

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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September 2021 Issue No.157

The HP Source – It's a

Mary's Musings

Woe is me! No inductions last month ... and I was hoping it would be a monthly pleasure! Be that as it may, we have had six inductions since April and I urge all members to seek out our newer members and get to know them. Since Covid, it has concerned me that we can't stand up and mix and mingle during morning tea as we used to. However, even if we need to be seated, take your food, and commandeer a chair at another table for the duration of the break, and chat to different people. It is one way of mingling.

Welcoming new members takes me back many years when Geoff and I were in the US and we visited a rather large Rotary Club – it had 200+ members at its weekly meetings. Half a dozen were wearing white bibs and on enquiry we were told the following: "We are a big club and new members can get "lost" at our meetings. So we require each new member to wear a bib, every week for three months, to signify that they are the babies of the club and members can identify them and welcome them personally. Also, members are encouraged to sign the bib and it remains a memento for the new member, of the time they joined". Way to go! A nice idea!

I got it wrong! Given it was our birthday last month and we had an entertainer, our August speaker who featured in the last month's newsletter will be speaking this month. Sorry folks!

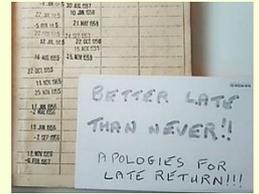
Because of the snap lock-down, we had to cancel our coffee morning last month. I was disappointed because it is one of my favourite Probus activities; intimate (if you can call up to 25 intimate), in pleasant surroundings, with good coffee and company. Don't forget this month's has been postponed for a week because of Father's Day.

My apologies to those few members who are not on email. I returned to producing blogs for members' enjoyment, every two days during lock-down, but it was impractical to send them snail-mail. Early in the pandemic I generated 45 two-page issues, this short lock-down, just three. Hopefully the need won't arise again. Take care,

Mary W.

ODD SPOT

July 23 (UPI) -- A library in England said a book was recently returned in the mail after 63 years, with a note saying, "better late than never" and apologising for the tardiness.



Activities

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

Sunday 5th Brisbane City Pops to **POSTPONED**
Venue to be confirmed. **PAY by August meeting** Cost \$26.00
Cancelled. - see article below

Wednesday 8th Lunch 11.30am at Club Southside

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

Wednesday 15th Musical Melodies at the Redlands Performing Arts Complex, Cleveland at 11.00 am. **Bookings closed.**

Thursday 16th Club meeting Newnham Hotel at 9.30am.

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.

COST - \$125 per person. (Pay **NOW** if you didn't at the last meeting).

OCTOBER 2021

Sunday 3rd Coffee and Chat 10.30am Pacific Golf Club

Thursday 7th Cathedral Tours - Start at St Stephens Cathedral, 149 Elizabeth Street @ 10.15am for 10.30am tour (approx. 1 hour). Catch City Loop Bus to St Johns Cathedral, 373 Ann Street for self-guided tour. City Loop Bus to Sage on Anne for lunch.

Wednesday 13th Coffee and/or lunch 11.30am at Club Southside.

Thursday 21st Club meeting at Newnham Hotel at 9.30am. Bring your creations and exhibit them at the meeting. We are celebrating **PROBUS DAY** by showing off our members' creative bent at our **CREATIVE ARTS & CRAFT EXHIBITION.**

Wednesday 27th High Tea at Sunnybank Community Sports Club at 10.30am. Cost \$25 members \$27 non-members.

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday 7th Coffee and Chat 10.30am Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 10th - Coffee and/or lunch 11.30am at Club Southside.

Tuesday 16th - Tour of Cross River Rail Experience Centre at 10.30am. Level 1, 151A Elizabeth Street. Cost - FREE. Time TBA
Lunch after at a local café.

Thursday 18th - Club meeting at Newnham Hotel at 9.30am.

Wednesday 24th Museum of Brisbane, Brisbane City Hall – Exhibition “City in the Sun”. Cost – FREE. Lunch after at a local café.

