

NEWSLETTER

October 2026



Probus Club of Nelson City

Venue: Nelson Golf Club, 38 Bolt Rd, Tahunanui

Club Email: nznelsoncitygroup@gmail.com

Club Website: <http://probussouthpacific.org/microsites/nelsoncity>

President: Chris Tuffnell 027 262 6106
Secretary; (Admin) Chris Tuffnell
Treasurer: Bess Osborne Ph 027 688 5868
Committee: IPP: Ross Newman 547 3554
Ian MacGregor 021 436 224
Isabel Harley Ph 027 2200 099
Glenys Della Bosca 021 176 0495
John Blaauwwbroek 027 2005201
(Co-opt)

Newsletter Contributions:

Please email to delabos1@yahoo.co.nz

Technical Advisers: Robin Johansen and John Taber

Highlights October 8

Meeting:

Mini Speaker: Glenys Della Bosca "Making the Most of Your Artwork"

Main Speaker: Sue Lubransky "BVKKRT. A Qld Cycle Adventure"

OCTOBER IS PROBUS MONTH

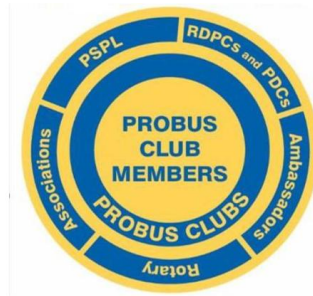
President's Piece

Thank you to Jane and the Book Challenge Group for their fun quiz at the September meeting and to Bob and Robyn for sharing the ups and downs of foreign travel.

One of the things that differentiates Probus from other similar groups is the Probus Partners which give benefits to Probus club members. There are many partners in Australia offering a range of discounts in insurance, tours and travel, daily living equipment aids, retirement living, and funeral services. Probus members can access these partner discounts by going onto the Probus website on your individual membership card using your

name, individual number, and the barcode. At the September meeting I asked for suggestions for possible partners in New Zealand and will pass suggestions on to our new NZ Probus representative on the Probus South Pacific Board.

Our club is looking for 2027 for an Outings Convenor and for a Mini Speakers Convenor. Please contact me on our club email nznelsoncitygroup@gmail.com if you are interested in and able to undertake these roles.



Next month, October, is Probus month. Probus is made up of a number of entities of which Probus Clubs and members are the centre with other parts reflecting the origins of Probus in the continuing presence of Rotary related entities. Yellow and Blue are the Probus colours. It would be great if you could wear yellow and blue to our October meeting. See you there!

Chris Tuffnell

Quotable Quotes Quiz



Jane Evans, convenor of our popular Book Club, presented a short quiz based upon "Who Said That?"

It was entertaining and stretched our knowledge of celebrities over the years from books to films, to world leaders. The quiz was abbreviated due to shortage of time, but we still had ten quotes to attribute. I wish I could say that my table's effort was stellar, but 6 out of 10 is not overly commendable! However, with more quotes left in the quiz, we can hopefully look forward to a follow-up opportunity at a future meeting.

Maxi Speakers

Bob and Robyn Gidlow “Foreign Travel and Cautionary Tales”



Bob and Robyn shared memories of their European travels during May and June. Their two-part talk covered their itinerary but started with itemising some of the stressful hurdles they faced before recalling their enjoyment of geographical locations, and the cultural differences they experienced in these places.

Part I:

With respect to trials and tribulations, they coped with turmoil when a money card was stolen in the rush and bustle of a station. The lessons here are to not let your guard down, keep your money cards separate from your phone, cancel all cards that are stolen, and report the theft to the police for insurance purposes.

An inconvenient note of caution – public toilets are few and far between and generally require local currency. The alternative is to use the toilets in cafes when you stop for a coffee.

Tipping is expected and regularised. Whilst a challenge for Kiwis who rarely offer a tip for service at home, in many countries, service staff often rely on tips to earn a reasonable living.

