Probus Club of Pittwater

Newsletter – January 2026

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President's Message

To paraphrase a favourite song of mine: "The year is over and a new one has begun, we are now a year older and what have we done."

It is a time to reflect on the past year, and embrace new beginnings, to assess our past year and set goals for the future. This practice is embodied in the tradition of making New Year's resolutions, which are our commitment to improve oneself in various aspects of our lives, such as health, relationships, and personal growth.

But New Year's Eve is also the one night of the year when we collectively decide that glitter, noise, and questionable resolutions are the perfect recipe for joy. It begins with the noble intention of "starting fresh," which usually translates into buying a gym membership that will be abandoned by mid-January.

Happy New Year! Hope you can stay up for it!

The celebrations themselves are a curious mix of tradition and chaos. Families gather around television screens to watch fireworks explode across the globe. In Australia, the Sydney Harbour Bridge becomes a pyrotechnic masterpiece, while in smaller towns, someone inevitably sets off a sparkler and declares it "just as good."

Food does not necessarily play a starring role. Many households simply consume whatever is left in the fridge before the "new year diet" begins. Drinks flow freely, and by midnight, even the shyest uncle or grandpa, is attempting dance moves that defy both rhythm and physics.

Then comes the countdown: ten, nine, eight……. a moment where everyone forgets their differences and remembers only that they must shout "Happy New Year!" at precisely the right second. Hugs and kisses, follow, and we think how lucky we are being with friends and family.

In the end, New Year's celebrations are less about resolutions and more about laughter, noise, and the comforting illusion that turning a calendar page can magically reset our lives. And perhaps, in its own amusing way, that's exactly what makes it wonderful.

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So, raise a glass to 2026 and celebrate….. for tomorrow is another day.

"My New Year's resolution is to stop procrastinating… but I'll start tomorrow."
… Charles Hill, President

January 2026 – Main Speaker

How we won the America's Cup – Noel Phelan

The achievement of the Australian team in winning the America's Cup in 1983 was one of the most remarkable feats in Australian sporting history.

Australia II captured the hearts of the nation when they won the America's Cup in1983, breaking a 132-year winning streak by the Americans in sport's oldest trophy. Perhaps the most iconic of Australian sporting moments, the competition caught the attention of sailors and non-sailors alike, throughout Australia and abroad.

"You captured the imagination of the people the world over" said American President Reagan, as he congratulated the Australia II crew on a visit to the White House two days after the race. "You have shown us the stuff of which Australians are made."

Noel Phelan returns to give a well-researched and graphic account of the day.

Come along and learn what really happened.

January 2026 – 5-Minute Speaker

It's a birthday and its ours.

Pittwater Probus is 45 years old in January 2026.

Come along and reflect on some of the past memories and there are plenty of them!

Browse through the original hand-written minute book.

Ron Seldon will give a brief history of the club and highlight the club's long term members.

Partners are invited to join in the review.

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February 2026 – Main Speaker

The Day New York Fell Down

We can all recall receiving the tragic news on Tuesday 11 September 2001, when suicide attackers seized US passenger jets and crashed them into each of the two World Trade Centre towers, killing thousands of people.

The event had profound consequences across the globe.

Our speaker in February was there on that heart-breaking day and witnessed the event live.

He will recount the realisation of what was happening and the horror that followed.

Make sure you hear the first-hand account of this terrible event.

February 2026 – 5-Minute Speaker

The year 2022, Mona Vale SLSC marked a significant milestone — 100 years of volunteer service, safeguarding Mona Vale beachgoers.

This month, Mona Vale Surf Lifesaving Club Admistrator Robyn Stonell (who always welcomes Members to the Club on meeting days with a loverly smile) will give us a brief history of the club.

BBQ Is Back

The New Year is here!

This means one thing.
It's time we had a BBQ at Winnererremy Bay!

You know the procedure:

- *Put you name down to say you are coming*
- *Arrive at Winnererremy Bay at 5 00 pm on Thursday 22nd January with chairs and essential refreshments*
- *Pay the Bagman $5 each*
- *Enjoy a freshly cooked BBQ sausage in a buttered roll. Choice of pork or beef.*

Better still, enjoy the great Probus camaraderie!

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2025 Probus Christmas Lunch …

… and what a celebration it was!

Call for Nominations

Many members from time to time, comment on how well the club is run and consider "I don't need to get involved".

Yes, the club does operate well under the stewardship of the committee, but the input from each committee member is not limitless. Although committee members enjoy volunteering for their role, there has to be change at some time.

Members, it is important that you please consider it is your time to contribute to the club, even in a small way. Every bit of help is graciously accepted and you will find it rewarding. Help can be in a support committee on selecting speakers or helping organise a club activity.

Club Members: It is time to step up and volunteer!

