



WELLINGTON COMBINED PROBUS

August 2026 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: **Thursday 10th September 2026**

(Please send apologies to Ainslie Maresca 021 078 4449 - ainsliemaresca28@gmail.com)

Member Speaker: **Elizabeth Neilson – “Travels with my brother.”**

Guest Speaker: **Lala Simpson – Singer and Artistic Director, Wellington Community Choir**

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 – August 2026

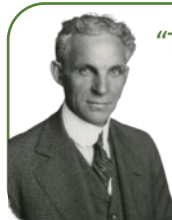
By now we all should have received our enrolment packs for the upcoming election. If you have not, or there is something wrong, you can go to Vote.nz, it is a very clear and simple site where you can check your enrolment and amend it if necessary – maybe you moved house in the past three years? You will need your driver licence or passport to make any changes. If you prefer you can phone them on 0800 367656.

Elections are becoming more complicated, nevertheless we all know how important it is to cast our votes. Watch out for your easy vote card which should be out well before election day, by post or email, you can still vote without one, it just may take a little longer.

On a lighter note, I have noticed mornings getting lighter and the temperature warming slightly. Spring bulbs are flowering, daylight saving is coming and the winter energy supplement will end soon. As the gardens wake up, so should we, walk around the neighbourhood and admire the gardens – it's ok to peer over the fence if you're only looking at the garden!

There will undoubtedly be more wild weather to come, then the spring nor'westers which we love so much, but when the weather fits, call a friend and go for a stroll and a coffee in the sunshine.

Jan Humphries



“Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is the probable reason why so few engage in it.”

Henry Ford

Calendar of Events – September 2026

Date	Event	Location	Time
Every Monday	Walking Group	Check with Christine Tijssen	10:00am
Thursday, 3 rd September	Quiddler	John Ellings	1:30pm
Friday, 4 th September	Gardening Group	Home and Garden Show	11:30am
Thursday, 10th September	Probus Monthly Meeting	Baptist Church, Miramar	10:00am
Friday, 11 th September	Book Club	Sheila Kleyn	10:30am
Wednesday, 16th September	Dining Out	Takina Convention Centre	Noon
Thursday, 17 th September	Monthly Committee Meeting	Jan Humphries	2:00pm
Thursday, 24 th September	Tea/Coffee Morning	Cafe Polo, Miramar	10:00am
Thursday, 24 th September	500 Group	Warren & Sheila	1:30pm
Monday, 28 th September	Deadline for submission of Newsletter stories/pictures		
(For group events please check dates and times with the group organizers)			

At the August Meeting

Members Present: 71 – Absent: 25 – Visitors: 1

Guest speaker: Rev. Lance Lukin



Lance is the Regional Director for Oceania and Wellington Port Chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers. He gave us an entertaining but thought-provoking talk about the people behind global shipping — the seafarers who bring so much of what we use every day to New Zealand.



Lance explained that New Zealand depends heavily on ships for both imports and exports, and how global shipping routes are very susceptible to disruption at just a few choke points such as the Panama Canal, Suez Canal, Bab El Mandab Strait, Strait of Malacca and, especially now, the Strait of Hormuz.

The crews who keep this trade moving often work in difficult, lonely and demanding conditions. Many spend months away from home, with limited time ashore, little access to family, and long stretches at sea without reliable communication. Events such as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz due to the US-Iran war only serve to make their situation worse.

The Mission to Seafarers' Wellington team visits ships in port to offer practical help, free Wi-Fi, care packages, birthday gifts, beanies*, advocacy and, above all, a friendly human connection. Lance reminded us that even small acts of support can make a real difference to someone far from home.

Lance's talk gave us a new appreciation of the hidden workforce behind our daily lives. Seafarers may be out of sight, but their work touches us all — and thanks to The Mission to Seafarers, they are not forgotten when they reach Wellington.

**See "Knitting for Seafarers", page 4*

You can see Lance's presentation with all the slides on our website or just click [here](#).
(to see Lance's notes, in PowerPoint select the **View** tab and click on **Notes**)

The Mission to Seafarers is a charity and heavily reliant on donations to continue its work. For more information, click on the logo above to go to their website, or click [here](#) to go directly to the donation page.

Lance was introduced by Sheila Kleyn and thanked by Colleen Madgwick.