Saturday 27th – Brisbane City Pops Orchestra @ 2.00 pm

Church of Christ Community Centre, 41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore. \$26
PAY BY OCTOBER MEETING.



In South Australia and Western Australia, fish and crustaceans are excluded from animal welfare legislation. Queensland and Tasmania also exclude crustaceans from the definition of an animal. The United Kingdom parliament is currently debating a bill that would establish an "animal sentience" committee, which would increase welfare protections for fish and invertebrates. Does it hurt a crab to be boiled alive? Is a fish's response to a hook, pain or involuntary reflex (much like you pulling your hand away from the hot stove)? Science has not yet settled this debate, but numerous studies have shown fish will rapidly change their behaviour following exposure to what we would regard as a painful experience. Giving fish analgesics that work on humans has also been shown to alter their "pain" and fear response. It is less clear with crustaceans because they have vastly different nervous systems to vertebrates. However, crustaceans avoid objects that administered an electric shock in lab scenarios. So, they process feelings. It's likely that laws regarding the humane treatment of animals will expand as the science progresses. Will it then spread to insects?

September DUTY ROSTER

Chair: **Barbara**; 5 Minute spot: **N/A**; Fellowship: **Maxine and Carmel**, Door: **Pam and Ron**



Well, the Games are over, but when Tokyo bid for the 2020 Olympics a decade ago, Japan's leaders envisioned the games as a way to rebound from the Fukushima nuclear disaster, bolster the economy and reassert the country on the global stage. Today, not only all of these positives were far outweighed by anxiety and fear, but it has also cost the International Olympic Committee dearly in terms of its reputation. Politics, too, intruded on what is officially an apolitical event. Take for example Myanmar swimmer Win Htet Oo. He was denied permission by the IOC to swim as a neutral athlete due to the coup in his country and where the military junta has arrested at least 157 medics, (including the former head of Myanmar's COVID-19 vaccination program) and weaponised the pandemic. As a result he withdrew, because "I shall not march in the

parade of nations under a flag steeped in my people's blood." We cheer Brisbane's win for 1932 now, but who knows what will happen then? It is a leap into the unknown.

Our BCPO outing early this month was cancelled because the asbestos roof repairs at the Schonell theatre were not finished on time, due to unforeseen delays.



Move over, bin chicken/ibis: bin cockies are here, and scientists say they're confirming the cultural intelligence hypothesis. Once a week in a Sydney southern suburb, when the neighbours roll their wheelie bins to the curb, cockies fly over and, with skillful dexterity, open the lids in search of food.

Sulphur-crested cockatoos are copycats. After one solves the lid-flip puzzle, other birds nearby imitate the new foraging behaviour in a stunning display of "social learning". For decades, scientists believed humans were the only animals capable of culture. Now, thanks to the community's observations, we can add parrots to this small (but growing) list, which also includes chimpanzees, humpback whales and New Caledonian crows. From an early age, we copy skills from other children and adults. But this reaffirms that a range of other animals are also culturally complex and adaptable.



Pictured left are Brenda and Mary W distributing our promotional brochures into letter boxes in their village. Most of the brochures though, were distributed by Ron who has a mobility scooter and therefore could travel around the village roads with ease and speed, while having the flyers on board in a basket.

Walking in the footsteps of First Nations peoples provides an alternative to overseas travel and an opportunity to reflect. This kind of tourism is a rare, life-changing experience. There are dozens of walking trails led by indigenous people which trace storied landmarks. For example: In Kaurna Country around Adelaide, there is the story of Tjilbruke. This ancestor was a law man whose nephew Kulultuwi was hunting emu that were forbidden to him. Tjilbruke was prepared to overlook the transgression, but Kulultuwi's half-brothers speared him. Tjilbruke, in mourning, carried the body of his nephew down the coast, stopping to weep at various points where there are now freshwater springs. The story helped perpetuate the knowledge of the position of the springs. Walkers on trails learn how indigenous knowledge is relevant to caring for Country and

teach what each territory is capable of sustaining. It is said to be an eye-opening experience.

