



# Combined Probussouthpacific Club of St. Helena Inc.

Incorporation No: A00048111V

Fellowship, Friendship and Fun

# Newsletter

February

**Monday**  
**9 February 2026**

**RSL'S new conditions of  
entry - no entry by  
anyone until  
10:00am**

**PRIORITY ENTRY AT  
THAT TIME FOR  
MEMBERS WHO SET UP**

**General Meeting  
10:30am**

**Guest Speaker  
Dan Lawley**

### Venue and Meetings

**RSL Greensborough  
111 Main Street,  
Greensborough**

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

### Postal Address

P.O. Box 131, Briar Hill, 3088

### Email Address

Email [1008013sh@gmail.com](mailto:1008013sh@gmail.com)

### Club Website

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

### Next Meeting

Monday 16 March  
at 10:30am or as advised



## President's Message

Here I am, sitting at the computer having had a fun time this morning at the Australia Day breakfast with our wonderful Probussouthpacific friends. What more could one wish for – great company, beautiful weather and fun games in the best country in the world. I have begun to contemplate what being a proud Australian (which I am) means in this day and age, as compared to the Australia of our childhood. So many tricky questions, such as - was our life better when we were growing up than it is for today's youngsters? I guess the answer is "it depends". Would I prefer to live in simpler times without today's technology? YES errr MAYBE, with a lot of "but what about....." Did I feel safer then than I do now? A resounding YES to that given our horrific crime rates, drunk and drugged drivers etc. Would I prefer to have access to the advancements made in health care over our lifetime? YES. Do our grandchildren have more opportunities than we did? YES. Are manners and respect for others a little lacking these days as compared to when we were kids? I'd have to say YES, but of course there are exceptions. Anyway, I could pontificate until the cows come home and there is still not an easy answer to any of this. To quote Neale Daniher, not only an amazing Australian but an ex Essendon player, "the way I look at it, if you live in Australia, you've already won the lottery of life". And that, my friends, pretty much sums it up, thanks Neale.

Back to our breakfast – a big thank you to Wendy Lewis and David Cripps for organising today's shenanigans – a good time was had by all.

Thanks also to Irene Harrington, ably assisted by Fred, for running the trivia quiz at our last meeting. Lots of fun questions resulting in much loud whispering (if you could call it that) and plenty of laughter. Congratulations to the winning table.

**Kaye**

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

Contributions for  
March issue to  
Pat Cartwright  
By Wed 25 Feb

## BIRTHDAYS

Trevor Cameron 0455 281 740



to Geoff Cartwright, Wendy Cornish, Mike Loton, Helen Munro, Garry Solum, John Stevens and Bev Wright



## GUEST SPEAKERS

Fred Harrington OAM 0417 116 304 [fred.harrington@techinfo.com.au](mailto:fred.harrington@techinfo.com.au)

### JANUARY

Thank you to Irene for firstly suggesting a Trivia session for our first meeting for the year; then implementing it. I believe the break from guest speakers was appreciated and from where I sat there seemed to be great interaction between members on each table and even between tables as they worked through the answers to questions.

Possibly, we do the same for our January meeting next year, however introduce a system similar to the Indian Premier League (IPL) T20 cricket competition and tables can place bids to secure members of this year's winning team for your table!!!

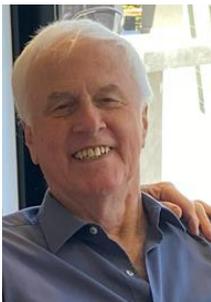
### FEBRUARY – DAN LAWLEY

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.

(from the Editor: you may not need this now, but you never know what is around the corner)

### MARCH – No guest speaker as it is our AGM.

**Fred**



#### **Vale**

#### **John Shewan**

It is with sadness that we share the news of John's passing on 26th January.

John (along with Maureen) joined our Club in 2007 and he was an active participant and contributor,

being newsletter editor on three occasions. He was instrumental in the productions performed at the Christmas functions in the early days of the Club (relive a memory on Page 7).

Maureen would like him to be remembered as a gentle man who loved his family, friends and life.

Our hearts go out to Maureen and family at this sad time. John will be missed.

#### **Notice of AGM**

The AGM for the Combined Probus Club of St Helena will be held on Monday 16 March 2026 at 11:30 am, (following the General Meeting), at Greensborough RSL.

