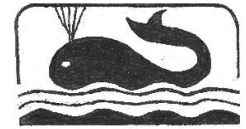




THE PROBUS CLUB OF MOSMAN COMBINED INC



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

ABN: 96 728 384 926

Fun and Friendship in Retirement

PRESIDENT:	Peter Reeves	0418496505	SECRETARY:	Ian Hume	0478051950	ACTIVITIES:	Robyn Yates Monica Anastasia Sarah Fennamore Dawn Willis	0407432642
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Lynette Armstrong		MEMBERSHIP:	Jenny McDonald Keith McDonald Sally Cullen Mona Deakin Jenny Reeves Christine Fraser		WELFARE OFFICER:	Margaret Badger	
TREASURER:	Helmut Regelein		NEWSLETTER:	Margaret Szalay Don Napper		PUBLIC OFFICER:	Laurie Smith	
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:	Rob Taggart		CLUB AMBASSADOR:	Barry Starr		BOOK EXCHANGE:	Vichy Clapano	
SPEAKER OFFICER:	Heather Jenkins		GREETING TEAM:	Ketih McDonald Sally	Jenny McDonald Cullen	CINEMA CLUB:	Gill Napper	
CLUB LUNCHES:	Jennifer Walker							
FINANCIAL REVIEWER:	Rob Brown							

No. 432

NEWSLETTER

22 April 2026

*** Next Meeting: Wednesday, 22 April 2026**

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

Doors will open at 10:00am

*** Speaker: Charles Fellner - Scam Awareness**

Charles Fellner is a retired IT professional. His talks are designed for older Australians and focus on the more common scams. He will consider the steps that should be taken to avoid being scammed and what to do if you have just been scammed.

Member's 5-Minute Spot: Wendy Lyons

Next Meeting (27 May, 2026): Alan Barr – *The Invasion of the Vikings*

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 Members Inducted: *Dawn Willis, Christine Fraser and Kate McDonald*

Dawn Willis has had a diversified career in PR, the media & marketing, working with AAP, Comm bank and Telstra. Also a former President of Public Relations Institute (NSW). Voluntary role for 13 years as Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre. Interests include movies, reading, theatre, painting & sailing.



Christine Fraser also worked in a number of senior PR management roles in various leading companies. Since retirement, she has been involved in fund raising for the Mater Hospital and is a Trust member of Nutcote. Her interests include art, antiques, travel and architecture



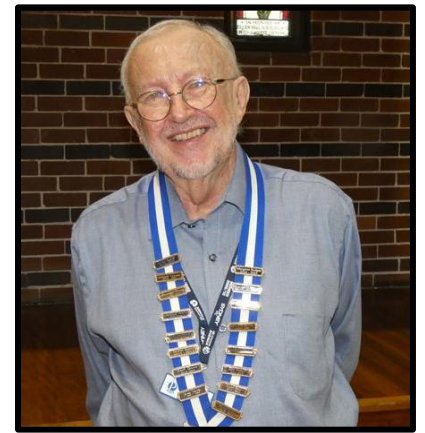
Kate McDonald is a retired accountant and educational administrator. In retirement, Kate has followed her interests in theatre, classical music, reading, art galleries and travel. Currently a member of Springwood Probuss, she is now transferring to Mosman.

Twenty Years on From Induction: *Coral Steel*



Coral Steel joined the Mosman Probuss Club in 2006 so this is her 20th year as a member. She has been an outstanding contributor to the success of the Club over this period, serving as President (2013), Vice-President and Walks organiser for many years. Thank you, Coral, for your devoted service to the Club.

The Changing of the Guard at the AGM



Visiting Orange and Mudgee with the Cromer Probus Club



Photo Courtesy of Monica Anastasia

President's Report

President Peter

It is a pleasure to write my first report as President and to begin by welcoming our new Committee members. We are fortunate to have a strong and capable Management Committee in place, with a good mix of experience and fresh perspectives. We will continue to provide a wide range of activities from day tours, bus trips, theatre parties, lunches and \$2.50 outings, as well as thought-provoking speakers just for starters! Also, we are always on the lookout to expand interests for the club such as trivia nights and other ideas. I'm confident that, working together, we will continue to support the friendly and inclusive spirit of our club.

