



Combined Probus Club of Hutt Inc.

NEWSLETTER August, 2026

President: Sally Selwood

Secretary: Marion Swales, 4 Smallfield Lane
Upper Hutt 5018.

Treasurer: Nanette Lowe

Email: combinedprobusclubofhutt8@gmail.com

The President's Preamble

Another month has rolled around — and I'm beginning to wonder where the year is disappearing to! Before we know it, we'll be talking about Christmas again, although I'm certainly not ready for that thought yet. For now, I'm looking forward to spring and, hopefully, some spring-like weather. We can but hope!

Our club continues to be in great heart, with a number of new members to welcome this month. Your committee is keeping a close eye on our growing numbers and, in particular, the size of our venue. We may eventually reach the point where we need to consider a waiting list — a problem most clubs would be delighted to have! It's a great position to be in and one that many other Probus Clubs would envy, so thank you all for supporting us so well.

A few members have also asked why Molesworth was selected for a possible trip in March rather than Hamilton Gardens. The answer is quite simple — it came down to numbers. More people indicated an interest in Molesworth, so Molesworth won the popular vote!

That doesn't mean Hamilton Gardens has been forgotten. It is certainly not off the radar and could be considered later in the year or perhaps early in 2028. However, organising a large group trip involves quite a lot of behind-the-scenes planning — much of which you never see — and it's not really practical to have the committee trying to organise two major trips at the same time. We do like to keep our committee members smiling!

So, for now, Molesworth is in the planning pipeline, Hamilton Gardens remains on the wish list, and there are plenty of opportunities ahead for us to enjoy each other's company.

Thank you all once again for your continued support and enthusiasm. It certainly makes being part of our Probus Club a very enjoyable experience.

Sally

Meeting, Monday 10am, 17th August

Membership: **June Stratton**, to be introduced by David Gledhill
Louise Fleetwood, to be introduced by Nanette Lowe
Janice Wano, to be introduced by Mary Anne Mills
Stephen Bain, to be introduced by Linda White
Yvonne Plumley, to be introduced by Alison de Vos
Ann and Richard Whitsed, to be introduced by Rhian and Peter Roberts.
David Jorgenson has died.
Julie Alexandra has resigned.

Life and Times: **James Wheeler**

Speaker: **Dr Susette Goldsmith**

Susette is a Wellington based writer and editor of non-fiction. Her research explores new ways of perceiving, interpreting and safeguarding natural heritage in twenty-first-century Aotearoa New Zealand, and her current focus is on our arboreal heritage. She recently wrote a book:
Capital Trees: The arboreal legacy of Te Upoko-o-te-Ika the Wellington region.

Susette will illustrate various sites on the 'tour' and discuss issues of biodiversity; tree heritage vulnerability, listing, and authenticity; and trees as heritage as they apply to the Wellington region.

Topic: "A Virtual Walking Tree Tour"

Introduced by: James Wheeler

Thanked by: Robyn Wheeler

Dots on Badges

Ever wondered why some people have coloured dots on their name tags?

- Orange dots mean that person is a co-ordinator of an interest group
- Blue indicates the person is a member of the Committee
- Green indicates someone is a new member

Photos Wanted for Pre-Meeting Slide Presentations

If you have photos from Probus activities, suitable for showing on the screen prior to our Monthly meetings, please email them to Mike Fackney on mfackney@yahoo.com (preferred method) with a brief caption. Alternatively, they can be sent by text or WhatsApp to 0212359156, or to his Messenger.

Payments

We can accept cash or payments direct to our Bank Account.

Account is: COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF HUTT

Please add: Particulars: Surname
Code: Initials or first Name
Reference: "Subs" (or reason for payment).

Changes to Contact Details

To ensure that newsletters etc. reach each nominated member on time, it is essential that our membership records are always correct. Your help is vital in keeping these records up to date.

If you become aware of any changes to a member's contact details, please send the relevant details to Colin Dyer (colinpdyer@gmail.com).

Emails are the preferred method for notifying these details. However, if for any reason you are unable to send an email, please phone Colin

Membership Applications

If you need an application form for a potential new member, please request this from the Secretary. Once the form has been completed, it should be returned to her.

