



Somers Combined Probus Club Inc.

Reg. No. A0047467H

P.O. Box 86, Somers 3927



*Original painting
by Jenny Ferguson*

August 2025

**Next meeting: Friday 12 September, 2025
at 10am**

Speaker: Jade Phelan, The Bays Hospital

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



Considering a large number of our members have moved to Queensland for the winter we had a very good turnout of 55 people at the monthly meeting and a very enjoyable lunch at the newly renovated "Ghien" restaurant in Hastings. Lunch after every meeting continues to be popular.

Our regular activities have changed slightly over the year with some discontinued and new ones such as the Walking Group and Mahjong becoming well supported. Please do not hesitate to make a suggestion for an activity that you think might be of interest. There is a possibility of starting a writing group and a sheet for the expression of interest will be available at the next meeting.

Please feel free to welcome potential members to our club. The procedure for introduction is as

follows: Potential members are introduced to our membership secretary, Anne Hassett, and they are invited to attend two meetings in order to see if Probus is to their liking. If so, they will be inducted at a general meeting. Newcomers may also attend an activity as a guest once or twice but not ad infinitum. If they wish to attend regularly, they should become a member. Continued attendance as a non-member raises insurance issues for the club.

Please also remember, if you are running an activity to have members sign an attendance form at the start of the activity in order to comply with insurance requirements.

We look forward to welcoming our President, Georgie Minton, back for the next monthly meeting and hope she has had a wonderful break.

Until then, have a safe and happy month,

- Judy, Past President

WELFARE REPORT

There are several people who have been in the wars during the past month! Please be aware that Margie Partos, Senga Gadsden, Peter Witnish and Marj Overton have all had some health issues recently. We hope that you all feel better soon.

If you are one of their circle, perhaps you might like to be in touch.

Please also make contact if you need to access the Motor Mates service or need other help. Stay healthy everyone!

-Judy Alsop for Ros Teh

WEBSITE

www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/somerscombined

Newsletter Tony Duboudin

Email: tonyduboudin@bigpond.com

Website: Jill Duboudin

Email: jilldoobs@bigpond.com

Secretary: Veronica Paskins

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.



VALE ANNE DANNE

Probus and the Somers community lost a great personality and a tireless worker for the Probus club she was instrumental in creating with the passing of Anne Danne.

Here three people who worked closely with her and were friends recount their memories of Anne and her work for the club.



Anne Danne

15/01/1930 - 19/07/2025



ANNE Danne was a long-term member of the Somers community and a personal friend.

She was elected the first President of the Somers Combined Probus Club and served two terms as President in the days when we used to meet at the Somers Pavilion.

Anne was instrumental in the beginning of a number of activities and held the best after the Annual General Meeting lunch for members at the farm on Sandy Point Road.

Daryl Cowen and the Tansleys from Somers Combined Probus Club and 10 other people from Somers attended her memorial service at Bunurong Memorial Park.

An Anglican minister conducted the service and started with some kind words and prayers. Then Anne and Noel's three sons, Steven, Andrew and David and their youngest daughter and eldest granddaughter all recounted their memories of family life with Anne.

The service was followed by afternoon tea at a reception room.

- Vern Tansley

ABOUT 26 years ago I first met Anne. We were contacted by the Rotary Club of Hastings with the idea of starting a Probus club in Somers.

There were a number of us and we met at Anne's place in Sandy Point Road. I was impressed immediately by Anne, she was a great host and a very gracious lady. It was with her drive that a club was formed, we did not know then what a fabulous initiative this was.

Anne offered to be the first President and lots of meetings were held at her home. She organised venues and meeting times; advertising the club throughout Somers. Because of her influence the Combined Probus Club grew in numbers and has become the wonderful addition to the social network of the area. Anne was rewarded with a life membership of the club.

- Barry Price

ANNE was the inaugural President of our Probus club and I was the Secretary. This, by the way, was by summons, "no excuses accepted!"

Anne had a wicked sense of humour and although setting up the club was a lot of work, we also had a lot of fun. Somehow between us "Lady Danne" became her unofficial name during our many phone calls, and this name remained between us always.

Anne was a capable leader and a kind and generous person, happily throwing open her home for our Christmas parties and many other club events. I am sure inaugural members will fondly remember the balmy evenings out on their back lawn, enjoying the countryside view enjoying a tipple or two.

