Probus Club of Pittwater

Newsletter – July 2026

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President's Message

Dear Fellow Members,

Your committee is certainly working hard towards ensuring the longevity of your club so that we are still strong when our 50th Birthday comes along in 2031. It is pleasing that we have 60 membership renewals in the bank, with some interest from recent guests to join.

By all reports the outing to Ettalong for lunch on 18th June was a great success thank you to John Rodger for putting this day together. I am a little limited in attending at the moment as I have an issue with my blood which the Medicos are attempting to identify.

I continue to reach out to all members to contribute historical information about Mona Vale by sending an article to Ron Seldon for inclusion in the monthly magazine.

So here is my contribution for this month which relates to some history of Bayview Golf Club:

The history of Bayview Club dates back to 1924 when New Zealand sheep farmer John Orr and his wife Christina arrived in Australia and purchased a tidal parcel of land known as the Winnererremy Swamp.

John Orr, an avid golfer, originally cleared and constructed six private holes on his land for his own personal enjoyment.

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A generous host, Orr invited local community members to play his course while his wife Christina hosted afternoon teas. By 1928, a tiny clubhouse was built, and a collection tin was nailed to an Ironbark tree by the 1st tee, establishing an honesty-system green fee of one shilling per round.

As the local playing community grew, a larger clubhouse was erected in 1932. In 1933, the Orrs purchased additional land across Cabbage Tree Road, expanding the footprint toward the hills to accommodate more holes.

Following John Orr's death in 1941, Bayview Golf Club Limited was officially incorporated in 1948. The members leased the course directly from Mrs Orr until 1967, when the membership successfully raised the funds to buy the land and clubhouse outright.

In February 2009, the club underwent a major financial evolution, investing $7.2 million to build its current state-of-the-art clubhouse.

Originally laid out by James Wilcher, the par-71 course was later enhanced and modernised by Australian PGA Tour winner Craig Parry.

The three elephants at the club were sculpted by local artists Harold and Mabel Squires in the mid-to-late 1920s.They are located in a small pond right by the 18th green and can be overlooked from the modern clubhouse deck. See photo above.

The elephants originally stood as a working fountain inside a large pond right in front of the Orr family home.

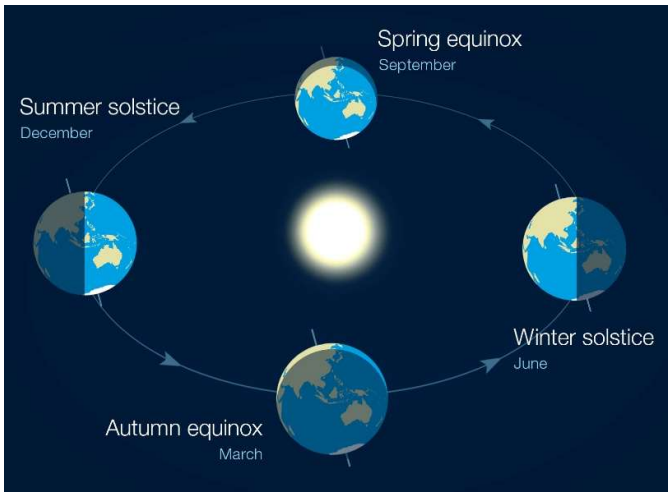
Following the demolition of the original Orr homestead and the old clubhouse, these statues became the sole surviving physical memory of the club's bygone era. The statues were meticulously restored to their former glory in 2009 and underwent further specialised preservation work in April 2020 by restorer David Hollander.

Take care until we meet again at the next meeting or activity. Don't forget to bring a guest.

… Stay safe and well, Bob Horton, President

Let There be Light!

Getting a little tired of stumbling around in pitch black at 6pm? Never fear, Australia experienced the shortest day of the year last week with the winter solstice. While a long dark night may seem ominous, it means we're now one step closer to spring and the return of daylight saving.



Australia experienced its winter solstice on Sunday, June 21, as the South Pole reached its maximum tilt away from the sun. While the days get longer from here, we can still expect the temperatures to stay cold for the next few months. It just takes time for land and oceans to heat up.

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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.

