



Somers Combined Probus Club Inc.

Reg. No. A0047467H

P.O. Box 86, Somers 3927



*Original painting
by Jenny Ferguson*

NOVEMBER 2025

**Next meeting and lunch
12th December, 12pm at Pier 10**

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am very pleased to see such strong attendance at our meetings and delighted to report the induction of three new members, bringing our membership to 97. Welcome Heather, Roger and Grahame.

This month I received warm correspondence from the Balnarring Men's Probus Club, thanking us for including them in the recent Hobart trip. The trip was a great success, and we look forward to continued cooperation between our clubs. A good example is today's invitation for our members to join Balnarring on their visit to the Maritime Museum in Williamstown. Opportunities like this strengthen the ties between our clubs and enrich the experiences of our members.

I was also pleased to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of **Pat Pringle**, who served as Membership Secretary for eight years and willingly stepped into the Treasurer's role when needed. My thanks also go to **Sue Mansie** for her dedicated work as Speaker Finder, as well as her earlier service as Welfare Officer.

It is encouraging to see both of these important roles now in the capable hands of newer members. My thanks to **Ann Hassett** for her excellent work as Membership Secretary this year, and to **Louise Hempel**, who will be taking on the Speaker Finder role in 2026. I am also delighted that **Gina Webster** and **Ilona Cox** have volunteered to help Louise. These transitions remind us of the value of sharing responsibilities—it lightens the load, allows for flexibility during illness or travel, and ensures smooth succession when roles change hands.

In the same vein, Jill Duboudin and I continue to work together to organise trips and outings for our members. If anyone has ideas to contribute or would be interested in joining us, with a view to one of us eventually stepping back, we would be delighted to hear from you.

I hope you are all looking forward to our December meeting, cleverly disguised as a delicious lunch at Pier 10, where Tony will reveal the winner(s) of the photo competition. In the meantime, enjoy your regular monthly activities, including Happy Hour and a Half at Karen and Nigel Georges', as well as the outing to McCrae Homestead.

Keep an eye out for the "lucky seat," which may make another appearance in the coming months.

Our final speaker for the year was the entertaining Jonty Reason, who shared wonderful stories from his life in the theatre and left us with the tantalising prospect of seeing one of his plays performed in Mornington in 2026.

Thank you to all who continue to contribute to the strength and vibrancy of our club.

Stay safe

Georgie Minton

WELFARE REPORT

We were delighted to welcome back Marg Overton who is recovering well from surgery. Denise Crough has asked us to advise the members that her husband John is in the Bays Hastings and would like his friends to visit him.

- Ros Teh 0407 893 105

SPEAKER NOTES

Our speaker for our November meeting was Jonty Reason. He took us on a journey through his acting life. Starting as a five year old at the Mermaid Theatre in London and progressing to many other theatres in London including pantomimes. We heard about his mistakes and theatre blunders. He arrived in Australia twenty years ago and recently became the CEO of The Mornington Peninsula Theatre Group. In fact, Jonty instigated the group as he saw a lack of theatre on the Peninsula. The group intends to put on three shows a year. It would be great if we can attend the shows as a Probus Activity.

I am now signing off and handing over to Louise Hemple.

I know she will do a great job.

-Sue Mansie

Thank you to Pat and Sue for your important contributions to the club

Welcome Heather, Roger and Grahame



DECEMBER LUNCH MEETING AT PIER 10

Please pay \$60 per person into the Probus account by 6th December.

Somers Combined Probus Club Inc.

BSB 633000

A/C No. 164191777

GETTING TO KNOW YOU — NIGEL GEORGE

Where did you grow up

I was born in Birmingham England and continued to live there until moving to Australia on a short term work contract in 1980 which got extended then became permanent after 3 years (the maximum period for an expatriate contract).

What did you do in your earlier work life

I joined Lucas Industries (a major automotive component manufacturer) in Birmingham where I completed a commercial apprenticeship which included a four year sandwich course at what is now the University of Aston in Birmingham studying Cost and Management Accounting.

