



PROBUS NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Probus Club of Wheelers Hill

January 2026 Volume 40 Folio 10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow Probians,

Happy New Year to all my fellow Probians. I trust you are all fit and well and if you overate or had a few too many celebratory cheers, I'm sure that by now, you are all back to your state of fitness and good health. I believe everyone present at the Christmas lunch had a good time and enjoyed an abundance of hot and tasty food. Our thanks to **Doreen** again, for organising this event. Well done, Doreen.

Hard to believe here we are now in 2026. The scary "(Y2K)-bug" from 2000 never presented (I stocked up with candles and tinned food to no avail). The Covid bug that everyone was terrified of, has passed, and we hope life continues on a steady base from now on.

This month we are happy to induct **Lien Dang** to our Probus club. Welcome Lien! I'm happy to state that our most recent new members have quickly become involved with the Probus activities.

Now Re: 2026 Committee and AGM in March. Apart from the President's position, all portfolios will be open. I, with the current committee, would like to encourage you to volunteer for a position with the new committee.

Secretary Ian will provide a Duties & Responsibilities Description for each Committee position. The only onerous position from my standpoint is the Secretary position. Ian, however, has kindly offered his services to continue on as Club Secretary unless there is someone else interested?

AFTERNOON TEA get together. **Carol Gaida** has again kindly offered her home, this time for an informal gathering for Afternoon Tea later this month, on **Sunday 25th January**. The following day is Australia Day so feel free to bring your Australia or kangaroo flags. We might even sing Waltzing Matilda... More details will be forthcoming. For now, please mark your diaries. It will be bring a plate and alcohol. Tea and coffee will be provided.

A SUGGESTION BOX has been kindly made by **Laurie Fraser**, so please let us know what you think. Is there anything you would like us to instigate? Any suggestion that we could do better will be appreciated.

FINALLY I'd like to say a big thank you to the Committee, you have all been very patient and helpful with my President's year. Particularly **Secretary Ian** and **Sheila**. Thank you, I do appreciate you all.

Kindest regards,
Rose Randell

Probus Club of Wheelers Hill Inc.

Reg. No. A15656M

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 Gully & 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.probusaustralia.org/microsites/wheelershill/Home>

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY, 2026, 10:00AM

The next meeting will be held in the **Meeting Room** at the **Wheelers Hill Library** on the corner of **Ferntree Gully** and **Jells Roads**. The library can be accessed from Ferntree Gully Road or from Jells Road (via Gallery Place). The meeting room is to the left of the door into the library space. You will see the Club sign and be greeted at the door.

Don't forget your **Name badge** and a **\$2 coin** for morning tea. Library staff request that we not seek entry to the venue prior to 9:30am.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Len Smart – 1st, Fay Dunn – 14th,
Anne Dunstone – 14th, Elizabeth Fraser – 15th,
Ian Wood – 18th, Noel Heather – 19th,
Ivor Stephens – 22nd, Lorraine Mussett – 28th

DUTY MONITORS for JANUARY

Door: Aziz Albazzaz
Carl Kelsen
Tables set up: Committee Members
Tea Table: Dawn Neuweck
Coffee Table: Arlette Pat

Kindly inform **Noel Heather** on 0407 668 941 if you cannot attend.

*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.*

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Probus Christmas Lunch, attended by 47 members and partners, was held on **Friday 12th December, 2025**. The consensus seems to be that this, our second Christmas Lunch held at the Village Green, was a success. Members have commented on the venue, the facilities and especially the food buffet.

INDUCTION



Mary McLean (right) with **Membership Officer, Godfrey Gin** and **President Rose**. Welcome, **Mary!**

BIRTHDAY



Vice President Val congratulated **Carole Carless** on her Christmas birthday.



President Rose presenting **Tina** with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Ian, Tony, Jan and Lorraine.



Rae, Craig, Graeme and Alan.



