

NEWSLETTER

August 2025



Probus Club Of Nelson City

Venue: Nelson Golf Club, 38 Bolt Rd, Tahunanui

Club Email: nznelsoncitygroup@gmail.com

Club Website: <http://probussouthpacific.org/microsites/nelsoncity>

President: Ross Newman Ph 547 3554

Secretary: Chris Tuffnell Ph 027 262 6106

Treasurer: Bess Osborne Ph 027 688 5868

Committee: Shona King 547 35

Ian MacGregor 021 436 224

Stephen Wynne-Jones 022 066 0159

John Crocker 0274 980 151

Glenys Della Bosca 021 176 0495

Newsletter Contributions:

Please email to delabos1@yahoo.co.nz

Highlights Next Meeting

11th September

Speaker: Joy Oakly

Topic: Cawthron 100 years and Joy's Journey

Guest Speaker: Bill Johnson

Topic: Nepal Visit

The year marches on – it's already August so spring is just around the corner. I admit I'm already enjoying the slightly longer daylight hours – longer sunshine hours are always welcome in my book. Soon we will all need to cast our votes in the local body elections so we've each got some decisions to make.

Our special interest groups have been busy since our last meeting 2 months ago. Be sure to catch up on their happenings – you may be tempted to join one or more of them.

The Mainly Ukeles group planned and practised a programme of songs certain to please most members for a couple of months. So, they were delighted when about a dozen members and their guests accepted the invitation to sing-along with them. I think the evening is bound to be a resounding success due to Convenor Jan Gillanders' enthusiasm and expertise which carries everyone along with the rehearsals as well as the evening's singing and usual light-hearted banter.

*Glenys Della Bosca,
Editor*

Welcome to new members

Anne Stanton, Kathy & John Taber and Daphne & John Ryder.

August Meeting Speaker: Ross Newman: The History of Health Stamps and Health Camps

President Ross Newman was our speaker this month and his wealth of knowledge about stamp collecting in general, and more specifically the role of Health Camps and Health Stamps proved very absorbing. He had us all recall our childhood stamp collections – usually a child's introduction to collecting and he went on to describe the many different approaches to collecting. There is seemingly no limit to the focus of different collections. For example, different types of paper used, printing errors, stamp shapes, even the perforations.

We learned about First Day Covers and how most stamps produced in New Zealand are sent to overseas collectors. For example, NZPO produced 64 stamps last year but only 4 were released in New Zealand. He noted that purchasing stamps in the UK is cheaper than in NZ.

Another interesting snippet shared was there were once 430 Post Offices on the West Coast – found on street corners and sometimes people's homes. Now try to find a Post Office!

Health Camps introduced in 1919 recognised that there were many children lacking basic home cares and so were admitted to the camps to receive healthy meals, learn good oral and general hygiene (even if in a very regimented manner) have their height and weight recorded and had plenty of fresh air and sunshine. The first Health Stamps were produced in October 1929. Ross cited one example of what was a 1 penny stamp now reaching about \$300 to buy today.

Children were selected for physical, emotional and behavioural care based on their specific needs. Roxburgh Camp was custom built to be a health camp and took kids from about the ages of 3 to 15 years. Nelson's camp was built in Marsden Valley in 1941. It was subsequently sold to fund a new camp in Rotorua.

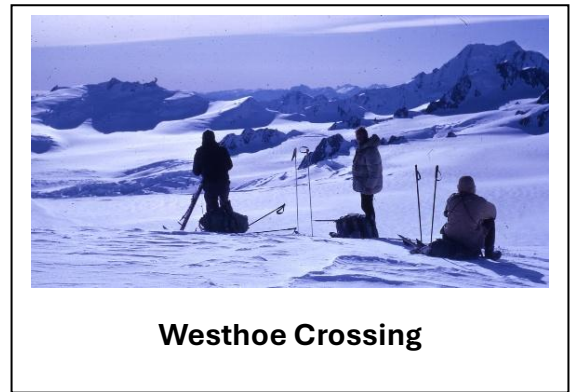
87 years of stamp sales supporting health camps came to an end 2016. And on a wry note, Ross told us that no postmarking happens now. So, I guess those post-marked stamps held in collections will become even more precious and mark a significant period in NZ's history.

P.S. The October Outing: Visit Founders Park and preview a major stamp exhibition being curated by President Ross (*Be sure to sign up at the next meeting*)

Committee Member Profile – Ian MacGregor

Hailing from Dunedin I did the 1st year of the 4-year Engineering degree at Otago University and thence to Canterbury for the remainder. Both Universities had tramping clubs through which I morphed into climbing. Those clubs provided good contact with students of Geology and Botany, 2 subjects I still enjoy. Skiing got added to the sports. I had 2 winter trips flying by ski equipped plane into the Fox Glacier and staying at an NZ Alpine Club hut (am a member), knocked off some 3,000 m main divide peaks, and on the first trip skied out over Westhoe Pass, across the Franz Joseph Glacier, across the main divide's Graham saddle, down the Rudolf and Tasman Glaciers, and out to Ball Hut and road end. The second year's exit is best forgotten. Later I was the only 1 of 3 NZ'ers to accept an invite to a mini-Himalayan expedition and reached a guesstimated height of 14,000 to 16,000 feet above sea level.

After that caving took over, to exceed possibly 3,000 hours underground, was President of the NZ Speleological Society for 3 years and held a few other positions.



Unfortunately, one has to work, and I had excellent Ministry of Works training in:

- Irrigation engineering designing and costing the 30,000-acre Lower Waitaki scheme,
- Road and Traffic Engineering Dunedin, Invercargill, and Te Anau (had a part time job in the evenings taking tourists through the glow-worm caves)
- Power Division's simulation & hydrological unit for 3 years. Produced the best hydrological work in NZ.
- and the final position was to massively upgrade central North Island Geotechnical site investigations and materials testing.

