Somers Combined Probus Club Inc.

Reg. No. A0047467H

P.O. Box 86, Somers 3927



Original painting by Jenny Ferguson

November 2026

Next meeting Friday 11 December 2026

11.30am at Pier 10, Shoreham

President	Chris Thompson	0421 421 303
Vice President		
Past President	Georgie Minton	0437 600 466
Secretary	Veronica Paskins	0431 776 421
Treasurer	Nigel George	0407 519 981
Speakers	Louise Hempel	0438 806 025
Membership	Anne Hassett	0438 836 546
Welfare	Caroline Vaillant	0407 310 646
Newsletter	Tony Duboudin	0412 551 981
Travel	Georgie Minton	0437 600 466
Outings	Jill Duboudin	0407 550 147
Lunches/Social	Di Price/Karen George	0419 542 459

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Once again we come to the end of our Probus year with our meeting at Somers Yacht Club. A highlight of the last month was the celebration of 50 years of Probus. The three clubs in our area, Somers Combined, Somers Ladies and Balnarring Men's have logged up 100 years of Probus activities. Again a big thank you to the organising team.

We look forward to our next meeting at Pier 10 Restaurant in Shoreham at 11.30 on Friday 11 December as we celebrate the coming festive season.

Please note the earlier time. Should you require a lift don't hesitate to contact me or any other member of our committee.

There are many in our wider community at present in great need and it is our tradition to donate goods to help them celebrate the coming festive season. We do this through the Hastings Community Centre. If you have not already done so, please bring your contribution to our lunch at Pier 10 . Thank you to Denise Copeland for coordinating this.

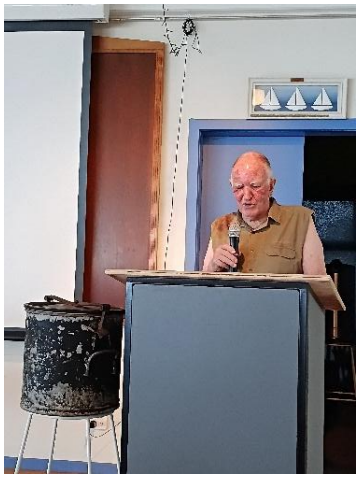
Each year comes with changes. Sadly at our last meeting Daryl Cowen announced that he is ceasing to run our Finance Group. Not only this but for our group in many ways, always ready with a kind word or help for others in many ways. He represents the kindness enthusiasm and skills needed to have the group celebrate and participate in so many activities. He has been ready to lead and assist in so many ways. I urge you to attend his last Finance meeting.

The Ballarat Trip will be a fun and interesting adventure! Behave yourselves!!! You have great leaders in Georgie and Lisa. Thank you for your organisation . Sadly my health doesn't allow me to attend at present.

Once again I urge you to consider the contribution you can make as a group leader and to our leadership team via the Committee for the coming year.

- **Cheers Chris.**

SPEAKER – ONE OF THE LAST DUNNY MEN



It was a tough, smelly, hard job but someone had to do it … that could well be the description of the job our November speaker John Gardner did for four years.

John claims to be one of the last of the Dunny Men who removed human waste at night and dumped it at disposal sites around Melbourne.

John is a great character and has hundreds of stories about his time removing the pans from homes in the south-eastern suburbs .

He decided after a career in the building industry to tender for a four-year contract to service the Knox and Lilydale area.

The pans were exchanged every week and he pointed out that many people under 50 years of age have no idea how the system worked.

Dunny men were officially known as Council Sanitary Contractors and the lanes behind houses where the "night carts" operated were known as Sanitary Laneways. In times gone by there were no sewers, even Toorak had a Dunny Man although, as John said, their pans didn't smell !!

The work of collecting pans was hard with a full one weighing 45 kilos and they had to be loaded on to a truck which held 120 pans on two levels and on average the Dunny Man would load three to four tonnes of you know what per shift.

