



Combined Probus Club of St. Helena Inc.

Incorporation No: A00048111V

Fellowship, Friendship and Fun

December

Newsletter

**Monday
15 December
2025**

(entry from 9:30am)

**Please do not attend if
unwell**

**General Meeting
10:00am**

**Guest Speaker
Chris Kelly**

Venue and Meetings

**RSL Greensborough
111 Main Street,
Greensborough**

on the 3rd Monday of each
month, 10:00am, unless
otherwise advised

Postal Address

P.O. Box 131, Briar Hill, 3088

Email Address

Email 1008013sh@gmail.com

Club Website

<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/sthelenacombined>

Next Meeting

Monday 19 January
At 10:00am



President's Message

The season to be merry is upon us and the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations are underway. Lucky me, I don't have to hustle or bustle because we are going to our daughter's place on Boxing Day for our family celebrations. Time for the next generation to take over the mantle. I "might" help with the dishes if I'm not too full to move! I know Christmas means different things to all people, but my wish to each of you is that whatever your beliefs and however you celebrate, that you have a wonderful time.

On another topic, I would really like it if one of our ladies out there made contact with me to offer to be our **Vice President** for next year. Given that more than half of our membership is made up of women, I'd like to think that someone will step up. It is important that we fill this position, as the Vice President next year is the person who will become our President in 2027. We also need someone to nominate to take on the position of **Treasurer**, which is obviously an essential role. To put it bluntly, the club can't run without these positions being filled. If you would like to have a chat about what is involved, please contact me or one of the other Committee members. And remember, our committee is a group of like-minded people who are always there for each other; you would have plenty of support if you took up one of these positions. I have found my time on the Committee over the last few years very fulfilling and it has been a fabulous way to get to know a lot of people better than I otherwise would have.

Kaye

CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

**Reminder that the FEBRUARY
meeting will now be held on
Monday 09 February at
Greensborough RSL.**

Contributions for
January issue to
Pat Cartwright
by Wed 7 January



Wishing all members a safe and joyful Christmas

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BIRTHDAYS

Trevor Cameron 0455 281 740



To Lois Beevis, Jack Davies, Diane Dyson, Jill Ellis, Peter Jelley, Irene Lane, Bob Manuell, Ron McDonald, Joy Mitchener, Helen Murton, Sue Wall, John Wallis and Heather Wilson



GUEST SPEAKERS

Fred Harrington OAM 0417 116 304 fred.harrington@techinfo.com.au

DECEMBER – OUR VERY OWN CHRIS KELLY

Chris is going to provide a light-hearted talk to us about their winter trip this year, what they saw, where they went and why they went to the places that they did. Chris is going to show us what they love about Australia.

JANUARY - TBA

FEBRUARY – DAN LAWLEY

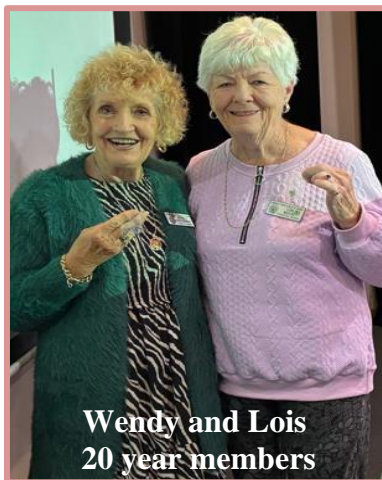
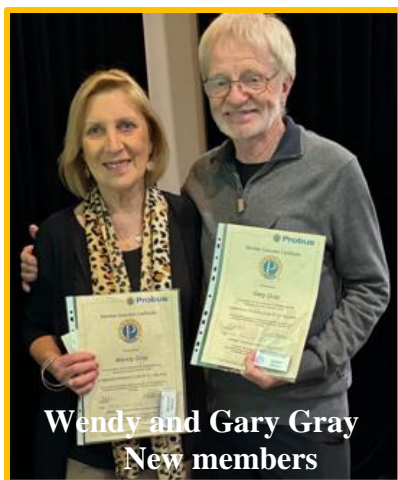
Dan is part of the team at Nurse Next Door Melbourne North, based in Greensborough. Dan's topic is *Navigating the New Support at Home Program*.

With the government's changes to in-home aged care on the horizon, many people have questions about what this means for them. Dan's presentation will help members navigate this new system with confidence.

