



PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

Associations Incorporation Act 1981 - Registered No A0029363K

JULY NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

Chartered on 25 March, 1986, Incorporated on 9 May, 1994

This Probus Club meets at:

Kew Golf Club, 120 Belford Road, East Kew 3102

At 10:00 am, 2nd Tuesday in the Month (excepting January)

The Club can be contacted by email at : portphillipprobus@gmail.com

The Club's web site details are: <https://www.probusportphillip.org.au/>

Issue 447

July 2026

PRESIDENT

Colin Adam

Mob: 0418 483 136

E: cmadam@bigpond.com

SECRETARY

Ruth Bunyan

Mob: 0418 363 784

E: ruthbunyan@bigpond.com

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, 14th July, 2026

At **Kew Golf Club**, 120 Belford Rd, Kew East. 3102

IMPORTANT DATES and TIMES in July, 2026

Deadline for Lunch Bookings	5.00 pm	9 th July page 4
Coffee and Fellowship	9.00 am	14 th July
July Meeting	10:00 am	14 th July

Message from the President – Colin Adam



It was with a sense of regret that I announced my intention to resign from the position of Club President at our June meeting. I will continue in the position for the next two months until our Vice President, Gail Smith, takes over in September. Rod Smith has generously agreed to become our new Secretary. Under the Probus Club By-Laws our Management Committee has now elected both Gail Smith as President, and Rod Smith as our Secretary, effective 1st September. I owe them both a debt of gratitude for taking over

at a time when my family responsibilities are increasingly demanding.

Our Management Committee is grateful for the assistance our previous Secretary, Vaughan Beck has provided during the past three months. He generously agreed to take on his former role following the resignation of Ruth Bunyan, our previous secretary. Vaughan is unable to continue with this any longer and it is unfair of us to expect him to do so. Lois Williams has agreed to record the minutes of our General Meetings, and Ruth Bunyan has generously agreed to take on part of the secretarial responsibilities for the month of August.

We are still seeking members for a small team to assist in the organisation of our November trip to Canberra. We need a volunteer to coordinate with our bus company, Southern Star Tours (David Barbey) on specific travel and visit details.

Again, I need to draw to your attention to the fact that we are still seeking a new Speaker Coordinator. I thank Margaret Hill for finding new speakers, and for assisting me until a new volunteer emerges. I will be asking our capable and committed Committee to help approach you all, as members, to consider undertaking one of these vacant positions.

It is important for our membership to appreciate that a small number of dedicated volunteers keep our Club operational, and that it is critical that we do not overwork this group. Several smaller Probus groups have recently ceased to operate, with their members unable to fill positions of responsibility.

We would also like to schedule short “Volunteer” presentations – an opportunity to share your wider work in the community. Please let me know of your interest in speaking for a few minutes on this interesting facet of your lives.

Please consider accepting responsibility for filling one of our vacant positions.

Colin Adam President 2026-27

Death of Jan Wischer

Ian Webb has notified us of the sad news of the death of former Associate Probus Club member Jan Wischer on June 18. Ian indicates that ...*Jan became part of the Probus Port Phillip family with her late husband Jim Stevenson who joined in 2000. Both with Jim, and subsequently as an Associate, she was a regular meeting and Getaway attendee and enjoyed the friendships she made over the years until with increasing health problems she discontinued attending in 2023.*

Speaker for the July Meeting – Miles Pierce

Will speak on “Melbourne’s Cable Trams”



Member, Miles Pierce will give a presentation on Melbourne’s extensive cable tram network that had its genesis in the ‘Marvelous Melbourne’ period of the 1880s. It evolved to be second only to San Francisco in track kilometres and was the largest such network in the world operated by a single private company. Whilst the next decade saw the introduction of electric tram technology, Melbourne’s cable trams served the city and surrounding inner suburbs for over fifty years. Miles’ presentation will focus on the bold entrepreneurial spirit and determination that saw a then innovative public transport technology successfully implemented and operated to serve the rapidly developing metropolis of Melbourne.



