

Probus Club of Kapiti Coast, Inc.

The First Probus Club Established in the Southern Hemisphere (1974)



Newsletter—July 2025

Meeting Location:	Ocean Road Community Centre, Paraparaumu at 10.00 a.m.
Next Meeting:	Last Thursday of the month at 10.00 a.m.
August Guest Speaker:	Tim Costley MP who will talk of his military career
10 Minute Speaker:	John Redward
Email:	kapiticoastprobus@gmail.com
Website:	https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/kapiticoast
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561221205777

**If you cannot attend a meeting or to change your contact details, please advise
Lionel Wilson 022 025 8540 or Eileen South 021 183 0481 kapiticoastprobus@gmail.com**

Meeting times, Committee, and Special Interest Group Convenors – see the end of the newsletter.

President's Message: Pat Humphries

We had a good meeting on 31 July with a number of people making a contribution. It was great to see so many people coming out on what had promised to be a wet and stormy day. To those of you who were unable to come because of being unwell, I do hope you are feeling better. We missed your company.

The funeral of Gill Graham the day before our meeting was a warm and lovely family-based celebration of a life well lived, with contributions from Gill's three brothers, her two daughters and one of her grandsons. Liz Smith spoke of Gill's involvement in Probus and the numerous adjunct clubs of which she was a member. We knew her as warm, friendly and kind and her family also obviously enjoyed a



rich, warm and close family life together. She was such a stalwart with wide interests and a great sense of adventure and will be sadly missed. RIP Gill.

Our meeting started off with a bit of a technical hiccup but we were able to proceed anyway. James Abernethy was our 10-minute speaker and he confirmed he has put his hand up to organise our "cameo" talks and encouraged our members to share their stories. He said that everyone has a story or an interest, and if a person is reluctant to stand up and deliver the information personally, James would be happy to help find a buddy who would deliver the story on their behalf. Do please think about letting us know what your story might be and make contact with James to proceed.

For those of you who couldn't join us, he was wearing the most splendid tie, a bright yellow New York taxi shape, whitewall tires and all, laying lengthwise along the line of the tie - quite noticeable! He then advised that he was wearing a Tiffany tiepin to hold it! I told him I thought he was just name dropping ...

John Miller advised he has been pursuing the possibility of arranging a coach trip to Woodville, scheduled for 11 September, all things being equal, and sought a show of hands for those interested. He also wanted to know whether people would want to find their own food at lunch time, or he had investigated the possibility of going to the Mangatainoka Brewery where a party of our size might be accommodated and have lunch at a special price negotiated on the basis of numbers. We will provide more details soon. Do please let us know if you are interested and missed the chance at the meeting. Around 40 people would mean the coach would cost around \$25 each. Lunch would be around \$20.

Chris Harwood has been working on finding out what type of trips people might want to undertake, and brought some forms for completion which would give an indication of interest. An example she used was a Last Night at the Proms concert at Southward Car Museum where, if we have a party of 10 or more, the tickets are \$35 each. Also investigating trips to town using gold cards for train travel and attending exhibitions or places at low or no cost. She circulated some forms at the meeting, but if you missed the meeting or didn't see a form and you're interested, do please contact Chris Harwood, her details will be at the end of the newsletter

We have been advised that the theme for Probus month in October is "Reimagining Retirement". Does anyone have any bright ideas on how we could follow this lead?

Thanks to Margaret Swain for donating morning tea for this meeting. – Pat Humphries.

Attendance: **Attended: 72** **Apologies: 19** **Silent: 13** **Visitors: 2**

10-Minute Speaker – James Abernethy



James brought some things along to illustrate the fact that he is a collector. That is not apparently the word which his partner Chris uses to describe his "stuff"! He has an apparently inexhaustible collection of ties, and actually had Christine do a pirouette and show us one of the skirts she has made from some refugee ties from his collection. He also collects bikes, about 13 at present, which is proving to be a challenge for Chris and is blocking the garage ... He also brought a very early record playing device, an Edison, with a horn for the sound, which plays wax cylinders. He played one which sounded like something one would have heard over a hundred years ago. He has very eclectic tastes and collects a wide range of objects.

