



Combined Probus Club of Hutt Inc.

NEWSLETTER August, 2025

President: David Gledhill

Secretary: Sally Selwood, 30 Myrtle St.
Lower Hutt 5010

Treasurer: Nanette Lowe

Email: combinedprobusclubofhutt8@gmail.com

The President's Preamble

Greetings,

Congratulations to all who have survived the recent cold snap and just carried on; hopefully the weather will now start to improve. Severe weather emphasises the Importance of a supportive community and I am concerned at the drift to selfish right wing policies in many parts of the world, with a growing intolerance of different ideas and a callous indifference to some of the results. Often language is used to conceal the worst effects. Political parties have become "polarised", meaning divisive and spiteful; innocent victims are merely "collateral damage", and all destitute homeless victims of economic reforms are just "rough sleepers".

One shining example of the opposite approach is the Wellington City Mission and the progress there is inspirational. A club outing there is coming up which should be very well supported. In a small way ROKs, random acts of kindness, can accumulate, even escalate, and make life better for some person or group. If you become aware of a good example please tell Phil Bengé, no names need to be mentioned.

David

Meeting, Monday 10am, 18th August

Membership: Alison de Vos, to be introduced by Murray Charlesworth

Life and Times: John Larcomb

Speaker: Robin Lye, Hutt Valley Hearing Trust

Robin has been classed as profoundly deaf for over 5 decades. She lives a very active life due to the wonders of hearing aids and the support of her wonderful husband.

A hearing loss is a disability and creates many challenges in our lives and those of our loved ones.

She has learnt over the years how to adjust to new technology and the challenges this involves, and enjoys sharing her experiences in the hope she can assist others. She shares personal experiences to help others cope better.

Topic: Don't Let Hearing Loss Limit You

Introduced by: Merren Dobson

Thanked by: Keith Lassey

Photos Wanted for Pre-Meeting Slide Presentations

If you have photos from Probus activities, suitable for showing on the screen prior to our Monthly meetings, please email them to Mike Fackney on mfackney@yahoo.com (preferred method) with a brief caption. Alternatively, they can be sent by text or WhatsApp or to his Messenger.

Thanks, Mike Fackney

Payments

We can accept cash or payments direct to our Bank Account.

Account is: COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF HUTT

Please add: Particulars: Surname
Code: Initials or first Name
Reference: "Subs" (or reason for payment).

Changes to Contact Details

To ensure that newsletters etc. reach each nominated member on time, it is essential that our membership records are always correct. Your help is vital in keeping these records up to date.

If you become aware of any changes to a member's contact details, please send the relevant details to Colin Dyer (colinpdyer@gmail.com).

Emails are the preferred method for notifying these details. However, if for any reason you are unable to send an email, please call Colin.

Membership Applications

The membership application form has recently been updated. This has been designed to speed up the way applications are processed, and hopefully allow new members to join our club as quickly as possible.

If you need an application form, please request this from the Secretary. Once the form has been completed, it should be returned to her.

Name Badges

If you require a new club name badge (which should be worn on all Probus occasions) please contact the Club Treasurer. Cost \$15, magnetic or safety pin fastening (please specify).

Club Almoner

If you know of anyone in need of support during sickness or bereavement, please contact Jaye Howey at jasmine.m.howey@gmail.com.

Club Website

Members are encouraged to use the Club website, which contains a wealth of information about the club and its activities, including the newsletters. The website can be accessed by typing 'Combined Probus Club of Hutt' on the internet. The club membership list is password protected; however, members can obtain the password from the website manager, Robin Watson (robinw@xtra.co.nz).

The website also contains recent and archived photos of events. Members who do not wish to have their photos included on the website are kindly asked to inform the photographer at the time the photos are being taken.

Probus Travel Insurance Programme

As members of Probus you are eligible to use the Probus travel insurance programme. However, the Committee urges you to do your homework and consider whether or not this is an appropriate scheme for your needs. The link is below:

https://www.probussouthpacific.org/pages/travel_insurance_landing_nz_new

Interest Group Activities and Outings

Participation in these Interest Groups is one of the most important activities available to members to keep the club thriving. We would always welcome suggestions regarding possible new Interest Groups. The Committee is available to provide whatever help you need to get a new group active.

Jigsaw Joys

Jigsaws will be available at the meeting as usual. Please remember to record your name when you borrow one.

Contact: Owen Rowse, rowse@xtra.co.nz

Book, Books, Books.