Be aware of public holidays when normal services will be closed. Stations and cafes etc, may be extra crowded with holiday makers. At these times, there is no personal space available and be prepared to push your way onto the metro etc, all the while guarding your valuables!

A few miscellaneous items of note – flannels are not supplied at hotels; signs often do not provide an English translation which can make it tricky to navigate train routes etc; and Bob noted that by the time they got home, they

definitely needed their “marmite fix”. One happy observation was that ordinary people rather than officials are often the most helpful.

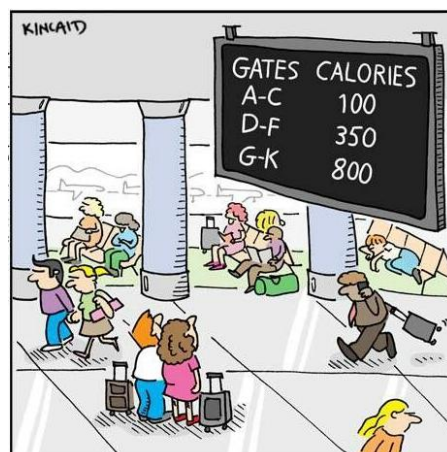
Part II:

Their trip included stops at Le Quesnoy, a walled medieval fortress town in Northern France which was famously liberated by New Zealand soldiers near the end of WW1, a biking tour which took in the Riesling vineyards and their journey to Koblenz on the banks of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, included bike and barge travel. They learned of the Black Cat of Zell legend, a story which dates back to 1863 in the Mosel Valley town.

Their Viking river cruise down the Danube included a visit to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. They noted that religious allegiance in Eastern Europe is Orthodox Christianity. A short video clip of the church choir of the Holy Trinity resonated with the rich harmony of voices in the old church.

They noticed in Bulgaria that the churches are often in a better state than their residential houses. In Bucharest they visited the People’s Parliament – which is now essentially a folly which put the country deeper into debt. And finally, they found that St Antons church that they planned to visit was full of worshippers, so they did not get in to see the architecture and ornamentation.

Robyn and Bob gave us much to consider whether armchair or actual travellers.



Outing Notice

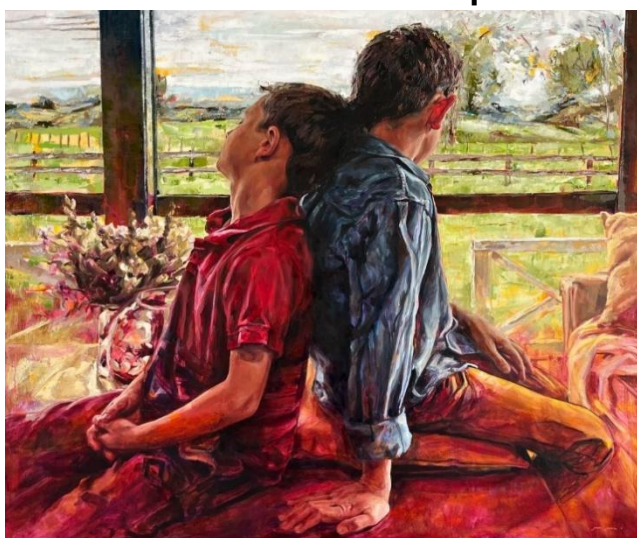
Visit to The Tasman National Art Awards Friday 9 October



The annual Tasman National Art Awards is the premiere cultural event in the Tasman district and draws high-quality entries from artists throughout New Zealand. Probus Member Glenys Della Bosca will escort a visit to the Tasman National Art Awards in Mapua on Friday 9th October. Held in the Mapua Community Hall, many people make several visits to take in all the exhibition offers.

