

Probus Club of Port Phillip Celebrates its 40th Birthday



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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 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 437

August 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, 12th August, 2025

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

IMPORTANT DATES in August, 2025

Deadline for Lunch Bookings	5.00 pm	7 th August	page 10
Coffee and Fellowship	9.00 am	12 th August	
Meeting	10:00 am	12 th August	page 9

Port Phillip Probus 40th Anniversary Lunch



Seventy six members and guests attended a special lunch at the Kew Golf Club to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Port Phillip Probus Club on July 8, 2025. The gathering was chaired and facilitated by the President.

Among the members and guests were fourteen former Presidents.

Here, the oldest living former President, **Bill Dix**, (2003–04) cuts the 40th anniversary cake in the presence of the current President, **Frank Larkins**.

Members celebrating the 40th Anniversary at a Special Lunch on July 8



Jim Studebaker, who organised the lunch makes some introductory remarks.



Probus Club President, **Frank Larkins**, opened the proceedings by welcoming members and guests to the celebratory lunch and pointed out that 14 of 18 possible living former Presidents were present. He introduced all 14 (see P4) and acknowledged the leadership they had provided that had sustained a friendly, vibrant and welcoming club for 40 years. The Presidents had been ably supported by members of the various management committees.

He concluded by thanking members for their loyalty to the club and their level of commitment.

Members enjoying their anniversary lunch on the July 8 at the Kew Golf Club



Some Reflections on 40 Years' Activities by the Probus Club of Port Phillip

A Panel Discussion by Three Members



John Hodder (President 2015-16) described the early days of the Club and the various moves it made in the search for an appropriate home and lunch venue. From Collingwood Football Social Club it moved to Hawthorn Receptions, then to Leota and finally the Kew Golf Club where it found its home. He referred to the quality of the Speakers and the Speaker Coordinators, the importance of the Almoner and the role of the Newsletter.

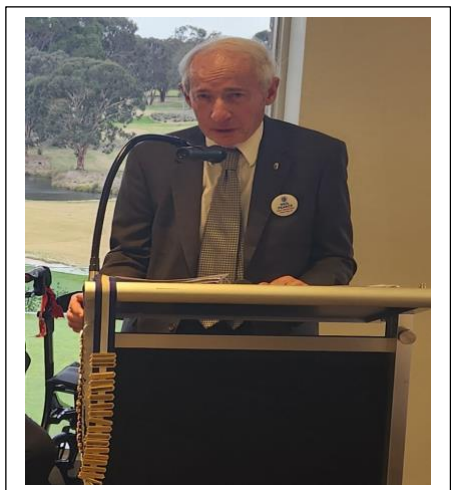
He also pointed out that in the 10 years after he joined, the Club averaged one new member a year (who stayed) but in the last 10 years we have had 60 new members.



Lois Bell described her background as an Associate Member when she joined in 2009. That was the lot of wives and partners of the men who were the only actual members. Though she always felt welcomed, her badge reminded her of her place. This all changed for her and 15 other women who became full members in 2019 and were duly inducted at the September meeting that year.

She thought this change to the membership revitalised the club and has brought a number of women, including the first women President, into leadership roles.

It has also brought women into the club who aren't necessarily wives or partners.



Neil Pearce (President 2021-22) talked about the Getaways he had been on and some of the activities the participants were involved in. He referenced the last Lakes Entrance Getaway, the Hamilton Getaway and the lunch visit to the Royal Mail at Dunkeld. He finished up with the Getaway to Creswick.

Neil has been appointed Club Historian and is in the process of up-dating the history since it was last done ten years ago.

Celebrating 40 years of the Port Phillip Probus Club



The current President and thirteen of his predecessors.

[Back Left: Colin Adam (2020-21); David Sutherland (2016-17); Ian Webb (2014-15); Andrew Turner (2010-11); Frank Larkins (2025-26); Allan Schurmann (2018-19); Don McAllister (2022-23); Peter Laver (2024-25)]

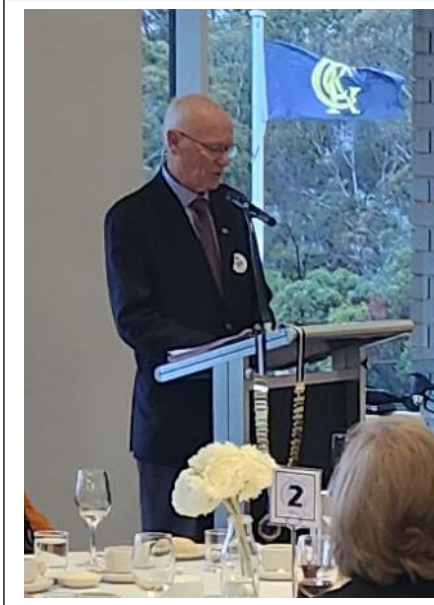
[Front Left: Neil Pearce (2021-22); John Hodder (2015-16); Mal Fleming (2005-06); Bill Dix (2003-24); John Hicks (2017-18); Milton Myers (2008-09)]

