

### PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

*Tis the season to be jolly!!!!*

Yes here we are and our Christmas Lunch meeting is just around the corner on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

As we wind up to the joys of Christmas we can look back at a successful year in 2025 and have confidence in a great start to 2026.

In October we celebrated Probus month with a Club BBQ at Ruffy Lake and our diligent Publicity person and Probuzz Editor, Chris Summers reported for us and you can read all about it on the Probus South Pacific Active Retirees magazine which was distributed on email on Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. You will need to scan through to page 29 and if you did not receive the email then you can always open the current issue from the internet address at the foot of the Friday Bulletin.

This Probus Month BBQ was organised on an impromptu basis and if members were interested we could do another similar event on a Sunday in mid January at Ringwood Lake, Maranoa Gardens or back to Ruffy Lake as it has all the infrastructure we need for a jolly time. There were only fourteen at Ruffy Lake but we had a convivial afternoon as Chris has chronicled for us. Not every one has a full social calendar and family often dash off on holidays or to the beach shack so those left home alone we can maybe test the water on this just after New Year.

The Outings Committee have a great program proposed and organised so we look forward to a plethora of events in the start of 2026.

All the best for the Christmas and New Year and stay safe  
Cheers ---Gerry





**The Management Committee wish all our members  
and their families,  
a very Merry Christmas.**

**Stay safe over the holiday period  
and take extra care of the 'littlies' with their new  
toys.**

**Watch behind cars moving in the driveway.**

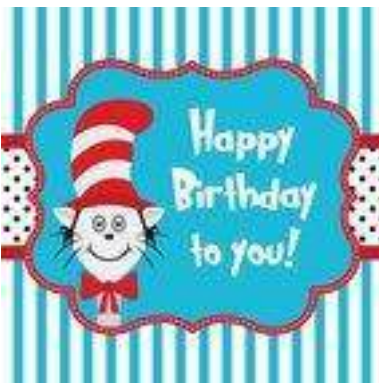
**Have a Happy New Year and remember, always use  
a 'DD'  
Designated Driver.**

# Courtesy a Probus Member

## WISHING YOU A MERRY TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS THE TURKEY VERSION

On the First day of Christmas my true love said to me:  
"I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree".  
On the Second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard  
as we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.  
On the Third day of Christmas came the people from next door.  
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.  
On the Fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old,  
we finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.  
On the Fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,  
but we were nice and warm inside – we had the turkey curried.  
On the Sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.  
The children fought and bickered – we had turkey rissoles fried.  
On the Seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince,  
when he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.  
On the Eighth day of Christmas the dog had run for shelter.  
He'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka Seltzer.  
On the Ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime Dad was blotto.  
He knew the bird was back again, this time as a risotto.  
On the Tenth day of Christmas, we were drinking home-made brew.  
As if that wasn't bad enough, we were eating turkey stew.  
On the Eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting.  
With chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.  
On the Twelfth day of Christmas, we had smiles upon our lips.  
The guests had gone, the turkey too. WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.

## Birthdays for December



Gerry Cross	- 4 December
Elizabeth Cohen	- December
Ken Spargo	- 7 December
Joan Coghlan	- 12 December
Michael Dwyer	- 16 December
Jill Stacey	- 17 December
Mac McLean	- 17 December
Bernie Bergin	- 20 December
David Phillips	- 23 December
Ray Summers	- 25 December
Bert Ellway	- 26 December
Meryl Ellway	- 27 December

Have a great time



## PSPL DECEMBER ISSUE – ACTIVE RETIREES

The magazine was published on 3 December.

If you would like to subscribe to receive Active Retirees directly you can click [here](#) to subscribe. There is no cost to subscribe to the publications.

*I little birdie told me our Club features in this issue. Check it out.*

**Mitcham**  
**Nunawading Probus**  
**(VIC)** members met at Ruffy Lake Park in Doncaster for a BBQ lunch, and most wore some blue and yellow. It was a "Bring Your Own" everything and most brought something to share, be it a salad, yummy chocolate/ginger treats and even the old yellow banana lollies, which originally came from the Craig and Hales factory in Collingwood, Vic. The park was well equipped with bench tables under excellent cover and good, clean free BBQ's.



