Probus Club of Pittwater

Newsletter – April 2026

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President's Message

Hello fellow members,

As your latest President and also a relatively new member of the club, I thought I should provide you with some background information about me, a bit of my history and indeed what my visions are for the club during my Presidency

First the history. I was born in Port Macquarie NSW back in 1949, my parents owned an Ice and Ice Cream manufacturing business there. With the introduction of refrigerators and the multi-national ice cream companies the business was sold in the early 1950s and we relocated to Five Dock in Sydney.

My education was through the public sector via Dobroyd Point Public School and Drummoyne Boy's High School where I was in the first year of the Wyndham Scheme and finished my education in 1967. I have a Graduate Certificate in Management from the University of Western Sydney.

Changing of the Guard

Sport played a big part of my early life through Rugby Union, Soccer, Tennis and Cricket.

My early career was with the Bank of NSW through General Banking and being selected to participate the early days of computerisation. This led to varied project roles in the area of Change Management which was the focus of my later career which saw various roles within the Bank and then private enterprise, throughout Australia.

I am married to Chris and have two boys and four grandchildren. We have had various homes during our married life from Petersham, to Wentworthville, to Castle Hill to Perth and Adelaide and then back to Sydney on the Northern Beaches in 2001, firstly in Bayview and then more recently in Mona Vale.

My focus during my term as your President will be to concentrate on the longevity of the club both in terms of maintaining a growing membership and Committee participation as well as providing a vehicle where you as a member can actively participate in social interactions with your fellow members and their partners.

To achieve this, I certainly will need your advice, views and participation.

I am looking forward to our successful year ahead.

… Bob Horton, President

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Doing the Essential

As one gets older, one is told to get one's affairs in order.

Today, I emptied the glovebox.

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.

April 2026 – 5-Minute Speaker

Gunter Schaule – Artificial Intelligence

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

May 2026 – Main Speaker

David Mee – The Unknown Impact of Gold

David will talk about "Gold" and what is unknown about some of the impacts of gold in history. It will include a short historical introduction, including the Australian gold rush, followed by its banning and confiscation in the USA by Roosevelt executive order in 1933. Then the war years and the Bretton Woods agreement followed by the Nixon shock in 1971. A look at modern monetary theory, as practiced today, and the inflation that is designed into the current monetary system will complete the talk.

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May 2026 – 5-Minute Speaker

Rod Rodwell – Living in Switzerland

New club member Rod Rodwell will talk about living in Switzerland.

- What it's like to live there? Heaven?
- Almost unique system of government compared to Australia.
- Taxation.
- Effect of geographical location.
- Attitudes to life.

An Evening with Rodgers & Hammerstein

Glen Street Theatre, 7:30 pm Friday 22 May 2026

- *With soaring melodies, rich harmonies, and the unmistakable warmth and heart that define Rodgers & Hammerstein, this show is a grand musical celebration featuring five principal vocalists, a full ensemble and choir, and a 22-piece orchestra.*
- *An Evening with Rodgers & Hammerstein takes audiences on a theatrical journey. Audiences will be treated to some of the most beloved songs ever written for the stage, including "Some Enchanted Evening," "If I Loved You," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "Hello, Young Lovers," "I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy," "People Will Say We're in Love," and "Ten Minutes Ago."*
- *Produced by the Sydney Musical & Opera Society*
- *Show time: 7:30 pm Friday 22 May 2026*
- *Club members to purchase tickets direct from the Glen Street Theatre.*
- *The plan is to meet at 6:00 pm at the Glen St. Shopping Centre (across the road from the theatre) for dinner at one of the restaurants before the show. Details to follow.*

Make sure you don't miss this great musical evening and stir up old memories!

Any queries please contact Bob Horton on 0408 810 149

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20 Year Membership Recognition

Jim Attrill receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for 20 Year Membership of Pittwater Probus from Club President Charles Hill

Trevor Stephens receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for 20 Year Membership of Pittwater Probus from Club President Charles Hill

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PIG Investment Group

The 2026 investment portfolios have been selecected and the hypothetical investments made. Now is the time to monitor the market and confirm how clever the PIG members are in selecting growth stock (or otherwise).