James has provided us with the structure and content of his 10-minute speech to help others see if they can "give it a go". Please see the accompanying document. If you would like to be involved talk to James at a meeting or contact him on 027 348 7139 ch.ja@xtra.co.nz

Guest Speaker: Carole Brown – Visiting English Gardens



Our main speaker was Carole Brown and we enjoyed a bright and vivacious account of her travels around English gardens which she undertook last year. She enjoys gardening and provided a wonderful slide show of the gardens she visited. Carole narrowed her show down to five gardens which included Wisley in Surrey, Bodnant and Chirk Castle in Wales, Sissinghurst in Kent, and Great Dixter in Sussex and the Chelsea Flower Show, where she fell in love with Alliums.

Carole is a keen and enthusiastic gardener who shared her obvious joy in

gardens, statuary and flowers and drew us all into the experience. She said all their photos were taken by phone, no fancy cameras. Her exuberance was catching and we all felt like we'd been on the trip with her. Some side comments were hilarious and she has very clear views on what she likes and what she doesn't like! Such fun. She is hoping to visit the Eden project in Cornwall next year. Thanks to Carole for a really enjoyable talk. – Pat Humphries.



1 Check out Carole's Shoes!

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to both a former member and a current member of Probus this month.

GILL GRAHAM

Many Probus members attended Gill's funeral on Wednesday 30 July and Liz Smith gave this tribute:

In 1959 Martin Luther King wrote "what is the measure of a man"?

What about a woman. She is one who sees a need, who takes action and leads – and this was Gill.

Late 2011 David and I went as visitors to the Probus club of Kapiti Coast and one of the first people we were introduced to was Gill. She was very welcoming and this was a trait I found was a part of her and we became friends. She lived with enthusiasm the 3 F's. Fellowship, friendship and fun that are Probus.



Gill was an organiser, bus trips, walks, movies whatever she was asked to do she did with over 100 percent commitment. So many of us here today would have had the phone call from her telling us what movie we would be going to next. Many were the times the cinema only had our club members at the movie and how they must have appreciated her support.

The routes for the walks were always tested by Gill and Richard and what a lot of great conversations were had, as we ambled gently along. Of course, if it was too wet to walk, meeting up for a coffee, a cheese scone and a catch up was always on offer.

Gill served her term as president in 2013 and was on the committee for our clubs 40th anniversary. Ten years later she was at Richard's side as he greeted, in his role of president, the dignitaries attending our 50th anniversary celebrations.

The Dining out group, coffee mornings, lunch group, wine appreciation group, travel group, book club, walks, trips and movies were a big part of Gill's life and undoubtedly gave her a great deal of pleasure. In 2020 her contribution to our club was recognised and a well-deserved Life Membership was bestowed upon her.

As I said at the beginning, Gill lived the Probus Mantra and her name is inscribed for all time in our club's history. RIP Gill you have more than earned it.

MEMORIAL FOR ANNE-MARIE HERMANS

A memorial for Anne-Marie Hermans, who loved attending Probus meetings until ill-health prevented her, will be held on Saturday 9 August at 2.00 pm in the chapel of the Kapiti Coast Funeral Home, 9 Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu.

All welcome.

Happy Birthday!

If you have had a birthday in the past month, please put your name on the list by the raffle table and we will wish you a Happy Birthday and have a draw to see who is the winner of a small gift.

July Birthdays: Kathleen Clayton, Jim Pang, Lyn Ward, Richard Chilton, Linda Hall and Carole Hutchings

July Winner: Jim Pang

Almoner: Naomi Peters 021 239 4107

Naomi Peters is our Probus Club Almoner. If you need some support or know of anyone who is not feeling well or needs a friend to talk to please let Naomi know.



Trips

Thank you to all of you who responded to the questionnaire at our July meeting. The response was unanimously positive with some clear preferences.

The two most popular types of trips were nature excursions (e.g. parks, beaches, gardens) with 20 responses and cultural activities (e.g. theatre, shows, museums, art exhibitions) with 39 responses. There was less interest in events (e.g. Waitangi Day) with 12 responses and activities that required moderate activity also had 12 responses.



Some excellent suggestions for possible trips were also recorded.

Most responders were willing to pay a moderate cost (42 responses) with 15 members willing to pay a little more.

Overwhelmingly, members favoured day or half day trips (43 responses) when something interesting comes up (40 responses). There was a reasonably even split between having monthly and quarterly trips.

Six people have put their hands up to help organise trips. I will be in touch with them in the next week so that we can meet and plan.

What's On?