## SOME MEMBERS NEED ASSISTANCE TO GET TO OUR MEETINGS



**CAN YOU HELP?** Some members need help with transport to and from the meeting and/or to lunch in Ringwood after each meeting.

If you require assistance to get to the Probus Meetings, please contact Gerry on 0418 130 499.

If you can help these members, please speak to Gerry to organise your 'buddy'.

## END OF YEAR COMMITTEE BBQ — Chris Summers

The Committee celebrated the end of year with a wonderful BBQ at the home of Sue and David in Park Orchards.

Snags, prawns, steaks like you have never seen before and luscious salads followed by a very healthy pavlova, fresh fruit, beetroot cake and rum balls, but the maker left out the rum!!

Thank you Sue and David for opening up your home to all of us invaders. Much appreciated. Thanks to our regular BBQ cook, David for a great job well done.







## MEMBER UPDATE

Most members are going along 'ok', which is good to hear, BUT, unfortunately, some members have recently had falls.

Ada Deunk spent some time in Donvale Rehabilitation Centre in Donvale.

She is now home and her son Karl is checking on her twice a week. He said she has become quite forgetful and will no longer be driving. She does wonder how she will ever get to Probus meetings and to her Monday coffee outing. If anyone is able to transport her I am sure she would be most appreciative.

Wendy Standfield is in care at Condare Court, 8 Joffre Street in Camberwell and Ray is currently in the Peter James Centre, cnr Mahoneys Road and Burwood Highway, East Burwood. Their sons are trying to get Ray into the same facility as Wendy as soon as possible.

I am sure they would appreciate a visit from Probus friends.

If you know of any member who is not 'on top of things' please let Les Bain know so she can follow them up. Ph: 0409 198 091

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Reach out if you need any help.  
Take care everyone.

## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP — Michael Ransom

After lots of discussion, we agreed on our program for 2026. I have selected the dates; they are generally on the last Friday of the month except for May and September. It is earlier in May to catch the best of the autumn leaves, and in September when the fourth Friday is a public holiday.

February 27. Spotswood Industrial Area.

March 27. Late afternoon in the City

April 24. Castlemaine.

May 15. Warburton.

June 26. Photo Critique.

July 24. Dandenong Market.

August 28. Latrobe University.

September 18. Docklands.

October 23. Cranbourne Botanic Gardens.

November 27. Photo Critique.



Photo: Chris Summers



## Mitcham Nunawading Probus Club celebrates the passing of 2025

WHAT a year we have had – a huge year for a small club of 66 very happy and contented members.

We enjoyed monthly Sunday lunches at such venues as Blackburn's Food Republic, Wantirna's Knox Club, and the Waverley RSL among others and our monthly outings have also been rather exciting. Two small groups toured the Kenworth truck factory in Bayswater, a group visited Pentridge Prison, and others went to see the Johnston Collection in East Melbourne. We were all entertained at a theatre night in Nunawading's The Round and a visit to the Yarra Valley Winery went down very well. Our inaugural day of Ten Pin Bowling was so successful it will run three times during 2026.

The Photography Group have been busy taking shots in Brunswick Street, of Frankston's street art, in Ballarat, Royal Botanic Gardens, Box Hill CBD and many other interesting locations. Twice a year they show their photographic efforts to the Club. And twice a year interested members join the Blackburn Creekland Bird Watchers' Walk to contribute to the bird count. Many of our photographers come along with cameras at the ready.

We inducted 12 new members this year and these were welcomed with the usual monthly morning tea 'feast'. Sadly, we also farewelled a couple of members.

Our bowls team won the competition this year and we have a golf team playing soon at Sunbury. We have won this tournament three times before and run it twice.

A highlight of the year was the AFL Grand Final. Members were asked to wear their club colours to the meeting and there is always lots of banter about which team was the best and who would win. To save arguments, the Club mascot won.

We eagerly look forward to 2026, with many plans already confirmed and others still to be finalised. We're looking forward to another great year!