Miles Pierce has had a twenty-five-year active involvement in the field of engineering heritage as a member and past chairman of the Engineering Heritage Victoria committee - a special interest group within the Institution of Engineers Australia. He has researched and presented published papers on a variety of notable engineering achievements in Victoria and further afield that have endowed widespread community

amenity benefits. In 2024 Miles’ long-term contributions to the identification and formal recognition of engineering heritage was acknowledged with him receiving the Engineers Australia prestigious John Monash Medal award.

Catering: July 14 Meeting



Meeting, Lunch & Tea/Coffee \$50 pp.

Meeting & Tea/Coffee \$10

Tea/Coffee available pre and mid meeting.

Lunch Menu

Main Course

Thyme and rosemary crusted lamb rump, rosti potato, roasted capsicum velouté, broccolini and thyme infused jus.

Dessert:

Vanilla panna cotta, meringue, fresh raspberries & petite flowers

Booking Arrangements: Please contact me (Jim Studebaker) on **0413 304 864** or wjstudebaker48@gmail.com if you wish to attend lunch or just the meeting on June 9th. Booking (and payment) must be made no later than 5 pm Thursday July 9th.

Payment arrangements: Payments by direct credit to the club's bank preferred. For the NEXT meeting, payment must be cleared into the Club's account no later than 5 pm Thursday July 9th and make sure your name is included on the transfer. Please DO NOT pay before the 1st of the Month

A/C name: "Probus Club of Port Phillip", BSB: 033 058, A/C NO 750921

If paying by cash or cheque, please place in an envelope clearly marked **Lunch** or **Tea/Coffee** and show your name and those of your attendees. The correct amount must be tendered as no change is given. Envelopes need to be prepared before arrival. Everyone who has paid will be given a table number and can request one for a guest.

Jim Studebaker - Catering Officer Ph 0413 304 864

wjstudebaker48@gmail.com

Talk on Volunteering by Sandra Williams



Sandra Williams pictured here with Club President Colin Adam

At the June Probus meeting, Sandra outlined a life of volunteering alongside her paid work. Her volunteering commenced with weekly evening sessions at the Boroondara Council in the early 1970s when she assisted migrants and disabled people to set up bank accounts, and others to apply for drivers' licences etc. Sandra then moved on to assisting Friends of the Royal Botanical Gardens at the Friends shop. She started volunteering at the Glenferrie Primary School while her children were growing up. In 2001 after being a member of the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club for many

years, she was invited to join the Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary which organised events to raise money for the hospital. During this time Sandra also volunteered to be a guide at the Old Treasury Building dealing with the Victorian History of Gold Discovery.

It was not as if she spent all her working life volunteering either. During the 1980s and 90s she had worked for a large city professional development organisation working with doctors, lawyers and accountants. After this Sandra was invited to assist in the out of hours school care program at Scotch College. When Camp Australia bought this program, she moved to a similar role at St. Kevins College Junior School. All this alongside her volunteering.

Wellbeing Coordinator

Members who wish to inform the Club of the illness of themselves or of others, please contact;

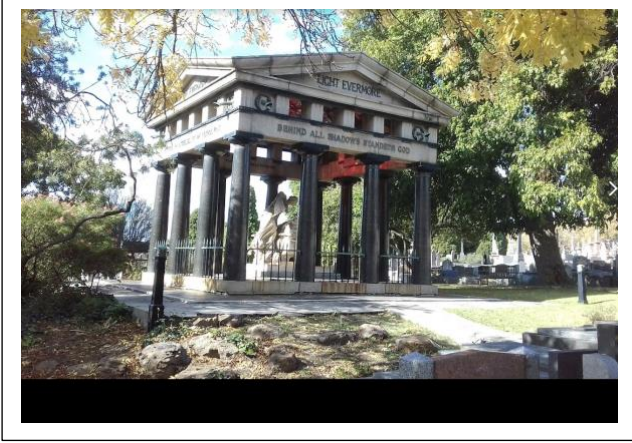
Ursula Tursky Ph 0429 459 759 or e-mail ursulatursky@gmail.com

Access our club website from anywhere in the world, at any time.

