



Moss Vale Probus Club Inc.

Annual Report of the President

2023 - 2024

As the watershed years of Covid pandemic restrictions have receded, the past 12 months proved to be a time of rebuilding and consolidation for Moss Vale Probus Club.

THE COMMITTEE

The challenges presented to the Committee in the aftermath of the pandemic years were daunting. Many decisions requiring a high degree of both judgement and professionalism were required from our Committee of talented and experienced men and their assistants. With the best interests and long-term continuance of the Moss Vale Probus Club always as their focus, the members of the Committee willingly accepted some new and complex tasks. Change management is never easy but the Committee over the past 12 months, has have proven to be not only careful managers, but have also brought about with sensitivity, some long-overdue changes. It is they who keep our Club alive, and I am most grateful to each of them for their many efforts.

CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE

With the retirement in 2023 after many years of dedicated service of Geoff McNamara and Arthur Delbridge, we welcomed Grant Winberg and Lloyd Miller to the Committee.

I also acknowledge here Brian Collath who is retiring in 2024 from the demanding role of Club Treasurer and Club Secretary and Secretary Roger Hodgson who is retiring from the

Committee. We are grateful to you both for the high standard of professionalism and efficiency that you have brought to your roles.

CLUB NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

In many ways the monthly edition of the Club Newsletter is the heart and soul of our Club. Edited and electronically published for many years by Bruce Pearson, this publication has become not only a record of activities but also the primary means of alerting members to coming events and other Club news. Bruce is also the curator of the Club website which is a portal for the world to gain information about us and often a first contact for prospective members. I thank Bruce for his untiring and highly skilled management of these vital areas.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP 2023/24

Club Membership has this past year been in the able hands of John Milhinch whom I thank for his oversight of the ever-changing chameleon of the membership records.

New Members Inducted:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Barker, Gerry Power (returned), Mike McLaren and Rick Reynolds.
Deceased Members 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John McDonald, Noel Symonds, John Brereton, Les Lenny and Bill Lane.
Resignations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Compton
Membership Totals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2023: 85 (71 active and 14 non-active) • February 2024: 84 (73 active and 11 non-active)

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

The persistent, uninvited guest in the room at Committee meetings has been the slow decline in Club membership. In addition to the pandemic factor, our Club members have been aging, with the average member now well into their 80s, some have been forced due to ill health, relocation, and other factors to withdraw or be placed on the Non-Active Member list. Membership growth has therefore been a priority for the Committee through 2023/24.

To attract new members, the Committee has initiated several marketing initiatives. Committee member John Ely has been most active in this area and through his efforts we have moved into the tricky world of electronic marketing and social media. The Club is now attracting followers to its own Facebook page and also now features prominently on the daily marketing screens throughout the Mittagong RSL Club. To maintain the momentum, a new Committee Portfolio of Club Marketing and Social Media Coordinator with responsibility for curation of the Facebook Page and oversight of other electronic promotion initiatives has been created.

CLUB SPEAKERS

Able managed by Geoff MacBean, over the past 12 months every General Meeting has enjoyed presentations by both our treasured member speakers and an array of fascinating guest presenters. With each speaker booking requiring many emails and phone calls Geoff, who is an experienced speaker 'sleuth' of many years' experience, during 2023/4 organised a total of 22 speakers. Too numerous to cite here, the monthly presentations remain a key club activity which members look forward to each month. Our sincere gratitude is extended to Geoff for his management of this demanding area.

FINANCIAL

The Club's financial assets were in a healthy state at 1 March 2024 with total funds of \$6830.13 at hand.

Changes to Member Financial Interactions with the Club

(The following is part of a statement which was read and tabled at the General Meeting held on 11/5/23 to clarify Committee decisions regarding changes to the future of the Club's financial interactions with members).

1. General Meeting tea and coffee cash payments

- *For 2023/24 cash payments for tea/coffee will continue to be accepted at each monthly meeting at the welcome desk in the usual time-honoured way.*
- *Members are encouraged to pay for their annual tea/coffee in advance. This advance payment can still be made in cash at the desk but preferably by EFT to the club account*
- *From April 2024 the annual membership fee of \$40 (which has remained unchanged since 2011) will continue unchanged but a Tea/Coffee fee of \$30 will be charged.*
- *This combined amount can still be paid in the usual way my members, but the Club's preferred option is for payment by EFT*

- *From April 2024 monthly cash payments for tea/ coffee will no longer be accepted at the welcome desk.*
- *The Committee acknowledges our special members and guests and so the tea/ coffee fee will not apply to Life Members, Non-Active Members or any guests attending General Meetings. These will be the guests of the Club at the fellowship break.*

2. All other financial interactions

- *The method of payment will remain the same for membership fees, tours, dinners etc but with the understanding that the Club’s strongly preferred option is payment by EFT.*

GOVERNANCE AND WELFARE

The less visible areas of Committee responsibility include maintaining social connections with members who may be experiencing some life challenges. Malcolm Stevens has made regular contact with members who may have been experiencing difficulties. He has brought both sensitivity and care to this important area. Jim McGrath with his eye for administrative detail has managed our governance matters including relations with PSPL our parent organisation and I thank him for this.

