



Issue Number 60  
December 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>		
<b>President</b>	Ralph Martin	022 600 5730	<b>Quiz Group</b>	Gene & Don Irwin	027 232 0663
<b>Vice-President</b>	Molly Smith	027 373 5835	<b>Craft Group</b>	Avis Jury	09 416 8823
<b>Secretary</b>	Geoff Hickman	020 4161 1973	<b>Morning Teas</b>		021 992 374
<b>Treasurer</b>	Linda Smith	027 493 3660	<b>Knitting Group</b>	Avis Jury	09 416 8823
<b>Membership</b>	John O'Connell	021 457 204	<b>Movies</b>		
<b>Newsletters</b>	Graham Macferson	021 268 3431	<b>Cards</b>		
<b>Welfare</b>	Molly Smith	027 373 5835	<b>Travel</b>		
<b>Speakers</b>	Carolyn MacDonell	027 478 1477	<b>Coffee Mornings</b>	Avis and John Jury	09 416 8823
<b>Past President</b>			<b>Photography</b>	Heini Duensing	09 834 8917
<b>Outings</b>	Chris Doel	021 0275 3520	<b>Sound &amp; Music</b>	Keith Giles	09 836 5143
<b>Committee</b>	John Jury	09 416 8823	<b>Website</b>	Graham Macferson	021 268 3431
<b>Publicity</b>	Chris Doel	021 027 53520	<b>Archivists</b>	John and Avis Jury	09 416 8823

## Meetings

	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026
	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> 11:30am	Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> 10:00am	Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> 10:00am
<b>SPEAKERS</b>  Convenor: Carolyn MacDonell 027 478 1477	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.	Graham Macferson - The mystery of the North Head Tunnels.

# The President Prattles

Another calendar year almost over. It has been a tumultuous year in some respects which is affecting all of us – the Ukraine war, Trump, global warming, our economy, just to mention a few. 2026 for New Zealand is however looking up going on predictions from economists.

The Probus South Pacific Limited fee for the 2026/2027 year has been increased by 50c to \$10.50. This is probably in line with inflation – an increase of 5%. Your Probus board will be setting your fee early in the new year which will then be presented to the AGM in March for approval. Currently the fee is \$40 which if I have my way will not be increased – so that will be good news.



Feedback on the Xmas lunch indicates it was well received. Thanks to all those who helped to organise the event and those who helped on the day – without these willing helpers the event would not happen. The Board had decided to hold it at the Hobsonville Bowling Club due to the ever increasing costs at venues in the Hobsonville area. Many thanks to New World who supplied the food at a very good cost. There was a minor shortage on a couple of items but that was just a case of what people preferred. Should we hold another lunch in this format we will have a footprint on quantities to order. Obviously we did not want a lot of food left over. Thanks also go those who supplied raffle prizes -New World, House of Travel, Ryman and Unichem Hobsonville. It is not often you can have an entry in a raffle without having to purchase a ticket.

Coming up in March 2026 is the Annual General Meeting. The most important part of this is the election of a new Board. A number of the current Board will be retiring having spent a number of years on the Board. We need others to step forward to continue the good work that has been done in the 6 years of the Probus Club of Hobsonville. A lot of us have been there and done that and will have a lot of experience that they could contribute to the Club even only if it is for a year. In particular we will need an editor for the Probian. The indications are that we will have a new President as the one and only Molly Smith has held up her hand. Should you wish to be on Molly's Board please have a chat with her.

Wishing you all a wonderful Xmas with family and friends and catching up with you at the January meeting on 19th January 2026 where we will be having an excellent presentation by our Probus member Chubb Roberts.

President Ralph

**Pun of the month:** Old folks never die... they just lose their *current* address.

## The Historic Riverhead Tavern



**The Riverhead Tavern is New Zealand's oldest riverside tavern, dating back over 160 years, with a rich history tied to early transport, trade, and community life.**

- **Origins (1860s):** Established in 1867, The Riverhead Tavern quickly became a hub for travellers and settlers moving north from Auckland. Before roads and railways were built, the wharf and tavern served as a gateway to the region.

- **Liquor Licence:** It holds **New Zealand's second-oldest liquor licence**, making it a landmark in the country's hospitality history.
- **Community Role:** Over the decades, it welcomed farmers, fishermen, smugglers, clergymen, and constables, becoming a place of refreshment, stories, and local connection.
- **Renovations:** In 2010, the tavern underwent extensive renovations, reopening in 2011 with its heritage carefully preserved while modernizing its hospitality offerings.
- **Today:** Known simply as *The Riverhead*, it remains a popular destination for dining, events, and scenic ferry cruises up the Waitematā Harbour.



**The Riverhead today.**

# Club News

## Website and Email Address:

Remember to check our website:

[www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/hobsonville](http://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](mailto:graham.macferson@gmail.com) .

Our email is [hobsonvilleprobusclub1@gmail.com](mailto:hobsonvilleprobusclub1@gmail.com) .

This goes to our secretary. The email for the Probian and website editor is [hobsonvilleprobusclub3@gmail.com](mailto: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, Anne Clifford

## Coffee Club

There will not be a Coffee Club meeting in December, but there will one as usual in January 2026.

## Quiz Night

The next quiz night is Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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](mailto: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 currently no further outings planned.

## **SPEAKERS CORNER**

Carolyn MacDonnel - Speaker Coordinator.

## **Christmas Luncheon Photos**

As our president mentioned in his “prattle” the lunch held at the Hobsonville Bowling Club, with food provided by New World Supermarket was a great success, thanks to Carolyn, the committee members, and the team of helpers led by Avis Jury.



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

MONTH	SPEAKER
December 8	<b>Christmas Lunch</b>
Jan 2026	<b>Chub Roberts – Delivery of the first Andover aircraft from England to New Zealand in 1976.</b> 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. . 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.
Feb 2026	<b>Graham Macferson - THE NORTH HEAD TUNNELS</b> Graham spent a large part of his career working as a scientist for the New Zealand Defence Force. 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.
Mar 2026	<b>AGM</b>
Apr 2026	<b>Lindsey Dawson</b>  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.

## December Birthday Corner



Charles Douglas	Anke Duensing
Brian Foley	Judy Gill
Lynn Hilton	Paula Kingston
Kath Marsh	Lyn O'Connor
Molly Smith	Diane Sutherland
Helen West	Judy Williams

*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.