Peter, Godfrey, Merle and Rae.



Janette, Val, Doreen and Tina.



Laurie, Elizabeth, Shirley and Barry.



Joan, Colin, Doreen, Phil, Noel and Rose.



Creagh, Glad, Tony and Barry.



David and Anne.



Alva, Morris and Brian.



Jan, Doreen, Len and Roy.



Hanaa, Aziz, Pam and Carole.



Rose, Lydia, Zina and Mary.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

January – Sarah Glass, *Healthy Eating (Love the foods that set you free)*

February – *Healthy Ageing, Longevity and Wellbeing*

Colin Goodrem, IPP – Speakers

*Thinking
of you*

WELFARE

Paula Slamet is experiencing a minor setback in her recovery and is back in hospital. I have contacted her on the Club's behalf to wish her a speedy recovery. 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



“In my 30’s I exercised to look good. In my 50s to stay fit. In my 70’s to stay ambulatory. In my 80s to avoid assisted living. Now, in my 90s, I’m just doing it out of pure defiance.”

Dick Van Dyke (recently turned 100. and still dancing). For the pure joy of it, watch him dancing in *Mary Poppins* – with the chimney sweeps in ‘Step in Time’.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhV_thRl9hY

Just before the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, make sure you raise your left leg.

I hope you started the year off on the right foot!

MEMBERS HUB

We currently have **57** members. **Mary McLean** was inducted at the Christmas Lunch in December and we hope to induct **Lien Dang** at the January meeting.

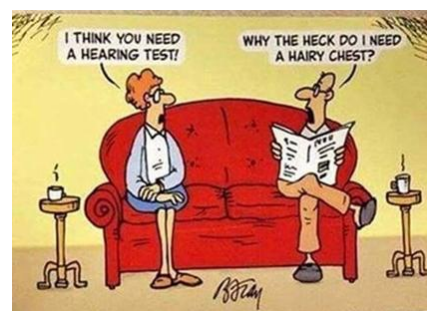
Please help us to find new members to ensure the future of our club by following up friends and acquaintances. Tell them about Probus.

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



STROLLERS

Thursday 18th November was very hot, yet 6 intrepid members still gathered for our monthly stroll. We managed to get in some steps walking around the lake and library. Luckily the walk was made more comfortable because most of it was in the shade.

We decided to try out the refurbished Café at the Wheelers Hill Library and enjoyed chatting over coffee and sharing some Christmas treats.

Members are welcome to come and join us once a month and enjoy the exercise, or just sit and watch, and of course enjoy coffee afterwards. If you would prefer to join us just for coffee, feel free to do so. We adjourn for coffee at about 11:00am, or earlier if the weather is against us. For the January walk, we will decide on the day whether to adjourn to the library Café or Paul's Patisserie. We are not quite sure how crowded the Café will be. The next Strollers walk will be held on **Friday 23rd January**, at 10 am.

Barry Cronan
For the Strollers



Colin, Joan, Rose, Sheila, Noel and Barry
(behind the camera).



Noel, Rose, Barry, Colin, Joan and Sheila
(behind the camera) chatting over coffee.

MUSICAL AFTERNOON

Our thanks to **Val Eldridge** for hosting a musical afternoon on **Sunday 21st December**, especially so close to Christmas. With a storm and driving rain in the early afternoon, we didn't know if anyone would turn up, and were pleasantly surprised to have 11 people arrive and ready to share both food, music and conversation. Rose and Noel made a special effort to attend to ensure we enjoyed Rose's chicken sandwiches!



Joan, Doreen and Val.



Colin, Noel and Carol.



Joan, Sheila and Val.



Rose chatting with our newest members, Lydia, Zina and Mary.

CHAT GROUP

At the December meeting of the Chat Group we welcomed 14 members. After an early coffee in the club lounge we moved to a large table in the club bistro and spent an hour and a half in lively discussion on topics ranging from Immigration, private health insurance and the burqa to funeral plans and what members would do/buy if they won the lottery.