As the instigator for the original Art Awards in the region in 2006, as well as being the early major sponsor along with her husband Lewis and later as a participant as a judge on one occasion, she is well-placed to explain the history and structure of the art awards. Any Club Member joining the tour will have the benefit of Glenys' expertise and experience as a former art tutor, to explain the selection and judging processes. Before departing the tour, members will be asked to each place their personal vote in the People's Choice section.

Interested members are requested to fill-in the outing booking form at the Club Meeting on Thursday 8th. If further information is required, please contact Glenys at Ph 021 176 0495 or email delabos1@yahoo.co.nz. Full details of the visit will be emailed to all registrants after the Club Meeting on Thursday.



The tour start time is 10.45am.

Members are asked to gather inside the hall entrance on arrival to be met by Glenys. NO ENTRY FEE. Please wear your club name badge. On completion of your visit, lunch can be purchased at the Naked Bun Café next door, or across the road at the Sprig and Fern.

Hiking Group Notice

ORPHANAGE CREEK WALK – 9:30am MONDAY 12th OCTOBER

DESCRIPTION

This is a lovely walk that follows alongside Orphanage Creek. The return walk will be about 5.5 km long and take around 2 hours of walking time (plus coffee time if so desired).

The starting point will be at Saxon Field, just across the road from Bunnings. There we will be able to see the Fiona Sutherland sculpture “Up the Creek Without a Paddle”. From there we will walk on a formed path alongside Orphanage Creek, seeing all the creek-side plantings and taking note of the location of forage tree plantings for future harvest potential! The creek-side walk also serves as a kind of “home and garden” tour because we get to see the well-tended gardens of the properties bounding the pathway. We follow Orphanage Creek all the way up to Montebello. On the way we go past a property where alpacas are being farmed. At this point we are at the site where there was once an orphanage that housed up to 250 boys. The orphanage had a dark side to it and was the subject of a Royal Commission of Enquiry in 1900 which found that excessive punishment was being used and food was insufficient. The orphanage was closed in 1919 and became a psychiatric hospital which closed in 2000. Those who wish to can walk a short distance uphill to the small orphanage cemetery where the remains of 24 orphan boys – 12 of the under 10 years old – lie buried. The cemetery is a peaceful place with views of the mountains and Tasman Bay. On the way back we can stop at the Hospice café for a well-earned coffee.

Sign up at the October Probus meeting or contact me by email – stevecross@xtra.co.nz or on 021 899 853. I'll provide details of the meeting place nearer the time.

Visit to the Centre for Fine Woodworking Report



Hidden in the hills on the northern approaches to Nelson lies a little-known and largely unacknowledged gem: **The New Zealand Centre for Fine Woodworking.**

On Thursday 27 August, we had the good fortune to tour the Centre and speak with both students and tutors, thanks to the organisational skills of Heather Harley.

The school, operated by a charitable trust, has been in existence for around 30 years. It offers opportunities to develop the art and practice of fine woodworking in a world-class facility under the guidance of highly experienced tutors—continuing the time-honoured tradition of master craftsman and apprentice.

During our visit, two courses were underway:

- a three-week advanced chair-building course, and
- an eight-month residency focused on

pushing the boundaries of design, jig construction, manufacturing, and finishing of fine furniture.

Students are a diverse group of men and women from around the world, many drawn by word of mouth or social media. Some are early in their careers, while others are seeking to develop skills that will enable a transition into furniture making later in life as either a vocation or hobby.

One middle-aged student from the UK, attending his second course this year, spoke with great enthusiasm about the experience. Although the



courses are not inexpensive, he noted that a similar programme in the UK would cost more than four times as much.



A recurring theme in conversations with both tutors and students was the exceptionally high standard achieved here. Many described the Centre as one of the top five woodworking schools globally—and likely the highest-ranked in the Southern Hemisphere. One tutor, an

Australian with international teaching experience, made it clear that he chose to join the Nelson school specifically because of its reputation.

The wood used in the furniture is sourced internationally, with American ash being particularly common and admired for its beautiful grain. Laminated combinations of light and dark timbers featured in several designs, producing striking results.

