

The Probus Club of Holland Park Central



PO Box 5151 Mt Gravatt East 4122

Meetings: 9.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. every third Thursday of the month.

Venue: Newnham Hotel, Newnham Rd, Upper Mt Gravatt

<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/hollandparkcentral/Home>
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The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Jill's Jottings

Hello to you all,

It's August, the Westerlies have arrived, and the sun is shining. I heard on the radio during the week that it's a bit of a myth we Brisbanites thinking the Westerlies come in August with the Ekka. I'm still not convinced!

We had our first meeting at the Newnham Hotel since February and it was wonderful to welcome so many of our members back. It was delightful to see and hear people mingling (at a safe distance), chatting with friends and enjoying each other's company. George won the lucky door prize. He generously donated the gift back and Andy was the lucky winner of the redraw. The committee have decided we should acknowledge birthdays each month with Ron the lone attendee who was born in August.

It was an informal meeting and Richard and Lynne shared their stories with us – Richard on his decision to come to Australia in his mid-teens, sponsored by the Salvation Army, and Lynne with her tale of how Covid-19 changed the course of their cruise and led to two weeks quarantine in Perth on arrival back in Australia.

We are fortunate as we ease out of Covid restrictions that we are able to resume some of our normal activities. People are travelling in Queensland, organisations are meeting again, and cafes, restaurants and cinemas are open with restricted numbers. We're playing Bridge again. Book Club is actually meeting again; it was great to have discussions with members in person.

You may be interested in some of the books I have read during the past few months and enjoyed.

- *The Anarchy: The relentless rise of the East India Company* by William Dalrymple
- *The Lost Man* by Jane Harper
- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- *Preservation* by Jock Serong
- *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett
- *Apple Tree Yard* by Louise Doughty
- *The One Hundred Year Old Man who climbed out the window and disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson
- *The Ides of April* by Lindsay Davis
- *Shackled* by Chris Turney
- *The Year of Living Danishly* by Helen Russell
- *The Land Before Avocado* by Richard Glover

That's all folks,

Jill

PSPL has sent a warning that it has no association with *Travel Directions Pty Ltd trading as Australian Escapes Holiday & Travel Club and Global Escapes Travel*. PSPL reports that this organisation has been approaching Probians and using the Probus name by offering "*Probus Branch Membership*". The letter also assures members that it has no idea where that organisation obtained some Probians' contact details because PSPL keeps these confidential.



Ironically, the British cruise ship company, Cruise & Maritime Voyages (CMV), which successfully battled to bring all of its six cruise ships to home ports in March without a single case of Covid-19, is one of the first to go to the wall. Only last year, CMV was celebrating a record trading year and its first decade in cruising and had sold nearly 90 per cent of 2020 capacity. But CMV isn't alone. Royal Caribbean repossessed three cruise ships from Pullmantur Cruises when it announced it was insolvent a month ago and cruise operator Birke Cruises, which is based in Sweden, also announced earlier last month that it was going out of business. The domino effect in cruising has started.



Would you believe it? Following an enquiry into an airline crash in Pakistan in May, it was found that that 262 out of 860 Pakistani pilots had fake licences. It is also thought that in many instances qualified pilots were bribed into sitting tests for unqualified pilots.



This year alone, CSIRO scientists have identified and named 151 new insects, eight new plants, two new fish, one new mite that lives on a lizard and three new subspecies of bird. For example, they discovered a new species of spider wasp (pictured) that is only found in an area badly impacted by bushfires, so now they can carefully monitor its recovery. Spider wasps have venom that could be useful for treating Alzheimer's disease and epilepsy, but most Australian spider wasp species are unknown to science. With only a quarter of Australian insects known to science, the more species are named, the better we can understand their super powers.

Stephanie has been the Club's welfare officer for many years and we extend a heart-felt thanks to her. Lyn H is now taking on the role, so if you know of anyone who is ill or needing a bit of cheering up, please contact her.

The sad news is that a new study estimates almost 3 billion koalas, kangaroos and other animals were killed or displaced in our 'Black Summer' bushfires, trebling the previous estimate. And we're likely to see more big fires of this kind in the future.

