



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 Probussouthpacific 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 : portphillipprobussouthpacific@gmail.com

The Club's web site details are: www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/portphillipm

Issue 433

April, 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, 8th April, 2025

At **Kew Golf Club**, 120 Belford Rd, Kew East, 3102 (Melway Ref. 45 G1)

Coffee and Fellowship: 9:00 am Meeting commences: 10:00am

IMPORTANT DATES in April, 2025

Deadline for Lunch Bookings	5.00 pm	3 rd April	page 6
Meeting	10:00 am	8 th April	page 4

NEW PRESIDENT INDUCTED



At the Annual General Meeting on March 11 the incoming President, Prof. Frank Larkins was inducted into the role by the outgoing President Mr Peter Laver

Along with the incoming President other Office Holders, Committee Members and Support Officers were elected. (See Pp 9)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Probus Colleagues,

Welcome to another exciting year of friendship, fellowship and fun. I trust you will enjoy the various activities we have planned. Thank you for entrusting me with the Presidency of our club for a second time in our milestone 40th year. It is an unexpected honour as I was President in 2019-20 and until now no one in the 40-year history of the club has served a second term as President. I will do my best to provide the leadership that you all expect with the support of a talented and dedicated committee. Perhaps I did not do well enough last time! ... or alternatively?

I thank the outgoing committee for their excellent work under the guidance of President Peter Laver.

Russell and Pamela Smith as the Secretary and Treasurer team have been the cornerstones as to why our club is in such a sound position today. They have done outstanding 'backroom work' to ensure that our administrative and financial files are expertly organised for their successors. Paul Clark (Administration) and Anne St. George (Catering) have ensured that our monthly meeting have run smoothly and that we are suitably nourished. Margaret Hill (Speakers) has been exceptional with the range of speakers and diversity of topics she has chosen for our enjoyment at every meeting. Jim and Dedrie Green organised a most memorable Getaway to Warrnambool. All these committee members have retired so we wish them well with our sincere gratitude.

Susan Harraway (Visit Co-ordinator), Adrian Farrell (Web Master), Graham Marshall (Newsletter Editor), John Rankin (Membership Directory) and Ross Fardon (Almoner) are continuing. I thank them for their services. We are all most grateful that they have chosen to continue to provide valuable services and some continuity. Peter Laver will continue as he is the Past President. I will greatly value his continued guidance. He is a mentor that I have known for more the 50 years.

We are fortunate to have such a talented group of incoming members to guide us through 2025-26. Vaughan Beck will bring a wealth of experience to the critical role of Secretary and John Frew as Treasurer, with his analytic scientific mind, will no doubt ensure that we remain solvent. Barb Fox with her cheerful disposition will be a great asset as leader of administration presenting a cheerful and enthusiastic welcome to all, especially potential new members and guests. Jim Studebaker (Catering) as an experienced executive search consultant will no doubt manage our culinary and dietary needs with great efficiency. Colin Adam was President in

2020-2021. He guided us through the COVID-19 pandemic. He is a former CEO of CSIRO with an extensive network of contacts. As speaker co-ordinator we will all look forward to much intellectual stimulation as he uses his contacts for our benefit.

The only downside is that we still have a vacancy for a Vice-President. My view is that we should now wait for a few months and then seek to fill the position with the expectation that the member appointed would become President for 2026-27.

I reread my first President's Column for 2019-20. Then we had the goals of admitting women to the club as full members for the first time, and upgrading our recruitment strategy with a website, brochure and membership committee after several years of decline. Six years have passed and the initiatives of successive management committees have been transformative for the club. We continue to prosper because of their dedication. This achievement we can all celebrate in our 40th year.

