



Combined Probus Club of Hutt Inc.

NEWSLETTER November, 2025

President: David Gledhill

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

Treasurer: Nanette Lowe

Email: combinedprobusclubofhutt8@gmail.com

The President's Preamble

"Work is not always required. There is such a thing as sacred idleness", wrote the Reverend George McDonald." (continued in Last Thought).

Thank you everyone for making it a good year. Many of our activities close over the Christmas period but some do continue, and there are the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Open-to-all Lunch at Days Bay in December, a Vineyard Lunch in January and the "Probus Picnic", really just another lunch with voluntary activities, in February.

On the negative side the scammer is persisting in inveigling our members to purchase Apple Gift Cards do not respond, simply delete the email.

On the positive side I commend a recent booklet, "Where From Here? He Ara Whakamua", of essential information for elder people published by The Eldernet Group. It is available free from libraries and contains a wealth of information much of which I for one was unaware.

We have had some encouraging enquiries about new groups, Mah Jong, Winetasters 2 and cycling. If you are interested in joining such a group please let me, or a committee member know. Expressing interest does *not* commit you to leading one!

We are still looking for a kind-hearted person or persons to take over control of our website and archives from Robin Watson who has performed the roles admirably for several years. He has promised to provide training and guidance as required.

I hope to see many of you at the Christmas Dinner at the Pines. If you have not paid yet please do so a.s.a.p. If you would like door to door transport, please let me know and I will arrange it.

Finally, our committee and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

David

Meeting, Monday 10am, 17th November

Membership: No changes this month.

Life and Times: Judith Ingram

Speaker: **Daniel (Dan) Whitfield**, Whaka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency. Te Ara Tupua is the project that will improve transport resilience and create a walking and cycling link between Wellington and Lower Hutt. Dan is part of the NZTA comms team and will give an update on where things are at as they work towards opening next year.

Topic: **"Te Ara Tupua Project Update"** (Eastbourne to Ngauranga Walking & Cycle Track).

Introduced by: Paul Giles

Thanked by: John Cole

Probus Christmas Lunch, Monday 24th November, 12 noon at the Pines

Numbers have now been finalized and we have around 85 people attending.

Parking is limited so car-pooling is encouraged. Please contact David Gledhill if you have any transport difficulties

Contact: Mary Rowse

Webmaster and Archivist required

Robin Watson is stepping down from the roles of Archivist and Webmaster. Robin has done an amazing job of maintaining our website and database for the last few years and he is leaving very big shoes to fill.

We are looking for someone to take over Robin's roles. The roles could be split between two people or remain as is with one person doing both. Robin says he hasn't found it too onerous to do both. He will also provide training and has provided excellent written instructions for both roles. If anyone is interested, they can have a chat with Robin or he can show them either of the tasks at his home.

Archivist: The archivist needs to have a sound knowledge of and access to Microsoft Access and Microsoft Word. They will need to have good attention to detail and be prepared to update our records on a regular basis and produce reports as required.

Webmaster: Our website sits within the PSPL website and is managed by our club. The Webmaster updates the website with files and images for our members to access eg: photos, address lists, Annual Reports, newsletters etc.

They will need to be familiar with updating websites and to follow the design and style that has been defined by Probus, and be prepared to update our website on a regular basis. Again, attention to detail is a necessary skill.

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

Also at the Meeting

Jigsaw Joys

Jigsaws will be available at the meeting as usual. This is the last meeting until February 2026, so please feel free to take extra jigsaws to tide you over until then. Please remember to record your name when you borrow them.

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).

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.