<https://www.probusportphillip.org.au/> Adrian Farrell - Webmaster

July Visit – Kew Cemetery

10.30 am Tuesday 21st July



On 21st July we will be visiting the Kew Cemetery. That sounds ominous but I am assured it will be a very interesting visit. The tour starts at 10.30 am at the clock tower which is near the corner of High Street and Parkhill Road. I have suggested to Pauline (who will lead the tour) that we have about an hour and a half listening to her tales of famous and interesting people buried there, as we follow her around.

The cost is \$15 per person, so can you please pay this into the Probus account after 1st July and mark it as a visit. (A/C name: “Probus Club of Port Phillip”, BSB: 033 058, A/C NO 750921)

There is also the provision of paying on the day with cash in an envelope if you wish. Parking is available inside the cemetery gates.

For lunch it is suggested that we go across the road to the café at Jonathan’s plant nursery. There will be a signing sheet at the July meeting for numbers for both the visit and for lunch. I am sure it will be yet another informative visit and let’s hope for good weather

Susan Harraway susanrharraway@gmail.com Ph 0447 941 963

June Visit Report – Victoria Police Museum



In June a party of thirteen PPPC members visited the Victoria Police Museum located on the ground floor of the new police headquarters building at 313 Spencer St, Melbourne. After a brief introduction to the museum by a policewoman, we disbursed into the self-guided exhibits area.



along with selected items and artifacts from infamous past crimes.

Although relatively small in extent, the museum has been professionally created with a mix of well interpreted static images and physical exhibits interspersed with interactive displays in tune with modern museum practice. The museum covers both historic and current day policing including equipment, progressive use of new technologies, mounted police, police dogs, forensic techniques, communications, etc.,



Entry to the museum is free and no prior booking is required if not part of a group. For opening times and other information see the museum's website:

<https://www.policemuseum.vic.gov.au/>.

Afterwards our group enjoyed lunch at the nearby William Angliss Institute restaurant where hospitality students, under staff supervision, prepare and serve a limited selection menu embracing entrees, mains and desserts plus beverages. The licenced restaurant has a pleasant, bright and open ambience. See

<https://www.angliss.edu.au/restaurants-events/angliss-dining/angliss-restaurant/>.

Report and Photos by Miles Pierce: milwen@ozemail.com.au Ph 0429 359832

Coffee and Conversation

The next Coffee and Conversation will be held at

10.30 am Tuesday 28th July 2026

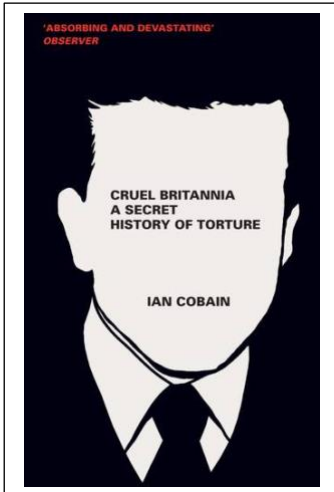
at Rylands, 349 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn East not far from Camberwell Junction and on the route of the 70 and 75 trams.

Please let Allan know if you are coming. Numbers are limited and coffee has to be ordered. Note Coffee and pastry is now \$10.