Oops! What happened? They have all plunged – something about The Middle East.

Join the Probus money men at 10 30 am Wednesday 1st April at the Mona Vale Golf Club Café as the decide what to do now!

Setting of the Judgement

It is an unlikely pairing, but a 19th century Danish philosopher and theologian may have been the saving grace for the former board of Star Entertainment in Sydney.

That's according to Federal Court Justice Michael Lee (of Bruce Lehrmann fame), who pointed to Soren Kierkegaard's observation that "life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards" in explaining why the Australian Securities and Investments Commission had failed to prove its point.

Philosopher Soren Kierkegaard

"The human experience is to live by making choices and moving forward; sometimes without complete understanding," Lee wrote in his judgement, by adding that the choices made by Star's directors could only be adjudicated based on "their knowledge and perspective at the time".

Because "aspects of ASIC's case may suffer from a degree of hindsight bias", Lee refused to find that the company's former directors had failed to stop junkets that may have been rife with money launderers.

Such rhetorical turns and learned "bon mots are de rigeur" in Lee's judgement and his latest offering was no exception.

… Extract, Janet Drevikovsky, AFR

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Probus Golf Recognition

Graham Morley receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for running the Pittwater Probus Friday Golf Competition for the past 9 years, from Club President Charles Hill

The Pittwater Probus Golf Team

Meeting the Governor

Probus South Pacific Ltd. celebrates its 50 Year Anniversary this year.

So why not have Afternoon Tea with Her Excellency the NSW Governor Margaret Beazley AC KC at Government House on a sunny autumn day?

Probus invited all NSW Probus Club Presidents and Ambassadors to enjoy the occasion with the Governor.

There were approximately 200 Probus representatives from all around the State, to which the Governor moved freely in meeting everyone.

It was a memorable occasion.

From Left to Right: Ron Seldon, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Anne McEncroe (President Manly Probus), Charles Hill.

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2026 Club Fees

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

If you have already paid, thank you.

Club Members can pay by:

- *$50.00 cash to our new Treasurer, Warwick Pope 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".

~~Destination Patonga~~

We were all looking forward to a loverly relaxed day's outing to Patonga in last month. But alas the Boathouse decided not to operate their ferry on a Tuesday and Thursday in March!

However, not all is lost, the committee is looking at a new date. Preferably one when the ferry is running!

It's Medicinal!

The experts say that coffee offers numerous health benefits, including increased energy, improved brain function, reduced risk of chronic diseases and enhanced longevity.

Join the Pittwater Likely Lads at the Mona Vale Golf Club coffee shop and partake in some weekly medicine!

Each Thursday morning at 10 00am.

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Golf Report – Friday 13 March

"Taking over" from Graham Morley is a hard act to follow, however, as all the hard parts are covered, it was not difficult.

The round on Friday 13th (significant) was comfortably won by new member Rod Rodwell with what I believe to be the best score recorded – 2 over par 34. Graham Morley was runner-up on a countback.

The next event is on Friday 17/4/26 – Hit-off 10.00 – 10.15. at Palm Beach Golf Club, followed by a convivial lunch at Palm Beach Club (optional).

We have bookings for up to 12 but regularly start with a lot less. Don't be embarrassed about your standard of play – you are in good company!

The Golf Club has spent a lot of money upgrading the course, and it is looking better every time we visit.

… Warwick Pope

Sunset Sips – Friday 27th March

Autumn is upon us and the weather is getting a little cool!

