



PORT DOUGLAS & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

January 2026 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,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Bring on 2026!

On behalf of all the committee members I wish you a happy and healthy year ahead, filled with lots of special memory making moments with your loved ones – family and friends, and of course with your Probus family too!

We capped off 2025 with a fabulous lunch at Osprey Restaurant at Thala Beach Lodge. We had a great member turn out and lots of fun together – make sure you check out all the photos. Thank you all for your attendance and making it such a great event!

2026 will start with three closely consecutive opportunities:

1. The next meeting is January 19. Instead of a guest speaker we will have a longer social catch up to share Christmas and New Year stories whilst enjoying a special Tin Shed Morning Tea - \$5 per head – please RSVP to me and pay as you enter the meeting.
2. January 21: Ramada Resort, Port Douglas: Happy Hour 4-6 pm followed by optional dinner.
3. February 3: To celebrate 50 years since the inception of Probus South Pacific, don't miss out on our informative and fun Mini Travel Expo at Club Mossman from 10 am – 12 noon TBC. Learn about travel options and discounts through Probus Travel which you are entitled to as a member; hear about what trips a couple of other clubs have done together, go on a virtual journey to China, plus more!! Stay tuned for more information!

I look forward to meeting up again with you all during this year. Please encourage your friends to become members and share in the retirement (or semi-retirement) Probus fun!! It's our club so let's make it the best we can!

Stay safe and stay connected!!

Susan Stafford 😊
(Foundation President)

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.

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.

Need Help with Technology?

Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre is delighted to announce an exciting expansion of technical assistance offerings for the local community. Fortnightly programs on Monday afternoons will alternate between two formats:

Be Connected to Technology

Our long-standing ‘bring your own device’ sessions invite attendees to bring their own smartphone, tablet, or laptop—along with any tech questions.

Click and Connect

This new initiative features easy, step-by-step tutorials, designed to build confidence and spark conversation. Each session will focus on a specific topic, with plenty of time for questions and hands-on help.

The sessions are offered for an optional donation, and you need to book by calling **07 4099 5518**.

**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**

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Meetings

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

Social Events

January 21st - HAPPY HOUR

Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

4.00pm -6.00pm

Optional dinner afterwards

February Tuesday 3rd 2026 @ 10.00 am (TBC)

Mini Travel Expo

Club Mossman

More details to follow

Recent Social Events

December Friday 12th 2025

Christmas lunch

The Venue was the Osprey Restaurant at Thala Beach Lodge

There was a huge turnout for this event

Proposed Social Events

These will be announced in the near future.
Keep posted for further announcements!



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



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

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SPOTLIGHT ON.....



Toni Hickey



My name is Toni, I was born, raised and worked in Hobart, Tasmania. So spent many years in the cool climes down south which resulted in an over 3,500 km move to Far North Queensland, on retirement, in December 2014. I wanted warm and my husband was happy to follow me!

A large part of my working life was within the University sector, in particular managing student administration and services across multiple campuses in Tasmania as well as Sydney. UTAS also had teaching arrangements in Singapore, China and Kuala Lumpur. In the last 2 years before retirement, I undertook a lead change management role in the implementation of a new student system for UTAS. This was a major project for the university involving the transfer of paper historical student records dating from 1893 (UTAS was founded in 1890) through to the present day.

Arriving in Cooya Beach in December 2014, was a significant change and new chapter in our lives as we had only visited once before. Over the next 6 years we immersed ourselves in the community, made some truly wonderful and lifelong friendships and ventured out on many road trips.

Early on I became involved in the Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre as a Management Committee member, I also participated in petanque, tai chi and golf and taught Line Dancing.

In 2020, with COVID challenging us all, we made the decision to relocate to Perth, Western Australia where our 3 children had settled. This turned out to be a significant decision, as sadly, my husband passed away within 10 months, so we had some very precious family time.

In October 2022, I returned to Port Douglas. I had continued my involvement with the Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre whilst in Perth, utilising zoom, phone and email interactions. And since returning I have also been involved as a U3A Committee member and Pink in the Tropics Committee member.

I play mahjong, undertake Bollywood dancing, Bookclub, petanque and table tennis and I teach Line Dancing. And I have really enjoyed my time, as an activity and event coordinator, on the Probus Committee and meeting so many wonderful people.

I look forward to an exciting 2026 for our Probus family!

