

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

Yet another Christmas is coming around with the New Year hot on its heels. With any luck, the coming years will be kinder to us than the last two Covid years, although comparatively, we have had it really easy here in Queensland. Hopefully, we will not be much worse off with the imminent opening of our borders, although increased occurrence of Covid cases is inevitable.

On behalf of the committee, I wish all our Probian and their families a healthy and happy festive season. If you are travelling, stay safe and enjoy yourselves.

While all my family live in Victoria, I will not be going there just yet. Maybe I'll do so in a few months' time. My daughter is moving house over the holiday period; my son will take the opportunity to visit some of his many children who have flown the coop and are scattered all over the state. So I'll stay put and wait for the autumn when the weather there is tolerably settled.

Many clubs cease activities over this period, but we shall have our normal coffee morning (albeit a week late) in January, and other activities as outlined on the next page. It is amazing, but we seem to get quite good attendances in January, so there is no need for us to "shut down".

On thinking about filling the back page of this newsletter, I seem to have used all the acceptable Christmas jokes and cartoons over the past 14 years, so this time we have a few items which I have saved over a period, some from members. Enjoy them and the Christmas/New Year break. Stay safe,

Mary W.

**ODD
SPOT**

Last month, a 50-year-old construction worker in Turkey, wandered into a forest after a night out drinking with friends. Much later, he stumbled onto a search party scouring the woods. He decided to join them – only to realise it was his own search party when they started calling his name. Believe it or not, this isn't the first time someone has helped searchers look for themselves: a story from Iceland in 2012 relates how a woman during a rest stop on a bus tour, changed her clothes, and afterwards nobody on the bus recognised her, leading to her joining 50 people to search for herself until 3am.

Activities

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday 5th Coffee and chat 10.30am Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 8th **CANCELLED** Coffee and/or lunch (see item below)



Thursday 9th Lord Mayor's Christmas concert at the Brisbane City Hall at 1.00 pm including afternoon tea & 5pm for the late sitting. 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. Sold out

Thursday 16th Club's Christmas lunch & entertainment at the Newnham Hotel. \$47.00 10.30 for an 11am start. Raffle: \$5 for three tickets.

JANUARY 2022

Sunday January 9th (NOTE: **NOT** the 1st Sunday – New Year's weekend)
Coffee and chat 10.30am Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 12th Coffee and/or lunch 11.30am at **Mt Gravatt Hotel** in Logan Rd.

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

Thursday 27th Pelicans Nest fish & chips 5.30pm BYO drinks & glass

FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday 6th Coffee and chat 10.30am at Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 9th Lunch noon at **Southern Cross Sports Club** Klumpp Rd. Upper Mt Gravatt. (Dittmer Park Corner Logan Rd). (a la carte menu or choice from 10 meals at \$13 each)

Thursday 17th Monthly meeting 9.30am Newnham Hotel

Thursday 24th **QUEEN'S WHARF BRISBANE** Visitor Centre Cnr George & Alice Sts. The centre showcases the \$3.6b integrated resort & entertainment precinct set to open in 2023. Afterwards, lunch nearby. Have requested a booking for 10.30am but not confirmed to date.

When searching for an "odd spot" item, this came up: Canberra firefighters rushed to a shop in the capital last month after reports of a gas leak. ACT's Emergency Services Agency issued a 'hazardous materials' warning for people. They searched for an hour for the leak until

the owners of a tenancy above the shops advised of the potential source of the incident – the mystery smell was in fact a cut up durian left on a bench. It's not the first durian-related incident for Canberra – in 2019, a University of Canberra library was evacuated after the smell of gas was reported, only for it to turn out to be coming from the fruit.



