# Somers Combined Probus Club Inc.

Reg. No. A0047467H

**P.O. Box 86, Somers 3927**

*Original painting by Jenny Ferguson*

## October 2026

## Next meeting Friday 13 November 2026 at 10am

## Speaker: John Gardner, History of toilets

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 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 REPORT

It was a great pleasure to welcome our new members to the group last Friday. We look forward to celebrating Probus ' 50th birthday in the coming week. A reminder to look ahead towards the Christmas celebration in December at Pier 10. Thanks to all group leaders for continuing to offer

interesting activities each month. Again I ask you all to consider taking on a position of responsibility on our committee for the coming year, such a contribution keeps our club functioning.

- **Cheers Chris**

# NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

*The club had great pleasure in welcoming six new members at its October meeting.*

*The new members come from all walks of life and will be a valuable addition to our club.*

*They are (left to right) : Ingrid Tadich, Andrew Danks, Wendy Dwyer, Lisa McKay, Mark Dwyer, President Chris Thompson and Wendy Davies.*

# SPEAKER NOTES

Art is in the blood of our October speaker Emily McCulloch Childs from Everywhen Gallery in Shoreham.
Emily is a third generation of her family to be involved in the arts.
As well as running the Everywhen Gallery she also writes on the arts and is critic.
Her grandfather Alan McCulloch wrote what is considered the standard Australian reference work on art, *The Encyclopaedia of Art*, and Emily has completed the fourth update of the work involving more than a million words.

*President Chris Thompson with Emily McCulloch Childs.*

Everywhen Gallery, was established in 2009 by Emily and Susan McCulloch, OAM, and is located in the former McCulloch family home Whistlewood in Shoreham.
It specialises in showing first nations art from Central Australia and as Emily said the gallery has established a great relationship with the artists.
As well as paintings, ceramics are also on display.
The gallery has undergone an update to provide additional space and improved areas for exhibits.

# VALE ROB BREWER

I've lost a great mate.
Rob Brewer passed away in the company of his beloved wife Meredith on 29 September at Arcare in Balnarring.
Rob was a successful business man. He was CEO of the 111-year-old family concern Alcock and Pierce and he played a vital role in the gun buyback scheme introduced by the Howard government after the Port Arthur shooting.
For this he was awarded a Centenary Medal by the Governor-General together with a letter of thanks from Prime Minister John Howard.
Rob was an active Probus member and his contribution to the wine and food group was memorable for his great taste and interesting venues.
Rob surprised me when he revealed that he had read Classics at Melbourne University. The go to man for the latest studies on the lesser poets of the Punic Wars. "Not many people know this."

Vale Rob for a live well lived and full of generosity.

Condolences to Meredith and family.

- **Rob Bartholomew**

# VALE STEPH SCHWARZ

Steph was born in Vienna Austria, moving to Melbourne in 1939 with his parents and brother George in 1939.
He attended CBC St Kilda where he topped the year despite English being his second language.
The family moved to Kew and Steph and his brother George became boarders at Xavier college.
After matriculating he studied pharmacy. In the early 1960s Steph met Barbara and they were married in 1962.
They had three boys, Christopher, Philip and Adrian. Steph was a devoted father who made sure the boys learned to ski and sail. He left pharmacy and he went into manufacturing.
The family came to Somers in the early 1970s where Steph became a long-time member and participant of the Somers Yacht Club. He was also an inaugural member of Alkira Ski Club and was involved until well into his 80s.
He and Barbara have eight grandchildren with whom they spent wonderful times.
They made a decision to live permanently in Somers where they became very involved with Probus, the yacht club, the car club, and Somers Food and Wine . Barbara and Steph were great hosts and often entertained.
Steph was still doing locum work in several of the local pharmacies until early2025.
His beloved Barbara died in January this year. Steph's life was shattered and he missed her so much.
His health and wellbeing quickly deteriorated despite much care and concern from friends and family and he passed away on 19 September in Frankston Hospital having had all his family there earlier that night, with Hudson Schwarz by his side.
Vale Steph

- **Gill Schwarz**

## 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.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU - CISCO BAGULHO

