



PROBUS CLUB OF MALVERN INC

Victoria Australia

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Supported by the Rotary Club of Malvern and sponsored by the City of Stonnington. The club meets 10am, 4th Tuesday each month, Presbyterian Church House, 163 Wattletree Rd, Malvern and via Zoom videoconference

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FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP & FUN

Copies of the Bulletin will be available at the Church House Meeting and will be emailed to members. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5170019102>. The Meeting ID is 517 001 9102. By phone - (03) 7018 2005 or attend in person at the Presbyterian Church House, 163 Wattletree Road at 10.00am.

MONTHLY MEETING, 10.00 am TUESDAY 27th JANUARY 2026

President's Report: David Richards

Christmas 2025 Greetings from the President 🎅 🌲

Thank you those who participated in our warm and friendly 🎅 Christmas function at Riversdale Golf Club on 2nd December. Ian Connelly took many pictures on the day which you will find in this Bulletin. We marvelled at John Johnson's contribution to Probussouthpacific at his Life Member Presentation. John is an active member, mentor, advisor and friend to each of us. Congratulations John, and thank you Jill, John's supportive wife over the years, a team in recognition and awe of us all.

We welcomed 10 new members through the year, and we continue to look forward to adding to our numbers in the New Year.

I love being in Malvern Probussouthpacific, finding it a privilege to receive the encouraging positive friendship, fun and congeniality our members exude. The spontaneous enthusiasm each coordinator brings to their group activity is an inspiration underpinning club performance through the year. Friday coffee continues to win the sips and jaws of up to 30 members each week

The quality of life living in Malvern is enhanced by the friendship of our Probussouthpacific.

Wishing you a merry Christmas, Seasons greetings and Happy New Year to one and All. Thank you for your participation in our club.

Have an enjoyable rest and break from the usual daily pressures and looking forward to another fabulous year in 2026 🎉 🍷 🥂

Cheers

Dave

They say the best Christmas gifts come from the heart ... but cash and gift cards do wonders too!

But for your loved ones....You're a gift in my life. And not the kind I'd return for store credit.

MEMBERSHIP

Special Event: The November 2025 General Meeting attendees voted unanimously to elect John Johnson as a Life Member. His formal presentation took place at our Riversdale Golf Course XMAS Lunch. See photos

Malvern Probus now has four Life Members.

John Pennicott, Leigh Machin, John Francis and John Johnson

Birthdays in December:

Peter Harries	6 th	Don Jones	22 nd	David Power	22 nd	Tony Ng	29 th
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Birthdays in January

Doug Barkley	9 th	John Mckenzie	10 th	Jeff Thompson	18 th	Barry Fenton	22 nd
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The membership as at 20th Dec is 86 (less three Life Members) thus leaving vacancies at 17.

Please let Leigh Machin know, on leighmachin@bigpond.com, if you change your contact details.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: 3rd Feb 2026

ACTIVITIES

Several of our monthly meetings are “resting” over January. Please watch out for Leigh’s emails once into the new year. The following is what is currently planned.

Every Friday morning, Probus Morning Coffee, (except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day) from 10.00am – 12.00 noon, at Giorgio’s in Malvern (opposite the Malvern Town Hall). Incidentally, this activity was conceived by John Pennicott to take place at a now lost restaurant called “Lillette”.

Every Thursday morning, starting 15th Jan, the Walking Group meets at 10.00am. Here is your chance to get some *gentle* exercise while solving the world’s problems. It’s usually a flat route, no steep hills, at a pace that is comfortable. Please contact Alan Bayliss, Ph. 0418 233 414, email gabayliss@hotmail.com or Greg Thompson, email gregfthompson@gmail.com or 0438 826511

First Tuesday Lunch will begin on February 3rd 2026. Keep an eye out for Leigh’s emails.

Music Appreciation Group. The next meeting will be on February 12th when the theme will be Verdi’s La Traviata. Contact Chris Begg by phone on 0419 105586, or on ckpjbegg@optusnet.com.au. Chris’s address is Apt U208, Toorak Place, 28-30 Jackson St Toorak, 3142. Press key #208 at the front door and Chris will let you in.

Golf Group. The monthly Probus golf outing is on again for 2026 starting in February 14th. As always – a casual and social nine holes. Keep an eye out for the January Bulletin and emails from Leigh.

13th Jan: Investment Special Interest Group. Held on the second Tuesday of the month at 10.00am in the Church House, 161-163 Wattletree Road Malvern, and on Zoom (Meeting ID=804369746). Discussion topics: Economic trends, Monetary and Fiscal policy, and investment issues generally. Come along and contribute to managing our virtual investment portfolio and the consumption of Tim Tams. Contact Richard Uglow on 0408 574453.

