
- CLUB SURVEY: identified activity preferences and responded. \$2.50 outings fully operational and Trivia Night to be fine-tuned following low level of support despite high survey response.
- COMMUNITY GRANT: \$2,000 awarded by Mosman Council applied to purchase Club computer and related operating requirements.
- RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY: Framework developed for all Club activities against an Impact vs Likelihood matrix. Implemented, updated and reviewed monthly.
- CHRISTMAS LUNCH: created a successful signature event designed and conducted by the Management Committee.
- NEW CONSTITUTION & STANDING RESOLUTIONS: adopted a modified version peculiar to Mosman Probus. Approved by Probus South Pacific Limited and Registered with Office of Fair Trading NSW.

With the exception of the new Constitution, each of these elements was initiated within a Management Committee and contributes to the strategy of making volunteering an integral part of who we are as a Club – thereby directly mitigating the main threat and risk going forward and supporting progress TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

By documenting and integrating these projects, Management Committee’s going forward will have more developed and transparent details to share with those who might consider volunteering for a Club role. It will make agreeing to do so better understood by matching volunteer skill sets and interests with Club tasks. The upgraded underlying processes will be more easily understood, robust and sustainable. Detailed projects can be more readily broken into more manageable parts thus facilitating intra-Club volunteering.

This is part of our intellectual capital – what we know, what we do and how we do it. Much of this on new, underlying digital platforms. It’s too early for this to have become part of our culture but when that is established, we’ll know that Mosman Probus is strong and well run and can confidently expect it to continue to provide the future benefits that Members want.

In closing this Probus year, we reflect on the legacies of Past Presidents Judy Blanche (2005/2006) and Joan Groth (2009/2010) and honour the service they gave to the Club. The underlying strategic renewal process of the last 3 years is a new and contemporary beginning, but needs to be sustained by active Member engagement to continue a vibrant Mosman Probus Club.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to contribute to the Club and wish the incoming President, Management Committee and all Members many enjoyable Probus years ahead. I would particularly like to thank Trish for her active support, contribution of skills, problem-solving, on-going advice, counsel and love.

Rob Taggart

VALE Dawn Holdaway

Dawn Holdaway, a longtime member of Mosman Probus Club, passed away on the 22 February, 2026, aged 94. Her funeral was held at St Peter's Anglican Church, Cremorne on 16 March.

Dawn joined the Mosman Probus Club in 1997. She was elected Vice President in 2002 and President in the following year. To promote the interaction of members, she instigated the annual distribution of phone numbers that the Club continues to this day. Ill-health prevented Dawn from attending Probus meetings in recent years.

Payment of Annual Subscriptions

Due & Payable before 1 April AGM

The Annual Subscriptions for the 2026 / 2027 year are

- Members (emailed Newsletter) **\$65.00**
- Members (printed Newsletter) **\$85.00[#]**

[#] only available to Members without an accessible email address

- New Members (emailed Newsletter only) **\$80.00[#]**
[#] includes \$15.00 once only administration fee

◆ 2026 /2027 Annual Subscriptions can be paid by either of the two following ways:

1. PREFERRED METHOD: ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

Using internet banking from your account directly to the Club account

BSB: 032 097

Account Number: 750 23

Account Name: The Probus Club of Mosman Combined Inc.

Deposit to be identified with the words "SUBS" and your "FAMILY NAME"

2. ALTERNATIVE METHOD:

Using your credit or debit card on the **Square** payment facility at a General Meeting

Future: \$2.50 Club Outing to Marrickville

Jenny and Peter Reeves

Date: Thursday 7th May

Jenny and Peter Reeves will lead a 'Gourmet Safari' to Marrickville on 7th May. We will travel to Marrickville by Metro and bus and then stroll along Marrickville Road and its surrounds, visiting a wonderful array of Greek and Vietnamese shops and cafes, before lunching at a Greek restaurant. MORE DETAILS TO COME.

Past: \$2.50 Club Outing to Fairy Bower

Pamela McLeland



On a very warm Wednesday 11th March, 5 heat resistant souls boarded the Manly Ferry (alas not the old one) to Manly. We were joined along the way by two other members so we visited Normas for coffee, which we drank down by the beach with a nice little breeze. Then on to Fairy Bower with a couple of stops and there we enjoyed a very nice lunch at the Boathouse. Finally, back to Manly centre and onto the bus for home.

