

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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November 2021 Issue No.159

The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Mary's Musings

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, now is the time to consider joining the committee for the 2022/23 Probus year, beginning mid-March. So be warned! I will be going all out to canvass your support after the December meeting. We have a great club which, with our limited number of members, manages to have up to half a dozen successful activities each month. We also have interesting speakers, variety in our outings and if possible, we avoid getting involved with business and red tape. The administration of the club basically boils down to a 1.5 hour committee meeting each month, and about the same amount of time for various commitments of Committee members. That's about three hours a month, and there is usually just 6-8 of us on the committee. Mostly, no special skills are needed, just access to emails. And there will be plenty of help and support from current committee members. Have I convinced you that it is not onerous? Please consider taking office and come and talk to me.

Last month I wrote about how uplifting it was to see how wonderfully innovative Probus members have been in (COVID) adversity. I didn't mention though, how saddened I was to read some newsletters which bore so much news of cancelled meetings and activities, deaths of members who hadn't seen their (Probus) friends in many months and about losses of club memberships. Despite this, the monthly newsletters kept being published, members shared their life stories in them and editors managed to maintain a "glass half full", not "half empty" outlook. The latter is hard work for the affected editors and I congratulate them on their efforts. Once again, Probians are an admirable lot of retirees! On another matter, I don't subscribe to Facebook. However, many members do, and I was wondering if any of those who use it, think it would be a good idea to set up a Facebook group; closed - just for members - to share experiences, jokes and whatever else Facebook users do. It seemed a successful tool during lockdowns. Let me know!

Stay safe,

Mary W.

**ODD
SPOT**

Tobacco giant Philip Morris has acquired British company Vectura, which make puffers and nebulisers that help people with lung disease to breathe. It will profit from treating the illnesses its other products create.

Activities

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday 7th Coffee and Chat 10.30am Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 10th Coffee and/or lunch 11.30am at Mt Gravatt Hotel, 1315 Logan Rd, Mt Gravatt. (note venue change).

Tuesday 16th Tour of Cross River Rail Experience Centre

This is a guided tour at 10.45am for 11 am tour. Level 1, 151A Elizabeth Street. Cost – FREE. 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” at 10.30am. Cost – FREE. Lunch after at a local café.

Saturday 27th Brisbane City Pops Orchestra @ 2.00pm. New location – Church of Christ Community Centre, 41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore. Cost \$26.00 to be **paid by October meeting.**

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday 5th Coffee and chat 10.30am Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 8th Coffee and/or lunch 11.30am at Club Southside.

Thursday 9th Lord Mayor’s Christmas concert at the Brisbane City Hall at 1.00 pm including afternoon tea. This sets the mood for Christmas and is always very enjoyable. Come along and bring your voice to join in some Christmas carols. Cost - \$5.00. (Payment was due October meeting).

Thursday 16th Club’s Christmas lunch at the Newnham Hotel. 10.30 for 11am. Cost \$47 including entertainment and a drink. (Detailed later in this newsletter).



JANUARY 2022

Sunday January 9th (NOTE: **NOT** the 2nd – too close to New Year’s Day) Coffee and chat 10.30am Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 12th Coffee and/or lunch 11.30am at Mt Gravatt Hotel.

Thursday 20th Club meeting at Newnham Hotel at 9.30am.

Thursday 27th Twilight dinner (5.30pm) at the Pelican’s Nest, Winnum

Did you know that while it is the female mosquito which likes your blood, male mosquitoes gather around humans, likely in an attempt to mate with blood-sucking females?



Sloths, which are about the size of a cat, actually move so slowly that algae grows on their fur. This can give them a green colour that helps them hide from predators. Some sloths often move less than 40 meters a day and on the ground, up to just four meters a minute. (They do

swim faster though). There are sloths with two toes, and sloths with three toes. Two-toed sloths are omnivores, eating both plants and animals and three-toed sloths are folivores - they can only eat leaves and flower buds. The koala is also a folivore. Leaves are very low in nutrients, and contain very little energy. Moving around expends energy and this is why they need to conserve it and not move fast. Just like koalas, losing their tree habitats has led to a big drop in the number of sloths left in the world and some are now endangered.