After her husband Noel died, Anne sold the property in Sandy Point Rd and moved to Tasman Road. However, she was not at all happy that there were no footpaths where she could safely walk around the village.

Somers lost a "special personality" when Anne eventually moved to a nursing home to be closer to family.

Rest in peace Lady Danne.

- Denise Kempster

SPEAKER NOTES

Our August speaker was Martin Green, CEO of Beleura House who came to talk about the historic house and gardens.

He began his talk with a brief recap of his last visit which described all the men involved. As was the case in those times the women were seldom mentioned although they were very active behind the scenes.

Martin chose five women who, in one way or another, were associated with Beleura. The first being Eliza, an Aboriginal woman, who was a servant at Beleura in 1840. The beautiful painting of Eliza remains at Beleura. The painting was the work of Georgiana Huntly McCrae an English / Australian

painter and diarist who was married to Andrew McCrae (that is another story to be told).

Amelia Tallis was the wife of Sir George Tallis who had made his fortune founding and heading J.C Williamson Theatre Company which allowed him to buy Beleura House. Amelia and her three sisters all went onto the stage but on becoming the wife of a wealthy man Amelia had to give up the theatre.

However, she was always busy not only raising her young family but becoming a great hostess to the wealthy, including Dame Nellie Melba, who often stayed at the house and enjoyed Amelia's famous Manhattan Cocktails.

Amelia was also a great charity fundraiser and opened the first Opportunity shop named Cyclo-rama in Brunswick. To top it off Amelia also



played golf, unusual for women in those days!

The association of artist Christian Waller with Beleura was her friendship with young John Tallis. Christian produced ecclesiastical-styled stained glass window depicting John as an ethereal figure. Christian was married to Napier Waller who himself was an Australian muralist, and painter of stain glass and other media. He is best known for the Hall of Memory at the War museum in Canberra.

He lost his right arm during the Great War and learned to paint with his left hand during his recuperation in Tasmania.

During that time Christian

nursed him and kept them by her commercial illustrations for some half a dozen childrens books, including Australian Fairy Tales [1925] by Hume Cook.

The famous ceramicist artist Klytie Pate was brought up by her Aunt Christian Waller, who named her after a timeless fable, demonstrating her inter-est in mythology. Klytie's works have been gradually collected at Beleura where they are proudly displayed. Finally to a contemporary jazz pianist who has recorded on the grand piano at Beleura works that have won three Arias around the world.

This has taken me so long to write because I kept going down different rabbit holes because all the stories were so interesting.

I hope you will do the same.

- Susan 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 – CHRIS THOMPSON

1. Where did you grow up?

My parents died when I was very young and after that I lived with my aunt and uncle in Windsor. Later we moved to Wattle Park in South Box Hill. I was educated first at Presentation Convent Windsor and later at Siena Convent in Camberwell.

2. What did you do in your earlier life work wise?

I studied infant teaching at Burwood Teachers College. I loved the atmosphere of college and partook in many tours and trips and student societies. I appeared in many plays which led to further roles in amateur theatre in Melbourne. I did further studies in primary art teaching. After teaching in primary schools I was offered a position at Ballarat Teachers College and I taught in the art faculty. Later I gained a position at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Where did you live before moving to the Peninsula?

After I married we settled in Frankston South. I studied special education at Deakin University and later at Melbourne University. I taught at special and disadvantaged schools in Frankston and on the Peninsula. We have two sons who were educated at Penbank and Woodleigh.

Why did you choose to move here?

We made many friends through teaching and the boys' schools. We always loved the beach and

surfing. When the boys finished school and were independent we moved here.

How long have you lived here?

We have been on the Peninsula for 18 years, first in Shoreham and now Somers. We love the beach and the rural atmosphere.

Anything you miss by being here?

Not really. I love the communal atmosphere, friendliness and many activities in which to participate. It takes an effort to go to the city for theatre and art shows however!



What advice would you give anyone contemplating a similar move?

Involve yourself in the community. Join groups and stay social.

How long have you been involved in Probus?

We have been members for about seven years. We were invited to join by Peter and Sue

Darcy. The more we came the more we enjoyed it and were made welcome.