If you are interested in joining us, please phone our President, Gerry on 0418 130 499.

Visit our website: <https://probussouthpacific.org/microsites/mitchamnunawading/Welcome>

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## Email received from Eastsider News -

Please feel free to share, encourage people to subscribe and to like and follow our Facebook page. As a volunteer-run, independent news platform these actions really help us help get the word out!

From the February 2026 issue of Eastsider News, we will be introducing a new section: Community Listings. This will be a free listing for local clubs and organisations to advertise their programs and meeting times. Because of space limitations in the PDF, we will provide up to six lines, plus a small logo, with a link to a longer description/article on our website, if required.



# SUCCESSION PLANNING – A MUST




Some members are happy to continue in their roles and others are retiring from their positions.

We need new people to step up and fill these spaces. No job is difficult and help will be given to the new people.

Positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer are a must as we cannot continue as a Club without those positions being filled. Assistants are also required.

Please speak to Gerry and put your hand up.

 **Probuss**

**Nomination Form for the election of Office Bearers**

**Probuss Club Name** ...Probuss Club of Mitcham Nunawading Inc # A0062625M.

**Nominated Position (tick)**

<input type="checkbox"/> President	<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity/Outings	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest Speaker
<input type="checkbox"/> Welfare Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Committee Member

**Comments:** .....

**Nominee:**  
**Name of Nominee (print name)**.....  
**Signature of Nominee**.....**Date** .....

**Proposer:**  
**Proposed by (print name)**.....  
**Signature**.....  
**Seconded by (print name)**.....  
**Signature**.....

Completed forms to be received by Secretary before the AGM.  
PO Box 15, Nunawading 3131 OR [mnprobuss@outlook.com](mailto:mnprobuss@outlook.com)

PSPL Administration ACN 152374395 | PO Box 1294 Paramatta NSW 2124 | T: Australia (02) 9669 0200 or 1300 530 456 or New Zealand 0905 14776 257 | E: [admin@probussouthpacific.org](mailto:admin@probussouthpacific.org) | W: [www.probusouthpacific.org](http://www.probusouthpacific.org)

The AGM is in March 2026 – very soon after Chrissy celebrations.

## GOSSIP



I heard recently that at our footy apparel day just prior to the AFL Grand Final, Gerry threw a Collingwood scarf to someone and said “I will pay you to wear it”. Would anyone have been so silly to take up the offer !!!

## MORNING COFFEE – GOURMET GIRL – Chris Summers

On a rather cold Monday morning, fourteen members braved the chill and gathered at Gourmet Girl – inside for warmth. All enjoyed their various coffee flavours and talk, solving the world’s issues. If only.....

**Please note:** Gourmet Girl is closed 25 December until 17 January.



## COMO HOUSE

**When: Thursday 29th January 2026** – Meet at Como House 11am.

Lunch at Como Lane Café at 12noon. Como House Tour at 1:30pm

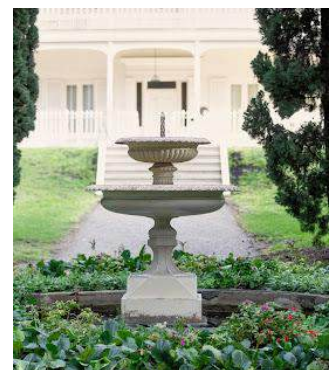
**Cost:** Entry to grounds FREE. Como House Tour – Adult \$15 Concession \$10 NTV Members Free. Both Tour and Lunch need pre-booking.

**Transport:**

- \* Train to Flinders St Station & No 58 Tram to Como Ave/Toorak Rd. or
- \* Train to Richmond, Change platforms, Train to South Yarra, No 58 Tram to Como Ave/Toorak Rd. or
- \* Carpool.