Name Badges

If you require a new club name badge (which should be worn on all Probus occasions) please contact the Club Treasurer. Cost \$15, magnetic or safety pin fastening (please specify).

Club Almoner

Liz Palmer is now our Club Almoner. If you know of anyone in need of support during sickness or bereavement, please contact Liz at liz@thepalmers.co.nz.

From time to time there's a need to find members to pop in to visit a sick or lonely member, or maybe give someone a lift. Liz would appreciate anyone willing to help in this way to put their name on the sheet on the booking table - she doesn't anticipate this to be at all onerous, but obviously the more who offer the less often you will be needed, and it gives Liz greater scope to choose a visitor.

Club Website

Members are encouraged to use the Club website, which contains a wealth of information about the club and its activities, including the newsletters. The website can be accessed by typing 'Combined Probus Club of Hutt' on the internet. The club membership list is password protected; however, members can obtain the password from your committee.

The website also contains recent and archived photos of events. Members who do not wish to have their photos included on the website are kindly asked to inform the photographer at the time the photos are being taken.

Probus Travel Insurance Programme

As members of Probus you are eligible to use the Probus travel insurance programme. However, the Committee urges you to do your homework and consider whether or not this is an appropriate scheme for your needs. The link is below:

https://www.probussouthpacific.org/pages/travel_insurance_landing_nz_new

Also at the Meeting

Jigsaw Joys

Jigsaws will be available as usual.

Contact: Owen Rowse, rowse@xtra.co.nz.

Book, Books, Books.

Many of us have books which we have enjoyed, are not likely to read again, but do not wish to consign to the rubbish bin.

If you wish, bring some (maximum 5 on any one meeting) on Monday and place them on the table provided. They are then available for anyone who wishes to take one or more. No money involved, just preferable to throwing away.

Any left after the meeting will be taken for the Rotary Book sales and any left after that will be donated to the Heretaunga Book Fair, a charitable trust. (David Gledhill).

Interest Group Activities and Outings

Participation in these Interest Groups is one of the most important activities available to members to keep the club thriving. We would always welcome suggestions regarding possible new Interest Groups. The Committee is available to provide whatever help you need to get a new group active.

Notes:

If you wish to participate in an activity, *please* write your name and contact number on the list on the Activities Table before the end of the meeting. *If later you find you cannot participate or have not put your name on the list, **please** let the organiser know as soon as possible.*

The purpose of providing phone numbers on the Activity lists at the meeting is for extraordinary changes for the coordinator. If your name is on the list the coordinator will not generally ring you to remind you of the event you have signed up for.

Circa Pantomime - Beauty and the Beast: 4pm Sunday 29th November, 2026

From Mary Rowse:

As in previous years we will be booking tickets for the popular Circa Christmas Pantomime. We wish to take advantage of the cheaper Early Bird Gold Card Tickets that go on sale early in September. We don't know what the price will be yet, but last year the Early Bird tickets were \$40. I expect they will be dearer this year.

If you would like to join us, please put your name on the sheet at the August meeting or contact me by the end of August. When the tickets go on sale, I will contact you and let you know the price and confirm that you are still able to go. I will let you know our bank account details and will book your ticket once you have paid me.

We will book Shed 22 again for dinner after the show.

Mary Rowse maryrowse@xtra.co.nz

Book Group

This group is currently full

When: Wednesday 19th August 10am -12 noon

Where: Lyn Dyer's home, 4 Trinity Ave

Contact: Lyn Dyer

e-Bike Group

When: Thursday, 20th August

What: Meet at the Coffee cart (Flying Bean coffee cart) near the Petone Settlers Museum, on The Esplanade, Petone for a 10:00 am departure.
They will ride the new Te Ara Tupua bike trail to Wellington, enjoy a light lunch along the way and return to Petone by 2:30pm.
Contact Graham if you intend joining them

Contact: Graham Wigley

This group is over-subscribed and we cannot accommodate new members at this time.

When: Thursday, 20th August and 17th September. 4:30pm

Contact: Mary Rowse, maryrowse@xtra.co.nz

Fairly Interesting Places

This group aims to visit a different fairly interesting place every month. combining the visit with a shortish optional walk followed by a cafe lunch. It will be accessible by both car and public transport.

