



WELLINGTON COMBINED PROBUS

August 2025 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: **Thursday 11th September 2025**
(Please send apologies to Cedric Croft 021 162 9599 - croft.nevay@xtra.co.nz)

Member Speaker: **Brian Allen - "My work history"**

Guest Speaker: **Christine Brimer - "Loom Weaving – Making and Metaphor".**

The club meets at 10.00am on the second Thursday of the month, except January, at the Gateway Baptist Church, 33 Park Road, Miramar.

Website: <https://www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/wellingtoncombined>

President's Report – August 2025

Thoughts on Aging



I don't generally dwell on the subject of age, but being closer to 100 than 40 and part of an age-based Probud Club means that the subject does come up from time to time. An article by English philanthropist John Fairbairn caught my eye recently in which he set out the following four advantages of getting older.

1. We Stop Sweating the Small Stuff

One of the best perks of getting older is that we realise most things aren't worth the stress. What we might have worried about in our 30s, now barely registers - and it feels great.

2. We Get Better at Saying 'No'

Whether it's declining invitations, avoiding drama, or skipping events that don't spark joy, we've earned the right to be selective. And people actually understand that.

3. We Have Stories – Interesting Ones

We have lived through history, seen trends come and go (and come again), and learned a lot along the way. We've got great stories, useful advice for others, and a sense of humour about life that only comes with time.

4. We Have More Time for Us

After working, raising children, and juggling other responsibilities, our time starts to feel like it's actually ours. We can say 'Yes' to what really does spark joy – like having fun and making new friends.

I hope some or all of these strike a chord and help us realise what we do have and can appreciate despite our aches and pains.

See you on the 11th of September.

Todd

"Sometimes our light goes out but
is blown again into instant flame
by an encounter with another
human being."

Albert Schweitzer



Calendar of Events – September 2025

Date	Event	Location	Time
Every Monday	Walking Group	Check with David or Lois	10:00am
Thursday, 4 th September	Quiddler	John Ellings'	1:30pm
Monday, 8 th September	Cryptic Crossword Group	Ernie Koch's	2:30pm
Thursday, 11th September	Probus Monthly Meeting	Baptist Church, Miramar	10:00am
Wednesday, 17 th September	Dining Out	SHED 22	12 noon
Thursday, 18 th September	Monthly Committee Meeting	Tricia O'Donnell's	1:30pm
Monday, 22 nd September	Cryptic Crossword Group	Ernie Koch's	2:30pm
Thursday, 25 th September	Tea/Coffee Morning	Cafe Polo, Miramar	10:00am
Thursday, 25 th September	500 Group	Warren Fitzsimons	1:30pm
Sunday, 28 th September	<i>Deadline for submission of Newsletter stories/pictures</i>		

(For group events please check dates and times with the group organizers)

At the August Meeting

Members Present: 77 – Apologies: 20 – Absent: 12 – Visitors: 2

Guest speaker: Matt Morris



Matt has worked at Arty Bees Bookshop since 1993 and gave us an entertaining and informative look into the world of second-hand books. He took us through the history of the business since it was founded in 1988 by Bob Burch, (who named it as a play on his initials, RTB), and its several moves around the Cuba Street area until the shop finally settled in its present location in Manners Street, where it holds over 80,000 titles on its shelves.

The shop has seen off many challenges over the years due to competition, changes in reading habits and the rise of the e-book and online shopping, but it has survived by specialising in New Zealand books, fantasy, science fiction and rare or out-of-print editions. They maintain a "wants list" of hard-to-find titles, contacting interested customers when copies appear, and use [AbeBooks](#) for listing valuable items internationally. They use recycled materials for packaging and promote environmental sustainability, and emphasize transparency when buying from customers, so that if a book sells for much more than expected, they will contact the seller to offer additional payment.



The business has recently been sold to a long-time customer, and they are looking forward to keeping this much-loved Wellington bookshop going long into the future.

Matt was introduced by Sheila Kleyn and thanked by Jan Humphries

New Members: Pauline Clark and Ron Lowe



Pauline

Pauline worked in Accounts Payable at the Department of Corrections, and she is interested in theatre, art and reading. She joined our club last December but was only able to be inducted at this meeting. She was sponsored by Tricia and Catherine O'Donnell.

Ron was formerly an airline supervisor, and is interested in history, sport, gardening and reading. He was sponsored by Kit and Ken Burford.



