



2026 Annual General Meeting Minutes held on Tuesday 10th March 2026

1. President opened the meeting at 11:20am and welcomed members and guests
2. Apologies: ..
Carolyn Butler, Lynn & David Varvel, Mary Lyttleton, Heather Mertell, Tony & Vivienne Scott, Dorothy McKay, Lynette Falken, Ian Reece, Helen & Peter Thompson, Jacki Ohlin, Jill Stain, Len & Marlene Hvass, Kathy & Clyde Wyborn, Dorothy Williams, Maz Leite, Peter & Toni Stanley, Stuart Speight, Barbara Pook, Peter & Ann Drinan, Chris Howe, Coral Fletcher, Jenny Denmark, Marilyn Nester, Toni King, Doria Tensing, Phil & Wanda Little, Lyn Pitt, Kevin & Lorraine Southgate, Nancy Davies, Graham Nester
3. Confirmation that a quorum is present (requires 25% of membership: or 46 Members) Confirmed by Membership Officer: Ron Hodge-Acting for David Varvel. *The required quorum was confirmed by Ron Hodge-Acting for David Varvel*

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2025 AGM held on Tuesday 11th March 2025

Moved by: June Brennan

Seconded by: Wendy Truman

Those against: Nil Carried

4. Business Arising from March 2025 Minutes: Nil
5. Presentation of the **President's** Annual Report-Gerry Smee
The last year has been marked as busy, interesting and productive! Here is a quick recap.
All events and activities have been going well .Unfortunately Songsters has had to fold. Songsters had been an activity for many years and brought enjoyment to our members with their performances at Christmas and Anniversary dinners and lunches over many years. Thank you to those who participated.
Caravan and Cabins has just returned from Forster /Tuncurry. From all accounts it was highly successful and full of praise from participants. Thank you to Lyn and Des Brownlee who did a fantastic job which involved a great deal of planning and organisation.
Wendy Truman organised two Getaways: The first to Alaska and Canada, and the second to Orange/Millthorpe. Both were successful; highly organised and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you Wendy.
Ross and Denise Quinn once again organised a great garden tour of Little Hartley. Their organisation had the tour running like clockwork and the Gardens were a delight to view. Everyone who attended was very happy. I think a few silent prayers were made by the **Quinn's** to prevent a third bus breakdown. Thank you Ross and particularly Denise, who is apparently retired, still does a lot of work behind the scenes.
The events organised by Dot Tinker have been well received. Dot has thrown herself into the role and is very enthusiastic and well organised. Penny Barnett with theatre events offered a great variety of shows for us to attend. We are extremely lucky to have two great venues: Wyong Art House and the Laycock Theatre which offer a great variety of shows. Not to forget the Little Woy Woy Theatre and the Red Tree Theatre. Thank you Dot and Penny for all of your efforts.

The Sausage Sizzle under Keith Saines leadership reached record numbers and certainly achieved Probus South Pacific **Limited's** goal of promoting Fun, Fellowship and Friendship. Thank you, once again Keith for all the work you put into the Sizzle making it so successful.

All other activities are going well with some groups making a resurgence, particularly Lawn Bowls organised by Ken Oxby and Tenpin Bowling organised by Prue Smee.

Pub lunches organised by Doria Tensing and Jim Tinker have been very well attended as have the Sydney walks organised by Graham and Marilyn Nestor and other walks organised by Jim Tinker and Kathy Wyborn.

I must also thank TOK, WOW, craft, and golf organisers, for all of your efforts and support.

Our Twentieth Anniversary Lunch with a black and white theme was well attended and enjoyed. We were treated to a great venue with magnificent view and fantastic food.

We acknowledged members who have worked tirelessly over many years particularly in Events, Getaways and Garden Tours; along with Foundation Members and Life Members.

A serious error was made on my behalf I neglected to mention Caravan and Cabin Organisers. Going backwards from Des and Lyn Brownlee 2026, Vicki and Steve Halverson 2023 to 2025, Fay and Lindsay McNamara 2020 to 2022, Ron and Sue Boundy 2014 to 2019, Carol Marriott & Barry Pluckett 2012 & 2013, Graham & Marilyn Nestor 2010 & 2011, John Powell 2008 & 2009, Bruce & Barbara Evans, Desley & Don Francis 2006 & 2007, Bob Eland Suggested a trip to Anna Bay in 2005. I **couldn't** determine from old Newsletters whether this occurred, I am assuming it did. Our sincere thank you to the eighteen who have organised venues and activities and for their tireless endeavours.

Last **year's** membership at the Annual General Meeting was 181. During the year we have had twenty-two inductions with twenty-one resignations and two members passing. Sadly, we have lost four Past Presidents in those numbers; Lynn Butler, Ronald Arnott, Bard Haerland and Greg Abbott. Two Foundation members resigned; Joan Bunton and Danny Crlik. Today our number stands at 180.