TO MEMBERS – 2026 COMMITTEE

December is our last meeting for 2025, and the club is still looking for potential candidates for the positions of **Vice President** and **Treasurer** for 2026. We are a big and active Probus club but will only remain so if all committee positions are filled. 'Taps on the shoulder' will continue, however, it would be a great outcome if someone offered to take on the position of Treasurer, and preferably a female came forward offering to nominate for the role of Vice President.

Fred Harrington OAM
Vice President



Vale

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to **Shirley Say**, who passed away peacefully on 19th November. Shirley joined our club in 2014 and resigned earlier this year due to ill health.



OUT AND ABOUT

WILTON VALE (MIDDLE GORGE) PLENTY RIVER WALK

Chris Kelly reports that the morning's excellent walk, which was ably led by guide extraordinaire Garry Solum, was 4.5 km. We all saw many kangaroos with Garry and I also seeing a couple of wombats.



ANNUAL PROBUS GOLF

As reported at the November meeting the Annual Probus Golf happened Friday 14th November at Goonawarra Golf Club near Sunbury. Our club was represented by the *Awesome Foursome*, David Wright, Chris Kelly (Captain), Don Gowers and Ian Murton.

The weather was great for golf and we had a very enjoyable day, with lunch following the golf.

We had a nett score of 61, which was not good enough for any prizes. None of the many raffles came our way either.

Chris Kelly



BELEURA HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

On 20 November 16 members visited this historic Heritage listed National Trust property in Mornington and what an amazing place it is.

On arrival at Beleura we were taken into the dining room where we had a delicious morning tea of tea or coffee and minced tarts, and we listened to a fascinating introductory talk from Martin about the history of the property. Lunch was equally tasty.

The Italianate Villa house was built in 1863 for a Scottish merchant James Butchart who unfortunately didn't get to enjoy the property, having died on the steps of the property in 1869 at the age of 48.

After a succession of different owners between 1870 to 1916 which included successful businessmen, industrialists, graziers and politicians Beleura was purchased by Sir George and Lady Tallis in fact they were so attracted to an auction of a subdivision of Beleura into 183 lots that they bought the lot! Of course, later they bought additional land to complement the parcel of land they already owned.

Sir George was a theatrical entrepreneur who for many years was Chairman of the global entertainment company J.C. Williamson Ltd. which toured plays and musical theatre in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and London.

Sir George and Lady Tallis continued the traditional use of Beleura as a seaside house and had four children. Lady Tallis died in 1933 and Sir George in 1948 after spending time developing Beleura as a farm in his retirement.

In 1948 Sir George's youngest son, John Tallis, took over Beleura by making a deal with his siblings.

John was a composer who contributed to post war Australian Ballet productions, and he dedicated his life to the preservation of Beleura. He worked on developing the gardens, inspired by his European travels. John Tallis died in 1996 and bequeathed Beleura, its collections and The Tallis Foundation to the people of Victoria.

The numerous rooms in the house were very impressive with typical high ceilings and bright colors, even ceiling frescos, though I'm not sure they were a hit as John didn't like the finished works and in fact refrained from using those rooms. The rooms were filled with period collections of numerous valuable artefacts, furnishings and housewares from John's family's interest in collecting European Art to many ordinary items used in daily personal life. There are some 26,000 items in the collection.

The gardens have been beautifully planned with a long driveway, many huge specimen trees and a rear stone courtyard, all original features of this nineteenth century seaside garden. Later additions of Lemon Scented Gums, large hedges, reflective pools, and espaliered apple trees surrounding a charming kitchen garden, with antique statuary – collected on trips to Italy, all adding to the allure of venturing from one garden space into another. Beautiful peaceful settings.

Our Garden and House tour guides were most knowledgeable and entertaining.



We all had a great day out, learnt a lot about the history of the property, and thoroughly recommend a visit.

Phil



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TRIPS and TOURS

Phil Ciravolo 0409 940 468 ciravolo@netspace.net.au

FEBRUARY – Wednesday 25 at 10:30am – Amazon Distribution Centre

103 Palm Springs Road, Ravenhall

The tour will be followed by lunch at a suitable location.

Phil



WALKING GROUP

Garry Solum 0417 274 421 garrysforklift@hotmail.com

Walkers please note there are no walks scheduled for December or January. We will resume February. Thanks to everyone who came along this year. I hope you have enjoyed them and I look forward to more adventures next year.

