



PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

Associations Incorporation Act 1981 - Registered No A0029363K

NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

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

This Probud 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 : portphillipprobud@gmail.com

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

Issue 438

September 2025

PRESIDENT

Prof. F. Larkins (Frank)

Mob: 0400 109 785

E: f.larkins@unimelb.edu.au

SECRETARY

Dr. V. Beck (Vaughan)

Mob: 0418 362 792

E: vbeck@bigpond.com

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, 9th September, 2025

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

IMPORTANT DATES in August, 2025

Deadline for Lunch Bookings	5.00 pm	4 th September	page 6
Coffee and Fellowship	9.00 am	9 th September	
Meeting	10:00 am	9 th September	page 5

Message from the President



Dear Probud Colleagues

The August Probud meeting was well attended with some 56 members participating. We received an emergency evacuation briefing from the CEO of the Kew Golf Club, Stephen Roberts. It was reassuring to know that the Kew Golf Club has well trained staff to act as wardens and guides in the event of an emergency. Our secretary, Vaughan Beck, advised us that the club is preparing to have a register of contact persons for use in case any of us has

medical emergency and a next-of-kin or friend needs to be contacted. The register will be voluntary and confidential to a few people responsible for organising our events. More details will be provided in upcoming newsletters once the management committee is satisfied that the appropriate protocols and safeguards are in place.

The guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Stuart Brooking. He informed us that the company, Local Leaders International, of which he is Executive Director, has a global reach dealing with Bible Colleges and Universities in about 90 countries. They provide financial support to train mainly young people to develop leadership skills to address major challenges in their societies in areas such as poverty, education and housing. More details are on their website at <https://localleaders.org.au/>

I was most impressed by the career profile talk by member Bev McGree. More than 50 years as a radiographer with 10 years out caring for four children, her contribution to the Royal Children's Hospital represents a very significant contribution to society. As a club we are fortunate to have such individuals as members. There is no compulsion for new members to give a profile talk, but to those that accept the invitation of the Secretary we are most appreciative to be able to know you a little better.

It was pleasing that I was able to induct three new members into the club; Barry McGrath, and Kathy and Rob Carmuciano. They all have had most interesting careers and have the potential to contribute much to sustain the vibrancy of Port Phillip Probus. There were also four guests hosted by present members. I trust that they will see value in joining our club for social engagement given that we have such a rich, diverse and talented membership.

On a sad note: Jan Pritchard and Frances Brown both died recently. They both have been strong supporters of the club for many years. They will be missed. We express our condolences to their families.

Our activities program continued in August with a Coffee and Conversation discussion at Rylands and a visit to the Banking Museum. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter. We are most grateful to the members that devote considerable time to arranging such stimulating and memorable events.

A report of our forthcoming Getaway to Lakes Entrance should be provided in this newsletter. Please follow up promptly on the advice being provided by Colin Palethorpe. We have resolved to have a mini getaway next year in the week beginning 16 March 2026 (two weeks before Easter) at a Tourist Park with suitable cabins. Venues are currently being explored. If you have a suggestion, please let me or any member of the management committee know. Your committee is also exploring possible venues for our main getaway in November 2026. Suitable

accommodation may be a challenge, so we would like to resolve the venue by November this year. Again, suggestions are welcome.

Our primary channel to attract new members remains the advocacy of existing members and invitations to friends and former professional colleagues. However, other communication avenues are also important. Adrian Farrell continues to upgrade the website as a flagship vehicle to attract new members. We are also seeking someone with media skills to provide some copy of our activities occasionally to the newsletter of the Probian Association of Victoria. Reports are brief but valuable. They publish 'The Victorian Probian' five times a year. The next edition will be available in October.

Thought for Today

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. Albert Schweitzer

Frank Larkins

President 2025-26

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

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

Three new members inducted into the Port Phillip Probus Club – Barry McGrath, Kathy & Rob Carmuciano

Barry McGrath (Centre) Pictured here with Frank Larkins (President) and Jim Green (Sponsor)



Barry McGrath is a former Professor of Vascular Medicine and Medicine at Monash University and Monash Health.

A leader in medical education in Australia, he had worked closely with Health Departments, the Australian Medical Council and other health experts.

His interests include conversational French, Italian and Italian Literature, cryptic crosswords and the Hawthorn Football Club.

Inductees (cont.)

Kathy Carmuciano pictured here with Frank Larkins (President)



Kathy has worked mainly in the Victorian Spinal Cord Injuries service at the Austin Hospital in various roles from clinical nurse, clinical nurse teacher and as the postgraduate Spinal Cord Injuries course nurse educator and course coordinator for both the Austin Hospital and La Trobe University.

