



## PROBUS CLUB of RAUMATI INC

Secretary – Phone: **027 327 9775**. Email: [raumatiprobus@gmail.com](mailto:raumatiprobus@gmail.com)  
Scots Hall - phone: 04 9048 008.



**Next Meeting: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 9.45am**

# CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA

Volume 32: # 11 November 2024



**Apologies:** Don't forget to send in your apology if you are unable to attend the meeting. There are still some members who fail to do this. You can ring Irene on 04 299 2824, or ring or text her on 021 252 6492, or ring Diane Coombe on 299 7624. You can also send your apology with a friend you know is going to attend the meeting. If your address or phone number changes, please let Irene or Diane know so we can keep our records up to date.

**Website:** you can access our Probus website by entering "raumatiprobus" in your search engine. Lots of information there.

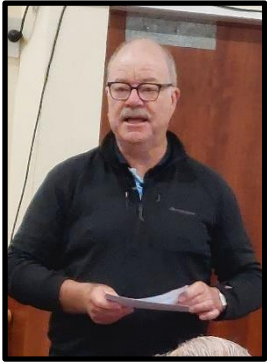
**The Morning's Programme:**

- 9.45am Welcome by the President
- 10am Kapiti Senior Singers
- 10.30am Morning Tea

## Notes from the President

Hello everyone

Firstly, many thanks to Terry for his talk about his visit to Makogai, a leper colony in Fiji. At the end of this newsletter you will find an interesting article about Makogai.



Our main speaker was Brett Sangster from the Kapiti Community Patrol. A little about him to begin. Born in Stratford, while his formal education made him a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, he also has professional qualifications in management, market research and community engagement. He has held senior communication director/manager roles including the Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Housing New Zealand, Solid Energy Limited and the NZ Meat Producers Board. Interestingly he drove commuter buses around Wellington and Lower Hutt for five years. Since moving to the Kapiti Coast in 2020, he has become involved with the Kapiti Community Patrol and is the Secretary and Treasurer for Kapiti Coast Grey Power. He says he enjoys people, cycling, good food and is a self-confessed craft beer snob. What a busy man.

We gained much information from his talk. Following are some of the highlights.

The Community Patrol Headquarters are in Wellington Police Headquarters and consists of approximately 4,000 members. It survives on local grants, sponsorship and donations. Its main purpose is to be the eyes and ears of the Police. They do not have any contact with criminals but gather details and report them to the police. A recent incident they attended was when a cyclist was deliberately knocked off his bike in Poplar Avenue. They have recently acquired a new patrol car with cameras front and back for increased surveillance.

Current local membership is about twenty. If you want to sign up to be a member of the patrol, you will be expected to do day and night patrols. Patrols are usually Friday and Saturday nights. You will be expected to do one 4-hour shift per month. Before each shift commences, they do a pub crawl. Before you get too excited, this is to check whether they think there is likely to be an incident sometime during the night. They also check locations such as building sites and other places likely to be vulnerable to theft. All patrollers are trained in special skills to ensure their safety in the job.

They have a deal with the local Ambulance service whereby they check that the AEDs (Automated Artificial Defibrillators) located around the district are properly charged ready for use. In return, they have received training in the use of these.

Apparently, for obvious nefarious uses, stolen number plates are in demand. These are easily and quickly removed from your car. The Community Patrol will be at Kapiti Landing on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November from 10am to 3pm where they will change your screws to a variety that needs a special tool to remove them. This for the princely sum of \$5. You can buy a sausage to the BBQ too.

Christmas is a-coming – and so is our Christmas Morning Tea. This will begin at 10am and we will be entertained by the Kapiti Senior Singers.



In November 2024, we will be celebrating 50 years since the establishment of Probus in New Zealand. The Kapiti Coast Probus Club was the first Club formed in New Zealand and, in fact, the southern hemisphere on 4 November 1974 and is still thriving today with over 110 members

Looking forward to seeing you at our final meeting of the 2024, all bursting with the Christmas spirit, Er, preferably not the alcoholic variety!!!

**Gary McElhinney – President**

### **Birthday Wine**

Gordon McArthur at 94 years old was the winner of the birthday wine. Hope you had a great day, Gordon.



## **EVENTS AND INTEREST GROUPS**

**ARTS GROUP:** Merlene Beard 902 4225. Last Tuesday of the month.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of November at Sandra's house.**

**AWAY CAFÉ:** Ian and Allison Basire 904 9121. Second Wednesday of the month.

On Wednesday 13 November we will meet at the Paraparaumu railway station by 10am, catch the train into Wellington. Then walk down to Lambton Quay to catch a #2, Karori, bus to the Lady Norwood Rose Garden. The roses should be in full bloom. Lunch will be at the Picnic Café. Note no Away Cafe in December or January. So make the most of this one!