Garry

STRATHALLAN GOLF

Don Gowers 0474 209 278

Any member interested in a relaxing nine holes of golf, followed by a social cup of tea/coffee, please join our regular group of Probus members **EVERY** Tuesday at the Strathallan Golf Club, 100 Main Drive Bundoora. Our normal tee off times are between 8:00 and 8:30. New players - please phone or e-mail.

Don

THEATRE

Heather Wilson 0409 137 043 mrsraw48@gmail.com

- **A Booking Form is required for EACH person attending.**
- **Theatre outings are primarily for Probus members, then friends (provided they are Seniors).**

Pre-Payment is required for all **Theatre** and should be paid into the **Trip Account**
See details on the Payments Page of the newsletter.

FEBRUARY – Wednesday 11 at 1:00pm – “Anastasia”

Regent Theatre, 191 Collins Street

Heather Wilson

DINE OUTS / ACTIVITIES

JANUARY – Thursday 8 at 9:30am – SLICES AT DOREEN BRUNCH

1/80 Hazel Glen Drive, Doreen

I will have menus at the December meeting so you can choose your breakfast **as we will pre-order**.

The mains will be \$15 or less, plus extras and drinks – PAY TO VENUE ON THE DAY.

There is an entry to parking under the building from the side street or there is parking in side streets.

We will be in an upstairs room again but there is an elevator.

Click on this link to access the booking form for **Breakfast at Slices Restaurant Doreen**

<https://forms.gle/HNZkHD7rUv6tLQGs9> by 02 January

02 January – Bookings due

Jan Baker

0438 194 400

stujanb@bigpond.net.au

JANUARY – Monday 26 at 9:00am – AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST BBQ

Westerfolds Park, enter from Main Gate on Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe

Follow the roadway through the parklands to our decorated BBQ area in the **Red Stringy Bark picnic shelter** (the usual shelter, between the large play area and the toilets) Melway 33F1

Come along with your BYO BBQ breakfast or catering of your choice.

So we have an idea of numbers, please register on

<https://forms.gle/HPQNw6Wn9gmpufpD8>

20 January – Bookings due

Wendy Lewis 0407 680 036 wendy.lew@bigpond.com and **David Cripps**

FEBRUARY – Friday 20 at 5:00pm – BAREFOOT BOWLS & BBQ DINNER

\$25

Heidelberg Golf Club, 8 Main Road Lower Plenty Melway 21 A9

Bowling and BBQ dinner included. Drinks are at bar prices.

Tea and coffee available.

Click on this link to access the booking form for **Barefoot Bowls**:

<https://forms.gle/NgragPMWKK6k2yPN7>

09 February – Bookings due

09 February – **At Probus meeting** - Deadline for cheque/cash payment

09 February – EFT payment due EFT Payment Activity Reference Code: **BOWLS**



Fran and Colin Wilson 0410 698 225 cfwilson11@bigpond.com

APRIL 2026 – Thursday 23 at 12 noon – LUNCH AT HIGHLANDS HOTEL CRAIGIEBURN

Cnr Aitken & Grand Blvd, Craigieburn

Ph. 8358 7000

\$27.90 – International Buffet – Payable at the venue on the day

You are invited to come to Craigieburn for a pleasant buffet lunch. Please click on the following link to register your wish to have a great smorgasbord lunch.....

<https://forms.gle/ohKNiYPJ1Qixe81C8>

The Highlands Hotel is 33 km from the RSL. Further travel advice will be provided individually to all attendees via email. **Chris Kelly** 0417 571 588 chrisnshirl@bigpond.com

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CARAVAN and CABINS GROUP

Chris Kelly, 0417 571 588, chrisnshirl@bigpond.com and David Wright 0438 740 353

MARCH 2026 – Tuesday 17 to Sunday 22

BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Queenscliff Beacon

78 Bellarine Highway Queenscliff, Victoria

Phone: **03 5258 1133**



If you wish to join the group, please ring the park and mention **Group Booking No 56390** and make an appropriate booking. Please then advise **Chris Kelly** of your booking.

At the moment we have 46 members heading to Queenscliff and an empty waiting list.

Sights worthy of consideration: Museums, Fort Queenscliff, Port Lonsdale Lighthouse, Heritage Walks around the historic centre of town or at Queenscliff/Point Lonsdale Cemetery, Bellarine Railway, restaurant train, wineries, Bellarine Taste Trail, Fishing charters and wildlife-spotting boat trips, Blues Train.