Last month, an unusual crew flew to the International Space Station. A film director and a female actor spent a week and a half on the station shooting scenes for the Russian movie *Challenge*. (NASA installed the first female-friendly toilet last year). The film is about a surgeon who must conduct a heart operation on a sick cosmonaut. In space,

uncontained liquids form bubbles and float around. This presents some challenges for heart surgery, especially as blood tends to pool in the upper parts of the body. It will be interesting to see what choices are made to portray this key part of the Russian film. The station orbits around 400 km above Earth. Commercial use of its facilities could be a funding avenue to keep it in orbit. A Japanese documentary and an American movie, starring Tom Cruise, are also in the works. Usually there are between three and six crew living on the station. The main work is scientific experiments, but as some parts of the station are over 20 years old, a lot of maintenance is also required.



Whale watching! We did it, or rather 11 of us did. What a wonderful day we had. The weather was good, the sea pretty calm, and we saw whales. It was amazing, magnificent, exciting, even splendiferous. We left Redcliffe Jetty on the Eye Spy and motored across Moreton Bay towards Tangalooma (which had been a whaling station some years ago), round Comboyuro Point towards Yellow Patch where we encountered two adults with a baby cruising towards and round the boat several times. Thanks to the large windows those visitors who

stayed inside the vessel were able to enjoy the show as much as those of us outside. We motored on towards the Moreton lighthouse to view more whales that put on a great show. It was very hard to tear ourselves away to enjoy the gourmet lunch boxes that had been prepared for us, while still watching through the windows. Then, sadly, we had to leave to head back to the jetty, happy, contented, and marveling at the privilege of seeing such magnificent creatures in their natural environment. *Jill*

In three major US cities, plus France, Italy and Ireland, there is the requirement to be fully vaccinated to do most things, including entering going to hairdressers, museums, cinemas, pubs and hospitality, gyms and sporting venues. Heavy penalties apply to businesses which don't check patrons' vaccination status. For staff, enforcing these rules comes with the risk of abuse. A US survey report showed that 80% of staff had seen or experienced hostility from customers while enforcing public health rules during the pandemic. Here, vaccination status isn't a protected attribute covered by discrimination law. Legal considerations aside, we are moving towards similar vaccination laws, and the practical issue of enforcement will fall to businesses. How would Australian businesses cope in keeping their staff safe while avoiding fines? It gives rise to serious work health and safety issues.



Older Australians are being urged to watch out for scammers both on the phone and online, with people aged 65 and over losing \$49.1 million so far this year. The FluBot malware scam, which sends text messages with links to fake voicemails and parcel tracking that install malicious software on victims' phones, has also exploded this year, with 13,000 reports to Scamwatch in just eight weeks. Australians have reported a total \$211 million in losses to Scamwatch this year, up 89 per cent on last year.



The speaker for November will be **David Williams**. He will talk about Project Vietnam, which is a not-for-profit charity that works to improve life opportunities for poor children and their families in Vietnam and Cambodia. Based on the Sunshine Coast, it was established 33 years ago, and involves two teams of about 20 volunteers, each travelling to Vietnam or Cambodia every year. Team members are involved with building projects and repairs whilst there, and fundraise in Australia during the year to support education and training, to supply emergency food parcels and sanitation kits and anything else in urgent need.

Name tunes are unknown in most of the world. But there are two small areas (one in north-eastern PNG and one in Oyda, Ethiopia) where each person in the community, while having a proper name, is generally referred to by a unique tune, whistled or sung on a series of open vowels (like "a-o-a-o-e-e-a"). The tunes in both traditions use similar pitch ranges and last 1-4 seconds and when whistled, is heard over long distances.

This from a NSW Probus newsletter: Please note: In line with Covid regulations all members attending all Probus events must have proof of double vaccination.

Remember when Uluru was called Ayer's Rock? The world's largest sand island, Fraser Island, is the latest destination to have its Aboriginal name restored. The island will now be officially known as K'Gari. Fitting, as K'Gari means "paradise" in 'Butchulla' – the language of the people who have been the owners and guardians of Fraser Island from prior to European colonisation and settlement. The island's 'new' name was made official during a traditional smoking ceremony last month.