Currently 15 people have indicated a desire to participate. Formal booking for tour will be made on Monday 24 November with numbers then held. Please contact the coordinator before Monday 24th

**Coordinator :Ray King 0416 014 646**





# PROBUS TURNS FIFTY IN AUSTRALIA ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026.

**P**robus started in England in the 1960's. The Probus Club of Kapiti Coast in New Zealand was founded in November 1974 on the initiative of a Rotarian, Gordon Roatz, who had cousins in Scotland, one of whom was a Probus Club member. It occurred to Gordon that the idea was worth introducing to the growing number of retired residents in Kapiti. He returned to New Zealand and secured his Rotary club's support to start a Probus club.

Not long afterwards, Jim King from the Rotary Club of Dumbarton in Scotland visited the Rotary Club of Parramatta North (now Parramatta City) in New South Wales and told members of the success of the Probus movement in the United Kingdom. The Rotary District which included Parramatta took up the idea, and as a result, the Probus Club of Hunter's Hill in Sydney met for the first time on 3 February 1976.

Who would have guessed, when the first club started fifty years ago, that by 2026 Probus would have spread all throughout Australia and New Zealand.

While Probus is all about fun and friendship, we perform a valuable service to the community as well, by helping people adjust to retirement. I use the words "community and companionship" a lot when I am talking about Probus. Wherever I go, I hear people saying how important their Probus Club is in keeping them active and developing new friendships in their local community.

It is wonderful that the original club in Australia is continuing to thrive. It is a tribute not only to the present leadership of the club, but also to all those who have worked so effectively over the past 50 years.

I would also like to acknowledge Rotary International. It is thanks to Rotary that Probus came to Australia and New Zealand, and I am very grateful for their continued support over the years.

Throughout 2026, PSPL will be showcasing the benefits of joining Probus, encouraging older Australians to enjoy more social engagement within their communities. In addition, we will embark on a major recruitment drive to attract new, active semi retirees and retirees to join a local Probus Club through a range of marketing initiatives.

We propose to assist Clubs by providing materials and information to complement planning of 50th Anniversary themed activities, including ways for Clubs to connect with other Probus Clubs for larger celebrations or events.

Commemorative events will begin with a celebratory morning tea function hosted by the Probus Club of Hunter's Hill's on 3 February, 2026. I would encourage all Clubs to mark this special day by having their own special morning tea, lunch or activity recognising the birth of Probus in Australia. Another key date for the national social program will be Thursday October 1st, being the start of Probus Month 2026. We hope that every Probus Club will

participate in our National Probus picnic or lunch which will be widely promoted in the lead up to October 1st.

Working groups have been established across Australia to help develop a number of regional and national activities including sporting events and tours. I would like to thank all those Probians who have volunteered to join these committees.

As examples, a Carnival Line cruise organised by the Probus Association of Queensland departing Brisbane for the South Pacific has proven to be extremely popular. PSPL has also arranged a 10-day Probus party aboard Celebrity Solstice departing on 31st October 2026. With more than 100 Probus members already booked on the Celebrity Solstice, cabins are limited.

An innovative range of 50th Anniversary merchandise will also be produced along with a special pre-paid envelope produced by Australia Post and a special bottling of a fine French inspired luxury sparkling wine with an exclusive Probus 50th Anniversary label.

So let us celebrate the success of our great organisation and use our fifty-year celebrations all around the country to promote Probus and set ourselves up for the next fifty years!

On a separate note, I wanted to share that nominations are now open for Probus Club members to serve on the PSPL Board as Representative Member/Directors for the following areas of selection: New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia, and New Zealand. Both male and female Probians with business experience in finance, public service, communications, or marketing as a public company Director are encouraged to consider nomination by their Probus Club. These are volunteer positions, with most meetings held online except for the Annual General Meeting. Further information is included in this issue.

As we head into the festive season, on behalf of the PSPL Board, our Management Team, and Staff, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and extend our warmest thanks for your continued support throughout the year.



