



PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

Associations Incorporation Act 1981 - Registered No A0029363K

AUGUST 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 448

August 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, 11th August, 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	6 th August page 4
Coffee and Fellowship	9.00 am	11 th August
July Meeting	10:00 am	11 th August

Message from the President – Colin Adam



It was with a sense of disappointment that our Management Committee decided to abandon our efforts to organize a Get-Away to Canberra in November. We continue to discuss a site closer to Melbourne, probably at one of the RACV venues where many of our Probus Club are members. We are still seeking a member to undertake responsibility for managing this. 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

month of August. Again, I need to draw 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 welcome Wayne Killingsworth as a new member, introduced by Susan Harraway. Wayne is retired mechanical engineer who worked at Ford and Defence during an interesting career. Please welcome him into our Club. 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

Bill Dix turns 100



Bill Dix (sitting left) is pictured here with President Colin Adam who acknowledged his lifetime achievements

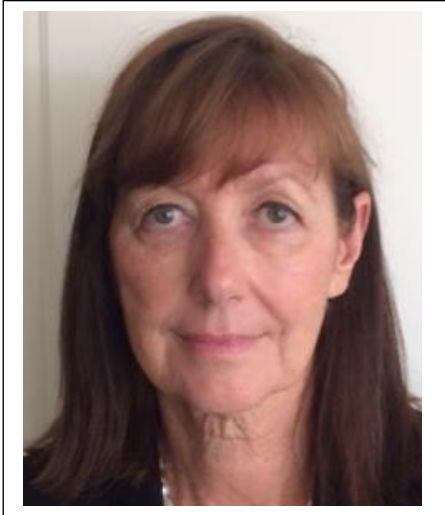
At the July meeting of the Probus Club of Port Phillip, Mr William Leslie (Bill) Dix (AO) joined other members for lunch in a celebration of his 100th birthday. A former President of the Club (2003 – 04) and member for 29 years Bill Dix had a storied career in the Australian car industry dominated largely by the *Ford Motor Company*, but also including involvements with some other of Australia’s most iconic enterprises.

He commenced his working career with *Ford Australia* in 1941 as a junior, starting an association which continued for almost 50 Years. It culminated with his appointment as Chairman and Managing Director of *Ford Australia* in 1981. He retired from full time involvement in the company in 1990.

After his retirement from Ford he joined a large number of Company Boards including Qantas, where he was Chairman (1989 -93) during its privatisation.

Speaker for the August Meeting – Dr Sheryl Coughlin

Art, Place and Legacy: The Story of Victoria's Regional Galleries



What inspired people in nineteenth-century Victoria to collect art, establish galleries and donate their treasures for future generations? This talk explores the origins and evolution of Victoria's regional art galleries from the goldfields and pastoral districts of the colonial era to the vibrant cultural institutions we know today. Along the way, it examines the role of collectors, philanthropists and communities in creating Australia's most significant regional gallery network.

Through stories of generosity, vision and community pride, discover how regional galleries have enriched Victorian

life for more than 150 years and why this remains as relevant today as ever.

Drawing on her experiences as a Director of the Benalla Art Gallery Foundation, our speaker, Dr. Sheryl Coughlin, examines how regional galleries have evolved and the role that philanthropy, community leadership and cultural institutions play in shaping the identity, vitality and future prosperity of our regional communities.

Background: Dr Sheryl Coughlin has a healthcare background and has worked in consulting, research and thought leadership roles with the *Big Four* management consulting agencies in strategy, and leading health industry research in Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia and the United States. She holds a B.A. in Art History (Melbourne), B.App Sci (Occ Therapy), (Lincoln Institute), MHA, (RMIT), and a PhD from the Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales.

Despite her background in healthcare, art history is her passion and she has a particular interest in Early Christian and Byzantine Art. With this passion for art history came her interest in art galleries and their role in connecting people and communities.

A member of the NGVWA, (National Gallery of Victoria Women's Association) Sheryl is a Director of the Benalla Art Gallery Foundation and has a particular interest in regional galleries, philanthropy and the ways in which institutions such as the Benalla Art Gallery contribute to cultural life, economic resilience and community wellbeing.

