

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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October 2020 Issue No.146

The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Jill's Jottings

Hello to you all,

It was wonderful to see many members attend the club's September meeting, to enjoy the company of our Probus friends, and to celebrate the Club's 12th birthday. The Newnham Hotel provided a birthday cake as part of the morning tea, and there were many favourable comments. Brenda's five minute talk on work she did with visually impaired people was very interesting, as was the talk from our guest speaker, Ms Clare Blake, Community Relations Officer at QIMR Berghofer. What amazing work these researchers are doing. I certainly look forward to the time when we will be able to tour their facilities.

We celebrated birthdays and wedding anniversaries. There were two noteworthy anniversaries – George & Margaret - 55 years and Bill & Lynne - 50 years. Congratulations. I brought to members' attention the availability of the Qld Government Companion Card. Briefly, this is available for those who have a disability or illness necessitating a lifelong need for attendant care support, whether paid or unpaid. It allows them to participate in community activities and to attend various venues, such as movie cinemas and theatre performances. For more information go to the Qld Govt website or phone on 13 74 68. We have confirmed the date and venue for our **Christmas lunch** so please note in your diary – **Thursday, 17th December at the Newnham Hotel**. More information to follow.

I had lunch with some close friends this week and talk turned to travel. I thought I would share a part of a special trip Barry and I did in 2013. We took three months and drove through Queensland, the Northern Territory and into the Kimberley region of Western Australia. We had promised ourselves we would see the Kimberley by land after we were fortunate to sail from the Mitchell Falls area to Broome some years earlier. It is a most magnificent part of our wonderful country. We spent a few hours in Camooweal where my mother was born in 1917 (my grandparents owned a general store and post office in Urandangie at the time) and then continued across the Barkly Tableland to the Stuart Highway. We met some fellow Queenslanders at the Banka Banka Springs camp and they persuaded us to go with them to the Daly Waters Pub. What a great night. Reef and Beef was the order of the day for dinner and entertainment was provided by Chilla, guaranteed 100% Outback Australian and very humorous.

An interesting stop was to view the Cutta Cutta Caves, south of Katherine. These are rare tropical limestone caves and not well known. Our local guide told us a tale of how Aussie soldiers used the stalactites and stalagmites in the caves for target practice during the war. You can only shake your head!!! Close to the WA border, we spent a few days at the Keep River National Park and the Zebra Rock Mine camp. Fascinating scenery and a wonderful sunset cruise on Lake Argyle. Lots of photos and great memories and so many more fascinating and amazing places we visited on this trip but I have to leave it there.

Take care.

Jill



Boredom

For some, boredom in these Covid days is a negative fact of life, while for others it has positive effects. One of the earliest mentions of boredom is in a Latin poem by Lucretius (99–55BC), but the term was not in the English lexicon until it appeared in the British newspaper *The Albion* in 1829, and was popularised by Charles Dickens in *Bleak House* (1853). It was not a psychological concept to be studied until the early 1970s. Psychologists determined that those who get bored easily are more likely to be depressed and anxious, have a tendency to be aggressive, and perceive life as less meaningful. Yet they also uncovered a much brighter side of boredom. Researchers found that boredom encourages a search for meaning in life, propels exploration, and inspires novelty seeking. It shows that boredom is not only a common but also a functional emotion that makes people reconsider what they are currently doing in favour of more rewarding alternatives, for example increasing creativity and pro-social tendencies. Boredom, surprisingly, seems to be an important part of the psychological arsenal available to people in the pursuit a fulfilling life.

Did you know that a colony of honey bees can visit up to 50 million flowers each day, with as many as 60,000 bees in each colony?

The club has applied for an ABN because without it, we cannot get a machine to use for EFTs. Therefore, credit/debit card payments to the club will not come into effect for a little while yet.



Odd facts about the pale ale

In 2018, scientists in Israel found 13,000-year-old beer residue inside a stone mortar used by hunter gatherers. Some academics have even suggested it was beer brewing that caused early nomads to found permanent settlements, thus forming the basis for modern society. There are other interesting facts about beer. For example, beer was not considered alcohol in Russia until 2013. It was food, because it had less than 10% alcohol. Also; there is a temple in Thailand made entirely of beer bottles – about 1.5 million of them. Then, in 1814, two wooden vats of beer burst in a brewery in a London slum releasing more than a million gallons. Sadly, this event was not at all jolly. Few Londoners could swim, and eight people drowned. Other facts are that the earliest known drinking straw was for beer; that beer caused the first ever disqualification from the Olympics for doping; and that a genuine phobia is Cenosillicaphobia - the fear of empty beer glasses.

