



Issue Number 55
July 2025

The Hobsonville Probian

Official Newsletter of the Hobsonville Probus Club



Your 2025 / 2026 Committee			Interest Group Leaders		
			<i>For more information about an activity ask:</i>		
President	Ralph Martin	022 600 5730	Quiz Group	Gene & Don Irwin	027 232 0663
Vice-President	Molly Smith	027 373 5835	Craft Group	Avis Jury	09 416 8823
Secretary	Geoff Hickman	020 4161 1973	Morning Teas		021 992 374
Treasurer	Linda Smith	027 493 3660	Knitting Group	Avis Jury	09 416 8823
Membership	John O'Connell	021 457 204	Movies		
Newsletters	Graham Macferson	021 268 3431	Cards		
Welfare	Molly Smith	027 373 5835	Travel		
Speakers	Carolyn MacDonell	021 248 1670	Coffee Mornings	Avis and John Jury	09 416 8823
Past President			Photography	Heini Duensing	09 834 8917
Outings	Chris Doel	021 0275 3520	Sound & Music	Keith Giles	09 836 5143
Committee	John Jury	09 416 8823	Website	Graham Macferson	021 268 3431
Publicity	Chris Doel	021 027 53520	Archivists	John and Avis Jury	09 416 8823

Meetings			
	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025
	Mon 21 st 10.00am	Mon 18 th 10.00am	Mon 15 th 10.00am
SPEAKERS			
Convenor: Carolyn MacDonell 027 248 1670	Mid winter lunch	James Duncan MOTAT Part 3 of the story behind Auckland's much loved electric trams.	Ian Alexander President, Tiritiri Matangi Supporters Group

The President Prattles

First and foremost I must thank Vice President Molly who literally stepped in at a moments notice to chair the Committee meeting for June and also the monthly meeting later in June. I had not planned to have a medical misadventure and end up in North Shore Hospital literally 4 hours before the committee meeting.

Secondly I must thank Carolyn (and others) who I understand made the June monthly meeting a memorable one with a remote presentation by cardiologist Patrick Gladding. I was looking forward to this presentation but ironically I was in hospital having a pacemaker fitted.

The mid year lunch held at the Collins in Greenhithe was a success. Thanks Carolyn for organising the venue and selection of meals. It is not an easy task to organise something like this due to the human factor which covers a wide range of things. Carolyn has great patience (and frustration) but comes through with flying colours which she has shown over the 5 years of the clubs existence.

