



The 2025/6

Auburn Newsletter

A monthly record of the activities of the Combined Probus Club of Auburn

December - Edition No. 243 admin@auburnprobus.org.au PO Box 326 Mont Albert 3127

President's address

On behalf of your committee I wish you all a Merry Christmas and the very best for 2026!



2026 is looking promising with a number of activities over and above those offered by the Special Interest Groups.

Getaways in January and March and a full Outings calendar starting in February are the icing on the cake for 2026 and will deliver broader opportunities for socialising beyond the general meetings and S.I.G.activities.

But to deliver these opportunities we need a full committee, so my Christmas stocking list is for nominations for Vice President and Membership Officer.

Who will make my day?

Peter Gibbs 0409 179 559 - pwbgbbs@yahoo.com.au

Remember our next meeting is our Christmas lunch on Monday the 1st of December.

The Treasurer's report

John Lagzdins - 0434 870 199

The bank balance as at 23rd November is **\$13,585.56**.

In the month to date we received advance payments of \$4,435 for the Christmas lunch, making a total at close of bookings of \$6,035 for 71 people.

Minor expenses were for \$22.00 for a speaker's gift.

In respect of the Club's normal yearly operations, excluding recent Council grants and excluding the cash flows of the Christmas lunch on December 1st, I expect the Club will be close to breaking even at the close of the year.

The NBBC account for November room hire for \$500 is not in yet. It has been requested.

Phone/SMS 0434 870 199 Email: Lagzdins@melbpc.org.au

Club Section

Vice President's Club Diary

Pat Davies - 0400 565 165

The diary lists all Club activities for the whole year. All Organisers and Convenors must contact Pat to let her know the proposed date of activities planned for verification thus ensuring that there are no clashes of activities.

Welfare

Judy Halpin - 0422 916 762

If you know of any member who is ill and unable to attend meetings please let me know so that contact can be maintained during their time of stress.

Your Newsletter

The newsletter reports on the activities of the past month and future activities for the coming months, convenors are encouraged to submit articles and photographs covering both facets of past and future events by the due date as listed below.

Members are invited to submit articles of interest along with comments on attended activities.

Due date (2026) for newsletter articles	Date of monthly meeting
Thursday, 22nd January	Monday, 2nd February
Thursday, 19th February	Annual General Meeting Monday, 2nd March

2025 Committee

President - Peter Gibbs
 Vice President - Pat Davies
 Past President - Peter Matthews
 Secretary - Peter Brown
 Treasurer - John Lagzdins
 Outings - Sandra Tilley
 Annette Brownscombe
 Speakers - TBA
 Movie Goers - Norma Griffiths
 Newsletter - Don Porter
 Membership - Sandi Fitzpatrick
 Welfare - Judy Halpin

2025 Activity Convenors

Armchair Travel - Shirley Fenemor
 Brew & Chew - Ian Phillips
 Canasta - Thelma Bourke
 Dine Out - John & Maureen McIntosh
 Coffee and Chat - Jan Cheney
 Mahjong - Barb Richards
 Golf & Cycling - Gary Jackson
 Web Master - Mike Pavey
 Sew'n' Sews - Barb Richards
 Tuesday lunch Book Club - John Curry
 Walking - Jenene Marshall
 Wednesday afternoon Book Club - TBA

Speaker summary



Seldom has the club had the opportunity of listening to such an interesting presentation of Australian history by our speaker Gillian Yung. A normally dry subject was made to come alive through the telling of a personal story of one Mary Riebey who was convicted in London of horse stealing at the age of 13, and sentenced to seven years transportation to the Colony of New South Wales, arriving in Sydney in 1792. From there her guile and intelligence, aided by the fact that she was literate, saw her rise within the settlement to become a very successful ship owner, merchant and trader. Married with 6 children she prospered in the international trade business until her death in 1855. As a matter of interest Mary's image is featured on the \$20 note!

Thanks to Gillian Yung for taking the time to talk to us.

