



# PROBUS Global NEWSLETTER

**Published for all PROBUS members worldwide**

**Greetings to PROBUS Global members**

**PROBUS Global - For Probus members an opportunity to connect with other Probus members around the world**

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and tell your Probus friends about the PROBUS Global community.

Varied articles from around the world have been included to encourage global communication between Probus members.

### **Get Connected - Stay connected**

The international concept was originally born in Australia in 1996. To rejuvenate and increase our membership the title of IPN was changed to PROBUS Global in 2018 with a international group of volunteers from the UK, Canada and Australia forming a Future Group to promote our Global PROBUS network. A website was built to serve as a central point to provide information about us and more to give interest sections for our members in many countries. -

<https://probusglobal.org>

240 individuals have registered formally with the website and there are many more people who have shown interest in the global dimension.

We hope more will join our global village soon as communication is now more enhanced with today,s technology.

### **Take a step out of Lockdown with PROBUS Global**

Our times have never been so great, for making contacts worldwide, with time on our hands, with email connections and video available to most of us with Zoom and other platforms. Probus is in nearly twenty international locations from Penzance to Pickering and Hampton to Hyderabad, with the potential of connection and fellowship of PROBUS Global.

**FACT - CHECK Globally there are about 270,000 Probus members and about 4,200 Probus clubs**



**The United Kingdom**



← *Harold Blanchard*



Bill Broadhead, on the left, a committee member at Caterham Probus Club greets Howard Massey from Australia in a real life example of global communication (2019). Caterham Probus is the oldest club to bear the name Probus in the world. Bill's father was a colleague of Harold Blanchard (pic top left) a founding member of Probus.

**“Who am I “ Derek Treagus from Locks Heath Probus, Hampshire, England**



Aristocracy or what? Who knows? Treagus is a derivative of Tregoz so I'm going to claim it! As such, my ancestor Baron Tregoz came over to the UK with his mate William in 1066 and the rest is, as they say, My own career very different, computers and programming rather than rape and pillage. But many people worldwide have probably used software that I've been involved in creating. Perhaps Will could have learnt a lesson or two on world domination from me!

My wife and I have three kids (children not goats) and three grand kids, we do like the odd cruise or two abroad much like Will but a bit further afield! And I do still like my tech so with us all being health conscious these days there are plenty of Apples in my house!

So that's me, if you've read through all that I'd just like to say (as Will probably said to Harold) “c'est un dans l'oeil mate”  
Derek



**Shirley and Bryn Roberts** have worked tirelessly for many years to grow and coordinate Probus and Global activities in the UK from their home in the depths of the Suffolk countryside. They are an impressive example to the rest of us.

**Zero 4 Probus Club, located in Botley, Hampshire, England.**

Formed in 2004. Hence, the name "Zero 4". Perhaps it is a little bit different, after all with the unusual name it is saying 'here we are, and we are not scared to be seen'. The club certainly has its own personality.

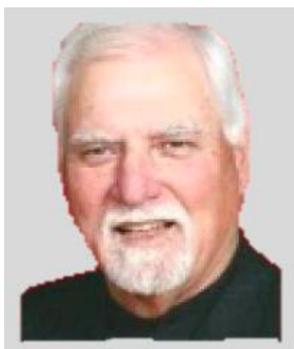
Zero 4 is a mixed gender club of retired people but much more than that. A very friendly gathering of people. Zero 4 meets for a quite informally structured general meeting procedure with plenty of banter and laughter that emphasises the social nature of the club of about 80 members

Zero 4 also hosted Andrew Negus who presented the second part of his talk on " Harlots, Dung & Glory" that talked about the development of the naval dockyards before Portsmouth existed as a City. He illustrated how dockyards and people of Portsmouth and Gosport helped to make the Royal Navy Master of the Seas and Britain the most powerful Nation in the world. One of the best and interesting presentations that you will see.



Secretary Jim Watson. Andrew Negus, President Sally Robinson and Howard Massey  
The Club has continued during the months of lockdown by keeping in touch with the membership through e-mail and holding their usual monthly meeting with a speaker and presentation on the Zoom platform and "Ed" has been doubly happy to be present as a video visitor.

For more information have a look at the Zero 4 web site  
["zero4probusclub.weebly.com"](http://zero4probusclub.weebly.com) it has resumes of many of their meetings.



## CANADA

Richard Furlong ...  
who is  
Richard Furlong?