**LITERARY GROUP:** Second Friday of the month. Contact Trish 027 241 7910 or Hazel 904 7243.

The next meeting will be **the McIntosh's house, 4 Harry Shaw Way, Raumati, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November at 10am.**

**GAMES GROUP:** Irene Bayly 04 299 2824, 021 252 6492. Third Friday of the month.

The next meeting will be on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 10am, at 18 Lorna Irene Drive, Raumati.**  
**Note change of venue.**

**GARDEN GROUP:** Annie Johnston 021 187 4089. First Thursday of the month.

The November meeting of this group will see a PowerPoint presentation of "Gardens in China". This will be held at **Gary and Bev McElhinney's home, 23 Miro Road, Raumati South**, on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of November at 10am. Bring a small plate.

**JIGSAW GROUP:** Delza Raynor 04 299 5388 or 021 170 3374. Second Monday of the month.:

The next meeting will be held at **15 Telford Way on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of November at 10am.**

**SHOWS and CONCERTS:** Hazel Ollerenshaw 021 108 9513 or 04 904 7243.

**Dancing Queen: A Tribute to Abba:** Southwards Theatre, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 8pm. Tickets \$61.10 for Seniors.

**Operatunity Christmas Show** is already all sold out. Sorry.

**SUNDAY WALKING GROUP:** Kay Bell 027 603 5769. Every Sunday morning at 9.30am.

Phone Kay if you would like to join in as they meet at a different venue each Sunday. They walk for about an hour and then have a cuppa at a café near to wherever they happen to be.

**KNITTING4CHARITY:** Heather Wakeling 04 902 2285 or 027 271 2290. Last Monday of the month.

The group is so successful and enjoyable that non-members have joined the group or sent in garments.



Heather holding a beautiful rug  
donated by a member of the  
community.

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Next meeting is on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of November at Café Lane at 12 noon.**

**MUSIC GROUP:** Peter Sander 904 8452. Second Monday of the month at various members' residences.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of November at Delza's house, 15 Telford Way, Raumati.**

**TRIPS: Mike Whooley 027 687 2010.**

Nothing to report this month.

**LUNCHEON GROUP: Kay Bell 027 603 5769. After Probus Meeting.**

There will be no lunch this month as you will have already enjoyed a delicious morning tea.

**WINE APPRECIATION GROUP: Kevin Morris 905 0019. Third Sunday of the month.**

The next meeting will be on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> of November.**

**NATURAL HERITAGE GROUP: Margaret Willard 027 363 2967. Third Monday of the month.**

The next meeting of this group will be on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of November. They are going to Zealandia.**

**ALMONER: Hazel Ollerenshaw 021 108 9513 or 04 904 7243, is our Almoner. If you know of any member who is ill or needs help, please give her a call.**

**NEWSLETTER: Annie Johnston 021 187 4089.** Hope everyone is successfully receiving their copy of the newsletter. If you think you are missing out, ring me or email me on [anniejohnston51@gmail.com](mailto:anniejohnston51@gmail.com)

Please send any contributions you wish to make to the newsletter to [raumatiprobus@gmail.com](mailto:raumatiprobus@gmail.com)

## **COMMITTEE 2024-2025**

**President: Gary McElhinney 04 299 3135; Immediate Past President: Ann Gregory: 027 364 7639; Vice President: Mary-Anne Kindell 021 251 5375; Secretary: Joy Heenan 027 327 9775; Treasurer: Geoff Gregory 027 384 4126; Membership: Irene Bayly 299 2824, 021 252 6492 and Diane Coombe 299 7624; Newsletter: Annie Johnston 021 187 4089; Almoner: Hazel Ollerenshaw 021 108 9513 or 04 904 724; Guest Speakers: Trish Tennant 027 241 7910; Cameo Speakers: Mary-Anne Kindell; Trips: Mike Whooley 027 687 2010; Facilities Co-ordinator: Terry White 299 3611; Seating Organisation: Mike Whooley 027 687 2010; Sound System Technician and Assistant Seating Organisation: Jim McIntosh 299 9003; Social Events for New Members: Heather Wakeling +64 27 271 2290.**

The next meeting of this committee will be held on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of January, 10am, at Miro Road.**

**DATE OF NEXT PROBUS MEETING:**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of November**

**CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA**

## **MAKOGAI**

In the heart of the Lomaiviti Group, lies the island of Makogai; not only abundant with biodiversity and beauty, but brimming with South Pacific history. From Leprosy Hospital, 1911-1969 to Government Mariculture Centre 2014.



### **Dalice Bay, Makogai**

Throughout Fiji there are many myths and legends associated with so called 'Leprosy stones'. These are believed to be the gravestones of Fijians who had died of the disease predating the arrival of Europeans and Asians.

