



Somers Combined Probus Club Inc.

Reg. No. A0047467H

P.O. Box 86, Somers 3927



*Original painting
by Jenny Ferguson*

July 2025

**Next meeting: Friday 8 August, 2025 at
10am**

SPEAKER: Martin Green, CEO Beleura House

President	Georgie Minton	0437 600 466
Vice President	Chris Thompson	0421 421 303
Past President	Judy Alsop	0418 313 099
Secretary	Veronica Paskins	0431 776 421
Treasurer	Nigel George	0407 519 981
Speakers	Sue Mansie	0412 774 659
Membership	Anne Hassett	0438 836 546
Welfare	Ros Teh	0407 893 105
Newsletter	Tony Duboudin	0412 551 981
Travel	Georgie Minton	0437 600 466
Outings	Jill Duboudin	0407 550 147
Lunches/Social	Chris Thompson	0421 421 303

ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It was my pleasure to step in to lead the meeting for Georgie Minton while she is on holiday. We had a very pleasant meeting with a good attendance considering that many Somers people have started to leave for warmer climes. We were also happy to welcome six visitors for the morning.

Clare and Peter Whitnash made us all jealous with the wonderful presentation of their recent holiday. Thank you both.

The Club now has quite an extensive list of regular activities and outings. Many thanks go to Jill

Duboudin and Chris Thompson for their constant organisation of events for us.

There is a lot of opportunity for social interaction and I think that everyone should be able to find something that suits them.

Having done a marvellous job as Speaker Finder, Sue Mansie would love someone to step forward to take her place. Suggestions for speakers often come from other club members and there is much support for anyone taking on this role. A volunteer would be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a safe and happy month.

Best Wishes

Judy, Past President

WELFARE REPORT

We were hoping to welcome back Pat Pringle this meeting after her adventurous but shortened trip overseas.

Unfortunately an Achilles heel injury set her back again. Hope she is recovering well and getting lots of rest.

Senga Gadsen asked me to tell you that she has a cancerous growth on her kidney. There is no date for surgery yet but being the fighter that she is, Senga is determined to defeat this. She and Stephen are surrounded by family who will look after them.

Stephen is still waiting to hear this coming week what will be done to fix his painful hip. We in the Probus club send our love and wish them well.

- Ros Teh 0407 893 105



WEBSITE

www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/somerscombined

Newsletter Tony Duboudin

Email: tonyduboudin@bigpond.com

Website: Jill Duboudin

Email: jilldoobs@bigpond.com

Secretary: Veronica Paskin

Email: veronica.sec.scpc@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Money for activities is payable to the bank account below.

Somers Combined Probus Club Inc.

BSB 633000

A/C No. 164191777

Payments by cheque to be mailed to PO Box 86, Somers, 3927.

Struggling to get
your wife's
attention?

Just sit down and
look comfortable.



SPEAKER NOTES

In July instead of one speaker we had two and as an added bonus they were our own Peter and Clare Witnish.

They enthralled us recounting their holiday snorkelling the waters of Raja Ampat and the Spice Islands in the remote West Papua region of Indonesia.

The area is dotted with small islands most uninhabited and uninhabitable. The area is said to have the richest biodiversity of any marine environment in the world supporting 75 per cent of all known coral species.

So far more than 1800 species of fish have been recorded there and it was this teeming fish life that drew Clare

and Peter to the region.

Clare and Peter had some great colour pictures to illustrate their talk with many of them featuring local people who always welcomed visitors such as our own intrepid Somers pair with dancing and singing.

They pointed out that the indigenous people of West Papua do not look like other Indonesians as they are related to the people of Papua New Guinea. Indonesia annexed West Papua in 1969.

The small villages, all of which depend on fishing for their livelihood, were a mix of Christians and Muslims and all got on well together without any sign of tension.

One of the high spots of the trip for Peter and Clare was sighting and swimming with whale

sharks which as Peter pointed out are not sharks but the largest fish in the sea.

The Spice Islands were where the Europeans found cloves, highly valued for flavouring and preserving food in the era before refrigeration and were more valuable kilo for kilo than gold.