Duty Roster for October

Chair: Richard R **5Min Spot** Jill

Fellowship: Judith and Dale

Door: Leo and Ron

Originally, both Apple and Google developed their software with democratic ideals in the background. Apple's official policy was: "where national law and international human rights standards differ, we follow the higher standard". Google's was similar with an added unofficial motto of "don't be evil". Both have moved away from these high ideals. China, in order to achieve control on its populace, developed its own parallel internet infrastructure behind its "great firewall". Facing an escalating series of threats, Apple and Google have caved to Russia's demands and have removed those parts of its programs which help to avoid the democratising effects of the internet. In Russia, to date, younger generations ignored state-sponsored media and engaged through western tech platforms. Now, however, with the changes made by the two giant tech companies, the Russian government can effectively regulate the internet platform, just in time for the upcoming elections. Opposition parties' sites have been blocked. The state now has a technique for ensuring the deletion of sensitive online material that threatens its power, and can manipulate the internet for its own goals.

Some Probus web sites have a "*members only*" link and someone put the question as to why we do not have one. The answer is that the club's management is in the hands of the committee, with the minutes and financials available for inspection to all members, and a vote is put to the club only on rare occasions. Therefore, it is important that we are "squeaky clean" and everything we do is totally transparent. So, we have no secrets apart from the membership contact lists which are held personally, by each member. We are not secretive about our fees and activities, our newsletter carries only Christian names (apart from the upcoming speaker) and no contact details apart from the generic email. The web site carries the latter and a contact phone number. Therefore there is no need for us to have a "*members' only*" link on our web site. Incidentally, there are still many, many Australian Probus Clubs (about half?) which don't have a web site at all, even though PSPL will host one for free.



Drone delivery company Wing recently celebrated 100,000 deliveries in its pilot sites in Canberra and here in Logan. Wing tells a simple story of barista coffee and roast chooks, among other things, dropped on your driveway at a moment's notice. All quick, contactless, and COVID-safe. Owned by Alphabet, the parent company of Google, Wing has huge resources. New drone regulations are already being written, and Wing is setting itself up to be the backbone of a new aerial infrastructure. Wing's quickest time recorded – from order placement by a phone app, to product in hand – is two minutes and 47 seconds. It certainly has its advantages but there is a long list of disadvantages, the least of which is whether we want to live under a cloud of drones. However, it is inevitable that drone deliveries are here to stay.

Women and girls account for 50% of the population, yet most health and physiology research is conducted in males. For example, in the discipline of exercise physiology, 6% of research studies include female-only participant groups. So why do so many scientists seem oblivious to the existence of half of the world's population? The main reasoning is that females are a more complex organism than males, which makes female research more time-consuming and expensive — and research is nearly always limited by time and money. Some diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, present differently in males and females as do reactions to drugs. The severity and death rates of COVID-19 are higher in males than females. Now, however, in the USA, unless a strong case can be made to study only one gender, studying both sexes is now a requirement to receive National Institutes of Health research funding.

Here, though, the inclusion of both sexes is not yet a requirement to receive funding by our equivalent body, the NHMRC.



Well, our so called sports day in the park was a bit of a fizz, because so few of us turned up that we couldn't make up teams. So we took advantage of a really beautiful day – warm, with a slightly cool breeze – and ended up drinking our brews and chatting for a couple of hours. Even Hope, the canine in attendance, enjoyed the weather and company.

Reviews.org estimates that over a lifetime, from age 18 to 82.5 (the average life expectancy in Australia), Internet, TV, phone and streaming services will cost about \$140,000. ...And that doesn't include the occasional new hardware purchases such as a new phone, computer, tablet or TV.



Publisher Hugh Hefner is probably rolling in his grave. For the first time, the cover of Playboy magazine's online publication (there is no longer a print version) features a gay man replete with bunny ears and the bunny corset with fluffy tail.



We are beginning to get our bigger attendance numbers back for our coffee mornings. We had 22 at the last one, including a first-time visitor, Leah. Be warned though! Enjoy your coffee while you can! Climate change-related weather events together with COVID, have seriously affected key coffee-producing regions, and the price of coffee has risen 21.6% this year. Shortages are forecast from this month, together with price hikes.

Did you know in the few hours that Facebook was inoperable a few weeks back, Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg lost \$9.6 **billion** as the company's share price plunged?

It seems Apple has implemented new protocols in its iPhones to make it even more difficult to have 3rd party repairers fix problems. So if you have an iPhone that is a recent version, the Apple store is the only place where you can get it attended to.