Member speaker: *Pat Berry*



Pat told us of her enduring love of London. Quoting Samuel Johnson's famous line, "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life," she explained how recent sorting through diaries, photographs and memorabilia reminded her just how strongly the city has shaped her memories and affections.



Her talk ranged from childhood impressions of Britain, formed through English books and illustrations, to her first visit to London in 1992. She recalled the freshness of an English spring, walks on Hampstead Heath, encounters with squirrels, and the thrill of seeing famous artworks in galleries such as the National Gallery, the Tate, the Courtauld Institute and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Pat also shared vivid memories of West End theatre, historic churches, museums, royal sites, the Globe Theatre, the Houses of Parliament and the many unexpected discoveries that make London so absorbing. Some plans went awry, including closed attractions and a bomb scare, but these only added to the richness of her recollections.

Over several return visits, London continued to surprise and enchant her. Whether through art, theatre, history, royalty, gardens or simple moments of exploration, Pat showed why the city still feels like home to her in many ways.

New Members: *Christina DiMattina and Annette Bonnett*

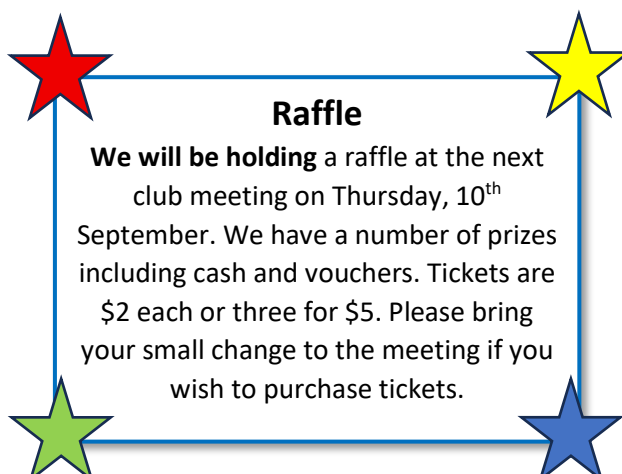
Christina lives in Lyall Bay, and describes her profession as "mother" and "chief boss and bottle-washer", having raised six children. She is interested in art and knitting.



Annette lives in Nevay Road, Karaka Bays, and was formerly in real estate. She is interested in travelling, walking, airport volunteering and cards, particularly 500 and bridge.

Welcome to both.

Matters Arising



Wellington City Council Rates Rebates – a reminder.

As a follow up to Andrew Little's visit to our club, this is a reminder to members to apply for the Wellington City Council rates rebates (if eligible).

Applications can be completed now and the information needed is:

1. Your Wellington City Council property rates amount and your Tiaki Wai water rates amount, both for the year to 30 June 2027.
2. Proof of your total gross household income for the year to 31 March 2026. This is available from your online Inland Revenue account.
3. A copy of your signed SuperGold card.
4. A fully completed and signed application form which is available online or clicking [here](#).
5. A signed declaration form if you live in a retirement village or company share apartment.

Your rates rebate is calculated on your household gross income and the amount of Tiaki Wai and Wellington City Council rates you pay. It is calculated on a sliding scale and the full rebate is \$830.

If any member requires assistance with an application, please see Sheila Fitzsimons at a club meeting, by email at sheilafitzsimons@gmail.com or ring 021 443 043.

Morning Tea – A gentle reminder

The catering budget for morning tea allows for one sandwich and one sausage roll per person. Members who are at the end of the tea and coffee line are finding that there is no food left by the time they get to the tables. Please be considerate of your fellow members and do not take more than your fair share.



Knitting for Seafarers – A message from Jan Humphries

Those who were paying attention at the last meeting will recall that our speaker, Lance Lukin, commented on the ongoing need for warm beanies for the Seafarers. If this is something you would like to get on board with, (did you spot the pun?) here is their pattern – you can adapt your own, stripes are welcome, but this is very simple, just be aware you will not get it from one 50g ball of wool, you need two. 12 inches (30cm) allows for a generous turn back cuff.

Double knit or 4 ply wool

- Size 8 (4mm) Needles
- 2 oz of wool
- Cast on 120 stitches.
- Rib (2 plain 2 purl) for 12 inches
- Next Row – Knit 2 together to end of the row Purl next row.
- Repeat these two rows once more.
- Knit 1 row.
- Purl 1 row.
- Pull thread through all stitches and sew up seam.



