



PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

Associations Incorporation Act 1981 - Registered No A0029363K

SEPTEMBER 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 449

September 2026

PRESIDENT

Colin Adam

Mob: 0418 483 136

E: cmadam@bigpond.com

SECRETARY

Ruth Bunyan

Mob: 0418 363 784

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NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, 8th September, 2026.

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

IMPORTANT DATES and TIMES in September, 2026.

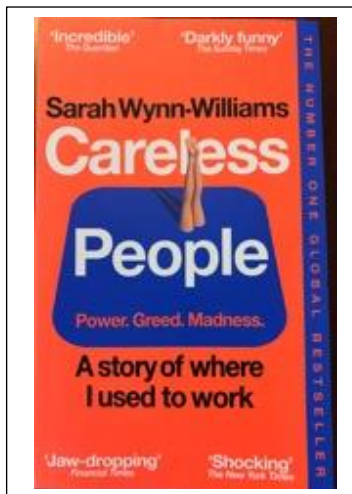
Deadline for Lunch Bookings	5.00 pm	3 rd September	page 4
Coffee and Fellowship	9.00 am	8 th September	
September Meeting	10:00 am	8 th September	

Message from the President – Colin Adam



Rod and Gail Smith have been inadvertently detained at the Whitsundays, so I will be with you again for another month. Gail will take over as President after she returns. I thank you all for your understanding and assistance during my second term. It has been a privilege, and one which I have enjoyed.

Last month I mentioned a somewhat disturbing book “*Careless People*” that I read recently written by a New Zealand lawyer, Sarah Wynn-Williams, who worked for Facebook (now Meta) for several years. It describes the inner workings of the upper



management echelons of Facebook. Her revelations have now led to her appearing before a US Senate Select Committee testifying about assurances previously made by senior Meta executives relating to Facebook activities in China. The book provides a chilling insight into the effect this technology can have on our personal lives. It leads one to conclude that AI technology will become even more intrusive in the years ahead. Yesterday the *NY Times* announced a US\$17 billion settlement against Meta on behalf of 47 US States on the presumption that Facebook technology encouraged social media addiction and endangered

children. I recommend the book to those interested in technology in pursuit of profits unconstrained by any oversight - legislative or simply moral concern for the welfare of others.

I need to draw to your attention again to the fact that we are still seeking a new Speaker Coordinator. I would like to propose that all our members think about someone they know, or know of, who may be an appropriate speaker. Please let Marg Hill or me know about them so that we can contact them. I thank Margaret Hill for finding new speakers, and for assisting me until a new volunteer or small group emerges to undertake this task.

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.

Colin Adam President 2026-27

Angela Hodder Inducted as Full Member into the Probus Club of Port Phillip



Angela Hodder, the widow of former long term Probus life member and former President (2015 – 16), John Hodder, was inducted as a full member of the Probus Club of Port Phillip at the August meeting. Angela had been actively involved in the Club since John joined in 2005. Before that Angela had accompanied John as he moved around the world in his role as a senior executive at Caltex. She carried out a very active role in her husband’s career which took them both to many different countries as well as Australia. (Angela is here with the President Colin Adam)

Profile Talk – Michael Slee



At the August Meeting of the Probus Club Michael gave his profile talk, briefly outlining his life and career.

He commenced by dividing the story of his life into three parts; his early years, his 36 years working in the SEC and the last 23 years of retirement. He commenced with his childhood in Yarraville and Deer Park where his father worked for ICI. He described a time when companies like ICI owned and maintained multiple houses for their employees along with football and soccer grounds and all the local gardens. It was a time of safety and freedom for children, and bonfires on Empire Day and Guy Fawkes night.

[Michael (left) is pictured above with the President, Colin Adam.]

After studying Communications Engineering Michael started work as a cadet engineer for the SEC in one of their Communications sections (each main department had one) where he eventually specialised in powerline communications. The work involved design, specification and documentation of the equipment required for the communication network. Later he headed up the Technical Services Laboratory where he had 80 staff building, installing and maintaining the statewide communications network.

