# Probus Club of Pittwater

# Newsletter – October 2026

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

## President's Message

Dear Fellow Members,

I hope those of you who attended our September meeting enjoyed our guest speaker David Hutchinson who spoke on climate change. From some of your comments you may not agree with David's views. But David was most impressed with the interest and attention displayed by our members and made specific mention of this in a follow up email I received from him the next morning.

Thanks to Brent Baker, we have had some very interesting speakers and there are more to come. Ron will detail these later in the Newsletter.

It was also great to see three visitors to the meeting, who may well consider joining us as members.

At our meeting we spoke about the Strategic Planning Process which you all have received a copy of the output documentation, and we are looking forward to receiving your comments. We also spoke about the short-term management of the Club in which we highlighted the need for more members to take an active interest and join the Committee. We are currently looking for people to fill 4 positions going forward and again encourage you to volunteer. Without an active Committee the club simply won't function

We also set some homework for those in attendance:

1. Name the piece of water that runs along Mona Vale Beach and detail where it starts in the south and where it finishes in the north
2. We also challenged each member to bring a neighbour, as a guest, to the next meeting in October.

Speaking of water that leads me into my history piece about Mona Vale and today we look at Water Transport. Water transport played a foundational role in opening up Mona Vale and the broader Pittwater region, acting as the primary lifeline for timber getters, early settlers, and mail routes before reliable roads were established.



**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

Early Timber and Settlement Era (1800s)

**Timber Hauling:** In the early 19th century, timber workers used tracks corresponding to modern-day Mona Vale Road to drag heavy lumber from Ku-ring-gai heights down to the protected waters of Pittwater and Middle Harbour Creek.

**Water Craft Link:** From these shorelines, timber and early farm produce were loaded onto coastal watercraft and small cutters (such as the historic cutter *Francis* in the 1790s) to be shipped directly down to Sydney Cove.

**The Estuary Hub:** Bayview and Church Point served as the core maritime transfer points for the developing agricultural settlements of Turimetta (later named Mona Vale).

**Steamers and Mail Routes (Late 19th to Early 20th Century)**

**Passenger and Cargo Steamers:** Private operators and entrepreneurs like C.E. Jeanneret established regular steamship services linking Circular Quay in Sydney with Pittwater wharves at Bayview, Newport, and Church Point.

**Connecting the Coast:** Passengers traveling from Sydney would take a steamer as far as the Pittwater inlets before connecting via small motor launches to outlying settlements.

**School Boats:** Pittwater famously hosted some of Australia's earliest water-based school transport solutions, with launch services carrying children across the local waterways before land-based schools were fully established in Mona Vale and Newport.

I know there are many of you who can add to our history and I encourage you to provide Ron Seldon with an article for the Newsletter.

Until our next meeting I encourage you to be an active member of our club and contribute to its long history and life to come.

Please take care of yourselves and be well.

*… Kindest Regards to all, Bob*

## Move it! Move it! Move it!

*The Dutch, the clever people they are, have moved their sovereign gold out of the USA, for safe keeping purposes.*

*It's not just a few bars to plug the holes in the dykes.*

*The total shipment was 48 tonnes. And where is it going, you ask?*

*The Bank of England, of course!*

**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

# Check List

*Keep up to date with all that's happening with Pittwater Probus*

- *Sea Wave Thai Dinner – Thursday 15th October*
- *Archery Lessons – Saturday 17th October*
- *Sydney Water North Head – Friday 30th October*
- *BBQ Winnererremy Bay – Friday 6th November*
- *Sailing on the James Craig – Saturday 14th November*
- *Prawn Pod – Friday 4th December*
- *Christmas Luncheon – Thursday 10th December*

*No excuse not to join in.*

*All details are in the Newsletter!*

# October 2026 – Main Speaker

**John Roberts – Adventures of a Bridge Professional**

John Roberts has been an international bridge player and professional bridge teacher for almost 50 years. He has won many Australian championships and represented Australia numerous times in world championship events.

John will talk about his earlier years when he travelled through Europe and the Middle East playing bridge tournaments. He has many entertaining accounts of the life of a professional card player including high-stake games, famous and infamous people he has played against, unusual prizes he has won and cheating scandals.

Since retiring from playing professional bridge he has taught thousands of people to love the game. He has also set up many bridge clubs in Sydney and runs Bridge Away, a travel agency specialising in luxury holidays for bridge players.