So, the September speaker will be Barrie and Una's granddaughter, Mia Percival. It will be refreshing to have someone so young speak to us. Mia has been flying since she was 12 and attained her Recreational Pilot's License at 17. She finished school in Coorparoo last year, and is currently studying Aviation at Griffith University. In 2018 she travelled to NASA in Houston where she saw astronauts training for the next mission to the moon. She will share with us many valuable experiences from the trip, and from the challenges of completing her last year of school during Covid.



The air is much more contaminated than many of us would like to believe. So even if we are isolating from other humans in our homes, we are still breathing in germs all the time. We are still susceptible to the common cold. Most germs don't make us sick, thanks to our incredible immune system, but sometimes viruses do sneak past our defences. There have even been outbreaks of the common cold on Antarctic bases after 17 weeks of complete isolation. It's worth remembering that even during lockdown, many of us still have to go out — for exercise, essential shopping, to seek medical care or for work or compassionate care reasons. Cold viruses can be easily picked up and incubate for many days, so it's possible that even though you or your household members are getting a sniffle now, it was a germ picked up some time ago that has just been biding its time. The best defence is constantly washing your hands and avoiding touching your eyes, mouth and nose.

Did you know the Top End has four Probus Clubs, namely Darwin, Charles Darwin, Palmerston Combined and Marrara. Their nice idea is that they share a common web gateway from which each club can be accessed (although two have not had their sites updated for a couple of years).



Would you believe it? These women in the Norway women's beach handball team were fined \$2000 by the European Handball Federation for not wearing bikini bottoms. [Bet they were all men]. The women were told the shorts, instead of bikini bottoms, were "improper clothing" for the beach! As one member of the Australian beach handball team (Rose Boyd) said *"Could you imagine how many men would be deterred from playing the sport if they were required to wear budgie smugglers? It is so much easier to focus on your performance... when you do not have to worry about whether your bikini bottom has ridden up in an unflattering way... or what angle a*

photographer might be able to capture you on.” Finally, women are forcing the issue of what they wear when playing sport. To date, their uniform style decisions have mostly been forced upon them by men.

Recently there have been instances when names have appeared on the booking sheets for activities, but those who booked, don't turn up. Then sometimes, we get cancellations on the day of the activity or the day before, but we are required to pay for the booked numbers on arrival. Under those circumstances we cannot give refunds. Unfortunately if members have committed, even if they don't need to pay in advance, they still may be asked to pay if we have expended money on their behalf. So PLEASE, if you can't make the activity, give us xreasonable notice. Forgetting to attend as sometimes happens is understandable, but it does not necessarily incur a refund.

Only in America: Eight months after US Presidential election, Arizona County is still auditing votes.



Naomi Osaka is a strong tennis player, a passionate activist, and a mixed-race woman who represents contemporary Japan. At 22, she had the clarity to state that *“people really don't know the difference between nationality and race”*. She is right. Nationality is a form of legal identification specifying our membership to a nation. Race refers to physical appearances, and is often described as a social construct: not determined by scientific fact, but rather by the social meaning. Some call it ethnicity. Naomi, born of a Japanese mother and a Haitian father, was raised in America. Having been a dual national (Japanese/American) she found she had to reluctantly renounce her American citizenship because Japan does not tolerate dual citizenships once a person reaches 22, and she had always played tennis under the Japanese flag. Despite the difference in their meanings, race, nationality and ethnicity are deeply interconnected and dual citizens who need to give up one of their citizenships often suffer because they see it as an intrinsic part of their identity.

Shame! Doesn't anybody ever check our web site? Your President/Editor attempts to update it every month but last time it was done I got it wrong, (again!) and our home page said: Last updated June 2011! Nobody complained, just as nobody complained about my last newsletter stating we have an entertainer for our birthday and then doing the blurb about the speaker! Does anyone read this stuff? – Actually they must, because if I misspell one word it is brought to my attention fairly swiftly. But then, Geoff used to be my proof-reader so you have to forgive me.