People who allowed their pans to become what John called "Brimmers" found the Dunny Men had a way of showing their displeasure - usually "accidentally" spill some or all of the pan's contents on the customer's lawn.

So next time you flush the toilet just remember how lucky we are now.

- **Tony Duboudin**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU – GINA WEBSTER

Where did you grow up?
Burwood until I was 12 and then we moved out to North Croydon (which was like a country town back then) Wendy Wilson also grew up around there and would agree. Problem was my three sisters and I had to travel to Canterbury every day for school …a lot of train travel !

What did you do in your earlier life workwise?
I've not long finished work! 43 years of kindergarten teaching… but I was a police officer for one year.



Where did you live before moving to the peninsula?
Justin and I lived in Italy where we got married (my dad is Italian) we then travelled around Australia including living on a cattle station with a four-month-old baby. We found the Mid North coast NSW suited our surfing passion and we brought our children up in Scotts Head and Valla beach.

Why did you choose to move here?
Long story.
Our son had just finished university at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga studying wine making. Meanwhile, our daughter was accepted in Latrobe University to do speech pathology so we decided to follow her back to her roots. The couple who owned our local store in NSW gave their family's number as they also lived in Shoreham where we found a rental.
It was Chris and Peter Thompson ! I called them as I was a bit lonely with Justin doing shift work as a paramedic. The rest is history … we became great friends, they introduced us to the yacht club, we became sailors and here we are.

How long have you lived in the area
14 years.

Anything you miss by moving here?
My old friends in NSW but I do love my Somers friends.

What advice would you give anyone contemplating a similar move ?
Join everything !!

How long have you been involved in Probus
Around 14 months.

What motivated you to join Probus?
A lot of my friends were already members so I thought why not.

What do you enjoy about Probus
The friendships, interesting speakers, activities, trips away.

What if anything would you like to see changed about Probus? Nothing.

WEBSITE

www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/somerscombined
Newsletter and Website: Tony Duboudin
Email: tonyduboudin@bigpond.com
Secretary: Veronica Paskins
Email: veronica.sec.scpc@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Money for activities is payable to the bank account below.

Somers Combined Probus Club Inc.

BSB 633000 A/C No. 164191777

Payments by cheque to be mailed to PO Box 86, Somers, 3927.

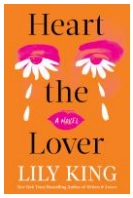
TRADIES YOU CAN RELY ON NOW LISTED

There is nothing like a recommendation when it comes to hiring a tradie for a task around the house. The club is in the process of compiling a list of tradies who have done work for members and who members recommend as reliable.
A form for members to fill out listing details of a tradie who has done satisfactory work will be sent out to all members or you can obtain a form from Denise Copeland who has agreed to run the scheme.

Denise Copeland 0414 543 742 or copelaj@bigpond.com

ACTIVITIES

BOOK GROUP – MONDAY 7 DECEMBER



The next meeting and our end of year lunch is at 12pm on Monday 7 December at Somers Tennis Club. The book for discussion will be "Heart the Lover" by Lily King. Our narrator understands good love stories - their secrets, their highs and free falls. But her greatest love story, the one she lived, never followed the rules.
There will be no meeting in January and we will resume on Monday 1 February when we will discuss a book that we have read during holiday time.

Leonie Holmgren 0417 393 320

BRIDGE - THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER



The next Bridge session will be Thursday 10 December starting at 4pm at Georgie Minton's, 12 Parklands Avenue, Somers. Please let Caroline know if you would like to join the group.

Caroline Vaillant 0407 310646

CANASTA – SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER



Canasta/Samba is usually played at a member's house on the Saturday night following the general meeting.