Allan Brownrigg, C & C Coordinator: Ph 0420 401 310 or 03 9193 7785
ambrownrigg@optusnet.com.au

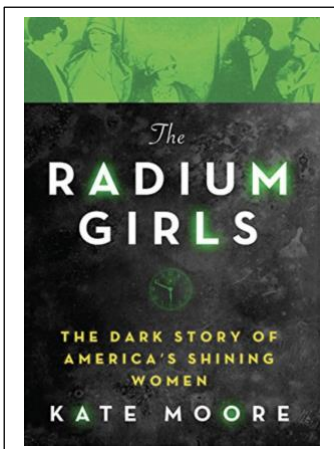
Contributions 1: Book Reviews – By *Ursula Tursky*

Tim Winton's Book "Juice" took us into a fictitious world, a future of climate change, 100 years from now. The following books rely mostly on historic facts.



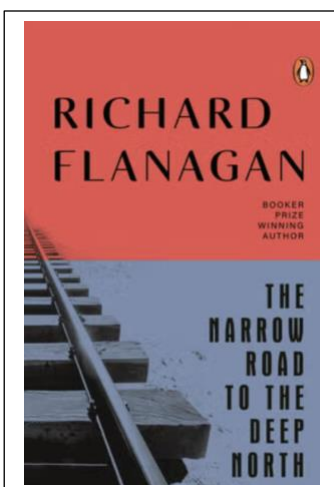
Cruel Britannia: A Secret History of Torture by Ian Cobain

Drawing on previously unseen official documents, and the accounts of witnesses, victims and experts, prize-winning investigative journalist Ian Cobain looks beyond the cover-ups. He takes the reader from WWII to the War on Terror, via Kenya, Egypt and Northern Ireland. Cobain, who received an Award for this book, says "What emerges is a picture of Britain that challenges our complacency on human rights and exposes the lie behind our (Britain's) reputation for fair play."



The Radium Girls by Kate Moore

As the First World War spread across the world, young American women flocked to work in factories, painting clocks, watches and military dials with a special luminous substance made from radium. Drawing on previously unpublished diaries, letters and interviews, this is an intimate narrative of an unforgettable true story about suffering and their fight for justice.



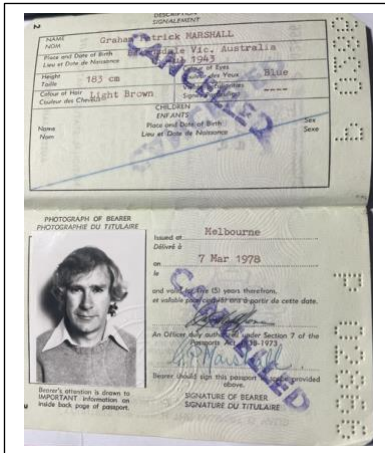
Richard Flanagan received the Booker Prize for his masterpiece The Narrow Road to the Deep North

August, 1943. In the despair of a Japanese POW camp on the Thai-Burma death railway, Australian surgeon Dorrigo Evans is haunted by his love affair with his uncle's young wife two years earlier. Struggling to save the men under his command from starvation, from cholera, from beatings, he receives a letter that will change his life forever.

Contributions 2: London; a Love Story 1978 – 2026.

By *Graham Marshall*

"When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life" **Dr. Samuel Johnson** (1777).



Like other Australians of my generation (b. 1943), I was born a British subject. Australian citizenship was not introduced till 1949. Even then we remained British subjects till 1984 when this status was withdrawn by the Hawke government. Accordingly, when I first went to London in 1978, I remained a British subject, and, felt as if I was visiting family, despite my mainly Irish heritage.

I shouldn't have been surprised then when London made a huge fuss over the death of former Australian Prime Minister and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in the UK, Sir Robert Menzies', on May 15, 1978. I was in London that day and can vividly recall the news placards alongside and underneath the newsstands all over the capital proclaiming Menzies' demise. Both evening papers of the time, The Evening Standard and The Evening News covered the event extensively. Nearly 50 years later, the large presence of Menzies has long faded from view, along with London's afternoon papers and their newsstands.

