



PROBUS NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Probus Club of Wheelers Hill

December 2025 Volume 40 Folio 9

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow Probians,

Christmas and Seasons Greetings to everyone,
Another year nearly ended - how fast does time fly!

We will be inducting a new member, **Mary McLean**, at our Christmas Lunch and **Lien Deng** in January. Welcome to our Probus Club, **Mary** and **Lien**. Sadly, we lost much loved member, **Marie Morris**, this year.

On the whole, I believe we had a pretty good year. The monthly meetings were happy and informative events, and our guest speakers were educational. The wine and cheese nights were all very successful, and the first musical afternoon likewise. A big thank you to **Paula**, **Val** and **Carol**. Furthermore, the events organised by **Doreen** were all given the thumbs up, so one can presume everyone who participated enjoyed themselves.

A great big THANK YOU to all our committee members, who handled their portfolios with enthusiasm and in a professional manner. Extra thank you to **Secretary Ian** for the extra items that landed in his lap, and his going above and beyond. Also to **Sheila** for the fantastic monthly newsletter, finding enough jokes, photos and articles etc... Well done to you all.

Finally, a thank you to all those members who assisted in various functions at the General Meetings. You all did a great job sharing the load so to speak. (Thank you to **Elisabeth Fraser** for the various cakes you cooked for us.)

On behalf of the committee, I wish all members a very Happy Christmas holiday. Whatever your religion, or your belief, the main theme for Christmas, is love, peace and goodwill to all. It's a wonderful time for most people, but it can be a difficult time for those who are sad, sick or lonely, or grieving loved ones, so we send our love out to them.

Early next Year, 2026, please think of perhaps volunteering on the Committee. Remember also, we will have a "suggestion box" (kindly built and supplied by **Laurie Fraser**) to place any thoughts you may like to share whether positive, negative or perhaps even a new idea you would like to see initiated.

Our **Christmas Lunch** is on **Friday 12th**, again at the Village Green. I am sure it will be another great get together. Last year exceeded expectations. Everyone enjoyed all aspects of it, so we expect no less this year.

A personal thank you from me to you all. I think we have a fantastic group of members. Friendly, caring and thoughtful...all very Probus! Please enjoy your family time, stay healthy and safe, and stay happy.

Kindest regards,
Rose Randell



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

14th – Liz Cunningham; 25th – Carole Carless.

We appreciate the support of the **City of Monash**, which meets the costs of our two meeting venues, and **Carina Garland MP**, whose office prints our newsletter.

Probus Club of Wheelers Hill Inc.

Reg. No. A15636M

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Glen Waverley
Founded 10 July 1987 Incorporated 7 March 1988

President: Rose Randell 0409 744 854

Secretary: Ian Wood 0411 259 650

Email: whprobus275@gmail.com

Meets 10:00am on the 2nd Friday of each month at
Wheelers Hill Library, Cnr Ferntree Gull & Jells Rds

Postal address: PO Box 3118 Wheelers Hill 3150

Emergency contact number during meetings: 0414 627 049

Banking: BSB 083 266 Acc.No. 03545 0191

Website:

<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/wheelershill/Home>

NOVEMBER MEETING

President Rose welcomed **46** members and extended a warm welcome to **3** visitors – **Elizabeth, Mary and Eleanor**. Members seemed happy to be back at our usual venue in the meeting room at the Wheelers Hill Library.

Rose thanked **Doreen Allison** for organising a great trip to Canberra and informed members that **Paula Slamet** has been ill but is recovering slowly.

Members were encouraged to think about nominating for the committee next year. Also, a suggestion box will be available for members to suggest outings and events for consideration, or ideas can be raised at the meeting.

A reminder that the December General Meeting will be replaced by our **Christmas Lunch** at the Village Green Hotel.

INDUCTIONS



Lydia Marek and **Zina Ramanaskas** were inducted into the Club by **President Rose**. Welcome, **Zina** and **Lydia**!

Noel (or was it **Leon**) entertained the meeting with a musical report. Never let it be said there is a club meeting without laughter somewhere in the proceedings, and the occasional shenanigans from our in-house entertainer, Club Services Officer, **Noel**!



Members at the November meeting.



Secretary Ian and **President Rose** (left) and **IPP Colin** (right) responding to **Welcomer and Club Services Officer, Noel's** musical shenanigans.