World travel? Not quite yet. While the AstraZeneca vaccine is the most widely accepted vaccine, with approval from 119 countries, it doesn't qualify as such if the jab was in Australia or India. This is because they are locally manufactured and therefore not acceptable in many EU countries. The next most accepted vaccine is Pfizer, which will get you into around 90 countries, Russia's Sputnik V gives travellers the key to around 65 countries, and China's CanSinoBio will barely get a toe in the door of a handful. The failure of countries to agree on a common list of all approved and recognised vaccines is of huge concern to the World Travel & Tourism Council. It claims that governments calling for vaccine certification fuels consumer concerns and deters them from booking overseas trips. And then, the ability of vaccinated people to infect others and the risk they pose for further transmission remains unknown.

In the 1500's bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top. Hence the saying some people are "the upper crust".



Our government was not the only one lobbying against the World Heritage Organization declaring a listing (our Great Barrier Reef) as endangered. Venice was put on UNESCO's heritage list in 1987 as an "extraordinary architectural masterpiece". The World Heritage Committee has given Italian authorities until December 2022 to report on their efforts to protect Venice's ecosystem and cultural heritage. Italy's first step to rectify irreparable damage to the lagoon city is to ban, from this month, large cruise ships from entering Venice.

It was good to get back to socialising again, even though the eight-day lockdown was comparatively short. A good number of us enjoyed the monthly lunch at the Southside Club and judging by the fact that we lingered around the table from 11.45 to well after 2pm, members were having an enjoyable time.



Hummingbirds, are the only birds that use both the muscles in their chest and between their shoulders to move their wings. All other land birds use just their chest muscles to fly. However, penguins "fly" though water in a similar way to hummingbirds, using both sets of muscles. Penguins move very fast underwater, especially when they are chasing food such as fish. They keep streamlined, like a torpedo, with their feet close to their body and under their tail, but to change direction,

they use their feet, head and sometimes their tails. If a penguin wants to stop, both its feet come down, its tail comes up and the penguin stops flapping its flippers. They are remarkable animals in that they feed in water but nest and lay their eggs on land.

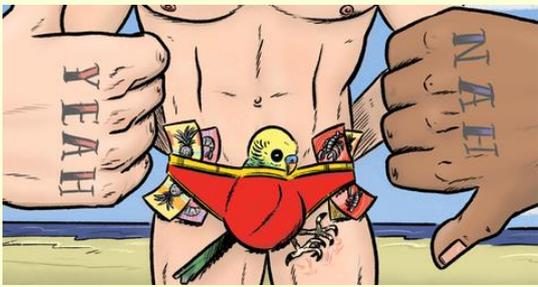
Virtual contact during the pandemic can be more harmful to older people's mental health than no contact at all, according to a new study. The study, published in the journal *Frontiers In Sociology*, examined populations of older people in the US and UK and looked at the relationship between contact methods and mental health during COVID lockdowns. In both countries, more frequent inter-household face-to-face contact during the pandemic was associated with better general mental wellbeing. However, contact by telephone and digital media, had the effect of increasing the feelings of loneliness for older adults. This is in part, because lack of technical knowledge and comfort with digital use can frustrate, and in part because the intangibility of images on a screen end up adding to feelings of isolation rather than alleviating them. Also, many older people were more depressed, and felt unhappy as a direct result of their use of virtual contact.

For those who are interested, PSPL's Annual Report for 2020/2021 is now available to view on line at http://www.probusouthpacific.org/pages/about_pspl_annual_report



Imagine being able to hear the change of Earth's seasons, the effect of climate change on threatened birds, or the southward march of invasive cane toads. Like listening to the heartbeat of the planet, this is exactly the kind of thing researchers in the emerging field of ecoacoustics want to monitor. Ecoacoustics is the study of sounds produced by the environment, ranging from animal calls to the wind and rain, and even human-made sounds like the hum of traffic. Launched in 2019, the [Australian Acoustic Observatory \(A2O\)](#) has now planted hundreds of "ears" in the wild, from Cape York to the red centre, from the lush rivers of Tasmania to the dense forests of Queensland – and even on Cape Barren Island in Bass Strait. A solar powered A20 is pictured above. Experts are looking for "citizen scientists" to help them process the endless hours of recordings being collected. It all started with researchers recording individual species, mainly to understand animal communication — a field often called 'bioacoustics'. But longer battery life, recorders that could be left outdoors, and eventually the advent of cheap storage for data, has all paved the way for ecoacoustics.