Catering: August 11 Meeting



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

Meeting & Tea/Coffee \$10

Tea/Coffee available pre and mid meeting.

Lunch Menu

Main Course

Grilled fillet of Daintree Barramundi, poached asparagus and Paris mash, topped with a mango, tomato and cucumber salsa.

Dessert:

Warm sticky date pudding, butterscotch sauce and vanilla bean ice cream.

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 11th. Booking (and payment) must be made no later than 5 pm Thursday August 6th.

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 August 6th 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

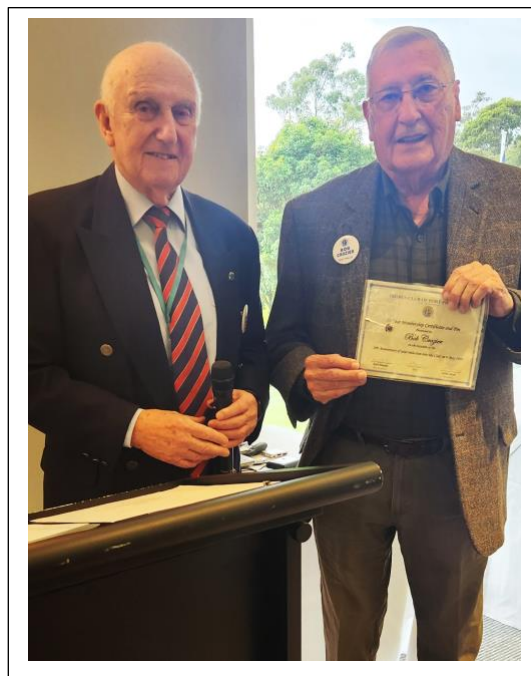
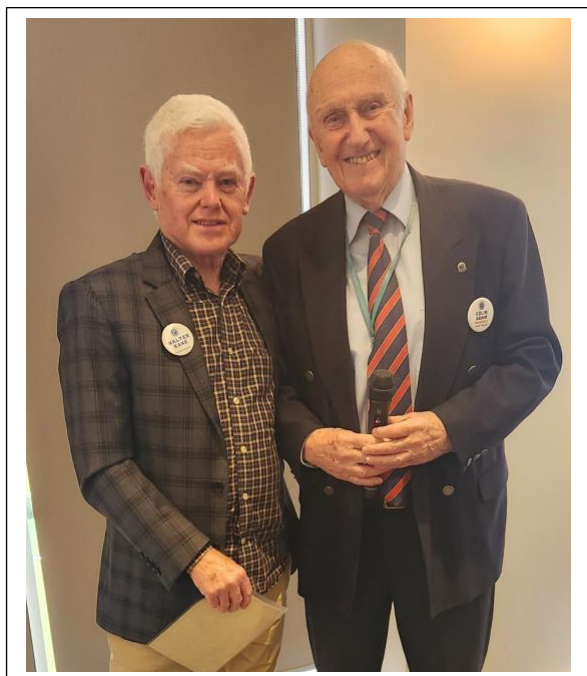
If paying by cash or cheque, please place in an envelope clearly marked **Lunch** or **Tea/Coffee** and show your name and those of your attendees. The correct amount must be tendered as no change is given. Envelopes need to be prepared before arrival. Everyone who has paid will be given a table number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

Jim Studebaker - Catering Officer Ph 0413 304 864

wjstudebaker48@gmail.com

20 Year Membership Certificates

At the July Meeting two members, Walter Kane and Bob Crozier, celebrated their 20 years of membership of the Probus Club of Port Phillip.



Walter Kane (left) and Bob Crozier being presented with their 20 year membership certificates by the President Colin Adam

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

August Visit – Carlton & United Breweries—Abbotsford Plant

Tuesday 18th. of August

10.30 am Meet at the Carlton Brewhouse (see map below)



Our August visit is to the Carlton & United Breweries—Abbotsford Plant and Victoria's largest brewery. We will experience a guided, behind-the-scenes look at the historic Abbotsford site. On the tour, we will be taken through over 100 years of brewing history and knowledge to experience the sheer scale of this iconic facility on the banks of the Yarra. Following the tour, we will return to the Brewhouse to sample brewery-fresh beers and enjoy a pub meal. The Abbotsford Plant is a genuine working brewery, and production numbers vary from

week to week. The tour operator cannot guarantee that all areas of the plant will be fully operational on the day you visit. Wearing closed-toe shoes is required.

