



PORT DOUGLAS & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

December 2025 Newsletter

Port Douglas & District Probus Club was formed after an expression of interest held at the Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre on 26th August 2024

President's Message:

Dear Probus Members,

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As I write this there are only 22 days left until Christmas!! Can you believe it?! Have a wonderful festive season and enjoy all those Christmas catch ups and New Year celebrations. Send us some recounts of how you spent either or both. This is your newsletter and contributions are most welcome and encouraged! For those travelling, take care and stay safe!

Our November meeting was quite significant and successful as we had quite a bit of governance to get through. I am happy to report that our Club has now officially adopted the recommended Constitution and Standing Resolutions, which the sub-committee of Chris, Toni and I have been working on for a couple of months. Both these documents were initially presented to the remainder of the committee, from which some minor adjustments were made, before being presented to members at the November meeting. Both documents were accepted by a show of hands and the majority, if not all members present, voted in favour of their acceptance.

Incredibly happy to have this ticked off before the end of 2025!

Next year we will focus on some other policies such as Risk Management Policy, especially for our activities and our events, Waiting List Policy, and Privacy Policy. Once these are agreed upon, the Committee will investigate what is required for us to become an Incorporation, which is advised by South Pacific Probus HQ. In addition, our goal is to correlate and complete the new Members Handbook, which will be given out to all current members and then as each new member joins. The exact contents of this are still being discussed, but it will hold a copy of all our policies, a list with a photo and contact details of other members (unless you let us know you don't want to be included) and a list of the current committee. This item will remain on the agenda until it has been completed and distributed.

URGENT URGENT REQUEST!! This request is now doubly urgent; I have no member profiles for our "Spotlight On" section. Luckily, for this edition Dusty produced the idea of "Spotlight on All of Us!" This is my third request so please pen a few lines and email it to me at: mcsusan2000@yahoo.com

Management Committee

Susan Stafford

President

Newsletter Officer

M: 0403 169 859

E: mcsusan2000@yahoo.com

Julie Borbiro

Vice President

M: 0417 726 359

Christopher Saint

Secretary

Newsletter Officer

M: 0438 383 464

David Campbell

Treasurer

M: 0408 657 749

Dusty Howman

Guest Speaker Officer

Publicity Officer

Newsletter Officer

M: 0407 837 269

Toni Hickey

Outings/Activities Officer

M: 0437 320 340

Lorraine Potter

Outings/Activities Officer

M: 0427 993 392

Emily Morgan

Membership Officer

M: 0408 099 940

Wendy Crossman

Wellbeing Officer

M: 0499 035 666

Meeting day/time: 4th Monday of every month at 9:30 am (except January which is 3rd Monday)

Meeting venue: Tin Shed – Douglas Community & Sports Club Inc., 7 Ashford Ave, Port Douglas

Private and Confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.

President's report cont:

Our December 12th Christmas Party at Thala Lodge is approaching fast. If you haven't booked yet, please see the flyer included in this newsletter and RSVP asap! It will be a lovely social occasion to celebrate our Probus Community, Christmas, and the end of what was our first year as a club! I look forward to seeing you there – don't forget your name badges to make it easier for new members recently joined.

There will be no guest speaker at our January 2026 meeting due to many members still being away. Instead, we will have a longer social catch up, maybe a couple of games, and enjoy The Tin Shed's special morning tea at \$5 per head, payable on entry to our upstairs meeting area. Don't be caught out – this meeting is on January 19th – the only month when it is held on the third Monday of the month – pop it in the diary now. 😊

Please also diarize our first official AGM to be held on Monday February 23rd at the usual time and venue. There will be no pressure to become a committee member, so please show your support by attending. However, if you would like to join the committee, assist with activities, or find out any information, then please email or call me with your expression of interest.

I am seizing this opportunity to say an extremely big thank you to all the committee for their dedication and hard work throughout 2025, and to you as members who have embraced and contributed to our club this year! THANK YOU!!!

Stay safe and stay connected!

Best wishes,

Susan Stafford (Foundation President)

**We're all part of the Probus Community
Now let's get started having fun
with some exciting activities.**



**Next meeting dates/times:
19/01/2026 - 9:30am**



View Photos on Website https://www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/portdouglas/About_Us

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MEETINGS & EVENTS

Meetings

January 19th Meeting: Special Tin Shed morning tea - \$5 per head & please RSVP for catering purpose.