# October 2026 – 5-Minute Speaker

**Rod Nunn – Qantas Cabin Crew**

On Boxing Day 1974, the day after Cyclone Tracy, Rod was a crew member on a Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet, the first into Darwin that brought out 706 passengers, mostly women and children and injured people.

Rod will tell the story of how the cabin crew managed this remarkable rescue mission.

**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

# November 2026 – Main Speaker

**Andrew Greer – Tanzania**

Andrew Greer lives in Warriewood but was born and grew up on a coffee farm on the edge of the Ngorongoro Crater, a UNESCO heritage site in the highlands of Tanganyika, now Tanzania. He came to Australia in the early 1960's and attended St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill.

Andrew's father was an adventurer from New Zealand and his mother a WWII refugee from Poland whose separate life journeys brought them together in Tanganyika. There they purchased and ran a coffee plantation, previously owned by a German family who had been repatriated to their homeland after the war.

In more recent times Andrew has reconnected with the people and places of his childhood, taking groups of family and friends on safari adventures through the wilds of Tanzania.

Andrew will be speaking about the history of Tanzania and its main tribes, his family presence there and the diversity of animal life and their habitats.

Andrew's story will be full of the rich history in Tanzania during the time when Africa was struggling to progress from its colonial realm and its early attempts to engage the rest of the world.

# November 2026 – 5 Minute Speaker

**Richard White – Aussie working in Asia**

The Korean War ended in a truce in mid-1953 and less than 20 years later Richard found himself starting a new job within the then newly-emerging computer industry.

An Aussie working in Asia for an American hi-tech company, this is going to be an interesting experience, what could possibly go wrong?. Will it end in tears or smiles? Smiles fortunately.



**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

# Hey Swashbucklers!

***Have a taste for real adventure and seek the thrill of ocean sailing on a fully restored Tall Ship from the 1870s?***

***This is your last chance to sail on the James Craig. But you will have to move fast.***

*Your amazing experience, organised by Sydney Heritage Fleet, begins as this historic 1874 square rig sail-ship leaves her berth at Pyrmont. As you cruise down the harbour, take in the sights of other harbour icons - the mighty Harbour Bridge and the stunning Opera House - then wave farewell to the beautiful Sydney skyline as we make our way out through Sydney Heads to the great blue yonder to watch the crew unfurl and set sails, turning time back 150 years to the Age of Sail.*

*Your ticket includes morning tea, a tasty lunch and afternoon tea. Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and souvenir merchandise can be purchased onboard. Credit card only.*

- *Boarding 9:15am. Departing 9:45am. Returning 3:30pm to North Wharf, Australian National Maritime Museum.*
- *Due to the heritage nature, the vessel is not wheelchair accessible.*
- *If, in the opinion of the Master on the day, the wind or sea state is deemed unsuitable for the comfort of passengers, the cruise will be cancelled and passengers given the option of another day or partially refunded.*
- *Location: Tall Ship James Craig, Wharf 7, 58 Pirrama Road, Pyrmont, NSW 2009. Just north of the Maritime Museum.*

*Parking in streets if available. Time limits apply, so public transport and a walk from QVB better if people are able.*

*Passengers watch the crew work on the rigging and prepare to sail. You can walk around the ship, take photos, chat etc. No need to climb the mast.*

*Date: 14th November 2026, subject to weather conditions.*



**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

*The cost is $162 per person, to be paid to Pittwater Probus by Wednesday 30th September 2026. Pittwater Probus: BSB 062 211 Account 00900956*

*Visit the Sydney Heritage Fleet website www.shf.org.au for more information.*

***If you wish to join this adventure, please contact David Cant immediately on 0417 422 952. The boarding manifest is about to close.***

## Treasurer, Jim Chalmers - Intergenerational Report

*When I get older, losing my hair*
*Many years from now*
*Will you still be sending me a Valentine*
*Birthday greetings, bottle of wine?*

*If I'd been out 'til quarter to three*
*Would you lock the door?*
*Will you still need me, will you still feed me*
*When I'm 64?*

## Addition to the Family

***Mona Vale Golf Club with its magnificent setting complete with ponds, has recently become the breeding ground for a pair of black swans. On Tuesday 11 August, four tiny cygnets hatched.***

***Mum and Dad Swans were, quite rightly, very protective of their little family with foxes, birds of prey, eels and plenty of other potential dangers around the course. The Golf Club knew from the beginning that keeping four tiny cygnets safe wouldn't be easy. They asked everyone to give the family plenty of space and to keep dogs on leads.***

