Probus Club of Pittwater

Newsletter – March 2026

Email: probus@pittwater.org.au **Website:** www.pittwaterprobus.org.au

President's Message

Well fellow Probarians the 10th of March will mark the official end of my Presidency of the Club, and the election of a new President.

It has given me great pleasure to have held that position over the last 12 months.

In handing over the reins to the new president, I would like to thank particularly the committee members, the volunteers and individual members of the club who have given me strong support over the year and made my role much easier.

Now, don't panic. This doesn't mean I'll stop turning up for morning teas, because as a Past President I will continue to be involved with the Club, and I think Bob Horton has already outlined a role for me in the coming year.

But it does mean I'll no longer be the one reminding you to fill out the activity forms, or complaining that not enough members are attending activities, or reminding you that a payment is due for a particular activity.

I've learned a lot in my time here. For example, that "short meetings" are a blessing, that we do not need raffles as they are a full-contact sport, and sometimes no one ever remembers who volunteered for what — until it's too late.

So, what will I do when I step down with all the extra time that I will supposedly have?

I plan to pursue advanced studies in napping, perfect the art of the long lunch, and perhaps even take up extreme gardening — which is like regular gardening, but with more swearing.

In closing, thank you all for the laughter, the friendship, and the occasional chaos. I may be stepping down from my current responsibilities, but I will be continuing the joy and pleasure of being part of the Pittwater Probus Club.

… Charles Hill, President

Battle of the Treasurers

Timmy v Jimmy

(Tim Wilson v Jim Chalmers)

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March 2026 – Main Speaker

Aris Dimitriadis – History of Mona Vale Life Saving Club

Mona Vale Life Saving Club was founded in 1922 and has continuously patrolled the Mona Vale beach now for over 100 years.

Almost on its centenary, the club moved to its current, new clubhouse – which Pittwater Probus now calls home for one Tuesday morning each month.

Aris will give us a presentation telling us of the club's history and its ongoing role as an essential and greatly respected community service through the eyes of a life-long surfer.

March 2026 – 5-Minute Speaker

No speaker in March due to the AGM

April 2026 – Main Speaker

Nicholas Cowdery – Voluntary Assisted Dying

They say that only two things in life are inevitable: death and taxes. While some may be able to do something about the latter, we all face the former.

How we die is important - to us, our families, friends and associates and to those affected at the time. The Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022 (NSW) gives us new options and the Act's creation and operation will be discussed.

Nicholas will describe the situation before the Act and provide an update on how it is operating now.

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April 2026 – 5-Minute Speaker

Gunter Schaule – Artificial Intelligence

Gunter will give us an appreciation of the world of artificial intelligence.
Is it now impacting the way we live and do things?
Hear Gunter's interpretation of this new world.

Probus Golf Report – 16th January 2026

A short golf report of sorts - Palmy 16 February

- *The morning was cloudy and the mood somewhat sombre*
- *A spill in Canberra, John O'PIG called the number*
- *Thirty-four seventeen*
- *Under darkening sky, Gunslinger BSher along with trusty dark horse Briken,*
- *Seated in their 4HP dray*
- *Led the five cracks down the fairway*
- *Some went left, some went right into the mulga*
- *Wassa Hope went straight to start the play*
- *Into the string of "long" par threes,*
- *Wassa set the pace*
- *Pars hole after hole. He left the others in the trees.*
- *Who can keep up in this race?*
- *At the turn, Gunslinger shouted*
- *Now's the time*
- *Targeting the next green with his trusty shot gun*
- *Drilled the putt. The Birdie's mine.*
- *You will observe, birdies are rare,*
- *Bogies and Double bogies to compare*
- *In the end with Sky azure*
- *Club Palmy awaits. Food, drinks and scores to elate*
- *But Oh, where's Par Controller?*
- *There's scores and handicaps to calculate*
- *Par Controller lured away by better things*
- *Music and Art are the IN thing*
- *Where is the prized monthly trophy?*
- *Rumour has it*
- *Shoe horn Ricko has it lost somewhere in the shoes.*
- *Where are all our players?*
- *Mr consistent golfer of past year, Red Devil*
- *Wet tail BBQ-er Ando*
- *Buccaneer Iceberg Sheppo*
- *We need you to return plus new blood to bolster the herd*
- *It sounds like SNAFU but HOPE rises*
- *Wassa reaches out for TILLER and prizes.*
- *Join the MOB (G-G's)*
- *Golf, Grub, Grog, Get together, Gentleman's natter and*
- *GRAB A GOLF BALL (free) while they last!!*
- *UNOHU*