Regular Activity Days This Month

Armchair Travel	4th Wednesday	Sew'n' Sews	3rd Friday
Brew and Chew	4th Wednesday	Tuesday lunch book club	2nd Tuesday
Canasta	1st Tuesday	Walking	2nd & 4th Monday
Cycling	1st and 3rd Thursdays	Wednesday afternoon book club	TBA
Dine Out	3rd Monday evening	Coffee & Chat	3rd Tuesday
Golf	Every Monday, except public holidays & meeting days		
Mah-jong	Last Thursday	Movie group	1st Wednesday

Membership

Sandi Fitzpatrick - 0418 750 780

Ass. Laurice Stainsby - 0404 273 371

November meeting:

Attendance: 80 **Apologies:** 22 **No Show:** 17 **Total Membership:** 119 **Non-Active:** 3

Visitors: Val & Alan Surtees, Ian Charlton

Could you please let Sandi or Laurice know if you will not be attending the next meeting, please ring or text apologies.

If you have any changes to your contact details, including Next of Kin, would you please send them to Sandi at sandifitz9@bigpond.com

Birthdays for December:

Lorraine Borley, Bernard Coburn (NA), Ross King, Colin Richards, John Garraway, Marilyn Hunter, Jenene Marshall, Astrid Zanini, Maxine Lewis, Don Porter, Jan Cheney, Jan MacFarlane, Carleen Meehan, Judy Halpin and Pat Cleary.

We suggest that members wear their name badges on outings to make it easier for new members to join in.

2026 Getaway Trip - reminder

Peter Gibbs - 0409 179 559

MONDAY MARCH 23 – FRIDAY MARCH 27

Big 4 Albury Tourist Park, 372 Wagga Road, Lavington (Albury). 02 6040 2999 1800 624 520

Website: alburytouristpark.com.au

Email: stay@alburytouristpark.com.au

9 (known) cabin bookings to date.

Itinerary (Draft)

Monday: Travel to Albury, by self drive, meeting up enroute for lunch in Benalla.

Tuesday: 125 km anti clockwise route north of the Murray to historic Corowa with focus on the Federation Museum, walking the town history trail and lunching at the quaint chocolate/whisky distillery.

Return south of the river via Rutherglen and its regional wineries.



Wednesday: A.M. golf for the golf group. Free time to do your own thing be it the historic buildings walk, the Botanic Gardens, galleries or further afield to pioneer town Jindera or Holbrook submarine museum.

Thursday: 125 Km. Clockwise drive to Bonegilla Migrant experience, then the Army Museum at Bandiana (subject to reopening), passing through Yackandandah to Beechworth for lunch and town attractions. Retrace route or continue on returning via Chiltern.

Friday: Return to Melbourne at leisure.

Dining:

Each Night: Happy Hour in the spacious guest alfresco dining area.

Night 1: BBQ dinner on site

Nights 2/4: Nearby taverns

Night 3: Take away

After booking accommodation, please let me know by SMS or email that you have booked.

SMS: 0409 179 559 - Email: pwbgibbs@yahoo.com.au

Travel Section Outings

Annette Brownscombe 0418 400 352 Sandy Tilley 0460 678 668

We will return next year to plan more activities for club members. We will try our best to have the ten outings spread over the five days of the week, two on each of the five days. If any club members have any ideas or suggestions please let us know, we really appreciate any input we can get from fellow members.



Seasons Greetings & Best Wishes for a safe & healthy Probus holiday, we look forward to seeing you in '26.

Armchair Travel Shirley Fenemor 0429 373 607

Well, fellow travellers. As you know November is our last get-together for the year. We are meeting on Wednesday 26 November to hear about David Hull's trip to New Zealand. Many of you have enjoyed David's presentations before.

We will not meet in January, but I do want to say a big "thank you" to our presenters this year. You have all been terrific and very ready to say 'yes' when I ask you. It certainly makes my job so much easier. Just keep travelling and taking photos please.



Best Wishes for Christmas and I look forward to our get-togethers in 2026.