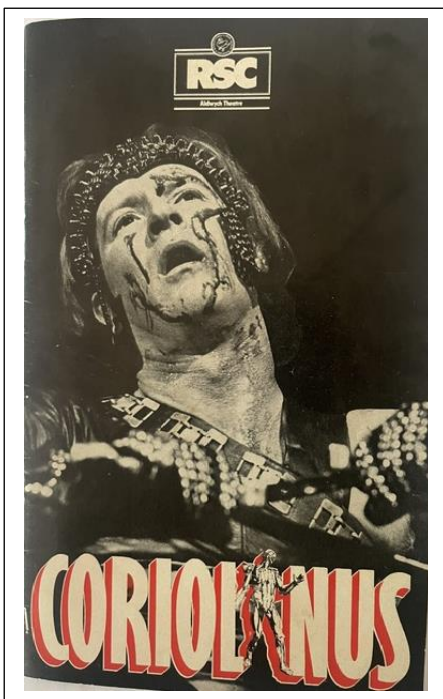
It was newspapers in part that drew me to London in 1978, newspapers and colour television. Looking back these might seem inadequate reasons for dragging my family, my wife and two very young children, half way around the world so I could read some of the English quality broadsheets and watch the BBC and ITV in full colour. Of course there was more to it.

I was right about the English television and newspapers though. As well as their quality there were elements of familiarity. Play School in the morning and afternoon continued a reassuring daily routine for the children and the very English tones of Australia's Michael Charlton headed up the nightly BBC2 current affairs program. I could also read Clive James' reviews in the Sunday Observer.

It is May 15, 2026, 48 years later, and I am back in London for the 25th and supposedly last time. April to June 1978 was the first. The excitement and sense of wonder that I felt in seeing and experiencing this imperial capital for the first time has long gone, but London is always capable of providing something fresh and new as well as being reassuringly familiar.

In 1978 central London still bore the marks of the Second World War, with empty spaces around buildings such as the National Theatre and St. Paul's Cathedral. The population had not yet recovered to its pre-war peak. By my next visit in 1986, this had all changed. The dowdy, slightly down at heel, but charming London with its state subsidized culture had become crowded and brash. Those open spaces had been filled but not always for the better.

In 2026, almost 50 years later, despite the country overall being in the economic doldrums, you wouldn't know it in London. The capital retains much of its appeal despite the brashness. Certainly, the crowds are larger than ever, at least in the areas affected by tourists, though the roads are quieter because of the preponderance of electric vehicles and the congestion tax. And the cultural elements remain as strong as ever, if more expensive.



London theatre, in particular, has been a priority for me over the years. Though I was unable to get to any performances this time, some productions in the past stand out. Foremost amongst these was a RSC (Royal Shakespeare Company's) performance of *Coriolanus* at the Aldwych Theatre in June 1978. As I commented in my diary at the time, *Saw Coriolanus & thought it the theatrical highlight of our stay. Alan Howard was magnificent [as Coriolanus]*. Forty eight years have not changed this view.

London hasn't got our café culture or the baristas to go with it. Neither does it have many trams nor a bearable winter. What it does have in abundance is culture (with a capital K as they say); theatre, museums, galleries, concerts and, above all bookshops, wonderful bookshops. (Unfortunately, some of the great bookshops of old, including Hatchards, and Foyles, are now owned by the mega bookshop chain, Waterstones, but that's a story for another time.) And it still has some good newspapers and TV. While the ardour in the relationship has slipped, the delight remains. London did not disappoint in 1978 and still doesn't.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the contributions section of the newsletter are entirely the responsibility of the individual author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club or any member associated with the Club. On this understanding contributions are welcome from all members on a range of matters including film, art, literature, concerts, exhibitions, the arts generally, the sciences, travel, broad aspects of Australian and overseas culture, in fact any activity that might be of interest to other Probus members. (Ed)

Probus Association Victoria: Upcoming Social Events

Dear Members

As part of Probus's 50th year celebrations, the Probus Association of Victoria (PAV) has arranged three social events.