Brewhouse Location: **24 Thompson Street, Abbotsford VIC**, shown on the map below



Cost of tour: \$60 per person, including the tour, beer tasting and a pub meal. Pay by credit card at reception.

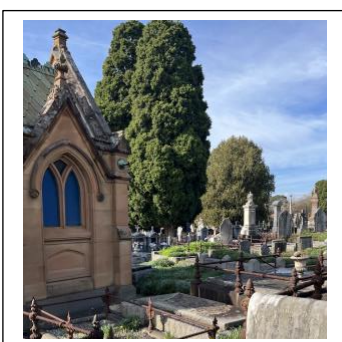
Minimum Number: at least 10 members required.

Parking: Free 4-hour and 2-hour parking available in the streets around the Brewhouse.

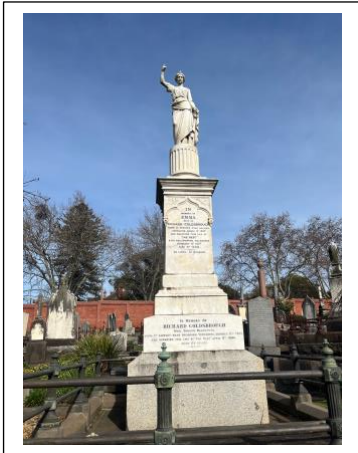
Public Transport: Tram 109 or Tram 12 along Victoria Street, Richmond.

Visits Co-ordinator: Jim Green Ph 0407 830 137

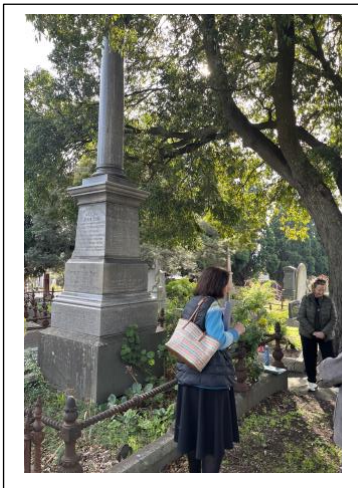
July Visit Report – Kew Cemetery



Nine of us had a very successful visit to Kew Cemetery on Tuesday 21st June. Pauline, who took us around, and her new assistant, had so much information about the various gravestones we went to. They obviously could have told us so



many stories about the people buried there, but they restricted themselves to eight and we spent a leisurely time hearing about them and inspecting their gravesites. This was an ideal way to see and hear about a variety of our forebears and their stories. One of these related to the first woman doctor in Victoria who had to go overseas to get a qualification before she could practise back in Victoria.



There was also the grave of an amazing woman who did so much for such number of different peoples - Aborigines, Chinese, physically disabled, and others. The gravestone of the artist Louis Buvelot and his wife was also featured. The last shrine we saw was the Springthorpe Memorial which was built for a woman who died in childbirth. Her husband had this elaborate shrine constructed for her, complete with an angel and a decorative ceiling overlooking a replica of the woman herself. The cemetery Board, the Friends of Kew supported by public donations, all combined to pay to refurbish the shrine and have it cleaned.

The Friends group meet regularly to garden and tidy up. They are doing a wonderful job.

We completed the visit with lunch across the road at Jonathan's.

Report and Photos by Susan Harraway susanrlharraway@gmail.com Ph 0447 941 963

Coffee and Conversation

The next Coffee and Conversation will be held at

10.30 am Tuesday 25th August 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

Report on Coffee and Conversation

The June meeting on Australian Values produced a spirited and engaging discussion on the topic, based around the existing statement of values that applicants for temporary, provisional and permanent Australian visas must accept or sign on to.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/australian-values>
(ED)

Don MacAllister reports that, generally these values were thought to be appropriate with the possible addition of

- Respect for the environment, and
- Recognition of the role of sport in reconciliation/ integration.