Ron

Member speaker: *Sheila Fitzsimons*



Sheila told us the story of her and Warren's recent trip to the Kimberley area of Western Australia. After spending time with their daughter in Perth, they flew to Broome for an epic two-week, 3,500-kilometre tour with [Kimberley Outback Tours](#), travelling mostly in a coach/truck and staying in luxurious safari tents. Highlights included a jet-boat ride through Horizontal Falls, swimming with sharks (in a shark-proof cage), the beehive-shaped sandstone domes of the Bungle Bungles, boab trees, freshwater crocodiles, and abundant birdlife. And flies!



Matters Arising



Bookshare Table

The Bookshare Table has become a successful addition to our monthly meetings. Bring along a book or two that you have enjoyed, and you may well find another one to take away.

Administered by Jan Humphries and Dianne Little



Door Raffle



Thank you all for your support of our Door raffle at our last meeting and congratulations to the winners of a box of Queen Anne Chocolates and a good bottle of wine. The Club coffers benefitted by \$280.00. We will do this fun activity again at a future meeting. You will be warned in advance.

Christmas Lunch at the Pines

A Date for your Diary. Thursday 4th December is our Christmas meal at the Pines. The cost will be \$42. You will be told when you can book.



Sandwiches - a polite reminder

We have enough food at the Club meetings for everyone to have a sandwich and a sausage roll. Please don't take more than this – remember that there are people behind you in the queue who may miss out.

A Cautionary Tale – by Barbara Eagle

Last week, I and some of our committee members received emails, apparently from Todd, which were trying to scam us into buying Apple Gift Cards. They probably got our information from our website, which contains the newsletters with our email addresses.

Basically, the email was asking us to purchase several \$100 Apple Cards to use as an incentive gift for members. Once purchased we were to scratch the codes, photograph and send the codes to him. This would have given the scammer access to the dollar amounts.

I did reply, but fortunately I was on holiday in Australia so couldn't do what he asked. There were several things which rang alarm bells for me:

1. No matter how many times I told "Todd" that I was on holiday in Australia he kept insisting that I could buy the cards there.
2. Why specifically Apple Cards for our members? I don't think many of our members would use them, me included.
3. The club does not have surplus funds, so I couldn't understand why he would want to do this.
4. The insistence not to telephone.
5. Two different email addresses, neither of them Todd's.

So be careful! If you get an email supposedly from a friend, but that looks a bit odd:

- Do not reply or click on anything in the email
- Look at the sender's email address to see if it is their normal address
- Contact your friend by phone or their normal email address to confirm if it really is them – if not, **Delete it!**



"Leadership from the Maori World"

Remember our gifted book is on the book table to be borrowed if you are interested. Sign up if you want a turn.



Probus
SOUTH PACIFIC

Did you know?

Your Probus membership gives you access to the **Member Benefits Scheme**, offering exclusive discounts from a variety of participating businesses as well as travel insurance. You can find details on our website under [Member Benefits](#), or just click [here](#) for details of the offers available.

Volunteering opportunities for Probus members

From time to time, we have representatives from charities speak at our club meetings. Invariably these organisations need support and may have volunteering opportunities for Probus members who would like to share the significant knowledge, skills and experience they have built up over decades. We will publicise any such opportunities in our newsletters and, should you wish to offer your services, please contact the charity directly. Contact details will always be given.

Volunteer at BGI - Grow, connect, and make a difference in our community.

Whether you love gardening, cooking, art, mentoring young people, or sharing your skills, BGI has a place for you! Our volunteers help grow food, nurture creativity, and build connections that strengthen our young people and the whole community.

Volunteering is based at our Community Hub and Kitchen at 3 Macdonald Crescent, Te Aro. Carparking is available for volunteers.

Current Volunteer Roles:

1. **Community Garden Helper** – Help plant, weed and care for our community vegetable garden ‘Maramatanga’ in MacDonald Crescent.
When: Mondays, 4pm – 5:30pm (time changes seasonally)
2. **Art Gallery Host** – Welcome visitors into our community art gallery ‘Social’.
When: Any day Mon-Sat, 11am-1pm (2-hour shifts)
3. **Art Gallery Openings** - Be part of our openings at our art gallery ‘Social’. Help with hospitality, bar set-up, serving drinks, making sandwiches, and packing down after the event.
When: When needed for exhibition openings.
4. **Community Kitchen Helper** – Have fun in our community kitchen preparing nutritious meals from rescued food and our community garden.
When: Thursday 10am-12pm (2 hours).
5. **Volunteer Communications** – Share the story. Help write our garden Newsletter and/or manage our Instagram page or update our Web page.
When: Flexible times.
6. **Youth Engagement Opportunities** – Be a positive presence in a young person’s life. Hang out at our small school. The youth workers and young people feel enriched just having elderly people there and interested. Share a meal, join in on their hobbies or offer encouragement. Working alongside our skilled youth workers.
When: Flexible times (training provided).
7. **Life Skills Mentor** – Teach valuable life skills within our education pathway programme or something unique you have to offer!
When: Flexible times.