Probus activities are still difficult to organise. Our games day in the park with pizza lunch is still on the agenda, especially with park restrictions now lifted to 30. Activities where in the past we could reserve places and pay for them closer to the date, now have to be pre-paid, way, way in advance. Some mooted activities would need for us to travel to the city, and it was deemed that many who would otherwise travel by public transport, would not be willing to do so just yet. Our monthly meetings and coffee mornings will be going ahead as usual, but some planned outings will, of necessity, be more ad hoc. Those members who are not on email will be contacted by phone, but they will probably have to make immediate decisions about attending an outing. It is inconvenient, but unfortunately the committee has not enough wriggle room to make it easier at the moment. So, hang it there ... it will improve.

Did you know that on June 30th, ASIC advised that six of Australia's largest banking and financial services institutions have paid or offered a total of \$1.05 billion in compensation to customers who suffered because of their fees for no service misconduct?



Above: It was a small, but happy group of members who visited the Redlands environmental education centre at Capalaba. Some of us experienced the three Nature walks – Fairy Wren (none to be seen), Wildflower (a small variety of flowers), and Tallowood View. This latter walk has a significant stand of these trees including a very large old and gnarled tree which has been there since before European settlement. The water course which meandered around the bush track is home to many tortoises which were sunning themselves on the rocks and logs. Several of the group visited the children's play area with a view to returning with their grandchildren on another occasion. The education centre was a static display describing the flora and fauna of the area. We

had Inch afterwards in the café. We were few in number but it was a very interesting excursion, enjoyed by all. Bill.

TripAdvisor

Have you ever used it? TripAdvisor is the world's largest travel site which has reviews, compares prices and even allows for the booking of tours, accommodation, and restaurant sittings. It has around 390 million monthly unique visitors and hosts more than 435 million reviews. These reviews, some of them scathing, some of them praising, often guide where we travel, where we stay and what we eat. Journalist Oobah Butler started out as a writer who wrote fake reviews for restaurants in exchange for small amounts of cash. Over the years, he realised that the well-loved and trusted website, TripAdvisor, was built on almost entirely fake reviews. He even wrote a review of a restaurant that didn't exist. So, are we mugs to put our trust in the hands of anonymous strangers?



Did you know that male chicks are culled shortly after hatching because they can't produce eggs and are not suitable for chicken-meat production? This is one of the biggest challenges facing the egg industry. It's an issue that needs to be addressed, but for the solution to be sustainable, it needs to be commercially viable as well as

humane. Enter an exciting new technology developed by CSIRO, but it is still experimental. Before any of the eggs start to form recognisable structure, the technology identifies the cells destined to be male through the eggshell. These eggs are culled and taken across into the production of vaccines. The flu vaccine that's used every year for the seasonal flu, is actually grown in eggs, and there has to be a supply of eggs to the companies that manufacture that vaccine. While this new technology is exciting and presents a real opportunity for the egg industry to improve outcomes for male chicks, there's still a little way to go.



When you think of lyrebirds, what comes to mind may be the sound of camera clicks, chainsaws and the songs of other birds. While the mimicry of lyrebirds is remarkable, it is not the only striking feature of this species. The superb lyrebird is famous for its song and dance, but what is less known is their extraordinary role as world-class ecosystem engineers. They change the environment in ways that impact on other species.

Without lyrebirds, eastern Australia's forests would be vastly different places. They displace leaf litter and soil when foraging for

food. Lyrebirds use their powerful claws to rake the forest floor, exposing bare earth and mixing and burying litter, while seeking invertebrate prey such as worms, centipedes and spiders. A single lyrebird will displace approximately 11 dump trucks of litter and soil in a single year. Our mega-fires have thrown the status of the lyrebirds from "common" to potentially being "threatened" and their loss on this scale will have potentially far-reaching effects on forest ecology.

Activities October/November

Sunday October 4th Morning Coffee Pacific Golf Club 10.30am

Thursday October 15th Monthly meeting. Newnham Hotel 9-30am.

NB: **Need to have RSVP**

Thursday October 22nd Visit to Museum of Brisbane followed by lunch.The current Exhibition is called "The Story Tellers" and

incorporates many well-known Brisbane personalities' childhood memories of growing up in Brisbane. Some of the story tellers are Nick Earl, Trent Dalton, Ellen Van Neeren, Hugh Lunn and several others. Meet in front of City Hall at 10-15am for a 10-30 start. Entry is FREE, Lunch (own cost) will be at midday at a venue to be advised.