Members may have noticed that our club website has had a refresh. While it serves as a useful introduction for anyone thinking about joining, it is just as important for current members. The site will be kept up to date with coming events, membership information, and photos from our activities. If you haven't done already, it's worth a look and worth bookmarking.

A small but worthwhile change to the Newsletter this month — most personal phone numbers have been removed from the helpers listing. This was a decision of the Management Committee, made out of consideration for members' privacy. Members contact information remains available through the members phone list distributed to all members after the AGM.

Finally, the Management Committee decided that a copy of the Minutes from the previous general meeting should be sent to members prior to each meeting. This follows normal meeting practice, and approval of those Minutes will take place at the next general meeting.

As always, I'm happy to hear from any member with questions, ideas, or suggestions.

Dates for Your Diaries: **Activities**

Robyn Yates

* **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.** This tour is full. If you are on the list to attend and are unable to do so, please notify Monica Anastasia or Robyn Yates so the place can be offered to the next person on the **wait list.**

* **Friday, 22 May: Tribal Warrior Cruise - An Aboriginal Cultural Experience** by an Aboriginal owned & managed corporation operating tours since the 1990s. The **April meeting** will be the **last opportunity** to add **your name to the list** and **pay for this highly recommended experience.**

We will meet at **10:00am** 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 a National Park Harbour island.

* **Wednesday, 10 June: Behind the Scenes Glasshouse Tour, Royal Botanical Gardens Sydney.** The cost is **\$26pp for a maximum 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.** The cost remains at **\$50pp** for this extremely popular 3 course lunch. **Payments** will be collected from the **22 April Probus meeting.** People on the list can only be given a place once they have paid.

* **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.** **This event is sold out.** A **wait list** is available.

* **Thursday, 13 August – hold the date: Discovery Tour of the new Sydney Fish Markets, Pyrmont.** **Meet at the Fish Markets at 10:30am** for an **11am tour.** The tour will be led by a **Seafood Educator** from the **Fish Market.**

After the tour you can select your choice of restaurant or a take away meal to eat at inside or outside tables.

There is a lift to all levels as well as a moving walkway between the auction level and the food level. Information on public transport or car access will be available. **Costs, attendance lists & payment** will be available at the **May meeting**.

* **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 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 263108.

Reference your **surname/Nav/Mosman** – to assist the Waverton Treasurer to identify that 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. Only 2-4 seats left**

This is not the usual Canberra tour. It has been designed specifically by 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 **Federal 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. Cost is **\$1,795pp** with a **single supplement** of **\$440**.

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

\$2.50 Club Outing to Marrickville Road

Peter & Jenny Reeves



Date: Thursday 7th May

We are planning a 'Gourmet' trip to Marrickville to explore some of the Greek and Vietnamese food and absorb some of the local atmosphere (please access the QR code on the left).

We will meet at Victoria Cross Metro Station, northern entrance, before the ticket entry barrier on Miller Street at 9:30 am sharp.

We will travel by metro to Sydenham and then take a short bus ride to Marrickville Road, arriving around 10:30 am.

After coffee, it will be a leisurely stroll along Marrickville Road and Illawarra Road (called "Little Vietnam"), stopping at a few places of particular interest, which should take us about 2 hours. This will be followed **5**

by lunch (optional) at around 12:45 pm at the Corinthian Greek restaurant or at one of the many Vietnamese restaurants before we head back.

To make things easier, we recommend bringing a bag to carry your purchases and a little ice pack to keep them cool. See you there.