Taking responsibility and contributing is an enjoyment and a way of giving back to the community.

What if anything would you like to see changed about Probus?

I am happy to see new members coming into the club and taking on responsibilities, offering new ideas and activities.

Nothing stays the same and embracing change acts as renewal and growth for the individuals who participate and for the club as a whole.

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: Stephen Hempel, Peter Witnish TEA: Louise Hempel, Helen May

ACTIVITIES

BOOK GROUP - MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER



The next meeting is on Monday 1 September, 12pm at Somers tennis club. BYO lunch. The book for discussion: **Bruny by Heather Rose**.
How far would your government go? A right-wing US president has withdrawn America from the Middle East and the UN. Daesh has a thoroughfare to the sea and China is Australia's newest ally. When a bomb goes off in remote Tasmania, Astrid Coleman agrees to return to help her brother fight an election. Only on Bruny does the world seem sane.
- **Leonie Holmgren**

BRIDGE - THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER



The next Bridge session will be Thursday 11 September 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 - NOVEMBER DATE TBA



The next and last meeting for 2025 will be in November date TBA followed by a self-catered BBQ at the Somers Tennis Club.

Tim Rintoul is leading the share competition by a long way with John Copeland both well ahead of the rest of the competitors.

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

GOLF - WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER



Golf will be on Wednesday 10 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 28 AUGUST



The next Happy hour and a half will be at Jean and Jeremy Grant's home, 42 Tasman Road, Somers, on Thursday 28 August at 5pm. Bring a bottle and a plate of finger food.

LUNCH AFTER THE MEETING - FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER



This month it will be a pie lunch at the Yacht Club with a choice of beef or chicken pie or a vegetable pastie. The cost will be \$20 and this will include a glass of wine and salads. Please pay into the Probus account and don't forget your name as reference.

MAHJONG GROUP - WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER



The next Mahjong group will be held on Wednesday 24 September at 3pm. Venue to be advised.

Judy Alsop 0418 313 099

MORNING COFFEE - WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST



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 - 19 AUGUST, 2 AND 16 SEPTEMBER



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

Peter Thompson 0447 770 912

WALKING - WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER



Our next walk will be on Wednesday 3 September starting at 10 am at Jacks Beach Reserve and meander through Warrigine Park along the boardwalk.

We previously did this walk in May when it was low tide. This time it will be closer to high tide and the water will be surrounding the mangroves and they are starting to flower. Coffees and food will be at Harbourside Café Hastings

Details and any cancellation due to weather will be emailed out a few days before 63 September. If you wish to receive information about the Walking Group, email Stephen.Hempel@hotmail.com

WINE APPRECIATION



The group is planning to hold three or four events such as winery visits, tastings and lunches a year. Watch this space for more news.

- Clare Witnish 0409 860 353

OUTINGS AND TRAVEL

SEPTEMBER

National Gallery Victoria— Wednesday 17 September



Exhibition: \$38.70 pp* (for a group of 10 or more)

Lunch: at your own expense in the NGV tearooms.

Transport: by bus will be \$20/25 pp* depending on numbers.

*Details of payment and date to be paid will be emailed. If you would like to go and have not put your name on the list please let me know ASAP.

Jill Duboudin 0407 550 147

OCTOBER

Tasmania - 15 to 20 October



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 0437 600 466

RECENT OUTINGS



The last Walking Group walk was on Wednesday 6 August and was a local walk starting at Somers General along Koala Walk then along Beach Hill Avenue, through Koala Reserve to Coolart, then around the Coolart Woodlands, then back to Somers General.

We had a mix of weather conditions from light showers to sunshine. The Merricks Creek and tributaries are very high due to the mouth being dammed by sand drift, a rare sight and well worth a look if you haven't been there lately.



PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Cisco Bugulho took this lovely picture of the State Library reading room.



*John Copeland
got these
pictures of our
feathered
friends while
"up north".*



BIRTHDAYS

[illegible]

EVENTS CALENDAR

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 group</u>	<u>5 Singing</u>	<u>6 Walking Finance</u>	<u>7 Bridge</u>	<u>8 General 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 Singing</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27 Morning coffee</u>	<u>28 Happy hour and a half</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>31</u>						

September

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