Please find details below and attached. Registration details for the events are given in the attached flyers.

Regards

Vaughan Beck

Subject: Celebrate together: Upcoming PAV Social Events

Hello Everyone

To celebrate Probus's 50th anniversary this year, PAV has added extra social activities to the calendar. This email is a reminder about these upcoming events. Invitations have been extended to all Probus Clubs across Victoria, providing an opportunity to enjoy fun, friendship and fellowship with like-minded people.

- High Tea at Chirnside Park Country Club on Friday July 30th at a cost of \$40. See attached flyer for booking details.
- Afternoon Tea Dance at the new Stonnington Sports Centre, Malvern East on Wednesday, September 23rd, with Special Guest Heather Ewart from the TV Series "Back Roads". Cost: \$30. See attached flyer for booking details.
- Golf Day at Goonawarra Golf Club, Sunbury, on Thursday, November 12th. Tee time: 08:30 am shot gun start. Includes Golf, egg & bacon roll breakfast, lunch and show bag. Cost \$50. Further information, together with Registration Form, attached.

We look forward to welcoming many new faces at these events.

NB The full notice from the Probus Association of Victoria will be sent to all members in a later email with full details of all the social events mentioned above. In the current Newsletter only the July and September events are highlighted. The November Golf Day will be featured in a later edition of the Newsletter. [ED]



PROBUS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.
P.O.Box 247, Ringwood East. VIC. 3135



ANNIVERSARY **1976 - 2026**
PROBUS
IN AUSTRALIA

Come and join us to celebrate **50 golden years** of

PROBUS IN AUSTRALIA 1976 – 2026.

The Probos Association of Victoria (PAV) invites you to a delightful

HIGH TEA AT CHIRNSIDE PARK COUNTRY CLUB

as we honour our shared history of friendship, fellowship and fun

DATE: 30 July.

TIME: Arrive 1.pm for 1.30 pm start.

COST: \$40.

PLEASE ADVISE ON DIETARY REQUIREMENT.

DRESS CODE: Dress to impress— with a hint of gold!
Exciting incentives and loads of fun for all.

SEATING: Maximum 10 per club if possible. Incentives and fun to be had for all.

FINAL PAYMENT: No later than 15 July

CONTACT: Anne Vick
Mob: 0418 175 436. **E:** ayevee@bigpond.com

EFT Payment preferred to: Probos Asociation of Victoria
BSB: 633 000 **Account No.** 208291054

**PAV CELEBRATES PROBUS 50TH YEAR
WITH OUR ANNIVERSARY
AFTERNOON TEA DANCE PARTY.
FULL OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP
WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER**




ADDRESS
STONNINGTON SPORTS CENTRE
32A CHADSTONE RDAD
MALVERN EAST

COST \$30.00
per person

START 1pm
FINISH 4pm

Tables of 8
On line Bookings:

LIVE MUSIC

**DRINKS AT
BAR PRICES**



WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT HEATHER EWART IS THE PROBUS AMBASSADOR FOR THE PROBUS 50TH CELEBRATION. MANY OF YOU WILL KNOW HEATHER AS THE MUCH-LOVED HOST OF THE ABC SERIES BACK ROADS FOR MANY YEARS. HEATHER'S WARM PERSONALITY AND PASSION FOR COMMUNITY MAKE HER THE PERFECT AMBASSADOR TO HELP US CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF PROBUS FUN AND FRIENDSHIP.

Bookings:
Fran McLean
secretary@probusvic.com.au

Payment required by
10th September
Monies to be paid to:
BSB 633 000 A/c. 208291054

Newsletter Editor – **Graham Marshall**
 Mob: 0408 308 382 Email graham.marshall8@icloud.com
The August Probus Meeting is on August 11
 The Closing date for the **August Newsletter** is Wednesday **July 29, 2026**