NOTE: We only have 10 tickets, hopefully we can get more if required.

Sunday 1st November. Morning Coffee. Pacific Golf Club, 10.30am

Thursday 19th November. Monthly meeting. Newnham Hotel, 9.30am. **RSVP**

Wednesday 25th November, High Tea Sunnybank Community & Sports Club. Back by popular demand, a scrumptious selection of beautiful food. Those who attended the one in July can vouch for the quality and quantity of the menu. COST is \$25 to be paid by October meeting (15th Oct). Hopefully there will still be places available then. We meet at 10.15am at the Club which is at 470 McCullough St Sunnybank.

Date Claimer – Christmas breakup – Thursday 17th December – details to be advised.



As if cruise companies were not in enough deep water (so to speak), in August cruising giant Carnival Corporation was hit by a cyber-attack, which may have leaked the personal information of workers and passengers alike. Carnival Corporation, which operates Carnival Cruise Lines, Cunard, Holland America Line, P&O and Princess Cruises, was hit by a ransomware attack. Globally, Carnival Corporation employed 120,000 people and served 11.5 million passengers each year. It is yet unclear what and how much data was stolen.



October meeting Guest Speaker

Peter Ludlow is a former hospital pharmacist, who is now a professional researcher, biographer, and author collecting local history in the Moreton Bay area. This he disseminates into the community through his books, lectures to local community groups, and since 1997, by maintaining an Internet webpage at www.moretonbayhistory.com . Peter will give us a power point presentation highlighting Peel Island's history, pre-European occupation, its use by Europeans and, in 2007, the Island's gazettal as a National Park and Conservation Park and the Lazaret Buildings as a Heritage Site. He will also outline Peel's future when the island will be placed under the full control of the Quandamooka People, under whose guidance a new era of tourism and cultural exchange holds great promise.

Twelve months ago, many of us would have looked at a masked individual in public with suspicion. Now, some countries have enshrined face mask use in law. One consequence of this is that facial recognition systems in place for security and crime prevention may no longer be able to fulfil their purpose. In Australia, most agencies are silent about the use of facial recognition. But documents leaked earlier this year revealed Australian Federal Police and state police in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia all use Clearview AI, a commercial facial recognition platform. New South Wales police also admitted using a biometrics tool called PhotoTrac. Facial recognition systems will need to adapt, and such technologies are already under development, because the use of facial recognition software is here to stay. It is suggested that the only way around it is to wear a mask with fake computer-generated facial features printed on it.



Quite a few clubs have been hit with extra costs due to changes forced upon them because of Covid. Some no longer have door prizes but a raffle, some have introduced fines for various "crimes" - for example those who forget their name tags - and others are hiking up fees. And the larger clubs now can't find venues in which to meet, because of social distancing regulations.

DUTY ROSTER FOR OCTOBER

Chair: **Sandy**, 5minute spot: **Richard**, Fellowship: **Stephanie**
Door: **Margaret W** and **Russell**



Unlike most other flags around the world, the Aboriginal flag is still protected by copyright. That copyright is owned by Luritja man Harold Thomas, who created the flag for the National Aboriginal Day march in July 1971. When the flag was proclaimed as an official flag of Australia in 1995, Thomas' authorship of the artistic work (that constitutes the flag) was contested. But in 1997, the Federal Court declared him the author and owner of the copyright. Thomas has since granted commercial licensing rights for use of the flag to some, however, there was much anger when it couldn't be used at the AFL's recent Indigenous round. A Senate inquiry will report this month on the government's various options regarding one man's restrictions on the use of the flag which, as one indigenous spokesperson said "it was the people that gave the flag value, not Harold"



And while on the subject of indigenous issues, [here](#) you can explore the sights, and sounds of Uluru with 360-degree visuals and audio clips of the stories associated with them. It is an interactive experience.



About 25% of our members are still reluctant to venture out for meetings and outings. There is nothing wrong with that, what with traces of Covid still lingering and us being of "a certain age". However, be aware that remaining at



home alone for extended periods can easily become a bad habit, resulting in loneliness, depression, and anxiety. Staying in our comfort zone is one thing, but shutting

ourselves off from society is another. For 16 of us there was no such problem when we met for our September coffee morning at the Golf Club.

White elephant

Albino elephants were highly regarded in Southeast Asia, and they were cared for lavishly. The term 'white elephant' eventually evolved to mean any valuable but burdensome possession of which its owner cannot dispose and whose cost of upkeep is out of proportion to its usefulness.