***The new family spent time between the lake and the smaller ponds, with Mum and Dad moving the cygnets around in search of food and safer spots.***

***Just before they turned three weeks old, things took a sad turn when they lost two of the four cygnets within four days. Thankfully, the two remaining cygnets have continued to thrive.***

***… Mona Vale Golf Club***



**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

# Vale – Jim Frecklington MVO OAM

***On a wet and windy day in August 2025, a group of Probus members and partners visited North Head to meet Jim Frecklington for him to show us the Royal Coach he was building for King Charles III.***

***Sadly, Jim passed away last month before finishing coach and taking it to London.***

***Jim Frecklington was a superb Australian coach builder, having carefully constructed many coaches for the Royal Family. This coach is 98% complete with Jim directing the final works from his hospital bed. Fortunately, Jim's two assistant coach builders have an absolute understanding of Jim's vision and will complete the task.***

# Thursday Coffee Morning

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

*Each Thursday morning at 10 00am.*

*There is so much to tell!*

# Golf Report – Friday 11 September 2026

A small field played at Palm Beach in perfect conditions on Friday 11th September. The winner was John Harston, with a rapidly diminishing handicap, with David Hill runner-up.

The next game will be at 10 a.m. Friday October 16th.

*… Warwick Pope*



**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

# It doesn't come better than this!

**Sea Wave – Thai Dinner**

*On Thursday 15th October 2025, the Probus team (members and partners) is heading to the Sea Wave Thai Restaurant in Avalon Parade again for our annual feast of the best of flavours, colours and sounds of Thailand. Member' partners and visitors invited. Time 6 00pm*

*The club has organised a set 3 course menu. Cost $55 00 per head. Buy your own drinks. See Menu below.*

*The fixed menu for all to enjoy*

- *Entrée: spring rolls, darling harbour prawns, prawn crackers with peanut sauce, satay chicken skewers and salt pepper squid.*
- *Main: whole fish with season sauce, Penang curry beef, stir fried chicken with cashew nuts, fried rice, vegies, tofu and steam rice.*

***Payment to club due 30th September BSB 062 211 Account 00900956***

# Happy Birthday AUKUS

15th September this year marked the five-year anniversary of the moment Canberra, Washington and London surprised the world with a trilateral AUKUS Security Partnership. The AUKUS Partnership was negotiated by the Prime Minister at the time, Scott Morrison and co-signed by Joe Biden and Boris Johnson on the 15th September 2021.

Following this Agreement, a formal Trilateral Agreement enabling nuclear submarine cooperation, was signed in August 2024, again with Joe Biden, but with Rishi Sunak and Anthony Albanese present. You will recall the announcement on the deck of a US submarine.

In Australia, 5 years on, the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines still remains a hot topic of public debate.

**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

## Archery Lessons – Warringah Archers

*The Archery Lessons with Warringah Archers on Saturday 17th October commence at 2 00pm, 10 Inman Road, Cromer. The lesson lasts about 2.5 hours.*

*Attendees to wear enclosed shoes and have a hat, water and sunscreen*

*Test your skills on one of the oldest forms of sport, or as it was in the old days, survival.*

*The cost will be $26.00 per head, pay direct to Probus club account.*

***Payment to club account due 30th September BSB 062 211 Account 00900956.***

***If you have not put your name down, contact John Rodger before 30th September. 0448 029 122.***

## PIG Investment Group

*Join the Probus money men at 10 30 am Wednesday 7th October at the Mona Vale Golf Club Café as they decide what to invest in next.*

## Trip to Sydney Water's North Head Establishment

*John Rodger has organised a visit to Sydney Water's North Head Water Resource Recovery Facility for a very informative and interesting tour. It is on Friday 30th October from 1 00pm to 2 00pm.*

*There are stairs and some steep slopes so reasonable mobility is necessary. Attendees must wear long sleeves, full length trousers and covered/enclosed shoes. We will be provided with hard hats and safety vests. Venue is 2 Bluefish Drive, Manly. We will be met by security and shown in.*

*The maximum number that Sydney Water can take on the tour is 10. So, we have to limit who can go. If you have put your name down, please check with John Rodger to see if you have made the final list. Also, it is worth checking with John in case there are any last-minute cancellations.*

*Learn about how this establishment provides a very necessary service, right at our doorstep.*

