



WELLINGTON COMBINED PROBUS

September 2025 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: **Thursday 9th October 2025**

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

Member Speaker: **Penny Griffith – “Tales from Madagascar Part II.”**

Guest Speaker: **Lynette Shum – “Remembering Wellington’s Chinatown – With both eyes open”**

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 – September 2025



At our meeting earlier this month I was struck by the enjoyment in their work shown by both of our excellent speakers; retired teacher Brian Allen and weaver Christine Brimer from Niche Textile Studio.

In Brian’s case it was the teaching and mentoring of boys and girls, passing on skills that would last their lifetime; and in Christine’s it was the craft and expertise she applied to make attractive and useful items for others to enjoy.

Both made it clear they were happy in their work without having set out to pursue happiness for its own sake. Their focus was on how they could help and share with others the skills they had learned, while making a living doing so.

We are now retired from our ‘working’ lives and I’d like to think we can all look back with satisfaction to instances where our efforts at work benefited others. But such satisfaction need not be confined to our past lives. I am constantly impressed by the skill, common sense and selflessness of our members and know that in the days and years we have ahead of us we can continue to use these attributes to benefit others so that our lives continue to matter.

Joshua Becker summed it up well in his 2022 book *Things that Matter*:

‘The best direct pathway to lasting happiness and fulfilment is to look not only at our own interests, but also at the interests of others’.

In 1967 then 16-year-old New Zealand singer Brendan Dugan brought out a song written by Ned Miller with a chorus that went:

Do what you do do well, boy,
Do what you do do well.
Give your love and all of your heart
And do what you do do well.

While the grammar may be suspect, the sentiment is clear, even now we can bring joy to others and happiness to ourselves by doing what we can as well as we can – just like Brian and Christine.

See you in a couple of months.

Todd

Calendar of Events – September 2025

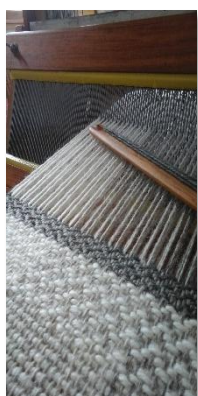
Date	Event	Location	Time
Every Monday	Walking Group	Check with David or Lois	10:00am
Thursday, 2 nd October	Quiddler	John Ellings’	1:30pm
Thursday, 9th October	Probus Monthly Meeting	Baptist Church, Miramar	10:00am
Tuesday, 14 th October	Dining Out	Ruby’s Café, Mana	12 noon
Thursday, 16 th October	Monthly Committee Meeting	Tricia O’Donnell’s	1:30pm
Thursday, 23 rd October	Tea/Coffee Morning	Cafe Polo, Miramar	10:00am
Thursday, 23 rd October	500 Group	Warren Fitzsimons	1:30pm
Thursday, 30 th October	Deadline for submission of Newsletter stories/pictures		
(For group events please check dates and times with the group organizers)			

At the September Meeting

Members Present: 72 – Apologies: 20 – Absent: 16 – Visitors: 2

Guest speaker: *Christine Brimer*

Christine is a design-trained weaver running a solo studio focused on sustainable, ethical textile design. Her work is often inspired by metaphors, natural landscapes, and ecological principles. She uses undyed natural fibres, especially strong New Zealand wool, which might otherwise simply be composted, as well as other materials such as linen, cotton, hemp, and paper where appropriate to create the desired textures and strength.



Although she works mostly at home on her own, she often collaborates with other artists to come up with new ideas and explores new techniques and materials to achieve her goals. While she started out producing items directly for sale, she has since moved more towards commissions from architects and interior designers rather than mass retail and has made the decision to remain a small scale, single person studio.

While not going into detail about the weaving process, Christine did show us some of the great variety of beautiful work that she has produced. She has provided items for several films and was chosen to make one of the three gifts that New Zealand sent to William and Kate on the birth of Prince Louis, a beautiful shawl. She also makes bread cloths for sale for the benefit of City Mission.