SPEAKER

ANNIE PATEMAN

The Strength Within

Colin Goodrem IPP welcomed speaker **Annie Patemen**, who spoke about the challenging experience of experiencing cancer whilst pregnant with her second child. Thanks to Club member, **Arlette Pat**, **Annie's** sister, for providing the report below:

Annie Pateman has faced more medical hurdles than the average person. Yet it is the positive way she addressed these moments that sends a stirring and sometimes humorous message to us all and led to the writing of *'The Strength Within'*.

At the age of 26, Annie had already attended at least 10 doctors who had failed to diagnose the cause of her excruciating pain. Weighing 42 kilos and six months pregnant, she demanded that a specialist assess the tennis ball sized lump above her knee.

Thus began Annie's biggest challenge. A biopsy confirmed the tumour was bone cancer. Despite the prognosis that the baby was highly unlikely to survive the trauma of the surgery to amputate above the knee, Dave and Annie made the decision to go ahead with the surgery as she and the baby would both "...fight to survive."

Subsequent treatment for Annie and the 'prem' Jessica, meant they needed to be separated in different hospitals. Chemotherapy, rehabilitation, living in Gippsland, and not forgetting the care of her 3-year-old toddler Luke, added to the

complexity of the situation. Thankfully with the assistance of family and friends they pulled through.

One would have thought from this beginning that life should slip into the mundane. Yet Annie continues to defy the odds despite further health issues and even natural disasters, as documented in her book. The courage to try new experiences eg travel, reflect Annie's philosophy to "...trust your instincts and cherish every day you have on this earth." (If you would like to purchase a copy of her book, Annie can be contacted by email: anniepatemanauthor@gmail.com.)



Annie, ably assisted by her sister, member Arlette, doing AV duty.



Annie was thanked by Noel Heather on behalf of the club.



Annie Pateman with President Rose and Colin, IPP - Speakers.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

For those who have booked for the Christmas Lunch on **Friday 12th December**, the event will again be held at the Village Green Hotel. It will be buffet-style, as last year.

Entry is from 12:00 noon. The **Copper Fox function room** will be signed with our Probud sign. (It is next to the Cabaret function room we were in last year.) Food is to be served from 12:30pm.

This year we have enlisted the talented **Don McQueen, bush balladeer and entertainer**, to entertain us after the meal.

Thinking of you

WELFARE

This month I have contacted the following members: **Paula Slamet** who is still in hospital, **Fred Egan** who is in hospital after a fall, and **Barry Crittle**. Keep walking and exercising to stay strong, everyone.

If you, or another member is unwell, please let me or a member of the Committee know. If necessary, we can arrange transport for member who might have difficulty accessing club activities.

Anne Dunstone (0408365542)
Welfare Officer

MEMBERS HUB

We currently have **57** members.

We expect to induct **Mary McLean** at the Christmas Lunch and are delighted that we will also be inducting **Lien Deng** in January – our first new member for 2026!

Please help us to find new members to ensure the future of our club by following up friends and acquaintances. Tell them about Probus.

Updated contact details – Please advise me of any current, and future (as they occur), changes to your contact details.

Lost badges – If any member has lost their badge, please contact me and I will replace it at a cost of \$13.00.

Medical Record Card – For those members requiring one, I will have copies of the Medical Record Card at the next General Meeting.

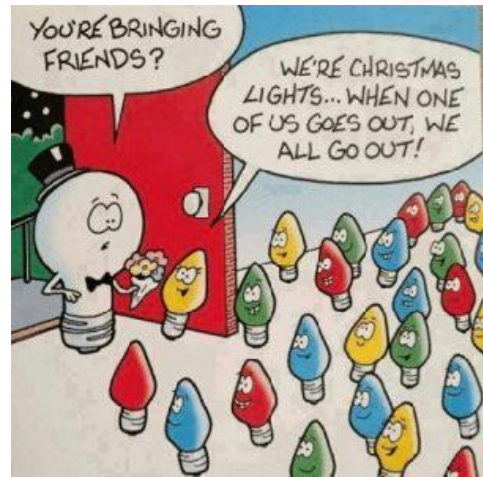
Godfrey Gin
Membership Officer

Callout for photographers and journos!

The newsletter relies on members for contributions, especially relating to activities, outings and trips. If you'd like to contribute a couple of photos, a report, a few words, or even some dot points for any of these, I would be most grateful.

Have other ideas? Have a chat!

