



The Probus Club of Camberwell

President's Report 2025/2026

Introduction

I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who has contributed to another successful Probus Year – to our Committee Members, to the large number of ‘helpers’ who are not on the committee but who have offered their time and skills in organising/arranging activities events etc., and to all members who have supported and participated in the club's activities.

My second year as President has provided me the opportunity of becoming more familiar with the systems and processes which ensure our club runs effectively and to consider ways we can streamline some of these processes to reduce duplication, improve productivity and communication with our members.

Committee

We commenced the new year with three new committee members, Diane Hristov, Jennifer Marriott and Jeff Lodge. They joined Barbara Grufas, David Turner, Julie Roncon, Mary-Anne Candy, Barbara Timcke and myself to make up our 9 member committee.

Barbara, David and I continued in the positions for a second term of office as Treasurer, Secretary and President respectively. Holding these positions for two consecutive years has proved to be very successful. Barbara Timcke, Julie Roncon and Mary-Anne also continued for a second term in their existing roles which I think has contributed to our successful year.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all Committee members for their dedication to their roles throughout the year:

Secretary **David Turner**

David has had a particularly busy year. In addition to his regular secretarial duties he has managed Drop Box, an ‘App’ we introduced this year as a central means of storing documents. David also managed Membership and contributed to the revision of the Club's Constitution and Standing Resolutions. Thanks to David for ensuring we meet our Statutory Responsibilities and Probus South Pacific requirements.

Membership – David Turner & Jeff Lodge from November 2025

During the year we were notified of the death of three of our long serving members past members:

Maureen Mullaly (member since February 2013), Eric McKay (member since July 2005), and

Bon Sureda (member since May 2014) and Jill Williams (member since October 2009).

10 members did not renew their membership or resigned during the year.

We welcomed 11 new members:

Linley Hooper, Bridget de Clifford, Liz Wale, Manette Durup, Susan Heath, Don Godden, Lyn Charman, Andrew May, Jennifer Lawry-Smith, Trish & Jim O'Hara

There has been little change in membership numbers or demographics in the past year.

We currently have

- Active members - 89
- Female – 60% (61% in 2024-25)
- Live in Boroondara - 65%
- Average age - 80.89 years.

Finances – Treasurer Barbara Grufas

This was Barbara's second year as treasurer and she continues to manage our finances meticulously.

The Club is financially sound and we were able to subsidize our Christmas Lunch in December.

We will maintain our membership at \$65 this year in spite of another increase of \$1.50 by PSPL to the Capitation Fee.

In the new Constitution and Standing Resolutions, which were passed at a Special Members' Meeting in February, an additional category of membership was added - Senior Member. A Senior Member is defined as "a member who has been a participating member for at least 5 continuous years and has reached the age of 90 years prior to April 1 in the current financial year. Senior Members must pay the annual subscription applicable to Senior Members (as defined in our Standing Resolutions) which includes the capitation fee required by PSPL. Senior Members are entitled to all the benefits of membership.

We obtained two grants, one from the Bendigo Bank and one from the City of Boroondara which were used to offset cost to members for Puffing Billy outing in September and the Tram Boat Excursion in October respectively. Our thanks to Bendigo Bank and the City of Boroondara for supporting our members.

Thanks also to Jeff Lodge for reviewing our Annual Financial Report and The Bendigo Bank for the provision of their meeting room for Committee Meetings.

Members' Meetings

An average of 57 members attended the 10 members' meeting held during the year at the Camberwell Central Bowls Club.

A number of people were involved in ensuring the smooth running of our monthly meeting including:

- Diane Hristov who greeted members and recorded attendances.
- Judy Golomb and her team of helpers, who provided morning tea
- Jo Mula & Jennifer Marriott managed the audio-visual equipment.
- Jennifer Marriott who organised speakers including:
 - **February** **Dr Abdul Ali Belaidi** - Florey Institute. Talk on dementia.
 - **March** **Pat Ritter & Mario Mirando**
 - **April** **John Howell**-The only woman at Gallipoli
 - **May** **Martin Green** – Manager, Beleura House
 - **June** **Alexander Zynas** -Wills, Trusts & other Legal Information
 - **July** **Ben Moore** – Bens Bees
 - **August** **Michelle Kerr** – The Eden Project
 - **September** **Cam Sterling** -Using your Technology
 - **October** **Fiona Malcolm** – Athenaeum Library
 - **November** **Andrew Dixon** – Duldig Museum and Studio
 - **December** **Nick Charles** – Entertainment, Acoustic Guitar
 - **February** **Julie Dyer** – Relocating and Downsizing

Newsletter – Barbara Timcke and Mary-Anne Candy

Thanks to Barbara and Mary-Anne for ensuring the Newsletter gets to our members before the Members' Meeting. As Newsletter is one of our main means of communication it is important it is accurate and timely.

