



WELLINGTON COMBINED PROBUS

September 2026 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING: **Thursday 8th October 2026**

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

Member Speaker: **Alexia Stoddart, Tommy's – The Wellington Real Estate Market**

Guest Speaker: **Karen Fifield, Wellington Zoo – “Fascinating Memories”**

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 – September 2026

Many of you will be aware that Probud is celebrating 50 years in Australia this year, but in fact, the first Probud club in the Southern Hemisphere was formed right here, in Kapiti, in 1974.

Initially sponsored by local Rotary Clubs, the concept came from the UK, to provide retired and semi-retired professionals with a way to stay socially active. The basic philosophy was no fund raising, no duties, and no political agendas, which remains a part of our system today, as well as the idea of Fun, Fellowship, and Friendship.



Over the years, we have moved from strictly men's clubs to the introduction of ladies clubs and eventually the combined clubs we enjoy today. New Zealand clubs in the 1970s and 80s played a big part in pioneering these changes. We now have around 120 local clubs in New Zealand, and the concept is still going strong.

While we celebrated 50 years of Probud New Zealand two years ago, we are pleased to congratulate Probud Australia on reaching this milestone. It would be nice to mark the occasion, maybe if you have something blue and/or gold in your wardrobe, wear it to the meeting!

Jan Humphries



“The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.”

Winston Churchill

Calendar of Events – October 2026

Date	Event	Location	Time
Every Monday	Walking Group	Check with Christine Tijssen	10:00am
Thursday, 1 st October	Quiddler	John Ellings	1:30pm
Friday, 2 nd October	Gardening Group	Lois Williams	10:30am
Thursday, 8 th October	Probus Monthly Meeting	Baptist Church, Miramar	10:00am
Friday, 9 th October	Book Club	John Ellings	10:30am
Thursday, 15 th October	Monthly Committee Meeting	Jan Humphries	1:30pm
Thursday, 15 th October	Dining Out	Spirit House, Miramar	6:00pm
Thursday, 22 nd October	Tea/Coffee Morning	Cafe Polo, Miramar	10:00am
Thursday, 29 th October	Deadline for submission of Newsletter stories/pictures		
(For group events please check dates and times with the group organizers)			

At the September Meeting

Members Present: 70 – Absent: 28 – Visitors: 1

Guest speaker: *Lala Simpson*



Lala gave us an inspiring insight into the power of community singing and the journey that has shaped her work as a song leader. Originally from Madagascar, she explained that her name, in full “Harilalao”, means “a beloved descendant created to love and to be loved”, a meaning she tries to live up to through music, connection and community.

Lala described a song leader not as someone who judges voices, but as a bridge builder who invites everyone to sing, regardless of background, ability or confidence. She spoke warmly of growing up in Madagascar, where singing was part of everyday family and community life, and of bringing that tradition with her to New Zealand.

After feeling disconnected when she first arrived, singing helped her find belonging and purpose.



Today Lala leads the Wellington Community Choir, to which several of our members belong, and Kotaba Voices, an all-female choir. She hosts retreats, teaches Malagasy songs, and shares her culture through concerts, workshops and tours*. She also supports the Mamitiana Orphanage* in Madagascar. Her message was simple and uplifting: singing is not about perfection, but about joy, courage and connection. She began and ended her talk by singing to us with her impressive voice, and taught us a simple song of peace, reminding us that every voice belongs.

*(*For information about Lala’s Madagascar tours and the Mamitiana Orphanage see Matters Arising below.)*

Lala was introduced by Sheila Kleyn and thanked by Kit Burford.

The Raffle

The raffle raised a fabulous \$224 so a big thank you to all members who bought tickets and congratulations to those who won prizes. The money will go towards the ongoing costs of hall hire, morning tea, guest speaker gifts and other general expenses.

