

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!

Mary's Musings

I really could get used to this - the delight of inducting more new members! This time it was Charlie's turn. The UK's loss is our gain! Welcome and enjoy. While in the last three months we have gained six new members, we have said goodbye to six who are not renewing - none because of disillusionment, all because of lifestyle changes. However, we had a great turn-out at our last meeting! Most we had in a long while!

I am currently riding the membership drive horse, and reported in the body of the newsletter is what we are doing to expend the \$1000 grant from Stockland. To that end, I sincerely thank those members who volunteered to help with the distribution of leaflets and to the sub-committee working in the background.

I cannot emphasise more the importance of all members introducing the club to their friends. Although we welcome members of all ages, younger retirees will reduce our club's average age, and in turn increase its longevity. I visited a club a while back, and was introduced to a member whose parent (90+) was also a member of the same club. I shudder to think that some of us are getting old enough that our kids qualify to be Probians, but hey, that's life!

Of course, retaining the members we have is also key to ensuring the long-term survival of our club. We haven't done too badly over the years, given the age group of our membership, where attrition is inevitable. But you can help retention by caring for our newer members who are unfamiliar with Probus: explaining how we do things and ensuring that they are comfortable with us from the word go. As with all clubs, we have some cliques, but fortunately they are low-key and are happy to be inclusive, so move over and make room for new members to sit amongst you or visit with them during morning tea.

If you have any ideas about membership promotion and retention, put them on paper and drop them into IDA, the suggestion box.

Rug up time and I dislike the cold, but for some, our Brisbane winter is almost like their summer. In reality, our days are comparatively mild and sunny. So smile! ☺ We live in the lucky country in more ways than one.

Take care,

Mary W.

ODD SPOT

In March this year, a Connecticut man bought the small porcelain bowl (pictured) for \$35, then asked Sotheby's experts to appraise it. They valued the Ming dynasty piece at up to \$500,000, and it sold for \$721,800.



Activities

JULY 2021

Thursday 1st Tour St John's Cathedral, 149 Elizabeth Street @ 10.15 for 10.30am tour (1 hr) to Riverside stop on City Loop bus route. (Runs every 10 minutes.) and stop on Wharf Street and walk to St John's Cathedral, 373 Ann Street. Time for walk through Cathedral and visit to Cathedral Shop if desired. Bus stop in Wharf Street and catch City Loop bus to King George Square. Lunch at Sage on Ann, 140 Ann Street. **NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE.**

**CANCELLED BY CATHEDRAL
DUE TO COVID**

Sunday 4th Coffee & Chat 10.30am at Pacific Golf Club

Tuesday 13th Christmas in July at Secrets on the Lake at 207 Narrows Road, Montville at 12 noon. Cost for 2 course meal \$37.50 per person. Coffee/Tea and drinks at own cost. Car-pooling. **To be paid by the end of June or at the June meeting.**

Wednesday 14th CANCELLED! NO monthly lunch at Club Southside (because of the lunch the day before).

Thursday 15th Club meeting 9.30am at Newnham Hotel

Sunday 18th Walking group. Location TBA. Lynne will be leading this month.

Thursday 22nd Morning tea and tour of Ormiston House, 10 am 277 Wellington Street, Ormiston. Cost is \$10 per person including morning tea; run by volunteers. **To be paid by July meeting. Contact Brenda.**

AUGUST 2021

Sunday 1st Coffee & Chat 10.30am Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 11th Coffee and/or lunch 11.30am at Club Southside

Sunday 15th Walking Group Location TBA

Thursday 19th Club meeting Newnham Hotel 9.00am for 9.30am. Club's 13th birthday celebrations and we have organised a guest artist to entertain us, so wear your dancing shoes!

Thursday 26th GOMA (Gallery of Modern Art) at Stanley Place, South Brisbane. 10.15am. Self-guided tour of the European Masterpieces from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Exhibition cost is \$23 per person. The tour takes approximately 1.5 hours, and we will have lunch at a local café afterwards.

SEPTEMBER 2021

***Sunday 5 NO COFFEE AND CHAT (Father's Day)**

Wednesday 8th Lunch 11.30am at Club Southside

***Sunday 12th Coffee & Chat 10.30am Pacific Golf Club**

POSTPONED

to

Wednesday 15th MUSICAL MELODIES – Pirates, Pinafores, Mikado - at the Redlands Performing Arts Complex, Cleveland at 11.00 am. Bookings are closed but there were 12 seats available on-line on 16 June if you wish to go.

Thursday 16th Club meeting Newnham Hotel 9.00 for 9.30am.