Note: If you wish to participate in an activity, *please* write your name and contact number on the list on the Activities Table before the end of the meeting. *If later you find you cannot participate or have not put your name on the list, **please** let the organiser know as soon as possible.*

Movie Outing: “Hamilton”

When: Sunday 16th November at 10.45am (Public viewing)
What: Film of Rodger’s stage show “Hamilton” - based on the real-life of one of America’s foremost founding fathers and first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexandra Hamilton. Featuring original Broadway cast. (2 hours 29 min)
Where: Lighthouse Cinema, Petone
Cost: \$15.50
Contact : Liz Palmer liz@thepalmers.co.nz

Book Group

This group welcomes new members

When: Wednesday 19th November 10am -12 noon
Where: Lyn Dyer’s home, 4 Trinity Ave
Contact: Please phone Lyn

Wine Tasting

Thursday 20th November, then last meeting for the year on Friday 5th December.
This group is currently over-subscribed and we cannot accommodate new members at this time.

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

Garden Group

When Friday 21st November, 1:30pm
Where Heather Carew’s garden, 131 Richmond St Petone
then to Mitre 10 for coffee.
Cost: \$3:00 koha
Contact: Colleen Baker

Ladies, Let’s Do Lunch

When: Wednesday 26th November, 12:30pm
Where: Buzz Cafe 101 High Street Lower Hutt
Contact: Nanette Lowe to say you are coming: nanselnz@gmail.com
All Ladies, welcome!

Arts and Crafts

- When:** Friday, 28th November 12:30pm
- Where:** Bernard Sang's home, 72 Major Drive, Kelson. This gathering of the Arts and Crafts group will be a pot luck lunch. The intention is to start feasting at about 12.30pm. Looking forward to seeing all your happy faces.
Please let Brenard know if you intend to come and what you plan to bring
- Arts Contact:** Bernard Sang Email: laihinsang@gmail.com
- Crafts Contact:** Margaret Wilson Email: m.wilson2@xtra.co.nz

Intrepid Hikers

- When:** Monday, 1st December
- What:** Walk in Battle Hill Farm Forest Park. Coffee afterwards in Pauatahanui
Approximately 10 kms. Suitable for those with average fitness.
- Meet:** 9:15am at Avalon duckpond for carpooling to Battle Hill Farm.or
9:50am at Battle Hill Farm Forest car park for a 10:00am start.
- Bring:** Walking gear, warm clothes, raincoat/windbreaker, lunch. Wear your Probus badge.
- Contact:** Jos van Herk,

Music Group Secundo

- When:** Monday 1st December, 1:30pm – 4:00pm
(moved from 24 November because of the Xmas lunch)
- Where:** Christine Taylor's home, 83A Pretoria St.
- Music:** The letter Z - composer, artist, or name of the piece - or the theme *Christmas!*
Creativity is not only allowed, but also encouraged! Your choice of music (including introduction) should last max 10 minutes.
CDs only please.
- Also:** Please bring a pre-loved CD or DVD, wrapped and anonymous, to add to our Secret Santa gifts.
- Contact:** Please let Christine know you are coming: email taylorbj@xtra.co.nz.
Newcomers welcome

Café Strollers

To all our walking friends: We have reluctantly decided that next month's walk will be our final one. We have really enjoyed leading this group for the past 14 years. We thank you all for your enthusiasm and support. We have all had a lot of fun along the way together.

We would like to invite walkers from past years to join us for lunch and catch up with the group. The luncheon will go ahead wet or fine.

Could you please advise us if you would like to come.

- When:** Tuesday, 2nd December. Note: This is one week later than our normal day
- What:** New Silverstream bridge
- Where:** Start with morning tea at Manor Park, then follow easy track alongside the golf course, up to and over the new bridge. Protective fences to stop stray golf balls.
- Meet:** Duck pond at 9:30 to car share
- Cost:** Lunch at Blend Bistro and Bar, 7 King St, Upper Hutt at 12:30.
Morning tea - our shout.
- Bring;** Name badges, hats, water if you need it.
- Contact:** Lorraine and Bill Soeberg

e-Tech Group

- When:** Tuesday, 2nd December, 2:00 – 4:00pm
- Where:** Mary Rowse's home: 89 Wai-iti Cres
- Topics:** Everyday uses of Microsoft Excel y
- Contact:** Please let Mary know if you are coming: email maryrowse@xtra.co.nz

Current Affairs and Future Issues Discussion Group

There is no meeting in December

- Contact:** Lyn Morris rhyslyn2051@gmail.com

Pétanque Group

- When:** Friday, 5th December, 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

Dinner for Eight on the Eighth

There is no dinner in December

- Contact:** Ian Smith: Email: ianelizabeth2@outlook.com.