Upon completion of my studies, I briefly held a junior management position in an electronics factory before being offered a position in the Overseas Operations Department for Lucas Electrical. The position over time gave me the opportunity to travel to several countries including Turkey, Yugoslavia, Iran, the Philippines, Hong Kong and New Zealand. I subsequently was given a 3 year contract in Iran which came to an abrupt end after only a year due to the revolution. On the plus side this meant I was in right place at the right time when a position in Australia cropped up.

Where did you live before moving to the peninsula

Arguably you could say we have lived on the peninsula ever since moving to Australia if you include a few years in South Frankston followed by 28 years in Mount Eliza.

Why did you choose to move here

We always wanted to stay in the area, but considered the Port Philip Bay side to be too busy particularly in the summer. Through our children's schooling we already knew a number of people in Somers and we had been regular attendees at the Yacht Club New Years Eve

parties so it was an easy decision.

How long have you lived in the area

We purchased in Somers in 2010 but didn't move in permanently until 2013

Anything you miss by moving here

No not at all family and friends are still not that far away.



What advice would you give anyone contemplating a similar move

Don't hesitate, Somers is an amazing place, quiet and very inclusive. Our immediate neighbourhood is a very close community and this appears to be the norm in various parts of Somers

How long have you been involved with Probus

Around about 8 years

What motivated you to join Probus

Hadn't ever given it any thought. Our next door neighbours, who shall remain nameless, convinced us that there was a long waiting list so we should put our names down at the earliest opportunity.

What do you enjoy about Probus

The opportunity to mix with a wide variety of people. Have enjoyed and still enjoy the friendship of a number of people that we might not have otherwise met or normally considered possible friends. Access to a variety of activities is another reason although we probably don't take full advantage of this.

What if anything would you like changed about Probus

Having been on the committee for almost 7 years now, I am well aware how much the club is dependent on a small number of volunteers who offer their time for the committee and running activities. I would just like to see a greater number offering up a little of their time to support their club. It doesn't have to be that onerous and it can actually be fun.

WOW! LOOK AT THIS!



Christmas Hamper

A Big Thank You to all who participated.
Very much appreciated on behalf of
Western Port Community Support
a Big Thank you Denise Copeland



Leonie and Erik Holmgrens' grass
trees have flowered in spectacular
fashion

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.

ACTIVITIES

BOOK GROUP - MONDAY 5th JANUARY



Our book for November is "Daring to Drive" by Manal al-Sharif.

"Daring to Drive" is the fiercely intimate memoir of an accidental activist, a powerfully vivid story of a young Muslim woman who stood up to a kingdom of men-and won. Writing on the cusp of history, Manal offers a rare glimpse into the lives of woman in Saudi Arabia today.

Book Group will not hold a meeting in December, as both Jill and I are away. Instead, we will have a Christmas/New Year Celebration at my home, 13 Hendon Ave, Somers, on January 5, 2026.

- Leonie Holmgren 0417 393 320

BRIDGE - THURSDAY 8th JANUARY



The next Bridge session will be Thursday 8th January 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 - RESUMES 2026



Canasta/Samba is usually played at a member's house on the Saturday night following the general meeting. Canasta will resume in 2026

Vern Tansley 5983 5822

CYCLING—STILL PEDALLING - DAILY



All comers welcome to the daily ride to Tulum Store 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 - THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER



The next and last meeting for 2025 will be Thursday 20 November at 5pm followed by a self-catered BBQ at the Somers Tennis Club. All winners will be announced.

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

GOLF - RESUMES WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2026



Golf will be the second Wednesday of every month, 9.30am hit off at Cerberus golf club. Each month will be a different format. Everyone, including beginners are welcome.

Contact Peter if you would like to join.

Peter Witnish 0432 523 206

HAPPY HOUR AND A HALF - THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER



The next Happy hour and a half will be at the home of Karen and Nigel George, 84 Beach Hill Avenue, Somers on Thursday 27 November at 5pm. Bring a bottle and a plate of finger food to share.

