

Probus Club of Kapiti Coast, Inc.

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



Newsletter—November 2025

Meeting Location: Ocean Road Community Centre, Paraparaumu at 10.00 a.m.
Probus Meetings: Last Thursday of the month at 10.00 a.m.
December Meeting: **Christmas Lunch Thursday 4 December at Paraparaumu Bowling Club**
Email: kapiticoastprobus@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.probussouthpacific.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**

President's Message: Pat Humphries



Greetings people

I hope this finds you well. We had a full and busy meeting last Thursday, with 72 members attending and one visitor. We do seem to get lots of interaction and catch up on what is happening before the meeting and during the tea break, which is great to see. Our aim is to have people feel involved and included and welcome. Every one of us is important to the club. Mind you, getting everyone back after our Christmas themed morning tea was a bit like trying to herd cats ...

We held a Special General Meeting, to vote on adopting the new Constitution, Standard Regulations and Policies, so that we are compliant with new legislation governing Incorporated Societies, of which we are one. We had almost unanimous acceptance, with one abstention. So, thanks to Chris Gains and Chris Harwood for their great work in preparing the documents and efficient processing of decision making. Thank you all for taking part in this important process. Your contribution is essential.

It was my sad duty to announce that our former member, Dawn Kelleher, passed away yesterday after a long battle with dementia. We will offer condolences to her friends in the club and to her family.

I also made mention of Carole Hutchings who died just days after our last meeting and I know that John was appreciative of the care and support extended to him and his family after that sad event.

I raised again the need for volunteers to fill essential roles in the club organisation, and had John Gillespie, Eileen South and Chris Harwood share their experiences as Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President respectively, explaining as they did so that such work is not onerous and does not take up a lot of time. There is also plenty of assistance available to those looking to come forward to help. The time involved is not great spread as it is over the whole year. No special experience is required, except perhaps to be able to count for the treasurer role! Eileen tells me that she never learned to touch type but has managed the role of secretary comfortably over her three years in the post. Do please consider offering your services. They would be very welcome.

We had a report on the success of the car rally which was well attended and great fun by all accounts. Apparently one of the very late cars to reach the final destination, the Fisherman's table, had stopped for refreshments on the way! Sounds like this is likely to become an annual event. Thank you to Chris, James and Tim who organised and oversaw this event and those who took part.

We had our usual raffle and I apologise I did not note down the winners. Mea culpa.

I wish you and yours the compliments of the season and safe travel if you are contemplating it over the holiday season. We have the Christmas lunch on Thursday 4 December to look forward to. We have 85 attending with Christmas cake made by Linda. Enjoy people.

Attendance: **Attended: 72** **Apologies: 14** **Silent: 16** **Visitors: 1**

Names of members and visitors attending the meeting are noted on the membership list.

10-Minute Speaker – Dr. Ken Milne



Our cameo speaker was Ken Milne, who, it turns out, has a PhD and is an expert on viruses which attack cantaloupes and other melons.... who knew? He is now Emeritus Professor at Massey University (which he says his wife claims just means he is an old professor) having had a distinguished 38-year career as an agricultural scientist at Massey. He won a scholarship which took him to the University of California at Davis, which is near Sacramento, to do his doctorate.

He came back to New Zealand and established his academic career. He also turned down a very lucrative offer from James Wattie to set up a research facility in Hawkes Bay to oversee and monitor the fruit and vegetables Wattie's grew there. He has enjoyed a long and illustrious career including serving on national and international boards which audit university processes and performance.

It is always fascinating to learn of the wide range of skills and interests held by our membership. We are interested in everyone's story and would love to hear yours in one of our cameo talks. Do think about it and let James Abernathy know.

Guest Speaker: Sir Hugh Rennie, KNZM CBE KC.

Our main speaker was Sir Hugh Rennie, retired King's Counsel, who has enjoyed a long career as a lawyer in Wellington. Sir Hugh spoke of the Chatham Islands, past, present and future.

Found by accident by HMS Chatham which was lost in the 18th century, it was settled first by Morori and then Māori, escaping the Taranaki wars. It was fascinating and also irritating, a tale of a small settlement (currently between 600 and 1000 people) which has been in existence since around 1830 and treated with benign neglect by New Zealand governments for most of that time.

Successive governments put it in the too hard basket, and that's when they actually paid attention to it. It's only in the last 30 years that it's actually been subject to New Zealand law. It didn't have a road until after the second world war. People were forced to use surf boats to land materials coming to the islands.

