



WELLINGTON COMBINED PROBUS

July 2026 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: **Thursday 13th August 2026**
(Please send apologies to Ainslie Maresca 021 078 4449 - ainsliemaresca28@gmail.com)

Member Speaker: **Pat Berry – “Why I love London.”**

Guest Speaker: **Revd. Lance Lukin, Regional Director & Wellington Port Chaplain of The Mission to Seafarers.**
“Why the Strait of Hormuz is suddenly interesting”.

The club meets at 10.00am on the second Thursday of the month, except January, at the Gateway Baptist Church, 33 Park Road, Miramar.

Website: <https://www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/wellingtoncombined>

President's Report – July 2026



We are all aware of the three so called constants in life, namely, taxes, death and change. Times are constantly changing; we need to keep up or get left behind.

The name Wellington Combined Probus Club Inc came about when the men's and women's clubs at the time combined. With the passage of time, this has become a little outdated, therefore the committee are currently discussing the possibility of a change to our club's name.

We want to involve all members in any such decision, and any change must be ratified through a special meeting (which can be held in conjunction with a monthly club meeting)

However we would value informal feedback via email, text, phone call, or in person. Do you agree with the idea of a change? Do you have an idea for a suitable new name? A recognisable location must be included in the title.

Don't wait for the next meeting, if you have an idea or opinion, let us know.

Meanwhile, stay warm and have fun!

Jan Humphries



*“I'm very pleased to be here.
Let's face it, at my age I'm very
pleased to be anywhere.”*

George Burns

Calendar of Events – August 2026

Date	Event	Location	Time
Every Monday	Walking Group	Check with Christine Tijssen	10:00am
Thursday, 6 th August	Quiddler	John Ellings	1:30pm
Thursday, 13th August	Probus Monthly Meeting	Baptist Church, Miramar	10:00am
 Friday, 14 th August	Book Club	Denise Karageorge	10:30am
Thursday, 20 th August	Monthly Committee Meeting	Jan Humphries	2:00pm
Friday, 21 st August	Dining Out	Dough Bakery, Upper Hutt	Noon
Thursday, 27 th August	Tea/Coffee Morning	Cafe Polo, Miramar	10:00am
Thursday, 27 th August	500 Group	Warren & Sheila	1:30pm
Thursday, 27 th August	Deadline for submission of Newsletter stories/pictures		
(For group events please check dates and times with the group organizers)			

At the June Meeting

Members Present: 73 – Apologies: 18 – Absent: 6 – Visitors: 4

Guest speaker: **Andrew Little – Mayor of Wellington**

We were pleased to welcome Wellington Mayor Andrew Little, who spoke openly about the challenges and opportunities facing the city. He outlined his priorities for building a more cohesive council, improving the relationship between elected members and council staff, strengthening cost control, restoring public and business confidence, and telling a more positive story about Wellington.

The Mayor also discussed several major issues now before the council, including flood recovery, the Moa Point wastewater treatment plant failure, the establishment of the new water organisation Tiaki Wai, and possible council amalgamation across the Wellington region. Despite these challenges, he expressed strong optimism about Wellington's future, highlighting the city's role as New Zealand's capital, its growing technology and science sectors, and its world-leading environmental achievements through Predator Free Wellington, Zealandia and Capital Kiwi.

After Andrew's talk there was a lively question-and-answer session that covered topics including rates, recycling, parking, public transport, local amenities and city maintenance.

Andrew was introduced by Sheila Kleyn and thanked by Martin Clarke.



Member speaker: **Joan Foster**

Joan shared memories of a winter holiday in Hokkaido, Japan, taken with Todd in February 2014 while their son Andrew was working near Sapporo as an assistant language teacher. After preparing with Japanese language and travel classes in Wellington, they set off for the snowy north, where Andrew acted as both guide and translator. Highlights included Sapporo's spectacular Snow Festival, a chilly evening festival on Lake Akan, the rare red-crowned cranes of Kushiro Marsh, an icebreaker cruise through drift ice on the Sea of Okhotsk, a visit to the Abashiri Prison Museum, and the cold-climate animals at Asahiyama Zoo—especially the famous penguin walk. Despite freezing temperatures, snowy roads and challenging weather, the trip was full of remarkable sights, warm hospitality and lasting family memories.



Matters Arising

Resignations from the Club between 1st April and 30th June:

Liz Cousins, Romola Dudding, Elaine and Ernie Koch, Joyce Mackay,
Jane Muru Anderson, Philippa Novak and Pauline Phillips.