*Michael Ransom*

Michael Ransom  
Chairman 2025-2026 | Probus South Pacific Ltd



**LET'S CELEBRATE**

**Suggestions for our Club to organise as a 'special'.**

## REPORTS

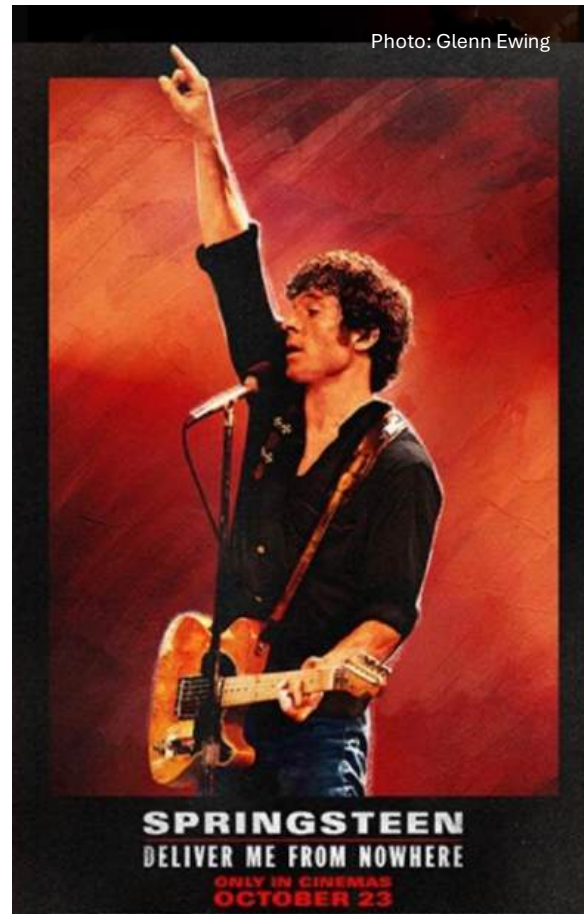
### FILM — Glenn Ewing

For our movie outing in November we saw Springsteen Deliver Me from Nowhere which we all enjoyed.

It is a 2025 biopic about the making of rock star Bruce Springsteen's 1982 album Nebraska. It follows his process of recording the album on a four track recorder while struggling with his past and striving for a new identity. It cuts deep as an intimate portrait of Springsteen's life, capturing the emotional struggle that shaped his legendary album.

Being an avid film goer Daryl had already seen it so he opted for a documentary, Prime Minister, on the rise of Jacinda Ardern, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

We all met up over the road at our usual cafe for lunch and some interesting conversation.







## SPEAKER – Paul Perrottet – Australian Open – Chris Summers

A huge thank you to Paul for his most interesting and clear presentation to the Probus members.

There were several questions at the end which he capably answered along with some anecdotes on players he had driven in his favourite car, the Kia.



Paul has worked for the Australian Open for 17 years and our own Michael Ramsom for 19 years and they both look forward to doing it again in 2026=.



Slides courtesy Paul's presentation.



## Australian Open

- First played in 1904
- Moved to Melbourne Park in 1988
- Played in January each year



## Melbourne Park



## Working @ AO

Tennis Australia employs about 2500 staff

- Administration – HR/Uniforms/Finance/IT
- Officials - Umpires
- Ball Kids (429)
- Statisticians
- Tournament control
- Court service
- Accreditation
- Player services
- Practice courts
- Fitness
- Media support
- Merchandise Sales
- Information Services
- Hospitality
- Transport



## Courtesy Car Drivers

During AO 2025

- More than 50,000 people transported
- 27,000 trips booked through the AO Transport App



## Courtesy Car Drivers

Commence 10-12 days prior to main draw start date  
5-6-hour shifts, average 16-19 for tournament  
Operate from 6:30am until 2-3 hours after end-of-play  
Who?

- Players/coaches/support staff
- Family
- VIP guests
- Sponsors
- Officials (ITF/WTA/ATP & others)
- Media (late at night)

Where?

- To/From Airport
- Matches
- Practice
- Medical
- Promotional activities



Media duties (usually make the right)



## AO Courtesy Car Fleet

130 Kia motor vehicles (50 electric; 80 hybrid)

- EV5/EV6/EV9
- Carnival
- Sorento
- Sportage



## Australian Open Trophies



Daphne Akhurst  
Memorial Cup



Bernie Brookings  
Challenge Cup







Photo: Chris Summers



Jill was so proud to have touched Rafa's shoes. I don't think she wanted to let them go!!