The new website is attracting visitors and potential new members and Ken Oxby is doing a great job in constantly updating, making our website vibrant and definitely being the very best in our Cluster. Thank you, Ken

The twenty Presidents before me all brought something different to their Presidency. I was no different! Besides the **President's** Report in the Newsletter, I decided to give a small report followed by a Power Point Presentation showing photos of members engaged in various activities. I believe it has been quite successful and has promoted interest and engagement.

With the mantra of Collaborative Decision Making and No 'I' in team, the Management Committee worked diligently throughout the year delivering the best possible outcomes.

A new Constitution, Standing Resolutions and revision of policies related to the constitutional update, no small task indeed. No president could hope for a better committee to work with. Treasurer Gay Saines and Secretary James Gordon were exceptional in their roles.

Membership Officer. David Varvel assisted by his wife, Lynn were extremely diligent in following up with visitors and new members and updating with changes in membership. Steve Mitchell as Senior Vice President was fantastic in his role and always there to support and offer great advice.

When Jan Kearsley resigned many people were asked to take on the position we had a few who were interested in maybe a couple of **years'** time and a few who were willing to take it on next year but were unavailable this year due to other commitments. On a phone call to Gay updating her that we would be looking for somebody to fill a casual vacancy for the rest of the year. She replied that Keith **wouldn't** be interested and he piped up saying "Who said I **wouldn't**?" So the rest is history. Keith joined the committee making it clearly that it would only be for the current term. **Keith's** personality brought a breath of fresh air and his quick pips and humour were appreciated. Who will ever forget his role in assisting our beekeeper speaker, Barbara Elkins? Thank you Keith for stepping up and filling the casual vacancy as Junior Vice President and we appreciate your efforts.

Chris, Dot, Wendy and Ken have already been acknowledged. June Brennan as the Past President offered timely advice. I cannot thank the committee enough for the support, hard work and diligence in helping make 2025/2026 a very successful Probus year.

Our Probus Club is in a symbiotic relationship with The Entrance Leagues Club [Tigers]. They provide us free use of their Auditorium and we help them by having lunch there after our meetings. Karina Stone and Carley Tippett, Function Managers at Tigers, have been most helpful in catering for our needs each month.

A massive thank you to my wife, Prue, who was always there in the background with her support, in proof reading, technology assistance, advice and being a sounding board for many of my ideas. We both agree that since joining Probus our lives have become fuller and more rewarding.

Lastly, but not least, you, the membership, who allowed me to become President and supported me, I truly thank you.

I propose that the President's Annual Report be accepted

Moved by: Jenny White

Seconded by: Robin Pearce

Those Against: Carried

6. **Presentation of the Treasurer's Annual Report** as at 31st January 2026 prepared by Gay Saines

1. "Membership Fees"- 188 members paid membership fees during the year. This amount includes the joining fees for new members. In addition, there were 5 life members at the beginning of the year. Income was much higher than last year because the annual fee rose from \$45/member to \$65/member
2. "Profit/Loss on Events/Theatre"- A small profit on theatre offset by a loss of \$1,415 on the Anniversary Lunch and \$987 on the Christmas Lunch. The losses on the two lunches was planned and included in the budget for the year. Events/Getaways"-15 events were organised during the year of which 1 had to be re-scheduled due to bad weather (Walk to Government House & Sydney Hospital). With Theatre, 19 events were organised during the year with 2 not getting any interest from members

	Deposits Jan 2025 b/fwd.	Receipts	Less Refunds	Payments	Balance	Deposits c/fwd.
Events/Getaways	\$6,855.00	\$83,363.00	\$5,689.00	\$83,466.66	-\$2,380.46	\$3,442.80
Theatre	\$3,697.00	\$9,028.05	\$236.00	\$11,018.15	\$187.90	\$1,283.00
Total	\$10,552.00	\$92,391.05	\$5,925.00	\$94,484.81	-\$2,192.56	\$4,725.80

3. "Interest"- Bank interest on the term deposit
4. "Other" In Income- Overpayments and other payment refunds/transfers. These were much lower than last year
5. "Appreciation Prizes & Gifts"- Lucky door prize vouchers for 13 meetings (\$195), speaker drinks/lunches/gifts totalling \$215, \$370 for sixty 20-year Probus pins, \$378 relating to awards and gifts presented at the 2025 AGM, and \$21 for pins for the 2026 AGM
6. "Committee"- **Miscellaneous Expenses**- Printing and printer consumables. The committee members did not ask for reimbursement for most of their printer consumable costs
7. "Morning Teas & Catering"- Meeting morning teas for the year- 11 meetings
8. "Newsletters"- Printer consumables
9. "Postage, Stationary"- **All related to the adopting of the Club's new constitution**
10. "Probus South Pacific"- Capitation fees for 180 members initially, then in July payment for an additional 5 members for part of the year
11. "Website & I.T Expenses"- Annual maintenance for the website (\$880), domain renewal (\$30), and the website hosting annual cost (\$363). Last year included the development of the new website