[Absent; Susan Harraway (apology); Gordon Wilson, Gilbert Ralph and Noel Richardson were unavailable for health reasons]



Members enjoying the main course

A Toast to the Club



Russell Smith proposes the toast at the 40th Anniversary Lunch of the Port Phillip Probus Club

In proposing the toast Russell pointed to two factors that he believed were the main pillars of the Club's success over recent years. They were the outstanding guest speaker program and the decision to admit women as full members taken in 2019. He also pointed to the strong and dedicated leadership of the club over its entire history. He referred to the role of the President, other members of the Committee and those in supporting roles.

It was an excellent Lunch



On behalf of the Club, the President acknowledged **Isabella Royer** and the Kew Golf Club catering staff. We all enjoyed an excellent meal and a quality service from these staff.

Here **Jim Studebaker**, who organised the lunch on behalf of the Probus Club is pictured with Isabella Royner, who was responsible for the Kew Golf Club arrangements.

Message from the President



Dear Probus Colleagues,

What a most memorable lunch we had to celebrate the 40th year of our esteemed organisation. Seventy six members and guests participated, including 14 of 18 living Past Presidents. I sincerely thank Jim Studebaker for his superb organisation of the event and the professional cooperation he received from Isabelle Royer and the Kew Golf Club catering staff. The food and drinks were excellent. Well done Jim and Isabelle.

I was delighted to see nine Past Presidents hosting tables and sharing their memories with other members.

The panel discussion was most insightful, highlighting different aspects of our history. Thank you, John Hodder, Lois Bell and Neil Pearce.

We were fortunate to have Bill Dix at 96, our President from 2003-2004, to cut the birthday cake. What a splendid cake it was because of the excellent arrangement made with the baker by Jim Studebaker. More details and photographs are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Coffee and Conversation continues to be well supported thanks to the efforts of Allan Brownrigg and others. Visits remain popular among our more active members. The Probus Association of Victoria paper, of which we will receive five times a year, has interesting engagement ideas being undertaken by other Probus clubs. If you have suggestions for new activities either on a regular basis or on-off, the Secretary Vaughan Beck or I would welcome your input. It does seem that we have many members who are busy with other engagements and welcome a limited number of Probus engagements. Nevertheless, we like to keep the activities program under review.

The Management Committee does have a number of matters to consider in the next few months. We must find a President-elect for 2026-2027 and a Vice President. Given the breadth of our club membership there is a leadership role here for female and male members. Probus South Pacific requires us to review our constitution and possibly make some amendments. This matter will be addressed soon. Vaughan Beck as Secretary is reviewing some occupational health and risk management matters to ensure we remain compliant when we have our meetings. One important safety question is '*Should we have a next-of-kin contact*' for members on a confidential basis?

In the past it has been the tradition to announce the venue for the next Getaway at the final dinner for the most recent event i.e. while we are in Lakes Entrance. In advance of the next getaway, suggestions on venues and a willing person/couple to organise the event would be most welcome. We left it too late to organise a mini getaway this year. The management committee will need to decide if we have such an event in 2026. Easter Sunday is the 5th April so any event would probably be in the third week of March, commencing 16th March after our regular Probus meeting. Ideas and a volunteer coordinator are required for the event to proceed. The mini-getaway is traditionally a low-key affair for two or three nights. A tourist park with quality cabins has proved popular in the past. Suggestions welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you all in August.

Thought for the Day

Start Each Day with a Positive Thought

Best wishes to all AND stay safe.

Frank Larkins

President 2025-26.