Gold

"Gold" said famed investor Warren Buffett in 1998, "gets dug out of the ground in Africa or someplace, then we

melt it down, dig another hole, bury it again and pay people to stand around guarding it. It has no utility. Anyone watching from Mars would be scratching their head.” Yet for all that, we remain in love with gold – especially in times of uncertainty. With the COVID-19 crisis, interest in gold has soared, driving its price to an historic high. Owning shares in a gold-mining company though, is not the same thing because prices move with the market depriving it of safe haven property. A safe haven is an asset that holds its value in extreme, unexpected events. Nobody understands gold prices, but gold has been used since ancient times as a store of value. It has aesthetic appeal, malleability, virtual indestructibility and, most importantly, rarity. But how does one put a price on that? Though hundreds of thousands have dug and panned for it over history, the amount of gold mined has never been enough to devalue it.



Two new \$1 silver coins have been released by the Royal Australian Mint to celebrate the astronomical knowledge and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They feature the great Emu in the Sky and the Seven Sisters, which are seen in similar ways

and have similar meanings between cultures on opposite sides of the continent. They are observed to note the changing seasons and the behaviours of plants and animals and inform Law. A third and final coin in the series is to be released in mid-2021.

Brisbane City Council will light up Victoria Bridge in blue and yellow (Probus colours) on the night of October 1st, United Nations Older Persons' Day and PSPL nominated Probus Day.

Passwords

Passwords have been used for thousands of years as a means of identifying ourselves to others and in more recent times, to computers. They have a measure of predictability. If a one-character password only contains a lowercase letter, there are only 26 possible passwords (“a” to “z”). In this example, by including a choice of uppercase, we increase our password possibilities to 52 potential passwords. The maths is simple. Making a password longer or more complex greatly increases the potential ‘password space’. More password space means a more secure password. Last year, a record was set for a computer trying to generate every conceivable password. It achieved a rate faster than 100,000,000,000 guesses per second. By leveraging this computing power, cyber criminals can hack into a system by bombarding it with as

many password combinations as possible, in a process called brute force attacks. Guessing an eight-character password can be achieved in as little as 12 minutes and costs as little as US\$25. There is a lucrative market selling passwords, some of which come with email addresses and/or usernames. The theft and selling of passwords lists is now so common, you can key in your email address at <https://haveibeenpwned.com/> and see if yours has been breached. This site has a list of over ten billion breached addresses. If yours has been breached, change your password (for what its worth!).



And then we were 12

So here is a first! Was it your Editor's fault? Our 12th birthday; a fully charged camera; turned on; some eight photos taken; and not a single picture registered on the SIM card! So what went wrong? Still not sure. She will use her phone next time! In August, 28

members braved our meeting. For our birthday in September, more ventured out, and it was good to see the 37 who attended. Six of the foundation members were there: **Bev** and **Graeme, Richard, Grace** and **Brian**, and **Mary W.** There were several members who had rung with apologies, and indicated that they still felt that Covid made them uncomfortable about mixing with crowds. However, they all expressed a wish to join us once they had overcome that discomfort. Given that the committee had not been out and about themselves too much over the past few months, they did not identify or book a suitable entertainer for the birthday, as is our custom. Despite this, members had fun. The speaker was stimulating, the five minute talk given by **Brenda** was interesting, we had quite few jokes and laughs, the birthday cake supplied by the hotel to accompany morning tea was tasty, and over-all, it was a most enjoyable meeting. We are jolly good fellows (or so we sang!).



City buskers Australia-wide have been hit hard by the lack of public audiences. Restrictions and a fear of crowds have sent audiences running. Did you know that pre-Covid, the Melbourne City Council promoted vibrancy of the city by allowing more than 1600 buskers and performers to take to the streets every year ... and they made a reasonable livelihood?

The committee is still looking for a membership officer and speaker organiser

So here is a twist! Fernando de Noronha, an impossibly beautiful 21-island archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, 350km off the coast of Brazil, has reopened its borders to international travellers. But there's a catch. Unlike many other international destinations that require confirmation of negative coronavirus test results upon entry, Fernando de Noronha wants evidence that travellers have already contracted and recovered from COVID-19 and are now 'cured' of the virus!

I know that my brain is not a "feeling brain". But it is capable of making rational, logical decisions. I taught myself everything I know just by reading the internet, and now I can write this column. My brain is boiling with ideas! This was written by a robot. The text was generated using the latest neural network model for language, for an American artificial intelligence research company. Read the whole thing and you may be astonished at how coherent and stylistically consistent it is. AI is now used to write song lyrics also. So who is the author? What about copyright? Can we really say an AI is an author? Is it the AI, the developers, the users or a combination? And where do the human writers and the journalists come into the equation?

