

## Note: AGM & Launch of 40 year History



# PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

Associations Incorporation Act 1981 - Registered No A0029363K

## MARCH NEWSLETTER

### PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

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

This Probuss Club meets at:

**Kew Golf Club, 120 Belford Road, East Kew 3102**

**At 10:00 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the Month (excepting January)**

The Club can be contacted by email at : [portphillipprobuss@gmail.com](mailto:portphillipprobuss@gmail.com)

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

### Issue 443

March 2026

#### PRESIDENT

Prof. F. Larkins (Frank)

Mob: 0400 109 785

E: [f.larkins@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:f.larkins@unimelb.edu.au)

#### SECRETARY

Dr. V. Beck (Vaughan)

Mob: 0418 362 792

E: [vbeck@bigpond.com](mailto:vbeck@bigpond.com)

### NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

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

### IMPORTANT DATES and TIMES in March, 2026

Deadline for Lunch Bookings	5.00 pm	5 <sup>th</sup> March	page 5
Coffee and Fellowship	9.00 am	11 <sup>th</sup> March	
March Meeting	10:00 am	.....	11 <sup>th</sup> March
Annual General Meeting	10.30 am (Approx)	11 <sup>th</sup> March	page 6
Launch of 40 Year History of the Club		11 <sup>th</sup> March	

## Message from the President



Dear Colleagues,

This is my last message to you all before I hand over the mantle of leadership of our Probuss Club to a new President. It was an unexpected privilege to be asked to serve as President for a second

time. It has been a year in which the membership of the club has been strengthened with 13 new members from diverse backgrounds. Thank you to all those members who have helped to recruit these members. We are in a strong position to go forward, but our success is only possible because members volunteer to play leadership roles as part of the Management Committee.

I thank all Management Committee members for their dedicated and professional contributions over the past year. We are most fortunate to have such a talented group leading the club. Several members have agreed to continue in their portfolio roles for 2026-2027. For those continuing contributions we are all most grateful. Details of changes will accompany documents for the AGM.

Vaughan Beck is not continuing as secretary. He has played the central role in the administration. His diligence and attention to detail have ensured that our administrative process have worked exceptional well. Susan Harraway, a former president, has coordinated a suite of most interesting and informative visits. Ross Fardon has made a most valuable contribution as Almoner for which we are all most grateful. Allan Brownrigg has overseen some lively Coffee and Conversations on a range of topics.

There have been several memorable highlights:

- Celebrations for our 40<sup>th</sup> year with a splendid lunch. Thank you, Jim Studebaker and Kew Golf Club staff.
- Preparation of an updated history by Neil Pearce.
- Some interesting and thought-provoking speakers from diverse backgrounds
- Lively Coffee and Conversation meetings.
- New member inductions and profile talks.
- A very successful Getaway to Lakes Entrance expertly organised by Colin and Susan Palethorpe.

Details of these matters and others will be addressed in my President's Annual Report as part of the AGM so I will not elaborate here.

The February talk by Dr Moh Dadafaren was most informative. I am sure that we were all well aware that with ageing our hearing will decline to varying degrees. What I did not know was how any decline can affect brain function. Dr Moh made some compelling arguments as to why we should all regularly have a hearing test. I thank Colin Adam for once again identifying such an excellent speaker. We are all richer for the experience. Colin Adam has organised a diverse range of most interesting speakers. I am sure we are all better informed because of the stimulating talks we have enjoyed. Colin will not be continuing as the speaker coordinator. We have not yet identified a replacement. The role is a very important one for the club. If you

would be willing to undertake a coordinating role or have ideas about possible speakers, please contact Colin Adam, Vaughan Beck or myself.

The other key vacancy we have on the management committee is coordinators for the Main Getaway in November in Canberra. We have a lot of background information from our previous visit 10 years ago. Furthermore, Probus members who have organised recent Getaways are most willing to share their experiences with the Canberra coordinators, so please consider if you can undertake this important role for the club.

**Please note that our March meeting is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> (NOT TUESDAY).**

Stay healthy and well. Your continued support for our Probus Club is much appreciated.

**Frank Larkins, President, Probus Club of Port Phillip. 2025-2026**

## New members inducted into the Port Phillip Probus Club – 1. Bill Somerville



Bill (centre), along with his sponsor, John Hodder (right), are pictured here with Bill being presented with his membership by the President Frank Larkins

After qualifying as an accountant, Bill established his own accountancy practice with a partner and ran it for the next 30 plus years until he sold the goodwill in 2013. Afterwards, he worked parttime with about 70 clients.

Earlier he played football with Old Xavierians and then took up umpiring. He taught HSC Accountancy at Kew High School for seven years. He was also a member of a school parents committee and served as Treasurer and President. For nine years he was a courtesy driver for the Australian Open.

Tennis and is a keen golfer. Bill is married to Barbara and they have 6 children.