Welfare: COVID, Flu & RSV - Health Advisory¹

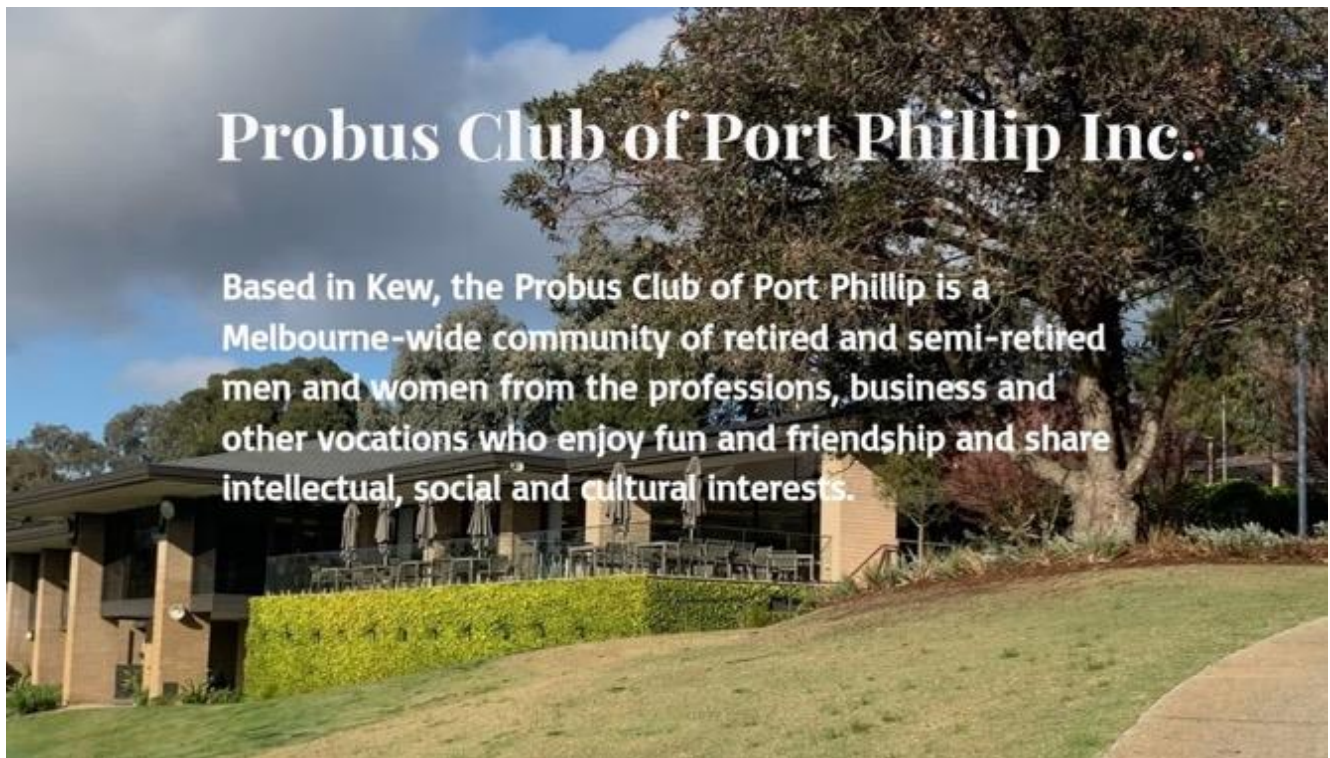
The Victorian Department of Health has noted that there have been large increases in COVID-19, influenza and RSV cases in recent months, and that older adults may experience more severe illness requiring hospitalisation. The Department notes that vaccinations are available for these three respiratory illnesses, and that other actions can be taken to keep yourself and others healthy. These include stay home if you are unwell and wearing a face mask if you have symptoms or when visiting vulnerable groups.

¹ Department of Health, Victoria, Advisory, 10 June 2025, Dr. Evelyn Wong, Chief Health Officer.

For further information: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/health-advisories/increase-in-covid-flu-rsv-victoria>

Vaughan Beck – Secretary - Mob: 0418 362 792 Email: vbeck@bigpond.com

The New Website is now Live



The link for the new website for the Probud Club of Port Phillip is probudportphillip.org.au. There are a number of advantages that come from using the Wix-based platform compared to the previous Probud South Pacific Microsite. These include a modern appearance with more capabilities while still being easy to update information.

We're not the only Probud club to now have an independent website. For example, of 90 Victorian clubs, 37 have chosen to be independent from the Probud South Pacific Microsite platform.

The emphasis at this stage is to make our site attractive for prospective members – male or female – to learn about our club. The images of people have been chosen to give a “professional look”. As time goes on extensions will be made to make it more useful for existing club members.

Once directories on website that point to our Microsite website have been updated to the new URL then the existing website will be decommissioned.

Adrian Farrell – Website Manager: Email adrianfarrell33@gmail.com

Speaker for the August Meeting



***Rev Dr Stuart Brooking
Executive Director*
Local Leaders International***

Local Leaders International is an Australian mission agency which invests strategically in each country in the developing world. We avoid enforcing our culture by helping local people understand their culture and then do the hard work of determining how God wants them to be.

**Stuart has worked in Anglican parish ministry in Sydney and Geraldton, WA, and has been a director of various church-based companies. He was National Director of Australian Ministry and joined Local Leaders International in 2003 as Executive Director. He holds the part-time role of Head of the Department of Ministry and Practice at the Australian University of Theology, and does occasional lecturing in Australian Bible colleges. He has broad academic and mission interests and travels extensively visiting Local Leaders partner colleges. Stuart has degrees in five disciplines and his PhD is from the University of Sydney looking at Western influences on theological education in the developing world.*

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

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

Catering: August 12 Meeting



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

Meeting & Tea/Coffee \$10

Tea/Coffee available pre and mid meeting.