Photo courtesy of PeterR

Dates for Your Diaries: Activities

Robyn Yates



Exploring the Secrets of Central Station



The second *Refettorio* luncheon

Photo courtesy of RobynY



* **Thursday, 30 April: National Maritime Museum Behind the Scenes Tour, Darling Harbour.** Meet at the Museum entrance, Darling Harbour at **10:00am for 10:30am tour.** The **cost is \$24pp.** This tour is full however there is a **waiting list** for those who would still like to put their names down. People on the waitlist often get to attend on the day as circumstances can change.

Following the tour, you can explore any of the museum exhibitions open on the day. Lunch at Ripples Café Maritime Museum will be at our own cost. Information on transport to the venue will be provided before the event.

* **Friday, 22 May: Tribal Warrior Cruise - An Aboriginal Cultural Experience** by an Aboriginal owned & managed corporation operating tours since the 1990s. **Meet at 10:00 am at the Eastern Pontoon Circular Quay.** Board the **Mari Nawi** for a 2 hour cruise to learn about sacred sites, history, ancient uses for plants, traditional Aboriginal fishing techniques & experience the Sydney landscapes from an Aboriginal perspective. The tour **costs \$65pp** and also includes a visit to the National Park Harbour Island.

* **Wednesday, 10 June: Behind the Scenes Glasshouse Tour, Royal Botanical Gardens Sydney.** The **cost is \$26pp for a minimum of 20 people.** We will **meet at the Calyx in the gardens at 10:40am.** Coffee is available at the Calyx. The tour focuses on the gardens' tropical plant collection, including orchids and aroids, as well as rare plants not normally seen by the public. The duration is 1 hour 45 minutes, starting at 11:00am sharp. After the tour, we will lunch at Farm Cove Eatery (below Botanic House in the gardens) at our own expense.

* **Tuesday, 17 July: Bastille Day Lunch at The Little Snail, Pyrmont.** **Hold the date** for this extremely popular 3 course lunch at a most reasonable price. **Payments** will be collected from the **22 April Probus meeting.**

* **Wednesday, 12 August: Fiddler on the Roof** at the **Theatre Royal** in King St, Sydney. It is a **1:00pm** session. The **cost is \$87pp.** Only **1 ticket** remains. A waiting list will be available.

* **Friday, 11 September: Navy in Sydney- West Harbour Cruise, King St Wharf 3 Darling Harbour.** This is a **follow up to Noel Phelan's** presentation on "Remembering the Costa Concordia" at our November 2025 meeting. Noel **6**

will conduct this tour from **9:30am-1:00pm**. This tour is being co-ordinated by Waverton Probus & several network Probus Clubs will participate. **Places still available.**

The tickets **cost \$75pp**, including a delicious morning tea. **Please pay \$75pp by bank transfer to Probus Club of Waverton Inc**

BSB: 032 298; Account No: 263108

Reference your **surname/Nav/Mosman** – to assist the Treasurer to know the payment is for the naval cruise & that you are from the Mosman Club

*** Monday-Friday, 21-25 September: A Taste of the Capital in Bloom with OnCourse.** This is not the usual Canberra tour. It has been designed specifically for our friends from Bobbin Head Probus (our partners from the highly successful 2025 Bellingen tour) & Mosman Probus. We have requested the same coach driver & co-ordinator.

The diverse range of visits include the **Fedral Olive Grove, National Arboretum, Deep Space Communication Complex, Tulip Tops Gardens, Bungendore & the Blackwattle Alpaca Farm.** Brochures & booking forms will be available at the meeting. **\$1,795 pp with a single supplement of \$440.**

Mosman Probus will collect the forms and OnCourse will invoice the \$200 deposit & final payment. Maximum 4 rooms remaining.

Financial Report: February 2026

Helmut Regelein

<u>Opening Balance per Statement 01:02:2026</u>		<u>\$ 10,443.36</u>
<u>Credits:</u>		
EFT Subs.		\$ 1,235.00
EFT Activities		\$ 49.00
Bank Deposits		\$ 190.00
Square Deposits		<u>\$ 2,376.86</u>
	Total Credits	<u>\$ 3,850.86</u>
<u>Debits:</u>		
	Total Debits	\$ 815.90
Closing Balance Bank Statement 28:02:2026		\$ <u>13,478.32</u>
<u>Estimated Liabilities:</u>		
	Nil	\$ 0.00
	Estimated Liabilities:	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<u>Club Funds 28.02.2026</u>		<u>\$ 13,478.32</u>