***There is no charge for this visit.***

***Check with John Rodger by 30th September 2026. 0448 029 122. Note there is a limit of 10 visitors.***



**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

## Highlight of the Year

**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

# The Taste of Spring

***The prawns have arrived, so take a moment to mark in your diary, 5 00 pm Friday 4th December for the first Prawn Pod gathering of the season.***

***The assembly of this ritualistic Probus event will be at Bayview (next to the tennis courts) to enjoy the most enticing prawns and oysters from the Prawn Pod.***

***Join the team and bring your chairs and refreshments. No need to book ahead, just roll up.***

# September 2026 Accounts

| | |
|---|---|
| **Opening Balance 1 September 2026** | **$3,466.84** |
| Morning Coffee Receipts | 165.00 |
| Raffle | 125.00 |
| Payments: Sea Wave | $715.00 |
| Archery | 208.00 |
| James Craig | 1,135.00 |
| **Total Receipts** | **$2,348.00** |
| Morning Coffee – MVSC/Biscuits | 133.50 |
| Cost of Committee Meeting Room Hire | 12.00 |
| **Total Expenses** | **$145.50** |
| **Closing Balance 30 September 2026** | **$5,669.34** |

# BBQ Is Back in November

**Daylight Saving is here!**

*This means one thing.*

*It's time we had a BBQ at Winnererremy Bay!*

*Mark the day: Friday 6th November 2026*

*Join us at 5 00 pm. Cost $5 per head.*

*Pay on the day.*

# Senator David Pocock

*"He has the political superpower of talking like a normal person, which is remarkably rare in politics."*

*… Andrew Hirst, Former Federal Director Liberal Party*



**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

# Diary Note – Parramatta Powerhouse Museum

Pittwater Probus is kicking off 2027 with a trip to the new Parramatta Powerhouse Museum on Thursday 21 January 2027.

Due to open on 7 November 2026, the new Powerhouse Museum has cost the NSW taxpayer over $915 million (Ouch!!) so it should be stunning and well worth the trip.

The plan is to go out in 12-seater buses from MVSC Carpark. They can be driven by Club Members on normal licences.

The journey takes just over an hour so if we left at 10 00am we would be out there by 11.30, take a couple of hours to look round and then have lunch in what is reported to be a 200-seat restaurant in the Powerhouse, before heading back home arriving about 4.30pm.

The cost will be $30.00 which covers the bus, parking and entry but not lunch.

More details after the place is open. *… Bill Sherman*

# Sunset Sips – Friday 30th October 2026

***It's Spring!***

***So, time to get out and prepare for summer.***

***Taste a cool white to welcome the season change!***
***Join the team at the Mona Vale Surf Club and celebrate!***

***Sunset Sips 5 00 pm Friday 30th October 2026***

# Speaker's Corner

**David Hutchinson – "Mother of all Battles"**

David on commencing his presentation advised that he expected strong push-back on what he was going to talk about and the facts he will expound. He was not disappointed.

There is no doubt that there is a clear divide on the subject of climate change which is resolutely accepted by some and determinedly not accepted by others.

Following David's presentation to the club with regard to some of the responses at the meeting, he has written to President Bob Horton. An extract from the letter is included below:

*"First of all, sincere thanks for inviting me to present. I had been very curious beforehand how it would be received. Because I live in Newport and belong to the same generation, I am aware there is an unusually high degree of scepticism in the area and have numerous challenging conversations with friends.*

*As you saw yesterday, I try to approach the issue, by asking the listeners to start on a blank page and then go through the basics of the science. This should work in theory, because the science is so irrefutable and the solution so obvious. We should all end up on*



**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

*the same final page. But invariably during question time, pre-conceived viewpoints rise to the surface. From what I've observed, our viewpoints are considerably shaped by the news sources we tend to trust and if those sources are biased, then so are the viewpoints. Few people consider the possibility that large media organisations could be a source of persistent misinformation."*