Social Events

**December Friday 12th 2025 @ 12.30
Christmas lunch**

Venue: Osprey Restaurant at Thala Beach Lodge
See flyer in this newsletter for details.

**February Tuesday 3rd 2026 @ 10.00 am (TBC)
Probus Travel Expo**
Club Mossman
More details to follow

Recent Social Events

November 22nd A small group attended Creative Souls Choir end of year concert, preceded by dinner at The Tin Shed at 5.00pm.

Proposed Social Events

These will be announced in the near future.

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO GENERAL MEETING
IN DECEMBER**

**Why not stay at our venue
after the meeting to get
to know each other better?**



SPOTLIGHT ON.....

US – All of Us

This was a great month for publicity for our club.

Not only did we feature in the local paper, *Douglas Gazette, Wednesday, November 19, 2025* but also Australia wide in the Probus South Pacific magazine, 26 Nov 2025.

Both articles were about our recent Mt Carbine tour, which it seems found quite a bit of interest from these medias.

Probus delves into details of Shire's tungsten mining

• MT CARBINE

I Gary 'Gazza' McIlroy

MT Carbine tungsten mine was the latest topic of interest at the recent Port Douglas and District Probus Club outing.

The mine is owned and operated by EQ Resources.

Their operations manager Ryan MacNeill delivered a safety address, before the Probus members departed the bus and boarded several four-wheel drive mining vehicles.

Mine staff then drove the visitors up to the top, where

they were able to get a view of the open pit.

"From here we could see the quartz veins that held the valuable tungsten metal," said Port Douglas and District Probus Club publicity officer Dusty Howman.

The visitors were then taken on a tour past the rock crushers and lastly to the final separation area where, using nothing more than water and gravity, the final tungsten metal pellets were produced, bagged and shipped off to Vietnam for further processing.

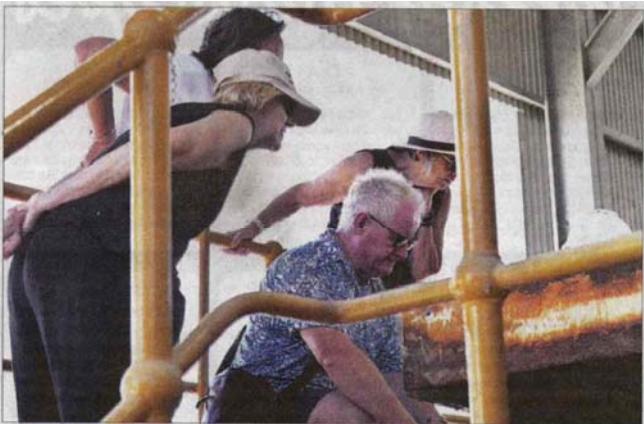
Probus members were surprised to see that this was an incredibly environmentally-clean

process. "It was so clean in fact, that fish live in the ponds from their mining wastewater," Mr Howman said.

"Overall, it was a very exciting outing for the members, many who had never seen a mining operation before."

After the mine tour, the Probus Members had lunch at Mt Molloy Hotel, which provided an opportunity to discuss the day before returning home.

For any Port Douglas & District Probus Club membership enquiries or more information contact Susan Stafford on mcsusan2000@yahoo.com



Probus members get close look at Mt Carbine tungsten mine. Picture: Supplied

Check out both of these articles in our local paper and also in the latest Probus magazine

[the Mt Carbine Tungsten Mine](#)



[ABOUT PROBUS](#) [JOIN PROBUS](#) [MEMBERS BENEFITS](#) [TRAVEL INS](#)

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An enjoyable outing to the Mt Carbine Tungsten Mine

26 Nov 2025

The Port Douglas and District Probus Club recently had a very successful and enjoyable club outing to the Mt Carbine Tungsten Mine.



It was a very exciting outing for the members, many who had never seen a mining operation before.

Several mine staff drove them up to the top, where they had a magnificent view of the open pit. From there, they could see the quartz veins that held the valuable tungsten metal.