Financial Report: March 2026

Helmut Regelein

Opening Balance per Statement 01:0:2026 \$ **13,478.32**

Credits:

EFT Subs	\$ 1,185.00
EFT Activities	\$ 123.50
Total Credits	\$ 1,308.50

Debits

Total March Debits \$ **990.00**

Closing Balance per Statement 31:03:2026 \$ **13,796.82**

Estimated Liabilities:

Nil \$ 0.00

Estimated Liabilities: \$ **0.00**

Club Funds 31:03:2026 \$ **13,796.82**

Previous Speaker: Barry Starr *The Hera Pre-School in Timor-Leste*

The independent state of Timor-Leste (also known as East Timor) occupies the eastern half of the island of Timor while its western half constitutes the Indonesian province of Nusa Tenggara. The word 'Timor' is derived from '*timur*', meaning 'east' in the Malay language while '*leste*' also means 'east' in Portuguese. This results in Timor-Leste being a tautological place name meaning 'East East'.

Timor-Leste's area is about 15,000 km² (roughly the size of Greater Sydney) and also includes the small enclave of Ambeno on the western half of the island and two small nearby islands. It currently has a population of about 1½ million people (compare this with the Greater Sydney population of ~5½ million). The 2002 constitution designates Portuguese and the widely-spoken indigenous language Tetum as Timor-Leste's two official languages. Both the English and Indonesian languages serve as working languages within the civil service.

Timor-Leste is among the poorest countries in Oceania with a per capita GDP near \$5,000. The unemployment rate is currently about 20%. Given its Portuguese heritage, it is not surprising that over 90% of the population identify as Roman Catholic. Its capital is Dili (population 300,000), situated on the northern coast of the island, with a flight time of about 1½ hours from Darwin. Hera, where the pre-school was built, is about an hour's drive from Dili.

While Timor-Leste became a colony of Portugal around 1515, it took almost 200 years before a formal administration was established there in 1702. Indeed, effective European occupation of the eastern part of the island really only began in earnest in 1769, when the city of Dili was founded. Even then, for the Portuguese, East Timor remained little more than a neglected trading post, with minimal investment in infrastructure and education until the late

19th century. Sandalwood was the main long-term export crop, although coffee exports became significant in the mid-nineteenth century.

During WW2, the island was first occupied by the Allies before they were driven out by the Japanese in 1942. The Japanese left after their surrender at the end of the WW2. However, it wasn't until 1975 when Portugal itself suffered a civil war, that Fretilin (the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor) declared Timor-Leste independent of Portugal after 400 years of colonial rule. Nine days later, Islamic Indonesia invaded Timor-Leste, claiming the region as part of its territory supposedly to prevent a communist takeover. A brutal 24-year occupation followed, during which an estimated 150,000 Timorese died from violence, famine, and disease.

A 1991 massacre of more than 200 demonstrators by the Indonesian military brought increased international pressure on Indonesia to hold a referendum on the island's independence. A clear vote for independence was, however, met



with a punitive campaign of violence by East Timorese pro-Indonesian militias supported by elements of the Indonesian military. In response, the Indonesian government allowed a multinational peacekeeping force led by Australia,

INTERFET, to restore law and order. This then allowed independence to proceed.

About one-third of the population cannot read or write, which is why the construction of the

pre-school at Hera was so important. The cost of building the pre-school was \$45,000, which was funded both by local fundraising and the Mosman Rotary Club. Fish ponds were built to allow fish to be farmed for sale. Day-old chicks were raised to produce both eggs and poultry to be sold to restaurants. Ducks were also raised for a Chinese restaurant.

The land on which the pre-school was built was donated by a local landlord. The building of the pre-school was in part a community effort: some of the 24 builders were graduates of the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) training in Timor-Leste and the teachers at the pre-school were all locally trained. The first graduation class consisted of 52 students.

A primary school is now being planned on land adjacent to the pre-school, also donated by the same local landlord. Its cost will probably be more than double that of the pre-school. The need to expand the level of general education in Timor-Leste is now recognised and the important role being played by Mosman Rotary in this development deserves wider recognition.

