



Combined Probus Club of Hutt Inc.

NEWSLETTER October, 2025

President: David Gledhill

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

Treasurer: Nanette Lowe

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The President's Preamble

"Listen attentively with the ear of your heart", the first words of the Rule of St Benedict.

"May you live in interesting times" is supposed to be an ancient Chinese curse (it probably wasn't) but it has been an interesting month. Internationally there seems, at the time of writing, to be some hope of peace in the Middle East and we have had a change of leadership locally, including our first Pacifica Mayor, Fauono Ken Laban. Most Probus activities have continued successfully in spite of somewhat inclement weather and hopefully the weather will improve.

Probus South Pacific Limited has just published a worthy tome "Celebrating Fifty Years of Probus in New Zealand". Started in England in 1965, Probus came to New Zealand with the Kapiti Club, in 1974. It is pleasing to note that it includes several mentions of our own activities, largely thanks to Jaye who wrote a full submission to the publication. Jaye's article can be found by clicking on this link: https://probusouthpacific.org/microsites/hutt/NZ_50th_Anniversary_of_Probus There is a link there to PSPL's "Celebrating Fifty Years..."

Looking ahead we will have the normal activities in November and then become almost dormant over the Christmas period. However some of the activities will continue and there will be the open-to-everyone Ladies' and Gentlemen's lunch at the Pavilion in Days Bay on December 10th and possibly another in January. Please be considerate to the organisers: if you put your name down for an activity and are then unable to participate, please let the organiser know a.s.a.p. we had one case where thirteen were due to participate and only four people turned up.

Keep the ROKs coming. One of the most amazing happened to Phil Benge's brother who came off his e-bike on Petone Esplanade. A young lady stopped and tended to him, a tradie stopped and took his bike to his (brother's) home while the lady took him to hospital and stayed with him until his brother arrived. That is an extreme case but all ROKs are appreciated. There is a particularly unpleasant flu-like bug around, painful and debilitating, I speak from personal experience. It is amazing how comforting it is when friends ring up and ask how you are and offer support. If you hear of a friend in this situation do contact them, even if only to wish them well.

David

Meeting, Monday 10am, 20th October

Membership: Kathy Eaden, to be introduced by Mary Rowse
Maria Hill, to be introduced by Rhian Roberts
David Jorgensen, to be introduced by John Howarth

Life and Times: John Howarth

Speaker: Simon Woolf – **Photographer.** Simon is very passionate about the natural environment, wildlife, flora and fauna. He is also a photoholic! He enjoys and participates in many areas of photography, has exhibited, lectured and judged in New Zealand and internationally. He has gained many photographic accolades during his career including the first Fellowship of The Photography Society of NZ with a Digital Camera submission in 2001.

Topic: "Anecdotes of My Life".

Introduced by: Brian Klee

Thanked by: Margaret Wilson

Probus Christmas Lunch, Monday 24th November

The Probus Christmas Lunch will be at The Pines on Monday 24th November at 12 noon. Cost is \$44 per person. Payment is to the club bank account or at the meeting. Anyone who went in 2023 or 2024 knows that the venue is lovely and the food is excellent.

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

Non-Probus partners are welcome to attend.

A sheet will be on the Interest Group table at the next meeting for names and numbers attending.

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. 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).

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.*

Music Group Secundo

When: Monday 27th October, 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Where: Christina MacFarlane's home, 151 The Esplanade, Petone

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

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

Café Strollers

When: Tuesday, 28th October

What: Spring Time in the Gardens. Postponed from last month

Where: Bus into Wellington, then a choice of a short or longer walk in the Botanic gardens, finishing with lunch at "Picnic" cafe.

Meet: Alicetown bus stop at 10:00am for the 83 bus.

Cost: Lunch at "Picnic" cafe. Sorry, no time for morning tea today

Bring; Name badges, Gold Cards

Contact: Lorraine and Bill Soeberg

Ladies, Let's Do Lunch

When: Wednesday 29th October, 12.30pm
Where: Bellbird Cafe, The Dowse, Laings Road
Contact: Heather Salmon to say you are coming: heather_salmon@xtra.co.nz
All Ladies, welcome!

Arts and Crafts

When: Friday, 31st October 1:30pm
Where: This will be hosted by Sandy Fackney at her home at 40 Park Road, Belmont.
Please advise her if you plan to be there.
Arts Contact: Bernard Sang Email: laihinsang@gmail.com
Crafts Contact: Margaret Wilson Email: m.wilson2@xtra.co.nz

Intrepid Hikers

When: Monday, 3rd November
What: Wainuiomata: Puriri Track Main Ridge Track,
Coffee afterwards at Columbus coffee Mitre 10 Wainuiomata.
Meet: 9:15am at Woburn Station car park Cambridge Tce to carpool to Puriri St.
Bring: Walking gear, warm clothes, raincoat/windbreaker, lunch. Poles recommended as the track is uneven and steep in places. Wear your Probus badge.
Contact: Owen Rowse or Barbara Morrison

e-Tech Group

When: Tuesday, 4th November, 2:00 – 4:00pm
Where: Mary Rowse's home: 89 Wai-iti Cres
Topics: Computer & Phone Security
Contact: Please let Mary know if you are coming, email maryrowse@xtra.co.nz