They were then taken on a tour past the rock crushers and lastly to the final separation area where, using nothing more than water and gravity, the final tungsten metal pellets were produced, bagged and shipped off to Vietnam for further processing.

Probus members were surprised to see that this was an incredibly environmentally clean process. So clean in fact, that fish live in the ponds from their mining wastewater.

After the mine tour, back on the bus to the Mt Molloy Hotel for lunch, fun and friendship, before departing for home.

Membership fees

The Probus financial year is 1st April to 31st March. The annual fee of \$50.00 is due on 1st April each year. Members joining at any other time during the year will pay a pro rate price – please ask one of the committee. Fees can be paid by bank transfer to:

Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account: 223 888 819

Please also include your full name in the reference box when transferring so we can track who has paid!

PLEASE NOTE: The bank account number has changed.

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let's get together
HO! HO! HO!

PROBUS CHRISTMAS LUNCH
ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 12TH
AT 12.30PM

OSPREY- THALA LODGE

REGISTER TO LORRAINE
THOMBOAY@GMAIL.COM
CUT OFF DATE 5 DECEMBER
MEMBERS PAY AT OSPREY
FOR THEIR LUNCH AND DRINKS



Greetings
ISLAND

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PROBUS OUTING

The Tin Shed for dinner & then onto the Clink Theatre for the Creative Souls Choir end of year concert



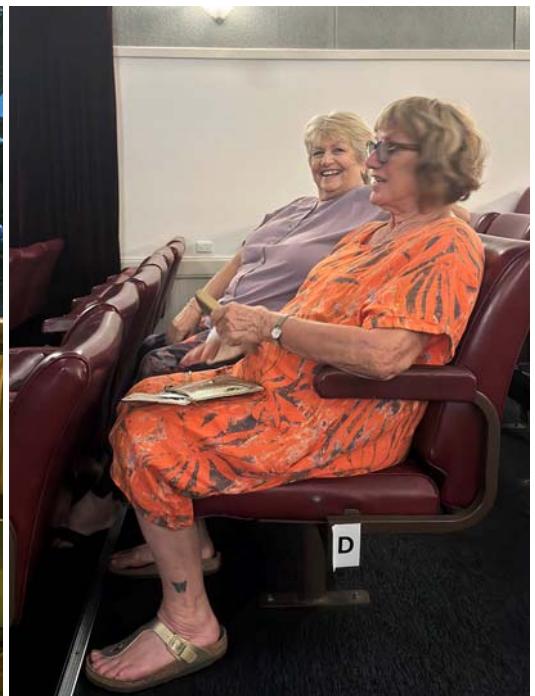
Dinner at the Tin Shed before the show



Sue and Kevin at dinner



Jayne, Julie and Lydia having a drink before the show



Jayne & Julie waiting for the show to start

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Creative Souls Choir



Concert Finale



Our esteemed President Susan shows off one of her other many talents

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GUEST SPEAKER

Nicky Swan – Guest Speaker at our November Meeting

Back in 1992 a young Nicky Swan decided it would be a great adventure to walk to the North Pole. This was to be with her then husband and nine other men. She went into training and then, the next year, 1993, the great adventure began. Nicky Swan headed off to the North Pole.

We were all amazed at what she went through. From landing in Russia, to travelling on old helicopters and then the actual walk to the North Pole. Most people didn't realise that the North Pole is in the middle of the ocean, and although iced over, the ice is continually moving. Even when they finally reached the North Pole, within a few minutes they had already moved away from it, just by standing still. This was a hugely successful presentation, and of course a mammoth task in itself. In fact, Nicky's group were the last group to ever walk to the North Pole. Climate warming has now made it impossible.



Probus members (29 in total) listening to Nicky Swan's presentation



Chris talks to the members



Susan introduces the new Constitution & Standing Resolutions

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November meeting continued:



North Pole Expedition 1993

How hard could it possibly be to walk to the North Pole?

← ↗ 🔍 CC □ ⌂ ↛

Nicky Swan prepares to walk to the North Pole



Nicky shows us slides of her walk



Nicky making a point



Lorraine & Toni listening to talk



Renee enjoys the presentation



Listening intently



That's a lot of ice

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