Somehow, she also finds the time to be a consummate yachtswoman, wife, mother and pizza-maker.

If you would like to know more about Christine's work, you can visit her website:

<https://www.nichetextilestudio.co.nz>. She has also sent us two other links which she recommends for those interested: papahoafibreworks.nz and <https://materialmatters.design/Podcast>.

Christine was introduced by Sheila Kleyn and thanked by Joan Foster

Member speaker: **Brian Allen**



Brian talked about his career as a woodwork teacher and how he first got into teaching, having tried working for BNZ (for a week) and then as an apprentice builder. He talked about the different schools that he worked in, and the great satisfaction that he derived from the success of his students. He showed us a beautiful taiaha which was made by a Maori carver who asked to use his workshop, and which was given to him as a parting gift. The story was that if you left the taiaha by your front door, no Maori tempted to break into your house would steal anything.

Brian also spoke of the affection which many of his students held for him, and the pleasure he felt when he was greeted in the street by them many years later.



Brian's taiaha

In Memorium:

Helena "Paddy" Romijn

At the Club meeting Todd announced the death of Paddy Romijn on 31st of August at the age of 93. Paddy was a long-time member of our Club and was well-known to many of us. She was also a long-time member of Kairangi Bridge Club. A moment's silence was observed in her memory.

Ann Cork

We also regret to report the death, on Wednesday 17th September, of Ann Cork. Ann joined our club in 2012. Her obituary in The Post says that a private cremation will be held, and that in lieu of flowers, donations to Cancer Society NZ would be appreciated and may be made online at <https://www.cancer.org.nz/donate-now>. There is also a message from Ann - *"To all who knew me, it has been a pleasure to make your acquaintance. Enjoy the day."* Our condolences to Bryan.

Matters Arising

Christmas Lunch at the Pines

This year's Christmas Lunch will at noon on Thursday 4th December at the Pines. We hope everyone will come, and the earlier you can pay, the better. As usual there will be a cash bar and spot prizes.

Please pay \$42 per person to our bank account:
02-0520-0029712-000 (Wellington Combined Probus Club) and **include your surname** as reference. If you would prefer to pay in cash, please hand the correct amount in an envelope with your name to Sheila Fitzsimons at the October or November meetings.



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



“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.

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**



*16 members enjoyed our latest Dining Out at **Shed 22** on 17th September on a windy Wellington day.*

The next Dining Out will be at noon on Tuesday, 14th October at Rubys Café in Mana, 99 Mana Esplanade, Paremata. We will take the train there and back so it will be a nice excursion for those who want to attend. Some people may wish to drive. We will catch the 11.30 train and arrive in Mana at 12.00. The train is free for Gold Card holders. We can be back in Wellington before 3.00pm so people can use their Gold Card for a bus trip home as well. 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, 23rd October.

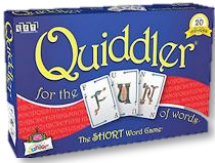
- **Visit to BGI – Sheila Kleyn – 021 0895 4426 – sheilakleyn@hotmail.com**

The proposed visit to BGI is provisionally set for Wednesday, 12th November at 10:30am. This will be a chance to see where BGI's activities take place and some of the artworks mentioned by Ross Davis at our meeting in July. A notice will be sent out in mid-October to gather the names of those interested in coming.

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: 30th October.*

- **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 2nd October. Please come and join us. Enquiries to Kit Burford.



- **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.*



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



Host Charles Blades and the group prepared and enjoyed a dish which was a treat for the taste buds being a mix of sweet and savoury – Nectarine and Haloumi Bruschetta – try it sometime.

Bruschetta is an Italian dish comprising grilled bread drizzled with oil and topped with any of a variety of seasonal fruits, garlic, tomatoes, haloumi cheese and more, then cooked under the grill.