The Dutch East India Company controlled the trade in cloves and other spices and ruled with

an iron hand and many atrocities were committed. Later, as the English and others moved into the area the price of spices dropped and with it the power of the Dutch East India Company. Clare and Peter as well as delivering an absorbing picture of an idyllic area relatively close to Australia also gave us a good history lesson.

Thank you Clare and Peter.

- Sue Mansie



RELIABLE TRADIES LISTED

There is nothing like a recommendation when it comes to hiring a tradie for a task around the house.

Thanks to a suggestion by Denise Copeland the club is in the process of compiling a list of tradies who have done work for members and who members recommend as reliable.

A form for members to fill out listing details of a tradie who has done satisfactory work will be sent out to all members or you can obtain a form from Denise Copeland who has kindly agreed to run the scheme.

The committee believes that a list of recommended tradies will be a valuable resource for all members to access.

Denise Copeland 0414 543 742 or copelaj@bigpond.com

GETTING TO KNOW YOU — STEPHEN HEMPEL

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Eltham. My parents were among the first to build a mud brick house on bush acreage near the Yarra River, Eltham. It was a great place to grow up, building treehouses, swimming and fishing in the Yarra, riding bikes all over Eltham and working on the neighbour's farm and orchard.

What did you do in your earlier life work-wise?

I started my working life in the building industry as a carpenter, building and renovating houses. I then did building surveying until retirement in 2011. In early retirement I served as a member on the Building Appeals Board and an executive officer in various professional associations.

Where did you live before moving to the Peninsula?

My wife Louise and I lived in Parkdale close to the beach in an old Californian Bungalow that we spent many years renovating. We were there for 36 years.

Why did you choose to move here?

Like many others we had our holiday house in Somers

which we bought in 2015. Over time we came to realise that we enjoyed the peace and quiet of Somers and the walks along the beach so we made Somers home.

How long have you lived in the area?

We made the move permanently in 2022.

Anything you miss by moving here?

We do miss our old house in Parkdale and our old neighbours although we do still catch up for dinners and special occasions. We also miss being closer to the city, so we joined the RACV City Club which enables us to stay overnight after

shows, footy and other events.

What advice would you give anyone contemplating a similar move?

If you like the peace and quiet and being in natural environs then Somers is a perfect place to live and retire.

Favourite things in and around Somers?

We love eating out and enjoy Somers General for lunch, Tulum Store on Friday and Saturday

evenings, Merricks General for lunch or Friday night dinner and a curry at Mustang Cottage. We also love walks around Somers with our daughter's dog.

While I still can, I love running around the trails and beaches, usually with my daughter which is a great opportunity to catch up.

Open water swimming off Somers Beach is wonderful amongst the local dolphin population that checks us out on occasions.

How long have you been involved with Probus?

I'm a SCP newbie, in my first year.

What motivated you to join Probus?

To connect with people in and around Somers. Somers

Combined has been very welcoming and we are very glad we joined.

What do you enjoy about Probus?

I have enjoyed being a part of the walking group. Getting to meet the Probus members and hearing their stories. It is an excellent group and is a credit to those that established it and those that invest their time in making it great. A special mention to Judy Alsop who welcomed my wife and I as new members and Georgie Minton who has been so encouraging with the walking group.



ROSTERS

If you are unable to undertake your rostered duty you must arrange a substitute.

Please arrive at 9.15 am to assist with the placement of chairs.

CHAIRS: Barry Aston, Alisdair MacDonald **TEA:** Val Aston, Rhonda MacDonald

ACTIVITIES

BOOK GROUP - MONDAY 4 AUGUST



The next meeting is on Monday 4 August, 12pm at Somers tennis club. BYO lunch.

The book for discussion: The Things That Matter Most, Gabbie Stroud

The future of St Margaret's Primary School is hanging by a thread. There is serious litigation pending, the school is due for registration, and a powerful parent named Janet Bellevue has a lot to say about everything. As teachers they're trying to remain professional, but as people they're fast unravelling.