Subsequently the Kennet government broke up the SEC into 12 individual companies. Ten of these dealt with sales and distribution and were privatised while the remaining two covering administration and legal core functions were retained by the government. Following these changes Michael joined the communications team at United Energy which set up a new communications system for which he had responsibility. The company moved to provide services to other industries using new Optical Fibre cables along electricity poles as well as underground cables. Michael's role was to manage the roll out of these cables in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Michael then joined Telstra as a consultant before going into general consultancy. He retired at 59. Earlier Michael had married Helene and they had three boys.

Finally he pointed out the value of the employee training schemes that the SEC had used in training technicians; training schemes that no longer exist with a resulting shortage of technicians.

Speaker for the September Meeting – Milan Malla

Will speak on Online Safety, Scam awareness, and Steps members can take to protect personal and financial information.



Milan is Manager, Specialist Centre, Commonwealth Bank, Burwood Village. She has had 25 years of banking experience and worked closely with customers from a wide range of backgrounds, helping them navigate the evolving financial landscape. She is passionate about supporting Australians stay safe, informed and confident when managing their finances, particularly as digital banking and online interactions continue to grow.

Coffee and Conversation

10.30 am Tuesday 22nd September 2026

The next Coffee and Conversation will be held at

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

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

Catering: September 8 Meeting



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

Meeting & Tea/Coffee \$10

Tea/Coffee available pre and mid meeting.

Lunch Menu

Main Course

Chicken and fig roulade, white bean puree, poached asparagus and sauce Maltese.

Dessert:

Passion fruit curd tart with white chocolate creaux , meringue and passion fruit coulis

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 September 8th. Booking (and payment) must be made no later than 5 pm Thursday September 3rd.

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 September 3rd 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

Geelong Getaway 15th – 20th November

Change of hotel from Novotel to Eden Oak

On Tuesday 25th August Marg Hill, Miles Pierce and Colin Adam visited Geelong to review our previous arrangements with Novotel, and visit other potential venues for our Getaway. We visited the Eden Oak Hotel within the Howard Glover Reserve and close to the Botanical Gardens precinct in East Geelong. We decided that the Eden Oak complex had facilities that better suited our requirements with additional benefits that Novotel could not offer. These included excellent meeting facilities, a good restaurant, free parking, breakfast included in the room-tariff and generally less expensive accommodation over a wide range of rooms. Please visit their website at <www.edenoak.com.au> to review the facility and available rooms.

We are recommending that you book your accommodation by speaking to Marie Perez Marie.Perez@edenoak.com.au or (03) 5225 5888 about accessing our Probus group discount. It should be noted that while the August 31 deadline for booking which previously applied for the Novotel no longer applies, people are encouraged to book as early as possible.



We also visited the historic homestead built in 1849 by Anne Drysdale and Caroline Newcombe – the Lady Squatters – at Curlewis (see left). It is a wonderful, careful restoration of what was a degraded and derelict grand home 20 years ago. It has extensive gardens. The homestead visit and lunch at the Jack Rabbit winery will be one of our day excursions.

Colin Adam – Ph 0418 483 136

September Visit – FARREN BICYCLE COLLECTION

10.30 am Tuesday 15 September



The Farren Bicycle Collection has been amassed by the late Paul Farren and his wife Charlie over 40 years. It is reckoned to be one of the finest collections of vintage bikes in the world. Between the Richmond warehouse and the MOVE Museum in Shepparton the collection consists of more than 200 bikes, dating from as early as the 1860's, including tricycles, penny farthings, and even hobby horses. It is arguably one of the most, if not the most, important collections of its type anywhere in the world.

Since her husband's death, Charlie Farren runs and manages the collection at the 131 Brighton Street, Richmond, warehouse, and she is very happy to have our Probus group visit. Charlie suggests a visit of about an hour and a half. She will provide tea and coffee, however we would have to provide biscuits or something light to eat, if required.

She also mentioned the visit is free but instead suggests we donate \$10 per head to the World Bicycle Relief Fund, a global bicycle charity working to provide bicycles for transport in developing countries. Our group will be hosted by Paul Watson who is the curator for the collection.

Charlie is happy for people to take photographs but does not want photos or location details published on websites.