Sports Section

The Melbourne Cup Sweeps

Old news, true but we just wanted to congratulate the three winners:

Sweep 1: Brendon Annersley

Sweep 2: Neil Hockey

Sweep 3: Anne Toscano



All other placings have been notified by Mike Pavey.

Walking Group

Jenene Marshall 0413 481 873



Peter Brown joined us on our walk in Wattle Park on the 10th of November.

Here are the details for our planned walks for the New Year.

9th February - Ivanhoe Golf Club - Meet at the Eaglemont Tennis Club car park (Melway 31 K11) off The Boulevard near Burke Road at 9.50am. We will walk along the Yarra then up a slight hill to the golf club. Coffee at Ivanhoe Golf Club.

Leader Jenene Marshall

23rd February - Springthorpe (Mont Park/Macleod) - Meet in Ernest Jones Drive near the corner of Springthorpe Blvd. (Melway 19 J7). Best way to travel is straight along Upper Heidelberg Road, which then becomes Wairoa Road, then Springthorpe Blvd. Coffee TBA.

Leader Jenene Marshall

I am doing the two February walks because as from March 2026, Helga and Rita will be taking over from me as Conveners for the walking group.

I have enjoyed my many years as Convener and I am sure Helga and Rita will continue with walks that will be different, interesting and fun.



I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026.

Golf Group

Gary Jackson

In December we move to Freeway Golf Course. Tee off time for Tuesday 2nd and Mondays 8th and 15th, will be advised weekly.

Golf results for October and November

Date	Weekly Winner	Longest Drive	Nearest the Pin	Best off the stick
20th and 27 th /10	Both days rained out			
10/11	Peter Matthews	Peter Gibbs	Mike Pavey	Mike Pavey
17/11	Ian Bourke	Peter Gibbs	-	Ian Bourke

Following our game on the 15th December I have booked the Manningham Club for presentation and Christmas lunch 12.30pm. Please let me know if you will be attending so I can confirm numbers.

Bike Group

Gary Jackson 0418 578 863

November Rides

Warburton Bike Camp (Tuesday 18th to Friday 20th)

Day 1 – Our group met at Three Sugars café in Warburton for a light lunch before checking into the Warburton Holiday Park cabins. Our warm up ride started from the Holiday Park following the Yarra River downstream through the township and parklands on both sides of the river and back to the Holiday Park for 5pm happy hour. Dinner was a barbeque cooked in the Camp Kitchen with shared salads and desserts.

We were all looking forward to the days ahead.



Day 2 – 3 riders set off from the Holiday Park riding on the Warburton Trail to Millgrove to meet the non-riders for coffee at the Cookie Grove Café. The riders continued on the Rail Trail cycling through open farmland, passing through Wesburn and Yarra Junction townships to Launching Place where the non-riders met us again for a light lunch at the Launch Bakery. The riders returned on the Rail Trail to the Holiday Park, (30k return ride). That night we enjoyed dinner at the Alpine Hotel, (est 1885).



Day 3 – 4 riders set off cycling along the picturesque O’Shannassy Aqueduct Trail and then back down to Warburton township and Holiday Park, (15k). In the afternoon 4 players enjoyed 9 holes of golf on the beautiful Warburton Golf Course which has one of the 10th best scenic 18th hole in Australia.

Free time in the afternoon allowed members to visit other close by places including Mount Donna Buang, the Redwood Forest and Upper Yarra Dam.

Our celebratory dinner was in the Camp Kitchen where we discussed riding achievements & memories from past trips.

December Rides

Thursday 4th We will meet at 10:00 in Creswick Hawthorn (adjacent to the Hawthorn Bridge). The route is to travel along the Main Yarra Trail before turning onto Gardiners Creek trail, then following the Anniversary trail with a stop at Miss Ash Café for coffee. We continue before picking up the Ferndale trail to return via the Gardiners Creek Trail. The route is undulating mainly on sealed bike paths. Approx. 23kms. **Leader Trevor - 0408 285 382.**

Thursday 18th Riders to meet at 10.30 at Melissa’s Café for coffee. We will then do a short ride to Ruffy’s Park and return to Melissa’s Café for a Christmas Lunch. For catering purposes, please let me know the non-riders that wish to join us for lunch. **Leader Gary - 0418 578 863**



Indoor section

Mahjong

Barb Richards - 0408 179 885

Our group shall officially gather again on Thursday 26th February 2026 for some interesting games of mahjong.