…. Anonymous

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Destination Patonga

When was the last time you crossed the water? Pittwater that is, or even entered into Broken Bay? Well now is the chance to change all that and join Pittwater Probus on a voyage of re-discovery.

Sailing Date: Thursday 26th March 2026

Embarkation Point: Palm Beach Ferry Wharf at 11 00 am sharp. Be greeted on board the Merindah II by President Bob Horton.

Destination: The village of Patonga and the Boat House Hotel for lunch.

On Arrival: President Bob will welcome us to The Boat House, where we will have a "Boat House" fish and chip lunch at the kiosk. Will need to book separately should you wish to dine in the restaurant.

Ferry Return: Departs at 3.00 pm sharp. Make sure you don't miss the boat home!

Cost: Pay as you go.

For your convenience:

- ***Parking At Palm Beach wharf is available. NBC stickers accepted.***
- ***199 bus stops at the wharf.***
- ***Ferry fare $25.00, Pension Cards $20.00. Ferry does not accept OPAL card.***
- ***Any enquires contact Bob Horton on 0408 810 149 or bobandchrishorton@bigpond.com***

We are looking forward to a good roll-up for a loverly relaxed day's outing.

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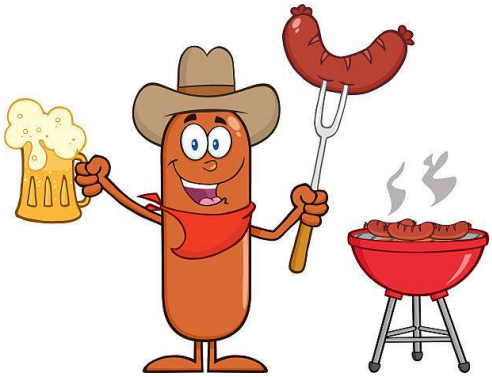
BBQ While the Sun Shines

Daylight Saving will end early April!

This means one thing.



It's time to squeeze in a BBQ at Winnererremy Bay before we end up in the dark!

You know the procedure:

- *Put you name down to say you are coming*
- *Arrive at Winnererremy Bay at 5 00 pm on Thursday 12th March with chairs and essential refreshments*
- *Pay the Bagman $5 per head*
- *Enjoy a freshly cooked BBQ sausage in a buttered roll. Choice of pork or beef.*

Better still, enjoy the great Probus camaraderie!

Note New Date; Thursday 12th March 2026 (one week earlier)

2026 Club Fees

The 2026 Pittwater Probus Club Fees became due on March 1, 2026.

A motion is before the AGM to retain the 2026 Fees at $50.00, which is expected to be passed by the members.

Club Members can pay by:

- *$50.00 cash to the Treasurer, or*
- *Direct deposit to the Pittwater Probus Bank Account*

If you decide to pay direct, the Pittwater Probus banking details are:

BSB: 062 211 Account No: 00900956

Please ensure you put you name in the Description/Reference Box and state "Fees".

PIG Investment Group

The time of intuitive thinking is upon us. Time to advise the team of your choice to include in the the 2026 investment panel.

Both for the income portfolio and the speculative portfolio

Join the Probus money men at 10 00 am Wednesday 4th March at the Mona Vale Golf Club Cafe.

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Sunset Sips – Friday 27th March

It is still summer!

Time to get out and enjoy a smooth red!