Rivers around the world are now recognised by law as legal persons and living entities. Here in Australia, our rivers can be understood as 'ancestral beings' under Indigenous laws. Over the last decade, and in particular since 2017, [river personhood](#) has become one of the most recognisable forms of this. The first case to successfully invoke the rights of Nature, from which legal personhood later arose, occurred in Ecuador in March 2011, when two plaintiffs sued the district government for damage, erosion and flooding of the Vilcabamba River - not in their capacity as affected landowners, but rather asserting a breach of the rights of Nature provisions in Ecuador's Constitution. Six years later, the Whanganui River in NZ and its tributaries, were recognised in law as a "living whole". Here, the concept of a river as a living entity in its own right made its first appearance in Victoria in 2017 and was soon followed elsewhere. River personhood is now understood as one pathway towards recognising that rivers have a right to life and flow – a concept which our indigenous communities have always accepted.

PSPL and Allianz Global Assistance have made a range of travel insurance products available to Probus Club members across Australia. Probus Club members can apply for Probus Travel Insurance online at https://www.probussouthpacific.org/pages/travel_insurance_landing_au or call 1800 125 234. While PSPL insurance was often favourable in the past, read the product statement and compare the exclusions and conditions with other insurers before purchase. It could be as good as, if not better than others. If it is like past insurances, it may apply to Probus extended families, if travelling together with Probiants.

Researchers have proven that testing aircraft wastewater is another line of defence in managing and containing COVID-19. Infected people shed the virus in their faeces and urine for two to five days before showing symptoms. Traces of the virus can also be detected in wastewater from previously infected individuals but this is typically a weaker signal. Wastewater analysis demonstrates 87.5 per cent accuracy. To this end, Qantas has developed a specialised, but simple, sampling trap for collecting wastewater samples. Of course, the successful application of wastewater surveillance largely depends on the toilet usage of passengers, which on long haul flights is inevitable.



Christmas function duty roster
Heather and Lowleen

There are four common flu viruses. Seasonal flu rates globally have been so low for the past 18 months, it looks as though one of the four has died out. Two recent studies show that the virus in question hasn't been detected anywhere in the world since April 2020. That's so unusual that the hope is that it has disappeared completely. The downside is that because we've not been exposed to the flu for a couple of years, the population doesn't have much in the way of flu immunity at the moment. Influenza will be back once all borders are open, and then it's just a numbers game, whether we have a moderate season or we have a big season. Vaccines will still work against the disappeared virus for the time being.



It is frightening. Should we allow Facebook's company, now rebranded Meta, rule the metaverse? It already rules social media. Meta has 10,000 staff already on the payroll working on the marriage of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). It plans to employ another 10,000 developers in the EU in the near future. It will have a stranglehold on this developing technology which is set to become part of everyday life. While Meta claims its use will be for gaming, knowledge is power, and the metadata collected from the metaverse is all powerful. For example, did you know that body movement is as unique as fingerprints for identification and surveillance? Facebook publicly frames privacy in VR/AR as a question of individual privacy (over which users can have control) versus surveillance and data harvesting (over which we don't). Meta's move plans an exploitative, corporatised, and hierarchical virtual space and is more like an attempt to control the next frontier of computing.

Most members received access to a copy of a document on cyber security, prepared by the Australian Cyber Security Centre (and

distributed by PSPL). Those not on email will not have received it, but it is available from PSPL for those who intend to go on line in the future.

While generally happy people tend to be healthier, more successful and live longer, new research suggests that making the pursuit of happiness one's main focus could easily turn it into "toxic positivity". This is when people place too high a value on their own happiness. They can often end up feeling disappointed or blame themselves for not feeling happy enough. It becomes a cycle leading to symptoms of depression and a deficit of well-being. Grabbing happiness "in the moment" can increase it, as can engaging in activities that provide a sense of achievement or purpose. People who dwell on working towards happiness, react poorly to their negative emotions which is as much part of life as happiness. However, people who peruse happiness indirectly, find more of it and fare better.

Monash University in Melbourne, in partnership with a couple of other universities overseas, have developed a way to tackle some antibiotic resistant superbugs by turbocharging existing antibiotics. To date, experiments have worked on mice, and human trials will begin soon. While not increasing dosage they coupled with the antibiotic a stimulant for the immune system and together it is twice as effective as the antibiotic alone. It augurs well for future control of superbugs.