**Where did you grow up?**
I was born in Belém, Brazil, right on the edge of the Amazon River, but I moved to Lisbon, Portugal, when I was four and stayed there until I headed to Australia at 25. I studied medicine at the University of Lisbon and finished at 23.
**What did you get up to workwise back then?**
My first job was shifting furniture at 15, and I tutored maths and English all through university.
When I arrived in Australia with my first wife and baby daughter, I picked grapes in Mildura until I landed a hospital job. Since then, I've trained and worked in psychiatry, both in public and private practice.
**Where did you live before moving to the Peninsula?**
I lived in Box Hill with my former wife and our three daughters.
**Why did you choose to move here?**
Pure luck, really. We wanted a weekender somewhere about an hour from home and close to the beach. Somers was spot on. We visited, loved it, and bought the place we now live in.
**How long have you been around here?**
We bought our house in 1995 and used it as a holiday spot until six years ago. Once Anne and I retired from psychiatry, we decided to make Somers our forever home.
**Anything you miss from the move?**
We miss our city friends and family, but we still catch up regularly, heading off to restaurants, the RACV Club in town, bookshops and the opera.
**What advice would you give anyone thinking of doing the same?**
Go for it! Somers is a lovely coastal village with a relaxed and welcoming feel.
**How long have you been with Probus?**
This is our third year, and we've really enjoyed joining such a great community.
**What made you join Probus?**
We wanted more social connections, to meet like-minded people and try new activities.
**What do you enjoy about Probus?**
Meeting new friends and having a go at different activities.
**What would you love to see changed about Probus?**
Keep developing new activities—like we are already doing these past few years —to bring in new people into Probus. It would be great to have committee members sharing roles, so they can team up, share responsibilities and feel more supported in their endeavours.

# ROSTERS

If you are unable to undertake your rostered duty you must arrange a substitute.
Please arrive at **9.15 am** to assist in the placement of chairs and prepare for morning tea .
**CHAIRS:** Stephen Brown, Vern Tansley **TEA:** Senga Gadsden, Helen Kirkby

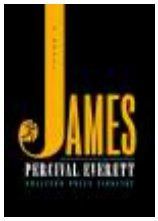
# REGISTER YOUR MOBILITY AIDS

Our welfare officer Caroline Vaillant is compiling a register of mobility aids as well as other aids such as toilet seats, special chairs etc. that can be made available for members when needed.
She asked that anyone who has something to please send her a photo.
If someone is having a clear out and wants to dispose of aids which are in good order, Caroline has also volunteered to store such items under her house and handle any requests from members seeking to borrow aids.
She emphasised that the preference was to register aids and make them available when needed.

**Caroline's contact details: 0407 310 646, email: cobbieoz@yahoo.com**

# ACTIVITIES

## BOOK GROUP - MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER




The next meeting is at 12pm on Monday 2 November at Somers Tennis Club. BYO lunch.
The book for discussion will be **"James"** by Percival Everett.
*A brilliant reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—both harrowing and satirical—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view

**Leonie Holmgren 0417 393 320**

## BRIDGE - THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER

The next Bridge session will be 1A Parklands Avenue, Somers on Thursday 12 November at 4pm. Please let Caroline know if you would like to play.

**Caroline Vaillant 0407 310 646**

## CANASTA – SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER

Canasta is usually played the Saturday night following the general meeting.

**Jan Angwin 0467 635 240**

## CYCLING - DAILY RIDES

Daily ride to Tulum Store or Home Store Balnarring for coffee. There are two meeting points 9.15 am at Sandy Point and South Beach. Don't forget to wear "Vis" clothing . Contact Dennis Paskins on verdenp40@gmail.com or John Copeland on **0414 543 742** to be put on the advice line.

## BICYCLE TOURING

### WEDNESDAY 21 TO THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER

### BASS COAST RAIL TRAIL – WONTHAGGI/INVERLOCH/KILCUNDA

Drive to Wonthaggi Motel, 44 McKenzie St, Wonthaggi and be ready to ride by 10.30am
Ride distance- Day 1. Wonthaggi to Inverloch and return 30 km
Day 2. Wonthaggi to Kilcunda and return 30 km
Drive home Thursday PM

Book your room at the Wonthaggi Motel for Wednesday 21 October at https://www.wonthaggimotel.com.au/

### THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER DAY RIDE

### ROSEBUD TO SORRENTO AND RETURN

Meet at Rosebud Sound Shell, Point Nepean Rd (opposite Rosebud Hotel) at 10am.
Ride to Sorrento Pier along Bay Trail for coffee/lunch. Return to Rosebud by approximately 2pm. Total ride distance approximately 32km.

**Wendy Wilson 0407 876 950**

## FINANCE - THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER

The September meeting was cancelled due to the few members available to attend. Our next meeting will on Thursday, 3 December at 5pm at the Somers Tennis Club. The leader of the share competition is still Barry closely followed by Dianne.

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

## GOLF - WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Golf will be on Wednesday 11 November at 9.30am for a 10am hit off at Cerberus Golf Club. Each month there will be a different format.