Over many years, there was a gradual increasing awareness of the disease, and its contagious nature. Eventually under British rule the Leper Ordinance Act of 1899 was passed to prohibit sufferers from handling food, medicines and tobacco, using public transport, bathing in communal pools and lodging in public houses.

The **Makogai Leprosy Hospital** was officially opened on the 29th November 1911 when the first twenty patients arrived at the island onboard the Government ketch 'Ramadi'. Soon patients were arriving from all over the Pacific; countries such as the Solomons, the then named Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Cook Islands, Samoa, and Tonga. Separate villages for ethnic groups were constructed to 'promote peace and order' and women were kept separate from the men. In total, over 4000 patients landed on the island.



### **Arrival Jetty at Makogai**

Initially, the only treatment offered was Chaulmoogra Oil, which was used to dress wounds and given as an intra-dermal injection. While never a cure, it appeared to reduce symptoms. The island was divided in two to prevent the spread of the disease between patients and workers. Even the shoes worn at the patient's end of the Island were banned at the 'clean end' where the doctors and non-infected workers lived.

Finally, in 1948 – almost 40 years after the first patients were admitted, Dapsone, a sulpha drug and a cure against the bacterial cause of leprosy (or Hansen's Disease, named after the

Norwegian physician who identified the causal bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae* in 1873) was discovered.

During its 58 years as a leprosarium, approximately 2,500 patients were effectively treated and sent back home to their friends and families. Around 500 were repatriated back to their homeland and the remaining 1,241 died due to the direct effects and complications of leprosy. The deaths included a Fijian Sister, Maria Filomena, who had lived on the island for over 30 years as both a worker and patient having contracted the disease. You can visit her grave along with hundreds of others – in the large cemetery that overlooks Dalice Bay.



### **Cemetery at Makogai**

In 1969, the last patients with Leprosy left Makogai for Fiji's purpose-built hospital in Suva. With their departure, the days of the Makogai Leprosy Hospital came to an end.

### **Makogai Today**

Today, the island has a very DHARMA Initiative (from the popular and sometimes confusing TV series, 'LOST') feel to it!

Some of the old structures remain as if the Leprosarium was still in operation, while others are mere shells hidden under vines and other foliage. Only the steps of the old hospital show where the central building once stood. The concrete foundations are still intact for 4 dorm blocks believed to have been the Chinese or Indian quarters – these are within walking distance from the hospital site. At the 'clean' end of the island, an approximately 20 minutes walk along the coastline, you can wander among the old staff quarters. Today, the houses are home to government Fisheries officers and their families.



### **Old Theatre**

It is in this area that you can find what is left of the coconut soap factory, massive engine house, island store and even a bakery. The local school is located here and children play happily under the shade of the mango trees. Ask them to show you some of the old pottery and artefacts they have uncovered over the years. A walk back to where you began, this time

taking a detour through the forest, will see you pass the old post office and wireless telephone centre.



## Leprosy Hospital Steps

A snorkel just off the old arrival jetty in Dalice Bay uncovers even more historical artifacts; hospital beds lay strewn along the seabed under newly formed coral reefs. A closer look at these beds will also provide you with a clue as to what today's inhabitants of the island are up to...

## Mariculture at Makogai

In 2011, Makogai officially became a Mariculture Centre. One of the main projects that the team of fisheries officers based here work on, is culturing giant clams (*Tridacna*). Once in abundance on Fiji's reefs, many species have been overharvested and current levels are low. The adductor muscle is considered a delicacy and an aphrodisiac in China, which coupled with the harvesting of clams for food, shells and the aquarium trade – it is unsurprising that they have found themselves on the [IUCN's vulnerable list](#). In the 1980s an Australian-funded project began culturing them at Makogai – and thousands have since been transplanted to various parts of Fiji.



## Mariculture at Makogai

The old hospital beds lined up in the shallows of Dalice Bay are used to protect juvenile clams once they have been transplanted from the onshore breeding facility. Once deemed large enough to fend for themselves, they are available for repopulating other reef areas around Fiji.

The important role that the *vasua* (clams) play on the coral reef is often overlooked. A single giant clam can filter hundreds of litres of water in a day. As filter feeders, this keystone species offers a great line of defence against an outbreak of pesky [Crown of Thorns](#) starfish by filtering out thousands of their microscopic spawn. Remember: while we are busy trying to help replenish our reefs supplies, the [Fisheries Act Cap 58](#) states that no person shall be in possession of, sell or export giant clam flesh, or shells.



**Giant Clam Shell**

### **Just for a laugh**

An old man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink...

He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife.

He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them.

As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering. Obviously, they were thinking, "That poor old couple...all they can afford is one meal for the two of them." As the man began to eat his fries, a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple.

The old man said, they were just fine, they were used to sharing everything. People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said, "No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything."

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked, "What is it you are waiting for?"

She answered, "THE TEETH!"