Member speaker: *Elizabeth Neilson*

Liz told us stories of travelling with her younger brother Dennis, a forestry engineer whose work took him around New Zealand and overseas. Liz recalled helping with his forestry conferences, joining him on a memorable trip through the southern United States, and meeting New Zealanders in unexpected places along the way. She also shared how Dennis, once doubtful about cruising, became an enthusiastic traveller by sea, collecting many colourful adventures on board. With warmth and humour, Liz gave us an entertaining glimpse of family travel, curiosity, and the fun of saying yes to new experiences.



In Memoriam

We are sorry to report the recent deaths of four of our past members, Garry and Barbara Jackson, Jane Muru-Anderson and Philippa Novak.

- Garry and Barbara were members of our Club from 2013 to 2020 and were part of our walking group. They moved to Taupō five years ago. Barbara died there on 24th July, and Garry in early September.
 - Jane died at Wellington Hospital on 30th August. She was an active member of our Club from 2018 until recently.
 - Philippa died on 12th September, having lived at Rita Angus for several years. She was a member from 2014 until recently.
-

Matters Arising

***Lala Simpson's Madagascar Cultural Tours**



For more information about Lala's Madagascar Cultural tours click [here](#) or contact her at oohlalamic1@gmail.com.

***Mamitiana Orphanage**



<Click on the picture for more information about Lala's orphanage in Madagascar.

If you would like to make a donation, please use the following:

Account Name: *HARILALAO SIMPSON*
Account Number: *02-0816-0358494-004*
Reference: *Orphanage.*

Christmas Lunch at the Pines

This year's Christmas Lunch will at noon on Tuesday, 1st December at The Pines. We hope everyone will come, and the earlier you can pay, the better, but by **November 22nd at the latest please**. Your payment is your booking.

As usual there will be a cash bar and spot prizes.

The cost is \$46 per person, payable to our bank account:

02-0520-0029712-000 (Wellington Combined Probus Club) and **include your surname** as reference. If you would prefer to pay in cash, please hand the correct amount in an envelope with your name on it to Christine Tijssen **at the November meeting**.



Many thanks to our talented new member, Christina DiMattina, who has made us a beautiful set of thank you cards to give to our future guest speakers.



Te Kai a te Rangatira - Leadership from The Maori World

This book was presented to the club by the 2 representatives who spoke to us in July 2025 about BGI and their work there. Many of our members have borrowed the book to read and browse through. If you would like to borrow it, please see Patricia O'Donnell at our next club meeting. She is the Guardian of the book and will happily pass it to you or add your name to the list of interested readers.

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**

The next dining out will be dinner at *Spirit House*, 1 Park Road, Miramar on Thursday, 15th October at 6.00pm where a large range of Asian dishes is on offer.

Click here to see the menu →



If you would like to come please put your name on the list at the Club meeting, or contact Ainslie at ainsliemaresca28@gmail.com.

- **Monthly Tea/Coffee Morning**



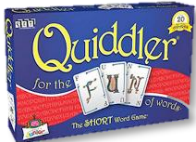
This is an informal get-together at 10am on the fourth Thursday of each month (except December) at Polo, on the corner of Rotherham Terrace and Para Street, Miramar. There's no need to book, just come along for a snack and a chat.

Next one: Thursday, 22nd October.

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: 29th October.*

- **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 1st October. For more information, please contact Kit.



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

Our garden group meets on the first Friday of the month at 10.30am, depending on the venue. The aim is to enjoy some company while sharing ideas and tips for anything garden related. This can be at the homes of our members or by visiting other public or private gardens. We have lots of possibilities.

This month four of us went to the Home and Garden Show at Hnry Stadium. Not a lot of garden related stands, but we ended with a nice lunch at Trax afterwards!

Our October meeting will start at Lois Williams' house in Hataitai to visit the garden of a neighbour and maybe gain some inspiration. No doubt we will work in a cup of tea and snacks too.

Spring is bringing new growth everywhere, with the appearance of blossoms and spring flowers and planting time for vegetables looming. Along with some sunny days, this makes getting out in the garden a lot more pleasurable.

New members are very welcome. If you would like to join, please contact Jan.