Our monthly lunch at Southside was, again, very pleasant, but the committee decided on a different venue, for a change of scenery. Please note that the November lunch and/or coffee will be at the **Mt Gravatt Hotel** (11.30/noon), 1315 Logan Rd Mt Gravatt.



While airlines have struggled through the pandemic period, hope is on the horizon, and with an expected travel boom very soon, a new independent player is looking to capitalise on the situation. Named [Bonza](#), the new low-fare airline, to be

headed by former Virgin Blue executive Tim Jordan, will be launched in Australia early next year. Backed by US investment firm 777 Partners, it will be looking to service the domestic market with a fleet of Boeing 737-8 aircraft.

The ACT has set a legal precedent by becoming the first jurisdiction in Australia – and one of just a few in the world – to outlaw the act of “stealthling”, which is the non-consensual removal of a condom during intercourse. Stealthling is not a new issue in the community, but it has only recently come to the attention of lawmakers in many countries. In specifically changing the law to criminalise stealthling, the ACT has recognised the inherent harm caused by the action to the physical and psychological well-being of survivors.

Probus news from overseas:

- Did you know that in Ireland, most Probus clubs close for the summer months?
- The retiring President of the Cambridge Club in Canada has not presided over a face-to-face meeting for his whole year as President because of Covid, but the Zoom meetings have been very successful.
- The Probus Club of Locks Heath (UK) recently met for the first time in 18 months.
- Interesting to note that some of India’s Probus Clubs do copious amounts of fundraising for local charities and accept paid advertising in their newsletters.
- French Probus clubs are for men only.

Higher education is changing. Partly due to Covid, universities and other educational institutions are reinventing themselves, offering microcredentials. They are short courses that can be carried between institutions. They contain an assessment task marked by a qualified professional, they can be “stacked” together to provide credit towards macro-qualifications such as diplomas or degrees. Recognition of completion of a successful micro-course is a “digital badge” which contain metadata that outlines what learning the course has covered and what a badge recipient should have gained through the learning process. Microcredentials allow people to dip in and out of education, at an affordable cost, but critics say they focus on “learning to earn” rather than “learning to learn” and can be a hotchpotch of education.

Christmas Lunch Menu

Plated serves of roast chicken, baked ham, roast vegetables and steamed greens, (plus gravy) with a bread roll.

Choice of

Christmas pudding with custard

Or

Pavlova with fresh fruit salad and cream.

Tea or coffee.

One wine or beer or soft drink.

The Christmas lunch menu, which appears on the left, is not the Hotel's standard menu. Lynne specially negotiated it for us. Last year we charged \$46 for similar fare, but this year we have increased it by \$1 to \$47, to help offset the cost of entertainment. An alcoholic tippie (or soft drink), tea and coffee are included as is the entertainment. There will be a raffle for a great prize which Lynne will put together. Tickets will be three for \$5, so be ready to spend. You are also welcome to bring friends. It is guaranteed to be an enjoyable event.

Earlier in the pandemic, apartments were described as "vertical cruise ships" due to the ease of spread of the coronavirus between many people

sharing confined spaces. The "cruise ship" description is inaccurate, if colourful. However, apartment ventilation, particularly in common areas (corridors, lifts, entrances, underground car parks) is abysmal and can be Covid hot spots. High rise retirement villages are no exception. Shared gyms and indoor garbage areas are an obvious risk, particularly if poorly ventilated. So if you visit or live in a high rise, wear a mask in common areas and every time you open the front door to the apartment. Try not to share the lift. If you can smell your neighbour's cooking, then you are sharing their air. You'll need to install an HEPA air purifier. Keep your windows/balcony doors open as much as you can. Hunt inside kitchen or bathroom cupboards to see that there are seals around incoming pipes. Ensure exhaust fans are operating normally. Stay safe.



QR codes have been your friend for months, and now they are set to become a common way to pay when purchasing goods. And it's happening before Christmas. The payments platform, called eQR, has been developed by eftpos and allows customers to pay by photographing a QR code. A smartphone is, of course, essential. It is said that eQR aims to provide Australian consumers and merchants with better, simpler, data-rich payment experiences no matter where consumers choose to shop – online, mobile or at the checkout.