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

Sunset Sips 5 00 pm Friday 27th March 2026

The Long Reef Walk and Coffee Morning

On an overcast but warm morning, I left home with a happy heart looking forward to catching up with 10 of my fellow members for our walk and coffee morning.

The surf club car park was reasonably busy, but alas by 10.00am there were only 3 other Probus people in the crowd. At 10.15 a decision was made to adjourn to the café for coffee and the walk was forfeited.

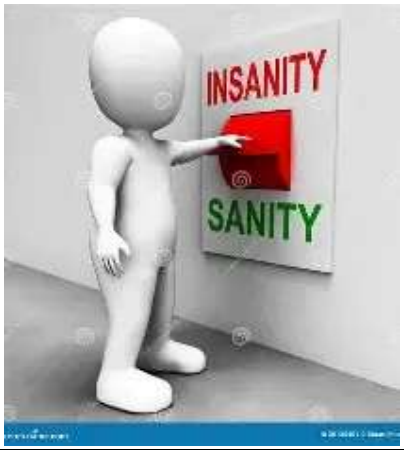
As the Activities Organiser I believe that a good lesson has been learnt. That is "Pittwater Probus Members do not get too excited about undertaking walking events".

Going forward I think we might have to come up with alternatives.

Good conversation was had over coffee and we certainly debated the issues of the day.

… Bob Horton Vice President

Sanity Solution!



Struggling with your sanity of late? Too many issues to manage? Need to sort out all the issues?

We have the solution!

You need a dose of in-sanity.

(Same principle as antivenom)

Join the Pittwater Likely Lads at the Mona Vale Golf Club coffee shop and your troubles will disappear!

Each Thursday morning at 10 00am.

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February 2026 Accounts

Opening Balance 1 February 2026	**$1,949.12**
Morning Coffee Receipts	$155.00
Annual Fees – Brent Baker	$50.00
Total Receipts	**$205.00**
Morning Coffee – MVSC	$120.00
Morning Tea – Biscuits	$14.60
Cost of Comm Meeting Room Hire	$12.00
Select Housing Renew – pittwaterprobus.org.au	$198.00
February Speaker Petrol Costs	$50.00
Total Expenses	**$196.60**
Closing Balance 28 February 2026	**$1,957.52**

Speaker's Corner

Hans Kunnen – 9/11- I was there!

Hans was Chief Economist for the Colonial First State Bank and had been invited to attend a conference of economists in New York. He arrived just before the tragic event, even viewing the city from the top of one of the towers the night before. The conference was in the Marriott Hotel located at the base of the towers.

The conference was in progress the next morning, the morning of the attack on the first tower. Being held in the hotel ballroom and hearing very loud disturbances and not knowing what was going on, delegates were beginning to panic without realising what was happening. Guests within the hotel were told to assemble in the foyer but unable to see outside which created more fear to what was happening. Finally, they were allowed to leave the hotel through a side door. There was rubble everywhere and burning paper. Suddenly there was a loud aeroplane noise as it accelerated into the second tower which Hans witnessed.

"This was the emotionally lowest point in my life." said Hans as he tried to realise what was happening and what he should do. He decided to head for the nearby Staton Island Ferry Wharf and sat in the terminal for some time trying to take in plight he was in. Whilst there he could hear loud rumblings as the tower buildings collapsed. Thick black dust enveloped the whole area.

During the time Hans was sitting at the terminal, a lady Leslie Castelucci-De Feitas who was a local, also distraught, offered to take in Hans, and another, to help him organise what he needed to do next. His passport, travel documents and luggage were in his hotel room which was also a casualty of the fallen towers. Hans was able to contact his wife in Australia 3 days later when the phones were reinstated. He also contacted the Australian Consul General to get a new passport and eventually flew out 10 days later carrying with him very painful memories.