This is to let you know of things happening in our area that you might be interested in.

Festival of Wood 2025 by the Wellington Guild of Woodworkers. Featuring carvings by our June speaker John Spittal. 28 June to 10 August in the Bottle Creek Gallery, Pataka, Porirua. 10 am–5 pm, 7 days a week.

Kapiti Readers and Writers Festival. 9 & 10 August. Run by Bookmark Kapiti. For details see the website <https://bookmarkapiti.nz>



A fundraising event for Mary Potter Hospice to help renovate the Kāpiti Community Base.

27 August 2025 | 6:15 pm onwards | Southward Car Museum, Paraparaumu. \$170 pp, table of 10 \$1,700. Tickets are available here: <https://hospice-gala-dinner-2025.raiselysite.com/>

Last Night of the Proms. 9 September 11 a.m. Southward Car Museum.

World of Wearable Art Show – Rise. 18 September – 5 October. TSB Arena, Wellington.

Plimmerton Rotary Garden Tour 1-5 November. Tickets will be available from 10 September 2025 on the website www.plimmertonrotary.org.nz.

Let Linda know on lindahallnz1@gmail.com if you have things you want to tell our members about.

It could be concerts, plays, sporting events, festivals, fashion shows, etc.
The editor reserves the right to include or exclude items with input from the committee.

Meeting Times

Here is an overview of all our meetings and when they occur in the month. See the end of the newsletter for a full list of Committee Members and Special Interest Group Convenors.

Weekly Meetings		
Thursday	Bridge Group	9.00 a.m.
Tuesday	Mah Jong	1.00 p.m.
Monthly meetings		
Variable day	Movie Group	Variable time
First Tuesday	Wine No. 1 Group	7.30 p.m.
First Tuesday	Wine No. 2 Group	4.00 p.m.
First Wednesday	Book Group No. 1	2.30 p.m.
First Wednesday	Book Group No. 2	2.00 p.m.
Second Wednesday	Ladies' Coffee Group	10.30 a.m.
Second Wednesday	Lunch Group 1	12.30 p.m.
Second Wednesday	Lunch Group 4	12.30 p.m.
Second Thursday	Lunch Group 2	12.30 p.m.
Second Thursday	Lunch Group 3	12.30 p.m.
Second Friday	Mini Walking Group	10.30 a.m.
Third Tuesday	Men's Coffee Morning	10.00 a.m.
Third Wednesday	Book Group 3	2.30 p.m.
Third Thursday	Twilight Dining Group	6.00 p.m.
Third Friday	Midi Walking Group	10.00 a.m.
Fourth Friday	Mini Walking Group	10.30 a.m.
Last Thursday	Probus Meeting	10.00 a.m.
Last Thursday	Travel Group	2.30 p.m.

Special Interest Groups

If you are interested in joining one of the interest groups, please contact the person who runs it. Everyone is welcome to participate. If there are no current vacancies in the group that interests you it may be possible to add you to a waiting list, or start another group!

Book and Jigsaw Puzzle Swap: Chris Gane

Have a look at the book swap table and see if there is something you want to read.

Book Group 1: Ruth Miners— 04 298 8886 ruthminers@xtra.co.nz



We read 'Return to Harikoa Bay', a collection of short stories by NZ author Owen Marshall - it will be discussed at our next meeting at Margaret Hawkes' home on Wednesday 6 August at 2.30pm.

There are no vacancies in the group.

Book Group 2: Rhondda Harris— 04 904 4168

The book we read in July was "The Witching Tide" author Margaret Meyer. This will be discussed at our monthly meet up at the home of Ruthann Doyle on Wednesday 6 August.



There are no vacancies in the group.

Book Group 3: Chris Harwood 022 100 7118 ch.ja@xtra.co.nz



My thanks to Eileen South for stepping in to host Book Group #3 at very short notice in July.

Iran turned out to be a fascinating topic to read about. The group had rich discussions about its turbulent history and everyone learned new things about the people and how their lives changed under different regimes.

On 20 August the group will meet at Chris Hill's home at 2.30 pm. The theme for this month's books is New Zealand. We should get some very diverse books to discuss.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30 pm.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Chris Harwood

We are looking for a few more members to join us to for fun and friendship, and of course to discuss books.