Sunday 19th Walking Group Location TBA

Thursday 23rd WHALE WATCHING From the Redcliffe Jetty on the "Eye Spy"; boarding from 9.00am for a 10.00am departure. Tour is 4.5-5 hours long and includes a gourmet lunch box for each person. The boat is suitable for people with mobility issues. Car-pooling will be available if you need a lift.

COST - \$125 per person **payable at the August meeting.**

DATE CLAIMER

OCTOBER 2021

Thursday 21st Club meeting at Newnham Hotel Creative Arts/Craft

Exhibition for **PROBUS DAY** will be part of our monthly meeting. Many of our members have talents in the arts and crafts, and we would like them to bring a sample of their work to display so we can all appreciate their aptitude. Those who wish to, may comment briefly on their exhibit.



Evidence of declining fertility in humans and wildlife is growing. While chemicals in our environment have been identified as a major cause, new research shows there's another looming threat to animal fertility: climate

change. We know animals can die when temperatures rise to extremes they cannot endure. However, research suggests males of some species can become infertile even at less extreme temperatures. This means the distribution of species may be limited by the temperatures at which they can reproduce, rather than the temperatures at which they can survive. These findings are important, because they mean we may be underestimating the impacts of climate change on animals – and failing to identify the species most likely to become extinct. In many beetle and bee species, fertilisation success drops sharply at high temperatures. High temperatures have also been shown to affect fertilisation or sperm count in cows, pigs, fish and birds. With global warming, Earth may be heading for far more species extinctions than previously anticipated.



The Emu, the Cassowary and the Ostrich are three giant prehistoric birds wandering the planet. The first two of these dinosaurs reside in Australia and, strangely, are never likely to meet. The cassowary, weighing in at up to 80kg, lives in the tropical forests



of the far north and its diet is forest fruits. The emu, which eats almost anything, weighs in at around 40kg and races around the southern part of Oz at anything up to 50kmph. Around 6,000 years ago, different rainfall patterns meant emus probably occurred further north along Australia's eastern coast, and they may have met. In both cases, they breed in winter, and dad rears the chicks, which they fiercely defend.

We have been contacted by the Council on Ageing which offered us posters and brochures and other literature about its Older Person's Covid-19 support line. It was explained to them that our members are quite capable of accessing the hot line or other Department of Health information on line, so we have no need of its literature. However, if anyone wishes to contact its Covid-19 support services, they can do so by calling 1800171866.



It is now 13 years since the then PM, Kevin Rudd, said "sorry" to our Stolen Generation for the racist policies that caused unspeakable harm to our indigenous communities. Yet many families are being repeatedly traumatised by contemporary child removal practices. Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander children are nearly 10 times more likely than non-indigenous children to be in out-of-home care. Yes, we have a problem and yes, indigenous children have a right to be kept safe and free from harm. However, removing them from their families has been proven to have devastating consequences. They are vulnerable to a lifetime of grief and loss, shattered identities, poor health outcomes and intergenerational trauma. It is time our policymakers made connections with indigenous elders and developed responsive regulation in which the child protection authority takes into account the cultures, behaviours and environments of the people they are regulating. The principles of responsive regulation and those developed by the Elders offer a counter-balance to the current types of formula and rigid approaches of child protection services designed for Europeans.

Do you get your copy of *Active Retirees* and the *Queensland Probian* each quarter? They are free and one of your member benefits. The former can be subscribed to directly from the Probus South Pacific web site. The latter can be downloaded from the Probus Association's web site, but you should receive it as a matter of course when it is sent to the Secretary. (She has had her emails fixed, so you will no longer get multiple copies).



Did you know that the decision to cancel the Olympics lies unilaterally with the International Olympic Committee (IOC)? It seems extraordinary that a private entity such as the IOC can wield such

influence in a sovereign state faced with a severe public health challenge. Polls indicate the Japanese public do not want the event to go ahead, and while Japan stands to lose ¥1.81 trillion (A\$21.3 billion), if it is cancelled, the economic loss would still be smaller than the costs associated with a nationwide post-Olympics state of emergency. The head of the Japan Doctors Union has even suggested the Olympics might prompt the mutation of a new COVID variant. And how do the Japanese politicians feel? Effectively, their hands are tied not only because of traditional political rigidity, but because of the host city contract signed between the IOC and Tokyo in 2013. If Tokyo walks away it would not only bear the costs for the preparations to date, but would also remain obliged to indemnify the IOC from any third-party claims, and it would need to PAY the IOC big time! The contract is absolutely skewed in the IOC's favour and the IOC is not prone to succumb to the duty of (health) care pressures upon it. It is mostly indemnified by the disclaimers athletes need to sign that they attend at their own risk. If the IOC cancels the games, the insurance industry will have the largest global event claim in history, estimated at between A\$2.5-3.8 billion.