Reminder: If you can't use the QR check in app, please get someone else to check you in on arrival at meetings.



Writer C.R Read cautioned in 1853 "that Englishmen going to the Australian digging should search their souls and ask themselves 'if they can stand a little colonial slang'". *Budgie smugglers, or flat out like a lizard drinking* may not be the stuff of great literature and poetry, but they draw on the

same devices: metaphor, irony and features of sound such as alliteration. When was the last time you heard someone say "cobber" or "dinkum"? Yeah, nah. But Ussie slang hasn't *carked it*. Heaps of *grouse* Aussie words have been doing the hard *yakka* for decades. *Mate* is well over 100 years old, even though since the 1930s people have been worrying about its well-being. First it was the arrival of *digger*, then the threat of *buddy* or *pal*. Now we worry *mate* will die at the hands of *dude*. But *mate* gets tagged onto so many favourites like *g'day mate* or *onya mate*. Few staples of *you-beaut Aussie lingo*, such as *snag*, *drongo*, *furphy*, *bogan* are oft used, and some we've even gifted to the rest of the world such as *ratbag* and its offspring *ratbaggery*, and *spitting the dummy*. Shortenings like *mozzie* are also being exported, and let's not forget the global Aussie rock-star - *selfie*. These shortenings are thriving, as any *sparky* or *garbo* could tell you. There are also a few lexical zombies such as *like a Bondi tram*. But, *no worries, mate*. Aussie slang is not getting *the rough end of the pineapple*. It is alive and well.



There are around 15,000 payphones around Australia and Telstra is about to introduce free calls within the country. Last year Australians made 11 million calls on payphones, including more than 230,000 calls to vital services like Triple Zero, despite near universal use of mobile phones.

Last month we had to lodge a report to Stockland about our undertakings for the \$1000 grant we received. At the time, while the brochures were already with the distributors, they had not been distributed, so it was impossible to gauge their effect. However, at least 1000 had been distributed by members in their villages, on their walks, and elsewhere. We have also received reasonable publicity both through publications such as the *Queensland Probian* and blogs and Facebook notes by several local politicians. Given that the flyers are not time sensitive, hopefully people will keep them and consider visiting us in future, if not soon.

How low can you go? [Guardian Australia](#) reports that anti-vax and anti-lockdown groups are sharing a link to a fake check-in app that appears to show they have checked in as required but no data has been registered so no contact tracing is possible if required. The link, which is being

shared through several rebel groups, allows dissenters to enter a store without arguing with the business owner.



With the simple touch of a smartphone, online food delivery services conveniently offer takeaway food straight to your door. Sydney University researchers have found that Australians are spending three times more on online food delivery than before the COVID-19 pandemic. This makes sense especially in lockdown, but data analysed from Uber Eats showed that fast-food chains (Mc Donald's, Subway, Domino's) accounted for 38% of the popular foods ordered in January and February this year. These fast-food chains were all classified in the lowest healthiness category. Independent takeaway stores, such as local kebab shops or fish and chip shops were the second most popular food outlet type (30%). More than 80% of all the menu items were discretionary or "junk" foods, including battered fish or processed chicken schnitzel, and sugary drinks, among others. When marketing food, unhealthy menu items were nearly one-and-a-half times more likely to include a photo, and over six times more likely to be offered as a value bundle compared with healthier items. The time is ripe to shape the online food environment to promote easy access to healthy and nutritious convenience food.

Some of the interstate Probus clubs are amazing. They carry on seamlessly as if lock-downs are par for the course. They have speakers, trivia nights, and other activities over Zoom, and on the off-chance that some of the restrictions are lifted, they pre-plan meetings in park gazebos where being outdoors, they can have meet with larger numbers and can socially distance. While we've had it good, such flexibility is commendable.