Thank you in advance.....*Editor, Sheila.*



**How I feel when I finish
Christmas shopping**



Anyone done yet? -Bethany



CHAT GROUP

The November meeting of our Probus Club Chat Group was held on **Monday 3rd November**, which was Melbourne Cup Eve, so we were unsure just how many members would attend. Added to this, the morning was very wet and cold. We were delighted when 14 brave souls attended and it was a pleasure to welcome **Alan Morris** on his first visit.

As usual our chat covered a whole range of topics with lively and humorous contributions from everyone. It is interesting to note that a major topic of our meetings relate to State and Federal politics and the changes occurring on almost a daily basis.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 5th January 2026** at 10.00am in the lounge at Mulgrave Country Club, or a bit earlier for a coffee if desired.

Peter Russell
Convenor



Rose, Peter, Jan, Len, Ian and Morris.



Morris, Graeme L, Aziz, Alan, Craig, Raelene, David (and Rose behind the camera). Rose apologises to Noel for cutting him out of the photos!

*This Christmas
Instead of gifts
I'm giving everyone
My opinion...*

Get excited!

WINE and CHEESE

Our thanks to **Carol Gaida** who stepped into the breach to host this event on a balmy evening at her home after our usual wonderful Wine and Cheese hostess, **Paula**, was taken ill.

12 people attended on **Thursday 20th November** and enjoyed wine, coffee, tea, nibbles, and of course company and conversation. Many took the opportunity to have a stroll around Carol's lovely garden. Thank you again, Carol, for so ably taking on hosting duties.



Raelene, Craig, Carol, Noel, Tina (and Rose behind the camera).



Brenda, Colin, Joan, Raelene, Craig, Noel, Tina, Val and Dorren H..



Sheila and Brenda, but Carol's garden is the star here.

STROLLERS

Fifteen members gathered on **Friday 28th November** for our monthly stroll. It was a beautiful sunny morning to get in some steps walking around the lake and library.

Members are welcome to come and enjoy the exercise, or just sit and watch the ducks, and of course enjoy coffee afterwards at Paul's Patisserie at the Wheelers Hill Shopping Centre. For new attendees, we start at the table next to the Lake behind the Wheelers Hill Library. The next Strollers walk will be held on **Thursday 18th December**, at 10 am. *(Note the change of day and date.)*

Barry Cronan
For the Strollers



Morris, Len, Godfrey, Noel, Jan, Rose, Ian, Aziz, Laurie, Elizabeth, Joan, Colin, and Barry.



Joan, Jan, Len, Morris, Barry, Aziz, Godfrey, Laurie, Elizabeth, Ian, Barry, Sheila, Rose, Noel and Colin chatting over coffee.

*I just got home to find all my windows
open....*

They've taken everything.

*Dirty rotten scoundrels, you wait till I find
you!*

*How can people just think they can take
whatever they want?*

That was MY Advent Calendar....

COFFEE and CONVERSATION

Ten people met up at the Probus table at Café Verdi on **Monday 24th November**. It is interesting to see the changes each month as the Brandon Park Shopping Centre glams up a little with the renovations. Café Verdi is now accompanied by several other food outlets, and the 'vibe', as they say, is improving.

All are welcome to join us on **Monday 29th December** at 10:00am.



Brenda, Carol, Craig, Raelene, Anne, Joan, Janette, Pam, Carole (and Sheila behind the camera).

OUTINGS AND EXCURSIONS



Badge reminder

A reminder to wear your name badge at all meetings, activities and outings.



Payment for Outings

If you normally prefer to pay any monies due via deposits to the Club Account, then please continue to do so. The Bank Account details are listed on the front page of the Newsletter. Make sure to include your **name** and **activity** when you make the transfer.

For those members who prefer to pay cash at meetings, please note that there will be **pre-printed envelopes** available on the Registration table at each monthly General Meeting. We suggest you take 2-3 envelopes so you can complete these at home with the correct amount and also save any queries or delays at the table.

Doreen Allison
Outings and Excursions Officer

What's an Elf's favourite musical genre? Wrap music.

Random Facts

Identical twins don't have the same fingerprints.

You can't blame your crimes on your twin, after all. This is because environmental factors during development in the womb (umbilical cord length, position in the womb, and the rate of finger growth) affect your fingerprint.

Here's a disappointing fact...

There's no such thing as zero-calorie foods. Even low-calorie foods, such as celery and watercress, contain more energy than the body needs to process them.

The Pastor, the Bishop and the Press

A Pastor entered his donkey in a race and it won. The Pastor was so pleased with the donkey that he entered it in the race again and it won again. The local paper read: PASTOR'S ASS OUT FRONT.