She has also studied and taught Kinesiology, specialising in stress management and learning and development issues.

Her interests include tennis, book club, travel and outdoor activities.

Rob Carmuciano pictured here with Frank Larkins (President)



Rob has worked extensively in senior management roles in the superannuation industry in both corporate and industry funds. Before that he spent time in teaching and in human resources.

Rob plays golf and tennis & is interested in current affairs, travel music and the arts. He is a volunteer with the Ajani Neighbourhood House in Templestowe.

Profile Talk – Bev McGree



Bev grew up in Echuca and moved to Melbourne at 18 years to study radiography at Prince Henry's Hospital and R.M.I.T. After three years qualifying, she then worked at the Royal Children's and Mercy Maternity hospitals. She also worked in London for a few months until her eldest son was born. She then had a 10 year break while her four

children were young. On moving back to Melbourne from Adelaide, she re-commenced work as a part time radiographer at the Royal Children's Hospital and continued there for the next 40 years until she retired in June last year.

Bev saw many technological changes over that time including the introduction of Ultrasound, CT, Image Intensifiers and MRI. Radiography went from catching images on film to digital images on computer screens.

She has enjoyed travelling around both Australia and overseas in recent years, and is now looking forward to enjoying her retirement.

Speaker for the September Meeting



Professor Peter Doherty will speak on Viruses and Immunity

Peter Doherty trained initially as a veterinarian and spent 10 years in Brisbane, then Edinburgh, working as a pathologist/ neuropathologist researching infectious diseases of domestic animals. Aiming to learn basic immunology, he then took a temporary appointment at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, Canberra, where, working with a younger Swiss colleague, Rolf Zinkernagel, they made a chance discovery that explained the biological role of the Major Histocompatibility Complex and the nature of immunological surveillance.

As a consequence, he spent the rest of his 60-year career as an MD, a mouse doctor, researching CD8+ 'killer' T cell-mediated-immunity in the USA and Australia. Zinkernagel and Doherty were awarded the 1996 Nobel Prize for Medicine for their 'discoveries concerning the cellular immune defence'. At the University of Melbourne since 2002, he has also been heavily involved in public science communication and has published seven 'lay' books on science and the scientific life.

Colin Adam Speakers' Co-ordinator Ph Tel: 9889 4774 Mob: 0418 483 136
cmadam@bigpond.com

Catering: September 9 Meeting



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

Meeting & Tea/Coffee \$10

Tea/Coffee available pre and mid meeting.

Lunch Menu

Main Course

To be Advised

Dessert:

To be Advised

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 August 12th. Booking (and payment) must be made no later than 5 pm Thursday September 4th.

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 September 4th and make sure your name is included on the transfer. Please DO NOT pay before the 1st of the month.

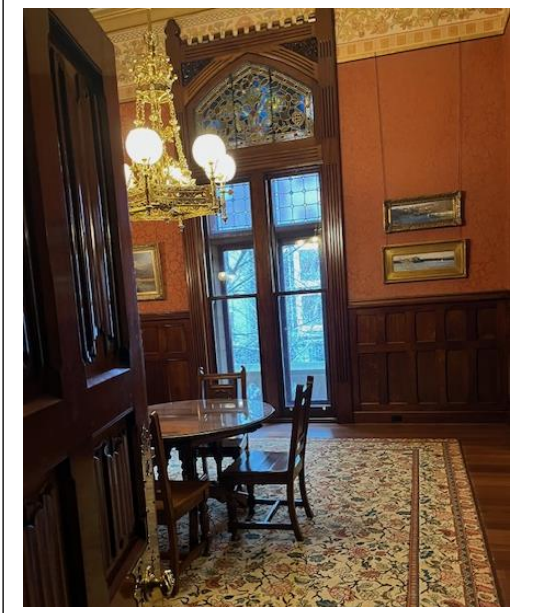
A/C name: "Probus Club of Port Phillip", BSB: 033 058, A/C NO 750921

If paying by cash or cheque, please place in an envelope clearly marked **Lunch** or **Tea/Coffee** and showing 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

