Probus Club of Pittwater

Newsletter – June 2026

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President's Message

Hello Fellow Members,

I trust that this message finds you all fit and well and indeed planning to attend our next meeting. I also hope that several of you have sent Ron your research findings on the history of Mona Vale.

In this edition I have taken a high-level view of Pittwater Road and here is what I have found. Pittwater Road has served as the lifeblood of the Northern Beaches for over 150 years, evolving from a rugged colonial track into the bustling arterial road that defines Mona Vale today.

The Mona Vale junction of Pittwater Road to Church Point (left) and Barrenjoey Road (right)

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The road's history begins in the early 19th century when land grants were first issued to settlers like Robert Campbell and James Wheeler. Originally, travel to the Pittwater region was predominantly by sea. However, as farming and timber-getting grew, a land route became essential. By the 1850s, a primitive track followed the natural topography from Manly northward, roughly tracing the path of our modern-day Pittwater Road.

Mona Vale emerged as a key junction where the coastal track met the road to Church Point. In the late 1800s, the Rock Lily Inn, established by Leon Houreux, became a legendary stop for travellers. Situated near the intersection of Pittwater and Bayview Roads (today known as Mona Vale Road), it transformed Mona Vale into a social hub, drawing tourists from Sydney who braved the long coach journey for "Continental" hospitality.

The 20th century brought rapid change. The opening of the Spit and the Roseville Bridges made the Northern Beaches more accessible to motor vehicles, prompting the widening and sealing of Pittwater Road. During the mid-1900's, Mona Vale transitioned from a rural outpost of orchards and dairies into a suburban centre. The road became lined with the essential services that still stand today, including the Mona Vale Hotel (est. 1926) and various post-war commercial developments.

Today, Pittwater Road through Mona Vale is a critical transport corridor. While the horse-drawn coaches are long gone, the road remains the community's central spine, connecting the serene Pittwater waterway with the Pacific coastline. It stands as a testament to the area's journey from a remote wilderness to one of Sydney's most iconic coastal suburbs.

Perhaps next month we could look at some of the older buildings in Mona Vale and along Pittwater Road. In the meantime, take care of yourself and please let us know if you require any help or assistance, we are only too happy to lend a hand.

… Stay safe and well, Bob Horton, President

Keeping Count

They say "The Buck stops with the President".

But does it have to be some many?

It's Protective!

Although studies have shown mixed results, some research suggests that coffee may help protect against certain neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

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

Each Thursday morning at 10 00am.

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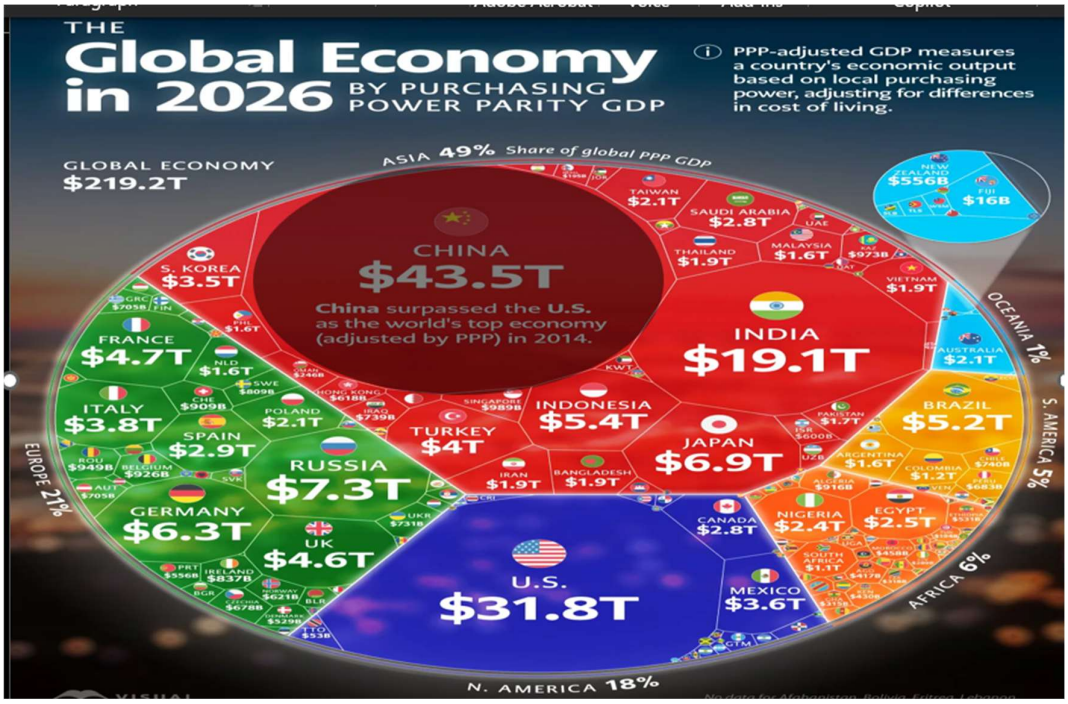
June 2026 – Main Speaker

Gunter Schaule – China's Commanding Global Economy



Gunter has travelled to China four times, observing grand cities and impressive landscapes. In his Power Point Presentation, he explores population trends, economic developments, infrastructure, and China's influence on the world.