One of the volunteers representing Canada in setting up Probus Global. Richard is a Past member of the Board of Directors for PROBUS Canada, serving as President for one year and also Director, Ontario, District 2. Richard is a member of the Newmarket Probus Club a mixed gender of retired people , currently Vice President, previously served as Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Program chair. Prior to retiring 14 years ago, Richard worked for major Chemical companies in both Canada and United States. He started his career in sales, moving to sales management and then general manager of two chemical business in Canada before finishing his career as North American Sales Manager for a company based in Texas.

**Over 40,000 seniors who gather in friendship and learning in the 256 PROBUS clubs across Canada want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the front line and essential workers keeping us safe during the current pandemic.**

Our thanks to all members of the medical community who are placing themselves at risk, those who provide the services to keep our homes functioning, and those who maintain the food supply chain without which we could not survive. Our thanks also to the combined efforts of every level of government and the companies who have collaborated to ease the financial burdens faced by so many at this time.

***You make us incredibly proud and grateful to be Canadians***

**PROBUS CANADA Get connected - Stay connected**  
for further information [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

### **From Beth Mc Kee, Newmarket Ontario, Canada**

I am the President of the Women's Probus Club in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada. We have 136 members and growing steadily. During this period of isolation, we have formed what we are calling a Communication Tree. We have divided the members into groups of four or five alphabetically and they will phone one another from time to time. This way they are getting to know members whom they would not necessarily know through the meetings. At our first time back at meeting we will get the groups together so they can put a face to the name. This idea originated from one of the other clubs in our district. We are continuing with our newsletter and I also send out an email to all members every two weeks. I send a note to those who do not have a computer. My favourite quote is "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is the present. Enjoy your present" ..... Beth Mc Kee

**Words from the Webmaster**  
**Peter Jennings**  
**from Canada**



When I first heard about PROBUS Global, I was immediately attracted to the idea. I have to admit, it was for selfish reasons. I love to travel. I love to make new friends in new places. I know that PROBUS people are generally my kind of people - open, friendly, intelligent, ready to communicate. This was an organization I wanted to be part of.

No sooner had I joined than I was invited to help build the probusglobal.org web site. Sure, why not? I wrote my first computer program 55 years ago and learned HTML before most of the web designers around today were born. It would be and has been my pleasure to work on it.

The web site should be a place where members come to connect with other members of our community from around the world. A place where they can share their jokes, poetry, travel photos, and common interests. A place where they can connect before going off to communicate by email and video chat. A place where open discussions can begin.

Once the pandemic has settled down and the borders are open, I am looking forward to putting my travelling shoes back on and heading off to visit new places. I am hoping to meet some of my new PROBUS Global friends in person. Perhaps, by then, I might even be able to shake their hands or give them a hug. Wouldn't that be great?

If your travels bring you to Canada, I would love to host you as a guest at our local PROBUS Club and show you Niagara Falls and southern Ontario.

A web site is never finished. If you see opportunities to do things better or discover problems affecting your use of the site, please let me know. I need to hear from you to make it better.

**PROBUS Global now has members from 166 different clubs.  
There are 1661 clubs listed on the web site now with a total of 58,280 members  
where we know the size, an average of 51.3 members per club.**

**In the past month, 3,794 visitors looked at the web site from 84 countries.**



### Who Am I ?

I am Bryn Roberts, an Englishman living in a village near Sudbury in the County of Suffolk some seventy miles north west of London and the Secretary of the Sudbury Gainsborough Probus Club, a male club of 35 members which was incorporated in 1975.

I joined Probus in 1995 in Basildon in the County of Essex on retiring from business

where I had been a Research Director practicing the science of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics to produce Adhesives for a variety of uses.

I was not unused to community affairs as I had already joined Basildon Lions Club in 1974 and had become involved in Club, District, National and International Lionistic matters, as I still am as a member of the Ipswich Lions Club.

I quickly adopted Probus life and became Secretary and later Chairman of the Basildon Club. In 2005 our family moved from Basildon to Sudbury and my activities were soon transferred to the Sudbury Club in becoming Secretary and remaining so until today fifteen years later.

I have had the experience of being a member of two very different in programme, style and age-profile Clubs and recognise that Probus can accept and absorb a variety of modus vivendi across national and international boundaries to its eternal benefit.

I have seen new clubs arise, ladies clubs and mixed clubs, and new initiatives such as PROBUS Global.