PSPL is working on an agreement with Allianz to provide travel insurance tailored especially for Probiants.



Amazingly, about 500,000 Australian species are undiscovered – and scientists are on a 25-year mission to finish the job. Taxonomists in Australia name an average 1,000 new species each year. At that rate, it will take at least 400-500 years to complete a stocktake of Australia's

biodiversity. Biologically, we are one of the richest and most diverse nations on Earth – between 7% and 10% of all species occur here. We also have among the world's highest rates of species discovery. But our understanding of biodiversity is still very, very incomplete. Our First Nations peoples discovered, named and classified many species but we have no ready way yet to compare their knowledge with Western taxonomy. So why does all this matter? Many undiscovered species are crucial in maintaining a sustainable environment for us all and it is likely some are already or near extinct. Identifying species will bring benefits in biosecurity, medicine, conservation and agriculture and the economy. With the right people, technologies and investment, we could discover all Australian species by 2050.



There was a very small turn-out at the last coffee morning. When asked, many members just forgot, because there was no reminder when the newsletter was distributed. And then, there was an activity on the same afternoon, but that didn't stop some attending both.

My wife shouted at me this morning for not opening the car door for her. I would have, but I was too busy swimming to the surface.



Something fishy here: It was much more than "cockles and mussels" when a group of 17 members ventured out on a fine May Thursday to sample the piscatorial delights on offer at The Fish Factory at Morningside. No – they don't manufacture fish there. The Fish Factory is Brisbane's premier seafood providore specializing in fresh and cooked seafood products, sourcing and stocking a

wide range of sustainably-caught Aussie and NZ seafood. The group dined in the casual restaurant attached to the fresh seafood market. Recently renovated, The Fish Factory boasts of being one of Brisbane's largest seafood markets, as well as the oldest. The complex is complemented by a busy takeaway and a sushi bar. Open to the public seven days a week, customers are spoiled for choice with a bounty of succulent fresh seafood on display. The main difficulty on the day was what to choose – from Tassie salmon, goldband snapper, barramundi, sea perch or whiting to the signature seafood platter piled with king prawns, Moreton bay bugs, oysters Kilpatrick, coconut battered prawns, panko crumbed barramundi fish fingers, calamari, scallops, mussels and more – even seafood chowder or spaghetti marinara. To wash all this down, there was the choice of craft beer on tap plus wine. Desserts (while limited) and coffee were available for those with large appetites. After lunch, a stroll through the fish market was an education with an array of different species of fresh seafood on display – whole or filleted. In the freezer could be found myriad other delicacies - kangaroo and plum spring rolls, marinated octopus from Japan, pippis from S.A. just to name a few. Then, we swam our way home. Should we revisit? YES!!!

ABSOLUTELY!!!!

Grace

Duty Roster for July

Chair: **George**, 5 Minute Spot: **Bill**, Fellowship: **Maggie and Marilyn**,
Door: **Rosslyn and Ron**.



China scrapped its decades-old one-child policy in 2016, allowing a two-child limit which has failed to lead to a sustained upsurge in births, and now the new three-child policy has been just as unpopular. Census figures in China indicate that there will be over 300

million people aged 60 and above by 2025. Young adults are expected to work far longer hours than their predecessors and overtime and extended working hours are endemic in most of China. Also, along with the aging population comes a shrinking labour force. Further, it is expensive to raise and educate children in China, so only the more affluent will be tempted to have three children. It looks like the Chinese Government will need to offer a few valuable incentives to get the younger generation to feel clucky.



Last month, a new Aussie dinosaur was welcomed into the fold. It was huge - a massive long-necked titanosaurian sauropod estimated to have reached 25–30 metres in length and 5–6.5m in height. Weighing the equivalent of 1,400 red kangaroos, it lived in southwest Queensland some 92–96 million

years ago, when Australia was attached to Antarctica. Finding dinosaurs in outback Queensland, is difficult because dinosaur sites are featureless plains. It is unlike overseas sites because there, mountain ranges, and deep canyons are exposed and even flat terrain is heavily-eroded.

July speaker: The speaker this month will be **Ian Lynas** who will tell us about the 100 year history of Brisbane's bus service. In 1919, the BBC had the Brisbane Tramways Trust, the City Council Department of Tramways in 1925, and in 1995 it became Brisbane Transport when buses started being used. However, soon trolleybuses and trams took over, and with the introduction of CityXpress in 1982, we went back to buses. The advent of Expo coupled with Brisbane's development created yet more progress resulting in what now amounts to one of Australia's best BUZZ services. Also covered will be the City Council's impressive innovation in building new buses and its impressive co-operation with private companies, resulting in the creation of TRANSLink.