20th Jan: Third Tuesday outing: To start the year we have an outing to the museum to view "TREASURES OF THE VIKING AGE". Meet in the museum foyer at 11-00am for 11-15am timed entry.

Travel back in time to early medieval Scotland and discover the unique and mysterious treasure trove of Viking-age treasures, from jewellery, personal heirlooms and one-of-a-kind objects from as far away as Central Asia. Buried around AD 900, and discovered in 2014 by metal detectorists, the Galloway Hoard brings together a stunning variety of materials and treasures from the early medieval kingdoms of Britain and Ireland, mainland Europe, and as far away as Central Asia. Containing over 5kg of silver, gold and other materials, the careful way it was buried helped preserve incredibly rare organic materials such as silk and other textiles. With its unique range of rare objects and ancient heirlooms, it has transformed our understanding of the Viking Age in Scotland.

The Hoard transports us back to a critical moment in history: the formation of the political entities we now know as Scotland, England and Ireland, in a time of Viking raids. Over 90 objects will go on display for the first time in Melbourne, offering visitors a tantalising glimpse into who buried the Hoard, their stories, the world of Viking-age Europe, and the cutting-edge conservation and research now revealing its secrets.

Cost \$24 seniors with an optional 12-30 lunch in museum MERCURY restaurant.

Friends & partners welcome. Confirm with Ian Connelly on Mobile. 0419 368 088 or email cadillac.connelly@gmail.com

23rd Jan: En Plein Air Art Group. A Friday. This artistic group meets on at Burnley Gardens. Please contact Michael Fitzgerald via email, michaelfitzgerald54@bigpond.com or on 0408 286 797 and watch out for Leigh's emails. Bring your own materials, chair, pencils, sketch pads etc. Feel free to come and watch, or, if you're feeling brave, critique!

November Guest Speaker

Paul McDonald, the Chief Executive Officer of Anglicare Victoria, talked broadly about the work Anglicare does in the areas of family violence, youth justice and family support. This was his first address to a Probus club.

Paul stated Anglicare's charter is to foster and take care of disadvantaged children. It currently has 1,500 children in care, including 400 babies. It's a big job. It is the largest out-of-home care provider in Victoria and also Victoria's largest family welfare provider and a significant provider of emergency relief from family violence.

Paul wanted to work in the welfare area. He decided to jump in at the deep end and applied successfully to work in Calcutta with the Brothers and Sisters of Charity. The Sisters take a vow of poverty and live in the same manner as Calcutta's very poor. He worked in the Death and Dying house where the charity tried its best to give some dignity to people who were dying. He spent one Christmas day there working with Mother Theresa. When he returned to Australia he worked to establish a variety of welfare services including the crisis centre run by the Salvation Army in Grey Street, St Kilda and did a lot of work on drug related issues. He eventually moved into the child protection area with the Victorian Department and then moved to Anglicare Victoria.

Paul outlined some pretty disturbing statistics in his area of work. About 10,000 children are in care in Victoria. Of those in State care only 30% remain at school beyond year 10. Most would end up unemployed or pregnant, and many were in prison within 12 months of leaving care. 48% of women were pregnant before they turned 21. 37% went into homeless shelters. And young people coming out of State care are 7-8 times more likely to take their own lives.

Paul then focused on three big celebratory moments in life to frame his talk about child welfare: baby comes home, child goes off to school and young adult leaves home. In his view each of these events was usually a moment of crisis, and of high anxiety, for Anglicare families. Anglicare tries to deal specifically with each of them.

Anglicare has about 1,000 families who help new parents when they bring their first child home. It employs 46 teachers who focus on the education trajectory of over 240 children. They do not run a school but work with students to develop the confidence to help them study better, stay at school longer and to change their attitude to education. This programme is having some success with many children now completing year 12.

He described how Homestretch deals with the third crisis event and is probably the most significant child welfare reform in a generation. Until Homestretch was adopted children in care were not given any assistance once they turned 18. They were generally on their own with the poor results outlined above. But in Victoria, 85% of young people at 18 still reside at home or otherwise depend on parental care and continue to receive a great deal of help and support from their parents.

Homestretch's aim is to give that parental or family support to young people who have been in care up to 21 years of age. Care has now been extended to 21 in every state.

Paul now wants governments to take up "Homestretch Plus". His thinking is that governments are the legal parents of these young people and they should be obliged to assist them up to 25 years of age. He gave Scotland as an example. Scotland has just legislated to require every department of government to employ or otherwise assist some people who grew up in state care.

