Newsletter No. 459 April 2026

Probus Club of St. Marys Inc.

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Meetings normally held each second Monday of the month in the Trinity Lutheran Church Hall Pasadena @ 9.45 a.m.

General Meeting @ 9.45 a.m. Monday 13 April - Visitors and New Members Welcome.
******* Please wear your name badges to all meetings and outings.*******

General Meeting	13 April	11 May
Guest Speaker	**S/C Matt Robinson, SAPOL - Scams**	**Gerry Clarke - My Name Is Ryan**
5 Minute Speaker	Holiday Wonders	Jane Hope
Greeters ** Greeters to be there @ 9:15	Maureen Cook Frances Murrell	Glenda Carlson Margaret Southwell
Morning Tea **Please report to the kitchen @ 9:30 before the meeting	**Wendy Watson** Lyne Willoughby Hiltrud Esslinger Lyn Elsworthy	**Wendy Watson** Lyne Willoughby Caroline Shipard Martha Maier
Sweeping	Ray Doecke	Gerry Styles

**** If you are unable to do your turn on the roster, please find someone to take your place.****

Birthdays from 13 April to 10 May:

Jean Fitzgerald	17 April
Gerry Styles	28 April
Duan Kling	9 May



Treasurer's Report: General Account Balance as @ 28 February $2,011.41 plus $5,192.54 in term deposit. Door prize proceeds for March meeting was $87. ****Subscriptions for the current year 2026 have been set at $50 per member and are due to be paid by the end of April 2026.****
Payments can be made by a) cash at a club meeting, b) credit card payments - available at club meetings or c) **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** direct to the Club's Account (Credit Union of SA). **BSB: 805007 Account No. 00116368 Account Name: Probus Club of St Mary's Inc.**
Please include your **name** and **reason for payment** in the **description / reference field.**

Welfare Report & Good News: Please inform **Margaret Southwell** on **0409 699 614** of any members with health problems. **We are only able to help our fellow Probians if we keep Margaret informed if any of our members are unwell**. If you have **good news** to share with our members, please let **Margaret Southwell** know the details.

March Meeting: **Total Membership - 74**

Members 51; Apologies 13. ****Any apologies should be sent to Jan Triggs before 8.30 a.m. on meeting day: triggs@lifestylesa.net.au or 8179 5714.** If you have lost your badge or require a new one please see Jan Triggs - Pin or Magnetic $13.75.

****Please note that resignations need to be advised in writing (via email or post) to Jan Triggs. If you know of anyone that is no longer attending, please let them know.****

Monthly Lunch: **Wednesday 15 April, 12 noon. Venue: Wildflowers Cafe**, Centennial Park, 760 Goodwood Rd, Pasadena. Please book with Chris Ranger on 0400 284 486 or mra04221@bigpond.net.au. Please let Chris know if you require a lift to the lunch.

5 minute Speaker Helen Alchin: Helen Alchin was born in Woodna. Her family later moved to Tumby Bay and then to Adelaide for medical treatments after a car accident when Helen was just three weeks old. Despite the challenges she faced, Helen continued her education and eventually started working at Harris Scarfe. She embarked on various travels, including to New York, Europe, and Asia, before meeting her husband at church and getting married. Over the years, Helen faced ups and downs, including the passing of her husband in 2021 and a personal injury that led to her retirement. However, she found solace and joy in her community involvement, volunteering at her church and the Genealogy Society.



Stuck in pack-ice near Antarctica in 1985: Peter Shaughnessy



The 1985 voyage aboard the Danish ice-strengthened ship, Nella Dan, was to study marine life, including krill and crab eater seals, during the peak pack ice season in the South Indian Ocean, a period when ships typically avoid such conditions. The voyage began with a visit to Heard Island, an uninhabited Australian territory, where a team conducted an elephant seal census. The ship then proceeded into the pack ice, but soon became beset for 48 days. During this period, scientific research continued, involving plankton studies, underwater ice observations by divers, CTD measurements for salinity and temperature, and glaciological work on ice thickness. Peter's specific project focused on the breeding season of crab eater seals, involving capturing and tagging them, measuring their weight, and collecting milk samples to analyse fat content. The ship's ice-strengthening capabilities were limited, and efforts to break free, including using helicopters to find open water and physically moving ice, proved challenging. The situation became critical when the ship ran low on fuel and fresh water, leading to the diversion of another ship, the Icebird, to assist. 16 scientists and some crew were transferred to the Icebird, which was significantly overcrowded. Ultimately, the Japanese icebreaker Shirase was called upon to break the Nella Dan free from the ice. The Nella Dan was then refuelled by the Shirase and towed part of the way back. The expedition returned to Hobart 105 days later than planned, significantly disrupting the shipping program. Peter also spoke about the fate of several ships involved in Antarctic operations, noting that the Nella Dan, the Icebird, and other vessels mentioned eventually sank. Peter reflected on the challenges and unique experiences of Antarctic exploration, including the isolation of being left behind by helicopter and the logistical complexities of ship operations.

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