Many of us have books which we have enjoyed, are not likely to read again, but do not wish to consign to the rubbish bin. If you wish, bring some (maximum 5 on any one meeting) on Monday and place them on the table provided. They are then available for anyone who wishes to take one or more. No money involved, just preferable to throwing away. Any left after the meeting will be taken for the Rotary Book sales and any left after that will be donated to the Heretaunga Book Fair, a charitable trust. (David Gledhill).

Book Group

This group welcomes new members

When: Wednesday 20th August, 10am -12 noon

Where: Lyn Dyer's home, 4 Trinity Ave

Contact: Please phone Lyn

Wine Tasting

Thursday 21th August. This group is currently over-subscribed and we cannot accommodate new members at this time

Contact: Mary Rowse, maryrowse@xtra.co.nz

Music Group Secundo

When: Monday 25th August, 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Where: Heather Salmon's home, Villa 8, 1A Boulcott St.

Music: The letter W - composer, artist, or name of the piece - or the theme *Women*
Creativity is not only allowed, but also encouraged! Your choice of music (including introduction) should last max 10 minutes.

Contact: Please let Heather know you are coming:
Heather: email heather_salmon@xtra.co.nz.

Café Strollers

- When:** Tuesday, 26th August
- What:** Visit new Kaitoke bridge
- Where:** Kaitoke Forest Park where we have a quick morning tea then walk up to the newly constructed bridge at the water treatment station. Easy walking on service road, surrounded by native bush. Return to Upper Hutt for lunch at Blend restaurant and bar.
- Meet:** At the Avalon duck pond 10:00am to car share.
- Cost:** \$2 morning tea. Lunch at Blend with 10% discount for gold card.
- Bring;** Name badges, Gold Cards
- Contact:** Lorraine and Bill Soeberg

Ladies, Let's Do Lunch

- When:** Wednesday 27th August, 12.30pm
- Where:** Trade School Kitchen, 17 Everest Ave, Naenae
- Contact:** Heather Salmon to say you are coming: heather_salmon@xtra.co.nz
All Ladies, welcome!

Arts and Crafts

- When:** Friday, 29th August 1:30pm
- Where:** This will be hosted by Una Haverfield at her home, 1A Colin Grove, Lower Hutt.
- Arts Contact:** Bernard Sang Email: laihinsang@gmail.com
- Crafts Contact:** Margaret Wilson Email: m.wilson2@xtra.co.nz

Intrepid Hikers (was Medium Walk)

- When:** Monday, 1st September
- What:** Orongorongo Track, Catchpool Valley, Rimutaka Forest Park, Wainuiomata Coast Rd
- The walk:** Easy walking track. Approx 10km return trip.
- Meet:** 9:15am at Cambridge Terrace, Woburn Station Car Park, to carpool to Catchpool Valley.
- Bring:** Walking gear, warm clothes, raincoat/windbreaker, lunch, snacks, water. Poles recommended as track could be muddy. Wear your Probus badge.
- Contact:** Barbara Morrison or Owen Rowse

e-Tech Group

- When:** Tuesday, 2nd September, 2:00 – 4:00pm
- Where:** Mary Rowse's home: 89 Wai-iti Cres
- Topics:** Choosing a new laptop
Choosing a new printer
- Contact:** Please let Mary know if you are coming: email maryrowse@xtra.co.nz

Current Affairs and Future Issues Discussion Group

- When:** Thursday, 4th September, 1:30pm - 3:30pm
- Topic:** Local Body Elections 2025
- Where:** David Gledhill's home, at 115 Muratai Road, Eastbourne
Sign up at the Probus meeting Monday. Seating is limited to 14, so be in the first 14 to be sure that you can attend.
- Cost:** Nil - but a koha toward afternoon tea can be made.
- Bring:** Just your name badge, to make it easier for the newer members of the group
- Contact:** Please let David know if you are coming or Lyn Morris, rhyslyn2051@gmail.com (if you haven't signed up at the Probus meeting)
Newcomers very welcome

Pétanque Group

- When:** Friday, 5th September, 1:30pm
- Where:** Avalon Park Piste (near the pavilion)
New players most welcome (very casual!) No previous playing experience needed.
- Contact:** Mike Keehan, mike.keehan@xtra.co.nz

Bookies Two

- When:** Monday, 8th September, 1:30 - 3:30pm
- Where:** Jenny Keehan's home, 2 Avalon Park Drive, Lower Hutt
- Contact:** Mary Rowse, maryrowse@xtra.co.nz
It's helpful to let Jenny know if you will be attending (jenny.keehan@xtra.co.nz)
New members welcome.