Ladies Coffee & Conversation Morning: Chris Harwood 022 100 7113 ch.ja@xtra.co.nz

Breaking News! Due to popular request, we have moved the Ladies' Coffee morning to the **second Wednesday of each month**.

The next coffee morning will be on 13 August at 10.30 am at Truffle Cafe, 9 Milne Drive.

We hope to see you there. **Just come along and all are welcome!**

Lunch Group 1: Fiona Berthold, 021 300 292

fiona.berthold@gmail.com

Our July lunch was at the Vista Club - good menu, reasonable prices, fast service, big portions - recommended.

The August lunch will be at The Curry Lounge, 6 Alexander Rd, Raumati Beach at 12.30pm on Wednesday 13 August.

Organiser: Lynne Cook 021 149 8545. Please let Lynne Know if you can't attend.

We have one vacancy in the group.

Lunch Group 2 (Midday Gourmets): Christine Jamieson—021 056 3614

In July our Lunch Group gathered at Mediterranean Trattoria at Coastlands. The pizzas and meals were good and plentiful and we had a lovely time.

Our next lunch will be on 14 August at Himalayan Kitchen at 12 noon.

Lunch Group 3 (Golden Diners)—Marjory Gillespie 027 471 5863.

The Golden diners enjoyed a very tasty lunch at Passo Pizza Cafe in July. The options gave us plenty of choice. The service met our expectations. A most enjoyable lunch.

Our next lunch will be at Two Fat Chefs at 12 noon on the 14th August.



Lunch Group 4 (Serendipity - finding valuable and agreeable things, especially food!) Richard Chilton chilton1942@gmail.com 04 905 7514

The next engagement of the No. 4 Lunch Group will be at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 13 August the venue is the Himalayan Kitchen at 9A, Epiha Street Paraparaumu.

Please contact Richard if you want to be included.

Mah Jong: Dale Schrama 04 904 8659

The group meets every Tuesday at 1.00 p.m. till 4.00 p.m. at the Paraparaumu Bowling Club.

\$3.00 joining fee \$2.00 per session. New members are welcome and lessons can be given on Wednesdays, at 11 Wharemauku Rd, Raumati Beach.



Come and learn a new skill or hone your ability in this fun game!

Men's Social Discussion Group: Keith Williamson—04 299-2343 **tofox83@gmail.com**



The group meets at a local coffee bar at 10.00 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.

Just chat about whatever is topical: Donald Trump, sport, growing dahlias, etc.

Contact Keith if you want to join this group

Midi Walkers: Fiona Berthold, 021 300 292 fiona.berthold@gmail.com **Elizabeth Henry — 021 151 9474, 04 299 2090 lizum.henry@gmail.com**

On a beautiful calm July morning, we took the train to Paremata and walked the



Camborne Walkway to Grays Road then back to Mana for lunch. The only disappointment was the small number of walkers. Please come and try it. We walk at our own pace, usually on flat tracks in interesting places, followed by coffee or lunch.

Next walk: Friday 15 August, 10 am

Meet in the car park before the Old State Highway 1 Bridge over the Waikanae River (left side approaching from

Paraparaumu). We will walk approximately 5km down to the footbridge and back on the other side of the river. All flat tracks. Coffee afterwards at Joe & Joy, Waikanae.

All welcome - just turn up. Contact on the day: Fiona Berthold 021 300 292.

Mini Walking Group: Christine Jamieson 021 056 3614

While Christine was away Fiona organised three walks. Unfortunately, the walk scheduled for 27 June was rained off, but those on 11 and 25 July were lucky with the weather and were well-attended. We had an interesting walk on the 11th around the Coastlands locality starting from the Aquatic Centre, and including the facilities where the Community Centre was, the Makerspace at the Library, the new MSD office, the Transport Hub and the new-build houses at Kapiti Lights. The walk on 25th was to Waikanae Estuary track from the DOC shelter at Manly St.



Mini-walks are 30-minutes and there are plenty of options to walk just as far as you are comfortable at your own pace. There is always coffee and chat afterwards.

Next walks: 8 & 22 August

Movie Group: Fiona Berthold 04 297 3201 fiona.berthold@gmail.com

There was a dearth of watchable movies in July due to school holidays. We went to "Four Letters of Love" at the end of the month, even though it had had mixed reviews. We didn't love it, but appreciated the Irish scenery and cinematography, and the superb acting. The plot told of two young adults on different paths who only meet towards the end of the movie, though this has been predictable throughout. It was spoiled at the end by the unbelievable final beach scenes.