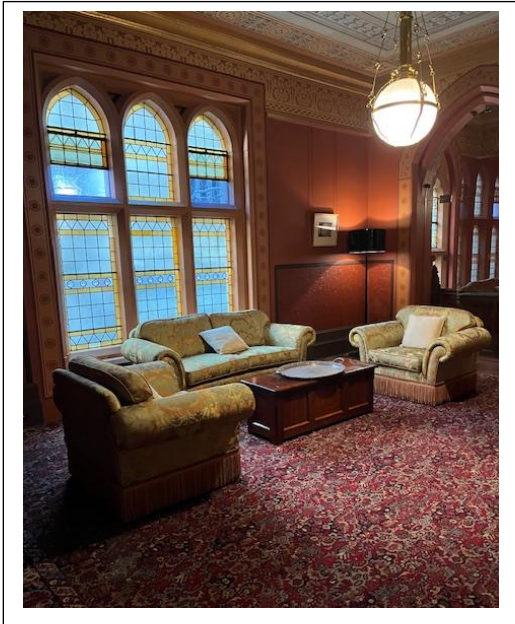
wjstudebaker48@gmail.com

Report on August Visit – ANZ Banking Museum



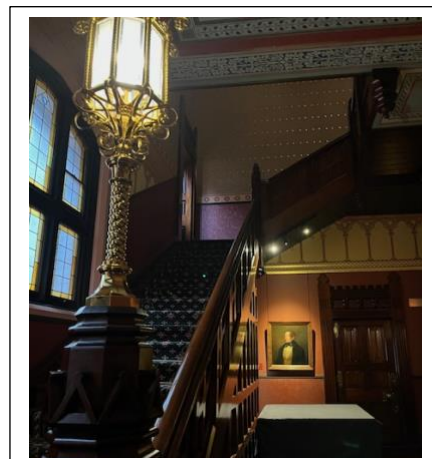
The eight of us who joined the ANZ banking museum were rewarded with a marvellous tour. We were able to admire the beautifully restored ceiling in the banking chambers. Then our guide Allan took us upstairs to the apartment built for the manager of this ES&A bank, as it originally was, in the 1880's. There were 17 rooms of which we saw about five. What treasures they held. The rooms were huge and still furnished. The double glazing on all the windows kept out all the sounds of Collins Street which was still a dusty dirt road when it was built. There is a large collection of paintings which were well worth inspection.

As the Stock Exchange used to be next door some of that building was incorporated into the bank and the trading floor became a restaurant, so we were able to see some of that.



While there was not enough time to look at everything at the museum, the large collection of money boxes was of considerable interest. It would be certainly worth another visit to look the rest of the material on display. Apparently, this part of the bank can be visited anytime.

All of us then went to the Mercato for lunch and were able to choose a variety of different dishes which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.



Susan Harraway – Ph 0447 941 963

Visits Co-ordinator

susanrlharraway@gmail.com

September Visit – Melbourne Theatre Company

**10.20 am Tuesday September 16th – Southbank Theatre, 140
Southbank Blvd., Southbank**

The next visit is to Melbourne Theatre Company. The tour begins with the life cycle of a MTC production. Then the tour explores the costumes, sets and other backstage items involved in a production. So it should be very engaging.

There will be a sheet at the front desk at the September Probus Meeting with all the information about the time and place of the visit so please sign up for it as only those people who do so will be able to go. Gail and Rod Smith have organised it while in USA and it will have to be paid for on the day of the visit. Until we know how many are going, we do not know the individual cost as MTC have a flat charge of \$170 for groups under 21. On Tuesday 9th September after the Probus meeting I will email the cost to those who are going when we know the numbers. Will you then please pay the Treasurer in the usual way? Those who do not do online banking can pay Rod on the day of the visit.

Susan Harraway – Ph 0447 941 963 susanrlharraway@gmail.com

Getaway Lakes Entrance November 2025

Colin and Susan have just returned from overseas and will be attending all Probus meetings until the Getaway to Lakes Entrance on the 17th-21st November. They look forward to any queries you may have and hope you can join them on this relaxing Getaway. The timeline and numbers at this stage are as follows:

1. Accommodation bookings for those attending need to be made ASAP (if not already done so) at the Bellevue On The Lakes, quoting reservation number 1717761. A \$100 deposit is required on booking with the remaining payment due 60 days prior to arrival (i.e. by the 18th September 2025)
2. After the 18th September we will use those booked attendance numbers, (including your indication about travelling by coach to the Getaway) to calculate the amount to be paid by each attendee to the club. This can be done so that you will know this amount by the October

14th Probus Meeting. This should then be paid to the Treasurer by the 28th October (2 weeks later). This payment will cover travel to the getaway for those using the coach, 4 breakfasts and dinners, the 2 lakes cruises including the lunch on the Metung Cruise (at the Metung Hotel Tuesday), the coach travel for all attendees on the Wednesday, including a packed lunch and a wine tasting, and a packed lunch for the Paynesville cruise Thursday 9:30am-12:30pm.

N.B. Lunches and/or tea/ coffee on the way to and from the Getaway in the La Trobe Valley will be at own cost.