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 24th April 2026

March 2026 Accounts

Opening Balance 1 March 2026	**$1,957.52**
Morning Coffee Receipts	155.00
Club Annual Fees	970.00
Dept Fair Trading 2025 Refund	57.00
BBQ Receipts	125.00
Total Receipts	**$1,307.00**
Morning Coffee – MVSC	120.00
Morning Tea – Biscuits	13.60
Cost of Comm Meeting Room Hire	12.00
Admin. Supplies	14.00
Post Box Renewal	165.00
Total Expenses	**$324.60**
Closing Balance 31 March 2026	**$2,939.92**

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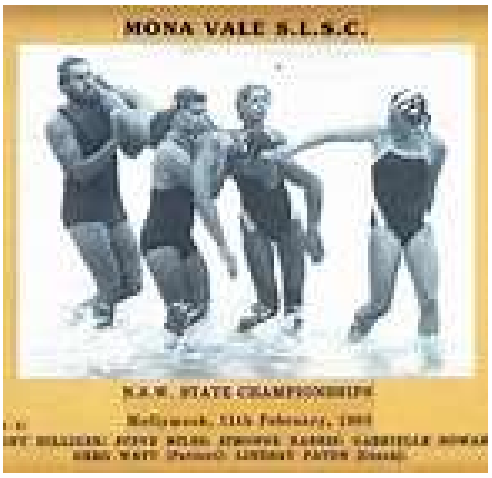
Speaker's Corner

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. Aris gave us a pictorial 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.

The club continues its fine history of dedication to safety on Mona Vale Beach. It currently has 1,253 members.

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



… Ron Seldon

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Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting

PROBUS CLUB OF PITTWATER INC.
MINUTES of 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD MONA VALE SURF CLUB 10th MARCH 2026

Opening & Welcome	Jim Attrill, as the appointed Chairman of the AGM, confirmed that due notice had been given for the meeting and that a quorum was present. He then declared the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Pittwater Inc. open and extended a welcome to all fellow members.
Minutes of 44rd AGM	The Chair sought confirmation of the Minutes of the 44th AGM as a true and fair record of the meeting, a copy of which was included in the February 2026 Newsletter, and proposed they be accepted. Seconded by Geoff Richards. Carried by the Members.
Treasurer's & Audit Report	The Chair called on the Treasurer, Paul Mascall to present the 2025 Treasurer's Report: Total Receipts in 2025 $15,619.55 Total Payment in 2025 $17,051.85 Profit/Loss ($1,432.30) Balance Brought Forward $3,389.82 Balance 28 February 2026 $1,957.52 The Treasurer thanked Warwick Pope for auditing the 2025 accounts. The Chair proposed acceptance of the report. Seconded by Kim Russell. Carried by the members.
2025 Fees	The Chair advised that he had received a recommendation from the 2025 Committee for the 2026 Fees to remain at $50.00. Moved Bill Sherman. Seconded by John Harston. Carried by the members.
Committee Nominations	The Chair advised that he has received nominations for each of the positions on the Committee except for Vice President, and asked for nominations for this position or any other position. There were no further nominations. The Chair declared the position vacant and declared the 2026 Committee nominations closed.
Election of Committee Members	The Chair confirmed that current Nominees for the Committee have all agreed to serve. The Chair moved and declared that the members nominated for the various offices are deemed to be elected. Prior to requesting a supporting vote for this declaration, the Chair advised the proposed Committee to be: President — Bob Horton Vice President — *Vacant* Secretary — David Cant Treasurer — Warwick Pope Welfare & New Members — Charles Hill Activities Officer — John Rodger Functions Officer — Charles Hill Speakers Organiser — Brent Baker Newsletter Editor — Ron Seldon Past President (Ex Officio) — Charles Hill The Chair's declaration of the new Committee members was seconded by John Porter. Carried by the members. The Chair called for nominations for 2026 Club Auditor. John Porter proposed that Ray Brooks be nominated as Auditor. Seconded by Geoff Sheppard. Carried by the members.

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Close	The Chair thanked Charles Hill and the 2025 committee for their hardworking contributions in managing the affairs of the club and congratulated Bob Horton and his committee for their roles in 2026. The Chair declared the 45th Annual General Meeting closed.