*** Please note that the Mosman Probus 2025 Annual Financial Statement will be available at the AGM**

Notice of Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday 1 April 2026
Mosman Art Gallery 11:00am**

AGENDA

1. Welcome – President
2. Quorum and apologies
3. Adoption of Minutes of previous AGM on 26th March 2025
4. President's Report (copy in Newsletter)
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Office Bearers
7. Handover to Incoming President
8. General Business – Any items of which notice has been given
9. Questions – Any questions of which notice has been given
10. Close of AGM

Minutes of the 2025 AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday 26th March 2025

At Mosman Art Gallery Hall at 10:50am

Meeting opened by President Margaret Badger

- Minutes of March 2024 AGM as detailed in March 2025 Newsletter proposed by Barry Starr & seconded by Susan Jones
- Treasurer's report as detailed in March 2025 Newsletter proposed by Peter Reeves & seconded by Sandra Pearson

Other Business -nil

Election for Committee positions for 2025- Gill Napper as Returning Officer reported that there was only one nomination for each Committee position and therefore the following positions are to be filled by:

President- Rob Taggart

Vice President- Peter Reeves

Secretary- Graham Levido

Treasurer- Helmut Regelein

Membership- Sarnie Hay

Activities- Robyn Yates

Public Officer- Lawrie smith

Publicity- vacant

Immediate Past President- Margaret Badger

Newsletter- Don Napper

Speakers- Heather Jenkins

Financial Reviewer- Rob Brown

Ambassador- Barry Starr
Cluster- Margaret Badger
Webmaster- Peter Reeves
Books- vacant

Incoming President Rob Taggart

- Thanks to outgoing president Margaret Badger
- Stark Realities 2025-2026 club Objectives & to move the Club towards a sustainable footing
- From the floor Graham Levido commented on the fact that the new committee is 66% men & 33% women while the general Club membership is about 22% men & 78% women.

Meeting concluded at 11:05 am

Next meeting fourth Wednesday in March 2026.

Previous Speaker: Justin Martin & Team

Fire Safety for Seniors



Justin Martin, Chief Fire Officer of the Mosman Fire Station, and the two impressive officers of his team, Lorraine and Harry, were fortunately able to complete their Probus talk without being called away to attend an emergency.



The way in which the services provided by the formerly named Fire Brigades have been expanded was outlined initially in Justin's talk. NSW Fire Brigades changed its name to Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) in 2011. The new name was meant to reflect more accurately the wider scope of the many services offered to the community by FRNSW. These now include not just fire and rescue (such as from traffic accidents) but also ensuring fire safety in the home by checking that domestic fire alarms function properly, attending to gas leaks and electricity issues, floods and storm damage, animal rescues and dealing with hazardous materials. It is worth noting that FRNSW will perform safety checks on your house free of charge.

FRNSW protects 90% of the State's population from emergencies involving fire, motor vehicle accidents and other dangerous situations. The remaining 10% of the population is protected by NSW Rural Fire Services. FRNSW also protect 100% of the State's population from hazardous materials emergencies.

Before playing the FRNSW video, Justin made the point that the brigade should be called (000) for a fire no matter how small, even if there is some uncertainty as to whether a brigade is actually needed. FRNSW much prefers to respond to a false alarm than to wait until a fire escalates into a full house fire., Justin said that seniors form a large proportion of those injured in fires.

The video that was played was called "Better Safe than Sorry". The continuity of its safety narrative was provided by the acclaimed Australian

actor, Henri Szeps, who died of Alzheimer's disease just last year. Again, the video stressed that seniors contribute about a third of all fire deaths.

The video set out the many possible causes of fires in homes, with kitchens being responsible for half of all house fires. The major cause of fire in kitchens is when the cooking of food is left unattended. It is imperative to turn off the gas/electricity before leaving the kitchen. Loose sleeves also cause a significant number of home fires in kitchens.

The heating of homes in Winter using electric heaters causes about 20% of fires. The warning for this led to the rhythmic rhyming saying that "nothing should be nearer than a metre to a heater".

Electric blankets in the bedroom can cause fires and each blanket must be turned off before the bed is occupied. Smoking in bed is also a well-known killer. Dryers in laundries accumulate fluff and lint which when it overheats, can cause a fire. Never go out without turning off the dryer.