OCTOBER 2026 - Tuesday 20 to Sunday 25

BIG4 Traralgon Park Lane Holiday Park

5353 Princes Hwy, Traralgon VIC 3844

Phone: **03 5174 6749**

The 'Expression of Interest' process is complete. Bookings have been made and deposits paid. We currently have 40 members heading to Traralgon.



If you wish to join us please ring the park, mention our club name and make a booking. Please ensure that you get the price published to members recently. Please then advise Chris Kelly of your booking.

If in doubt please talk to Chris.

Regards

Chris Kelly & David Wright

Convenors – Caravan and Cabin Group

0417 571 588

FROM OUR FRIENDLY “ON-THE-BALL” TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM

Writing my Memoir – *Speech to Text*

Our November guest speaker (Marilyn Martyn - Writing Your Unique Life Story) may have stirred up some *dormant* passion within you to write something, be it a memoir, an autobiography (we now know the difference) or a fiction novel.

‘Putting pen to paper’ is a *pain* for most of us these days. A 100 page memoir via the keyboard may also be in the ‘too hard’ basket.

However, many of us have devices at home that allow you to dictate to your computer and have the computer convert your voice into text. It is something that I have used for some time.

The *speech to text function* is part of most modern devices such as desktop computers, laptops, iPads, tablet PCs, iPhones and Android mobiles.

Whether you have a Windows, Apple or other device make sure that you have a microphone which will usually mean that a microphone icon will appear somewhere. Sometimes an internet connection is required.

If you want some support please feel free to talk to Chris Kelly or Ralph Green.

From May 22 Newsletter

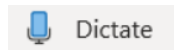
HAVE YOU TRIED TO DICTATE INTO YOUR COMPUTER?

YOU CAN USE YOUR MOUTH INSTEAD OF YOUR HANDS

This entire article is being dictated into my computer. I am not using my fingers to tap any keys on the keyboard at all. I am speaking into a microphone.

You could do this as well on your computer, if you have software that allows you to do it.

In my case I am using a licensed version of Microsoft Word on a Windows 10 computer. My version of Word provides a **Dictate** function. I also have a computer with the necessary microphone.



All I have to do is open **Word**, open a new or existing document, click on the dictate button, and start talking. I can even tell the computer what punctuation I want to insert, so that the document knows my punctuation and my line changes.

This idea is very handy for people who are poor typists, or like me, have a hand out-of-commission, or just want to have some fun. I can also use it to *write* emails.

If you want more information perhaps do a Google search, or contact the undersigned.

As I said **you can use your mouth instead of your hands**.

Chris Kelly, Technical Officer

This note was From the Editor:

If you don't have the Dictate function button in your keyboard (like me), you can access the Dictate function like this: In your Word file, **Hold down the Windows key and also press H**.

Windows key



This opens a dictation icon on the screen.



My dictation icon shows as: “Initializing” then “Listening” and you start dictating.

Blocking of SPAM Emails

Most, if not all, software applications (sorry Apps) allow you to block specified emails that you do not want to receive. If you do this any subsequent emails from that email address will go into your SPAM folder – and can be subsequently deleted.

The recent email, purporting to be from President Kaye, is a prime example of an email address that should be marked as SPAM or *unwanted*. I have decided that it is too hard to try and write an article to guide you on how to *block* an email address. There are far too many Apps and computing devices for me to research & document.

So I make the following offer:

If you wish to know how to block an email address please provide me with the following:

- Your name and phone number. This is the easy bit. ☺
- The type of computing device, such as desktop, laptop, tablet (or iPad), mobile phone.
- The operating system (Windows, Apple, Android). If you do not know this please provide the brand and maybe model number of the device.
- The App that manages your software.

For example I use Microsoft Outlook on a Windows Laptop. I also use the Samsung Email App on a Samsung mobile phone.

Please provide the above information in an email or on paper, not verbally. If you do not know the answers to the above, please provide some words of description.

If you like doing your own research you may care to click on the following **BeConnected** link which provides information on Text and SMS scams.

(<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/identifying-and-avoiding-scams/text-or-sms-scams>)

Chris Kelly 0417 571 588

From the Editor – a starter for *my* Memoire?

Cricket is in my blood

In my family, summers are spent watching the cricket, with in-house commentary.

Here's why – my dear old Dad was a cricketer of old and brought us up on the finer points of the game. If you have an hour or two or three, try looking through old newspapers in *Trove*.