Christmas in July High Tea

Unfortunately there was just a very small window of opportunity to book for this event, about a week or so before it took place. Therefore, those not on email didn't have the opportunity to be asked to attend, and even those who did, it was on a first come first served basis for just 12 people. Quite a few were disappointed because they missed out. Bill tried to get more bookings, but even a second sitting hastily added by the organisers was speedily sold out. The venue was the Sunnybank Sports Club, and the lucky 12 enjoyed the fare which was there in abundance, and the company. Some who attended are pictured below.



*What do you get when you mix an insomniac, an agnostic and a dyslexic?
Someone lying awake at night wondering about the true meaning of dog.*

Did you know that Australia produces two-thirds as much manufactured output as it consumes, while most other OECD countries produce more manufactured goods than they consume? The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the vulnerability of product supply chains and Australia's reliance on imports, amplifying calls for a boost to local manufacturing. It seems Australia has one of the most underdeveloped manufacturing sectors of any industrial country in the world.

Quite a number of members are still wary of attending meetings, outings and bus trips. This, plus the limitations and protocols of possible venues for outings makes the planning of activities difficult. Therefore, members are asked to accept flexibility around future plans which may be added to at short notice or cancelled if not enough are interested. Below are some date claimers and possibilities.

20th August	Monthly meeting	9-30am Newnham Hotel
3rd September	Visit/lunch	11-00am Indigiscapes Nursery
		Details August meeting
13th September	Monthly Coffee	10.30am Pacific Golf Club
		Note 2nd Sunday
17th September	Monthly meeting	9.30am Newnham Hotel
4th October	Monthly Coffee	10.30am Tillick Park
15th October	Monthly meeting	9.30am Newnham Hotel
10th December	Christmas break up	TBA

Other activities being mooted:-

Games day in the Park with Pizza lunch;

Guided tour St Stevens and St Johns Cathedral and lunch;

Restaurant/Club lunch.

PLEASE NOTE:

- September coffee morning at the Golf Club is on the SECOND Sunday, due to Fathers' Day being the first. Coffee mornings will alternate between the Golf Club and Tillock Park.
- Bill requires (preferably by email or text) RSVPs for both the Indigiscapes outing **AND** all future the meetings (while Covid restrictions apply). *If he doesn't hear from you, it will be presumed that you will not be participating.*

Research released last month has revealed that older women have been recognised as the fastest-growing group of homeless people in Australia in recent years. Almost a quarter of a million women, aged over 55 are currently at high risk of homelessness. Policy makers were startled by the data. Older people are generally considered to be at less risk of homelessness because of their higher rates of home ownership. Most at risk were older women in private rental who no longer had a full-time job, and were on their own. And it seems the risk is cumulative over time, and affordable housing could go a long way to alleviating the risk.



Across the globe, coronavirus detector dogs are being trained in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Belgium. In the UAE, detector dogs – stationed at various airports – have already started helping efforts to control COVID-19's spread. This is something we hope will soon be available in Australia too. And the dogs have been shown to be 100% accurate. Dogs can help detect hypoglycaemia in diabetics, warn people who are about to have an epileptic seizure and have been used to sniff out some cancers. Their

great potential in dealing with the current pandemic is just one of myriad examples of how dogs enrich our lives.

VALE

Geoff Wilson (23.5.1937 – 31.7.2020)

Geoff was the co-founder and inaugural President of this Probus Club. An award-winning Agribusiness journalist, he was a remarkable quiet achiever who also received almost three dozen awards, plaques and certificates for his tireless community work. His latest legacy which will culminate mid-year next year, is a bike-ride from Cairns to Brisbane to raise funds and national awareness of the importance of bowel-scans. He was a gentle, loving, enthusiastic family man, a dedicated Rotarian and many attest that his efforts improved their lives and that he left the world a genuinely better place in both tangible and intangible ways. He leaves behind his wife, Mary, their two children and a large extended family. Rest in Peace Geoff, you will be sorely missed.

Did you know the pandemic has paved the way for improved care for some Australians who have limited English proficiency? Remote interpreting has freed up time for professional interpreters and their services can now be used more widely.