Dinner for Eight on the Eighth

- When:** Monday 8th September, 6:00pm.
- Where:** Members choose a restaurant of their choice .
- Contact:** Ian Smith: Email: ianelizabeth2@outlook.com.

Stitch and Sew

- When:** Tuesday, 9th September 9:30am
- Host:** Margaret Wilson, 97C Wyndrum Avenue, Lower Hutt
- Contact:** Jocelyn White: email jocelyndwhite50@gmail.com

Ramblers Group

- When:** Tuesday 9th September – deferred from last month
- What:** Downhill trip through interesting parts of Wellington, from the top of the Cable Car to Lambton Quay.
- Meet:** Before 10:10am at Alicetown shops to catch the No 83 bus.
- Bring:** Appropriate gear and money for lunch.
- Contact:** Mike Keehan or David Gledhill

Ladies Lunch

When: Wednesday, 10th September, 11:30am
Where: Benedict's cafe, Dowse Drive shopping Centre, Maungaraki
Cost: Cabinet food and menu
Contact: Liz Palmer, liz@thepalmers.co.nz

Mens Lunch

When: Wednesday, 10th September, 12 noon
Where: Pastaria, 132 Cuba Street, Wellington
Meet: At the cafe. Some members may be taking a car, if you would like a lift please contact David.
Cost: Excellent Italian food. Cost \$15 - 30.
Contact: David Gledhill

Travel Group

When: Wednesday, 10th September, 2.30 – 4.30pm
Where: Jenny and Mike Keehan's home at 2 Avalon Park Drive, Lower Hutt.
Topic: A recommended accommodation either on or off shore OR a report back on a recent trip.
Contact: Mike and Jenny Keehan, or mike.keehan@xtra.co.nz
Please let us know if you are attending.

Lighthouse Cinema Group

When: Thursday, 11th September 10:30am for 11:00am showing.
What: “**Prime Minister**” - the documentary about Jacinda Adern, released for the NZFilm Festival recently.
Cost: \$13.50 which includes free hot drink.
Contact: Liz Palmer, liz@thepalmers.co.nz

Outing – Wellington City Mission's Whakamaru: Tuesday 16th September

The Wellington City Mission has been supporting people and families in the Wellington region for 120 years.

The Mission offers support through a range of services including transitional housing, food support through their Social Supermarket, and a comprehensive and integrated network of support services based at Whakamaru. To watch an 11 minute YouTube video about Whakamaru click on <https://wellingtoncitymission.org.nz/whakamaru/>.

We will meet at Whakamaru for morning tea at 10.30am in Craig and Gail's Café followed by a tour of Whakamaru. Craig and Gail's operates under a 'contribute-what-you-can' model. There is an opportunity for you to buy your morning tea and also 'pay it forward' for someone less fortunate to have morning tea 'on you' if you choose to do so.

Whakamaru is located at 4 Oxford Terrace in Mount Cook, Wellington. There is very little or no parking nearby so we advise you take public transport (No. 1 bus) from Stop A at Wellington Railway Station and get off at the 2nd stop in Adelaide Road at Broomhedge St.

Note: there is a limit of 20 people.

Contact: Mary Rowse, maryrowse@xtra.co.nz

Garden Group

When: Friday 19th September (ie, after September Probus meeting)
Where: Blossom Valley at Aston Norwood, Kaitoke
Meet: 10:00am at Avalon duckpond for carpooling.
Cost: \$15 plus cafe at the end of our visit.
There is a golf cart available \$10 per head if someone does not wish to walk.
Contact: Colleen Baker

Speaker Summary, July

Our speaker was **Grant Elliott, Partnerships Manager for Life Flight**. His role is ensuring relationships with key stakeholders and donors remain healthy and growing. Grant provided the early history of the Westpac Rescue helicopter from the dream of Peter Button after the Wahine disaster. It began in 1975 with a single helicopter but today has a fleet of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. Search and rescue comprise only a small part of its annual missions. The majority are pick-ups of emergency patients from places that are difficult to access and inter-hospital transfer of patients for specialist intensive care. Since 1975, over 40,000 Kiwis have been flown. In recent years about 25% of all flights are for children. Life Flight serves the Lower North and Upper South Islands from its base at Wellington airport, but a second base in Hamilton will be operating soon.
PR

Last thought...

Two weeks ago an elderly member, currently wheelchair bound, wanted to contact an old friend who was very very unwell. He asked a younger member of our club for the telephone number. The younger member could have simply given the number but instead said "Why don't we both go?" and took him, wheelchair and all, to visit him in person.

Next Meeting: Monday, 15th September