Long May they all prosper.

### **Winston would agree . . .**

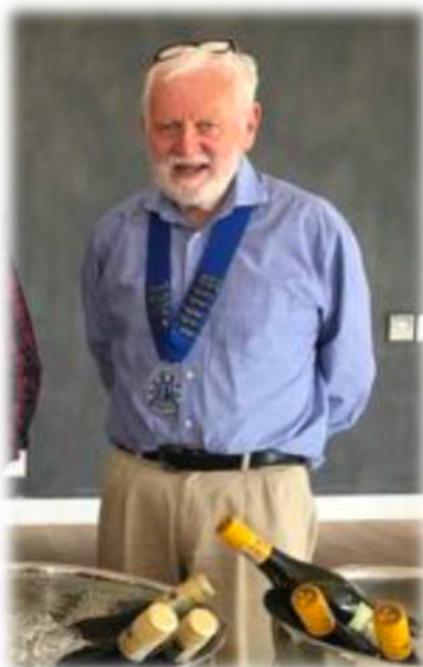
These times of restriction and isolation are times to gather and get together, not to stay isolated. Perhaps it is a responsibility of senior citizens to lead the way and make contacts around the world with people of similar instincts. If we all made three Global Probus contacts ! What a change that would be.

**So, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR ...?**



## SOUTH AFRICA

DISTRICTS	Number of Members					Number of Clubs					Type of Club			
	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018 / 2019	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018 / 2019	Men	Ladies	Mixed	Membership aver. Age
Zimbabwe	Closed													
Garden Route			266	294	307			8	8	8	5	2	1	72
Gauteng North	116	87	73	74	79	3	2	2	2	2	2			70
North West	75	71	62	63	46	3	3	3	3	2	2			74
Limpopo	17	Closed				1	Closed							
Mpumalanga	132	131	129	128	136	3	3	3	3	3			3	72
Kwa Zulu Natal	744	721	634	584	537	17	17	16	16	14	3		11	75
Gauteng South	821	801	788	768	760	18	17	17	16	15	3	1	11	76
Eastern Cape	550	573	574	569	551	13	13	13	12	12	6		6	72
Free State	121	119	119	97	98	4	4	4	3	3	2	1		
Western Cape	1542	1527	1172	1094	1103	38	37	29	28	27	12	7	8	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4118</b>	<b>4030</b>	<b>3817</b>	<b>3671</b>	<b>3617</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>40</b>	



The unique humour of Graham Lashbrooke lost to us all too soon.

This story was written by Graham Lashbrooke when President of Probus Tokai Men's Club in Cape Town in June this year. Sadly, Graham passed away shortly afterwards. His writings are appreciated.

Hello from South Africa or, more accurately, the Southern tip of our country – Cape Town. Well, hang on, not quite the most Southern tip or even the reputed spot where the two oceans, the Atlantic and the Indian meet. They actually meet at the true Southern tip, at a small coastal village called Cape Aghulas, which is about 230 Kilometres roughly South-East of Cape Town. There you go. Suddenly you know more about South Africa's geography than many South Africans. I really enjoyed writing those words which allowed me to virtually travel from my firmly Covid-19 locked-down home in Cape Town to Cape Aghulas. You see, our government is determined that South Africa shall be the last country in the world that is allowed a miniscule peek outside their double-locked front door

Currently we are not even allowed to buy alcohol or smoke tobacco. Crazy but true. Of course, wise people like me laid down a lot of beer, wine and spirits prior to the initial lockdown way back in March.

A bloke from down under asked me to write about the “Network of Clubs” in South Africa.

The singular severity of the lockdown has ensured that this has become more a “Jumble of Clubs.” March and April in South Africa is when all the clubs organise their Annual General Meetings to allow time for the Provincial Oversight Clubs to organise their AGMs in June. Many of the Western Cape Clubs have not yet held an AGM. My Club has and we did it virtually by email.

Some might say that this article is becoming about as chaotic as our current Club structure, other might have seen the subtlety of the scribe holding it all precariously together with little bits of string and chewing gum. If you spotted it, well done, if not plod on, we are getting there.

In all my eighty years I have spent on this planet, seventy-two of them have been in South Africa, four in New Zealand, three in Australia and one in England and Europe.