Probus Up-Coming Activities

	April 2026	
Thursday	***Every***	***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am***
Wednesday	***1st***	***Probus Investment Group Meeting – 10:30 am Mona Vale Golf Club***
Tuesday	***7th***	***Committee Meeting – Mona Vale Library 9:00 am***
Tuesday	***14th***	***Probus General Meeting 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.***
	May 2026	
Thursday	***Every***	***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***5th***	***Committee Meeting – Mona Vale Library 9:00 am***
Wednesday	***6th***	***Probus Investment Group Meeting – 10:30 am Mona Vale Golf Club***
Tuesday	***14th***	***Probus General Meeting Main Speaker – David Mee – History of Gold 5 Minute Speaker – Rod Rodwell - Switzerland Lunch after at Pittwater RSL Club.***
Friday	***15th***	***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club***
Friday	***22nd***	***Glen Street Theatre – Rodgers & Hammerstein Music Meet for dinner before the show – 6 00 pm.***
Friday	***29th***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.***

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Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc. Meeting

Meeting	10th March 2026. Commenced at 10 00 am at Mona Vale Surf Club. Meeting opened by President Charles Hill who welcomed 31 members.
Apologies	David Cant, Stephen McRobie, Ken Boyes, Peter Mayman, Bob Anderson.
Certificates	Charles Hill presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Graham Morley. 20 Year Membership Certificates presented to Trevor Stephens and Jim Attrill.
AGM 2026 Committee	The Meeting was suspended for the AGM. Meeting resumed after the AGM Charles Hill passed over The Chain to new President Bob Horton. Bob Horton outlined his thoughts for the future of the Probus Pittwater Club.
Inductions	None.
Welfare Report	John Sherwood back home.
Minutes	Minutes of the February 2026 meeting were published in the March 2026 Newsletter. Moved Peter Nash. Seconded Brent Baker. Carried.
Matters Arising from Minutes	Nil.
Correspondence	PSPL Admin.
Secretary's Report	Nothing to report.
Treasurer's Report	Paul Mascall advised the February 2026 accounts were published in the March Newsletter. Balance 1st February 2026 $1,949.12. Balance 28th February $1,957.52. Moved John Rourke. Seconded Geoff Sheppard. Carried.
Birthdays	Barry Faulkner, Bryan Inch, Charles Hill, Bill Sivyer, Rod Rodwell.
Activities & Functions	Bob Horton: Coffee every Thursday morning. Golf Friday 13th March. Sunset Sips Friday 27th March at MVSC. Boat trip from Palm Beach to Patonga 26th March. BBQ 12th March. PIG Meeting 4th March. Members were asked to discuss ideas for activities with committee members.
Speakers	Brent Baker advised Speaker for April is Nicholas Cowdery - Voluntary Assisted Dying Act.
Newsletter & Website	Ron Seldon: Newsletter is sent out as an Email not as a Message.
Golf	No report.
Investment Group	John Harston: Good until last month then diminished. Building a new portfolio for 2026. Meetings now at Mona Vale Golf Club. 1st Wednesday at 10 30 am.
General Business	$50 club fees now due.
Speakers	No 5-Minute Speaker due to AGM. Main Speaker: Long term surf club member Aris Dimitriadis gave a photographic history of Mona Vale Life Saving Surf Club. Brent Baker thanked the Speaker.
Next Meeting	10th March 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	**Bob Horton**	**Activities Officer**	**John Rodger**
Vice President	***(Vacant)***	**Newsletter Editor**	**Ron Seldon**
Secretary	**David Cant**	**Speaker Organiser**	**Brent Baker**
Treasurer	**Warwick Pope**	**Functions Officer**	**Charles Hill**
Welfare Officer	**Charles Hill**	**Past President (Ex-Officio)**	**Charles Hill**

2025 Support Officers

Golf Convenor	**Warwick Pope**	**Probus Investment Grp.**	**John Harston**
Activities & Functions Committee	**Bob Horton, Charles Hill, David James, John Rourke, David Cant.**	**Speakers Committee**	**Brent Baker, Bill Sherman, David James, Charles Hill**

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