



WELLINGTON EASTERN SUBURBS PROBUS CLUB

19th August 2025

NEWSLETTER 277

Report on meeting held on 13th August 2025

Membership	57	Attendance	37
Apologies	8	Visitors	2

President Annette welcomed members and visitors Diane and Jeremy Meates to the meeting.

Profile Speaker

Jean Henry spoke of her wish to work in the medical profession from a young age. She worked in the pathology department of Wellington Hospital with another of our members Ron McKenzie. She spoke of the various diseases they tested for over the years and the change in technology. She now works one day a week in the cancer ward serving tea, lunch etc and talking patients' relatives.

Walking Group



Walking group on a cold southerly Monday at the War Memorial in Brooklyn.

Bank Account

Wellington Eastern Suburbs Probus Club – BNZ 02-0520-0153465-0

Club Micro Website:

<http://probussouthpacific.org/microsites/wellingtoneasternsuburbs>



Click the above to access the website.

Club Email Address: wellingtoneasternsuburbsm@probusclubs.com.au

PRESIDENT

Annette Barnes

VICE PRESIDENT

Carol Couchman

COMMITTEE

Shirley Blackie

Brian Cattermole

Newsletter Editor

Elaine Chang

Peter Chik

Finance

Chrissy Gall

Morning Tea

June Inkpen

Deryk McNamara

Guest Speakers

Val Norrish

Secretary

Marie Pearce

Immediate Past
President

Simon Reynolds

Almoner

THE CLUB MEETS

**2nd WEDNESDAY OF
EACH MONTH
10:00AM**

**SEATOUN BOWLING
CLUB**

**DUNDAS ST
SEATOUN**

Guests Welcome

Annual fees \$40

**Monthly morning
tea fee \$5**

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Walking Group

Lunch Group

Cinema Group

Apple & iPad Group

Coffee Group

Guest Speaker

Guest speaker **Sir Bruce Fergusson**, retired Chief of the NZ Defence Force, gave a very moving and emotional talk on the return of the unknown warrior to the NZ War Memorial in Buckle Street, Wellington. In 2004 Prime Minister Helen Clark instructed him to go to France and return the body of an unknown soldier from WW1 by ANZAC day just 4 weeks away.

He began the talk, by explaining in WW1, NZ sent 100,000 soldiers which at the time was 10% of our population of 1 million. Of those sent, 59,483 were casualties including 18,166 dead. On 15th September 1916, the NZ division joined the Battle of the Somme near Longueval. At 6:30am they were ordered to attack the Germans on a ridgeline above. They achieved their target but at the cost of 600 killed and 1200 wounded or missing. After armistice the Caterpillar Cemetery near Longueval became the main burial ground for soldiers from the battles. The cemetery contains 214 New Zealand soldiers plus 1272 unknown NZ soldiers. It was from this cemetery that a body was chosen to be the unknown warrior. A party of 74 flew to Longueval and selected the body of a soldier who had been approximately 5 feet 6 inches in height and there were no broken bones. The body remains were able to fit into a small box which was placed in a full-sized coffin. In typical military humour the body was given the nick-name 'Bob' (box of bones). Whilst in Longueval, the full visiting party walked the length of the battlefield and found a bayonet sticking out of the field at about the estimated position where the NZ forces would have gone through the barbed wire laid by the enemy. Sir Bruce ordered that the unknown warrior be accompanied by one or more members of the party at all times, day and night, during the journey to the cenotaph in Wellington.

In Longueval the body lay in state in the mayoral chambers until a moving ceremony at the memorial on the battle site. There was a large gathering and old men carried the standard of every French battalion involved in WW1. On arrival in Wellington, the body lay in state in Parliament overnight before being placed in a gun carriage for full military parade around the bays to Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

Walking Group



The walking group meet each Monday at 10:30am weather permitting. The walk is approximately 1 hour (about 4km) followed by coffee and a chat at a convenient café. Starting venue advised by email on Saturday evening prior to the Monday walk.

Contact Simon Reynolds 0278136950 simonofporirua@yahoo.co.nz

Apple Computer & iPad Group



Meet after monthly Probus meetings second Wednesday of each month at Deryk's place. Contact Deryk McNamara 388 8805

The group started as an iPad group but has evolved into an iPhone and technology group.



NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

High Tea at Te Papa in
October

Legal Stuff

*This newsletter is for the
Probus Club members
only and is not to be used
for any other purpose*



Cinema Group

The cinema group meet every 1st Tuesday in the month. The August movie was 'The Life of Chuck' at The Lighthouse Cuba St. The next film is Tuesday 2nd September.

Contact: **Anne Morris**

anneimelda.morris@gmail.com

0272213901



Lunch Group

The lunch group meet every month. The next lunch is on Wednesday 27th

August at Chocolate Fish, 100 Shelley Bay Road at 11:30am

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME FOR THIS LUNCH.

Bookings essential

Please contact: Chrissy Gall 388 6786

chrissyolgagall@gmail.com



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Coffee Group

The coffee group meet every Friday and Sunday at 2:30pm at The Park Kitchen, Park Road, Miramar. All members are welcome – just turn up.

Birthday Wishes

Happy birthday in September to:

John Jenner	9 th	Jan McNamara	16 th
Robin Lindsay	19 th	Jenny Raven	21 st
Simon Reynolds	22 nd		



The Grapevine

Heard on the grapevine – Dot and Les Maiden recently celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Almoner

If you are aware of any members who are suffering ill-health, please contact our almoner. **Jean Glen 934 8107** johnjean4425@gmail.com

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th September at 10am Seatoun Bowling Club, Dundas St, Seatoun.

Outings

It is proposed to have a high tea outing at Te Papa in October. We will be requiring names at the September meeting.

Guest Speaker for August

Adam Manterys the son of one of 733 Polish orphan/refugee children rescued from Russia in 1944 and made a home in Pahiatua will tell their story.

Thought for August

If two Wi-Fi engineers got married would the reception be fantastic?