**Peter Witnish 0432 523 206**

## HAPPY HOUR AND A HALF – THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER

There will be no Happy Hour and a Half in October. The next Happy hour and a half will be 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 13 NOVEMBER

The next lunch is at Toscano Italian Kitchen, Sanctuary Inn, 126 Marine Parade, Hastings. Two courses for $60. Money to be in the Probus account by 28 October. If you haven't put your name down please ring us to be added to the list.

**Di Price 0419 542 459, Karen George 0438 355 039**

## SINGING GROUP - MONDAY 2* AND TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER

***Note: Change of date due to Cup Day.**

This group meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at the Somers Yacht club at 4.00 pm.

**Peter Thompson on 0447 770 912**

## 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**

## WALKING –WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

Our next walk will be on 4 November 2026 and will be a 5km local walk starting at Coolart Rangers Centre through the Coolart Woodlands to Tulum Café ,Balnarring Beach, then return via the Woodland and a visit to the bird hide and lagoon.
We will start the walk at 10:00, meeting at 9:50 at the Coolart Rangers Centre. Details and any cancellation due to weather will be emailed out a few days prior to 4 November.

**Stephen Hempel 0418 538 840**

## 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.

Thanks to a suggestion by Denise Copeland 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 kindly agreed to run the scheme.

The committee believes that a list of recommended tradies will be a valuable resource for all members to access.

**Denise Copeland 0414 543 742 or copelaj@bigpond.com**

# TRIPS AND OUTINGS

## Wednesday 18 to Friday 20 November—Ballarat

**Three days and two nights** of beautiful gardens, historic venues, fun and lots of good food. You can sit back and relax in a luxury 57-seater coach thanks to the Bendigo Bank grant.

**There's still room** and it would be good to have more travellers.

**TO Get on board**

* book 2 nights at Mercure Ballarat (**0353271200**). Say you are with 'Somers group'
*pay $380 per person to the Probus account. BSB 633000 ACC 164191777

**Any questions ring Georgie 0437 600 466**

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# RECENT EVENT

*Members enjoy a gourmet lunch at Tara restaurant at Queenscliff ferry terminal after a short cruise from the other side of Port Phillip. As well as great food the views were also a highlight of the day.*

# 100 YEARS OF LOCAL PROBUS

*Balnarring Men's Probus president and life member Daryl Cowen (left) introduced three life members , one from each club, who had three minutes to reminisce . Left: Elizabeth Hatton from Somers Ladies Probus, Barry Price, Somers Combined , and Dan Hourigan from Balnarring Men's Probus.*

*Teatime and the more than 100 guests tuck in.*

**Probus has recorded 50 years in Australia and the three local clubs got together to mark the milestone as part of a nationwide celebration.**

**Somers Combined, Somers Ladies and Balnarring Men's Probus clubs acknowledged the occasion with a big afternoon tea at Somers Yacht Club all produced by members.**

**Combined the three clubs represent 100 years of Probus's presence in the area.**

***Left:*** *My cup cake runneth over . Above: nostalgia corner, photos from an earlier era.* ***Right:*** *Some of the delicious sandwiches and sushi on offer .*

# PICTURE OF THE MONTH

*Bird brained!!! Val Aston took the picture on the right of her sister in law, who was visiting the family from France, as she got close and personal with some of Hasting's sea gulls. Val entered the picture at right in our Picture of the Month feature . The birds also took a liking to Val 's hair .*

## Just for a laugh

The following questions were set in a GCSE examination in Swindon, UK. These are genuine answers from 16-year-olds.

**Q. Name the four seasons.**
A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

**Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.**
A. Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

**Q. How is dew formed.**
A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire .

**Q. What happens to your body as you age**
A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental .

## BIRTHDAYS

| October | November |
|---|---|
| 3 Anne Hassett | 1 Sally Trevenen |
| 10 Sue Rintoul | 12 Jan Angwin, Bev Frank |
| 12 Diane Price, Peter Witnish | 14 Margaret Kurrle |
| 23 Sue Pritchard | 19 David Andrewes |
| 24 Caroline Vaillant | 21 Barry Price |
| 26 Denise Copeland | 24 John Copeland, Nigel George |
| 27 Tony Duboudin, Lisa Nutting | 28 Miffie Maklary |
| 30 Peter Cole | |
| 31 Meredith Brewer | |
| | |

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5<br>Book group | 6<br>Singing | 7 | 8 Bicycle touring<br>Bridge | 9 General meeting | 10<br>Canasta |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 100th anniversary afternoon tea | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20<br>Singing | 21 Bicycle touring | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Morning Coffee | 29 | 30 | 31 |

## NOVEMBER

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

*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.***