August 2026 – Main Speaker

Rohan Walter – Recollections of Qantas 747 Captain

Rohan, retired 747 Qantas Captain, will talk of his many flying exepriences. Like all Qantas Pilots they have a wealth of stories to tell. Flying a large jet, full of passengers and more importantly landing safely is no simple task. But up in the air it is not always plain sailing (sorry wrong pun). There are many incidents some a little serious and some humerous, Hear Rohan tell his stories that you don't normally hear first hand.

August 2026 – 5-Minute Speaker

Robert Trayner – Further Stories from the Flying Doctor

By popular request, club member Robert Trayner will again share stories of his amazing life as a Flying Doctor in outback Western Australia.

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A Bit of Mona Vale History

In support of President Bob Horton's delving into the history of Mona Vale, here is a story of local enterprise:

On heading south on Barrenjoey Road to Mona Vale, you will pass an impressive Mecedes Benz Dealership named G Brothers.

G Brothers had a key role in Mona Vale history as the brothers grew the business from being market gardeners to a sophisticated sales centre.

Brothers, Vic and John Guberina in 1963 started their original service workshop, located on a tomato farm in Warriewood Valley repairing everything from cars to farming equipment.

In 1965, the 2 brothers moved their workshop and operations to the current Service Centre location on Bassett Street in Mona Vale, becoming agents for Volkswagen, Daihatsu, Subaru and Audi Quattro.

Later in 1984, Mark Guberina, son of Vic Guberina and current Co-Dealer Principal joined the business as an Apprentice Technician. Adam Guberina, son of John Guberina, joined the business in 1994 as Spare Parts Interpreter. Both learning the business from the ground up and still onsite every day

In 1969 G Brothers became an authorised Mercedes-Benz dealership, which was no mean feat, and expanded its operations across both Sales and Service adding to Mona Vale's business coming of age within the Northern Beaches.

PIG Investment Group

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 1st July at the Mona Vale Golf Club Café as they decide what to invest in.

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Lunch at Limani

Limani Restaurant

11 Narrabeen Street, Narrabeen – 12:00 for 12:30 pm Thursday 30 July, 2026

Choice of Main

- ✓ ***Barramundi Fillet***
- ✓ ***Salmon Fillet***
- ✓ ***Battered Flathead***
- ✓ ***Italian Style Meat Balls***
- ✓ ***Chicken Cacciatore***

Dessert

- ✓ ***Toblerone Pate***
- ✓ ***Lemon Meringue***
- ✓ ***Individual Pavlova***

Advise Charles Hill of your meal selection via text or email by 18th July 2026. (0414 913 267/charleshill@optusnet.com.au

$55 per head, includes a complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink on arrival.
Pay in advance direct to club bank account by 18th July 2026.
BSB: 062 211 Account: 00900956

Calling all Lovers of Thai Food

Remember this special Pittwater Probus Dinner last October. It was a great event.

In October this year we are going to do it all again!

The Probus team (members and partners) will be heading to the Sea Wave Thai Restaurant in Avalon Parade again for a feast of the best of flavours, colours and sounds of Thailand.

Member' partners and visitors invited. Details to follow
Add your name to the list at the next meeting.

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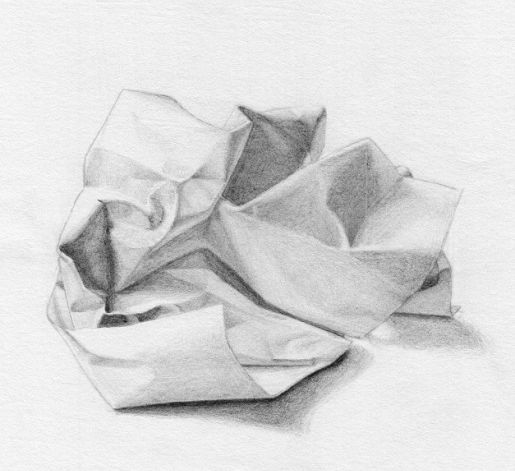
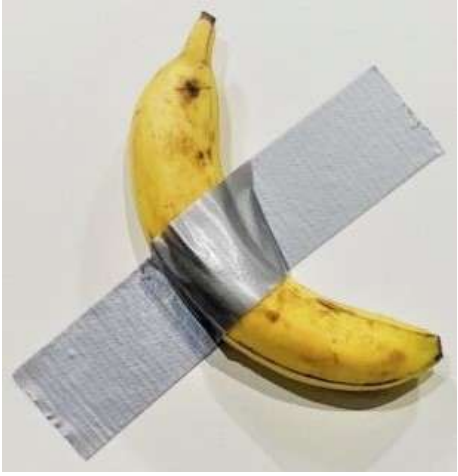
August Outing