Councils were established but without money for infrastructure or expertise to operate. Transportation systems which were formulated by people whose ignorance of the practicalities of operating there was woeful. They failed. Through stellar work by locals, a grant by government in 1995, and a few interested people, they have forged a successful tourism destination totally in the control of the locals, successful fishing, meat processing and some smaller businesses set up by returning young people who've had education off island and returned.

We should watch what happens here, as much success has been achieved since the locals were given a bit of money and some autonomy over 25 years ago and they've made a go of it. This is a unique place with its own special culture where people are used to hardship and living with the vagaries of nature and way of life totally foreign to most of us. Thanks to Sir Hugh for the insights.



Reminder - Christmas Lunch

Thursday 4 December 2025

12.30 p.m.

Paraparaumu Bowling Club

We are looking forward to seeing you from 12 noon. A cash bar for drinks will be available and lunch will be served from 12.30.

If you can, please bring a donation for the food bank and don't forget the spot prize for the best decorated Christmas hat!

Please direct any queries to Chris Harwood, 022 100 7118

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.

November Birthdays: Chistine Jameson, Sue Hall, Dale Schrama, Fiona Berthold, Chris Burnet, Marjorie Gillespie and Erol Crosland

November Winner: The winner of the November birthday bottle of wine was Erol Crosland. Congratulations to you all.

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.



What's On?

No one has let me know about anything happening in our area this month! I guess we are all going to be so full of Christmas lunches and dinners there won't be time and energy to do anything else!

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.



Probus Club of Kapiti Coast's Mystery Automobile Adventure 2025

Thank you to the members who participated with such an air of adventure and fun in the Automobile Adventure on 13 November.

Weather on the day was better than originally forecast so health and safety concerns were allayed.

Cars left at two-minute intervals from the Ocean Road car park and followed a comprehensive set of directions with 51 questions to answer before they reached the final destination - The Fisherman's Table restaurant.

Marjory Gillespie's team won a spot prize for making the judges laugh. She took one look at the recording sheet and determined they would need till dinner time to answer all the questions.

The conversation over coffee and lunch was spirited with participants checking out their answers with each other, while three judges scored the responses. Points were given for correctly identifying where photos were, for the questions answered correctly, for the time taken and the distance covered.

The winning team of Roger, Christine, Alan and Marsha scored 129 points with the Wilsons and Burleighs, following closely behind with 126 points. The Toru Wahine team came third with 119 points. Two cars came in substantially later than everyone else, even given adjustments for their starting times, so both of those teams tied for the lowest score.

Of those two teams, one spotted just one of the photos so was awarded sponges to clean their windscreen and/or their glasses. The other took the longest time to complete the course and was therefore awarded the wooden spoons.

We did suggest that winners to take up the challenge of organising next year's event, but that wasn't enthusiastically received. We'll be calling for volunteers in the new year!

Thanks for everyone who made the adventure such as success.

Gill, Tim, James and Chris

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.

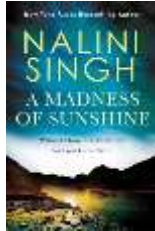
Special Interest Groups

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 "A Madness of Sunshine" by Nalini Singh, set in a small town on the West Coast. This was the first crime novel by this NZ author; it was long-listed for the Ngaio Marsh Best Novel Award. We will discuss it at our Christmas meeting on Wednesday 3 December at 2.30 pm at Lois Brinck's home.

There are no vacancies in the group.

Book Group 2: Rhondda Harris— 04 904 4168

"Home Before Night" author J.P. Pomare was our book for November and will be discussed at Kathy's home, 2 pm Wednesday 5 December 2025.

There are no vacancies in the group.



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

Our final meeting for the year was held on 19 November at 3 p.m. at Chris Harwood's home. We read very diverse books with the theme - Japanese women. Once again, our members found quite an eclectic range of books to share.

Our group will resume on 21 January. If you would like to join us in 2026, please let Chris know.

Combined Probus Bridge Club: Kevin Thompson – 021 250 7052

Meet every Thursday at 9.00 a.m. in the Village Card Room of Kapiti Village. We play until noon.

We do not teach Bridge so a basic understanding of Bridge is required. Our motto is Fun, Friendship and Fellowship.

Contact Kevin Thompson to join this group.



Ladies Coffee & Conversation Morning: Chris Harwood 022 100 7113

ch.ja@xtra.co.nz



Our last meeting for 2025 will be held on 10 December at 10.30am at Truffles Cafe, 9 Milne Drive.

We will hold our first coffee morning for 2026 on 14 January - same time, same place.