There will be many food items affected by climate change in the not too distant future. For example, Arabica coffee beans do not fare well in high heat. Wheat accounts for around 20 per cent of all calories consumed by humans but forecasters say that droughts will affect 60% of the world's wheat growing areas.

While maple syrup (pictured) may not be a staple here as it is in Canada, it is regulated by 'freezing and thawing cycles' in late winter, and temperature changes are already causing problems. Rising water temperature threatens all manner of marine species including edible fish stocks. Chocoholics will tell you it's essential for happiness, but without any increase in rainfall, heat will easily squeeze essential moisture out of cacao trees. Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Noir, and Cabernet Sauvignon are all potentially endangered with temperature increases. Indeed, wine grapes are described as "the canary in the coal mine" for climate change. Enjoy the goodies while you can!



Bdelloid rotifers, which are microscopic animals found in freshwater environments, can survive through freezing, drying, starvation and low oxygen conditions. Previously, scientists thought they could survive frozen for up to 10 years. However, recently, in the Siberian tundra, it was discovered that this animal came back to life and could reproduce, after some 24,000 years locked in permafrost in one of the coldest regions on the planet. Scientists believe this could offer clues on how to preserve cells, tissues and organs.

Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.

Grant update: We are in receipt of the \$1000 marketing grant from Stockland and plans are well advanced to print and distribute brochures, not only with members' help but with the use of a distribution company. This month, local council, state and federal Members are being asked to insert an item in their blogs and Facebook pages, and we have contact with one of the community radio stations which will also publicise our meetings. The *Queensland Probian* will print an article as well, and we have already introduced a free first visit for prospective members to encourage you to invite guests. Other marketing options are still being explored.



The black swan is an Australian native and an icon. The official emblem of Western Australia, it is also the namesake for Perth's Swan River, where the British established the Swan River Colony in 1829. Not only is the black swan important for many Aboriginal people, it was also a potent symbol within the European imagination — 1500 years before Europeans even knew it existed. Right now, the breeding season of the black swan is in full swing. Many centuries ago in Europe the black swan was an adynaton - a figure of speech for something absurd or preposterous — like pigs flying, or getting blood from a stone. It was so,

because Europeans assumed, based on their observations, that all swans were white. Here, black swans are significant totems for many Aboriginal people and incorporated within songlines and constellations. There are many different songs about the swans losing their (white) feathers to eagles and the crows showering them with black ones. This contrasts starkly with the European assumption that, having never seen a black swan, they couldn't possibly exist.

Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering.



Kapow! Zap! Splat! When we read comics, we 'hear' sound on the page. Creators are experts at this cross-sensory form of storytelling – indeed one on-line database lists over 2500 comic book sounds.

Fundamental elements such as symbols, font styles and onomatopoeia mean reading comics is a cross-sensory experience. *Pow! Bam! Bang!* The language of comics offers creative freedom to expand the aural lexicon. Visual context is important too. *Ew!* What does it mean without the visual of something disgusting? Next time you read a comic book, make sure you "listen" to the sounds carefully. **KABOOM!**



A group of us Probiants enjoyed a wonderful early evening of musical history of Country and Opera music, cleverly morphed by Opera Queensland. It featured a cast of three of Australia's finest young multidisciplinary singers: Irena Iysuik, Markus Corowa and Jonathan Hickey. In the first half of the show we were given a brief but fascinating history of how music developed and spread across the globe. A strange combination; Opera and Country. But as they said, "good music is good music" no matter what the genre, and it really worked. They celebrated the music, featuring arias and songs by Puccini, Verdi, Slim Dusty, Troy Cassar-Daley and Dolly Parton to name just a few. It was amazing how the singers could change their vocal sounds from country twang to classical opera. Another Gold Star Probus outing.

Charlie

It is only \$67 million over seven years, a paltry amount in the context of federal budgets. That is what the National Archives is asking, in order for it to maintain our history and to save film and magnetic tape recordings from disintegration. Some commentators have seen the failure to provide the archives with emergency funds as a skirmish in the culture wars along with the government's apparent hostility to universities, its increase in fees for humanities degrees and its parsimonious treatment of

the arts. As one open letter to the attorney-general's department says, the National Archives' "most important users have not yet been born", and we do not know what questions they will want to ask. A memory bank of Australian life in the past should be as full and rich as possible.