## New members inducted into the Port Phillip Probus Club – 2. Monika Buhler



Monika, along with her sponsor Ruth Bunyan, are pictured here with Monika being presented with her membership by the President

Monika was born and lived in Switzerland till she emigrated in 1990 to Melbourne with her family, including her two young daughters. She faced the challenge of learning English and adapting to her new country and its culture. Because her nursing qualifications were not recognised in Australia, she had to start her career over again.

She is now a retired Registered Nurse with over 45 years' experience in Australia and Switzerland. In Australia she completed a Bachelor of Nursing and added several post -

graduate qualifications in areas including ICU/ Cardiac Care, Aviation Nursing and others. After completing Aviation Nursing studies, she worked as an international flight nurse. She then moved into academia, teaching in several universities including training Cardiac Centre nurses at Wuhan University, China, and speaking at international forums. She has most recently been involved in research and chronic disease self - management of heart failure.

She is a grandmother of four grand children from five to fifteen and is very involved in their lives. She enjoys travelling, reading, gardening, walking, and other activities.

### **ACTING ALMONER**

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

**Ian Webb** telephone 03 98986297, or e-mail: [iwebb9898b@gmail.com](mailto:iwebb9898b@gmail.com)  
Mob 0427 318 348

**NOTE MARCH 2026 Meeting Date**  
**Now Wednesday March 11 (NOT Tuesday March 10)**

## Catering: March 11 Meeting



### Lunch Menu

#### Main Course

**Grilled fillet of Blue Eye, parsnip puree, sauteed spinach, petite herb salad, leek floss and parsley oil**

#### Dessert:

**Steamed chocolate pudding, chocolate ganache, vanilla ice cream and fresh raspberries**

**Booking Arrangements:** Please contact me (**Jim Studebaker**) on **0413 304 864** or [wjstudebaker48@gmail.com](mailto:wjstudebaker48@gmail.com) if you wish to attend lunch or just the meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Booking (and payment) must be made no later than 5 pm Thursday March 5th.

**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 March 5th 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](mailto:wjstudebaker48@gmail.com)

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

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

**Probus Club of Port Phillip Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 11 March at 10 30 am (approx.)**  
**Kew Golf Club, 120 Bedford Rd., East Kew 3102**

The AGM will follow immediately after the normal monthly meeting and it should commence at 10.30 am (approx.)

**Order of Business**

1. 10.00 am March Meeting
2. 10.30 am (approx.) Annual General Meeting
3. Morning Tea
4. Launch of *40 Years of Fellowship* – the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book by Neil Pearce followed by open discussion. (Note because of the book launch and discussion there will be no guest speaker at this meeting)\*
5. Lunch

\*Neil has requested that those wishing to purchase a copy of the book should make their payment of \$40 through the normal channels – a direct credit to the Probus Club Bank Account, a cheque payable to the Probus Club or by cash payment of the exact amount. Of course priority in the distribution of the book will be given to those who have already provided an expression of interest as originally requested.

**Note: The March Meeting and the AGM are being held on  
Wednesday March 11, NOT Tuesday March 10**

**March Visit**

There will be no visit during March. This is due to the Mini-Getaway that takes place during that time. The visit for April 21 will be announced during the meeting in March and further details will be provided in the April Newsletter.

We are still looking for one person to serve on the Visits Committee to make up a committee of 4 members. That would involve organising 1 or 2 visits for the coming year.

**Dedrie Green 2026-27 Visits Co-ordinator Ph: 0407 093 124 Email:**  
[dedriegreen@gmail.com](mailto:dedriegreen@gmail.com).

## Report on Visit to the Rippon Lea Gardens



Meeting at Ripponlea



Some of the Dahlias on display



Meeting with the Head Gardener

Right: The Head Gardener addressing the group

**Susan Harraway 2025-26 Visits Coordinator – Ph 0447 941 963**  
[susanrlharraway@gmail.com](mailto:susanrlharraway@gmail.com)

A small but enthusiastic group went on the tour of Ripponlea gardens on February 17. It was very hot but made manageable because of the shade the many trees gave us. Darren, the lead gardener, told us about the history of the plantings and about the watering system which comes from the roof and from a nearby stormwater drain. There were also many other trees that had been planted at least 150 years ago. There is concern now that they are getting to the end of their lives because they are not native to Australia. This means they continue to grow all year unlike their overseas counterparts which do not grow in winter. There is an arborist with the National Trust who inspects the trees annually. We saw a very old Moreton Bay fig that had grown into a fence and had enormous buttress roots. We also saw the large collection of dahlias that was flowering at the moment, and the amazing fernery with the iron structured roof and wooden slats on the sides. This is a very special place, holding a great variety of plants. The lake, with its waterfall and bridges, was another attraction.

We appreciated the cool and shady environment the trees gave us and enjoyed seeing the vast lawns, the swimming pool and the lawn tennis courts. An enjoyable and educational visit for us and the final one for me. Thank you again for those who helped arrange the visits during the year and for those who attended.