3. There will be 2 pick-up/drop-off points in Melbourne for the coach travellers, one in the CBD and one in Boroondarra, TBA

4. We presently have 45 attendee expressions of interest with 31 indicating coach travel to the getaway. Anyone who has not yet expressed an interest can still do so on the form available at the September 9th meeting.

Colin Palethorpe – Getaway Organiser Email cpaletho@bigpond.net.au

Coffee and Conversation

The next Coffee and Conversation will be held at

10.30 am Tuesday 23rd September 2025

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

ALMONER

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

Ross Fardon telephone 03 9874 6838, or e-mail:- rossfardon@gmail.com

Cultural Matters – Review by Mary Sutherland

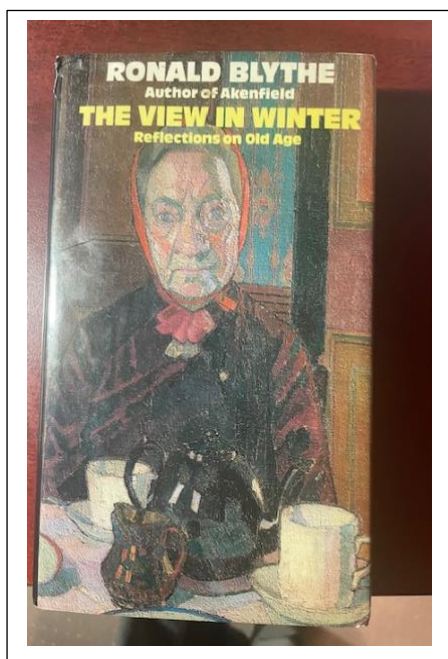
Ronald Blythe – Celebrating Humanity



Ronald Blythe was an English writer who wrote insightfully about life in communities in rural Suffolk, and on the margins. His subject was always ordinary people in their context. He died just after his 100th birthday in 2022 still living at Bottengoms, his inaccessible Elizabethan yeoman's farmhouse near the river Stour, supported by devoted friends.

His first book "Akenfield" (1969) was a series of interviews with people in a Suffolk village recalling massive changes between 1900 and 1960 when the mechanical agricultural revolution changed rural life entirely. By this time there were fewer people working the land and cars, television and

commuters had arrived, Voices recorded here were not usually heard in literature, and it was regarded as a ground-breaking book.



In "The View in Winter" (1979) we hear the voices of old people in Britain in this changed world which didn't value them. Nobody sees them anymore as they see themselves. These themes are universal in our modern world, and Blythe considered this his best book. He found that old people who thrived were those "who were able to preserve their spiritual vitality, vividness and imaginative sort of energy".

His "Letters from Wormingford" were written at Bottengoms, and were weekly reflections on the seasons of country life, following the seasons of the church. They have given us much pleasure over the years.

Blythe is reticent about his Christian faith, but as a lay reader he deputised for the vicar in three small rural parishes. Each letter reflects on something of local or wider interest, often tiny things like a flint arrowhead left by a much earlier walker in that place. Connections are made and interesting memories are shared. They are perfect little vignettes of how people's lives go on, despite immense changes, as they have over so many centuries in that place. It is a gentle reminder in these fast-changing times!

Art Exhibition

‘An Art exhibition of my botanic art group is being held at The Malvern Artists’ Society from the 23rd – 29th September, 10am -3pm daily’ (see Margaret Hill for more details)

Margaret Hill Ph 0448 948 548 marg.peter7@gmail.com

Thursday Botanic Art Group presents
a collection of art works inspired by the natural world

WONDERS *of* NATURE



10am–3pm
September 23–29, 2025

Malvern Artists’ Society Gallery
1297-99 High Street, Malvern 3144



THURSDAY BOTANIC ART GROUP

The 'Wonders of Nature' are observed and reflected by each artist in their own distinct style using a selection of media featuring watercolour.

The origin of the Thursday Botanic Art Group lies at The Royal Botanic Gardens with our teacher, friend and mentor Helen Burrows. She left an enduring legacy by encouraging us to stay and work together as a close-knit group of like-minded artists with a passion for botanic art.

Once our time at The Gardens ended, we found a space to meet weekly in Malvern on Thursday mornings. Becoming known as the Thursday Botanic Art Group, we continue to enjoy sharing ideas, fellowship, triumphs, advice and learning together.



Newsletter Editor – **Graham Marshall**

Mob: 0408 308 382 Email graham.marshall8@icloud.com

Please send copy for the next newsletter to Graham

Closing date for the **October 2025** Newsletter is: **am – Thursday, September 28th**