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

The book group met on Friday, 11th September at Sheila Kleyn's house and, over tea and sandwiches, enjoyed a lively discussion of some of our favourite books and authors, including:

Careless People by Sarah Wynn-Williams.

Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver.

A Dangerous Vine by Barbara Ewing.

So, Anyway, John Cleese's autobiography.

The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece by Tom Hanks.

Operation Heartbreak by Duff Cooper.

The Fords, an American Epic by Peter Collier & David Horowitz.

Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus.

The next meeting will be at John Ellings's house on Friday, 9th October at 10:30am. Anyone wishing to join the group can speak to Sheila or Denise at the next Probus Club meeting, or email Denise as above.

The group looks forward to more members joining.

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

Our final walk in August was a delightful excursion through Kelburn and the inner city. A trip on the Cable Car and a look at the unique Sundial of Human Involvement which is situated just outside the entrance to Space Place at the Carter Observatory. Then down Salamanca Road to The Terrace and then MacDonald Crescent, where we called into the BGI. One of the volunteers there, Michael, gave us a short talk on the pou which is a carved post made from totara, and rises from the middle of the building – it honours the organisation's history. Then on to a new café for the group, the Atrium Café – tucked in behind Victoria Street and Edward Street – and accessed from Willis Street too!



Our first walk in September was cancelled but the second one took place on a delightful spring morning. We walked from the Strathmore shops to Kilbirnie, via Broadway, Rongotai, Lyall Parade and Queens Drive, ending at Nick's Café in Rongotai Road. It was a lovely walk and seventeen of us thoroughly enjoyed it. This café makes amazing toasted sandwiches, amongst other tasty treats, and the two ladies who run the business are very friendly and unflappable!

Our next walk took us from the Kilbirnie Bus Hub, through to the Leonie Gill Walkway and then on to Moa Point Road. A slight detour at Stewart Duff Drive/Moa Point Road junction, led us to the famous "Doo Doos" sculpture. This was created by a former WCC work colleague, Peter Kundycki, in 1998. This sculpture remembers the time when locals called the area "Poo Point". It was given this name before the sewage plant was constructed at Moa Point and the raw sewage was piped out into Cook Strait. It reminded the locals of what was seen floating out and around the area. It seems nothing much has changed in recent times! We then walked to the main airport building where we had refreshments at Good Day café – nice views for people/plane spotting, otherwise just another café.



Our last walk in September started at Ferry Street in Seatoun and ended at Scorch-O-Rama. This is always an interesting walk, with plenty going on in refurbishments to existing houses and some new builds. There are plenty of little gardens to admire and of course, the harbour is always special.

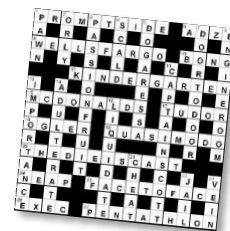
Christine Tijssen
Convenor

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

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 plenty of time for a chat.

Sample clue: Sample clue: A six-letter word ending with A meaning: "Text chanted in the human tradition."

Explanation: A word chanted during meditation is a MANTRA and the letters of this word appear in order in the expression huMAN TRAdition.



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

• **Hassle Free Cooking: John Ellings 04 973 8096 – j.a.ellings@gmail.com**

Cooks busy preparing a Dutch oven dish of creamy garlic prawns in conchiglie pasta shells and green peas, a simple one-pan dinner, with a great flavour from the added pantry items of cream, lemon zest and juice, white wine and sauce. Preparation time around fifteen to twenty minutes from assembled ingredients to plate.



Technology for Seniors – By John Ellings

MOTION SICKNESS – a simple and effective solution to reduce or eliminate motion sickness while using your mobile phone for reading emails, messages, websites, books, maps, directions, instructions, maps and more, while travelling in a car, bus or train, tuktuk, rickshaw, or other vehicle, anywhere in the world.

HOW DOES THIS WORK? – sensor tracking uses your phone accelerometer and gyroscope, by displaying subtle moving shapes like bubbles along the edges of your phone screen that sync and move in real time with the vehicle movements, forward in acceleration, backward in slowing or braking, left or right for those movements. This helps your brain reconcile what your eyes see with the movement your body feels, using eyes and inner ear to message the brain, as a mimic to the vehicle movements.