*… Ron Seldon*

# Probus Up-Coming Activities

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ***October 2026*** | |
| ***Thursday*** | ***Every*** | ***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am*** |
| ***Tuesday*** | ***6th*** | ***Committee Meeting – Mona Vale Library 10:00 am*** |
| ***Wednesday*** | ***7th*** | ***Probus Investment Group Meeting – 10:30 am<br>Mona Vale Golf Club*** |
| ***Tuesday*** | ***13th*** | ***Probus General Meeting<br>Main Speaker – John Roberts – Bridge Adventures<br>5 Minute Speaker – Rodd Nunn –Qantas Rescue<br>Lunch after at Pittwater RSL Club.*** |
| ***Thursday*** | ***15th*** | ***Sea Wave Thai Dinner – 6 00 pm Avalon Parade*** |
| ***Friday*** | ***16th*** | ***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off<br>Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club*** |
| ***Saturday*** | ***17th*** | ***Archery Lessons at Cromer Park – Meet at 2 00pm*** |
| ***Friday*** | ***30th*** | - ***Sydney Water Tour of North Head – Meet 1 00 pm***<br>- ***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.*** |
| | ***November 2026*** | |
| ***Thursday*** | ***Every*** | ***Probus Coffee Group – Mona Vale Golf Club 10:00 am*** |
| ***Tuesday*** | ***3rd*** | ***Committee Meeting – Mona Vale Library 10:00 am*** |
| ***Wednesday*** | ***4th*** | ***Probus Investment Group Meeting – 10:30 am<br>Mona Vale Golf Club*** |
| ***Friday*** | ***6th*** | ***BBQ at Winnererremy Bay – 5 00 pm, $5 00.*** |
| ***Tuesday*** | ***10th*** | ***Probus General Meeting<br>Main Speaker- Andrew Greer - Tanzania<br>5 Minute Speaker – Richard White – Aussie in Asia*** |
| ***Friday*** | ***13th*** | ***Golf at Palm Beach – 10:00 am hit off<br>Followed by Lunch at Palm Beach Golf Club*** |
| ***Saturday*** | ***14th*** | ***James Craig Sail – Meet Pyrmont 9 15 am*** |
| ***Friday*** | ***27th*** | ***Sunset Sips – Mona Vale Surf Club - Join us at 5 00 pm.*** |



**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**

# Minutes of Pittwater Probus Inc. Meeting

| | |
|---|---|
| **Meeting** | 8th September 2026. Commenced at 10 00 am at Mona Vale Surf Club. Meeting opened by President Bob Horton who welcomed 33 members. 3 visitors Bruce Hamer, Terry Lane and Peter Lion. |
| **Apologies** | David Cant, John Rodger, David Varley, John Shewood, Bob Anderson, Peter Nash, Bill Sivyer, Bruce Gorringe, Peter Mayman. |
| **Inductions** | None. |
| **Minutes** | Minutes of the August 2026 meeting were published in the September 2026 Newsletter. Moved Terry Lanz. Seconded Ken Boyes. Carried. |
| **Matters Arising from Minutes** | Forecast 4 committee positions vacant in 2027. |
| **Welfare Report** | Charles Hill advised James Attrill passed away, John Sherwood in a nursing home, David Varley in rehab hospital – doing well. |
| **Correspondence** | PSPL correspondence only. |
| **Secretary's Report** | Nothing to report. |
| **Treasurer's Report** | Warwick Pope advised the August 2026 accounts were published in the September Newsletter. Balance 1st August 2026 $3,624.69. Balance 31st August $3,466.84. Moved Bill Sherman. Seconded Brent Baker. Carried. |
| **Birthdays** | Wes Harder, Michael Mannington, Paul Mascall, Ron Owers, John Sherwood, Robert Trayner, Bob Horton. |
| **Activities & Functions** | Sea Wave Dinner 15th October. Archery lessons 17th October. Sunset Sips Friday 30th September at MVSC. Weekly coffee group. November, BBQ, James Craig Sailing, Past President's Lunch. December, Prawn Pod, Christmas Lunch. |
| **Speakers** | Brent Baker advised speaker today is David Hutchinson to talk about Climate Change. Warwick Pope talked about managing catering services at remote outback construction sites. October Speakers are John Roberts and Rod Nunn. |
| **Newsletter & Website** | Ron Seldon thanked Brian Kennedy and Don Tinyou for 2 articles. |
| **Golf** | Warwick Pope reported he won the August Trophy. |
| **Investment Group** | Funds are doing well. Meet at Mona Vale Golf Club at 10 30 am, first Wednesday. |
| **General Business** | Charles Hill reported on the Strategic Membership Review – feedback requested on the forum notes issued to members before the meeting. Issues include falling membership, committee positions vacant. |
| **Speakers** | After the break, David Hutchinson gave the case for climate change which provoked a reaction from some of the members. The President thanked the speaker. |
| **Next Meeting** | Meeting closed at 12 10 am. Next Meeting 13th October 2026 at Mona Vale Surf Club commencing at 10 00 am. |

## 2026 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** |

## 2026 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** |



**Private and Confidential for the Probus Club of Pittwater use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.**