If you can help the club in one of these key roles (or support role) and join in the camaraderie of the committee, please do not hesitate to nominate by contacting Secretary David Cant on 0417 422 952.

In accordance with the Pittwater Probus Constitution, there are 10 officer/committee positions to be voted in at the March 2026 AGM. They are:

- ***President***
- ***Vice President***
- ***Secretary***
- ***Treasurer***
- ***Activities & Functions***
- ***Welfare & New Members***
- ***Newsletter Editor***
- ***Speakers Organiser***
- ***Registrar***
- ***Past President (Ex-Officio)***

Also, in accordance with club practice, the 2025 Vice President, Bob Horton assumes the role of 2026 President. The 2025 President, Charles Hill, assumes the role of Past President (Ex Officio). All other positions will become vacant at the AGM and open to election.

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Probus Golf Report – 12th December 2025

Pittwater Probus 2025 Golfer of the Year
Graham Morley

The weather forecast was storms and heavy rain, so golf had to be cancelled.

As few golfers wanted to travel to Palm Beach, our Christmas Lunch was moved to Mona Vale Golf Club where we had six members including Stephen McRobbie.

This was a chance to farewell Stephen and wish he and Annie well for their new life at Valentine.

The winner of **"Golfer of the Year"**, was yours truly Graham Morley, Runner up was Don Tinyou.

Our first game in 2026 will be on Friday 16th January at Palm Beach Golf Course

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

… Graham Morley, Golf Convenor

Speaker's Corner

Charles Hill – The Role of the Town Planner

The speaker for our December meeting was President Charles Hill.

The focus of Charles' talk was the benefits of planning and in particular how to manage population growth, urban sprawl, the resultant need for more housing, particularly affordable housing, the broader community concern in relation to the eroding of community participation in the process, and the implication of the changes taking place within the urban environment.

Charles acknowledged that the value of planning is now widely accepted, albeit grudgingly in some, but that town planning is essentially about creating sustainable, liveable, and organized communities. He indicated that town planning strives to ensure that land use is balanced between housing, industry, transport, and green spaces, preventing overcrowding and environmental degradation.

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PIG Investment Group

Members of the PIG team are resting in January but will be back in full strength in February 2026.

Join the Probus money men at 10 00 am Wednesday 4th February at Warriewood Brook.

Words of Oriental Wisdom

Never interrupt your enemy while he is making mistakes

… ~~Old~~ New Chinese Saying

November 2025 Accounts

Opening Balance 1 December 2025	**$6,900.67**
Morning Coffee Receipts	$145.00
S. McRobie Christmas Lunch Donation	$200.00
Total Receipts	**$345.00**
Morning Coffee – MVSC	$120.00
Morning Tea – Mince Pies and Champagne for MVSC Administrator	$66.15
Christmas Lunch – Amici	$4,300.20
Mona Vale Surf Club - Donation	$500.00
Member Name Badge	$14.00
Total Expenses	**$5,000.35**
Closing Balance 31 December 2025	**$2,245.32**

Sunset Sips – Friday 28th January

Its summer and its hot!

Time to get out and enjoy a refreshing cold drink.

Join the team at the Mona Vale Surf Club and celebrate staying cool!

Sunset Sips 5 00 pm Friday 27th January 2026

The Dilemma in the White House

What do you do if you always sound more like an adult than the man you serve?

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The Next Chapter

Barnaby, the politician who just keeps giving! Now entering into the inner sanctum of One Nation.

Well, it's a step up from "Speed-Dial".

Opinions Required!

The Pittwater Likely Lads invite you to join them at the Mona Vale Golf Club coffee shop and provide your mindful thoughts to the debate.

So why not join them?
Each Thursday morning at 10 00am.
Your education of things that matter will be enriched beyond bounds!

Long Reef Ascent

The Activities Committee has planned a walk around Long Reef Headland. Not on the golf course but around it!

The plan is to meet at the Long Reef Life Saving Club Coffee Shop (situated on the south side of the golf course) at 10 00 am on Thursday 12th February 2026. After reinvigorated with coffee, the team will head up the south face of the Long Reef Headland until reaching the lookout at the top.

A welfare check will be conducted and those deemed to be in a sufficient physical condition may continue down around the north side of the headland following the coastal walk path, to return to the coffee shop to complete the tour. Others to return the way they came up (or just meander around the golf course).

No need to book ahead, just roll up.

Aspiration for 2026

Let's Hope the Good Guys beat the Bad Guys.

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Longreach Tour

Our travelling members have itchy feet and asking where the next Pittwater Probus Extravaganza Trip will go to and when.

Well, our Master Travel Adventurer, Bill Sherman, has one on the drawing boards.

Not just a wander down a nearby lane.

Oh no! Something that could possibly be on your bucket list. We are planning to go to Longreach and Winton in Queensland in July 2026.