Bringing a visitor to the Club Meeting?

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, and it is a good way to introduce potential new members. Please ask for a temporary badge as you come in and introduce them to the President so they can be welcomed by name.

Bookshare Table

Our book table has proved popular with members, and we would love to see more books please. If you have something you have read and enjoyed but don't want to keep any longer, consider bringing it along to the next meeting for someone else to enjoy.



Administered by Jan Humphries and Dianne Little



New Book Club

A new book club is being formed, with the intention of getting together once a month to discuss the members favourite reads.

See details below in Special Interest Groups, and if you would like to join, please contact Denise Karageorge.

Visits & Outings

Members are encouraged to put forward their suggestions for visits or outings to a member of the committee.

- **Dining Out – Sheila Fitzsimons – 021 443 043 - sheilafitzsimons@gmail.com**



Members enjoyed lunch at Arcimboldi in Seatoun on 16th July.

Our next dining out is a train trip on Friday, 21st August to the Whirinaki Whare Taonga art gallery followed by lunch at Dough Bakery, 836 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt. We will meet in the foyer of Wellington station at 10.40am and travel on the 10.50am train to Upper Hutt for about 45 minutes. From there it's a five minute walk to the gallery, which is a free public arts centre. For select exhibitions, entry is by donation, so please bring some cash. Lunch is at noon and there is a menu and cabinet food items. If you need more time at the art gallery, you can return after lunch.



If you would like to come please put your name on the list at the Club meeting or contact Sheila as above.

- **Monthly Tea/Coffee Morning**



This is an informal get-together at 10.00am on the fourth Thursday of each month (except December) at Polo, on the corner of Rotherham Terrace and Para Street, Miramar. There's no need to book, just come along for a snack and a chat.

Next one: Thursday, 27th August.

A visit to Government House

On Wednesday the 29th of July twelve of our members visited Government House, where we were given a very informative conducted tour. Built on the site formerly occupied by Mount View Lunatic Asylum this impressive building set in manicured grounds encapsulates the colonial history of New Zealand as the home of the representative of the British monarch.



In the entrance hall we were shown the carved wooden coats of arms of the 37 holders of the office (so far), from Captain William Hobson in 1840 to Dame Cindy Kiro, the current Governor General. The responsibilities of the post were explained, which include constitutional matters such as the swearing-in of new ministers, giving assent to new bills of parliament, the accreditation of new ambassadors, conferring of various honours and hosting of foreign dignitaries and visiting members of the British royal family.

We were also shown the other main rooms on the ground floor, which contain many portraits and other works of art, some of them quite quirky.



Many thanks to Warren Fitzsimons for organising this visit.

Special Interest Groups

Group Leaders, please send dates, news, and pictures (relevant to the activity) for inclusion in the next newsletter to the editor, Peter How - peterhow@hotmail.com – Deadline for next edition: 27th August.

- **Quiddler: Kit Burford 027 930 2009 - kitkenburford@gmail.com**



If you like word games like Scrabble, you will enjoy Quiddler. It is played with letter cards, and the object is to make as many words as possible for the highest score. The Quiddler group meets on the first Thursday of each month and welcomes new members. No experience necessary.

The next session will be 6th August. For more information, please contact Kit.



- **Book Club: Denise Karageorge 021 149 9806 - tagd.kgeorge@xtra.co.nz**

The inaugural meeting of the Wellington Combined Probus Book Club was held at Polo on Sunday morning, 26th July. This small group of five - Denise Karageorge, John Ellings, Jan Humphries, Warren Fitzsimons and Sheila Kleyn (with apologies from Barbara Eagle) discussed the practicalities of running a fledgling book club and decided that, at least initially, the group will:

- Meet monthly on the second Friday morning of the month at 10.30 am, with the next meeting to be held on Friday, 14th August at Denise Karageorge's house.
- The monthly home venue will rotate around the group with the host providing tea and some eats. Should the group become too large, an external venue will be chosen for future meetings.
- Each book club member will introduce a book of their choice that they have read, or are reading. The group recognises that each person may have very different reading tastes and hope to learn about books that they might otherwise not have considered.



New members welcome. If you would like to join, please contact Denise for further details.

- **500 Group: Warren Fitzsimons 021 107 3036 – warrenfitzsimons@gmail.com**



The 500 group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month in Strathmore, starting at 1:30pm, with a short afternoon tea break. Three tables of four can be accommodated. There are now 12 permanent players but there is room for other occasional players. Training or brush up skills are offered if you are keen to join.