- Leonie Holmgren

BRIDGE - THURSDAY 7 AUGUST



The next Bridge session will be Thursday 7 August at Caroline Vaillant's home, 1A Parklands, Somers starting at 4pm. Please let Caroline know if you would like to join the group.

- Caroline Vaillant 0407 310 646

CANASTA - IN RECESS FOR WINTER



Canasta/Samba is usually played at a members house on the Saturday night following the general meeting.

Vern Tansley 5983 5822

CYCLING—STILL PEDALLING



All comers welcome to the daily ride to various local stores for coffee. There are two meeting points 1. 9.15 am at Sandy Point and South Beach roundabout. 2. 9.30 am at Lord Somers Rd and Sandy Point Rd intersection. Remember to wear "High Vis" clothing.

Contact Dennis Paskins on verdenp40@gmail.com or John Copeland on 0414 543 742

FINANCE - WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST



The next meeting for 2025 will be on Wednesday, 6 August at 5pm at the Somers Tennis Club followed by a meal at The Westernport Hotel. Names were taken at the July meeting but please contact Daryl if you would like to come.

Tim Rintoul is leading the Share Competition with John Copeland not far behind.

Contact Daryl Cowen on 0439 100 546 or daryl.cowen@bigpond.com

GOLF - IN RECESS FOR WINTER



Golf will resume on the second Wednesday of September, 10am hit off at Cerberus Golf Club. Each month there will be a different format.

Contact Peter if you would like to join.

Peter Witnish 0432 523 206

HAPPY HOUR AND A HALF - THURSDAY 24 JULY



The next Happy hour and a half will be at Anne and Cisco's, 8 Hendon Avenue, Somers Somers, on Thursday 24 July at 5pm. Bring a bottle and a plate of finger food.

LUNCH AFTER THE MEETING - FRIDAY 8 AUGUST



We will be having lunch at Ghien, a Vietnamese restaurant in Hastings, after our general meeting. Please let Chris Thompson know if you would like to attend.

Chris Thompson 0421 421

MAHJONG GROUP



Mahjong will not be held this month.

Judy Alsop 0418 313 099

MORNING COFFEE - WEDNESDAY 23 JULY



Come and enjoy a casual catchup at the Somers General on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10am.

Helen May 0417 553 744

SINGING GROUP - TUESDAY 15 JULY, 5 AND 19 AUGUST



This group meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at the Somers Yacht club at 4.00 pm.

Peter Thompson 0447 770 912

WALKING - WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST



The next walk is on Wednesday 6 August starting at 10am from Somers General and is 7.5km. The return route is along Koala Walk then along Beach Hill Ave, through the Koala Reserve to Coolart, around the Coolart Woodlands walk No 4, then back to Somers General. A map will be emailed to our group before the walk.

Those who want a shorter walk can meet at Coolart Homestead carpark and that would be 3.5km. The group leaving from Somers General would be at Coolart Carpark around 10:30. Coffee at Somers General post walk.

Details and cancellation due to weather will be emailed out a few days before 6 August. If you wish to receive emails for the Walking Group, send an email to Stephen.Hempel@hotmail.com

Stephen Hempel 0418 538 840

WINE APPRECIATION - WEDNESDAY 23 JULY



A visit to T'Gallant Winery, 1385 Mornington - Flinders Rd, Main Ridge (about 20 mins drive from Somers) on Wednesday 23 July. Booking is for lunch at 12.30 indoors. Wine tasting is optional and in a separate tasting room and costs \$10 pp. Tasting can be done either before or after lunch. There are two lunch options - a la carte or a special lunch deal. The special lunch deal is for two people and costs \$50 and provides a pizza (four choices), chips, a green salad plus two glasses of wine.

- Clare Witnish 0409 860 353

RECENT OUTINGS

Devilbend brewery and lunch at the Epicurean



A group of members had an interesting visit to Devilbend Farm Beer Co, Tuerong, which prides itself on growing all the ingredients for its beer on the property.

Above: The entrance to the brewery.

Top right and right: The brewer explains how the beer-making process works.