The Bishop was so upset with this kind of publicity that he ordered the Pastor not to enter the donkey in another race. The next day the local paper headline read: BISHOP SCRATCHES PASTOR'S ASS.

This was too much for the Bishop so he ordered the Pastor to get rid of the donkey. The Pastor decided to give it to a Nun in a nearby convent. The local paper, hearing of the news, posted the following headline the next day: NUN HAS BEST ASS IN TOWN.

The Bishop fainted. He informed the Nun that she would have to get rid of the donkey so she sold it to a farm for \$10. The next day the paper read: NUN SELLS ASS FOR \$10.

This was too much for the Bishop so he ordered the Nun to buy back the donkey and lead it to the plains where it could run wild. The next day the headlines read: NUN ANNOUNCES HER ASS IS WILD AND FREE.

The Bishop was buried the next day.

The moral of the story is . . . being concerned about public opinion can bring you much grief and misery and even shorten your life. So be yourself and enjoy life. Stop worrying about everyone else's ass and just cover your own! You'll be a lot happier and live longer.

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to all who contribute to the Newsletter, including Doreen Allison, Carole Carless, Barry Crittle, Barry Cronan, Anne Dunstone, Graeme Findlay, Carol Gaida, Tina Gem, Godfrey Gin, Colin and Joan Goodrem, Noel Heather, Marj Lampard, Robert Maslen, Arlette Pat, Rose Randell, Peter Russell, Paula Slamet, Craig Smedley, David West and Ian Wood.

Contributions to the Newsletter are most welcome.



Club Service Roster for 2025 – 2026

A	B	C	D	E
2025	Entrance door monitors for the group attendance record, and collection for Tea/ Coffee 2 DOLLAR donation PLEASE ARRIVE CLOSE TO 9:15/ 9:30	Arrange meeting tables & seating and later replace into store.... PLEASE ARRIVE CLOSE TO 9:30/ 9:45	Tea table- set up and serve at break then Deliver empty cups and load dish washer PLEASE ARRIVE CLOSE TO 9:30/ 9:45	Coffee table- set up and serve then Deliver empty cups and load dish washer PLEASE ARRIVE CLOSE TO 9:30/ 9:45
December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH			
2026 January	Aziz Abazzaz and Carl Kelsen	Committee members	Dawn Neuweck	Arlette Pat
February	Colin Goodrem and Barry Crittle	Committee members	Joan Goodrem	Sheila Mallia

Should a member be unable to attend at the above date, kindly inform **Noel Heather** on 0407 668 941.

Probus Club of Wheelers Hill

What's On 2025



December	Friday	5	Committee Meeting	10:00am, Brandon Park Community Centre
	Friday	12	CHRISTMAS LUNCH	Village Green Hotel. Bookings essential.
	Thursday	18	Strollers (note change of date)	10:00am, Wheelers Hill Library lake, followed by coffee at Paul's Patisserie.
	Sunday	21	Musical Afternoon	Details will be emailed.
	Monday	29	Coffee and Conversation	10:00am, Café Verdi, Brandon Park S.C.
January	Friday	2	Committee Meeting	10:00am, Brandon Park Community Centre
	Monday	5	Chat Group	10:00am MCC Lounge area
	Friday	9	General Meeting	10:00am, Wheelers Hill Library, Meeting Room
	Sunday	Date TBC	Summer BBQ	Details will be emailed.
	Friday	23	Strollers	10:00am, Wheelers Hill Library lake, followed by coffee at Paul's Patisserie.
	Tuesday	27	Coffee and Conversation (note change of date due to Australia Day Holiday Mon 26 th)	10:00am, Café Verdi, Brandon Park S.C.
February	Monday	2	Chat Group	10:00am MCC Lounge area
	Friday	6	Committee Meeting	10:00am, Brandon Park Community Centre
	Sunday	8	Musical Afternoon	Details will be emailed.
	Friday	13	General Meeting	10:00am, Wheelers Hill Library, Meeting Room
	Thursday	19	Tramboat Cruise - Day Trip	Details will be emailed. Bookings essential.
	Monday	23	Coffee and Conversation	10:00am, Café Verdi, Brandon Park S.C.
	Friday	27	Strollers	10:00am, Wheelers Hill Library lake, followed by coffee at Paul's Patisserie.

NOTE: For **essential bookings**, sign on at the outings table, or book directly with Doreen.