… Ron Seldon

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2025 Financial Report

PROBUS CLUB OF PITTWATER INC.
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS STATEMENT AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

RECEIPTS	**2025**	**2024**
Club Fees	3,050.00	3,350.00
Joining Fees/Badges	115.00	160.00
Morning Teas	1,895.55	2,071.80
Activities	3,699.00	10,574.05
Functions	6,860.00	10,365.00
Donations	0.00	50.00
Refunds	0.00	0.00
Admin. Supplies	0.00	0.00
Total Receipts	**$15,619.55**	**$26,570.85**
PAYMENTS		
Club Fees	114.50	0.00
Joining Fees/ Badges	56.00	239.38
Morning Teas	1,835.25	1,708.50
Activities	3,809.60	10,599.40
Functions	7,827.96	12,923.34
Donations	888.94	500.00
Refunds	0.00	0.00
Admin. Supplies	773.60	2,088.84
Meeting Room	12.00	0.00
Ins. & Capitation Fees	1,400.00	1,330.00
State Taxes	175.00	0.00
P.O. Box Rental	159.00	154.00
Total Payments	**$17,051.85**	**29,543.46**
Deficiency/Excess	(1,432.30)	(2,972.61)
B/Forward	3,389.82	6,362.43
BALANCE	**$1,957.52**	**3,389.82**

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Probus Club of Pittwater

PROBUS CLUB OF PITTWATER INC.
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2026

ASSETS

Cash at Bank	**$1,957.52**

LIABILITIES

Nil

Cash Funds as at 28/2/2026	**$1,957.52**

The attached Receipts and Payments Statement and Balance Sheet have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Association's Incorporation Act.

The Statements are prepared on a cash basis of the Probus Club of Pittwater Inc. when items are bought to account as money is received or paid.

Charles Hill
President
28 February 2026

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion the attached Receipts and Payments Statement and Balance Sheet present fairly the position of the Probus Club of Pittwater Inc. as at 28 February 2026 and its receipts and payments for the year ended.

Warwick Pope
Hon. Auditor
28 February 2026

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Agenda for 2026 Annual General Meeting

AGENDA FOR PROBUS CLUB OF PITTWATER INC.
45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TO BE HELD AT MONA VALE SURF CLUB, 10th MARCH 2026

Agenda for the 45th Annual General Meeting

1. Due notice having been given and a quorum being present, Jim Attrill AGM Chairman, to declare the 45th Annual General Meeting open.
2. Welcome all members.
3. The Chair to seek confirmation of the Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting having been tabled, as a true and fair record of the Meeting and propose they be accepted. (Minutes included in the February 2026 Newsletter.)
4. Paul Mascall to present the Treasurer's Report for 2025 and the Auditor's Report. (Reports to be included in the March 2026 Newsletter.) The Treasurer to move acceptance of the Report, to be seconded and put to a vote of the members.
5. Approval of Pittwater Probus Club Fees for 2026.
6. The Chair to declare all Committee Member positions vacant (except for President and Past President) and seek nominations for all vacant positions.

President	Bob Horton
Vice President	*Position Vacant*
Secretary	*Position Vacant*
Treasurer	*Position Vacant*
Welfare & New Members	*Position Vacant*
Activities Officer	*Position Vacant*
Functions Officer	*Position Vacant*
Newsletter Editor	*Position Vacant*
Speakers Organiser	*Position Vacant*
Past President (Ex-Officio)	Charles Hill

7. On receipt of nominations for the Committee and if there being more than one nomination for any position the Chair will conduct a vote; advise that nominations for positions have been received and advise the result of the election of Committee Members for 2026. The Chair move and declare "That the members nominated for the offices stated above are deemed to be elected." The motion to be seconded and put to a vote of the members.
8. The Chair calls for nominations for Club Auditor for 2026.
9. Thank Charles Hill and the 2025 committee for their hardworking contributions in managing the affairs of the club and congratulate the new President, Bob Horton and his Committee for assuming their roles in 2026.
10. The Chair declare the 45th Annual General Meeting closed.