This was followed up at the July meeting with a discussion on another key issue, ***multiculturalism***. There were various views expressed, though the general position was that multi-culturalism is an existing reality, that it is generally positive but complexities are involved. Discussion was interrupted, however, by the on-going drama of the change of State Premier occurring in real time during the meeting (ED)

Melbourne's Cable Tram Era – Report & Exhibition

At our July meeting, member, Miles Pierce, gave a presentation on the evolution, implementation and eventual demise of Melbourne's cable tram network. Led by American immigrant, Francis Clapp, the Melbourne Tramway & Omnibus Company (MT&OCo) opened the first cable tram service from Hawthorn Bridge in Richmond to Spencer St. railway station in 1885. By 1891 the service had grown to sixteen routes with a total of 70 km of double track lines radiating from the CBD. As such, it was second only to San Francisco in network size and was the largest cable tram network in the world operated by one company.

Melbourne's cable tram system was based on the concept developed by Andrew Smith Hallidie for his 1873 cable tramway on the steeply inclined Clay St. in San Francisco. A wire rope loop – 'the cable' – driven by a stationary steam engine ran on pulleys in a small tunnel located between the rail tracks with a narrow continuous slot at pavement level. An open passenger car – termed 'the dummy' - contained a device – 'the grip' – whose narrow flank extended through the tunnel slot and at the will of its operator – the 'gripman' – could grip onto the cable to propel the dummy along its rail tracks and release it and apply brakes to stop. The dummy in turn towed an enclosed saloon style trailer.

The Melbourne cable tram network was built to a high standard and although a decade after its completion in 1891 the ascendancy of the electric tram with its much lower initial cost precluded further deployment of cable tram technology, it served Melbourne's inner suburbs for over fifty years. The last cable tram, running on the Bourke St to Clifton Hill / Northcote route, quietly disappeared in October 1940.

The Melbourne Tram Museum, located in the former Hawthorn (Electric) Tramways Trust depot at 8 Wallan Road Hawthorn (adjacent to the intersection of Power St. and Wallan Rd./Riversdale Rd.) has recently opened an exhibition devoted to Melbourne's cable tram era. Professionally planned, the exhibition uses early photographs and video clips along with selected artifacts and story boards to inform visitors about this facet of *Marvellous Melbourne* of the 1880s. The museum also has a preserved cable car dummy and saloon trailer on display as part of its extensive collection of former electric trams.

The Melbourne Tram Museum is generally open from 11 am to 4 pm on the second and fourth Saturday of each month with admission by a gold coin donation. See:

<https://www.hawthorntramdepot.org.au/>.



Preserved cable tram dummy and saloon car at Melbourne Tram Museum

Part of the Cable Trams exhibition space at Melbourne Tram Museum

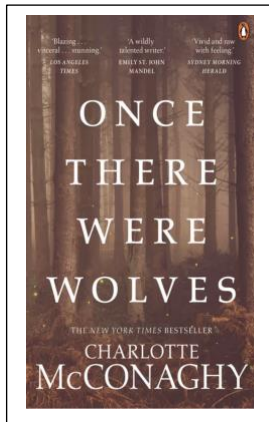


Miles Pierce: milwen@ozemail.com.au Ph 0429 359832

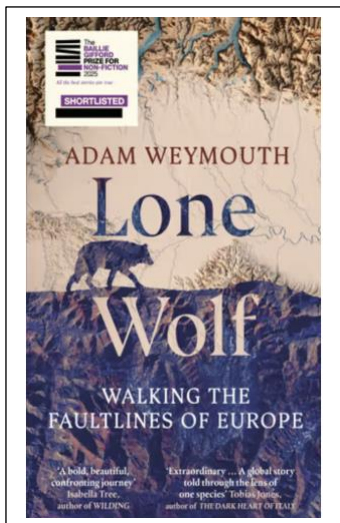
Contributions 1: Book Reviews – Barbara Grant

When we were eight, Dad cut me open from throat to stomach. Thus reads the dramatic opening of *Once There Were Wolves*, Australian author and passionate conservationist Charlotte McConaghy's 2021 novel. Set primarily in Scotland, it imagines the reintroduction of wolves into the Scottish Highlands and explains the positive affect this might have on restoring the original forests and the consequent improvements this would bring, including

addressing climate change. At the same time she explores the unavoidable disruption that this must make in the lives of the people who have farmed there for generations.