One-off volunteering role for someone with project and/or event management, or communications skills:

8. **Youth Development Conference** – Assisting youth workers, bring your knowledge and experience to help organise a two- or three-day youth development conference, provisionally scheduled for late 2025, early 2026. Expressions of interest for now with further details to come.

Not sure where you fit?

We would love to meet you, hear your story, and find a role that matches your interests!

Contact us:

Phone: 04-385 9549 or Ross Davis (Director) 027 4975227

Email: Michael Person michael@bgi.org.nz

Or stop by for a visit at 3 Macdonald Crescent, Te Aro!

Visits & Outings

Members are encouraged to put forward their suggestions for visits or outings to a member of the committee.

- **Dining Out – Sheila Kleyn 021 089 54426 – sheilakleyn@hotmail.com**

STRATHMORE
LOCAL
SINCE 1954
Bar & Restaurant
LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS



35 members enjoyed our latest Dining Out at **Strathmore Local** on 19th August. Thanks to Denise for organising this.

The next Dining Out will be at 12 noon on Wednesday, 17th September at **SHED 22**, 4 Taranaki Street (on the Waterfront next to the Circa Theatre). Pub food, burgers, pizza, pasta etc. You can see the menu [here](#).



If you would like to come please put your name on the list at the Club meeting.

- **Monthly Tea/Coffee Morning**



This is an informal get-together at 10.00am on the fourth Thursday of each month (except December) at Polo, on the corner of Rotherham Terrace and Para Street, Miramar. There's no need to book, just come along for a snack and a chat.

Next one: Thursday, 25th September.

Special Interest Groups

Group Leaders, please send dates, news, and pictures (relevant to the activity) for inclusion in the next newsletter to the editor, *Peter How* - peterhow@hotmail.com – *Deadline for next edition: 28th September.*

- **Quiddler: Kit Burford 027 930 2009 - kitkenburford@gmail.com**



The Quiddler group meets on the first Thursday of the month, and welcomes new members, even if you haven't played before.

Our next game is at John Ellings' house, 35 Ventnor St, Seatoun at 1.30pm, Thursday 4th September. Please come and join us. Enquiries to Kit Burford.



Quiddler Group Winner
August 2023 Denise
Karageorge

- **500 Group: Warren Fitzsimons 021 107 3036 – warrenfitzsimons@gmail.com**



The 500 group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month starting at 1:30pm, with a short afternoon tea break. Three tables of four can be accommodated. There are now 12 permanent players but there is room for other occasional players. Training or brush up skills are offered if you are keen to join.

If you are interested, please contact Warren for details of times and venue.

- **Walking Group: David Williams 027 688 5065 - loisanddavid@xtra.co.nz**

The Walking Group meets every Monday at 10.00am. *Please contact Lois or David for further information.*



By Wellington Croquet Club - 25th August

- **Hassle Free Cooking: John Ellings 04 973 8096 – j.a.ellings@gmail.com**

Our Hassle Free Cooking is amongst the oldest Special Interest groups in our club, active for over fifteen years, with several original members, some of whom now quite properly choose to enjoy the cooking of restaurant chefs as an alternative to cooking in their own kitchen. The group spent a pleasant hour in the host's home before dining at the Brentwood Hotel in Kilbirnie. Not an extensive menu, but the meals were excellent, with a good wine list, and we can recommend it to you as worth a visit.



Hassle Free Group July 2025

Think about forming a Probus Cooking Group yourself, it can be female, male or mixed gender, five or six a good number for most kitchens. We will give you initial support and get you under way.

Talk to me or any committee member if you would like to start a group. You will be pleased you did.

John Ellings

- **Hot Stuff Baking Group: Martin Clarke 021 810919 - taipak29@gmail.com**

The latest meeting of the Hot Stuff Baking Group took place on Tuesday 12th August and on this occasion we visited the UK to get our baking inspiration; we made Eccles Cakes.