When: Tuesday 25th August

What: Bus and train to the Waikanae art gallery, Toi MAHARA

Lunch: At the nearby Joe and Jay Eatery, Mahara Place, Waikanae.

Meet: At Alicetown for 9:55ish 83 bus to Wellington then train.

Contact: David Gledhill

Mah Jong Group

At present this group is up to capacity but we will keep you in touch if spaces become available.

When: Wednesday 26th August, 1:30pm
Where: Kay and Brian Lummis' home, 67A Penrose St
Contact: Kay Lummis, kay@lummis.co.nz

Ladies, Let's Do Lunch

When: Wednesday 26th August, 12:30pm
Where: Figg Tree Café, 386 Fergusson Drive, Heretaunga, Upper Hutt
Contact: Heather Salmon to say you are coming: heather_salmon@xtra.co.nz, or sign on the list at our monthly meeting.
Let Heather know if you would like to car share, either as driver or passenger.
All ladies welcome

Wine Tasters Too!!

When: Wednesday 26th August, 4:00pm
Where: Colleen Baker's home, 73 Pretoria Street
We ask for \$10 contribution to the host's costs of wine and snack provision. We have room for one or two new members, and casual sign-ups (subject to space limitations). Enquiries to Richard Perry
Contact: Richard Perry richbloss@outlook.com

Arts and Crafts

When: Friday, 28th August 1:30pm
Where: The August gathering will be hosted by Gillian Green at 2 Te Ara O Matutawa, Lower Hutt (Avalon area)
Please let her know if you are attending.
Arts Contact: Bernard Sang Email: laihinsang@gmail.com
Crafts Contact: Margaret Wilson, Email: m.wilson2@xtra.co.nz

Music Group Secundo

When: Monday 31st August, 1:30pm – 4:00pm
Where: Lyn & Graeme Dyer's home, 4 Trinity Ave
Music: The theme: *Favourite aria or chorus from an opera*
Creativity is not only allowed, but also encouraged!
Be prepared to introduce your chosen track(s) to add interest to our listening.
Your choice of music (including introduction) should last max 10 minutes.
CDs or vinyls only please
Contact: Please let Lyn know you are coming. lgdyernz@gmail.com, or sign the list at our monthly meeting.
Newcomers welcome

e-Tech Group

When: Tuesday, 1st September, 2:00 - 4:00pm
Where: Mary Rowse's home: 89 Wai-iti Cres
Koha: A koha towards afternoon tea is appreciated
Topics: Health Uses of Technology, Instagram for Seniors, Windows Defender for antivirus
Contact: Our numbers will be limited to the first 20 registered. Please sign the sheet at our meeting, or let Mary know you're coming: maryrowse@xtra.co.nz
We will confirm your attendance

Local Rides

Drivers needed. Many of us no longer drive but still enjoy short trips. Please write name and number of passengers on the list on the Activities Table if you would be prepared to help. Thanks, David Gledhill

When: Wednesday 2nd September, 2:00pm.
What: Be driven to and around Island Bay by a Probus driver
Meet: By the bus stop in Alicetown (nice little café if you are early)
Bring: Passengers to contribute \$5.00 for petrol
Contact: David Gledhill

Visit To Wellington Museum, Queens Wharf

The Museum shares fascinating stories of the Wellington Region, and is housed in the 1892 Heritage Building, which was the Bond Store.

When: Wednesday 2nd September. Tour commences 11am
Meet: In the foyer at 10:45am
Cost: \$12 cost to be paid at reception on arrival

Travel suggestions: **Bus:** No 83 from Queensgate at 9:36am (or another stop which is convenient to you) and get off Lambton Centre Stop B Bunny Street. Walk down Bunny Street, across Customhouse Quay to Queens Wharf. (Approximately 350 meters)
Ferry: Days Bay - Queens Wharf leaving at 9:20am, arrive 9:45am

Lunch: At your own expense at BIN 44 Restaurant, 3 Queens Wharf
Contact: Nanette Lowe, nanselnz@gmail.com

