



Issue Number 59
November 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	027 478 1477	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			
	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026
	Mon 17 th 10.00am	Mon 8 th 11:30am	Mon 19 th 10:00am
SPEAKERS Convenor: Carolyn MacDonell 027 478 1477	Scott Point School Performances.	Christmas Luncheon Hobsonville Bowling Club, 1 Memorial Park Lane.	Chub Roberts – Delivery of the first RNZAF Andover aircraft from England to New Zealand in 1976.

The President Prattles

The November meeting was another historical step for the Probus Club of Hobsonville. It is 5 years and 11 months since the club voted on a Constitution and By Laws. Since then, there has been a number of changes in legislation and legal requirements which the club now has to conform to. Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) has produced a Constitution which was voted on and passed at the November meeting. Along with the Constitution the Standing Resolutions was also voted on and passed. The Standing Resolutions replaces the current By Laws. The club has also voted to become an Incorporated Society. Along with other issues the Incorporated Society will give protection to members, in particular the committee, should legal issues arise.

It was great to have students from the Scott Point School again visit to perform in front of members. Principal Pam King outlined the history of the School. Only 5 years old it now has a role of 920 and rising along with 80 permanent staff. A further 10 permanent classrooms are being built along with the recently installed 12 prefabs.

The Seniors Expo held at the Sutherland Lounge early in the month was a success. The club had a stand that was visited by many which included a number of Probus members. Various flyers on the stand soon disappeared due to the interest shown.

Next month 8 December is the clubs Xmas lunch so please advise that you will attending and pay \$35 into the club account.

2026 is fast approaching and with that the Annual General Meeting. The most important part of the meeting is the election of officers. Most of you will know that this is often the difficult part. Everyone likes to be a member of Probus but it needs a team of dedicated members to run it. We are fortunate to have Molly Smith raise her hand for President for 2026 but she needs a committee. We cannot rely on current committee members to carry on for ever – we need new blood. Even if you can only give 1 year on the committee we would like to hear from you. There is nothing onerous. The average age of members last year was 81. A lot of members say they have been there, done that. Haven't we all but we are a club of older members so we need older members to step up.

President Ralph

LAST CHANCE

Payment for Christmas Lunch is due by 24th November. If you haven't yet paid for the lunch please pay Treasurer as soon as possible.

See Club News section for instructions

Pun of the month: I'm not old—I'm just chronologically gifted.

The Gannet Colony at Muriwai



The Muriwai gannet colony is a spectacular coastal wildlife haven on Auckland's west coast, where over 1,200 pairs of Australasian gannets nest each year from August to March.

Perched atop the rugged cliffs of Otakamiro Point, the Muriwai gannet colony offers one of New Zealand's most accessible and awe-inspiring birdwatching experiences. Just a short drive from Hobsonville, this site is home to thousands of gannets whose black-tipped wings span up to two meters. From two viewing platforms, visitors can observe the birds' intricate nesting rituals, aerial acrobatics, and noisy social interactions from only a few metres away.

The nesting season runs from August to March, with chicks hatching around October. The colony extends onto two vertical-sided offshore islands, creating a dramatic backdrop for photography and nature observation. The nests are packed tightly together, and the air buzzes with activity as gannets glide in and out, often narrowly avoiding collisions with their neighbours.

Access to the platforms is currently limited to Waitea Road due to cyclone damage in early 2023, but the walkways are wheelchair-friendly with nearby parking and public toilets. The area is gated, with access typically available between 7:30 am and 7:00 pm.

This colony is one of only three mainland gannet colonies in New Zealand, making it a rare opportunity to witness seabird behaviour up close without needing a boat or binoculars. The site also occasionally hosts white-fronted terns and other coastal birds, adding to its biodiversity appeal.

If you're planning a visit, bring a camera, prepare for strong coastal winds, and enjoy the raw beauty of nature's choreography. Afterwards you can warm up with a coffee and cookies at the excellent Muriwai Deli. Perhaps this is an idea for a future Probus outing.

Note: Microsoft Copilot AI was used in the preparation of this article and in the search for photographs.



Club News

Website and Email Address:

Remember to check our website:

www.probussouthpacific.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 Coffee Club meeting is normally held on the last Thursday of each month, and hence the November meeting will be at the Ryman Keith Park Retirement Village Lounge on Thursday 27th November at 10:30 am. All members are very welcome.

Quiz Night

There will **not** be a quiz night in December, but they will resume in January 2026.

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.

Trip to Pukekohe

Twelve members joined in the trip to Pukekohe recently, taking advantage of the free fares using their Gold Cards for the ferry from Hobsonville Point and the train from Central Auckland to Pukekohe.

There are no further outings planned for 2025.

SPEAKERS CORNER

Carolyn MacDonnel - Speaker Coordinator.



At the October meeting members were entertained by pupils from the Scott Point School.



Carolyn has arranged the following speakers for the next several months.

MONTH	SPEAKER
December 8	Christmas Lunch
Jan 2026	<div data-bbox="355 297 579 456" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Chub Roberts – Delivery of the first Andover aircraft from England to New Zealand in 1976. Born in Lower Hutt & educated at Hutt Valley High School. Joined the RNZAF in 1961, graduating as a navigator in 1963. Posted to No 14 Squadron (Canberra aircraft) at Ohakea serving in New Zealand, South Pacific and South East Asia until 1970. The posted to Navigator Training School at Wigram as a navigation instructor until 1973. Then posted to Air Staff, Defence Headquarters for 2 years before posting to No 1 Squadron (Bristol Freighter and Andover aircraft) until resigning in 1977 to become an Air Traffic Controller. Spent 2 years at Ardmore Aerodrome as a controller before posting to Whenuapai where I served for the next 28 years being promoted to Senior Air Traffic Control Officer (SATCO) in 1990.</p>
Feb 2026	<p>Graham Macferson - THE NORTH HEAD TUNNELS</p> <p>Graham spent a large part of his career working as a scientist for the New Zealand Defence Force where he worked in a variety of areas including underwater acoustics, electronic signal processing, electronic warfare, and later in computer-based simulation, particularly as applied to multi-national operations in littoral naval warfare. As a side-line to his main work, he became involved for a short period in the search for the controversial lost tunnels within North Head on Auckland's North Shore. In this presentation he will talk about the history of North Head and its fortifications, eyewitness accounts of tunnels within the mountain, various attempts to locate any of these tunnels, and his own involvement in the search.</p>
Mar 2026	AGM

Apr 2026	<div data-bbox="349 105 596 421" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="620 94 858 129" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Lindsey Dawson</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="619 125 1275 669" data-label="Text"> <p>Lindsey Dawson is a writer of fiction and non-fiction. She has also worked extensively as an editor, columnist and speaker. She has had a long career in journalism, and she was the founding editor of several high profile magazines, as well as being a long-running contributor. Dawson has published three novels, and a number of non-fiction titles. Her latest book is non-fiction, published in June 2025, by OutLoudPress. Entitled <i>Poisoning on Parker Road: One Family, Two Deaths and all the Secrets in Between</i>, it's about the sudden death of a young English settler in west Auckland in 1892 and delves into what happened to his family down through the next generations.</p> </div>
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Christmas Lunch

The Christmas Lunch will be held this year on 8th December at the Hobsonville Bowling Club. The cost will be \$35 per head, with the catering done by New World Hobsonville.

Please note that the cut-off date for payment is 24 November, so if you have not already done so please pay urgently.

November Birthday Corner



Anne Clifford

Wendy Inverarity

Carolyn MacDonell

Ralph Martin

Spedding Mills

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.