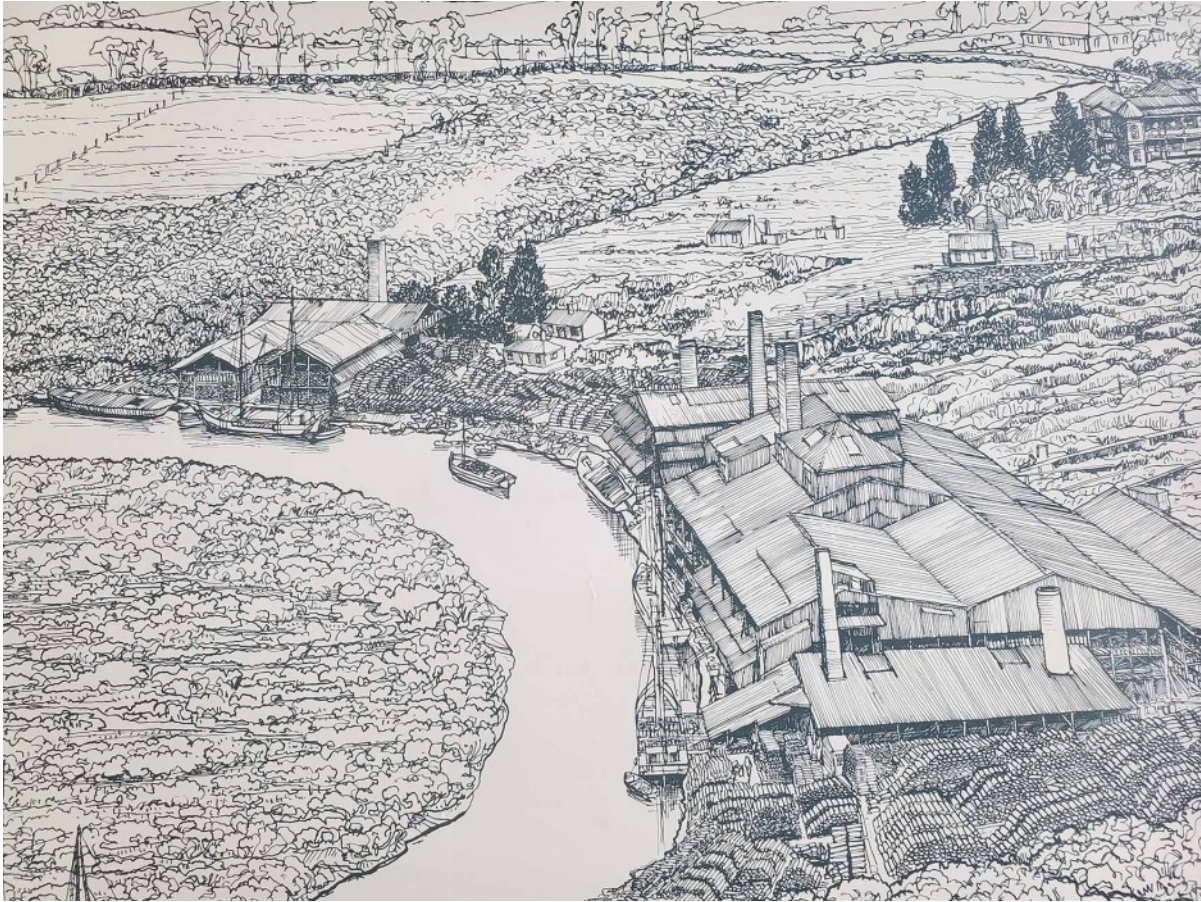
Next month, August, we have James Duncan from MOTAT returning for his 3rd and final instalment of Trams in Auckland. I have been advised by MOTAT personal that he gave over 60 presentations last year.

Many people have asked why I ended up in North Shore Hospital recently, so to not having to repeat the story many more times I thought I would enlighten you. On June 9th I went to make a cup of tea. I remember pressing the lever on the electric jug and then waking up on the tiled floor wondering what the heck had happened. There was blood over the floor from where my head had hit a drawer handle – bent the handle to about 45 degrees and severely damaged my head. I crawled into the bedroom and pressed the Emergency button. In next to no time a nurse from my village – Ryman Keith Park - arrived who then called the ambulance who transported me to North Shore Hospital at no cost due to me paying an annual subscription. The diagnosis was that my heart had stopped for a brief period of time and was running slow and irregularly. The cure was to install a pacemaker. However, I had badly hurt my left elbow, a rather large lump on the back of my head and broken bones at the base of my neck – C5 and C6. Having the pacemaker installed was no problem. The biggest problem is the broken bones in my neck. 6 weeks since the fall I am still feeling neck pain which necessitates me to wear a neck brace for a couple of hours a day even though I had been wearing it continuously for 4.5 weeks. Physio will be continuing for some time. I had a very good experience over the 7 days I had in the North Shore Hospital – no complaints despite what I have heard from others. I am certainly pleased also with my experience in the Ryman Keith Park Village and the St John Ambulance. Looks like I made the right decisions for my future.

President Ralph

Pun of the month: I used to hate facial hair... but then it grew on me.

Geoff Hickman has contributed this interesting article about the history of Limeburner's Bay in Hobsonville. Thanks Geoff.