I wish you all well for 2025-26. Please contact me if you have suggestions as to how the activities of the club can be improved. Frank.larkins@bigpond.com Mobile 0400109785.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

'All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them'

(Attributed to Walt Disney)

Frank Larkins

President 2025-26

NEW MEMBER ,BEV. MCGREE, INDUCTED AT THE MARCH MEETING

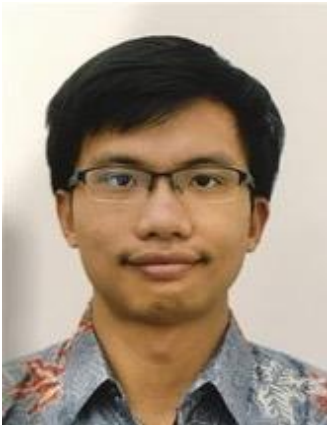


Induction of Bev McGree

At the Meeting on March 11, Bev McGree was welcomed into the Probus Club of Port Phillip. Apart from a period when her children were young, Bev has worked as Radiographer for her entire working life. She has spent the last 40 years working at the Royal Children's Hospital until she recently retired.

She is pictured here with her sponsor, Paul Clark (left) and the President, Peter Laver

SPEAKER FOR THE APRIL MEETING



Au Chun Long
Deputy High Commissioner
Singapore High Commission in Canberra

Will speak on

“What has made Singapore a successful city-state and the challenges posed by current world events”

Chun Long joined the Singapore Foreign Ministry in 2012. He spent most of the first ten years covering Indonesia and China, including as Desk Officer/Indonesia (2012-2014); Desk Officer/China (2014); First Secretary (Political) at the Singapore Embassy in Jakarta (2015-2017); and Assistant Director and Deputy Director/China (2017-2021).

Prior to his posting to Canberra as Deputy High Commissioner in 2024, he was Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (2021-2022) and Deputy Director/Special Project (2023).

He read History and Politics at Oxford University and Political Science at Columbia University. He plays the guitar and brings his two daughters out to explore Australia in his free time.

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

Notification of a Death: We have been notified of the sad news of the death of Barbara Blandy's husband Bill. On behalf of the members of this Probus Club we extend to Barbara the sincere condolences of the Club and wish her well during this difficult time. Given that Barbara is a relatively new member of the Club having joined in September 2023, it is important that members are aware of her loss.

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

The Annual Subscription (or “Subs”) for Members is \$50-00 per annum and falls due on 1 April. If paying your Annual Subscription by cash at the Front Desk, please include \$50 in a separate sealed envelope with your name and the word “Subs” on the envelope.

If paying your Annual Subscription by Bank transfer, please keep the payment separate to any “Lunch” or “Morning Tea” payment and include your name and the word “Subs” on your bank entry.

The Club’s Westpac Bank A/c is as follows:

A/c Name: Probus Club of Port Phillip Inc.

BSB: 033 058

Account No: 750 921

However, if you are paying your Annual Subscription by cash “over the counter” at a bank branch, your name will not show against the payment on the Club’s bank statement, so please call me or email me and let me know that you have made the deposit, otherwise we have no way of crediting you with having paid your Subscription.

Life Members, conferred Non-Active Members, Associates and non-Member Partners are not required to pay Annual Subscriptions.

John Frew– Treasurer Mob: 0407210441,
frewjohn@bigpond.com

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

The next Coffee and Conversation will be held at

10.30 am Tuesday 22nd April 2025

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

Further information will be provided in a later email. 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

CATERING: 8TH APRIL MEETING



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

Meeting & Tea/Coffee \$10

Tea/Coffee available pre and mid meeting.

Lunch Menu

Main Course

Beef with hasselback potato, green beans, peppercorn sauce and a herb and shallot salad.

Dessert:

Lemon Tart

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 April 8th. Booking (and payment) must be made no later than 5pm Thursday April 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 APRIL 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 showing your name and those of your attendees. The correct amount must be tendered as no change is given. Envelopes 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

MARCH VISIT REPORT–HEIDE MUSEUM OF ART



What a perfect day we had for our visit to Heide on March 18. It was not easy to get there because of the roadworks but 12 of us were well rewarded. The guide we had to show us around the old Heide house was well informed and presented the material well. We learnt about the artists that came to Heide and the reasons Sunday and John Reed had in settling there.