An apple touted as the first in the world to be resistant to climate change could be grown in Australia as early as next year. The apple, known as HOT84A1, has been bred to withstand the world's hottest and driest conditions and is the result of 18 years' work between researchers in Spain and New Zealand. In northern Spain the temperatures can get up to 45 degrees and that's pretty hot to get an apple with good red colour and a good crisp crunch. The new apple, which is currently in Australian quarantine, could be grown here next year.

The English language is quirky, and one of the best examples of that is in the way we pronounce Pacific Ocean. Take your time to say it slowly, and you'll notice that each 'c' is said differently—the first with an 's' sound, the second as a hard 'ck' sound, and the third with a 'sh' sound.

[Did you know it will be the club's 12th birthday this month?](#)

[The September Guest Speaker](#) at our next meeting will be [Clare Blake](#), community relations Officer at QIMR Berghofer. She will tell us about how they are collaborating with the world on the Covid-19 research, and cover other subjects such as volunteers and worms, Possible treatment for

glaucoma blindness, and she will show us show you mini brains and mini hearts made to safely test new treatments.



Our second morning tea, post-isolation, did not attract as many members as the first, but all the same, it was enjoyed by those who attended.

Hacks

A hack is basically 'a quick or inelegant solution to a particular problem.' And a group hack or a hackathon is where the brightest minds come together to brainstorm ideas and generate solutions for a range of challenges. And there's usually prizes and prestige up for grabs. There is a government-run hackathon each year to try and solve some of Australia's real and meaty challenges. It happened from 14 to 16 August all over the country. To get involved in GovHack, you don't have to be a scientist, data lover or software engineer. Some of the most successful teams bring other skills to the table such as business development, marketing and education through a combination of online and in-person events. Results will be available in October.



October 1 is the United Nations Day of Older Persons across the world. International days like this are used to raise awareness, and PSPL has decided that for our community in Australia and New Zealand, it will be known as Probus Day. A day where, it suggests, we should celebrate what is great about Probus and actively promote it in our part of the world. For the inaugural Probus Day, this year's theme will be ***Staying Connected and Active with Probus – the key to happy retirement.*** PSPL says Celebrations can occur any day during the month of October. Your committee decided that this year is a bit too early for a special function, and that it is better to concentrate on getting our "new world order" normality for our club under control.

I'm going to stay up on New Year's Eve this year. Not to see the New Year in, but to make sure this one leaves.



Employers have long feared that working from home makes employees less productive. An analysis of three million workers in 16 cities during lockdowns suggests the opposite. At a minimum, time saved from commuting and greater flexibility to multitask other elements of one's life are positives from working from home. Lack of social interaction and the inevitable distractions in most home environments are negatives. Researchers at Harvard Business School and New York University gathered aggregated meeting and email meta-data for 3,143,270 people working for 21,478 companies in 16 cities in Europe, the United States and Israel where government-mandated lockdowns were imposed in March. The bottom line was this: Lockdowns reduced the amount of time most workers spent in meetings, but increased their working hours. The length of the average workday increased by 48.5 minutes.

The Committee has decided to introduce EFPOS payments for meetings and outings. While cash will still be accepted for a while, members are asked that they bring the correct change when not paying by credit or debit card.



Did you know that CSIRO's 60 year old Parkes radio telescope was added to national heritage list last month? It is the first functioning scientific instrument to be added to the list. It may be old, but it continues to operate as one of the world's leading astronomy instruments, observing the Universe day and night, seven days a week, with the most advanced radio receiver systems in the world. Its instrumentation has been continually upgraded so the telescope is now 10,000 times more sensitive than when it was first built.

The committee had to draw up a new budget for the rest of the calendar year. When, in 2018, the club decided that it will forego membership fees for all members for 12 months, it knew neither that it would need to change to a more expensive venue, nor that PSPL will yet again raise its capitation fees. Subsequently, the two increases had made the newly minted budget look somewhat sad. As a consequence, the committee reluctantly decided that as of January, meeting costs will increase to \$10, which will reduce the loss each meeting, but still won't cover all expenses. This \$1 increase is contingent upon hotel charges remaining as they are. Further, come next March, at the club's AGM, a proposal to raise membership fees to an annual \$36 will be put to members.