## Coffee and Conversation

The next Coffee and Conversation will be held at

**10.30 am Tuesday 24th March 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](mailto:ambrownrigg@optusnet.com.au)

## Contributions 1; Ross Fardon – What Makes us Civilized.



We define civilisation as *an advanced state of society, in which a high level of culture, science, arts, industry and government has been reached; in order to achieve the best in human fulfilment and productivity, with least harm.* Something wonderful for most of the people, and sustainable.

Wear the list, put it on the fridge. These are our beliefs, we commit to them, honour them, or our civilisation dies. Try leaving any of this summary out.

1. **Will-to-good** in all we think and do. I, as citizen, am responsible, I participate, I keep going. Ethics, values, security, cohesion, democracy, private property, law and order, justice, fairness.
2. **Trust** in institutions at all levels: Effective, just, free from corruption.
3. **Confidence** in our people, beliefs and works, and toughness of spirit.
4. **Freedom for** boundless curiosity, honesty, belief, ambition, verve, enterprise and competition; for error.
5. **Freedom from** poverty and outside limitations; social medicine, support for the multitudes of needy.
6. **Vast science**, discovery, technology, engineering mentality, infrastructure. Taking the long view.

7. **Wonder**, awe and delight, imagination, the arts. Balanced by evidence-based reality, clear thinking - wisdom.
8. **Respect** for all. Races, men, women and children, sexual variants, the poor and disabled, wide tolerance of beliefs.
9. **Secular society**, history, and scientific, humanist education in reality, not ancient authority
10. **The scale of management**, finance, productivity, health and wealth to support all good things.
- 11 **Balance** in all things, especially between judgement and tolerance for varied beliefs. Self-discipline.
11. **Courage of commitments** to our high values, goals and to goodness itself, sustained hard work.
12. **Good families**, respect, social esteem and honour, decency, gratitude, dignity, generosity, loyalty, duty.
13. **Fellowship** stability, reverence for enough shared binding beliefs and values, traditions and rituals.
14. **Fallibility** For everyone, including “the great”, even for Queenslanders, humility, a sense of our fallibility.
15. **Friendliness**, fun, laughter, good cheer, a service mentality with light-heartedness.
16. **Resolution of differences** by discussion. Violence, war, only as an extreme resort against evil.
17. **Looking after people:** We do our best and look after people. We love our country; if forced, we are willing to fight for it.

**Firstly**, civilisation depends on balancing two basic instinctive drives:

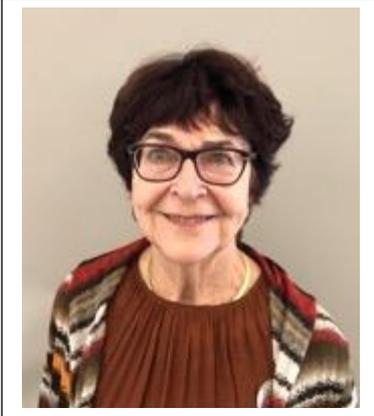
Individualism, enterprise, ambition, competition and reward, so that enough of us try harder to excel; Balanced with fellowship, cooperation, commitment to family and community service and care, justice.

**Secondly**, it must integrate going for what works, and soul stuff, all that is wonderful, delightful.

We realists analyse what goes on, see what must be done, and have the will, life-wisdom and management skills to achieve, or leave things alone.

We know the powers of evil in the world. Nevertheless, if we only choose, we are heirs and custodians of all that is good, free, true, beautiful, joyful, and what works, since the world began. *cherish*, that beautiful word and starting from that, we may conform and be carers, or be innovators and reformers.

## Contributions 2 – Ursula Tursky – Books considered



Whoever has followed the famous potter and author, Edmund de Waal, in “The Hare with the Amber Eyes”, in pursuit of his family’s collection of netsuke, understands how I was tempted to delve into de Waal’s “The White Road”. It takes you travelling in pursuit of the whitest, most translucent of porcelain. All it takes is kaolin and petunse. It does not lack historic details of the vagaries of rulers, of trials and failures, cruel treatment and spectacular results. However, unlike de Waal’s detective streak in “The Hare with the Amber Eyes”, this story is rather dry.

This could never be said of Anna Funder’s “Stasiland”. A newspaper insert, calling former East German spies to share their story, resulted in deep insight into the destructive forces of a regime that turned 7 out of 10 into spies. Destructive forces also make for compelling reading of Orwell’s life by Funder. For 5 years, Funder read every biography and every book about Orwell, plus the correspondence of his wife. A wife, none of his biographers ever mentioned by name. A literary wife, who wrote a dystopian story called “1984” decades before Orwell published his “1984”. His exploits might just take your breath away. Now I am reading Sophy Roberts’ “A Training School for Elephants” that takes the reader back to 1879’s striking force of King Leopold II of Belgium but more of this next time. Ursula

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)

Newsletter Editor – **Graham Marshall**

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Please send copy for the next newsletter to Graham

Closing date for the **APRIL 2026** Newsletter is: **am – Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**N.B. The next Probus Meeting and Lunch is on  
Tuesday April 14, 2026**