Lunch Menu

Main Course

Char Grilled pork Rib eye, roasted kipfler potatoes, flowering broccolini, Forestiere sauce (GF)

Dessert:

Red wine poached pear, vanilla mascarpone, almond wafer and poaching syrup

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 5pm Thursday August 7th.

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 7th 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 July Visit – National Communications Museum

Our July visit to the National Communications Museum in Hawthorn was attended by 17 members. Located inside a refurbished 1990 telephone exchange, where some original equipment is still operational, the tour was most interesting and reminded us of how we communicated in society in the past.



The 90-minute tour took us down memory lane, into our own telecommunications past, the history of telecommunications in Australia and into the dazzling future of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing. Did we follow and understand it all? Yes and no.

We inspected the Cyber Cafe, their still functioning Research Labs, and, to everyone's delight, a nostalgic collection of items like manual phone exchanges, typewriters, Walkmans, cathode ray tube TVs, and all the calculators, PCs and phones we had ever possessed before our smartphones became the order of the day. As we were looking at these, sporadic conversations broke out about how we had all started with nibs, inkwells, abacuses, mechanical calculators and slide rules. We gawked at the very first telephones in Australia. We were pretty advanced 'Down-Under' then.

Our guides rose to the occasion in their explanation of how the Dutch created art out of signals and noise (disruptions, glitches) in communication technologies. While we were fascinated by the flashing lights and other electronic phenomena, we decided that we would need to come back again to get our heads around this tie-up between art and electronic disruptions.



We were shown the historical telephone exchange where we could physically see its inner workings. Remember the party line telephone systems, which allowed multiple households to share a single telephone line, with each household having a unique ring pattern to identify incoming calls. When a call was placed, the telephone exchange would send a specific ringing signal corresponding to the called party's unique code, allowing them to answer while others on the line could hear the ringing but not the conversation unless they 'accidentally picked

up the receiver'. There were roars of laughter when group members talked about their 'exchange' experiences. In small towns and on farms, the 'Exchange' knew everyone's business.

All in all, we had an interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile visit – topped off by a convivial lunch afterwards.

Jim and Dedrie Green

August Visit – Banking Museum

10.50 am Tuesday August 19th

The next visit is to the **Banking Museum** which is in the old Gothic building on the northern corner of Collins and Queens street in the city. We will have a tour of the museum and also go upstairs to the original bank manager's home. We can meet inside the building at about 10.50 am.

After the visit we can go to the newish Mercato about a block away for lunch. There are lots of eating places there so I will check out which might suit us.

The visit is free but I will have a signup sheet for anyone who is interested in going at the August 12 Probus meeting. I hope a lot of people will come. It should be an interesting and different visit.

Early notice that in October we are to go to the Yea Wetlands to see the new boardwalk. Hopefully it won't be rained out. Frank and Valerie have arranged a morning tea there and then after the walk we will have lunch at a local pub.

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

Getaway Lakes Entrance November 2025

Members are reminded of the Getaway to Lakes Entrance 17th-20th November 2025. A Report will be provided by Colin Palethorpe at the September 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 26th August 2025

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

The topic this month will be ***Australia after the Election***. Come along and let us know what you think of our new parliament in Canberra. We will also be looking for your opinions on young Australians (Should 16 year olds be voting?) and older Australians (Should older Victorians be allowed to drive without any testing?).

Introduced by Allan Brownrigg.

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

Cultural Matters – Striking Conversations by Ross Fardon



The two most striking conversations in my life were with a Catholic cardinal for four hours on a flight, and with a Muslim Sufi master for one hour. In each case, we were not in public, and both of us were fascinated by the roles and beliefs of the other, me an atheist of strong beliefs. We were open.

The Cardinal long ago, had come from the election of two popes, John Paul 1, who survived for only 30 days, and John Paul 2. So he was thoughtful. He was completely cynical about the faith, believing almost nothing of Christian and Catholic doctrines. Our beliefs were much the

same. Having been set for the top in the church from childhood, he stayed in the Church to do good on a big scale, as he could as a cardinal. He lacked the knowledge and authority to

do such good otherwise. He revered the church for its goodness, and was astounded by John Paul 2, as was I, having just watched his great inauguration ceremony.

The Sufi spent much time in the presence of angels who delighted him and held him to the highest in everything; and in the outer light of God, who accepted and “talked” with this humble man. He lived to share the glow of everlasting love with all whom he could, and to teach that Sufis live plainly, work hard for family and others, and for common good, in that ethereal glow. He believed in science and ethics as living with love, reality and common sense.

Apart from differences of belief on religious matters, we three were in close spiritual agreement on how we should live and believe, our free souls and our free commitments to all that is good. Both men were a delight, both conversations ended with an arm hug, in tears of blessings from the Sufi.

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 **September 2025** Newsletter is: **am – Thursday, August 28th**