



WELLINGTON COMBINED PROBUS

July 2025 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: **Thursday 14th August 2025**

(Please send apologies to Cedric Croft 021 162 9599 - croft.nevay@xtra.co.nz)

Member Speaker: **Sheila Fitzsimons**

Guest Speaker: **Matt Morris - "Slightly foxed and heavily badgered second-hand books in Wellington"**



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 – July 2025

Making a Difference



Listening to Ross and Kahu talk about the work of BGI at our last Club meeting I was again struck by the good work done by so many on behalf of those who, for whatever reason, need a helping hand.

In today's materialistic and mostly self-centred world, doing good for others is sometimes regarded as negative. It may be seen as being motivated by wanting praise or to be liked. Labelled as 'people pleasers', such individuals are thought to be only acting out of a desire for validation or appreciation and are meeting others' needs at the expense of their own.

Perhaps an overreliance on wanting to please others does become a problem when it stops us from standing up to others or for ourselves. However, striving to freely serve and help someone else because we sincerely care for them and want them to benefit from our help is surely a good thing.

As members of society, and even of our Club, each of us is one among many. We have different strengths and weaknesses. Wanting to use our skills or strengths to help another's weakness or need should not be seen as a bad thing, but simply the way communities connect.

Whether we are involved in an agency like BGI or simply offering encouragement or support to a friend, child or grandchild, I believe we should do what we can to make a positive difference. Not because we expect anything in return, or that it will make us feel 'worthy', but simply because we are doing what we can to improve our world.

All the best for August – don't forget we are meeting on the 14th.

Todd

*"Even if you are on the right track, you'll
get run over if you just sit there."*

Will Rogers



Calendar of Events – August 2025

Date	Event	Location	Time
Every Monday	Walking Group	Check with David or Lois	10:00am
Thursday, 7 th August	Quiddler	John Ellings'	1:30pm
Monday, 11 th August	Cryptic Crossword Group	Ernie Koch's	2:30pm
Thursday, 14 th August	Probus Monthly Meeting	Baptist Church, Miramar	10:00am
Tuesday, 19 th August	Dining Out	Strathmore Local	12 noon
Thursday, 21 st August	Monthly Committee Meeting	Tricia O'Donnell's	1:30pm
Monday, 25 th August	Cryptic Crossword Group	Ernie Koch's	2:30pm
Thursday, 28 th August	Tea/Coffee Morning	Cafe Polo, Miramar	10:00am
Thursday, 28 th August	500 Group	Warren Fitzsimons	1:30pm
Friday, 29 th August	Deadline for submission of Newsletter stories/pictures		
(For group events please check dates and times with the group organizers)			

At the July Meeting

Members Present: 76 – Apologies: 20 – Absent: 13 – Visitors: 1

Guest speakers: *Ross Davis and Kahukura Ritchie*



Ross, who has been the Director of the Boys' and Girls' Institute (BGI) for an impressive 23 years, outlined the 140-year history of innovation since BGI's foundation in 1883 as the Boys Institute. It is a story of firsts – first youth organisation in New Zealand, first to provide accommodation for apprentices coming to work in Wellington (in partnership with the YMCA), first gymnasium, first swimming pool in the southern hemisphere and first trampolining club, to the present day where the focus of the charity is on youth mentoring – a program called Challenge for Change. BGI, exclusively Wellington based, has occupied several buildings in the past, now residing in the bright and welcoming custom-built premises in MacDonald Crescent with its impressive carved poutokomanawa symbolically supporting the roof. Many famous people have been associated with BGI's work over the years including the cricketer, Harry Drummond, who is featured on the pou in his cricket togs.

BGI's mentoring programme is now in its third generation, alongside other initiatives such as parenting classes, anti-bullying initiatives and cultural education. There is also a community gallery connecting BGI to the wider Wellington community.

Kahukura, originally one of the young people helped by BGI to find their way in life (and encouraged by the offer of a free meal!), has since achieved a bachelor's degree in youth development and now works as a team leader, youth worker and mentor. Kahu described his introduction to BGI and how the mentoring program works in practice.



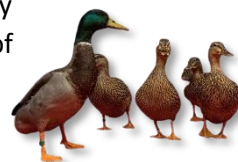
If you would like to learn more about BGI and the work they do to help young people, you can visit their website by clicking [here](#).

Ross and Kahukura were introduced by Sheila Kleyn and thanked by Warren Fitzsimons

Member speaker: *Dianne Little*



Dianne told us about her recent trip to Nashville and Memphis to pay homage to Dolly Parton and Elvis Presley. After stopping over in Fiji for her first (and possibly last) taste of kava she travelled on to Tennessee and visited Dolly Parton's home, the Grand Ole Opry, the Country Music Hall of Fame, Nashville Zoo with its two-toed sloths, Graceland and Dollywood and even found time to see the famous Peabody Ducks.



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

NEW! Door Raffle

We will have a door raffle at our next meeting for a bit of fun and to help club funds, with two draws held at the end of the meeting.



Tickets will be on sale at the door and at morning tea, \$2 each or 3 for \$5. **Please bring cash, (preferably the exact money).**



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.



New Sponsor

We welcome our new sponsor from Tommy's Real Estate, **Alexia Stoddart**, who is taking over from Joanna Simpson.

We look forward to seeing Alexia at one of our future meetings.