What do cyberspace and outer space have in common? A new report to the Department of Defence says both are new challenges for national security. Sovereignty is a legal and political concept. Historically, national jurisdiction was based primarily on geography. However, cyberspace and outer space are not limited by borders in the same way as territorial spaces. The world's dependence on the internet has outpaced efforts at effective cyber security. For every "solution", another threat arises. This can create serious vulnerabilities for defence and national security. Different countries have suggested various approaches to the problem. Added to vulnerabilities created in cyberspace, outer space is no less challenging. The "militarisation" and possible "weaponisation" of space also represent a significant defence and national security challenge for all countries. There is the 1967 Outer Space Treaty with peace in mind, but it is outdated and is made more complex by the increasing interest in

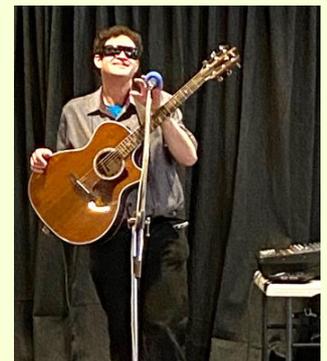
possible future mining in space and the potential rise of space tourism. We will need to understand the increasingly close intersection between cyberspace and outer space technologies to develop effective and integrated defence and national security strategies.

The 6,000-plus islands that make up the Japanese archipelago have a new addition, after scientists said an undersea volcanic eruption 1,200km south of Tokyo had created a new landmass. The new island is crescent-shaped with a diameter of just 1km. But if history is any precedent its presence could prove ephemeral. Much will depend on what it is formed from: ash and other fragments are unlikely to resist a constant battering from waves, but continued volcanic activity could produce lava flows that eventually form a more durable hard shell. Islands formed in a similar way in the area in 1904, 1914 and 1986 all disappeared due to erosion, but Japan's meteorological agency believes the latest eruption will last a while. The island was discovered by Japan's coastguard just a couple of weeks ago.



We were 13! What a good meeting! We were "caked" out! The hotel supplied huge slices of cake and a small quiche for morning tea, and then we had the magnificent cake supplied by Dale. Her decoration was up to her award-winning standard. The sugar roses looked real and we decided to raffle them! Carmel won the raffle, and she has a family function

looming where she has been charged with making the cake. So the "roses" won't go to waste! And then, we had Steve Sparrow entertain us with his pleasant voice and toe-tapping music. Certainly a change from having a speaker, but a good one for a celebration.



The federal health department says cloth masks are "significantly less efficient than surgical masks". It says their effectiveness in blocking respiratory droplets varies depending on the weave and the number of layers, (two to three layers are essential), and while the latter should be washed daily, the more they are washed, the less effective they are. Single use surgical masks are the best, with the N95 masks being the gold standard.

2021-22 Committee

President: Mary W

Vice President: Margaret O'D

Immediate Past President: Jill

Secretary: Barbara

Treasurer: Ron

Activities: Lynne and Brenda

Membership: Bill

Welfare: Lynne

Newsletter: Mary W

Speaker organiser: David (not on the committee)

You think it is bad now? In 25 years the country will be run by people who were homeschooled by alcoholics!

*>Enter a new password:
"Chicken"*

*>The password must have a capital:
"Chickenkief"*

"Chickenkief"

One day, the Churchill couple walked through a posh neighborhood in London. People greeted and exchanged words with the Prime Minister.
A street sweeper, on the other hand, greeted Ms. Churchill in particular, and the two stayed aside for a while in a familiar conversation. Churchill then asked his wife what she had had to discuss with a street sweeper for so long. "Ah... he was in love with me a long time ago," she said.
Churchill smiled and said, "You see, if you had married him, you would be the wife of a street sweeper today."
Mrs Churchill looked at her husband in amazement and said the legendary words:
"But no Darling, if I had married him, he would be Prime Minister today."