Current Affairs and Future Issues Discussion Group

When: Thursday, 6th November, 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Topic: 10 minutes on a number of table topics
Where: Christine Taylor's place, 83A Pretoria Street
Cost: Nil - but a koha appreciated.
Bring: Just your name badge, to make it easier for the newer members of the group
Contact: Please let Christine know if you are coming
Newcomers very welcome

Pétanque Group

When: Friday, 7th November, 1:30pm
Where: Avalon Park Piste (near the pavilion)
New players most welcome (very casual!) No previous playing experience needed.
We are hoping for warmer weather!
Contact: Mike Keehan, mike.keehan@xtra.co.nz

Dinner for Eight on the Eighth

When: Saturday 8th November, 6:00pm.
Where: Members choose a restaurant of their choice.
This is the final for this year
Contact: Ian Smith: Email: ianelizabeth2@outlook.com.

Bookies Two

Note: This group is currently full.
When: Monday, 10th November, 12 Noon
Where: Eastbourne – location to be advised
Contact: You must let Gill Howard know in advance if you will be attending
eghoward@xtra.co.nz

Stitch and Sew

When: Tuesday, 11th November 9:30am
Host: To be advised.
Contact: Jocelyn White: email jocelyndwhite50@gmail.com

Ramblers Group

When: Tuesday 11th November
What: Sand, sea and rocks. A ramble round the coast from Seatoun to Scorching Bay and back over the peninsula. About three hours walking, some uphill.
Meet: 10:00am at western side of Centennial Museum, Petone Esplanade for carpooling
Bring: Strong walking shoes, windproof jacket, lunch.
Contact: Mike Keehan or David Gledhill

Ladies Lunch

When: Wednesday, 12th November, 11:30am
Where: Twist café, (upstairs) 667 High St, Lower Hutt (cnr High and Boulcott, opposite the hospital main entrance)
Cost: Cabinet food and menu
Contact: Liz Palmer, liz@thepalmers.co.nz

Mens Lunch

When: Wednesday, 12th November, 12 noon
What: Italian and general, licensed
Where: La Bella Italia, 10, Nevis Street, Petone
Meet: At the restaurant.
Cost: Under \$20 to over \$30.
Contact: David Gledhill or Colin Dyer

Travel Group

- When:** Wednesday, 12th November, 2.30 – 4.30pm
- Where:** Heather Salmon's home at Villa 8, 1A Boulcott Street, Lower Hutt.
- Topic:** Money management overseas, how you take photos, and a favourite photo for display.
- Contact:** Mike and Jenny Keehan, mike.keehan@xtra.co.nz
Please let us know if you are attending.

Lighthouse Cinema Group

- When:** Thursday, 13th November 10:30am for 11:00am showing.
- What:** Documentary – **“Pike River”** This is being released on 30 October so Liz would appreciate your attendance please, if possible, as she needs to maintain numbers for a private viewing. Thanks.
- Cost:** \$13.50 which includes free hot drink.
- Contact:** Liz Palmer, liz@thepalmers.co.nz

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:** \$13.50 seniors
- Contact :** Liz Palmer liz@thepalmers.co.nz

Book Group

This group welcomes new members

- When:** Wednesday 19th November (after our November Probus meeting), 10am -12 noon
- Where:** Lyn Dyer's home, 4 Trinity Ave
- Contact:** Please phone Lyn.

Wine Tasting

Thursday 20th November (after our November Probus meeting). 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 (after our November Probus meeting), 1:30pm
- Where** Heather Carew's garden 131 Richmond St Petone
then to Mitre 10 for coffee.
- Cost:** \$3:00 koha
- Contact:** Colleen Baker

Speaker Summary for September

Our speaker, **Rosy Moar, is a forensic toxicologist with** Public Health and Forensic Science (PHF). Her role includes the reporting of alcohol, drug, poisons and other materials of interest in biological samples such as blood and tissue. The reports go mainly to the police and coronial services. Rosy is one of only three people in New Zealand who can report officially on blood alcohol levels. Her work often requires her to give evidence to the courts. She provided simple explanations of the complexities of sampling, measuring and reporting on the materials submitted for testing. A few case studies amplified these explanations. We await with interest whether our President will take up an offer to report on the purity of his drug cache should he take up a new career as a dealer.

PR

Last thought...

"El Capitan" is the world's most powerful computer, at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California. It can run a quintillion (10 to the power 18) floating point operations per second. That is around 100 million times faster than a typical laptop. It's roughly ninety refrigerator size racks of processors are densely packed over the same space as a couple of tennis courts.

The Economist, Science Section p. 68, July 26 25.

David

Next Meeting: Monday, 17th November