The extremely rare Tasmanian bird about the size of a ping pong ball, the Pardalote, is almost extinct. This is because a parasitic fly embeds its maggots in the chicks to marure, sucking them dry in the process. In a rare good news story for conservation, scientists came up with a cheap, very effective solution. With a bit

of creative thinking and expert knowledge, the vulnerable species can be protected. Pardalotes love to make soft, warm nests lined with stray feathers of other birds they find on the forest floor. So scientists took sterilised chicken feathers and laced them with a bird-safe insecticide that would ward off the parasites.

Using scrap wire, duct tape and round plastic trays they built "self-service" feather dispensers and deployed them in the forests where Pardalotes were building nests. It didn't take the Pardalotes long to find this bonanza of free building materials – the dispensers were as busy as the toilet paper aisle during a pandemic! Some birds built their nests entirely out of the medicated feathers. The survival rate of the chicks grew from eight per cent to 95%.



Fourteen members attended lunch at the Southern Cross Club on the Thursday before the general meeting. Many stayed on for coffee in the coffee shop afterwards and the group didn't break up until mid-afternoon.

Bus trip

The Coorparoo Club has issued the following invitation:

"The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, 30th September, 2020 and will be to Beenleigh Historical Village followed by a sumptuous two course lunch at the Beenleigh Bowls Club. Cost for the day is \$50.00 all inclusive. All COVID regulations have been adhered to for the day. The bus will leave the Village, Cavendish Rd, Coorparoo at 9am and Pacific Golf Club, Pine Mountain Rd, Carindale at 9.15am."

Our members will be made very welcome. Those interested should contact Coorparoo's Vice President, Pam Gould ASAP on 0423675708, to reserve seats or for more information.

What are universities for?

A court case has highlighted the fact that there is no clear universal definition of the role of universities. An academic whose teaching was beyond reproach was dismissed from a university last year, because she had failed to meet its research publication requirements. While she recently won the unfair dismissal case, there is now a heated debate whether universities are there to get students "job ready", or encourage the advancement of knowledge through research, or the promotion of scholarship, free inquiry, or whatever. And if there is an excellent teacher whose research skills are not so good do they qualify for employment? Or an excellent researcher whose teaching skills leave something to be desired? Universities are now scrambling to clearly define their purpose and goals.



Above is what a socially distanced meeting looks like! ... And the tables are bare (apart from glasses of water) because morning tea is no longer a help-yourself affair but a dished up one! Almost 30 of us gathered at our first meeting in over six months and, despite the fact that we didn't have a guest speaker, we not only managed to fill in the time, but George, who was to give us a potted version of his various escapades with the UK military, didn't get a word in! Richard did tell us how he came from the UK as a 15 year-old, courtesy of the Salvos, and Lynne managed to tell us about their Covid adventures on board ship, then the consequent isolation in Perth and the difficulties faced flying home.

DUTY ROSTER September

Chair – Leo; 5 minute talk – Brenda

Fellowship – Grace; Door – Brian and Mary B

My husband and I divorced because of religious differences. He thought he was God, and I didn't

Nine months past Corona:



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The Probus Club of Holland Park Central was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Carindale

2020/21 Committee

President: Jill

Vice President: George

Secretary: Margaret O'D

Treasurer: Ron

Activities: Lyn and Bill

Newsletter: Mary W

Committee: Rosemary

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Welfare: Lyn

Medical experts were asked if it is time to ease the lockdown. Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves. Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, and Neurologists thought the government had a lot of nerve. Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted. Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while Paediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!" Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it. Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and pharmacists claimed it would be a bitter pill to swallow. Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter." Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea. Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no. In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the assholes in politics.

Prehistoric Googling



A woman noticed her husband standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in his stomach. "That's not going to help," she said. "Sure, it does," he replied. "It's the only way I can see the numbers".

Headlines

- Panda mating fails; Veterinarian takes over (What a guy!)
- Something went wrong in jet crash, expert says (Really? Ya think?)
- Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers (Now that's taking things a bit far!)
- Cold wave linked to temperatures (Who would have thought?)
- New study of obesity looks for larger test group (Weren't they fat enough?)