June 2026 – 5-Minute Speaker

David James – Narrabeen Lagoon

As a small boy, David moved with his family from Western Australia to live alongside Narrabeen Lagoon-- back then the lovely waterway was increasingly in trouble from the entry of polluted septic runoff and poor tidal interchange. He will tell how public action led to the reversal of that decline.

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July 2026 – Main Speaker

David Cant – Journey on the James Craig

On January 27, 2025, one of only four windjammers of its kind remaining in the southern hemisphere – the historic 'tall ship' James Craig, flagship of the Sydney Heritage Fleet - slipped her moorings at Pyrmont Wharf and headed into the Tasman Sea on an epic voyage to Hobart, with a compliment of 81 intrepid and excited crew and passengers.

This was not to be your average 'walk on, walk off' holiday cruise, but a very special working passage, a trip back in time.

This is a story of the ship, its workings, and the voyage down the coast. Club Secretary David Cant was one of those intrepid sailors. Hear him tell the story.

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July 2026 – 5-Minute Speaker

Bill Sivyer – Glasses for the Sight Impaired

For visually impaired individuals, there are several types of glasses and assistive technologies available to enhance their independence and quality of life. These devices help those see better by magnifying the images on the screen or other objects. They are designed to support individuals in their daily activities and make it easier to engage with the world around them.

Hear Club Member Bill Sivyer talk about his own experiences.

Middle-East Saying

AMERICA HAS THE WATCHES.

WE HAVE THE TIME.

Ettalong Diggers – Lunch Cruise

Cruise, dine and relax all in the one day! Join the Probus team for a relaxing 30-minute Fantasea cruise from Palm Beach to Ettalong followed by lunch at Ettalong Diggers – just a short stroll or shuttle bus. Enjoy lunch from the daily specials' menu.

The date and time: 10 30am ferry departure. Arrive at the wharf no later than 9 45am. Thursday 18th June 2026.

… Enquiries contact John Rodger 0448 029 122

Activities Coming Up

Functions Officer, Charles Hill, is busy organising 2 old favorite outings:

- *30 July 2026 Lunch at Limani*
- *15 October 2026 Thai Dinner at Sea Wave Avalon*

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PIG Investment Group

The Group continue to monitor the Australian and International markets in the shadow of the ongoing events in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, join in on interesting discussions around the world of finance. You do not have to be a financial whiz to join the conversation.

Join the Probus money men at 10 30 am Wednesday 3rd June at the Mona Vale Golf Club Café as they decide what to invest in.

Lunch at Limani

Early notice:

Lunch at Limani Thursday 30th July 2026

Menu and details to follow

Diary Note

The internationally acclaimed Pittwater Probus Club Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday 10th December 2026. Venue being carefully selected for the enjoyment and access for all.

Please place the date in your diary.

… Charles Hill, Functions Officer

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New Member

Kevin Allsop

Kevin was born in Bundaberg, Queensland in December 1941 when the world was at war. His father spent the first three years of Kevin's life in New Guinea. When he was 18 his family moved to Sydney for better job opportunities.

Kevin retired 26 years ago as Chief Accountant for the Boral Group and was fortunate during his time at Boral to visit Boral's many overseas Operations.

He enjoyed participating in many sporting activities but in retirement Kevin has become more a spectator and waiting for Manly to regain its *glory days*.

In retirement, Kevin has been able to spend more time with his two children and three grandchildren.

Kevin, welcome to Pittwater Probus.

Golf Report – Friday 15 May 2026

Golf on May 15 was attended by a small but select group of six.

The event was won by John Harston, with Bill Sherman Runner-up (again)

Rod Rodwell scored the lowest round of the day, but his handicap is not enough for a higher place!

Next game is Friday June 12th.

… Warwick Pope

'tis the Season

- *The grapes have been harvested from the vine*
- *The grapes have been crushed*
- *The wine has been selected*
- *The wine has been barrelled*

Now is the time to quietly nuture

All is good in the winery

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Sunset Sips – Friday 29th May 2026

Winter is fast approaching and the weather is getting a little colder!

Time to brace the weather and enjoy a smooth red!