Stitch and Sew

- When:** Tuesday, 9th December 9:30am
- Host:** To be advised.
- Contact:** Marilyn Lawrence, marilynlawrencenz@gmail.com

Ramblers Group

There will not be a ramble in December

Contact: Mike Keehan or David Gledhill

Ladies and Gentlemen's Lunch Groups - open to all

When: Wednesday, 10th December, 12 noon

Where: Lunch at Days Bay Pavilion.
There is parking beside and behind the Pavilion but it can be in short supply.
Carpooling is recommended, or even the 83 Bus

Meet: At the Pavilion.

Cost: Lunch money, cabinet food and more, range \$5 to \$35.

Contact: David Gledhill: or Liz Palmer, liz@thepalmers.co.nz

Travel Group

There will not be a meeting in December

Contact: Mike and Jenny Keehan, mike.keehan@xtra.co.nz.

Lighthouse Cinema Group

When: Thursday, 11th December 10:30am for 11:00am showing.

What: “**My Brother’s Band**” - following two brothers separated by fate and reunited by music. Cannes film festival sensation - feel good comedy

Cost: \$13.50 which includes free hot drink.

Contact: Liz Palmer, liz@thepalmers.co.nz

Bookies Two

Note: This group is currently full.

When: Monday, 9th February 2026, 1.30-3.30pm

Where: To be advised

Contact: Mary Rowse [maryrowse@ xtra.co.nz](mailto:maryrowse@xtra.co.nz)

Men's Lunch Group with partners

What: Vineyard Lunch

When: Wednesday 14th January 2026

Where: Poppies, Martinborough, 91 Puruatanga Road, 12:30. Numbers are limited.
Please let David know in reasonable time if you wish to come.

Meet: 10:00am at the Duck pond for car pooling. This will give time for a diversion on the way.

Cost: \$35 per head for a platter

Contact: David Gledhill

Probus Picnic, Wednesday 11th February 2026

- When:** Wednesday, 11th February, 11:30ish
- Where:** Probus picnic lunch at Days Bay Pavilion.
There is parking beside and behind the Pavilion but it can be in short supply.
Carpooling is recommended, or even the 83 Bus
- Meet:** At the Pavilion.
- Cost:** Lunch money, cabinet food and more, range \$5 to \$35.
- Contact:** David Gledhill: or Liz Palmer, liz@thepalmers.co.nz

Speaker Summary for October

Woolf Photography specialises in portrait and event photography around the Wellington region. The present owner, **Simon Woolf**, said the company traced its history back 91 years. He believes professional (non-media) photographers have a responsibility to record and archive people and events. Did we properly edit and archive the many photographs we took with our digital cameras and phones? Mea culpa. He showed us a range of wonderful photographs he'd taken of the Wellington's natural world, mainly birds, and of events and people. Even more interesting, he shared the stories behind the photograph, particularly those of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Nelson Mandela and the late Jim Bolger. Go to www.woolf.co.nz for more.

PR

Last thought...

Continued from earlier: "Idleness, whether shared or not, is all very good as far as it goes. But it does not go far enough. We need to weaponise idleness. We need DYNAMIC INERTIA. Dynamic inertia is based on the principle that doing nothing is often as creative, effective, and productive as doing something, and almost invariably less contentious. Physical inertia is to be deplored - it's indulgent and tedious. But inertia of the body is not the same as inertia of the mind.....James Weldon wrote of philosopher Thomas Hobbes "He is never idle, his thoughts are always working" - the very definition of Dynamic Inertia."
Mathew Fast, The Oldie Magazine Oct. 2025 p18.
David

Next Meeting: Monday, 16th February, 2026