On poverty elimination more generally, Paul stressed how chance and opportunity or luck plays an important role in many people's lives. He urged us to think about the chances and opportunities we had benefitted from, and to share our luck and to talk about sharing our luck more. (John Waters)

This was the year that was!

Did the club meet your objectives? Well, if Friendship Fellowship and Fun were part of your objectives, I dare say it did. Having the opportunity to chat, argue, discuss, learn and laugh is a wonderful thing. And at the end of the week, you can do it all again next week.

Personally, I have thoroughly enjoyed the company I have found myself in. And I recognise that I look forward to each event, to catching up, learning new things from old members and new. And yes, our membership is increasing.

So many people contributed to our motto.

Guest speakers

Bob Kingman has introduced us to some fascinating topics most of us knew little about. And John Johnson heard and transcribed almost every word.

Outings

Ian Connelly found some amazing experiences for us. There was not only a lot of planning and organisation involved but hours of herding cats.

Lunches

Richard Middleton took on the daunting task of finding and booking great restaurant for us to dine, wine and lose track of time in.

Theatre nights

Jeff Blight manages our bookings to the Malvern Theatre Company. Some great plays, in intimate surroundings, provided most enjoyable entertainment.

Investment Group

If you want to follow how the economy is doing, have an interest in investments, and ever wonder about the RBA, then Richard Uglow's Tuesday meetings should be in your calendar.

Communications

If you haven't seen the millions of email reminders Leigh Machin sends out like clockwork, then you haven't switched your computer on. You're reading one now! There is no excuse for missing an event.

Coffee mornings

Whose idea was this! If you have a barrow to push, enjoy hearing of others very different experiences, and want to ~~argue~~ discuss any opinion, then this is the place to be. It's animated, convivial, and just a great way to spend a morning.

Walking Group

Alan Bayliss and Greg Thompson initiated a new walking group walking each week. A few Kms at a moderate pace has proved popular.

Music Group

Chris Begg has introduced members into the appreciation of multiple music themes. If you can hear, this you will enjoy.

Bike Riding

Jamie McLeod has taken you places you haven't been, but at a pace you would enjoy.

Golf Group

Brian Stiebel has organised a golf game each month. How to ruin a good walk.

Kitchen Duties

Alan Bayliss, Geoff Hindle and Tony Ng attend to your coffee and biscuit needs each meeting. And they guard the supply of Tim Tams.

Tech Team. Richard Uglow, Brian Stiebel and Andrew Pike, who combined ensure that the audio, video and Zoom all function to keep everybody connected. No small task.

One measure of a successful club is the number of people who volunteer and/or pitch in whenever asked. There are 30+ people who have defined roles, and most will be pleased to do it all again next year.

Finally, the effort your executive puts into running the meetings, live and on ZOOM, managing the club's funds, setting up the technology, herding cats and keeping the administrative records is meritorious. Why not tell them so next time you cross paths.

Wishing you a "White Christmas"! (And when you run out of white, just open a bottle of red).

It's not what's under the tree that matters most; it's who's around it.

And for the outlaws....Wishing you a heart full of joy this holiday season. Thank you for being a cherished part of our family."

Our 2025 XMAS Lunch

Our President Dave Richards presenting a Life Membership award to John Johnson, also with Jill Johnson.



“I would like to thank the Club for the honour of awarding me Life Membership. I appreciate it and value it very much”

John Johnson





As I age

- **I talk to myself, because sometimes I need expert advice.**
- **And sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.**





If I had known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself.



**I don't need anger management; I need people to stop pissing me off.
My people skills are just fine, it's my tolerance of idiots that needs work.
Old age is always fifteen years older than I am.**



Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.



**The biggest lie I tell myself is, “I don’t need to write that down, I’ll remember it.”
Getting lucky means walking into a room and remembering why I am there.**



I’m very pleased to be here. Let’s face it, at my age I’m very pleased to be anywhere.



You can live to be a hundred if you give up all things that make you want to live to be a hundred.

By the time you're 80 years old, you've learned everything. You only have to remember it.



I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.



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And finally, a photo of our members at lunch following their visit to the Ian Potter Gallery.



PS, if you are unsure of how to copy and save, or print these photos, just call the Editor, Ric, on 0418 106610.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING.

Malvern Probus Meeting, 10.00am January 27th 2026

Three Malvern Probus Members will address the meeting as January Guest Speakers

**January Guest Speakers Roger Bourne
 John Jobling
 Bob Cooper**

Chairman of the Day: Alan Bayliss

Spotlight Speaker: Ian Rosenberg

Particularly at Christmas time, spare more than a thought for those so much less fortunate than YOU.