Peatlands worldwide are running short of water, and the amount of greenhouse gases this could set loose would be devastating for our efforts to curb climate change. Peatlands, such as fens, bogs, marshes and swamps, cover just 3% of the Earth's total land surface, yet store over one-third of the planet's soil carbon. That's more than the carbon stored in all other vegetation combined, including the world's forests. Peatlands are characterised by having water-logged soil filled with very slowly decaying plant material (the "peat") that accumulated over tens of thousands of years, preserved by the low-oxygen environment. Some peatlands are also a natural source of methane, a potent greenhouse gas with the warming potential up to 100 times stronger than carbon dioxide. Without peatland restoration projects, the equivalent of 860 million tonnes of carbon dioxide could be released into the atmosphere every year by 2100. While most peatlands are in the Northern hemisphere, we have them in the Snowy Mountains, the Tasmanian highlands and a few small ones dotted around the rest of Australia.

Members are reminded that it is a requirement for them to use the Qld Covid Check In app and scan the QR code when attending meetings.



Have you ever noticed that fruit kept in a bowl ripens faster than individual pieces of fruit? This is because fruit emit ethylene which speeds up ripening, particularly if there is not good airflow between the fruit. This can be used to advantage, by placing less ripe fruit at the bottom of the bowl, if you wish to speed up their ripening process. Conversely, some fruits can get stuck at the bottom of fruit bowls and they ripen much quicker, and go off much quicker. Temperature plays a part also and, generally, tropical fruit don't like being refrigerated. Also, don't wash fruit in advance. Wash it just before you eat it, because stored wet or damp it can grow mould faster.

Anyone for Tennis? Judy H is looking for a fourth for her tennis group. If interested, please call her.

Did you know that Tasmania has reached net-zero emissions and 100% renewables?



It is not often that our guest speaker is one of our own. It obviously wasn't a dull life for Richard M. when he was younger. He sailed the oceans of most of the world and over a couple of years, had adventures most of us would never encounter. Thanks for your talk RM - had us enthralled.



Spider webs are covering Gippsland in Victoria following the floods. It seems they are using the



webs as highways instead of the boggy soil. They normally live in holes in the ground and under leaf litter. This mass evacuation of spiders, and associated blankets of silk, is not a localised thing. It is seen in other parts of Australia and around the world after flooding.

PAQ Bowls Day and BBQ, hosted by the Probus Club of Chermside, will be at Geebung, on Friday, October 8th. For more details call Richard Mason 0431977864.

Right: Charlie has finally been inducted! We see him here, we see him there, we see him everywhere! He and Pam have been great supporters of our activities over the past few months. Welcome Charlie and keep enjoying what we have on offer.



Have you heard of "smart bullies" in universities? They are intellectual battlefield characterised by vitriolic attacks, sarcastic innuendo and intellectual one-upmanship. Ideological convictions spill over into personal attacks, creating a fractured and toxic work environment.

From the Probus Global newsletter: *My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, "Throw this and wherever it lands, that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends." Turns out, we are spending two weeks behind the fridge.*

2021-22 Committee

President: Mary W

Vice President: Margaret O'D

Immediate Past President: Jill

Secretary: Barbara

Treasurer: Ron

Activities: Jill and Brenda

Membership: Bill

Welfare: Lynne

Speaker organiser: David (not on the committee)

My wife is blaming me for
ruining her Birthday
That's ridiculous, I didn't
even know it was her
Birthday

Aussies vs Kiwis

An Aussie and a Kiwi are having a beer on the deck one afternoon. After a while the Aussie asks the Kiwi: "If I snuck over to your house while you were at work, made passionate love to your wife and she had a baby, would that make us related?" The Kiwi considers that for a moment, then replies: "Well, I'm not sure about related, but it would definitely make us even!"

A Kiwi took a flight to Australia. At customs, the official asked him: "Do you have a criminal record?" To which he replied: "Oh! I didn't think we needed those to get in, only for free flights out!"

An Aussie bloke is having a quiet drink in a bar and leans over to the big guy next to him and says, "Do you wanna hear a Kiwi joke?" The big guy replies, 'Well mate, before you tell that joke, you should know something. I'm 1.90m tall, 125 kg and I played as a forward for the All Blacks.'" "The guy next to me is 1.85m, weighs 115 kg and he's an ex-All Black lock." "Next to him is a bloke who is 2m tall, weighs 120 kg and he's a current All Black second rower. Now do you still want to tell that Kiwi joke?" The Aussie bloke says, "Nah, not if I'm going to have to explain it three times."



GRANDPARENTING

Getting it right the second time around.