## 2026 COMMITTEE

Our February meeting is the closing time for Nominations for our 2026 committee and is seriously **crunch time** not only for 2026 but for the future of the club. At this point in time, we do not have any firm nominations for Treasurer or Vice President. My thoughts/comments for members' consideration and encouragement to consider nominating for either of these roles:

### **Treasurer**

This position is a must have and there are no ways for the club to operate without a Treasurer.

If you are being held back from nominating for any reason such as:

- not comfortable standing in front of the meeting to present the monthly financial report, then we can work through this.
- If you think you have some level of financial skills but not enough to manage the Probus accounts, think again as there is support to assist as you work into the position and assist to undertake the banking and monthly reporting.
- If you have holidays planned for the year and will miss a few meetings we can also work through covering the position in your absence.
- Equally if you think you can assist in any other way to ensure the Treasurers role is covered happy to talk to you.

To all members please stop, think, and seriously consider how you can support the continuance of the club by nominating for this position. We all need to consider: No Treasurer = No St Helena Probus Club. This may seem blunt, but it is reality.

### **Vice President.**

- If your concern is arranging guest speakers, the PSPL website has a significant number of guest speakers that can be approached. Also, as VP you will receive newsletters from other Probus Clubs containing the names and subjects of guest speakers that can be followed up and invited to speak at our club. Alternatively, I am sure that there are many club members with stories to tell like Chris Kelly's at our Dec meeting, Irene Harrington's talk on Celebrants or Neville Jenkin's talk on guitar making. Additionally, I still have a few guest speakers 'up my sleeve' to assist.
- For the next 12 months you do not have to worry too much about gift for guest speaker. The club has several pens used as gifts and in this 50<sup>th</sup> year of Probus we will have bottles of Probus 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Domaine Chandon wine to be used a gift for guest speakers.

In conclusion as I have said we are a large club, an active club, and with members who fully support all club activities so let us hope that the positions of Treasurer and Vice President can be filled so we can all continue to have a club that provides us all with so many activities for us all to participate in and enjoy.

**Fred Harrington OAM**

**Vice President**

### **The following motions will be voted on at 09 February general meeting:**

1. That the annual subscription payable by members will remain at \$35
2. That the meeting fee payable by a non-member (on waiting list or visitor) will remain at \$5
3. That Committee Member Jan Spiden (Welfare Officer) be approved to serve beyond the nominated 3 year term
4. That Committee Member Pat Cartwright (Newsletter Officer) be approved to serve beyond the nominated 3 year term

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## **OUT AND ABOUT**

### **MONDAY 26 JANUARY – AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST BBQ**

Lights, camera, action (gentle action) – thanks to Wendy Lewis and David Cripps and helpers



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Individual **NAMED** copies are available at the general meeting for members without email contact



**You want us to do WHAT ?**

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## TRIPS and TOURS

Phil Ciravolo 0409 940 468 [ciravolo@netspace.net.au](mailto:ciravolo@netspace.net.au)

### **FEBRUARY – Wednesday 25 at 10:30am – AMAZON FULFILMENT CENTRE TOUR Free**

103 Palm Springs Road, Ravenhall **(Please enter via GATE 2)**

#### **NOTE: FULLY BOOKED**

Please arrive by 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start.

The tour will take between 60 – 90 minutes and after the tour we will go to **Billy's Paddock** in Caroline Springs Shopping Centre (Level 01/29-35 Carolyn Springs Blvd) for lunch (at own cost).

I will email all attendees in February about information they need to be aware of, in relation to the tour. Please keep an eye out for that email.

### **MARCH – Tuesday 31 – BUS TRIP TO NATIONAL WOOL MUSEUM**

**\$44**

If you are still planning to join us in visiting this very interesting museum, it is now time to complete your **booking form** as soon as possible, by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.gle/UK8GGzTaRZr5tvRx6>

Of the 41 responses to this trip, we currently have 29 *confirmed* bookings and need more members to attend as we have now secured a larger coach (48 seats).

Cost: \$44 includes entry into the National Wool Museum

Assembly time: 8:15 am

Departure time: 8:30 am

Departure location: Greensborough War Memorial Park, McDowell St carpark entry

Destination: National Wool Museum, 26 Moorabool Street, Geelong

Arrival time: Estimated at 10:00 am

Departure time (Geelong): 2:30 pm

Arrival time (Greensborough): Estimated at 4:00 pm

**09 March** - Bookings due

**16 March** - Deadline for cheque/cash payment/EFT payments

Note - EFT Payment Activity Reference Code: **WOOL**

In relation to lunch, as some members will wish to spend more time than others at the museum, I propose that members go to lunch when it suits them, and before we go on the trip, I will provide details of nearby eateries.