Cr Ryan Murphy (Chandler Ward) featured us in the community billboard of his November e-newsletter. Hopefully we'll get some membership enquiries from it.



Researchers have developed a composite glass that is practically unbreakable. Smashed phone screens could become a thing of the past. Over the last five years, Australians spend around \$M1.5 million on getting them fixed each year. It will also have applications for TVs, computers and virtual reality.

The technology could be used other ways too. A solar panel converts light to energy and a display screen converts energy to light. It may be possible in future to create one material that can do both, so the phone could charge itself, even from indoor lighting. Initially, because the glass is so rigid, it will be prone to scratching. It is the next screen problem scientist will tackle.

Did you know that sales of non-alcoholic beer are booming? It is made the same way as regular beer, using hops, water, yeast and grain, but the alcohol is removed.

Members who pay for activities are asked to ensure their names are on the list of attendees. A couple of times when members paid for an activity but did not register on the activity sheet, no booking was made on their behalf. While the treasurer and whomever is in charge of that particular activity try to reconcile numbers, sometimes a payment appears “out of the blue” after numbers have been reconciled.



Men in dresses? Our contemporary construct of masculinity is relatively recent. Until the late 19th century, boys and girls wore dresses until boys were “breeched” (put into breeches or “short trousers”) at around seven years old. Pink was a manly colour, and it was almost impossible to tell boy and girl toddlers apart. Before the 15th century, much clothing for men and women was fairly androgynous, particularly outside Europe – where in many cultures this continues today. Japanese kimono are robes with only subtle hints at gender difference. In parts of North

Africa, the jellabiya – a long, loose robe perfect for the warm climate – is worn daily by men and women. Ancient Greece and Rome saw universal wearing of the [tunica](#), a simple gown that was shorter and looser for men, but constructed the same way for both sexes. The elite wore longer [chiton](#) and toga, which could be more elaborately accessorised to indicate the wearer’s gender. In these societies, the higher a man was on the social ladder, the longer his gown. In recent years, at the Oscars and Emmy awards, some men “dared” to wear female-type attire. Other examples of “straight” men wearing such clothing (in the Western world) abound, but we are not yet at the point where most men would consider a dress a viable option, or where a man wearing a dress would not provoke assumptions around sexuality or gender identity. While it seems unlikely we will see men’s dresses go mainstream anytime soon, there has been a surge in male skirt designs by the likes of Burberry (see right) and Stefan Cooke.



If you are double vaxed and planning to travel overseas, a negative PCR test **from a laboratory** taken 72 hours or less before scheduled departure is required. It will cost around \$100+. There are quite a few other hoops to jump through, such as getting an [International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate](#) for which you need your passport details, and some countries don’t accept all brands of vaccine (including Astra Zenica). If your flight has been rescheduled or cancelled, you will need to provide evidence of a

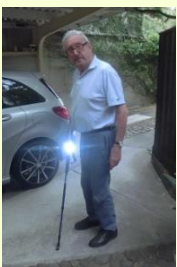


new negative COVID PCR test result, taken no more than 72 hours pre-flight. Travel agents should be able to advise and assist.

The Hobart Probus Club is a men's only club. Its motto? *Friendship, Fellowship and Fun for Fellas*. [Good one guys!]

With the onset of winter imminent, Afghanistan is facing a looming humanitarian catastrophe. The statistics are sobering. According to the World Food Programme, 95% of Afghan households are not consuming enough food. Some three million children under the age of five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by the end of the year. Millions are already living in poverty, but by mid-2022, the UN estimates 97% of the population could be. The problem is not that the world humanitarian movement is not willing to help, but that the Taliban will divert aid to finance terrorism, or will leverage to use the crisis as a bargaining chip to achieve international recognition of its rule. Somehow the world must engage with the Taliban on purely pragmatic and humanitarian grounds, without extending formal recognition.