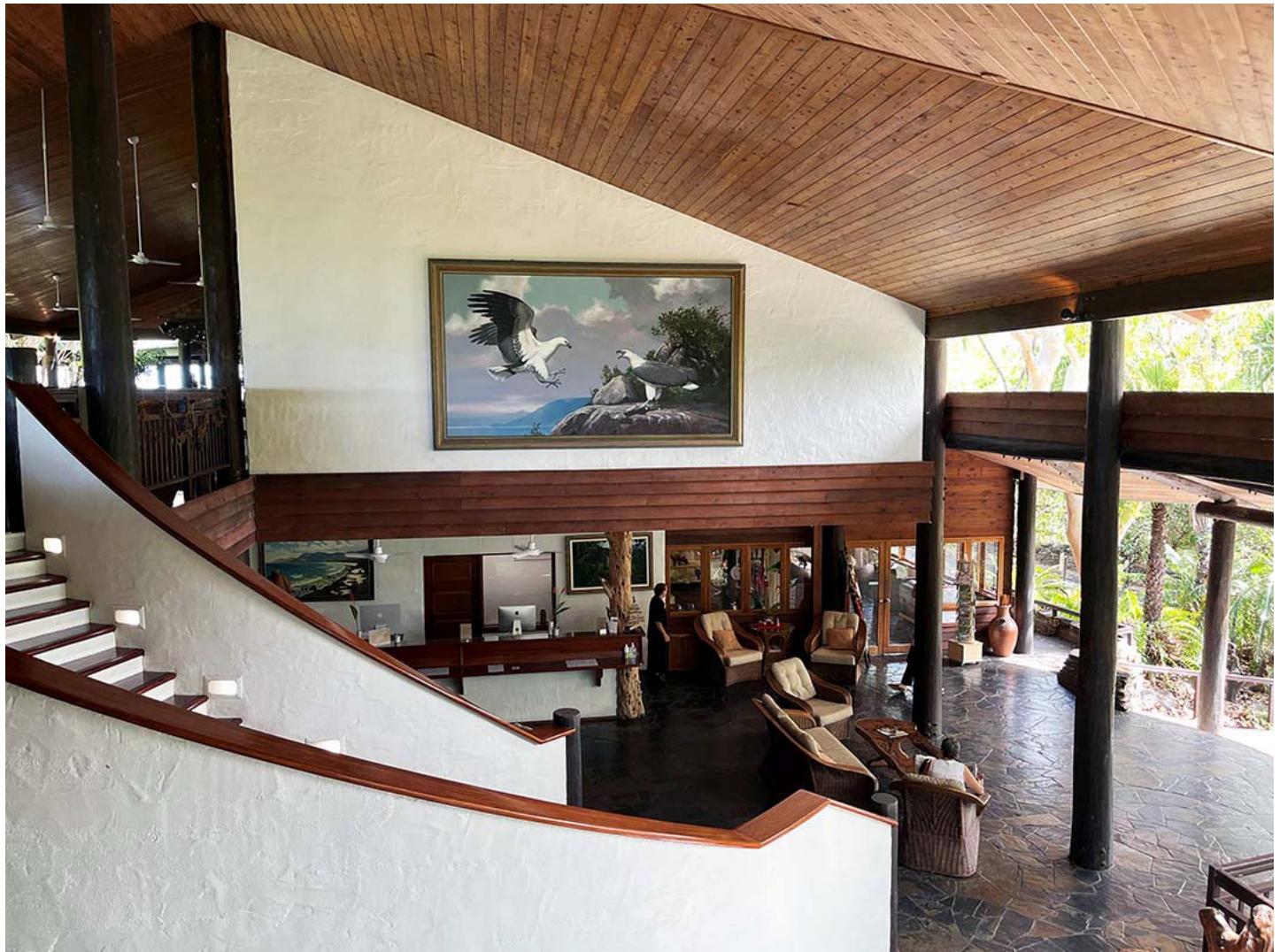
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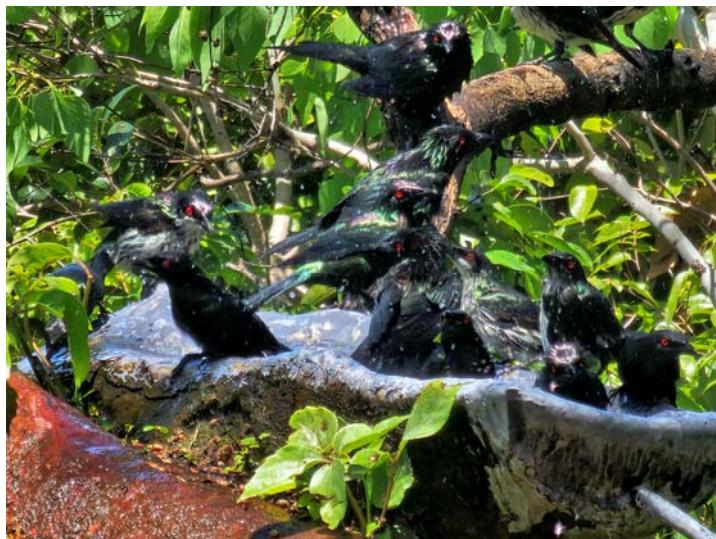
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PROBUS OUTING

Thala Christmas Break up



Thala Beach Eco Resort Lobby



Metallic Starlings put on a show for us



Beautiful beaches that provided our backdrop

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Thala Christmas Break up



Jayne and Julie attempting to open a Bon Bon



Anna enjoying the afternoon



An impromptu line dance performed by the ladies from the dance group was joined by several other members for a fun afternoon

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Thala Christmas Break up



There were several tables to cater for the large gathering

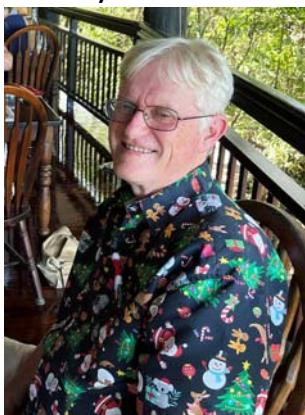


Em and Toni mixing with Pam and Lydia

Susan making a speech



Kevin & Sue enjoying the afternoon



Neil



Pam, Lorraine and John

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