If any contributions could be brought to the next meeting, or given to me, I am happy to deliver hats to the Mission.

(If you would like to be more ambitious and knit mufflers, mittens and balaclavas, click [here](#) for all the patterns)

Jigsaws – A message from Barbara Eagle

Please note I've decided the jigsaw library and swap will continue but on an informal, ad hoc basis. There are plenty of jigsaws available to choose from, and I'm also happy to accept any that you no longer want.

Swapping jigsaws is a great way to enjoy a new challenge without having to buy one—and it helps give unwanted puzzles a new home.

If you'd like a jigsaw, please call me on 027 298 3339. I can bring a selection for you to choose from, or you're welcome to visit our home and browse the collection.

If you have any jigsaws you no longer want, please contact me on the same number. I can collect them, or you can bring them to a meeting or drop them off at our home.

I look forward to helping more of you discover your next jigsaw challenge!

Barbara

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**



On 21st August 24 members enjoyed a trip to Whirinaki Whare Taonga art gallery, Upper Hutt, for lunch at Dough Bakery.

Our next dining out will be at the Zephyr Café in Takina Convention and Exhibition Centre, 50 Cable Street, Te Aro on Wednesday, 16th September at noon. There is cabinet food and a menu available. While we are in that part of the city, it is a good opportunity to go for a waterfront walk or a visit Te Papa, directly opposite Takina. It is about a five-minute walk from the bus stop in Courteney Place to the venue.

Click →



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**



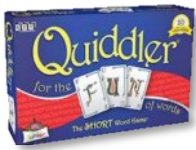
This is an informal get-together at 10am on the fourth Thursday of each month (except December) at Polo, on the corner of Rotherham Terrace and Para Street, Miramar. There's no need to book, just come along for a snack and a chat.

Next one: Thursday, 24th September.

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: 28th September.*

- **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 3rd September. For more information, please contact Kit.



- **Gardening Group: Jan Humphries 021 265 2973 – janice.humphries@gmail.com**

The group has already had a couple of meetings, usually on the first Friday of the month at 10:30. We are a group of 5 (so far) who manage to cover a fair bit of gardening news and ideas, including outings and visits we can do as upcoming get-togethers. The aim is to share ideas, problems, solutions, hints and tips for successful gardening, and the occasional seedlings, cuttings or seeds. Plus, a chance to check out the gardens!

Our next meeting will be away from home at the Home & Garden Show at Hnry Stadium on Friday, 4th September. We would welcome new members. If you are interested please let me or one of the other members know so we can meet you at the railway station at 11:30. Using the Gold Card, it will cost \$4.00 (entry fee).

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



- **Book Club: Sheila Kleyn 021 0895 4426 - sheilakleyn@hotmail.com**

The book group met on Friday 14th August for its initial meeting. Attendees Sheila, Denise, Warren and Jan discussed the books they were currently reading and ones recently read and enjoyed.

The next meeting will be at 10.30am on Friday, September 11th at the home of Sheila Kleyn.

Anyone wishing to join the group can speak to Sheila or Denise at the next Probud club meeting, or email Denise at tagd.kgeorge@xtra.co.nz. **The group looks forward to more members joining.**

- **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**
- On our first August walk, a lovely fine morning, we took the train to Box Hill in Khandallah and walked through various streets in Khandallah and Ngaio until we reached Old Porirua Road. This is a one-way downhill road, with no footpath, but an interesting walk, unknown to most of the group. We eventually arrived at Hutt Road, where we took the bus to Thorndon Quay. Our café was a new one, TQ Café. Top marks for this one – friendly and efficient staff, plenty of choices with food and reasonable prices.
- The second Monday in August was a cloudless and windless morning. We caught the #4 Strathmore bus to the last stop on the route and walked along a path overlooking the airport. The views from this site are absolutely amazing, highly recommended if you are looking for another place to take visitors. We checked out the gun emplacements and continued down to Birkhall Grove and Bowes Crescent. Then, on down through various streets in Strathmore and Miramar. Our walk terminated at the Chocolate Frog, where we enjoyed refreshments.
- Our third walk in August was an interesting one which started at the Embassy Theatre, and we then walked through various streets in Mount Victoria, down to the waterfront and back along to the Zephyr Café at Takina. The waterfront is always busy and even when the weather is not so great, there's always something to see.