To wrap-up (take a deep breath, it is all in one sentence); I have also collectively spent many months of my life on holiday in and around Cape Aghulas and, whilst that didn't alter my status, the freedom offered by being at the bottom end of a huge continent; looking North and knowing that I am gazing across countless countries, cities, towns, villages, mountains, lakes and rivers all the way to the Mediterranean Sea, whilst directly South behind me two vast oceans are fighting for supremacy by crashing on the ancient rocky outcrops and even further South, the same two oceans are making their steady way, West to the Americas, East to Australia, South to the Antarctic and North-East all the way to India and Asia.

**Graham Lashbrooke**

### **A nice bit of home spun philosophy**

When do we start feeling old? In retrospect I believe I started feeling that I had moved out of that huge period of one's life called middle age when I turned 73. Whatever, the actual age is clearly a personal thing. During our pre-lunch drinks time, I look at fellow members and I get a warm feeling about ageing, for what I see is a whole lot of people all enjoying themselves just as they did in their earlier lives, just a smidgen slower.

I'm not sure where I am going with this, but I do know that the point I want to make is that we are all extremely lucky to belong to an old man's fellowship group like Probus. Old men, like very young children, tend to spend a lot of their pleasure time on their own, reading, drawing, thinking or often just sleeping. The point is belonging to Probus provides us with a necessary social outlet. Until a few minutes ago I did I not know who thought up Probus but now, thanks to Google, I know the first club

was formed in England in 1965 by a Rotarian, Fred Carnill, who decided to form a luncheon club for retired men. Others, also Rotarians (names are unimportant), decided that retired people had a need for fellowship and so an excellent idea took root and now there are Probus clubs in which men and women collectively and separately, get together on a monthly basis for fellowship and lunch worldwide. What I can say is that I am thrilled to be a member of Probus and I, like so many fellow members, heartily enjoy the fellowship.

by Graham Lashbrooke

If you have not previously heard this piece of music - do so now. The *Angel City Chorale* rendition of "Rains in Africa" use this link but skip the ads...

<https://youtu.be/-c9-poC5HGw>

Did you know that the word "Race Car" spelled backwards still spells "Race Car" – and that "eat" is the only word that, if you take the first letter and move it to the last, it spells its own past tense "ate".

. . . . Now isn't that interesting.

### **Stoned Crows also from South Africa**

In South Africa a Department of Tourism clean-up crew recently found over 200 dead crows off and along N2 near Cape Town and there was concern that they may have died from some sort of Avian Flu.

A Pathologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was NOT Avian related. The cause of death in fact appeared to be from vehicular impacts. However, during analysis it was noted that varying colours of paint appeared on the bird's beaks and claws. By analysing these paint residues it was found that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with motorbikes, while only 2% were killed by cars. The Department of Safety then hired an Ornithological Behaviourist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of motorbike kills versus car kills.

The Ornithological Behaviourist quickly concluded that when crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow to warn of danger. They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Cah", not a single one could shout "bike".

### **South Africa calling**

There are over 3,000 members of Probus clubs in South Africa. a country that some would like to know more about who have been unable to visit. Others may have experienced the culture and geographical aspects of this country and could relate a story or two about their adventures.

Howard Massey is looking for a new Probus contact in South Africa to fill the big shoes that Graham left behind. Somebody who is interested in nourishing international contacts.

Please contact me at [hafmassey@gmail.com](mailto:hafmassey@gmail.com)

Kees Nederveen, from the Netherland, is a long standing member of the International Probus Network with many email contacts.

He had work in Australia for several years.



Cornelis Nederveen (Kees) was born in Rotterdam (1941) right after the destruction of the City by the Germans in WW II. Kees graduated in Utrecht as Master of Science in Chemistry.

Joined the largest chemical company DuPont in working at its EU HQ in Geneva as Product Specialist in synthetic fibres and for 25 years with the Dutch multinational Akzo Nobel. In 1998 Kees formed his consultancy in worldwide marketing of chemical and pharma specialties. Kees started his career of voluntary activities in legal assistance of victims of violence and foreign detainees. He joined the local Noordwijk Probus club and participated in the International Probus network (IPN) making e-friends all over the world.

During retirement he joined the Dutch PUM network (Programme Senior Experts Abroad) assisted eight Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries, setup by the Dutch Ministries of Economics and Foreign Affairs. Similar voluntary expert groups have been established in many EU member states, Switzerland and Norway. I also joined the ancient private club "De Witte" (1796) in den Haag in 2011 with some 25 expert tables.