PSPL SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR A PSPL TREASURER

As an active participant in the development of PSPL's financial strategy and budgets, the Treasurer will have oversight of their implementation, including oversight and management of the Company's accounts and financial statements. The Treasurer is a Board appointed Director, will Chair PSPL's Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and will work closely with both the CEO and Accounts Manager.

Probuss Club members that hold formal accounting qualifications, have strong verbal and visual financial reporting skills with the ability to communicate complex financial information along with experience in comparable organisations are encouraged to consider this role.

This is a volunteer position which normally requires travel to Sydney on a quarterly basis, however due to the varying restrictions across both Australia and New Zealand, all meetings are currently being held via technological means. The initial term of office of the appointee will be for three years, subject to annual reviews.

Any member who meets the criteria is asked to submit expressions of interest in writing outlining their qualifications and experience to CEO Silvana Martignago at silvanam@probussouthpacific.org by 31 December 2021.



Herd Island is extremely remote – about 4000 kilometres southwest of Perth, and the extreme weather of the Southern Ocean surrounding the island usually hides it behind mist and fog. Last time *RV Investigator*, CSIRO's scientific survey ship approached it, the island was unusually clear. It revealed a small plume of smoke rising from the summit. The island was erupting. Human eyes rarely see an eruption of Heard Island. Data analysis since has discovered that the volcanic eruption was a source of iron for the phytoplankton. These play a key role in fuelling marine productivity and regulating atmospheric carbon dioxide sequestration (capture and storage). Also, the volatile and volcanic Heard Island has likely been an important contributor to sustaining life in the surrounding ocean for a long time. Indeed, there has been no attempt at unravelling the volcanic evolution of the island and its benefits in detail. Until now. Heard Island is just south of the Antarctic Polar Front. This is a major oceanic and climatic boundary and makes it an important location for studying the impact of climate change as well. Next year the *RV Investigator* will head that way again to further investigate the history of the global climate and study sediments off East Antarctica that span multiple glacial-interglacial cycles.

The end of cash may be coming sooner than we think and the use of physical debit and credit cards may not be far behind. According to the ABA data, 80 per cent of Australians prefer to check account balances,

pay bills, or transfer money online. The figures also show that more than one in three Australians with a smartphone use a digital wallet and that one in 10 regularly leave their home without their physical wallet. ATM withdrawals decreasing by 20 per cent in the year to August 2021, after falling 16 per cent the year before. As mentioned above, QR code are being introduced and cash and credit cards are galloping towards becoming historical footnotes.

The level of talent in our club is awesome. To celebrate Probus Day, our arts and crafts display showcased everything from paintings, to card making, and quilting to a large carved chessboard with all the chess pieces. Some members talked about their works and explained the story behind them. Pictured right is Lorelei talking about the different methods she uses to make her cards. Some of the other art and craft works are pictured below.



CSIRO's robotics experts have beaten teams from NASA JPL/MIT, California Institute of Technology, and Carnegie Mellon University to claim second place in a world leading robotics competition dubbed the 'Robot Olympics'. Scientists were tasked with remotely

running the robots in an underground environment that simulated a real-world scenario. This included locating models representing lost or injured humans, backpacks, or phones, as well as variable conditions such as pockets of gas. The award winning team will now focus on translating the technology and capabilities developed from this project to solve some of Australia's greatest challenges.

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)

People who ask me what I'm doing tomorrow probably assume that I even know what day of the week it is.

NOW THAT I'VE LIVED DURING A PLAGUE, I UNDERSTAND WHY MOST RENAISSANCE PAINTINGS ARE OF CHUBBY WOMEN LAYING AROUND WITHOUT A BRA.

My friend told me she would'nt eat beef tongue cause it came out of a cows mouth

So i gave her an egg

I just ordered a life alert bracelet so if I get a life, I'll be notified immediately.



My Wife asked me if I'd seen the dog bowl. I said: "To be honest, I didn't even know she played cricket".

We haven't panic cleaned for visitors in a while and it shows.

A conservative lawyer turned up at work wearing a single, fancy

earring. His associate asked "What's with the earring?" "Don't make such a big deal out of this, it's only an earring," was the sharp response. Following a short silence, the associate asked "So, how long have you been wearing one?" The sheepish reply was "Ever since my wife found it in my BMW".



I wonder what that part of my brain that used to store phone numbers is doing nowadays?



Do twins ever realize that one of them was unplanned?