Further to the brief history of Hobsonville in the November 2024 Probian, here is a little about the major industry in the area for over 65 years. From 1863 to 1929, Limeburners Bay was the site of two major West Auckland brickworks - R. O. Clark's and Joshua Carder's. The Pleistocene clay that had been used by brickmakers and potters along the Whau River was no longer available in large quantities, but a pocket near what is now Clark road and Scott Road encouraged Rice Owen Clark Snr to experiment making drain pipes, known as field tiles, to use on his farm. He wrapped moist clay in a continuous spiral around small tree trunks, cut them lengthwise on opposite sides, dried and burnt them in a wood fire. This led to the impressive Clark clay works in Hobsonville until 1927 when the works closed and transferred to New Lynn. This involved the cartage of many materials including 50 tonnes of corrugated iron taken from the clay works that had covered nearly a hectare. Lime was also an important part of the brick making process. Shells from the beach were spread over the bricks stacked in the kilns, where the intense heat caused them to calcify. Even before the brickworks, however, there had been lime kilns in the area. Hence the name Limeburners Bay.

Club News

Website and Email Address:

Remember to check our website:

www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/hobsonville (or just Google Hobsonville Probus Club) for details of or Club activity, including new announcements that are posted from time to time.

The website administrator is Graham Macferson graham.macferson@gmail.com .

Our email is hobsonvilleprobusclub1@gmail.com .

This goes to our secretary. The email for the Probian and website editor is hobsonvilleprobusclub3@gmail.com .

Treasurer

Account name: Hobsonville Probus Club

Account Number: 03-1730-0050493-000

Put your SURNAME and SUB (or other purpose) as references so you payment can be identified.

Welfare

Please advise Molly, our Welfare Coordinator, or anyone on the committee, if you know of a member who would benefit from a message of support while incapacitated.

Ph. 027 373 5835

Contact Team:

Coordinator: Molly Smith

Summerset: Helen West & Gayle Doel

Waterford: John & Avis Jury

Ryman: Ralph Martin & Geoff Hickman

Others: Margaret Harness, Paula Graham, Gay Henderson

Coffee Club

The July Coffee Club meeting will be at the Ryman Keith Park Village on Thursday 31st July at 10:30 am.

Quiz Night

The next quiz night is 11th August at 7 pm in Waterford Retirement Village lounge.

If you have not attended before you are very welcome to come along. Note however that this is not for serious quizzers. Teams are randomly selected, and It is intended to be a fun evening with most of the questions being multiple choice. If you are interested please contact Gene and Don Irwin on 027 232 0663, or email at penoandpolyp@hotmail.com .

Craft Group

Avis Jury.

The craft group is operating very successfully. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Avis on 09 416-8823 for details.

Outings

Chris Doel.

There are no outings scheduled for August.

SPEAKERS CORNER

Carolyn MacDonnel - Speaker Coordinator. Carolyn has arranged the following speakers for the next several months.

MONTH	SPEAKER	
August 18	James Duncan Motat	Stage 3 - James Duncan , MOTAT, James grew up in Auckland during the 1960/70's when Auckland was served by a trolley bus system. At age of 15 he joined the Tramway division at MOTAT and has now been an active volunteer of the tramway for 46 years. He works full time at MOTAT managing the infrastructure for the MOTAT tramway and is a volunteer. Be ready to be enthralled with an amazing presentation. Part 3 of the story behind Auckland's much loved electric trams.
September 15	Ian Alexander	Ian Alexander, President, Tiritiri Matangi Supporters Group The sanctuary of Tiritiri Matangi would not be what it is today without the dedicated team behind it - past & present. Ian has been member of Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi for 25 years, regular weekly guide for 13 years, involved with various Biodiversity projects, and presenter to many Auckland service clubs and community organisations on Tiritiri Matangi conservation efforts

MID-WINTER LUNCHEON

About 40 members attended a very enjoyable mid-winter luncheon at Collins Café in Greenhithe. Here are a few photos.



July Birthday Corner



Jim Burrowes

Sue Knight

Sandra Tyre

Paula Graham

Ivor Roberts

You will see some advertisements in this Probian. These are paid entries and in keeping with our intention to promote Hobsonville professional businesses. Please support these advertisers if you can. Please don't print out the adverts at the end of the newsletter if you are concerned about the number of pages. You can select the pages you want to print when you initiate the printing.

Hobsonville Probus Club acknowledge the generous sponsorship of Ryman Healthcare Keith Park Retirement Village, with their support of the hall hire for our monthly meeting.