Current Affairs and Future Issues Discussion Group

When: Thursday 3rd September, 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Where: Mary Rowse's home: 89 Wai-iti Cres
Topic: NZ Economy
Cost: Nil - but a koha toward afternoon tea can be made.
Bring: Just your name badge, to make it easier for the newer members of the group
Contact: Please let Mary know you're coming: maryrowse@xtra.co.nz, or Lyn Morris, rhyslyn2051@gmail.com (if you haven't signed up at the Probus meeting)
Newcomers very welcome

Pétanque Group

When: Friday, 4th September, 1:30pm
Where: Avalon Park Piste (near the pavilion)
New players most welcome (very casual!) No previous playing experience needed
Contact: Mike Keehan, mike.keehan@xtra.co.nz

Intrepid Hikers

When: Monday, 7th September
What: To be advised
Contact: Jos van Herk

Dinner for Eight on the Eighth

When: Tuesday 8th September, 6:00pm.
Where: Members choose the restaurants.
Contact: Ian Smith, ianelizab2@outlook.com.

Stitch and Sew

When: Tuesday, 8th September, 9:30am
Host: Jocelyn White's house, 91 Kings Crescent,
Contact: Marilyn Lawrence, marilynlawrencenz@gmail.com

Ladies' Lunch

When: Wednesday, 9th September, 11:30am
Where: Boulcott's Farm cafe
Cost: Cabinet food and menu.
Contact: Liz Palmer, liz@thepalmers.co.nz

Men's Lunch

When: Wednesday, 9th September, 12 noon
What: Indian
Where: Gr8 Tandoori, 97B Queens Drive, Lower Hutt
Meet: At the cafe
Contact: RSVP to David Gledhill or Bryan Lummis

Travel Group

When: Wednesday, 9th September, 2.30 – 4.30pm
Where: Jenny and Mike Keehan's home at 2 Avalon Park Drive,
Topic: Places of interest 'off the beaten track' in New Zealand.
Contact: Mike and Jenny Keehan, mike.keehan@xtra.co.nz.
Please let them know if you will be attending

Lighthouse Cinema Group

- When:** Thursday, 10th September 10:30am for 11:00am showing.
- What:** **“An evening with Victor Hugo”** - Pascal Bonitzer has crafted a slick, emotional, funny account of modern problems playing out on and off stage. Centred by a brilliant performance from the always- exceptional Fabrice Luchini.
Note: In French with subtitles.
- Cost:** \$13.50 for Light Club members and includes a free hot drink.
- Contact:** Liz Palmer, liz@thepalmers.co.nz

Ramblers Group

- When:** Monday 14th September
- Where:** Otari/Wilton bush walk, mostly flat
- Meet:** At 10am for instructions and car-pooling at the new Homana Te Puni car park at the motorway end of the Petone esplanade.
Lunch at a nearby café to be advised.
- Bring:** Warm clothes and money for lunch
- Contact:** Mike Keehan, mike.keehan@xtra.co.nz.

Bookies Two

- When:** Monday, 14th September, 2:00pm
- Where:** Christina MacFarlane’s home, 151 The Esplanade, Petone.
- Contact:** Mary Rowse, maryrowse@xtra.co.nz
It’s helpful to let Christina know if you will be attending,
christinamacfarlane@gmail.com

Garden Group

- When:** Friday 18th September, 1:30pm
- What:** A visit to the historic Orr House in Lower Hutt.
- Meet:** At the property at 132 Kings Crescent
- Cost:** \$20 per head. house history, garden and a cuppa.
- Contact:** Colleen Baker, Ph 021 466 659.

Speaker Summary for July

“Doing Community Differently” was the theme of the talk given by the Wellington City Missioner, Rev Murray Edridge. The Mission covers the entire Wellington region. In 2024, Whakamaru was opened to epitomise the ethic of the organisation. Whakamaru has accommodation, laundry, 24 hour café, medical centre, supermarket and advisers to shelter and nurture those struggling with homelessness, addiction and mental unwellness in a non-judgmental way. Solving some of society’s problems differently meant developing relationships more, with less emphasis on changing those struggling and truly listening. It was an excellent and challenging 45 minutes.
Peter R.

Next Meeting: Monday, 21st September, 2026