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

Sunset Sips 5 00 pm Friday 26th June 2026

May 2026 Accounts

Opening Balance 1 May 2026	**$4,170.69**
Morning Coffee Receipts	170.00
Club Annual Fees	150.00
Joining Fee	20.00
Total Receipts	**$340.00**
Morning Coffee – MVSC/Biscuits	133.50
Cost of Comm Meeting Room Hire	12.00
Badge	14.00
Admin. Costs	216.99
PSPL Capitation Fees	2,190.00
Total Expenses	**$,1666.49**
Closing Balance 31 May 2026	**$2,844.20**

Speaker's Corner

David Mee – The History of Gold

David, a retired Civil Engineer, took us down the intriguing road of the history of gold.

There are only 2 coloured metals in the periodic table, gold and copper. 24 carat is pure gold, 12 carat jewellery grade and 9 carat has hardly any gold at all.

Gold has always been prized throughout history. In the early days, the Greeks, Romans and Spanish used gold coins for trading. It is now sold on stock exchanges for profit based on its value but not for the actual gold. Australia produces 300 tonnes of gold per year most used for jewellery.

The Bretton-Woods system standardised the currency exchange rates pegged to the US dollar. Which in turn is pegged to the price of gold at $US35 per troy ounce.

… Ron Seldon

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Probus Up-Coming Activities

	June 2026	
Thursday	***Every***	***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***2nd***	***Committee Meeting – Mona Vale Library 9:00 am***
Wednesday	***3rd***	***Probus Investment Group Meeting – 10:30 am Mona Vale Golf Club***
Tuesday	***9th***	***Probus General Meeting Main Speaker – Gunter Schaule – China Economy 5 Minute Speaker – David James – Early Narrabeen Lunch after at Pittwater RSL Club.***
Friday	***12th***	***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club***
Thursday	***18th***	***Ferry ride to Ettalong – Lunch at Ettalong Diggers. Thursday 12 June 2026 - Palm Beach Wharf 9 45am.***
Friday	***26th***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.***
	July 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 – David Cant – Sail on the James Craig 5 Minute Speaker – Bill Sivyer – Vision Impaired Glasses 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***
Thursday	***30th***	***Lunch at Limani Restaurant Narrabeen Thursday 30 July 2026.***
Friday	***31st***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.***

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Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc. Meeting

Meeting	12th April 2026. Commenced at 10 00 am at Mona Vale Surf Club. Meeting opened by President Bob Horton Hill who welcomed 34 members.
Apologies	Bob Anderson, Peter Mayman, Graham Morley, Robert Trayner, Richard White.
Inductions	No inductions.
Welfare Report	Charles Hill contacted 12 absent members, all keen to come to the meetings. Charles handed out PSPL list of commercial Probus partners offering discounts.
Minutes	Minutes of the April 2026 meeting were published in the May 2026 Newsletter. Moved David James. Seconded Wes Harder. Carried.
Matters Arising from Minutes	Vice President position vacant – appeal for starters. Request for ideas from members regarding club activity ideas. Increase in membership still an issue. President asked for information on the history of Monal Vale.
Correspondence	Nil.
Secretary's Report	David Cant appealed to members to contact him if interested in joining the committee.
Treasurer's Report	Warwick Pope advised the April 2026 accounts were published in the May Newsletter. Balance 1st April 2026 $2,939.92. Balance 30th April 2026 $4,170.69. Moved John Porter. Seconded John Rodger. Carried.
Birthdays	Jim Attrill, John Crawford, John Harston. Terry Lanz.
Activities & Functions	John Rodger has established Activities sub-committee. Coffee every Thursday morning. Golf Friday 15th May. Sunset Sips Friday 29th May at MVSC. Boat trip to Ettalong with lunch at the RSL planned. Need 10 people. Glen St. Theatre 22nd May – Rogers & Hammerstein. Lunch at Limani coming up. Planning for Christmas party.
Speakers	Brent Baker advised Speaker for June is Gunter Schaule – China. Short Speaker is David James – Early Narrabeen.
Newsletter & Website	Ron Seldon looking articles.
Golf	Warwick Pope reported April game: Warwick Pope 1st, 2nd Bill Sherman.
Investment Group	John Harston: Meetings at the Mona Vale Golf Club first Wednesday of the month starting at 10 30am.
General Business	Nil.
Speakers	Short Speaker Rod Rodwell – Living in Switzerland. Main Speaker David Mee – The history of gold. Brent Baker thanked the Speaker.
Next Meeting	9th June 2026 at Mona Vale Surf Club commencing at 10 00 am. Meeting Closed at 12 05 pm. 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	**John Rodger, Charles Hill, Bill Sherman, David James, John Rourke, David Cant.**	**Speakers Committee**	**Brent Baker, Bill Sherman, David James, Charles Hill**

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