Should you have any queries or wish me to make the booking for you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Phil**



## GARDENS

Jan Baker 0438 194 400 [stujanb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stujanb@bigpond.net.au)

### **APRIL – Friday 10 – 10:00am - RIDGEFIELD ESTATE TOUR & MORNING TEA**      **\$20**

Meet at Ridgefield Farm, 58 Boundary Road, Coldstream at 10:00am.

<https://www.ridgefieldfarm.com.au/>

When we arrive we will have morning tea of scones, jam and cream and tea or coffee.

We will then have a garden tour and talk. We may even be invited to visit their **Kolido Perfumery**.

Afterwards we will have lunch at the **Coldstream Brewery** at 694 Maroondah Highway, Coldstream. They have a large menu of various prices including Starters, Pizza and Mains.

Click on this link to access the booking form for **Ridgefield Estate Garden Tour**:

<https://forms.gle/tVLgGpF2Jvkbff2Q8>

27 March                    - Bookings due

16 March Meeting       - Deadline for cheque/cash payment

27 March                    - EFT payment due      EFT Payment Activity Reference Code: **RIDGE**

**Jan**

## WALKING GROUP

Garry Solum    0417 274 421

[garrysforklift@hotmail.com](mailto:garrysforklift@hotmail.com)

## **AND WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING (WALKING) FOR 2026**

### **FEBRUARY – Wednesday 18 - LE PAGE HOMESTEAD AND GARDENS**

Gordons Road, South Morang.    Map 181 J 8

Walkers please note you can just stroll around the homestead and gardens or the more adventurous can head on an interesting walk which takes in Nioka bush camp, outdoor chapel, natural amphitheatre and of course the usual wildlife.

Coffee and cake venue to be advised.

Regards

**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**

## DINE OUTS / ACTIVITIES

### **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/NragPMWKK6k2yPN7>

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](mailto: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](mailto:chrisnshirl@bigpond.com)

## THEATRE

Heather Wilson

0409 137 043

[mrsraw48@gmail.com](mailto: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

### **AUGUST – Wednesday 12 at 1:00pm – “Pretty Woman” \$91**

Regent Theatre, 191 Collins Street



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## CARAVAN and CABINS GROUP

Chris Kelly, 0417 571 588, [chrisshirl@bigpond.com](mailto:chrisshirl@bigpond.com) and David Wright 0438 740 353

### **MARCH – Tuesday 17 to Sunday 22**

#### **BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Queenscliff Beacon**

78 Bellarine Highway Queenscliff, Victoria

Phone: **03 5258 1133**



Our dinners have been booked for **QBTC Ripview Bistro at the Bowls Club** (Wednesday) and **Lonsdale Links** (Friday).

Golf tee times are 9:27 am and 9:34 am on Friday at the Queenscliff Golf Course on Swan Island.

*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 - Tuesday 20 to Sunday 25**

#### **BIG4 Traralgon Park Lane Holiday Park**

5353 Princes Hwy, Traralgon VIC 3844

Phone: **03 5174 6749**

We currently have 38 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**

**Convenors – Caravan and Cabin Group**

0417 571 588

On behalf of **Hope in a Suitcase Victoria** I would like to thank you all for your generous donations. Last year we packed and distributed 1573 cases throughout Victoria.

As you are aware we rely entirely on the support of individuals such as yourselves to continue the work we do.

Kind Regards,  
Julie Armstrong  
Victorian Manager (Volunteer)  
[www.hopeinasuitcase.com.au](http://www.hopeinasuitcase.com.au)

## FUTURE OUTINGS and ACTIVITIES

**Weekly: Strathallan Golf every Tuesday**

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

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-	17-	Caravan and Cabins: Big 4 Ingenia			
Sun	22	Holidays Queenscliff Beacon			
Tue	31	Bus trip: National Wool Museum, Geelong			
APRIL 2026			AUGUST 2026		
Fri	10	Garden: Ridgefield Estate	Wed	12	Theatre: <i>Pretty Woman</i>
Wed	15	Walk:	Mon	17	Probus Meeting
Mon	20	Probus Meeting	Wed	19	Walk:
Thu	23	Dine Out: Highlands Hotel Lunch			
MAY 2026			SEPTEMBER 2026		
Mon	18	Probus Meeting	Wed	16	Walk:
Wed	20	Walk:	Mon	21	Probus Meeting

### 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](mailto: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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