It was a thrill to see our Walking Group featured in the winter edition of Active Retirees, the magazine for Probus members, copies of which were available at our last meeting.

Christine Tijssen
Convenor

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



At the gun emplacement above Moa Point – 10th August

- **Technology Group: John Ellings (04) 973 8096 – j.a.ellings@gmail.com**

Technology Group Status Report

Back in the 1990's we used laptop personal computers or desk top computers, and then in 2010 Apple released iPad 1, and it was purchased by many computer users, including a lot of our Club members.

This compact book size device you could carry with you to browse the web, read and send emails, listen to music, enjoy photos, watch videos, play games, read eBooks and much more, was an attractive alternative to the devices we were accustomed to using at home. It was hugely popular.

The technology introduced on the iPad was significantly different from the computers we were using at that time, and to assist our members with the new technology the Club started a new Special Interest category in 2010 named the iPad Group. It met monthly with tuition covering all aspects of the use and operation of this new device.

The following year the iPad 2 was released, with new features, and over the next few years the iPad 1 owners and later the iPad 2 owners, could not access the new features discussed at our meetings as software updates were limited to new models only, being Apple policy of planned obsolescence.

This resulted in the group morphing from an iPad group into Technology for Seniors, with occasional iPad research but now mainly into mobile phone and pc technology, with emphasis on all aspects of any technology in the wider world that may benefit Seniors. This policy is still unchanged today.

Members of the Group have decided that the time has arrived for them to move on, some having been foundation members then in their 70,'s, now in late 80's and 90's, so the group is now in recess but ready for a new younger membership to continue the valuable work of informing our members in all relevant areas of technology for the benefit of our membership.

Many of our members have an in-depth and valuable technology skillset, which can be used to continue and surpass the good work this group has done in the past.

Please let me, or any committee member know if you could use your skills as a group member to continue the operation. I am available to convene a new Group and then hand over when established.



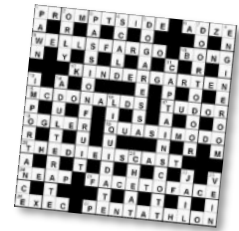
Outgoing Tech Group
August 2026.
Jocelyn and Bob Hill, Tom
Farrar, Mabel Lust, Charles
Blades, John Ellings.

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

The Cryptic Crossword Group meets a couple of times each month at Lyall 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: An eight-letter word ending with K meaning: 'The plan B autumn retreat'.

Explanation: Another word for autumn is FALL and to retreat is to go BACK. Put the two words together and you get FALLBACK, which is an alternative position, such as Plan B.



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

Austria and Hungary

1. Which country has the larger population?
2. Which country lies to the north of Hungary and the east of Austria?
3. Who was the Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1867 to 1916?

General Knowledge

The initial letters of the answers spell the name of a Canterbury town.

1. What is the stretch of water between Sweden and Denmark?
2. Which planet in our solar system has major moons called Miranda, Ariel and Oberon?
3. What was the country portrayed in the 1894 Anthony Hope novel *The Prisoner of Zenda*?
4. What vegetable is also known as 'lady's fingers'?
5. Which English Romantic poet wrote a sonnet that begins: 'Earth has not anything to show more fair: Dull would he be of soul who could pass by'.

Word puzzles

1. What former city name is represented by the following? Opconstantle
2. Which two of these words are most opposite in meaning? Irrational, pleasing, privy, wise, perceptible.
3. Forward I am heavy, backward I am not. What am I?

Number puzzles

1. I have \$100 and I give away \$40. I then give away 40% of what I have left. How much do I still have?
2. How many times does the digit 1 appear in the numbers between 1 and 20 inclusive?
3. What date falls 57 days after the 10th of August?

(Answers on last page)

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.

"I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb - and I'm not blonde either."

Dolly Parton



RIP Dolly Parton – 1946-2026

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

Austria & Hungary

1. Hungary (9.54m compared to Austria 9.2m)
2. Slovakia
3. Franz Joseph

General Knowledge

1. The Kattegat
2. Uranus
3. Ruritania
4. Okra
5. William Wordsworth

The Canterbury town is Kurow.

Word puzzles

1. Constantinople
2. 'Irrational' and 'wise'
3. The word 'ton'.

Number puzzles

1. \$36.00
2. 12 times
3. 6 October



ALEXIA STODDART

NO.1 Agent 2020/2021/2022/2023

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Unlocking your property's potential

Tommy's
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