NSW legislation stipulates that smoke alarms must be installed on every level of a home. However, the owner must also ensure that the alarms remain in working order. FRNSW has attended many house fires where not a single fire alarm was working. Alarms should be tested on a monthly basis, using the test button provided on the alarm. If an alarm fails, the battery may need replacement. Should this be difficult, FRNSW can provide an officer to change the battery free of charge.

Justin completed his talk by explaining how to use emergency devices, such as fire blankets and extinguishers, against fires prior to the arrival of the brigade. For fire extinguishers, it first may be necessary to select the correct type of extinguisher for the fire using the colour of its label. Wood, paper and textile fires can be treated by water extinguishers; dry powder or foam extinguishers can also be used and they can also treat flammable liquid fires. Water extinguishers, however, should never be used for flammable liquid fires, which are best treated with CO₂ extinguishers. Smoking lithium-ion batteries should be dropped into water (see also attachments below).

Justin then introduced the PASS acronym for using fire extinguishers:

- (i) P stands for pulling the safety Pin at the top of the extinguisher to unlock it;
- (ii) A stands for Aiming the nozzle at the base of the fire, rather than at the flames;
- (iii) S stands for Squeezing the handle to release the extinguishing agent;
- (iv) S stands for Sweeping the nozzle from side-to-side.

Finally, Justin stressed that everyone living in a house needs to be familiar with the house escape plan.

Justin's stimulating talk and video were a timely reminder to all members of the need to ensure that our homes are fire safe

ELECTRIC BIKE AND SCOOTER CHARGING SAFETY

Lithium-ion batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in New South Wales. Charge E-bikes and E-scooters safely to reduce your risk.



Don't charge when you're asleep.



Once the battery is full, disconnect it from the charger.



Don't charge in or near living-spaces like bedrooms or living rooms. Charge in an open area like a garage or shed, away from exits. Make sure you always have a working smoke alarm.



Charge batteries on hard surfaces like concrete or tiles. Make sure that there's nothing around it that could catch on fire.



Always use the charger that came with your device. Just because the plug fits, it doesn't mean it's compatible.



Buy known brands with the Australian Regulatory Compliance Mark tick.

SHOP, CHARGE, AND RECYCLE SAFELY.





BATTERY AND CHARGING SAFETY

FIRE SAFETY FACT SHEET



LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES, WHAT ARE THEY?

Lithium-ion batteries are found in small portable devices such as phones, laptops and power tools, as well as in larger capacities such as e-bikes, e-scooters and cars.

Lithium-ion batteries contain a massive amount of energy in a relatively small space. When lithium-ion batteries fail, that energy is rapidly released which can create explosions, highly toxic fumes and secondary ignitions even after the flames have been extinguished.

Lithium-ion batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in New South Wales. You can prevent hazards by charging safely, being aware of warning signs, disposing of lithium-ion batteries correctly and knowing what to do if something goes wrong.



Only use chargers that show the Australian Regulatory Compliance Mark Tick.

SHOP, CHARGE, AND RECYCLE SAFELY.



CHARGE SAFE

- Have working smoke alarms in the rooms where you charge or store your devices.
- Charge batteries on hard surfaces like concrete floors or tiles.
- Don't charge batteries on surfaces like beds, sofas, or carpet.
- E-scooters, e-bikes, and power-tools should be charged in the garage, shed or carport, away from living spaces and exits.
- Charge devices when you are home and do not charge devices while you sleep.
- Once a device has recharged fully, disconnect it from the charger.
- Using a charger with the wrong power output (voltage and current), can cause damage to the battery or overheat it, which can cause a fire.
- Don't charge batteries that have been exposed to heat or extreme temperatures.
- Short-circuiting, battery cell malfunctions or system faults can lead to lithium-ion batteries catching fire.

DISPOSAL

- Lithium-ion batteries cannot be placed into home garbage or recycling bins as they pose a fire risk.
- Small, undamaged batteries (not swollen, punctured, or leaking, etc.) can be safely disposed at a battery recycling drop off point.
- When disposing, tape over battery terminals with clear adhesive tape before placing the battery carefully into a battery recycling collection bin.

WARNING SIGNS

- Don't use and charge batteries that are swelling or bulging, leaking, or overheating.
- Don't use and charge the device if it is cracked, dented, punctured, or crushed.
- If the charger didn't come with the device or battery; don't use it.

IF ON FIRE:

- Evacuate the area and close doors if safe to do so.
- Get out, Stay out and Call Triple Zero (000).
- Seek urgent medical attention if you have been exposed to smoke or vapours.

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