Then I was headhunted to be Stresscrete Wellington's Production Engineer in charge of 4 factories, 70 men, safety, some design, & quality control for precast flooring and cladding products primarily for Wellington high rise buildings.

After 4 years working Saturdays and 10 hr week days; I went tertiary teaching including 4 years at Massey University, and 8 at the City University of Hong Kong where I published several papers & was an Assoc Prof. in the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers' Material Division I was an assessor. Thence it was to the rather neat job of Researcher at the Dubai Central Laboratories.

I retired from being paid to teach and on return to NZ, again became an Outdoor First Aid instructor for the NZ Mountain Safety Council until they closed their instruction courses. I remain a member of the Cave Rescue Incident Management Team. Also, since retiring, I have made 2 presentations about 2 of Dunedin's cable car lines and am now working on a paper and nearly completed Power Point Presentation of the famous fabulous Maryhill cable car line.

24th August Sunday Luncheon

This month's Sunday luncheon is planned at the **Speight's Ale House**, near Mitre 10 store. Meet at 12 noon on 24th August to enjoy a variety of food from snacks to brunch to a full meal; you choose. Bookings essential - phone Convenor Ian MacGregor on Ph 021 436 224 before 10pm, Thursday 21st August. Or email idmacgregor.ir@gmail.com (No stairs or lift).

Good company – good food – good fun! Why not join in?

Sunday 28 September Luncheon – Bookings Now Open

12.00 noon, **Lambrettas**, 204 Hardy St, Nelson. (No stairs or lift)

Sign-up to attend at the next meeting or contact co-ordinator Ian MacGregor Ph 021436 224 or email idmacgregor.ir@gmail.com

Menu Choices: All day breakfast and cabinet food.

Club Members Wanted to Present Mini Speeches at Meetings

Members who could share some of their life experiences, to briefly talk about an item in their possession which holds special meaning, a special occasion or event, professional expertise, training and work, travel experiences, hobbies, charity work, etc are wanted to fill a gap in our programme in the coming weeks. As we have all reached our retirement years, we all have something of interest to share. We'd all love to hear from **you**. Just discuss your idea for a topic with Ian MacGregor and he'll schedule a spot for you.

Cycling Group

It's probably a good time for members to be giving their cycle gear the once over, ready for when the group rides resume early in September. Convenor Bob Gidlow has emailed all the group's members to alert them to getting started again. To join email

bob.gidlow@gmail.com

Outings Group Organised by John Crocker

The following activities are in the pipeline over the next few months:

August: Suter Gallery: - No doubt many of you are regular visitors to the Suter, one of New Zealand's premier provincial galleries.

We had the opportunity of a guided tour with Kyla McKenzie, the gallery's Curator and Collections Manager on 19 August. Kyla explained how decisions are made to purchase works, how exhibitions are decided on and curated and the financial challenges of running the Gallery.

This was a great opportunity to gain an insight into one of Nelson's major attractions. Lunch was enjoyed at the Gallery Café following the gallery tour.

September To Be Advised

October: Founders Park and a preview of a major stamp exhibition being curated by President Ross

November: Gardens visit to Appleby

February: Try your hand at croquet.

March: Club picnic

These options may be subject to change as other opportunities present themselves
Convenor John Crocker

Chess Group Meetings

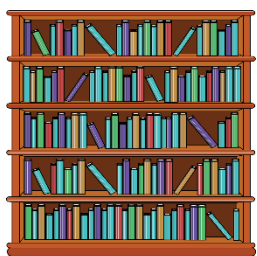
This group meets to play Chess on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2pm at 52 Manuka Street, Nelson.
Enquiries to Convenor Michael Roberts Ph 021 0228 8359.

They have recently welcomed a new member to the group. Other new players, experienced or never played before, are



welcome - there is space to take 1-2 more players. Occasionally there is a 3-week gap between Meetings.

The next date for August is Wednesday 27th. Convenor Michael will send all group members a reminder nearer the dates.



Book Challenge Group

A reminder that the Book Challenge Group meets at the Honest

Lawyer at 10am on the first Thursday of the month. Enquiries to Convenor

Jane Evans email:

jane.evatech@gmail.com

REMEMBER THE NEXT

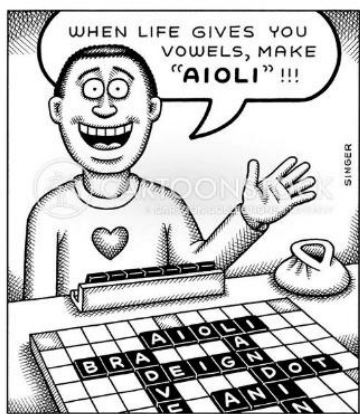
COFFEE MORNING GROUP

WILL MEET AT RIVER KITCHEN CAFÉ.
MILLERS ACRE CAR PARK AT 10AM

ON THURSDAY 21ST AUGUST

PH ZELDA ANDERSON 0210317541

NO EXIT © Andy Slinger



Scrabble Group

Challenge yourself with our keen Scrabble players who meet at 10am on the Third Tuesday of the month at 8 Chamberlain St, Tahunanui. Convenor Rose Biss can be reached on Ph 021 0797 868. This month's meeting is on 19th August.

Mainly Ukes

The group was delighted to welcome about a dozen members and guests to their sing-along on Tuesday 19th August. Members had been busy choosing a repertoire of popular songs and practising the skills required to host this fun evening at the recent meetings. Contact Jan Gillanders Ph 027 292 4662 for information about future evenings.

PROBUS North

1 – 31 October 2025

Theme: “Reinvent Your Retirement”



NEXT MEETING: Thursday 11th September