

WELLINGTON EASTERN SUBURBS PROBUS CLUB

15th September 2026

Newsletter 289

Committee

Marie Pearce

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Guest Speakers

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Committee

Chrissy Gall

Committee

June Inkpen

Committee

Ann Morris

Committee

Hilda Steadman

Committee

Simon Reynolds

Committee

Jean Glen

Almoner

Report on meeting held on 9th September 2026

Club Membership	55	Attendance	32
Apologies	13		

President Marie welcomed members to the meeting.

Peter showed videos of the walking group on their recent walk to the Pauatahanui Inlet.

End of Year Party

After failing to find someone willing to organize the traditional December Xmas party at the Pines, and following much discussion on an alternative, a brunch will be held in Seatoun Bowling Club on Wednesday 9th December. Further details to follow.

Financial A reminder to members who have not paid their subs of \$40 that they are now due. Please pay by cash or internet banking. Morning tea \$5 – paid at the door.

CLUB BANK ACCOUNT:

Wellington Eastern Suburbs: 02-0520-0153465-00

CLUB MICRO WEBSITE:

[HTTP://PROBUSSOUTHPACIFIC.ORG/MICROSITES/WELLINGTONEASTERNSUBURBS](http://PROBUSSOUTHPACIFIC.ORG/MICROSITES/WELLINGTONEASTERNSUBURBS)

Just click on the above link to access the website.

CLUB EMAIL ADDRESS:

wellingtoneasternsuburbsm@probusclubs.com.au

Guest Speaker

Guest speaker **Dr Aine McCoy** gave an engaging talk on the New Zealand Medical Women's Association's oral history project, which records the experiences of women doctors in New Zealand. The Association was formed in Dunedin in 1921, with branches later established in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Although it went into recess in 2003, its work in preserving the stories of women in medicine remains significant.

In 1986, marking 100 years since Dr Emily Siedeberg became New Zealand's first woman medical graduate, the Association began recording the oral histories of women doctors, assisted by well-known broadcaster Neville Glasgow. Further interviews were added over the years, and the recordings are now held in the Alexander Turnbull Library, where they are available for research on request.

Dr McCoy highlighted four early women doctors whose stories are included in the collection. The first was Elly Elaine Gurr, born in 1896 and educated at St Margaret's College in Wellington. After graduating from Otago University, she worked at Timaru Hospital before travelling to London to study obstetrics. On returning to New Zealand, she worked on the East Cape, recalling visits to local pā by river and horse-drawn transport, delivering babies on the floor of a shearing shed, and treating high rates of tuberculosis and meningococcal disease. She later moved to Auckland and died in 1996, aged 100.

Mollie Fisher, née Christie, was born in 1901 and qualified in 1923. She was placed in charge of a rest home in Kumara on the West Coast, a role that in practice made her the local general practitioner. Her work ranged from delivering babies and performing surgery to extracting teeth. She also remembered the grand ball organised to welcome her arrival in Kumara. She died in 1997, aged 96.

Denny Gillies was working at Palmerston North Hospital when the Napier earthquake occurred. With Napier Hospital overwhelmed by casualties, some victims were sent by train to Palmerston North. In the first two weeks after the disaster, doctors there averaged only about two hours' sleep a night while treating severe injuries, including amputations, crushed limbs and gangrene. Dr Gillies later entered private practice in Kelvin Chambers and died in 1979.

Elsie Gibbons, born in 1916, qualified in 1941 and worked at Wellington Hospital before undertaking postgraduate study overseas. On her return she specialised in children's health and worked at Karitane Hospital. She also recalled treating women with sepsis caused by illegal abortions at a time when antibiotics were not available. Treatment involved taking and testing blood, then asking relatives to provide blood, a process that could be distressing and embarrassing for patients. She died in 2009, aged 93.

Happy Birthday in October to:

Elaine Chang	1 st	Florence Snowden	5 th
Nancy Timmins	20 th	Anna Williams	23 rd

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Walking Group



The walking group meet each Monday at 10:30am weather permitting. The walk is approximately 1 hour (about 4km) followed by coffee and a chat at a convenient café. Starting venue advised by email on Saturday evening prior to the Monday walk.

Contact: Simon Reynolds 0278136950 simonofporirua@yahoo.com

Apple Computer & iPad Group

Meet after the monthly Probus meeting, second Wednesday of each month. The group started as an iPad group but has evolved into an iPhone and technology group.



Contact: Peter Chik **0211870672** peter.chik@gmail.com

Cinema Group



The cinema group meet every 1st Tuesday in the month. The next film will be on Tuesday 6th October. The September movie was 'H is for Hawk' at the Penthouse.

Contact: Anne Morris **0272213901**
anneimelda.morris@gmail.com

Lunch Group

The lunch group meet every month. The next lunch is on Wednesday 23rd September at 12 noon at Arcimboldi 24 Dundas St, Seatoun. Bookings essential. **Contact: Chrissy Gall 388 6786**



Almoner

If you are aware of any members who are suffering ill-health, please contact our almoner: **Jean Glen 934 8107** johnjean4425@gmail.com

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th October at Seatoun Bowling club, Dundas St, Seatoun at 10am.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker for October is Julie Anne Gentner from the Green Party and current MP for our electorate.

Thought for September

Middle age is when work is a lot less fun and fun is a lot more work.