But the novel is much more than this. Inti, the narrator and protagonist, has a condition called *mirror-touch synesthesia* which means that she feels anything she sees as if it is happening to her...hence the opening sentence describing what she felt watching her father skin a rabbit. This helps McConachy write very graphically, not only about the environment and wolves, but also to construct a compelling narrative, because this novel is also a murder mystery and a romance. It emerges that Inti is the primary carer for her twin sister who communicates using sign language. Finally, it also includes scenes of domestic violence with the reader is left to compare this to the supportive family lives of the wolves, who mate for life and grieve loss.



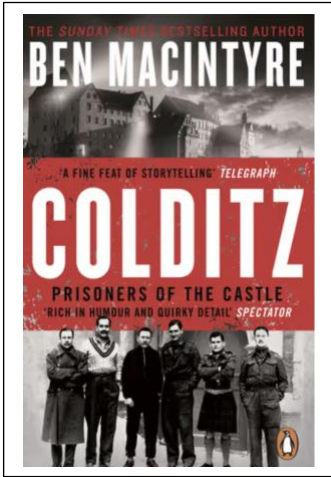
Because of the strong narrative this book is very easy to read. The same can also be said of *Lone Wolf. Walking the Fault Lines of Europe* by Adam Weymouth, a true account of the author's walk from Slovenia across the Alps to the hills above Verona, Italy, following the digital footprint of a lone male wolf, Slave. Slave was tagged and released into the wild in 2011 so scientists could study his route and behaviour. Ten years later Adam Weymouth used the 635 GPS points to replicate on foot Slave's 2000 km journey.

Not only does he paint a fascinating description of the wonderful landscape of this section of Europe but he takes time to understand its history and politics and to speak to the people he encounters. Through recording the opinions of those he meets, the academics studying the wolves in Slovenia and various politicians, he recounts the many attitudes for and against the reintroduction of wolves to this part of Europe and the passions rewilding inspires in its proponents and opposition. His commitment to giving voice to both sides of the debate was, for me, best exemplified by his repeating some of the questions that have been raised about the connection between the introduction of wolves and the subsequent reforestation in Yellowstone National Park which Charlotte McConachy cites as the model for her imagined rewilding project in Scotland. All this is achieved with his love for the natural environment as the framework tying the various threads together.

These two books complement each other. I felt I gained more from reading both than either one alone; I would, however, recommend reading them in the order I have written about them.

Contributions 2: Book Review – Ursula Tursky

Colditz: Prisoners of the Castle by Ben MacIntyre



With access to an unprecedented range of material, author Ben MacIntyre paints a vivid new picture of the POWs and their jailers, who lived side by side for years in an epic game of cat and mouse, class conflict, espionage, insanity and farce. According to the 1929 Geneva Convention, Officers were not allowed to work and had to have an (often long suffering) orderly at their beck and call. The prisoners from several different countries created an eccentric world within a hilltop cage, a world apart from politics and race, with a distinct language, theatrical shows and even its own Olympics. They excelled in escape attempts, some with success.

Their motto “escaping from POW camps [was] the sworn duty of all officers.” The Colditz Escape Academy, with its own Committee approving escape plans, produced gadgets worth patenting, such as the home-made compass in a walnut. There was plenty of “free” time and there were exceptional minds at “work”. Amongst the prisoners were an Indian doctor and Giles Romilly, the communist nephew of Winston Churchill, one of several “Prominente” or special prisoners. Many were at Colditz because they had tried to escape from a POW prison before. This was the highest security prison in Germany. The man in charge, Eggers, was an Anglophile (would you believe it!); he insisted that the prisoners should be treated, at all times, in accordance with regulations, but he also excelled in collecting “specimens of the best escape material, photographs of tunnels, contraband, fake passes, keys, and disguises”.

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**

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

The August Probus Meeting is on August 11

The Closing date for the **September Newsletter** is **Wednesday August 26, 2026**