Now living on the Dutch coastline in a penthouse in the dunes with my spouse of 53 yrs, two sons and five grand kids nearby. . . .Kees

### ***Kees Nederveen – my mission to Xian and Quigdao China in 2007***

*Having travelled extensively in the People's Republic of China during my 25 year employment at the Dutch multinational company Akzo Nobel at last as Divisional Development Director Asia Pacific I was pleased to assist a vitamin manufacturer in Xian, the former capital of the Chinese Empire until 1880.*

*Since decades the worldwide Vitamin industry concentrated its manufacturing activities in Central China, supported by bulk pharma skills (in antibiotics) and labour economics. Vitamin and mineral supplements are manufactured at Good Manufacturing Practice (GPM) monitored by international health inspections. Since China has become a dominating worldwide supply factor these health standards are carefully monitored and maintained at Western standards but occasional checks are mandatory. My visit to Xian showed no exception to these rules.*

*Subsequently I made a visit to the State Export Agency Sinochem in Qingdao responsible for these products, to discuss commercial and logistic issues. These officials attend trade events abroad and are excellent expert partners to follow the international market needs. Complaint handling remains a weak issue, so these encounters are an essential complementary tool in foreign trade.*

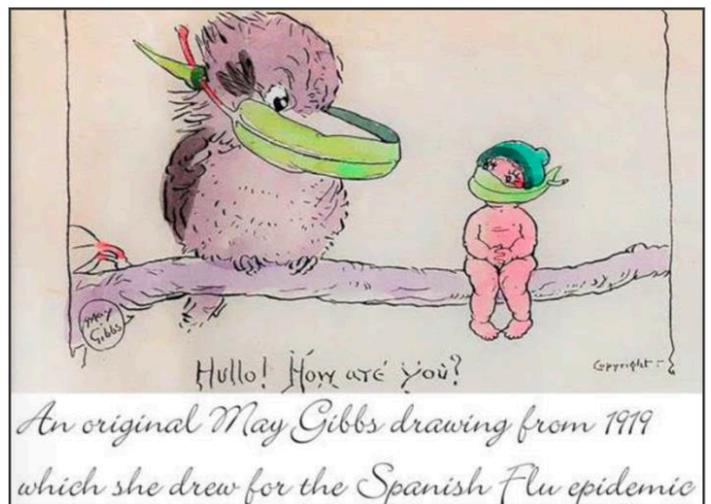
*In Xian I also visited the middle age capital fortresses and the famous army of thousand buried ceramic soldiers discovered in the fifties by local farmers. The logistics of a million visitors per year are impressive, mostly from the West.*

Qingdao on the subtropical coastline is the major navy port for the nation and the focus of the nautical Olympics in 1996. The architectural impact is very clear, supported by multi-story hotels and cultural activities. Most remarkable were the scallop seekers at low tide that flock the rocky shores for their meals.

My local guide experts were a welcome addition to my limited local knowledge. The impression of maintaining international pharma standards was very good and the living conditions of the local population were remarkably well. The curiosity in Qingdao is the structure of hundreds of residences in German style as a result of the German occupation/colony in the early 20th century. . . Kees Nederveen

\*\*\*\*\*

**INCIDENTALLY**



**WORDS OF WISDOM**

“You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life” ~ zig Ziglar ... find people and connect

“One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone.”— Shannon L. Alder..... your email might be the one thing that gives somebody happiness.

“Although we live in an information technology age, we often find ourselves in failure to communicate situations. “ Paul Bailey The Strength of Newsletters

Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much.- Helen Keller



One thing us Probians have in common I advancing years - am I right? After all the criterion for membership is **Retired** Professional Business Men and Women. The advanced average age of this group is definitely going to mean some of us are walking around with replacement parts. I,m not sure we ave anyone who owns a heart of a strapping young chap who met an untimely end, but we must have an assortment of artificial ankles, knees, hips, elbows and shoulders and maybe even a kidney or two. Some years ago, I had my back opened up and, whilst there were no replacements made, a complete overhaul was required to get back into pristine condition, At a follow - up meeting with the doctor who did the deed, he quickly trumped my imminent query on the quality on my newly overhauled back by asking me whether I owned an old banger as a first car. At this my mind hurtled back a full 60 years to the days of the Morris Minor with the headlights in the grill which, at night, threw a wobbly beam a full 5 metres and had a terminally dodgy braking system. Choking back an imminent tear, I related the story of the old banger. "Well then, he replied, "Ill bet you spent hours overhauling that car and make its next trip mechanically uneventful especially if it involved a young lady in the passenger seat with whom you were planning to do unspeakable things." This explanation was to help me understand the not so lusting quality of my newly restored back, for he added, "Your overhauled back is not unlike that old Morris after you had spent hours on a Saturday getting it ready for the evening's entertainment. It, your back not the car, will work well, but remember it will never be as good as the original that lsted 66 years"