If any of our players would like to get together on Thursday 29th January, I would be happy to host the day at Barnsbury. Just give me a phone call please.



Have a pleasant Christmas and New Year.

Canasta

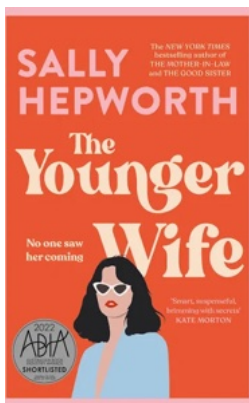
Thelma Bourke 0417 053 549

The next canasta will be held on Tuesday December 2nd at 7:30 pm,
1st floor lounge, Applewood.

Please note, for the future, to access the entry gates press 8888# and say you are there for Thelma Bourke's Canasta night. Any questions, contact me!

Tuesday lunch Book Group

John Curry 0417 581 126



We reviewed “The Younger Wife” by Sally Hepworth at our November meeting. We thought the book was disjointed and certainly all the main characters had personal issues.

The book did keep the reader in suspense as to who committed a murder in the church sacristy following a wedding. And why did one of the characters keep nearly \$100,000 in notes in a hot water bottle?

An easy read, but not challenging and we rated it at six out of ten.



We will review “The Paper Palace” by Miranda Cowley Heller at our December meeting. The blurb reads “so begins a story that unfolds over twenty-four hours and across fifty years”. Decades of family secrets will be revealed.

We can hardly wait!!

Sew'n' Sews

Barb Richards 0408 179 885

Our group shall officially gather again on Thursday 26th February 2026
for some interesting games of mahjong.
If any of our players would like to get together on Thursday 29th January,
I would be happy to host the day at Barnsbury. Just give me a phone call please.



Have a pleasant Christmas and New Year.

Outdoors Section

Summer BBQ No.1

Colin: 0406 599 990 Barb: 0408 179 885

The Richards are happy to have you come this year to our Club House at Barnsbury,
for the first of our Summer BBQs on Thursday 15th January from 5.30 pm.
Please BYO meat to barbeque and a salad or dessert to share would be greatly appreciated.
Please let us know if you will be attending.
We have a limit of 20 people. Come along and enjoy - weather permitting

Coffee & Chat

Jan Cheney 0400 889 705



As usual, we had plenty of "chat" among the twelve members who made it to the November gathering.
All should have enjoyed our morning coffee except that the coffee machine haemorrhaged just before we arrived so NO COFFEE – worse than the “pub with no beer!”
Hopefully, we will not have a repeat performance at our next get together on Tuesday, 16th December at 10.00 am.
The venue is still Olive Lane Café in Doncaster Road, North Balwyn Village.
All will be made most welcome.
Hope you will be joining us at this, our last coffee morning before Christmas.



Text or email: jancheney@bigpond.com

Brew and Chew

Ian Phillips 0428 858 272



Unlike most Auburn Probus activities, Brew and Chew does not meet in December, or at least not this year – the fourth Wednesday falls on Christmas eve when all the members will be busy wrapping presents or otherwise engaged (or perhaps too drowsy to respond).

But to make up, we do meet in January, so would you please mark down 21st January 2026 in your new diaries – the room is booked at the Camberwell Library for 10.00am on that day. Reflecting on the past year, each of those attending will have their own highlight (a phrase barely appropriate to Brew and Chew). The matters that have produced screaming headlines elsewhere have scarcely resulted in a passing ripple in our discussions – although a question as to whether artificial lawns, greens, etc are porous and/or sufficiently so, was last month

articulated with some vigour as the rains came down.