After the guided talk we went to the new gallery and saw the Italian design exhibition that was on. Some of the chairs and lamps still look *Modern* now although they were designed 50 to 80 years ago. We all relaxed then in the outdoor area of the cafe and soon lunch appeared; more rolls than we could eat followed by scones, jam and cream. The final touch was coffee and tea.



A very good start to the new Probus year.
Thank you to Gail and Rod for organising it.

Susan Harraway – Ph 0447 941 963

susanrlharraway@gmail.com

NEXT VISIT – CRANBOURNE GARDENS

Cranbourne Gardens is a unique haven for some endangered species as well as having a wide array of native plants and animals. It is an arm of the Royal Botanic Gardens but is planted with Australian native plants exclusively. Unlike the main garden there is an entry fee of \$15, with reductions for Seniors and Concession cardholders.

We will meet at 10.30 on April 15th at the Visitor Centre. This is situated about 50m from the nearest car park but it is possible to be driven right to the door if your driver then parks back in the parking area.

The gardens are an easy drive down the freeway for about an hour or you may wish to come by train to Cranbourne station. It may be possible for the staff to pick you up from

the station if they have prior notice. A van sometimes meets the morning trains and has a capacity of 9 passengers.

A walk through the gardens should take about 90 minutes and we can meet for lunch in the Boon Wurrung cafe, adjacent to the Visitor Centre at about 12.30.

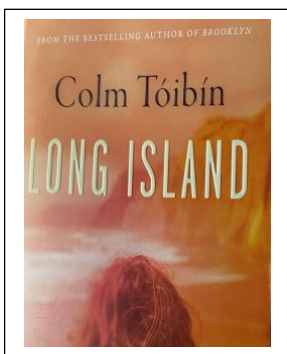
For those with mobility issues there is an Explorer bus (capacity 22) which will drive you around the gardens. Information on the gardens will be available at the next lunch meeting and we would be grateful if you would inform us then about taking up the various options. There will also be a copy of the lunch menu which contains LF, GF and Vegan meals.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Any further information, please contact

Anne St George Ph 0408314709

annestg2@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTIONS CALLED FOR



At the Planning Day held on Tuesday February 11, suggestions for the Newsletter included *provision for short reviews of recommended books, films, concerts etc. and the publication of the profile talks or at least a short personal history of new members*. To this list I would add exhibitions, and other cultural events such as the Melbourne Writers' Festival (MWF) coming up.

Accordingly, I am asking for contributions to the Newsletter for a new section along these lines. These will all be published in a new section entitled **Cultural Notes** (see Pp 11-12) I have commenced this edition with a piece about a new acquisition by the National Gallery Victoria (NGV) in which I took a particular interest. Appropriate photos to accompany the material would be greatly appreciated. Contributions should be no more than 400 words. As a guide today's is approx. 270 words.

Please contact me if you would like to contribute something.

Profile talks and short personal histories will be handed separately from Cultural Notes. I will discuss these with the individuals concerned.

Graham Marshall (Editor) Ph 0408 308 382

graham.marshall8@icloud.com

2025-26 Office Holders



Committee Members - Office Bearers	
Position	Appointee
President	Frank Larkins
Vice President	Vacancy
Honorary Secretary	Vaughan Beck
Honorary Treasurer	John Frew

Committee Members - Officers	
Position	Appointee
Administration	Barbara Fox
Catering	Jim Studebaker
Getaway	Colin Palethorpe
Speakers	Colin Adam
Visits	Susan Harraway
Vacancy	-----
Immediate Past President	Peter Laver

Support Officers	
Position	Appointee
Website Manager	Adrian Farrell
Newsletter Editor	Graham Marshall
Coffee and Conversation	Allan Brownrigg
PMD	John Rankin
Membership	Vacant
Almoner	Ross Fardon

Getaway Lakes Entrance November 2025

We have expressions of interest at this stage for 31 to travel by coach so we should be able to go ahead with that plan. We also have 4 couples expressing an interest and travelling in their own cars. It would help the planning to receive any other expressions of interest either to Colin Palethorpe directly or by adding your name to the list which will be on the desk for the April 25 meeting

Participants can now book their own rooms at the Bellevue On The Lakes. I would suggest that those needing a ground floor room should book as early as possible as there are only 16 ground floor rooms and no lift. See below information from the Group Booking lady.