Eccles is a market town within the City of Salford, close to Manchester, and its major claim to fame is its reputation for these little pastries, which have always been referred to as cakes; they have been produced in the town for centuries. Apparently the town's parish church used to hold an annual service known as the Eccles Wakes, after which a fair was held and food and drink, including Eccles cakes, were consumed; when the Puritans came to power in 1650, however, both Eccles Wakes and Eccles cakes were banned, as they were considered too rich and sumptuous!

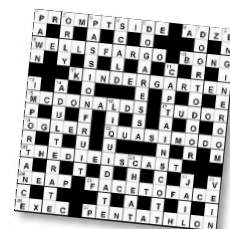


The cakes are now made with puff pastry rather than flour, but the filling is probably much the same as it was all that time ago! We used butter, sugar, mixed peel (not available in Miramar a couple of days ago, but sourced in Kilbirnie!), cinnamon, nutmeg and currants; we cut out rounds of pastry, filled them with the currant mixture and sealed them, rolled them flat and baked them in a hot oven. They were just delicious, and in fact....they were rich and sumptuous!

- **Cryptic Crosswords: Ernie Koch, (04) 934 9805 or 027 459 6451 - erniek10@gmail.com**

The Cryptic Crossword Group meets every couple of weeks or so at Lyall Bay or Strathmore. We work separately and together to fill in puzzles, helping each other with the tougher clues. Even if you have found these crosswords difficult in the past, there is plenty of help available. A cup of tea or coffee is served and there is time for a chat.

If you're interested in joining us, please give Ernie a call.



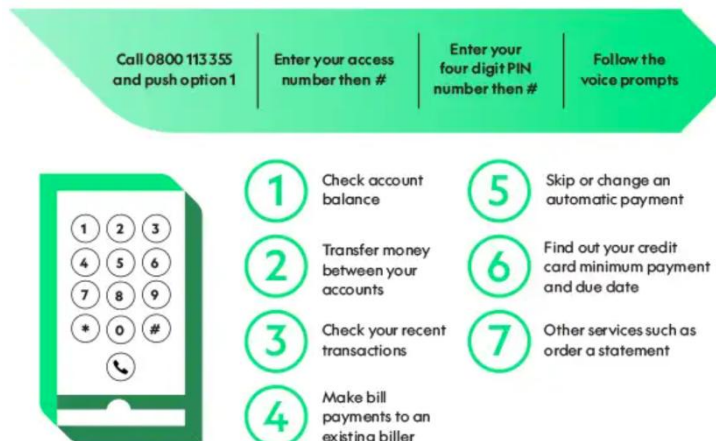
- **Technology Group: John Ellings (04) 973 8096 – j.a.ellings@gmail.com**

Telephone Banking – a simple and easy alternative to internet banking just by using your phone.

Before internet banking became ubiquitous and widely available, many of us used telephone banking. This service is still available from all the major banks, a user-friendly free service which can perform many of the basic functions of internet banking but without the need for internet or Wi-Fi. All you need is a landline or mobile phone.

We can have telephone *and* internet banking, with telephone banking as an alternative when internet banking via phone, tablet or computer is unavailable.

The diagram above is typical of the main transactions you can do with your phone and covers many of the day-to-day functions we transact with internet banking. You will only need to speak to an operator for such things as adding a new name to your existing list of payees.



A useful article from BNZ: ["How to use Telephone Banking"](#) also gives an idea of what is involved. All banks will have a similar guide.

An initial phone call to your bank will guide you through the set-up and provide you with a unique access code, which should be kept private and secure. After that you can do all your normal banking even when you don't have access to the internet.

SUMMARY: For anyone who is looking for an alternative to internet banking on their phone, computer or other device, telephone banking is the way to go.

*If you would like to know more about any of the topics covered by the group, or have any comments or feedback, please contact **John Ellings**.*

Todd's Teasers - Here are a few questions and puzzles to exercise your brain.

By Todd Foster

In the 1960s

Place these events in chronological order.

- The new Canadian flag featuring a stylised maple leaf was adopted.
- The assassination of US President John F Kennedy
- The Aberfan coal-mining disaster in Wales
- The Inangahua earthquake
- The Beatles toured New Zealand

General knowledge

The initial letters of the answers spell the name of a kitchen utensil

1. Of which US state is Charleston the capital city?
2. In the Bible, who is Noah's second son?
3. Which Middle Eastern country has the most free and independent Arabic press?
4. What is the first name of the actress who played astronaut Ryan Stone in the 2013 space survival movie *Gravity*?
5. In which 1990s English sitcom was the main character called Hyacinth Bucket?