"Leadership from the Maori World"



Our guest speaker Ross Davis from BGI has very kindly donated this book to our Club, and it will be available for all members to read.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting where people can indicate that they would like to read it, and to enable it to be tracked so we don't lose it. The book can be passed from member to member, brought to the meeting to be swapped, or phone Tricia O'Donnell 04 934 3179 to collect it and deliver to the next person. It is a magnificent book, well worth dipping into for words of wisdom.



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.

Visits & Outings

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

- **Dining Out – Denise Karageorge 021 149 9806 - tagd.kgeorge@xtra.co.nz *See note below**



The next Dining Out will be at 12 noon on Tuesday, 19th August at **Strathmore Local**, 3/5 Strathmore Avenue, Strathmore. You can see the menu [here](#).

Bring your Super Gold Card! →

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



** We are still looking for someone to organise the monthly Dining Out. If you would consider taking this on, please speak to Sheila Fitzsimons or any other committee member.*

- **Monthly Tea/Coffee Morning**



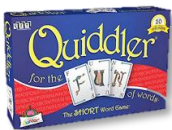
This is an informal get-together at 10.00am on the fourth Thursday of each month (except December) at Polo, on the corner of Rotherham Terrace and Para Street, Miramar. There's no need to book, just come along for a snack and a chat.

Next one: Thursday, 28th August.

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: 29th August.

- **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 7th August. Please come and join us. Enquiries to Kit Burford.



Quiddler Group July 2025

- **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**

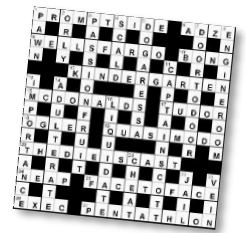
The Walking Group meets every Monday at 10.00am. *Please contact Lois or David for further information.*



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

The Cryptic Crossword Group meets at 2:30pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month at Lyall Bay. 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**

Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking devices – Track anything or anyone from your phone.



While the above price is not typical, these devices are readily available from well under \$10 for a basic replaceable battery model. Affordable for tracking anything that can be lost or people going astray. Prices vary depending on battery type, battery life, features such as water resistance, accuracy, user friendly app, geo-fencing, compact size, alerts ability, real-time data, route replay, live updates etc.

All GPS trackers, even the cheapest units, will track a device anywhere in the world provided it is in the range of satellites, which is virtually global coverage. Once the tracker app is installed on your mobile phone, a quick check will show its actual location on a map.

Geo-fencing is a very useful feature where it is desirable to know when the asset or person has moved beyond the boundaries of a pre-set area. The area can be metres or kilometres. Examples include pets that roam, persons with some degree of memory loss, children, shared equipment or vehicles, bicycles and scooters, almost anything with the ability to move or be moved. An alert will be received immediately the pre-set boundary is crossed, showing its current location.

Location maps show outlines of all structures and buildings so tracker will not only show item or person is in the building, but will also show the actual location within the structure, useful in public buildings, shops, large complexes like retirement villages, sports arenas, golf courses, parks etc.

Typically, trackers are used to be carried by elderly people, teens and children, and attached to dogs, cats and other pets, vehicles, key rings, luggage, boats, bicycles, scooters, sports equipment, power garden tools, tradies equipment, remote controls, jewellery boxes, bags, wallets - the list goes on.

Purchase from a range of stores, or online. Do some research to find the one with the features you want.

This website gives useful information on trackers: [Best GPS Trackers for the Elderly In 2025](#)

*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

Around Australia

1. What city contains around half the population of the Northern Territory?
2. Which city is bigger, Townsville or Cairns?
3. What is the name of the international airport closest to the Gold Coast?
4. In what Australian city is the large cultural heritage site known as Kings Park?
5. What Australian state originally bore the name of Dutch colonial governor, Antonio van Diemen?

General knowledge

The initial letters of the answers (surnames of people) spell the name of a useful building product.

1. The wailing of what Irish mythic figure is said to portend approaching death?
2. Who played halfback for the All Blacks in the first two rugby Tests against France in July?
3. What is the video-sharing social media platform owned by Meta Platforms?
4. What European country lies due south of Slovenia?
5. Who was the mid-twentieth century US actor, singer and musician who once conducted a performance of "The Flight of the Bumblebee" with a flyswat?

1970s Television Adverts

1. What petrol company's advert encouraged drivers to 'Go Well'?
2. What trail bike was advertised using a Split Enz song with the phrase "Get it together and let xxxxxx blow your mind"?
3. What toothpaste advert contained the words 'Show us your smile – white is in style'?
4. Which company's biscuits were advertised by Cookie Bear?
5. What beverage featured in the advert that showed disaster 'victims' getting up from their stretchers, discarding their crutches and joining Red Cross workers after "a good strong cup of xxxxxx."?

(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 and Club Constitution

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](#)

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 - tricio2285@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:

Around Australia

1. Darwin
2. Townsville (200,000 v 150,000)
3. Coolangatta
4. Perth
5. Tasmania

General Knowledge puzzles

1. Banshee
2. Cameron Roigard
3. Instagram
4. Croatia
5. Danny Kaye

(The building product is *a brick*)

1970s Television Adverts

1. Shell Oil
2. Suzuki
3. Macleans Toothpaste
4. Hudsons
5. Choysa Tea

Courage is what it takes to stand up
and speak; courage is also what it
takes to sit down and listen.

Winston Churchill



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