DATE: Tuesday 15 September 2026

TIME: 10.30am to 11.45am

MINIMUM NUMBER: 10 members

LOCATION: 131 Brighton St, Richmond

(Please use the rear door.) As this is a residential area with limited parking please check the street signs. The use of public transport is recommended.

Dedrie Green Visits Co-ordinator Ph: 0407 093 124 Email: dedriegreen@gmail.com

REPORT OF AUGUST VISIT—CARLTON UNITED BREWERIES

On August 18th fourteen enthusiastic Probus members set out to visit Australia's largest working brewery on the Yarra River in Abbotsford. With curiosity and banter among both the fit and the more frail, we arrived at the brewhouse.



We entered a lecture room where our guide took our names and beer preferences before sharing the rich history of beer brewing at the Abbotsford site and across Australia. She highlighted iconic brands such as Carlton Draught and Victoria Bitter. After the lecture, we donned hi-viz vests and safety glasses and prepared for a long walk that included several flights of stairs, which caused some anxiety among the group.

On our way to the brewing section we were impressed by the huge stack which towered over us, a landmark in Melbourne and also the number of trucks that brought raw materials in and



conveyed products out of the brewery. Huge quantities of water come into the brewery via pipeline—from the upper reaches of the Yarra River.

Our guide shared an enthusiastic overview of the brewing process, highlighting key steps despite the noisy background. After this

informative session, we moved on to the kegger area.

The kegger area was particularly notable, featuring a clean environment where kegs moved along rollers and conveyors, a captivating sight. Otherwise incoming and outgoing products are moved mainly by trucks. Afterwards, we headed back to the Carlton Brewhouse for beer tasting and lunch. The beer tasting was interesting and satisfying, and lunch was delicious and well deserved. Visiting the brewery was an eye-opening experience! We learned not just about the complexities of beer-making, but also about the dreams and hard work that go into it. Hearing the stories inspired us and showed us how much care and skill the people at CUB put into their craft.

Dedrie Green Visits Co-ordinator Ph: 0407 093 124 Email: dedriegreen@gmail.com

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

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

Newsletter Editor – Graham Marshall

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

The October Probus Meeting is on October 13

The Closing date for the October Newsletter is Wednesday September 30, 2026

Contributions: Podcasts – *The Rest is History* by Graham Marshall



[Tom Holland (left) and Dominic Sandbrook]

On Sunday November 30th last year the Palais Theatre in St. Kilda was completely filled by an audience eager to hear from a couple of super stars of the modern world of podcasts. Yes, they and I, and my daughter, had come to listen to two historians, Domenic Sandbrook and Tom Holland talk about their work on the *Rest is History* Podcast and provide an example of this work. And my judgement was that that this audience consisted largely of devotees like myself.

Who would have thought it? A couple of serious historians drawing a crowd like this? Tom Holland who is rightly known as a first rate historian of the ancient world with a succession of books on Ancient Rome and related matters, along with Domenic Sandbrook, less well known here, but with a first rate reputation as an historian of modern Britain and other modern historical studies, combine to provide multiple one hour episodes a week on a whole range of historical issues. They have just finished a series on the Troubles in Northern Ireland from the early 1960's to the mid 1970's. To me, who has a deep interest in Irish matters, it was truly fascinating. But it's the way they do it that matters. They combine facts, interpretation and a lot of fun. You might say that it is difficult to make light of an event like Bloody Sunday, January 30 1972, when the British army carried out an unprovoked killing of Catholic civilians involved in a protest march in the city of Derry. And they don't. But neither do they overburden us with history's terrible deeds. Their accounts are full of irony and events which they describe as "bonkers". For example, their account of some of the behaviour of Reginald Maudling, the British Secretary of State responsible for Northern Ireland at the time, is hilarious. He is described as being too drunk to talk on the phone to Northern Ireland Chief Minister who wanted to resign his post. Prior to this series they ran a series on part of the reign of Elizabeth 1 which opened my eyes to a great deal that I didn't know.

Whether dark deeds or bonkers acts Tom and Dom give us history with a deep knowledge and a light touch. Episodes are also free though you get more if you pay to become a member. Give it a try if you haven't already. Go to therestishistory.com. It also has sister podcasts such as therestispolitics.com which are also well worth trying.