If you would like to go on the list to be informed of upcoming movies, email Fiona at fiona.berthold@gmail.com.



Travel Group: Kathleen Clayton 04 296 1713

Kathleen Clayton showed colour slides of an organised camping trip around Italy and France in the 1960's. Highlights were the Tivoli Gardens just outside Rome with its many fountains and a tour with a Swiss Guard around the Vatican gardens.

There are no vacancies in this group.



Twilight Dining: Kathy Bamford 04 299 0938 kathybamford@gmail.com

The Twilight Group meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6 pm, excluding December/January. We dine at various restaurants in the Kapiti Coast area and attend when available. We are a very friendly, happy bunch and we welcome new members.

Wine Appreciation Group 1: Roger Griffiths 021 463 153

A full attendance for our "Mid-winter Feast", held at Thai Lagoon. Good food, company and wine (everyone brought their own BYO).

The August meeting, which was scheduled to be held at Richard Chilton's home, has been cancelled.

Contact Roger for details of this group.

Late Afternoon Wine Group (LAWG): Margaret Hawkes 022 637 6402 marg_and_tony@msn.com



The next meeting of the LAWG will be held on Tuesday, 5 August at 4 pm.
Hosts: Kathleen and John Clayton. If unable to attend, please let Kathleen and John know on 04 296 1713

The LAWG enjoying lunch at Relish Cafe on 1st July

General Information

Name Badges: Please wear your name badges to all meetings

Payments: Please make payments directly to the Club's Bank Account:

Bank: Westpac Bank

Account Name: Probus Club of Kapiti Coast, Inc.

Account Number: 03-0732-0138005-000

Cash payments should be in an envelope noting your name and the reason for the payment

Photographs: We take photographs at many of our events. These photos are used in Probus newsletters, website and social media. If you do not want your photograph taken please let the photographer know at the time. Silence is taken as consent.

Newsletter: Information for the newsletter can be sent to: lindahallnz1@gmail.com

Committee					
President & Guest Speakers	Pat Humphries	021 140 2680	Vice President	Chris Harwood	022 100 7118
Immediate Past President	Richard Chilton	04 905 7514	Treasurer	John Gillespie	027 621 2478
Secretary	Eileen South	021 183 0481	Committee Member	Christine Jamieson	021 056 3614
Membership	Lionel Wilson	022 025 8540	Newsletters & Morning Teas	Linda Hall	021 0290 3635
Committee Member	Christine Gane	021 216 7002	Morning Teas	Margaret Swain	021 146 6066
Committee Member	Vacant		10-Minute Speakers	Vacant	
Roles Outside of Committee					
Probus District Chair, Wellington North	Liz Smith	04 298 3654	Audio Visual	Fiona Berthold Peter Wilson Tim Allsop	04 297 3201 027 216 6455 04 905 5503
Almoner	Naomi Peters	021 239 4107	Raffles	Carole Hutchings	04 902 3378

Special Interest Group Convenors					
Book Share Table	Chris Gane	021 216 7002	Mah Jong	Dale Schrama	04 904 8659
Book Group 1	Ruth Miners	04 298 8886	Men's Coffee Group	Keith Williamson	04 299-2343
Book Group 2	Rhondda Harris	04 904 4168	Midi Walking Group	Fiona Berthold Elizabeth Henry	04 297 3201 04 299 2090
Book Group 3	Chris Harwood	022 100 7118	Mini Walking Group	Christine Jamieson	021 056 3614
Bridge Group	Kevin Thompson	021 0250 7052	Movie Group	Fiona Berthold	04 297 3201
Ladies Coffee Group	Chris Harwood	022 100 7118	Travel Group	Kathleen Clayton	04 296 1713
Lunch Group 1	Fiona Berthold	021 300 292	Trips	Vacant	
Lunch Group 2	Christine Jamieson	021 056 3614	Twilight Dining	Kathy Bamford	04 299 0938
Lunch Group 3	Marjory Gillespie	027 471 5863	Wine Group 1	Roger Griffiths	021 463 153
Lunch Group 4	Richard Chilton	04 905 7514	Wine Group 2 (LAWG)	Margaret Hawkes	022 637 6402

This newsletter forms part of the records of the proceedings of the Probus Club of Kapiti Coast, Inc.