Maybe taking them home to put under the bed.



Photo: Chris Summers

## GOLF DAY — Michael Ransom

Our intrepid golfers at Goonawarra Golf Course, Sunbury last week competing in the annual PAV Golf Tournament.

We didn't win it this time, but the trophy shows we have won it three times in the past.



Photo: Michael Ransom

## TALKING SHARES — December meeting - Daryl Rogers

Our meeting worked through an extensive agenda of regular items. For each of the items there was a presentation of gathered pertinent material from a range of sources and input from all members. As usual there was plenty of side tracking into topics of interest and at times much hilarity.



In terms of planning for next year we agreed unanimously to meet in January, stay with the same venue which has turned out to be most convenient and run the \$100k Challenge again which proved to be very successful. There was a great deal of laughter over the idea of handicapping several "winners" from this year's competition; multiple ways were suggested, one after another.



A very enjoyable lunch followed the meeting.

If there are any club members who have joined recently and are interested in joining this group please get in touch with me by email or chat at the Christmas lunch.

Daryl Rogers, Coordinator - darylrogers8@bigpond .com

Next Meeting: Tuesday 6/1/2026 at 10.10; Blackburn Hotel

## JOHNSTON COLLECTION OUTING - 12 November 2025 – Anne Osman

On Wednesday 12 November, our group of six travelled by train to Jolimont Station to get to The Pullman Hotel East Melbourne (formerly the Hilton). Conversation whilst travelling covered a range of topics including the state of graffiti on the properties adjoining the railway line and of course the ever-changing building scape in the inner suburbs.

Lounging for a moment in the very comfortable Pullman foyer we were soon approached by our driver, Francesca, and invited to hop into the courtesy bus provided for our trip around the corner, arriving at the house museum to be greeted by our tour guide Terese. A brief introduction to the property and its history was given by Terese as we enjoyed a fresh coffee served in delicate antique crockery.

Then out again into the street to enter the house next door where the two storeys of furnishings have been arranged revealing new stories about the meaning of 'home' in the 1700s and 1800s. We were impressed with a display of patchwork and other hand quilting.

A significant portrait of Eizabeth Pelham 1683 by female artist Mary Beale is a piece to remember as is the artist's story. Chandeliers, silk drapes and a focus on elegance throughout was very impressive.



Photo:  
Glenn  
Ewing



Photo: Glenn Ewing



Photo: Glenn Ewing



Following our excellent tour we headed into the Fitzroy Gardens, where people were visiting Captain Cook's Cottage, and we ate lunch at the café nearby – accompanied by a pair of friendly ducks.

Finally there were three of us looking at Fed Square where a crowd was gathering for an attempt at the world record for the most bagpipers assembled and playing at once. This in reference to ACDC being in town for a show in the evening. The big screen played 'It's a long Way to the Top' accompanied by the video of ACDC performing out front of Melbourne Townhall in 1976 – interesting HISTORICAL footage! The original pipers in the AC/DC music video were from the 'Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipes & Drums'. Les Kenfield, now aged 98 played again for the record-breaking event!

Standing in the crowd I heard the woman behind me say she saw ACDC perform at Kew Club – now that's a name some of us may recall also.

We travelled home on the train with the workers after a day of contrasts and good company. Thanks to everyone in the group, it was a fun day.



# COMMUNITY PAGE

## **"Shanty Session (Community Announcement)**

Yes it's on again, one more shanty session before Christmas.

Where: the Community Hub at Forest Hills shopping centre.

When :2.15 on Wednesday 10 December.

The Community hub is on Level 1 right opposite the Post Office.

Lyrics will be on screen and song books are available.

For any questions or to RSVP call Tony O'Neill on 0419524197

or [tonyo43au@gmail.com](mailto:tonyo43au@gmail.com).

Love to see you there

## Symphonic Band Classics



## Christmas Carols at Holy Trinity

Saturday 6th December 10:00am-12:00pm

Holy Trinity Kew