Life expectancy in Australia continues to rise, with a baby boy expected to live to 81.2 years and a girl to 85.3 years, according to the latest figures released from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In 1990, life expectancy at birth in Australia was 73.9 years for males and 80.1 years for females, a gap of 6.2 years. This gap has now narrowed to 4.1 years.



There is a story about a Probian in the Probus Club of Kew (Victoria) who had a fall at night, and as a result has established a business selling sturdy walking sticks with a torch imbedded in the handle. If interested in his story, or you wish to buy what he calls a "Lightwalker" (with a Probus discount) check out <https://lightwalker.net.au/probian/>

Universities are increasingly using computer programs to supervise university students sitting their exams. Using Artificial Intelligence (AI), software hijacks the student's computer to block and monitor suspicious activity. Such technology is necessary to prevent cheating and generally works well. However, the software is extremely intrusive and there are numerous privacy issues. The programs can capture system information, block web access and analyse keyboard strokes. They can also commandeer computer cameras, use facial recognition, and record exam-takers and their surroundings. Further, the tools may provide only limited benefits because some students are savvy enough to use technical tricks which can bypass many of the anti-cheating protections. And then, students need to give informed consent if they wish to sit the exams.

While AI is mostly effective, examiners should also offer meaningful alternatives such as in-person exam-sitting options because of the inherent risks of use of such technology.



Hotels and clubs are particularly busy with Christmas functions in December. Taking that into consideration, and given we have coffee and chat on the 5th and the Lord Mayor's function on the 9th, the committee has decided to cancel our regular lunch, which would have been on the 8th. Also note that the Coffee and chat will be on the SECOND Sunday in January, (but we shall still have our regular lunch on the second Wednesday on the 11th).

Did you know that Australians spend a mind-boggling \$13 billion each year on their pets?

There are growing calls to boycott the Beijing 2022 Olympic Games, with critics labelling them the "Genocide Games" for human rights abuses. Campaigners claim that *"At least two million Muslims - including Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and Uzbeks - are locked in "re-education camps" [...] The situation in occupied Tibet has dramatically deteriorated and in 2021 [...] In Hong Kong [...] freedom and democracy are under attack, and youth activists are being rounded up and imprisoned en masse. In mainland China, the Chinese authorities routinely disappear government critics [...] At the same time, Beijing has intensified its decades-long tactics of geopolitical bullying and intimidation of democratic Taiwan"*. However, the IOC will do its utmost not to cancel, move or have a widespread boycott. It needs to protect its bottom line and prestige. Officially, the IOC is also at pains to keep politics out of the games. Some boycotts though are inevitable and Beijing 2022 is on track to be one of the most politically-charged games ever.



The entertainer planned for this year's Christmas function will now be booked for our birthday. Thank you to Terry Scott (whom we had last year) for rearranging his schedule so that he can entertain us again this year.



Retirement doesn't come easy to some, and a lot of older people find themselves re-entering the workforce – but not a lot of them find themselves winning public office at almost 100 years old. Yet that's just what Vito Perillo, independent mayor of Tinton Falls, New Jersey, (US) did back in 2017... and last month he was [re-elected mayor](#) at the sprightly young age of 97, for a second four-year term.

Did you know that a single tree in a tropical forest has the same cooling effect as two air conditioners? Imagine how hot it gets when a whole forest is felled. Indeed, deforestation can raise local temperatures by up to 4.5°C – and heat untouched areas 6km away.



A recent study in the US has found that manual tooth brushing and powered tooth brushing were equivalent in effectiveness. While each had minor advantages over the other, provided that the full recommended two minutes were spent on brushing, there was no difference in the results on either teeth or gums.