NSW Art Gallery Visit

Running low on the arts. Here is the chance to catch with what is happening by visiting the NSW Wales Art Gallery with the Probus Team in August 2026 to see the current show of paintings. Details to follow.

Be prepared for some surprises. Art these days can be a little unconventional.





Sunset Sips – Friday 31st July 2026

Winter is here and the weather is getting colder in the evening.

Time to brace the cold and enjoy a smooth red!

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

Sunset Sips 5 00 pm Friday 31st July 2026

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June 2026 Accounts

Opening Balance 1 June 2026	**$2,844.20**
Morning Coffee Receipts	155.00
Club Annual Fees	50.00
Total Receipts	**$205.00**
Morning Coffee – MVSC/Biscuits	133.60
Cost of Comm Meeting Room Hire	12.00
Badge	14.00
Total Expenses	**$159.60**
Closing Balance 30 June 2026	**$2,889.60**

Big Hit

Many Australians were rather amazed to see Donald Trump and 4,000 VIP spectators recently gather on the White House front lawn to watch 14 men try to knock one another to pieces, all within a bizarre configured structure. Only in America you might say!

The $US60M spectacle broke merchandise sales but it was far from the biggest seated event under the Ultimate Fighting Championship banner. That record is held for a fight event which took place in Melbourne in 2019 in front of 57,000 fans.

Oh dear and I thought those Victorians are so refined and cultured! You never know.

But alas! New South Wales is no better. Earlier this year in Sydney, UFC sold out with more than 18,000 people at Homebush's Qudos Bank Arena, which is reported to have generated $14.4 million in gate revenue.

The Good Oil?

Controversial former breakfast radio host Kyle Sandilands says he has been spending time with One Nation leader Pauline Hanson, advising her on how to sharpen her messaging to voters as the once minor party soars to popularity.

Beware, Pauline's next news conference is sure to be 'X-Rated'.

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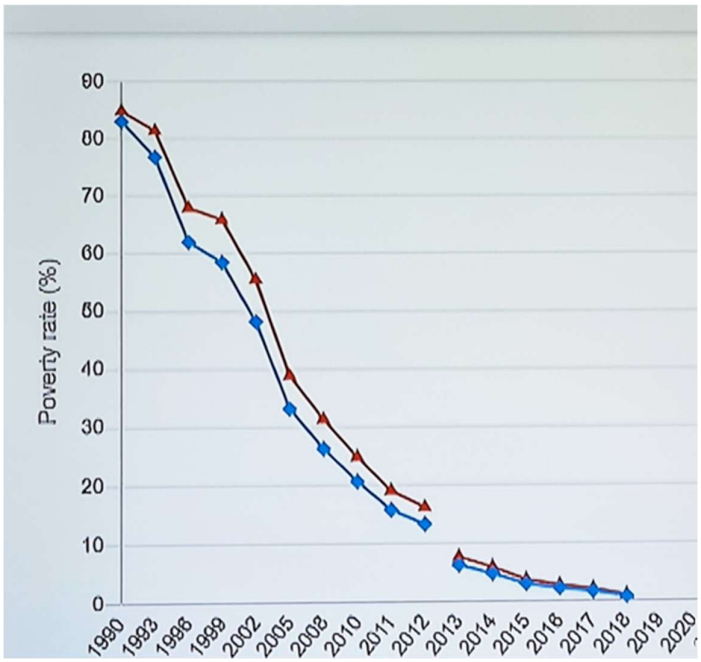
Speaker's Corner

Gunter Schaule – China's Commanding Global Economy

Gunter, noted for his excellently prepared presentations truly went out of his way at the June meeting with his expose on what is happening in China today. His revelation detailed the changes from a past primitive country to world leader today, including population trends, economic developments, infrastructure, and culture.