A few days ago, my back suddenly went AWOL, and I staggered around in sciatic-ised pain until James the Osteopath cobbled it back into service with a regime of pushing, twisting, jerking and pulling.

That old Morris Minor ? It finally met its maker when a lady who would haqualified to be a member of an early Probus club, shot a stop street in her huge all steel Humber (I believe the model was a Super Snipe V) and my dodgy braking system decided this was a bridge too far, so I ran the Morris into her back door.

As I recall the Humber back door had a smallish dent , but the poor old Morris gave one and two brave coughs and expired. It never ran again unless you count sitting on the back of a breakdown truck heading for the scrapyard.

Where is this going you may ask? Forgive the verbosity, hang in there with a dash of patience, and I am about to wrap it all up.

So, all you members who think your plastic and titanium hips and knees ar as good as the real thing remember that as we creak into our late 70,s and early 80,s most of us who still have original parts that, whilst we were still in the womb, were being built to last. Will be operating like well-oiled machines long after those with plastic jobs have had to go back to the workshop. Apart frommy back, I can boast a pair of ankles, knees, hips that have been carryng me around for all of 79 years. Sixty-two years ago, They carried me to the school record for the 100yyards ( long before metres wer invented). As a yardstick( or should that be metrestick?), my overhauled back lasted 13 year, a tad longer than the old Morris. ....Howard Massey

**Pay attention ! this is very interesting . . .**



Oh, Dem Bones!

The adult human skeleton is made up of 213 bones that give structure and protection to the body. University of Sydney Professor Hala Zreiqat is intimately acquainted with them all. Professor Zreiqat and her team, along with other biomedical scientists and engineers, have created a synthetic ceramic substitute to repair large challenging bone defects. The ceramic rebuilds new bones and when the job is done it dissipates. By using futuristic technology each replica bone can be printed using 3D printers. The first step was to develop a porous ceramic material infused with trace elements important in bone formation, such as calcium, silicon, strontium and zinc. The material is structured to form a scaffold similar to real bone with sponge-like pores that allow blood and nutrients to penetrate. The plan is that within about a year, sufficient bone will have grown through the inserted scaffold to replace the defect. With its job is done, the synthetic material degrades and is then excreted. It is ongoing research, but so far it is proving remarkable what happens to this material.

Professor Zreiqat has recently commenced the first pre-clinical trial in sheep for one of the materials she has developed for intervertebral spinal fusion. What is already known from the research is that the material being synthetic, can rebuild critical-size defects, which are defects that normally would not heal on their own.

The ceramic materials developed in Professor Zreiqat's laboratory can now be made by a custom-designed 3D printer. While many of the printed scaffolds at present are limited to those that can fit in the palm of your hand, the team is trying to see if they can print a whole mandible.

If successful, patients could soon have bespoke replacement bones printed futuristically on the spot. ... Extract from 'Engineers Australia

## THE GREAT SOUTHERN LAND OF AUSTRALIA



Live the dream on any beach beach in Australia

The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place  
– George Bernard Shaw

“You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you” ~ dale carnegie . . .

so let's try it... make your PROBUS Global contacts



**An Australia Tale... LENNIE GWYTHYR AND GINGER MICK**

It's 1932 and Australia is in the grip of the Great Depression. One in three workers are unemployed. Decrepit shanty towns hug the outskirts of the big cities. A scrawny rabbit caught in a trap will feed a family for a week. Country roads are filled with broken men walking from one farmhouse to another seeking menial jobs and food. On the outskirts of the South Gippsland town of Leongatha, an injured farmer lies in bed unable to walk – or work. World War I hero Captain Leo Tennyson Gwyther is in hospital with a broken leg and the family farm is in danger of falling into ruins. Up steps his son, nine-year-old Lennie. With the help of his pony Ginger Mick, Lennie ploughs the farm's 24 paddocks and keeps the place running until his father can get back on his feet. How to reward him? Lennie has been obsessively following one of the biggest engineering feats of the era – the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. He wants to attend its opening. With great reluctance, his parents agree he can go. So Lennie saddles up Ginger Mick, packs spare clothes and a water bottle into a sack, and begins the 600 miles trek to Sydney. Alone.