Activities being considered:

- *Qantas Founders Museum,*
- *Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre,*
- *Thompson Sunset River Cruise*
- *Local Outback Rail Tours*
- *Speciality Museums, Monuments & Statues.*

The initial thinking is to:

- ✓ *Travel by self-drive to Brisbane*
- ✓ *Day in Brisbane*
- ✓ *Catch the overnight Spirit of the Outback train from Brisbane to Longreach*
- ✓ *Enjoy local Longreach and Winton sights and activities*
- ✓ *Return by air to Brisbane*
- ✓ *Drive home to Sydney*

These are just ideas being kicked around at the moment.
Want to join the team? Contact Bill on 0418 257 330.

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Probus Up-Coming Activities

	January 2026	
Thursday	***Every***	***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***6th***	***Committee Meeting at Warriewood Brook – 9:00 am***
Tuesday	***-***	***No Probus Investment Group Meeting in January See you at Warriewood Brook in February – 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***13th***	***Probus General Meeting Main Speaker – Noel Phelan – America's Cup Win 5 Minute Speaker – Ron Seldon - Pittwater 45th Birthday Lunch after at Pittwater RSL Club.***
Friday	***16th***	***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club***
Thursday	***22nd***	***BBQ - Winnererremy Bay 5 00 pm $5 each – Pay the bagman***
Friday	***30th***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.***
	February 2026	
Thursday	***Every***	***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***3rd***	***Committee Meeting at Warriewood Brook – 9:00 am***
Wednesday	***4th***	***Probus Investment Group Meeting at Warriewood Brook – 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***10th***	***Probus General Meeting Main Speaker – The tragic event of 9 11 close hand 5 Minute Speaker – Robyn Stonell – History of MVLSC Lunch after at Pittwater RSL Club.***
Thursday	***12th***	***Walk around Long Reef Headland - Meet 10 00 am***
Friday	***13th***	***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club***
Friday	***27th***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.***

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Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc. Meeting

Meeting	9th December 2025. Commenced at 10 00 am at Mona Vale Surf Club. Meeting opened by President Charles Hill who welcomed members. 29 members present. 1 Visitor, Lynne Hill.
Apologies	Warwick Pope, Ken Plumb, Warwick Dalzell, Peter Mayman, Rod Rodwell, Barrie Unsworth, Ken Boyes, Bob Anderson.
Inductions	None.
Welfare Report	No welfare issues to report.
Minutes	Minutes of the November 2025 meeting were published in the December Newsletter. Moved Brent Baker. Seconded John Harston. Carried.
Matters Arising from Minutes	Nil.
Correspondence	No correspondence.
Secretary's Report	Nothing to report.
Treasurer's Report	Paul Mascall advised the November 2025 accounts were published in the December Newsletter. Balance 1st November 2025 $4,542.87 Balance 30th November $6,900.67. Moved Geoff Sheppard. Seconded Brent Baker. Carried.
Birthdays	Graham Morley, Bob Anderson, George Crowley, Warwick Dalzell, David Cant, John Rodger.
Activities & Functions	Bob Horton: Coffee every Thursday morning. Sunset Sips Friday 26th December at MVSC. Prawn Pod Friday 21st. BBQ Thursday January 22nd. Walk at Long Reef 12th February 2026. Christmas Lunch was a great success.
Speakers	John Porter: January Noel Phelan - America's Cup. February 9 11 Account.
Newsletter & Website	Ron Seldon: Lack of readers.
Golf	Graham Morley: November game, Bill Sherman 1st, Warwick Pope 2nd. Next game Friday 12th December. Christmas Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club.
Investment Group	John Harston advised speculative stocks return 17%. Main portfolio return 15%. No PIG meeting in January.
General Business	None.
Speakers	Main Speaker: The President gave a detailed talk in the in and out of town planning.
Next Meeting	13th January 2026 at Mona Vale Surf Club commencing at 10 00 am. Meeting Closed at 11 45 am. Signed as a correct record.

2025 Office Bearers

President	**Charles Hill**	**Activities Officer**	**Bob Horton**
Vice President	**Bob Horton**	**Newsletter Editor**	**Ron Seldon**
Secretary	**David Cant**	**Speaker Organiser**	**John Porter**
Treasurer	**Paul Mascall**	**Functions Officer**	**Stephen McRobie**
Welfare Officer	**Stephen McRobie**	**Past President (Ex-Officio)**	**Stephen McRobie**

2025 Support Officers

Golf Convenor	**Graham Morley**	**Probus Investment Grp.**	**John Harston**
Activities & Functions Committee	**Bob Horton, Stephen McRobie, John Porter, David James, John Rourke, David Cant, Charles Hill**	**Speakers Committee**	**John Porter, Bill Sherman, Brent Baker, David James, Charles Hill**

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