The earliest newspaper report I found was *Allan Hoy, captain of the Liverpool Cricket Club* (NSW), 1932. He appears in papers of 1935, 36, 37, 38 and 39 as captain of either Liverpool Cricket Club or Moorebank Cricket Club. They played in the A Grade competition of the Southern District Cricket Association. Liverpool Cricket Club was reformed at full strength after the war, 1946. Dad was captain again. The last report I found was in 1951, where Dad had the best batting average in the Region. A snippet from March 1936: "*Undoubtedly, the greatest credit is due to Allan Hoy, as captain - his handling and placing of his team should be taken note of by other skippers in the competition for future reference.*"

Bring on the Ashes – let's hope the remaining tests last for more than 2 or 3 days.

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Life Writing – by Jan Spiden

My writing journey began when I became interested in my family history. I had so many questions. My parents and grandparents had lived through very challenging times but did not want to be reminded of those painful days. I always respected their wishes.

Sadly my forebears are no longer around to satisfy my yearnings for answers. Yes, I did have the structure of the family tree but that didn't contain the human stories. I needed more.

Today, the modern world is changing so rapidly which makes historical and personal anecdotes of past eras all the more precious. Everyone will have a different reason for writing a life story. It can be in whatever style you choose. It does not have to be a published work. It can take the form of a daily journal or diary with a focus on family memories, influences, characters and milestone events at home and abroad.

Yes, it is difficult but, when completed, it is incredibly rewarding for the writer and future readers.

The hardest part is to state start the process. Take up your pen or computer keyboard and begin. Always remember that your story is your voice, Future generations will thank you. The sharing of ordinary lives can become an extraordinary tale. Reflective, compelling, absorbing and entertaining. I believe that recalling and recording our pasts and the pasts of our descendants enriches our present lives. We become more whole and more aware of who we are, where we have come from and our place in the world. Hopefully, when our stories are written, future generations will not endure the frustrations of unanswered questions.

I have many ideas or prompts to get you started. Please reach out if you would like some inspiration.

Jan Spiden.

FUTURE OUTINGS and ACTIVITIES

Weekly: Strathallan Golf every Tuesday

Please wear your name badge at social functions so you can greet members by name

DECEMBER 2025			APRIL 2026		
Thu	11	Dine Out: Christmas Luncheon	Wed	15	Walk:
Mon	15	Probus Meeting	Mon	20	Probus Meeting
Wed	17	Walk: NO WALK	Thu	23	Dine Out: Highlands Hotel Lunch
JANUARY 2026			MAY 2026		
Thu	08	Dine Out: Slices at Doreen Brunch	Mon	18	Probus Meeting
Mon	19	Probus Meeting	Wed	20	Walk:
Wed	21	Walk: NO WALK			
Mon	26	Australia Day Breakfast BBQ			
FEBRUARY 2026			JUNE 2026		
Mon	09	Probus Meeting – change of date	Mon	15	Probus Meeting
Wed	11	Theatre: <i>Anastasia</i>	Wed	17	Walk:
Wed	18	Walk:			
Fri	20	Barefoot Bowls & BBQ Dinner			
Wed	25	Amazon Distribution Centre & lunch			
MARCH 2026			JULY 2026		
Mon	16	Probus Meeting	Wed	15	Walk:
Wed	18	Walk: NO WALK	Mon	20	Probus Meeting
Tue-Sun	17-22	Caravan and Cabins: Big 4 Ingenia Holidays Queenscliff Beacon			

BOOKING AN ACTIVITY AND PAYMENTS FOR ACTIVITIES

• STEP 1 – BOOK

Note: this STEP 1 is required before undertaking STEP 2!!!!

Each activity has its own Booking Form. Click on the link in the newsletter. **A separate booking is to be submitted for each person OR** book direct with the organiser.

• STEP 2 – PAY

EFT payments are made to the Trip Account; one payment per activity, quoting the advertised EFT Payment Activity Code and showing Surname and Initial (or initials, if for 2 people) **OR** pay at a Probus Meeting by cheque or correct cash and submitting two Pink Slips, filled out in full.

Apologies: If you are unable to attend a meeting please submit an apology to
Lorraine Jelley 0419 547 941
ljelley@hotmail.com

Welfare: Please advise **Jan Spiden** if you are ill or know of another member who may not be well so the club can keep in contact and offer support. The Road to Recovery may be mentioned at a Probus meeting, but medical condition details are not made public without prior approval of the member.



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