Remember we will help with starting another cooking group, just needs a convenor to get it moving. – *John Ellings*

- **Wine Tasting Group: David Williams 027 305 3697 - loisanddavid@xtra.co.nz**



Anyone interested in joining please contact David or Lois

- **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**

Automated Teller Machine (ATM) – it swallowed your card, your money, or both. Don't worry, it may never happen, but you should know why it may happen, how best to avoid it, and what to do if it does.

YOUR CARD – When your card reappears from the ATM slot after a transaction, you remove it which then allows the cash or the account balance receipt to appear, dependent on the transaction type.

When the card emerges from the card slot, you have about fifteen seconds, sometimes a bit longer, to remove the card from the slot. After that time, the ATM will swallow the card back into the ATM.

Such short delays in retrieving your card can occur by you dropping something, a nearby event, a person greeting you, strong wind gusts, a shower of rain, checking who is close behind you or similar. In that brief time of fifteen seconds your card is gone.

If in that short time someone took your card, your account and funds are safe, as your ATM entered pin would have expired and they would then require your pin for a new transaction.

Cards can be swallowed for other reasons such as repeated use of incorrect pin numbers, using an expired or blocked card, and technical issues can cause an ATM to keep your card.

If your card is swallowed you must block your card online and contact your bank without delay. If the ATM is one on bank premises, the bank may retrieve it for you, otherwise the card will be destroyed by the ATM security company after the ATM is next serviced.

*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**.*



YOUR MONEY - Money left in the slot before removal has a longer time to remain, perhaps thirty seconds or more, if not removed by some other party, but will be swallowed back into the machine after the time has expired.

Steps you can take if your money is swallowed include not leaving, but waiting a short while as the money may reappear, check and keep the receipt, contact your bank, report issue to the bank owning the ATM if not your bank, keep a record and follow up for action from the bank, and monitor your account for any unauthorised or unusual transactions.

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

By Todd Foster

1. What is 2814 written in Roman numerals?
2. Two muesli bars and three bananas cost \$3.90. Three muesli bars and two bananas cost \$3.60. How much does one banana cost?
3. In a room there are 15 men, six of whom are wearing hats. There are 9 people altogether wearing hats, and 3 women who are not wearing hats. How many people are in the room?
4. Dan and Alice have a combined age of 50. Ten years ago Dan was twice as old as Alice. How old are they now?

The answers to the next five teasers are all connected in some way to a popular television show.

5. What name is given to someone who makes or sells candles, and to a dealer in equipment for ships?

6. What is the first name of the Yugoslav-born tennis player who, in 1990, became the youngest-ever French Open champion at the age of 16?
7. What name is given to a baby kangaroo?
8. In Greek mythology which Titan was the mother of Leto and grandmother of Apollo and Artemis?
9. What small West Coast town lies midway between Hokitika and Hari Hari?
10. A girl throws a ball as hard as she can. It comes back to her, even though nothing and nobody touches it. How?
11. A horse attached to a 6-metre-long chain reaches an apple that is 7 metres away without a problem. How is that possible?
12. Months that contain Friday the 13th always start on what day?

What expressions are represented by the following dingbats?

13. W F A I I B T
14. R E V L I S
15. V S B A R L E Y

(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](#) 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 - 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
Sheila Fitzsimons	Dining Out (from November)	021 443 043 - sheilafitzsimons@gmail.com
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:

1. MMDCCCXIV
2. 90c
3. 21
4. Dan is 30 & Alice is 20
5. Chandler
6. Monica (Seles)
7. Joey
8. Phoebe
9. Ross

(The television show linking the answers is *Friends*)

10. She throws it straight up in the air!
11. The other end of the chain is not attached to anything.
12. Sunday
13. Lie in wait
14. Silverback
15. Against the grain.

ALEXIA STODDART

NO.1 Agent 2020/2021/2022/2023

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