If you are interested, please contact Warren for details of times and venue.

- **Walking Group: Christine Tijssen 021 193 3884 - christine.tijssen@yahoo.com**

After having had two walks cancelled due to extremely dreary weather, we were keen to get out and enjoy a walk. Apart from the obvious benefits of walking regularly, we enjoy each other's company, solve the problems of the world, have become expert weather forecasters, and have plenty of laughs. Of course, the refreshments are an added bonus. We welcome new members.

On 13 July, 16 brave souls met at Courtenay Place, walked along the waterfront and detoured to have a quick visit to the Old Government Buildings in Lambton Quay – it was toasty warm inside. If you've not visited here before, it's certainly worth a visit. Then up through Thorndon, to a new café for our group – the Chapman Taylor Café and Inn at 113 Molesworth Street. Very nice, good service and friendly staff.

On 20 July, we embarked on the "Prison Walk" – a lovely walk from the former Mt Crawford prison, down to Strathmore where we partook of refreshments at the Strathmore Bakery. This walk is one we always enjoy. The views over the eastern suburbs are rather special.



Our last walk for July, on a very frosty morning, saw us meet at Courtenay Place and walk to Wellington Zoo. En route we stopped at the Greek-New Zealand memorial, which is situated on the median strip between Kent and Cambridge Terraces. The history of this memorial is very interesting – we learn something new on all of our walks. On a personal note, one of the architects who designed the memorial was the late Michael Phanoulas, a former neighbour of ours. At the gates of Government House, we were given some very useful “nuggets” of information about various details of the gates and other aspects of Government House. After walking through Newtown, we arrived at the Zoo and had morning refreshments at Rex Tremendous, the Zoo café.

Christine Tijssen
Convenor

If you'd like to join us, please contact Christine.



The Greek-New Zealand Memorial – 27th July

- Hot Stuff Baking Group: Martin Clarke 021 810919 - taipak29@gmail.com**



On Tuesday 07 July 2026, the 40th session of the club's Hot Stuff Baking Group took place, and to acknowledge this not-insignificant anniversary, I decided that the group members themselves should prepare and bake the product of the day - without my guidance! They did indeed prepare and bake a batch of sixteen Oat, Raisin and Walnut cookies - but they still needed me to turn the oven on, and to then tell them where the bowls, the electric beater, the baking trays and all the ten ingredients could be found in the Clarke kitchen!

After butter, sugar, honey and an egg were beaten, the dry ingredients of rolled oats, raisins and chopped walnuts (of course!) plus flour, baking powder and cinnamon were added to create a soft dough - which was then rolled into balls for baking; great fun and great craic resulted from the exercise - but the cookies were delicious....



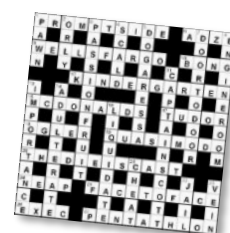
Martin Clarke

- Cryptic Crosswords: Todd Foster, 027 475 2139 - tjfooster@xtra.co.nz**

The Cryptic Crossword Group meets a couple of times each month at Lyaal Bay or Strathmore. We work together to fill in puzzles and share in the satisfaction when we complete one. Even if you have found these crosswords challenging in the past, there is plenty of help available. A cup of tea or coffee is served and there is time for a chat.

Sample clue: A six-letter word beginning with M meaning: 'Guys outside assist the girl'.

Explanation: Guys are MEN and to assist is to AID. Put the letters MEN around (outside) the letters of AID and you get MAIDEN, which is another name for a girl.



If you're interested in joining us, please give Todd a call.

- **Wine Tasting Group: Andy Fairweather 021 120 3052 - atfairweather@gmail.com**

Interested in joining? Please contact Andy



Todd's Teasers

By Todd Foster

Brazil and Argentina

1. What two countries in South America are not bordered by Brazil?
2. Who was the widow of Argentinian President Juan Perón who became President herself following his death in 1974?
3. What was the name of the Argentinian cruiser sunk by a Royal Navy submarine during the Falklands War with the loss of 323 lives?

General knowledge

1. The initial letters of the answers spell the name of a New Zealand lake that is about the same size as Singapore.
2. The tomb of which Egyptian leader is said to be cursed?
3. What is the largest country in Africa?
4. Which distant planet is four times the size of Earth?
5. Which popular soft drink was created by Caleb Brabham?
6. The name of which European capital city starts and ends with a vowel?