OUTINGS, DINNERS, COFFEE CLUBS AND TOURS

With Fun, Fellowship and Friendship as the core goals of our Club in mind, Committee members John Elvy ably aided by assistant Gordon Dummer have coordinated this vital area of Club activity with energy and enthusiasm. A summary of the major year’s outings and tours:

March 8	<p>Garoorigang Homestead</p> <p>29 members and wives visited this historic Goulburn property followed by lunch.</p>
May 30	<p>Nancy Bird Aerotropolis</p> <p>19 members and partners attended followed by lunch at the Camden valley Inn</p>
July 19	<p>Zig Zag Railway</p> <p>19 members and partners enjoyed a ride on the historic 1869 rail line</p>

August 11	HARS Aero Museum 13 members visited this interesting Albion Park Museum followed by lunch
September 19 to 23	Beechworth Tour 18 members and partners attending this interesting 4 day area tour.
September 23	Gilbert & Sullivan operetta “Iolanthe” At Goulburn Performing Arts Centre was well attended.
February 20, 2024	Ramses Exhibition 44 members and partners visited this amazing exhibition at the Australian Museum in Sydney

Club Dinners across the year included Annual Changeover dinner in April, Christmas in July and Christmas in December. These were ably organised by Gordon Dummer assisted by Lynn Dummer. In October a luncheon for past Club presidents was hosted by the president at The Robertson Hotel. Whilst each month, various groups met less formally at the various popular Coffee Clubs with the usual enthusiastic discussions of current topics.

2024 THE 40th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the foundation of Moss Vale Probus Club which took place on July 12, 1984, at the Moss Vale Golf Club. For the historians amongst us I attach here for your interest, a copy of the text of the very first Bulletin (we call it a Newsletter). Bruce Pearson informs me that the March 2024 Newsletter will be edition Number 463. We have certainly come a long way.

As I step down from the 2023/24 Presidency, I acknowledge and thank the Mittagong RSL and Bowral Golf Clubs for their generous, ongoing support of our Club. And finally to you the members of the Moss Vale Probus Club for your loyalty and support through these changing times, I offer my sincere thanks and admiration.

At the end of the day, let’s maintain our focus on Fun, Fellowship and Friendship!

Michael Hissey

President Moss Vale Probus Club

March 2024

Bulletin No 1.

12th July 1984.

Meeting at the Moss Vale Golf Club

10.0 a.m. until 12 noon.

INAUGURAL MEETING

The foundation meeting of the Moss Vale Probus Club took place at the Moss Vale Golf Club on Thursday, 14th June, 1984.

At the inaugural meeting it was resolved that the Moss Vale Probus Club meet at the Moss Vale Golf Club on the second Thursday of each month between 10.0 am. and 12 noon and that membership be open to professional and business men and executives resident in Wingecarribee who have retired or are partially retired from their normal professional, business or executive role. Membership is also open to men of a similar level of interest. Applications for Foundation Membership will be open until the August meeting.

Following the unanimous decision of those present at the inaugural meeting to found the Moss Vale Probus Club office bearers were elected.

They were:

PRESIDENT: Gordon Harman

VICE-PRESIDENT: Ray Capper (President-elect)

SECRETARY: Jim Morris

TREASURER: Bob Erwin

The MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE elected were: Jeff McConnell, John Wheeler, Tim Tickner, Ern Collett; Bill Coffey and Charles Gordon.

At the conclusion of the election Rotary President, Ernie Thorpe, invested President Gordon Harman with President's collar. as a gift from Moss Vale Rotary Club.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Executive and the Management Committee met at the Moss Vale Golf Club on Thursday, 5th July, 1984, when the various Club 'portfolios' were allotted to members of the Management Committee as follows:

Jeff McConnell Guest Speakers/Meeting programmes

Tim Tickner Visits/Entertainment

John Wheeler Membership

Charles Gordon Club Bulletin/Publicity

Bill Coffey Probus Liaison

Ern Collett Community Service

Members with enquiries or suggestions are asked to direct their enquiries or suggestions to the Executive or to the appropriate member of the Management Committee.

PROGRAMMES

Mr Ken Byrne of Exeter and of The Berrima District Credit Union has been invited to talk about financial matters at today's meeting. At this time of the year a talk and discussion on financial matters should be of great interest to all if not of great importance to each one of us. We each need to know how to make the best use of what we have and to make sure that we have the greatest use of what we have. We welcome Ken and sincerely, thank him for coming to our meeting and giving us

some financial guidance.

Members who have suggestions for subjects for talks for future meetings (with or without suggestions for possible speakers) are invited to pass their suggestions on to Jeff McConnell.

AUGUST MWETING

The speaker at our meeting on 9th August will be the President of the Berrima District Historical Society, Mrs Clarice Boyd of Moss Vale. The Berrima District Historical Society was formed in 1960. Mrs Boyd has been a member of the Society for the past eleven years. She will be bringing with her either Mr Cull or Mr Owen Edwards both of whom are well versed in matters concerning the history of the Berrima district. We look forward to a very interesting and informative morning with them.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

The very sincere thanks of the Moss Vale Probus Club is extended to:

Rotary President, Ernie Thorpe, and the Moss Vale Rotary Club for sponsoring the formation of the Moss Vale Probus Club and for the presentation of the President's collar. Thanks also to those Rotarians who attended the inaugural meeting to get the Club under way.

Cliff Johnstone, Probus Information Centre, South Pacific, for his attendance and for outlining the history of Probus and its aims, objectives, and activities.

Paul Pardey and members of Goulburn Probus Club for their interest and support; and Moss Vale Golf Club for making such a delightful venue available for the inaugural and further meetings