For the first time in many months Donald Trump was not mentioned.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 2nd February, 2026.**

Peter Russell
Convenor



COFFEE and CONVERSATION

Eight people met up at the Probus table at Café Verdi on **Monday 29th December**. It is interesting to see the changes each month as the Brandon Park Shopping Centre glams up a little with the renovations. More changes were noticeable this month.

All are welcome to join us on **TUESDAY 27th January** at 10:00am. Note the change of date due to the Australia Day public holiday.



Val, Anne, Pam, Carole, Carol, Brenda, Zina (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

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....., Sheila (Editor)



The family, while preparing the family history, were embarrassed and confounded as to how to describe their Criminal Uncle, who was executed tied to the Electric Chair in Prison.

Since they wanted to show their family in a positive light, they finally came up with following :
"Uncle Don occupied the chair of applied electronics at a leading government institution. He was attached to his position by strong ties and his death came as a Shock."

I'm not saying I'm old...

*but when I was in school we made our
parents*

ash trays for Christmas.

**A hacker called me
and said he had all
my passwords, I got
a pen and paper and
said 'Thank God for
that, what are they'**



The Laughing Librarian

Rock Cowles · 1h · 🧑🏻

Absolutely brilliant!

Once Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Bengali poet and scholar, jokingly asked Michael Madhusudhan Dutt, an Anglophile poet of great repute; **"As you are a Master in English, can you make a sentence without using a single 'E'?"**

Dutt, the genius, wrote this:

"I doubt I can. It's a major part of many many words. Omitting it is as hard as making muffins without flour. It's as hard as spitting without saliva, napping without a pillow, driving a train without tracks, sailing to Russia without a boat, washing your hands without soap. And, anyway, what would I gain? An award? A cash bonus? Bragging rights? Why should I strain my brain? It's not worth it."

I might wake up and go running.

I might also wake up and win the lottery.

The odds are about the same.

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 2026

A	B	C	D	E
2026	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
January	Aziz Albazzaz and Carl Kelsen	Committee members	Dawn Neuweck	Arlette Pat
February	Colin Goodrem and Barry Crittle	Committee members	Joan Goodrem	Sheila Mallia
March	Morris LePage and Tony Hills	Committee members	Anne Dunstone	Jan Hills
April	Tony Hough and Graeme Findlay	Committee members	Tina Gem	Elizabeth Fraser
May	Godfrey Gin and Ivor Stephens	Committee members	Carol Gaida	Carole Carless
June	Len Smart and Craig Smedley	Committee members	Jan Smart	Raelene Smedley
July	Graeme Little and Peter Russell	Committee Members	Tina Gem	Anne Dunstone
August	Barry Cronan and Godfrey Gin	Committee members	Doreen Hall	Pam Browne
September	Creagh Bown and David West	Committee members	Lorraine Mussett	Sheila Mallia
October	Laurie Fraser and Alva Purkiss	Committee members	Elizabeth Fraser	Jan Hills
November	Alan Morris and Peter Russell	Committee members	Pauline Coe	Jan Smart
December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH			

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

Instructions for Set-Up and Morning Tea are posted on the wall in the kitchen.

We are always grateful for the many members who arrive early for meetings to assist set-up.

Probus Club of Wheelers Hill

What's On 2025



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
	Friday	23	Strollers	10:00am, Wheelers Hill Library lake, followed by coffee at Paul's Patisserie.
	Sunday	25	Afternoon Tea at Carol's	Details will be emailed.
	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	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.
March	Monday	2	Chat Group	10:00am MCC Lounge area
	Friday	6	Committee Meeting	10:00am, Brandon Park Community Centre
	Friday	13	General Meeting	10:00am, Wheelers Hill Library, Meeting Room
	Thursday	19	Wine and Cheese	Details will be emailed.
	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.