LUNCH AFTER THE MEETING - FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER



PIER 10

Chris Thompson 0421 421 303

MAHJONG - WEDNESDAY 26th DECEMBER



Mahjong will be on 26th December at 3 pm at a venue to be advised.

MORNING COFFEE - WEDNESDAY 26th DECEMBER



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 2nd DECEMBER



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

Peter Thompson 0447 770 912

WALKING — WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER



As our November walk was cancelled due to weather and track conditions, our next walk is on Wednesday 3rd December 2025, and is the Red Hill Rail Trail from Red Hill Station Reserve to Merricks Station Reserve.

The walk requires us to have cars at either ends of the walk as it isn't a return walk. We will all meet at Merricks Station Reserve (link below) at 9:30am to organise lifts and some cars at Red Hill Trail, Red Hill South.

(https://maps.app.goo.gl/5PPMdYMRJzD34LUz5?g_st=ipc)

The trail is just over 6kms and has mostly a gradual descent from Red Hill South to Merricks Station Reserve with one short steep ascent in the middle. It takes in views across vineyards and farmland; very picturesque.

At the end of the walk, we will meet for coffees and food at The Merricks General.

Details and any cancellation due to weather will be emailed out a few days prior to 3 December. If you wish to receive emails for the Walking Group, send a request by email to Stephen.Hempel@hotmail.com

Stephen Hempel 0418 538 840

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

RECENT EVENTS

HOBART

Accommodation



Windy Mt Wellington



Bruny Island - The Neck, Oysters and ice cream



Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary



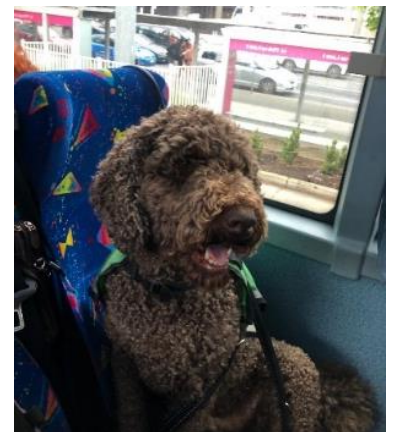
MONA, Cascade Brewery, Richmond



Botanical Gardens, Agrarian Kitchen



Dinners, wineries and the perfect passenger



THE DON BEACOM CUP

The Teams



The Winners -

OUTINGS AND TRAVEL

McRae Homestead

Wednesday 26th November

Carpool at SYC at 10.30 am

Drive to - 11 Beverley rd. McRae. Libby Moore will be our guide.

Cost \$20 per person for the Private Guided tour

Followed by lunch at Rosebud hotel. Seniors' meals available.

Please pay into the Probus account referencing your 'name' and 'McRae'

OR hand \$20 cash to Georgie.

Payment is preferred by Wednesday 19th November.



BIRTHDAYS

November	December
12 Jan Angwin	3 Marj Overton
14 Margaret Kurrle	3 Ilona Cox
19 David Andrewes	5 Sandra Shiel
21 Barry Price	11 Ron Kempster
24 John Copeland	12 Jill Albertini
24 Nigel George	19 Roy Higginson
28 Miffie Maklary	

Dear Members,

Sadly we must acknowledge the passing of our beloved member Margaret Partos.
More detail will appear in the December newsletter.



EVENTS CALENDAR

November

<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>Book group</u>	<u>4</u> <u>Singing</u>	<u>5</u> <u>Walking</u>	<u>6</u> <u>Committee meeting</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> <u>General meeting</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> <u>Finance group</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> <u>McCrae homestead</u>	<u>27</u> <u>Happy Hour & a half</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u>						

December

<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>Singing</u>	<u>3</u> <u>Walking</u>	<u>4</u> <u>Committee meeting</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> <u>General meeting and lunch</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> <u>Xmas Day</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.