Accommodation: **Bellevue On The Lakes**

Dates: **17th - 21st November 2025**

Telephone: **03-5150 9488** and quote **reservation 1717761** Probus Club of Port Phillip Getaway.

A booking can also be done by e-mail to info@bellevuelakes.com.au and quoting the above Reservation number.

Guest rooms @ \$175 per room per night

Executive Spa suites @ \$195 per room per night

Terms & Conditions

Guests are welcome to call and book, quoting reservation number **1717761**, as the hotel will continue to have rooms on hold

A \$100 deposit is due at the time of booking.

The remaining payment due 60 days prior to arrival.

If fully cancelled between 60 and 20 days prior, a cancellation fee of \$100 will be payable, and the balance will be refunded.

No refund is available within 19 days before arrival.

For further questions, queries, please contact

Colin Palethorpe – Ph Tel: 9857 7672

cpaletho@bigpond.net.au

CULTURAL NOTES – IMPORTANT NEW PAINTING AT THE NGV

The National Gallery Victoria (NGV) has acquired a significant new work by the Pre-Raphaelite artist, Henrietta Rae entitled *Appollo and Daphne*

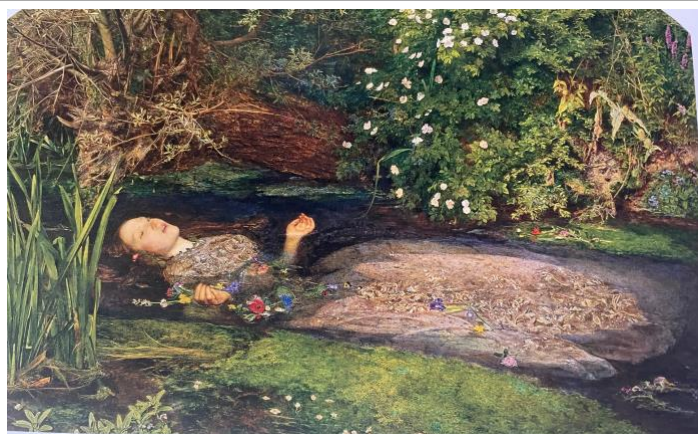


This is an important painting by a previously under-recognised artist. It fits well alongside the J. W.

Waterhouse's *Ulysses and the Sirens* and the major works of Edward Burne-Jones, including his *The Garden of Pan*, already on display in the NGV.

The painting had been completed in 1895 and exhibited at the Royal Academy, London.

The work was introduced to NGV members by Senior Curator, Ted Gott who paid tribute to Henrietta Rae and the difficulties she faced from her fellow Pre-Raphaelites, including the by then famous and well-established John Everett Millais.



John Everett Millais' *Ophelia* – Tate Britain

While not at the same level as Millais' masterpiece *Ophelia* (see left) or J.W. Waterhouse's *The Lady of Shallott*, both of which featured in the Tate Britain exhibition *Love and Desire: Pre-Raphaelite Masters from the Tate*, which was shown at the National Gallery in Canberra in early 2019, *Appollo and Daphne* is nonetheless a highly accomplished work with strongly identifiable features of the Pre-Raphaelite school.

Factors such as the strong almost masculine face of Daphne and realistic bodies based on the live models used by the artists (as exemplified earlier in the work of Dante Gabriel Rossetti and others), provide an interesting counterpoint to the allegorical themes used in paintings such as these. As someone who has long admired the rich Pre-Raphaelite diet provided by Tate Britain, London, and applauded the efforts of the NGV to maintain and build its important collection in this area, I will certainly want to view this new Henrietta Rae work again. I strongly recommend others do the same.

Graham Marshall (Editor)

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 **May 2025** Newsletter is: **am – Wednesday, April 30th**