12. **“Other” in Expenditure**- Overpayments that already have or still have to be refunded (see point 4 above), visitor badges (\$17), a new pin for a member (\$6), flowers for the families of Lynn Butler and Eddie Kehl (\$160), the cost of lodging the 2024 and 2025 A12-T2 forms with Fair Trading (\$101), and the cost of registering the new Constitution (\$62)
13. **“Receipts for Events yet to be held”**- The largest items are the cruise for Caravan and Camping (\$3,160), Sapphire Coast deposits (\$3,000), Theatre (\$1,283), partially offset by the payment of a deposit for accommodation for the 2026 Garden Tour

7. Presentation of the Auditors Report: James Gordon

- I. I have inspected the Books of Account for Forresters Beach Probus Club from February 2025 through to January 2026
- II. The records show a true and accurate account of the receipts and payments within this time frame
- III. **I wasn't able to detect any omission or additions that would affect the correct accounting practices** undertaken by the committee members

8. Presentation of the Membership Report: Ron Hodge acting for David Varvel

- I. The last Probus year started in April 2025 with 181 Members
- II. The current Membership number is 180
- III. **Fee notices have been sent out to all members and payments are coming in. If you haven't received your fee notice please check your “junk” or “spam” email folder. If still not there please contact me through the membership link on the website**
- IV. We have received 3 enquires for new members who will be followed up in 2026
- V. We also have recent visitors who are considering membership over the next month
- VI. 20-year pins are being presented to members who joined the club in 2006
- VII. We would like to thank Jenny White who continue to help the Membership team on the registration desk every meeting
- VIII. Finally, a big thank you to all our members for making our new visitors welcome as they come to our club meetings

I propose that the above reports be accepted

Moved by: Hazel Hopping

Seconded by: Mike Oxby

Those Against: Nil Carried

9. General Business: Nil

10. Presentation of Awards: Gerry Smee

- I. 20-year Pins-Pip Howe, Ann Jenkins
- II. Appreciation Certificates-Geoff Flippence(Club Photography), Linda Dewar(Songsters), Jan Wallace(Public Officer), Penny Barnett(Theatre), Keith Saines(Sausage Sizzle Organiser & Standing in for Junior Vice President), Gay Saines(Treasurer & Assistant Sausage Sizzle Organiser)
- III. Award of Excellence-Vicki & Steve Halverson(Who were on Leave Of Absence). In appreciation for your excellent work as Membership Officers and Caravan and Cabin Organisers
- IV. Bob Fitzpatrick-Award for On Going Service and Excellence
- V. **The President's Award**-Wendy Truman. Awarded in appreciation of her valued contributions in organising Getaways, Tenpin Bowling, Club Ambassador for Cluster 15 and Past President

18. New President address to the members: Steve Mitchell

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to our membership for allowing me to lead our amazing club! I am in fact the twenty second President of our club and it is a badge that I wear with a great deal of honour! I look forward to working closely with both our Committee & our entire membership to ensure that our club continues the great success it has enjoyed over the past 21 years!

Not long after I joined our club, in 2023, Gerry called me to ask if I would be interested in joining the Committee. I remember saying to him that the only job I would be interested in would be that of the President! His reply was **something like “well that could be possible”** – the rest is history & here I am as your President, after serving my apprenticeship!

We all join groups for various reasons! As we all know, the philosophy behind Probus is fun, friendship & fellowship. When I joined Forresters Beach Probus Club, I had been going through a particularly difficult period in my life – I had been nursing my wife with dementia for the past 5 years & had recently taken the decision to put her into full-time care & try to reclaim some sort of life for myself. Joining our Probus Club was the one of the best decisions that I could have made! Not only did it open up a whole new world of activities to me, but it also provided me with a wonderful network of new friends!

One of my key responsibilities today is to thank our outgoing President. So, a huge thank you to Gerry who has done a great job in successfully leading our Committee & achieving some great outcomes over the last 12 months – things like ensuring that our new website was implemented seamlessly, agreeing & implementing a new Constitution & being instrumental in our amazing celebration of 20 years of Forresters Beach Probus Club! Of course, we know that behind every successful man, is a strong & capable woman & it would be remiss of me not to also give a huge vote of thanks to Prue for her work in keeping Gerry on track!

Without wanting to sound biased, I think we have one of the best Probus Clubs around - certainly on the coast & **probably much wider than that. Being a great club doesn't just happen** – it takes a lot of input & dedication from our members, serving either on the Committee or **co-ordinating activities for all of us to enjoy!** I'm very happy to welcome aboard two new Committee members – Prue Smee as SVP & Steve Fryer as our new JVP. We also **have a couple of changes with activities & I'm very pleased to welcome Kim Fryer** to the role of Theatre Co-ordinator & Dick & Jan Whitaker who will be looking after the Sausage Sizzle. Undoubtedly they will all do a great job in their new roles!

To all of our volunteers, a big thank you for your continued support & input to our club. We look forward to another exciting year ahead!

19. President Steve Mitchell concluded with the notice of the next AGM that is scheduled for Tuesday 9th March 2027

The meeting closed at:12:08pm