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

Lunch Group 1: Fiona Berthold, 021 300 292 fiona.berthold@gmail.com

We had our November lunch at Rangoli Indian Restaurant in Kapiti Rd. Service was efficient and friendly and the meals, which were all at very reasonable prices, were enjoyed by all. Recommended.

No lunch in December as there is the Probus Christmas lunch on 4 December.

The next lunch will be on 14 January 2026 at 12.30pm at Two Fat Chefs, Marine Parade, Paraparaumu Beach. Organiser: Betty Babot Tel: 027 214 1626.

We have two vacancies in the group.

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

Our Lunch Group met at the Banana Leaf in Raumati this month. We enjoyed the delicious food and, as the Irish would say, "the crack". Unfortunately, Heather was unable to join us as she very was busy with the Budgeting Service.

We decided not to meet during December as our lives and social events start to get busy. We will meet again in January.

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



The Golden diners arrived at The Waikanae club on November 6th for our lunch, only to be told the chef hadn't turned up so the restaurant was closed!

So, after a quick phone call we went to Salt and Wood and enjoyed lovely food and good service. Our problem was very quickly solved.

Our last lunch for the year will be at the Vista club on 11 December at 12 noon.

Where has the year gone?

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

Not report received this month.

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

This group has some vacancies!



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

Due to ongoing natural attrition over time, people shifting, etc. we would welcome more members to our group.

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



We took the train to Paremata and walked south to Porirua via Aotea Lagoon, Gear Homestead and the Adrenalin Forest with a slight breeze at our backs - very pleasant.

Next walk - Friday 19 December

Meet at 10 am at the Waterfront car park, Raumati Beach. A flat circular walk of about

4.95 km on the walkways of Raumati. We'll include a visit to the Gallery on Matai Rd where you may find something suitable for Christmas presents. Coffee or lunch at Vintage Village Cafe in Raumati Beach.

Organiser: Fiona Berthold 021 300 292 All welcome - just turn up.

Mini Walking Group: Christine Jamieson 021 056 3614

We had two walks this month. The first was through the Greendale Reserve, Otaihangā. This is in two parts with the road dividing each side, through nice bush, path and bush well maintained by volunteers. The photo shows some rather strange fungus growing on a fallen tree trunk. T

The second walk was around the loop along the stream at the end of Milne Drive, a short easy walk.

We will have a final walk for this year on 12 December, walk to be confirmed later.

All welcome – just turn up



with

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



We saw "Pike River" at the Coastlands Cinema which all enjoyed. Most of us commented that we learned something about the tragedy which we hadn't known before, despite the wall-to-wall media coverage at the time, and subsequently. Exceeded expectations.

If you would like to be informed about the next movies, email fiona.berthold@gmail.com to go on the list.

Travel Group: Kathleen Clayton 04 296 1713



At the latest Travel Group meeting Chris Gane told us of her recent cruise on the Zaandam along the coast of Alaska from Vancouver. One of the highlights was the time spent in Glacier Bay seeing the mountains, and glaciers. She also enjoyed time in Skagway on a Ghosts and Goodtime Girls tour visiting some of the older buildings in the town.

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



The wine group met on Thursday November 6 at Roger and Chris Griffiths's home. Re-arranged to avoid a clash with the Melbourne Cup celebrations!

A good varied range of wines supplied (Gewurztraminer, Chardonnay, Rose, Pinot Noir and finally most people's favourite, an Iron Horse Barossa Shiraz.

As usual a lovely social evening amongst friends.

December's meeting will be held at the Eastern Egret for a six-course banquet!

Late Afternoon Wine Group (LAWG): Margaret Hawkes 022 637 6402
[marg and tony@msn.com](mailto:marg_and_tony@msn.com)

The LAWG met at the home of Elizabeth Henry on Tuesday 11 November. We had a pleasant evening tasting mainly wines that had been selected for the New World awards. These included wines from the Awatere Valley in the Marlborough region.



The next meeting of the LAWG will be held on Tuesday, 2 December at 4 p.m.

Host: Garry Gould - If unable to attend please let Garry know on 027 664 4484

General Information

Name Badges: Please wear your name badges to all meetings

Emergency Contact Details: Add these to the back of your name badge.

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 Tea	Linda Hall	021 0290 3635
Committee Member	Christine Gane	021 216 7002	Morning Tea	Margaret Swain	021 146 6066
Committee Member	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	John & Lesley Miller	021 0221 6599
			10-Minute Speakers	James Abernethy	027 348 7139
Special Interest Group Convenors					
Book 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. approved by the Club President.