



WELLINGTON EASTERN SUBURBS PROBUS CLUB

16th September 2025

NEWSLETTER 278

Report on meeting held on 10th September 2025

Membership	57	Attendance	32
Apologies	12		

President Annette welcomed members to the meeting.

Profile Speaker

Jenny Young gave a very interesting talk, complete with photographs of an adventure the family experienced when they sailed their 39 foot keeler from Auckland to Tonga in 1986. She described the conditions they sailed through, the regime required to safely sail the boat in all conditions, the sea life encountered along the way and of course the problems of living in cramped conditions for several weeks.

Christmas Party

This year's Christmas party will again be held at the Pines on Wednesday evening 10th December at 6pm. Put this in your diary. As usual shuttle buses will be required for those requiring transport.



The cost is \$50 plus extra for shuttle users.

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 **Adam Manterys**, is the son of one of the 733 refugee Polish children who arrived in NZ in October 1944 and were initially housed in the old internment camp at Pahiatua. After the 60th anniversary in 2004, he became interested in his father's gruelling journey to NZ and following research wrote the book 'NZ's First Refugees'.

He began the talk by giving a brief history of Poland – the country being formed in the year 966. Adam's father was 3 years old, when in 1940 Russia annexed Poland and Stalin transported 1,500,000 Polish citizens, including whole families, to work as slaves in Russia. They were transported for weeks in cattle trucks to Siberia to work cutting down forests. They were housed in camps and fed starvation diets which resulted in many deaths. Adam's father and older sister aged 6 were sent to school to learn Russian propaganda. They were held in the camp for 18 months, when in 1941 Germany invaded Russia. Russia then needed new allies including the Polish government in exile in UK.

As a result, the gates of the camps were opened to allow the inmates to leave, but no transport was supplied and by now Poland was under German occupation. The family along with many others undertook an incredible journey South by foot, truck, train and any other transport they could find (Adam's father can remember riding on a camel at one point) to Uzbekistan. By now their health had deteriorated and their parents succumb to typhoid, leaving the children orphaned.

Ex Polish army soldiers took the group further South to the Caspian Sea which they crossed in boats to Iran. The children ended up in Isfahan where they well looked after, clothed, fed and educated. The allies then reached out to the World to rehome the refugees and the Peter Fraser Government of NZ agreed to take some. It was first proposed that half the Manterys family would go to Zimbabwe and half to NZ but the oldest sister objected and all the family came to NZ. A total of 733 children and 105 adults came by a troop ship arriving in Wellington harbour on 31st October 1944. On 1st November they disembarked and were taken by train to the Pahiatua. As they passed stations, crowds gathered to wave and cheer. Of the total arriving about 60 returned to a hard life in Poland after the war. The rest remained and are grateful for the opportunity NZ gave them.

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

Xmas Party at the Pines
Wednesday 10th
December at 6pm

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 September movie was 'The Ballad of Wallis Island' at The Penthouse. The next film is Tuesday 7th October.

Contact: **Anne Morris**

anneimelda.morris@gmail.com

0272213901



Lunch Group

The lunch group meet every month. The next lunch is on Wednesday 24th September at Café LBay, 144 Onepu Road at 12 noon.



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Bookings essential

Please contact: Chrissy Gall 388 6786

chrissyolgagall@gmail.com

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 October to:

Elaine Chang	1 st	Florence Snowden	5 th
Robin Andrews	7 th	Chrissy Gall	14 th
Nancy Timmins	20 th	Ngaire Norton	24 th



Guest Speakers

After many years of excellent work, Deryk will be relinquishing his job of organizing guest speakers next year. The position involves organizing guest speakers several months in advance and liaising with them to ensure they have everything required at the Probus meeting. The proposal is for the retiring President to take over the job each year. It is preferable that this is a two-person job and we are seeking an assistant for the new guest speaker organizer. Can someone please offer to take on this role.

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 8th October at 10am Seatoun Bowling Club, Dundas St, Seatoun

Guest Speaker for August

Alfred Memelink, who as well as being a well known artist is also a marine engineer and a jazz saxophonist.

Thought for September

The success of pulling the wool over someone's eyes depends on the yarn you are spinning.