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Probus Up-Coming Activities

March 2026		
Thursday	***Every***	***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***3rd***	***Committee Meeting – Mona Vale Library 9:00 am***
Tuesday	***4th***	***Probus Investment Group Meeting at Warriewood Brook – 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***10th***	***Probus General Meeting and AGM Main Speaker – Aris Dimitriadis – History of MVSC 5 Minute Speaker – No Speaker. AGM Lunch after at Pittwater RSL Club.***
Thursday	***12th***	***BBQ - Winnererremy Bay 5 00 pm $5 each – Pay the bagman***
Friday	***13th***	***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club***
Thursday	***26th***	***Ferry Trip to Patonga/Lunch – Depart Wharf 11 00 am***
Friday	***27th***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.***
April 2026		
Thursday	***Every***	***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am***
Wednesday	***1st***	***Probus Investment Group Meeting – 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***7th***	***Committee Meeting – Mona Vale Library 9:00 am***
Tuesday	***14th***	***Probus General Meeting and AGM Main Speaker – Nicholas Cowdery – Voluntary Assisted Dying 5 Minute Speaker – Gunter Schaule – Artificial Intelligence Lunch after at Pittwater RSL Club.***
Friday	***17th***	***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club***
Friday	***24th***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.***

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Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc. Meeting

Meeting	10th February 2026. Commenced at 10 00 am at Mona Vale Surf Club. Meeting opened by Vice-President Bob Horton who welcomed 32 members.
Apologies	Charles Hill, Stephen McRobe, John Porter, David Varley, Ian Storey, Bill Sivyer, Michael Mannington.
Inductions	None.
Welfare Report	John Sherwood in Mona Vale Hospital.
Retirements	Graham Morley to retire as Golf Convenor after 9 years. Paul Mascall to retire as Treasurer after 4 years. The Vice-President acknowledged the valued contribution of both members and thanked them on behalf of the Club for their services.
Minutes	Minutes of the January 2026 meeting were published in the February 2026 Newsletter. Moved John Rodger. Seconded Ken Boyes. Carried.
Matters Arising from Minutes	The AGM will be held at the next General Meeting. The position of Vice-President and Treasurer plus Assistant Newsletter Editor are vacant. 2026 membership fees are unchanged at $50, to be paid at the next General Meeting.
Correspondence	Routine admin.
Secretary's Report	Nothing to report.
Treasurer's Report	Paul Mascall advised the January 2026 accounts were published in the February Newsletter. Balance 1st January 2026 $2,245.32 Balance 31st January $1,949.12. Moved Peter Nash. Seconded Bill Sherman. Carried.
Birthdays	Bruce Gorringe, Geoff Sheppard, Bill Sherman, Bruce Butlet, Kurt Rott.
Activities & Functions	Bob Horton: Coffee every Thursday morning. Golf Friday 13th February. Sunset Sips Friday 27th February at MVSC. Prawn Pod Friday 20th February. Walk at Long Reef 12th February 2026. Boat trip from Palm Beach to Patonga 26th March. BBQ 13th March. PIG Meeting 4th March. Members were asked to discuss ideas for activities with committee members. Functions to be covered by Charles Hill.
Speakers	February - Hans Kuneen Account of 9/11. March - Ian Thompson – History of Photography.
Newsletter & Website	Ron Seldon: Reviewing on-line opening rates of the Newsletter.
Golf	Graham Morley delivered his last report. Next game Friday 13th February.
Investment Group	No report.
General Business	AGM coming up. Need volunteers to fill committee positions.
Speakers	No 5-Minute Speaker. Main Speaker: Hans Kuneen gave a very dramatic presentation of his personal experience during the day of the 9/11 tragedy.
Next Meeting	10th March 2026 at Mona Vale Surf Club commencing at 10 00 am.
	Meeting Closed at 12 15 pm. 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	**(Vacant)**	**Past President (Ex-Officio)**	**Stephen McRobie**

2025 Support Officers

Golf Convenor	**Graham Morley**	**Probus Investment Grp.**	**John Harston**
Activities & Functions Committee	**Bob Horton, 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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