Jan Angwin 0467 635 240

CYCLING—STILL PEDALLING



All comers welcome to the daily ride to Tulum Store for coffee. There are two meeting points 1. 9.15 am at Sandy Point and South Beach roundabout. 2. 9.30 am at Lord Somers Rd and Sandy Point Rd intersection. Remember to wear "High Vis" clothing . Contact Dennis Paskins on verdenp40@gmail.com or John Copeland on **0414 543 742**

BICYCLE TOURING

Thursday 3 December DAY RIDE

Somers to Tyabb on Western Port Bay Trail



Meet at Sandy Point Rd/South Beach Rd roundabout at 10.00am
Ride to Tyabb Packing House café for coffee/lunch
Return to to Somers by approximately 2pm. Total ride distance approx. 32km
Note : Ride will not go ahead if weather forecast over 30 degrees

Wednesday 16 to Thursday 17 December

Great southern rail trail



Drive to Leongatha Apex Caravan Park, 14 Turner St, Leongatha and be ready to ride by 10.30am
Ride distance- Day 1. 30km Leongatha to Korrumburra and return
Day 2. 32km Leongatha to Meeniyan and return
Drive home Thursday PM
More info https://gsrt.com.au/
Camp or cabin overnight stay with BYO BBQ dinner.
Note : Ride will not go ahead if weather forecast over 30 degrees

Wendy Wilson 0407 876 950

FINANCE – THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER



Our final meeting for the year will be on Thursday, 3 December 5pm at Somers Tennis Club. The meeting will be followed by a BYO BBQ and please contact June Cowen if you have not already indicated whether you are bringing a salad or dessert to share. The leader of the Share competition is still Barry closely followed by Dianne with the winner to be announced at this meeting.

Daryl Cowen on 0439 100 546 or daryl.cowen@bigpond.com

GOLF, BEACOM CUP - WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER



The Beacom Cup will be contested at Cerberus Golf Club on Wednesday 9 December. The first tee off will be 9.30am and players need to be at the club by 9am.
The format will be three-person and four-person Ambrose because of the odd number of players. Players with handicaps need to let me know what they are. Players without handicap will be given a generous 45 handicap. Contact Peter if you would like to join.

Peter Witnish 0432 523 206

HAPPY HOUR AND A HALF – THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER



The next Happy Hour and a half will be at 5pm on Thursday 26 November at Lisa Nutting's, 50 Campsie Court, Somers. Bring a bottle and a plate of finger food to share.

LUNCH AFTER THE MEETING – FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER



The December meeting **AND** Christmas lunch will be held at Pier 10 Winery, Shoreham, on Friday, 11 December at 11.30 sharp!
The cost is $70 for a two-course meal which will consist of a share platter of assorted entrees followed by your choice of main course. It will be possible to add a dessert for $15 on the day for those wanting the extra course. Drinks are to be purchased individually from the bar.
Payment is to be made into the Probus account **NO LATER THAN 4 DECEMBER**. After your payment is received you will receive acknowledgment and a number. Keep the number safe as it will be your entry into a raffle with the winning numbers drawn at the lunch.

Di Price 0419 542 459, Karen George 0438 355 039

MORNING COFFEE - WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER



Come and enjoy a casual catchup at the Somers General on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10am.

Helen May 0417 553 744

SINGING GROUP –TUESDAY 1 AND 15 DECEMBER



We meet the first and third Tuesday of every month at Somers Yacht club at 4.00pm.

Peter Thompson 0447 770 912

WALKING — WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER



Our next SCP Walking Group walk will be on Wednesday, 2 December and will be from Jacks Beach Reserve to Harbourside Café Hastings and return to Jacks Beach Reserve.
We will start the walk at 10am, meeting at 9:50am at Jacks Beach Reserve.
Details and any cancellation due to weather will be emailed out a few days before 2 December. If you wish to receive information about the Walking Group, email Stephen.Hempel@hotmail.com

Stephen Hempel 0418 538 840

TRIPS AND OUTINGS

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY

BLUE LOTUS WATER GARDEN,YARRA JUNCTION



A 24-seat bus has been booked. The cost will be subsidised by the Bendigo Bank grant.
Pay $40pp to Somers Combined Probus bank account ASAP to get on the bus and gain entry to the gardens.
The cafe is booked for 12.30pm where you can buy your own lunch.