Members enjoyed lunch after the July general meeting at the Epicurean in Red Hill. Pizzas and gnocchi were the most popular orders.

OUTINGS AND TRAVEL

AUGUST

Frankston Art Centre - Wednesday 20 August at 10.30am

I Got Rhythm - The Great Gershwins



Experience a 'S Wonderful' salute to George and Ira Gershwin, whose timeless melodies and unforgettable lyrics shaped American music. If you have added your name to the list you will need to pay into the Probus bank account by this Friday 18 July. Any questions or cancellations contact Jill on 0407 550 147 or jilldoobs@bigpond.com.

OCTOBER

Tasmania - 15 to 20 October



By now everyone should have paid the balance for the trip to Tasmania. I advise everyone to insure their trip. Probus insurance can be purchased through the Probus South Pacific website or you can call them on 1800 125 234 during working hours to discuss your insurance.

To purchase Probus insurance you need your Probus number. Anne Hassett, our membership secretary will send all participants a copy of their Probus number in case they want to use it. Everyone should watch for my invitation to the get together which I'll send out after the August meeting.

- Georgie Minton 0437600466

IT'S FILM TIME

Girl from the North Country screening at Rosebud Cinema 19, 20, 22 July.

Written and directed by celebrated playwright Conor McPherson and featuring Tony Award-winning orchestrations by Simon Hale, *Girl From The North Country* reimagines 20 songs of Bob Dylan.

It's 1934 in Duluth, Minnesota. We meet a group of wayward travellers whose lives intersect in a guesthouse filled with music, life and hope.

Kinky Boots the musical screening Rosebud Cinema 16, 71 19 August

Kinky Boots was filmed at the Adelphi Theatre in London and tells the story of Charlie Price. Having inherited a shoe factory from his father, Charlie forms an unlikely partnership with cabaret performer and drag queen Lola to produce a line of high-heeled boots and save the business. In the process, Charlie and Lola discover that they are not so different after all.



A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Our last walk was on Wednesday 2 July and was a 6km beach and horse trail walk from and to Tulum Store Balnarring Beach. The weather was a typical July day, windy and slightly damp although apart from a brief light shower at the start it was mainly fine.

A reduced hardy group braved the elements and were rewarded with coffees and snacks at Tulum Store.

The next walk is on Wednesday 6 August starting at 10am and is a local walk starting at Somers General. Details in the activities section of this issue.

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Above: Caroline Vaillant snapped this beautiful rainbow in Somers.

Left: Di Price's picture was taken at sunset at Lake Albert, South Australia.



BIRTHDAYS

July	August
1 Chris Thompson	9 Barry Gordon
18 Vernon Tansley	16 Jennie Ferguson
20 Adrian Ross	18 Jean Grant
21 Val Aston	28 Jeremy Grant
31 Pat Pingle	

EVENTS CALENDAR

July

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
		<u>1</u> <u>Singing</u>	<u>2</u> <u>Walking</u>	<u>3 Devilbend</u> <u>Farm Beer</u> <u>Comm. meeting</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>7 Book</u> <u>group</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> <u>Bridge</u>	<u>11 General</u> <u>meeting</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> <u>Singing</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23 Morning</u> <u>coffee</u> <u>T'Gallant</u>	<u>24 Happy hour</u> <u>and a half</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> <u>Comm. meeting</u>		

August

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>4 Book</u> <u>group</u>	<u>5</u> <u>Singing</u>	<u>6</u> <u>Finance</u>	<u>7</u> <u>Bridge</u>	<u>8 General</u> <u>meeting</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> <u>Singing</u>	<u>20 Morning</u> <u>coffee</u>	<u>21 Happy hour</u> <u>and a half</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>31</u>						

This newsletter and the information within, is solely for the information and interest of the Somers Combined Probus and adjoining clubs and is not available to outside bodies for any other purpose.

Contributions to Tony Duboudin: tonyduboudin@bigpond.com

Our thanks to the office of Paul Mercurio, MLA for Hastings, for printing copies of this newsletter.