HOW DO I TURN IT ON? – once installed with auto option, no further action required and the bubbles will appear on your screen as any vehicle movement starts. They will not be seen any other time.



WHAT PHONES CAN DO THIS? – available on iPhone and Android with different methods of activation but same result. iPhones require IOS18 or newer, and Android 17 or newer (with Google Play Services v26.37 or One UI9 on Samsung). Android phones use Motion Assist, iPhones use Vehicle Motion Cues.

HOW DO I GET IT ON MY PHONE? – note that methods will vary between different makes, models, age. For iPhone – settings> accessibility> motion> vehicle motion cues> (set to "auto" or "on") For Android – settings> your profile> all services> motion assist> (set to "auto" or "on")

CUSTOMISE APPEARANCE AND VISIBILITY – opacity, colour, shape and randomisation can all be customised.

SUMMARY – if you, your family or friends experience feelings of nausea or disorientation while using a phone in a moving vehicle, this may be the solution that resolves or reduces this unpleasant condition.

A MESSAGE TO PROBUS MEMBERS – technology is now part of our daily life and has many benefits to help in daily living. Among our members are many who have technology expertise with the knowledge to provide useful information, such as this article, to members. Send me a message < j.a.ellings@gmail.com > if you think you could help in some way.

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



Please note, there will be no 500 in October.

Todd's Teasers

By Todd Foster

West Indies

1. Which West Indies country is on the South American mainland?
2. Bridgetown is the capital of which island country?
3. What is the name of the island that is divided into Haiti and the Dominican Republic?

General Knowledge

The initial letters of the answers spell a geographical landmark in the Eastern suburbs.

1. What is the British television detective drama series that is a prequel to the long-running Inspector Morse series?
2. Which 18th century Italian composer wrote a cycle of violin concertos entitled *The Four Seasons*?
3. On what branch of the Mediterranean Sea is the Italian city of Venice?
4. Which flower trumpet-shaped blooms is sometimes known as 'nose-turner' because of its strong smell?
5. What is the second largest city in Wales?
6. What is the motto of the Boy Scouts?
7. Which London football club won the English Premier League in 2025/26?
8. What colour is traditionally known as being complementary to purple?

Word puzzles

1. Which two of the following words are closest in meaning to each other?
Incision, Nostrum, Vignette, Panacea, Progeny.
2. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the word Fractious?
Resilient, Petulant, Wholesome, Frantic, Persistent.
3. What expression is referred to in this Dingbat? THYME PLAICE

Number puzzles

1. Think of a number, double it, add four, halve your answer.
Take away the number you first thought of. What number do you now have?
2. How is the number seven different from the other numbers between one and ten?
3. What is the next number in this sequence? 5, 6, 10, 19, 35, ??

(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.

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

West Indies

1. Guyana – the former British Guiana
2. Barbados
3. Hispaniola

General Knowledge

1. Endeavour
2. Antonio Vivaldi
3. Adriatic Sea
4. Nasturtium
5. Swansea
6. Be Prepared
7. Alligator
8. Yellow

(The landmark is Evans Bay)

Word puzzles

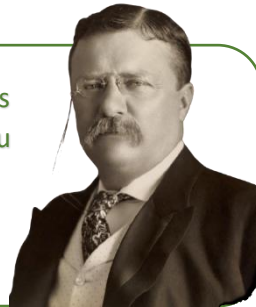
1. Nostrum and Panacea – a usually questionable remedy or scheme.
2. Petulant - easily irritated, impatient, or sulky over minor annoyances.
3. Another time, another place.

Number puzzles

1. 2
2. It is the only number with two syllables,
3. 60. The numbers are going up in squares – 1, 4, 9, 16, 25 etc.

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month."

Theodore Roosevelt



ALEXIA STODDART

NO.1 Agent 2020/2021/2022/2023

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Unlocking your property's potential 🔓



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