Georgie Minton 0437 600 466

RECENT EVENTS



Above right: *members enjoyed lunch at Toscano restaurant in Hastings after the November meeting.*

Above: *Barry Price takes a breather from his steak while Di awaits her meal.*

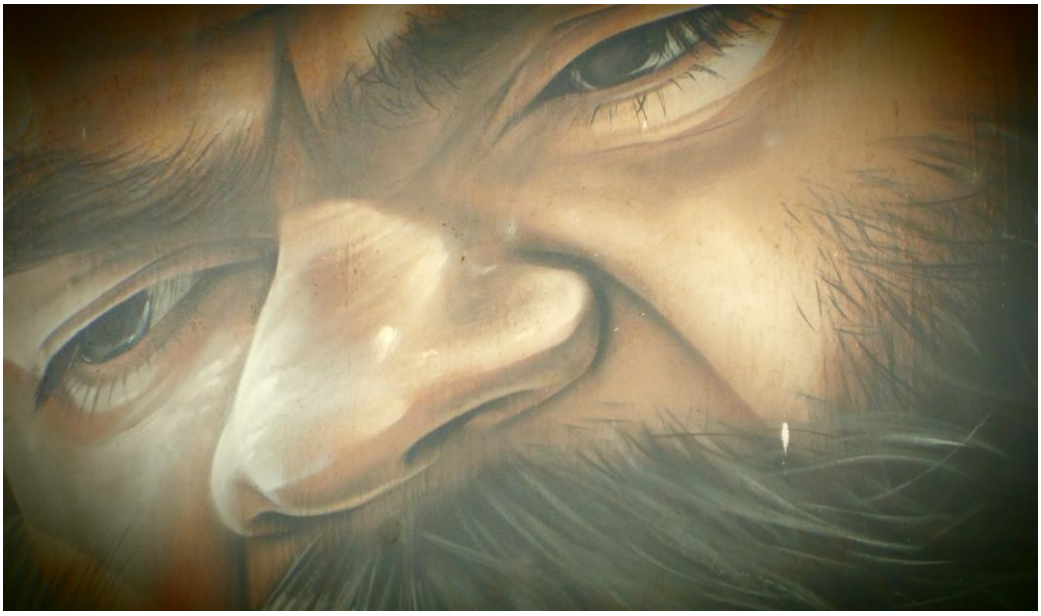




Walkers enjoy coffee at Tulum Café Balnarring Beach on their Coolart to Balnarring Beach and return walk.

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

Right: *A face to reckon with … John Copeland took this silo art image in Horsham.*
Below right: *Penguins everywhere … Peter Whitnish took this on a visit to Macquarie Island.*
Below: *Hang on to your hat … a windy day at Port Fairy was snapped by Louise Hempel.*









BIRTHDAYS

November	December
12 Jan Angwin, Bev Frank	3 Marj Overton, Ilona Cox
14 Margaret Kurrle	5 Sandra Shiel
19 David Andrewes	7 Wendy Dwyer
21 Barry Price	12 Jill Albertini
24 John Copeland, Nigel George	
28 Miffie Maklary	

EVENTS CALENDAR

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Singing Book group	3	4 Committee meeting Walking	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Golf	12 Bridge	13 General meeting	14 Canasta
15	16	17 Singing	18 Ballarat trip	19 Ballarat trip	20 Ballarat trip	21
22	23	24	25 Morning coffee	26 Happy hour and a half	27	28
29	30					

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Singing	2 Walking Committee meeting	3 Finance	4	5
6	7 Book group	8	9 Golf Beacom Cup	10 Bridge	11 General meeting Lunch	12 Canasta
13	14	15 Singing	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

This newsletter and the information within, is solely for the information and interest of the Somers Combined Probus and adjoining clubs and is not available to outside bodies for any other purpose.
Contributions to Tony Duboudin: tonyduboudin@bigpond.com

Our thanks to the office of Paul Mercurio, MLA for Hastings, for printing copies of this newsletter.