Text by Robin Johansen

Cyclist Group Report

Seven riders - Ian, Sue, Paula, Kev, Stephen, Robyn and I - rode to Brightwater, incorporating a Mt Heslington Road loop before stopping for refreshment at 'Headquarters' Cafe. The weather was definitely Spring-like, though a strong Northerly breeze had set in by the time we rode home.

We covered 31 kms in total and had the pleasure of crossing over the Wairoa suspension bridge using the newly repositioned access ramp, making access to the bridge much easier than was previously the case. (Photo, taken by Sue on an earlier ride, shows the ramp in place and final 'prep' being completed.)



Now that we are leaving winter behind(?), our rides will return to a 10.00 a.m. departure time. Our riders are also strongly encouraged to display supplementary number plates when transporting bikes on the backs of their cars. (Hefty fines are currently being applied for non-compliance.)

Bob Gidlow, Convenor



Sunday Luncheons



October 25th at Squires Café and Bar, 522 Main Road, Stoke

Please be seated by 12 noon.

Bookings to Ian MacGregor
idmacgregor.ir@gmail.com, ph 021 436 224 or fill in the booking sheet at club meetings. Either park in the Square at the rear then take the steps up to the restaurant, or park

on Waimea Road and enter from the front to avoid steps.

This is a popular eatery and will cater for special dietary needs. Full bar and table service provided.

Sunday 22nd November at “Smugglers”, 8 Muritai St, Tahunanui

Reasonable parking at rear. No lifts or stairs. Please be seated by 12 noon. Bookings to Ian MacGregor idmacgregor.ir@gmail.com, ph 021 436 224 or fill in the booking sheet at club meetings.

Mainly Ukes

Next Group Practise Nights Coming Up: - September 29th, and October 6th and 13th. Don't wait for an invitation if you would like to join in. Come to the Shone and Shirley Lounge - park at the rear of the building. If you play a guitar or ukelele you will be welcomed with open arms as well as those who have never played a ukelele and just enjoy a good sing-along.

Scrabble Group

Scrabble Group returns to 8 Chamberlain St, Tahunanui on Tuesday 20 October 10am. Come and test your word skills! Contact: Rose 0210797868.

Chess Group

(My apologies to Convenor Ken as his last report found its way to my spam folder and I did not find it until a couple of weeks after publication of the September issue. Editor)

This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. The group welcomes new members.



Did you know: There are 6 difference types of chess pieces [as pictured above] and each player has 16 pieces to move around. **The King** can move in ALL directions but only one square at a time.

If you fancy learning to play Chess and learn more we would love to help you out there. We need to have a few more members to boost the numbers. Probus Chess Group meets at Ken's place in Stoke on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. Please phone Ken at 54 74301 for more details.

Coffee Morning Group



A very good attendance at last month's meeting. A visitor from Westport and 17 Probus members.

Next months meeting will be at River Kitchen, Thursday 15th October, 10am to 11am. Look forward to catching up.

Zelda Anderson, Convenor, Ph 021 031 7541, 548 2920

POSTSCRIPT

October is Probus Month – Please wear something yellow and blue to the meeting.

Meaning and Symbolism



The Probus logo and branding prominently feature blue and yellow. Blue often symbolizes the sky and water, while yellow or gold represents the sun, reflecting warmth, vitality, and optimism.



**You're Invited
To our Probus
Christmas
Luncheon**

**Thursday 10th December
The Tides Restaurant
66 Trafalgar St**

**Enjoy their 2 Course
Christmas-Themed Menu
finishing with
coffee and cake
\$49.00**

**Add your name to the list
at the next meeting.**

Deadline for Contributions to November Newsletter: - Sunday 25th October.

Please email to delabos1@yahoo.co.nz.

**Our appreciation and thanks go to our Technical Advisers Robin Johansen Ph 544 0494,
and John Taber for their generous assistance at each Club meeting.**