Early television westerns

1. Who was the oldest son of Ben Cartwright in the show *Bonanza*?
2. What was the name of Manolito's sister in the show *The High Chaparral*?
3. Which actor played Judge Henry Garth in the show *The Virginian*?
4. What was the name of Clint Eastwood's character in the show *Rawhide*?
5. Which Kansas town was the setting for the show *Gunsmoke*?

(Answers on last page)

Notices

Club Bank Account

The Club bank account is: **02-0520-0029712-000 (Wellington Combined Probus Club)**. When making a payment please include your name as reference.

Permission to use photographs

Our Newsletter is sent to Probus South Pacific Limited in Australia and to local Probus Clubs. Sometimes PSPL use photographs of our activities in their publications. Our own website is progressing well, and from time to time, there will be photographs of Club members on that. If you do not want your photograph used in this way, please let Todd Foster know. Silence will be taken as "permission granted".

Suggestion Box

Please take the opportunity to let the Committee know your thoughts and/or suggestions by writing a note and leaving it in the Suggestion Box which you will find on a table as you enter the meeting venue. It's a pretty pink - you can't miss it. Pen and paper provided. Both brickbats and bouquets accepted and encouraged, and there's no need to leave your name unless you wish to do so.

Visitors

If you are bringing a visitor to our meeting, please ask for a temporary badge as you come in. Then introduce the visitor to the President so they can be welcomed by name. Beryl Smyth, another committee member, will also assist.

Gluten-free

If you require gluten-free food, there is a limited supply available on the trolley in the kitchen at morning tea time. Just pop in and help yourself.

Membership List, Club Constitution and Privacy Policy

A full Membership List is distributed periodically with the Newsletter. The Club Constitution has been updated in 2025 and is always available on our website, or you can download it here: [Constitution 2025](#) and [Standing Resolutions 2025](#). There is also a new Privacy Policy which will be available on the website.

Leaving the Club

If you no longer wish to belong to the club, please inform one of the committee members and formally resign, so that your name can be taken off the membership list.

Almoner

If you are aware of a Club member who is not well, or who, for any reason, would benefit from receiving a card/phone call/contact from the Club, please contact Beryl Smyth.

Travel Insurance

Probus South Pacific has joined with Allianz Partners New Zealand to provide travel insurance for Probus members for both domestic and international travel. Members who wish to apply for travel insurance can visit the website [here](#) or call the Allianz team directly on 0800 800 048.

Probus Member Benefits Scheme

The Probus South Pacific Limited Member Benefits Scheme offers members exclusive discounts from a variety of participating businesses. Click [here](#) for details.

2025/26 COMMITTEE		
Todd Foster	President	027 475 2139 - tjfoster@xtra.co.nz
Vacant	Vice President	
Tricia O'Donnell	Immediate Past President	021 215 7740 - triciao2285@gmail.com
Sheila Fitzsimons	Treasurer / Catering	021 443 043 - sheilafitzsimons@gmail.com
Jan Humphries	Secretary	021 265 2973 – janice.humphries@gmail.com
Cedric Croft	Membership	021 162 9599 - croft.nevay@xtra.co.nz
Beryl Smyth	Almoner	04 972 1642 - bandk151@gmail.com
Vacant	Dining Out	
Sheila Kleyn	Speakers	021 0895 4426 – sheilakleyn@hotmail.com
Peter How	Newsletter	021 042 8451 - peterhow@hotmail.com
Barbara Eagle*	Website Coordinator	027 298 3339 - eagle.barbara@gmail.com

*Co-opted

Answers to Quiz:

In the 1960s

1. Assassination of John F Kennedy - November 1963
2. The Beatles toured NZ - June 1964
3. The new Canadian flag was adopted - February 1965
4. Aberfan coal-mining disaster - October 1966
5. The Inangahua earthquake - May 1968

General knowledge

1. West Virginia
2. Ham
3. Israel
4. Sandra (Bullock)
5. Keeping up Appearances

The kitchen utensil is a whisk.

Early television westerns

1. Adam
2. Victoria
3. Lee J Cobb
4. Rowdy Yates
5. Dodge City

We are all here on earth to help
others; what on earth the others
are here for I don't know.

W. H. Auden



ALEXIA STODDART

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