Website and Data Management – Dick Johnson

Dick Johnson continues to maintain the club's membership data base, to collect statistics and to provide reports re meeting and activity attendances. He also maintains the Website which includes a Calendar of Events.

Special Events –Julie Roncon & Diane Hristov

- **Christmas in July** was celebrated at Gracie Grecco in Camberwell and was enjoyed by 59 guests.
- **Christmas Lunch** was celebrated at the Box Hill Golf Club on December 5. 78 guests enjoyed a traditional Christmas Lunch, and entertainment by Nick Charles who sang and played an Acoustic Guitar.

Tours – Iain Morley

Two tours this year were organized by Iain Morley and was ably assisted by Judy Golomb.

- **Autumn in North East Victoria in April.** 33 members enjoyed this tour and visited Benalla, Wangaratta, Beechworth, Corowa, Bright, Yarrawonga, Mulwala and others in this beautiful part of Victoria.
- **Central Australia – Uluru & Alice Springs in October.** 30 guests joined us on a 7 day tour staying in both Uluru and Alice Springs. In spite of the extreme temperature – 43 degrees on one day, it was enjoyed by all. We visited many beautiful and historic places and enjoyed dinner under the stars.

Thanks to Iain and Judy for planning and keeping us safe on these two overnight tours.

Iain has ‘retired’ as our Tour Organizer after planning and organizing many successful tours over the last 13 years. Thank you Iain.

Day Tours – Lorna Johnson

We enjoyed two day tours this year:

- Puffing Billy which was subsidized by a Grant for Bendigo Bank, my thanks to Brian Waters who applied for this grant and
- Tram Boat cruise to Poynton’s Nursery which was subsidized by a grant from Boroondara.

Theatre – Julie Telfer

We have enjoyed many theatre outings this year thanks to Julie Telfer.

- **Malvern Theatre** continues to be a popular Sunday afternoon event where we saw:
May: A Happy and Holy Occasion **June:** Macbeth
August: The Humans, **November:** Perfect Wedding
- **The Round** another popular activity, where we saw:
March: Music Man, **June** My Fair Lady,
August: Cruising with The Grandparents Club **September:** Chess
- **Alexander Theatre** **July,** The Mikado

Get Yourself There Activities – Barbara Timcke and Mary-Anne Candy

Get yourself there activities have proved to be very popular and well supported. My thanks to Barbara and Mary- Anne for their time and commitment in scheduling and organising the following activities:

January	Picnic Wattle Park
February	Metro Tunnel Headquarters
March	Shrine of Remembrance
May	Williamstown, train, walk & lunch
June	Picnic at Wattle Park, Fire Services Museum.
August	Jazz Museum,
January	Picnic in the Park at Wattle Park
February	Lunch at Young and Jacksons, Happy Hour Amora Hotel – a new adventure in 2026

We also joined with Glenferrie Probus on two outing - The Yarra Valley and Beleura House

Train to Pub lunches were introduced this year and have proved very popular. We had 3 Train to Pub adventures. We ventured to Upper Ferntree Gully, Lilydale and Woodend where we enjoyed a Pub Lunch.

Fellowship Opportunities

My thanks to:

- Mary-Ann Candy for arranging monthly Coffee and Chat Mornings.
- Julie Roncon for arranging the Pub Lunches which are enjoyed but participation is variable.
- Daryl Wayland for continuing to coordinate the Walking Activity and to members who arrange the individual walks.

There is no doubt we have had a very active year and I extend thanks to all who contributed their time and skills in making it happen. In 2026 we will be introducing three new activities:

- Garden Appreciation - thanks to Diane Western.
- Happy Hour on the 4th Thursday of the month.
- Cinema Club on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

During the past 12 months much time and effort was expended on revising the Constitution and Standing Resolutions of the Probus Club of Camberwell.

Significant changes include:

- Change to the length of service for various members of the committee
- The implementation of a new Membership Category and
- The requirement for Travel Insurance for Overnight Tours

In 2026 we plan to implement an IT package, Club Runner, which will assist in streamlining many aspects of the club reducing duplication and improving communication.

I have enjoyed my second year as President and feel I have come to know and appreciate more, the many talents, skills and qualities abundant in our membership.

My sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the Probus Club of Camberwell.

Judy Nancarrow

President 2025/2026