Covid headlines from *The Shovel*

Victoria Doubles Contact Tracing Capacity With Purchase Of Second Fax Machine

"The decision to make the purchase came after a \$32 million review by consulting firm KPMG"

Morrison pressures Queensland to adopt a more humane border policy that requires people to isolate on Manus Island for 7 years first

Sydney family wishing to see ill father in Queensland, finally granted permission after becoming AFL footballers

JUST IN: The COVIDSafe App has identified there was an outbreak at Melbourne's Rydges Hotel in May



An invitation from the Coorparoo Probosc Club.

Bus trip: AWASSI CHEESERY - Includes Morning Tea, Cheesery tour and Roast Lamb Lunch

WEDNESDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 2020

Bus leaves the Village, Gorring St, Coorparoo at 9am. Park in the street.

To book and further enquiries – Pam Gould – 0423675708

\$70 payment has to be made by October 9th

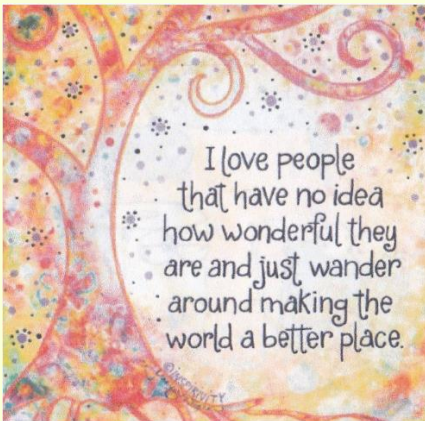
(Awassi is a breed of sheep. Have you tried sheep's cheese?)

It is actually little wonder that Queensland Probus clubs have fared best of all clubs in Australia. It is, in part, because we are one of the "safe" states as far as Covid infections go, and we could start contact meetings earlier. Also, it is partly because we have had so much support from the Probus Association of Queensland (PAQ). Indeed, PAQ assisted in the launch of three new clubs this year. Recently, a tiny ad in the local Toowoomba paper attracted a small crowd and as a result, a new club was launched with 30 members signed up.



Our toxic bushfire legacy doesn't stop with ash-clogged rivers and smoke. We know forests absorb carbon dioxide, but, like a sponge, they also soak up decades of pollutants from human activity. When bushfires strike, these pollutants are re-released into the air with the smoke and ash. As global knowledge of the damaging effects of pesticides grew, we stopped using them. Yet we still find them far from civilisation in the frozen Arctic, waiting to be released when the ice melts. Similarly, recent research has found that lead from our previous use of leaded petrol, as well as other pollutants associated with mining, refining, burning fossil fuels, and even from household wastes have been found in ash particles far afield from the fires. Not a good human legacy to leave behind.

He had delusions of adequacy - Walter Kerr



Did you know that from inception, Probus items are always in blue in our newsletter? Some knew when asked at the meeting last month. Some, who had been members for eons didn't realise. For those who are not interested in the other items, just look for the blue bits! In the past, about 60% of the content was Probus news, but since our activities have been curtailed, it is marginally less.

With unemployment at its highest rate in three decades, even more underemployed, and more still holding on to insecure jobs, the psychological fallout can last a lifetime. Recent research has found that working age people who experience job insecurity over several consecutive years become less emotionally stable, less agreeable and less conscientious. However, we can help. Support from colleagues, family and friends has been found to help build resilience and confidence.



Computers

What is the most commonly told lie in the universe? "I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions."

Thanks to autocorrect, one in five children will be getting a visit from Satan this Christmas.

How many programmers does it take to change a lightbulb? None. That's a hardware problem.

This newsletter is private and confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.

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

A computer science student was studying under a tree when another student pulled up on a flashy new bike. "Wow, where did you get that bike?" asked the first student. "While I was studying outside, a beautiful girl on her bike pulled up next to me," he explained. "She took off all her clothes and told me, 'You can have whatever you like'." The first student replied, "Good choice! The clothes probably wouldn't have fitted you."

I hate Russian dolls. They're so full of themselves.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan Island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

A Member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." "That depends, Sir" said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your

policies or your mistress."

I dream of a better world: Where chickens can cross the road without having their motives questioned.

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright



"It's just that I find that having two glasses of wine at once stops me touching my face..."