That's right.



A nine year old boy riding a pony from the deep south of Victoria to the biggest and roughest city in the nation.

Told you it was a different era. No social media. No mobile phones. But even then, it doesn't take long before word begins to spread about a boy, his horse and their epic trek. The entire populations of small country towns gather on their outskirts to welcome his arrival. He survives bushfires, is attacked by a "vagabond" and endures rain and cold, biting winds. When he reaches Canberra, he is welcomed by Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, who invites him into Parliament House for tea.

When he finally arrives in Sydney, more than 10,000 people line the streets to greet him. He is besieged by autograph hunters. He becomes a key part of the official parade at the bridge's opening. He and Ginger Mick are invited to make a starring appearance at the Royal Show. Even Donald Bradman, the biggest celebrity of the Depression era, requests a meeting and gives him a signed cricket bat. A letter writer to The Sydney Morning Herald at the time gushes that "just such an example as provided by a child of nine summers, Lennie Gwyther was, and is, needed to raise the spirit of our people and to fire our youth and others to do things – not to talk only. "The sturdy pioneer spirit is not dead ... let it be remembered that this little lad, when his father was in hospital, cultivated the farm – a mere child." When Lennie leaves Sydney for home a month later, he has become one of the most famous figures in a country craving uplifting news. Large crowds wave handkerchiefs.

Women weep and shout “goodbye”. According to The Sun newspaper, “Lennie, being a casual Australian, swung into the saddle and called ‘Toodleloo!’”. He finally arrives home to a tumultuous reaction in Leongatha. He returns to school and soon life for Lennie – and the country – returns to normal. These days you can find a bronze statue in Leongatha commemorating Lennie and Ginger Mick.

But Australia has largely forgotten his remarkable feat – and how he inspired a struggling nation. Never taught about him in school? Never heard of him before? Spread the word. We need to remember – and celebrate – Lennie Gwyther and his courageous journey. It's a great story. God knows we need these stories now, more than ever.

### **Engagement over Contact – Emails over Facebook**

In these trying times of Covid restrictions when contact with fellow citizens and club members is severely restricted – how do we keep in touch ? It is worth thinking about.

As a bit of a Facebook sceptic one might have the opinion that having friends, or “likes”, can be pleasant but superficial and anyway is just “contact”. The same goes for most, if not all, social media vehicles. There is often no engagement in this “pseudo” friendship.

Contrast this to communication by letter, phone, emails, video and the like. These methods involve engagement on a one to one basis, even real friendships and real interaction. In Probus we are reliant on getting involvement of members, commitment, action. We use emails, and attachments, these days as the primary means of communication. At the end of the day, the email (the written word) is the most reliable method of keeping in touch. With this emailed Newsletter we may well achieve better engagement with members and encourage members to contact other members. That is the stuff of Probus in action.

Here's the action ...You can see and use the 248 contacts via the website .

Use the Connect menu at the top of the Home page for help.

So the purpose and message of this Newsletter from PROBUS Global to Probus members is to connect with other members abroad. Get over the nationalistic barriers and find out about these new friends and how they are so interesting.

**Get involved. Get Connected.**

<https://probusglobal.org/Connect/>

**Your feedback would be appreciated . . . and addressed**

Could you please respond to any of the prompts below that resonate with you. Or contribute what's on your mind. Respond to [probusglobal@gmail.com](mailto:probusglobal@gmail.com)

- ❖ Do you think that encouraging Probus members to make contacts around the globe is a worthwhile activity ? Do you see benefits from forging international friends ?
- ❖ Do you receive the "Probus" Magazine published in the UK ? or would you like to receive a copy of the quarterly "Probus" Magazine from the UK ?
- ❖ Are you aware of the "PROBUS Global" website and have you made any personal contacts directly from the website?
- ❖ What do you think about the website

PROBUS Global is for Probus members. Register with <https://probusglobal.org>

Due to current economic conditions the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off.

The August 2020 Newsletter was originally compiled by Howard Massey for Probus Global and edited by the PROBUS Global group.