Gunter's description of China's influence on the world today was very illuminating and at times a bit scary. Below is an extract of Gunter's talk:



After having eradicated poverty and having moved most of its population of 1.4 billion to a comfortable middle class, China has now the world's largest manufacturing output, by a third higher than that of the USA. China's infrastructure and transportation systems are unparalleled, and its urbanisation, city planning, and architecture are impressive.

Electricity generation is based on 58 existing nuclear power stations, with 29 planned or under construction.

This will augment the energy supply to new AI data centres and networks. However, while the overall economy is currently growing at 4.8% p.a. (compared to 2% in the US), worldwide investment in AI is growing at 85% p.a.

The largest AI companies in the US report that 80% of their coding is done by AI itself, with self-directed self-learning. Their CEO's urge worldwide regulation and safeguarding. But politicians appear unable to address the problem, let alone finding worldwide solutions. In that light, past developments look trifling.

… Gunter Schaule

Join the Likely Lads!

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

Each Thursday morning at 10 00am.

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Probus Up-Coming Activities

	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 – Warriewood Community Centre 10:00 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 RSL Club***
Thursday	***30th***	***Lunch at Limani Restaurant Narrabeen 12 Noon Thursday 30 July 2026.***
Friday	***31st***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.***
	August 2026	
Thursday	***Every***	***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am***
Tuesday	***4th***	***Committee Meeting – Warriewood Community Centre 10:00 am***
Wednesday	***5th***	***Probus Investment Group Meeting – 10:30 am Mona Vale Golf Club***
Tuesday	***11th***	***Probus General Meeting Main Speaker – Rohan Walter – Qantas Captain 5 Minute Speaker – Robert Trayner – Flying Doctor Lunch after at Pittwater RSL Club.***
Friday	***14th***	***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach RSL Club***
TBA	***TBA***	***Visit to the New South Art Gallery***
Friday	***28th***	***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.***

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Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc. Meeting

Meeting	9th June 2026. Commenced at 10 00 am at Mona Vale Surf Club. Meeting opened by President Bob Horton who welcomed 31 members.
Apologies	David Varley, Bill Sivyer, Charles Hill, John Harston, Peter Mayman, Trevor Stephens.
Inductions	No inductions.
Welfare Report	Charles Hill (absent) reported that he had 6 responses from his welfare enquiries.
Minutes	Minutes of the May 2026 meeting were published in the June 2026 Newsletter. Moved John Porter. Seconded David James. 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 Mona Vale.
Welfare Report	Charles Hill (absent) report that 6 members responded to his welfare enquiries.
Correspondence	Correspondence on travel promotions.
Secretary's Report	Nothing to report.
Treasurer's Report	Warwick Pope advised the May 2026 accounts were published in the June Newsletter. Balance 1st May 2026 $4,170.69. Balance 31st May 2026 $2,844.20. Moved David James. Seconded Geoff Sheppard. Carried.
Birthdays	John Hammond, Peter Nash, John Porter, John Rourke, Ron Seldon, David James.
Activities & Functions	John Rodger has established Activities sub-committee. Ferry trip to Ettalong 18th June 2026 $35 including ferry. Sunset Sips Friday 26th June at MVSC. Lunch at Limani 30th July. 2-day golfing trip to Kooindah Waters in September.
Speakers	Brent Baker advised Speaker for July is David Cant – James Craig voyage to Hobart. Bill Sivyer – Glasses for the vision impaired.
Newsletter & Website	Ron Seldon looking for articles.
Golf	Warwick Pope reported May game: John Harston 1st, 2nd Bill Sherman.
Investment Group	Portfolio taken a hit due to Middle East events, but still in front.
General Business	Nil.
Speakers	Short Speaker David James – Early days of Narrabeen Lagoon and fighting pollution. After the break, Gunter Schaule gave a very informative talk on China's commanding global economy, education and industrial development.
Next Meeting	Meeting closed at 12 noon, 9th June 2026. 14th July 2026 at Mona Vale Surf Club commencing at 10 00 am.

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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