Number puzzles

1. What is 6 cubed plus 11 squared plus the number of hoops on a croquet lawn?
2. What two numbers are next in this sequence 2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 24, 27, __, __?
3. A boat can travel at 6 kph in still water. How strong is the current in a river if the boat takes four hours to travel upstream from A to B and two hours to travel downstream back to A?

Word puzzles

1. Jane's mother had three children. The first was called Tom and the second was called Dick. What was the name of the third child?
2. A horse jumped over a tower, landed on a man and the man disappeared. What just happened?
3. What can you only keep if you have given it to someone else?
4. What is the only letter that appears in this sentence three times?
5. What is the saying represented in this dingbat? A U R P M S?

(Answers on last page)



To build may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day.

Winston Churchill

Notices

Club Bank Account

The Club bank account is: **02-0520-0029712-000 (Wellington Combined Probus Club)**. When making a payment please include your name as reference.

Permission to use photographs

Our Newsletter is sent to Probus South Pacific Limited in Australia and to local Probus Clubs. Sometimes PSPL use photographs of our activities in their publications. Our own website is progressing well, and from time to time, there will be photographs of Club members on that. If you do not want your photograph used in this way, please let Jan Humphries know. Silence will be taken as "permission granted".

Visitors

If you are bringing a visitor to our meeting, please ask for a temporary badge as you come in. Then introduce the visitor to the President so they can be welcomed by name.

Gluten-free

If you require gluten-free food, there is a limited supply available on the trolley in the kitchen at morning tea time. Just pop in and help yourself.

Membership List, Club Constitution and Privacy Policy

A full Membership List is distributed periodically with the Newsletter. The Club Constitution has been updated in 2025 and is always available on our website, or you can download it here: [Constitution 2025](#) and [Standing Resolutions 2025](#). There is also a new [Privacy Policy](#) available on the website.

Leaving the Club

If you no longer wish to belong to the club, please inform one of the committee members and formally resign, so that your name can be taken off the membership list.

Almoner

If you are aware of a Club member who is not well, or who, for any reason, would benefit from receiving a card/phone call/contact from the Club, please contact Ainslie Maresca.

Travel Insurance

Probus South Pacific has joined with Allianz Partners New Zealand to provide travel insurance for Probus members for both domestic and international travel. Members who wish to apply for travel insurance can visit the website [here](#) or call the Allianz team directly on 0800 800 048.

Probus Member Benefits Scheme

The Probus South Pacific Limited Member Benefits Scheme offers members exclusive discounts from a variety of participating businesses. Click [here](#) for details.

2026/27 COMMITTEE		
Jan Humphries	President	021 265 2973 - janice.humphries@gmail.com
Sheila Kleyn	Vice President / Speakers	021 0895 4426 - sheilakleyn@hotmail.com
Todd Foster	Immediate Past President	027 475 2139 - tjfoster@xtra.co.nz
Sheila Fitzsimons	Treasurer / Catering / Dining Out	021 443 043 - sheilafitzsimons@gmail.com
Barbara Eagle	Secretary / Website Coordinator	027 298 3339 - eagle.barbara@gmail.com
Brian Allen	Membership	027 515 9926 - bpallenx8@gmail.com
Ainslie Maresca	Almoner	021 078 4449 - ainsliemaresca28@gmail.com
Peter How	Newsletter	021 042 8451 - peterhow@hotmail.com
Tricia O'Donnell*	Archivist	021 215 7740 - tricio2285@gmail.com

*Co-opted

Answers to Todd's Teasers

Brazil and Argentina

1. Ecuador and Chile
2. Isabel Perón
3. General Belgrano

General Knowledge

1. Tutankhamun
2. Algeria
3. Uranus
4. Pepsi-Cola
5. Oslo

The New Zealand lake is TAUPO

Number puzzles

1. 343 (216 + 121 + 6)
2. 54 & 58. The sequence is $\times 2$, +1, $\times 2$, +2, $\times 2$, +3, $\times 2$, +4, ...
3. The speed of the current is 2 kph. The boat would travel at 4 kph upstream and 8 kph downstream, whatever the distance.

Word puzzles

1. Jane
2. A knight captured a pawn in a game of chess.
3. A promise
4. The letter 'r'.
5. Up in arms.

ALEXIA STODDART

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