Searching on how to close the year, this from a postcard album (pictured below), from nearly 120 years ago when “Santa” was known as “Father Christmas”. It seems pertinent – the old gent appears rather exhausted by it all and hoping it will all soon be over. The sentiment of the message is clear enough, even if the syntax seems twisted – perhaps it was composed by some early version of AI!



For further information and input, contact me by mobile or irp@alphalink.com.au

The Movie Group

Norma Griffiths 0438 584 198

Thank you to all those members who supported the Club's Movie Group.

It certainly offered members Fun, Friendship and Fellowship.

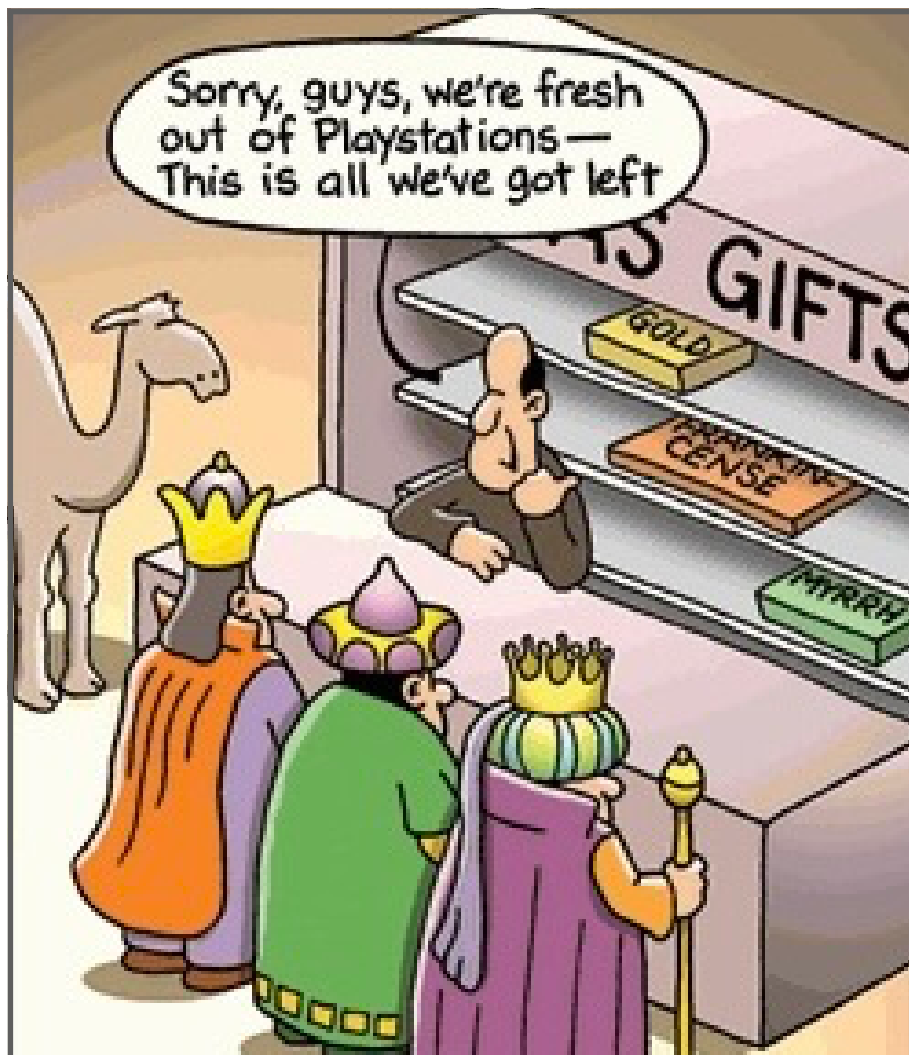
This group activity will be back in 2026.



Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Smile Section

Cartoon of the month



Thought for the month

Ask not what your country can do for you.

Ask what you can do for your country!

John F Kennedy

And to finish the year..



No that is not snow....they are splashing!



...to all Probus members, see you in the New Year.