A group of us went on the Cross River Rail excursion. Jordan, our technical guide (who has about six degrees), gave us a run-down on how they navigate all the underground utilities, foundations of buildings and other objects that the boring machinery must avoid, as well as going deep but not shaking existing buildings. Brisbane has become the most GPS mapped underground and above ground city in Australia. We also learnt about core drilling, and gained an understanding of the types of rock they will encounter during the digging of the tunnels. Two different types of machines are used to drill the tunnels, depending on where they are digging and what is above them. There are several distinct types of rock underneath Brisbane (see photo). So far, a number of artefacts from old Brisbane have been uncovered and preserved, including glass perfume bottles and toothpaste boxes. (Yes, toothpaste originally came in boxes and contained crushed animal bone). We also passed around a drilling head which only lasts an hour when drilling through Brisbane tuff. That is a lot of drill bits to keep replacing. We were given a high-tech overview of the entire program; where the new stations will be and how they will integrate with all the other current forms of transport. The presentation is hands on, interactive and very informative. Some of us put on the virtual headsets and “walked” around in the new stations and streets and saw buildings that have not been built yet. How do they do that? Tea and coffee was available on a help yourself basis and we needed it after the cold theatre presentation. I would certainly recommend to anybody to take a look and I for one will go back to see more. *Judith*

US based facial recognition company Clearview AI has been ordered by the Australian privacy regulator to destroy all images and data related to Australians that they have collected from social media sources. The company collects photos from social media and offers its services to police and other government agencies to help identify people wanted for

arrest. Clearview AI has said that they are appealing the decision of our regulator and is challenging the regulator's jurisdiction over the company considering that it doesn't operate in Australia.

While it "goes against the grain" to discriminate against unvaccinated members, as a club, the safety of our members must come first, and therefore we request that unvaccinated members do not attend any face-to-face meetings or activities once restrictions kick in, when Queensland opens its borders. Unfortunately facilities such as the hotel and the Golf Club will be mandated to accept only vaccinated guests. They will have dedicated staff vetting all incoming guests. So members are asked to download their vaccination certificates on their mobiles. If as mooted, the check-in app has the facility to carry proof of jabs by then, that may be easier. Otherwise a doctor's letter will suffice. Unvaccinated members will still receive our newsletters, and if mandates change and restrictions are lifted, they will be welcomed back into the fold.



Did you know that Australians have a record haul of \$75 billion cash, stashed in places that aren't in banks? People seem more comfortable with a cash stash at home, given the record low interest rates. New fillings for mattresses?



CSIRO has been monitoring social networking among cattle and sheep, trying to learn how the "top dogs" impact on the herd. Up until now, traditional methods such as observing the animals in their paddocks and recording their movements haven't really helped. GPS technology isn't precise enough to accurately measure animal positions and movements relative to each other. But, with more automated technologies it's getting easier to get accurate and detailed data on individual animals. They have found that some bold animals don't feel the need to hang out with each other. They spend time with various friends and even have some alone time. Some fearful ones prefer to spend time together or avoid specific animals in the herd. These insights will help optimise animal management practices to ensure all their welfare needs are met, including pinpointing movement which may indicate that a particular animal is unwell.

A man who worked in a factory making calendars was sacked because he took a couple of days off.



**WE
NEED
YOU**

The AGM is coming up in March, and we need “new” people on the management committee. It is not onerous and you will get satisfaction from being a valued part of a team, from participating in the decision making about the running of the club, from giving something back to the organisation, and in gaining new skills. **Please give consideration to joining the committee.**



Cows, who have become the scourge of environmentalists, can be potty trained as easily as toddlers, maybe easier, according to scientists. Why is this important? If the practice can become widespread, there could be less damage to the environment. An animal behavioural scientist at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, said 11 out of 16 cows learned to use the ‘MooLoo’ when they had to relieve themselves, at an indoor animal research laboratory. It took only 15 days to train the young calves. The researchers used a sweet treat to coax the cows to push through a gate and urinate in a special pen. It could be game changer because cows pee 30lt a day.

Here’s a scam: a call from 912250041117 re a survey, asking the person to press 1 if they had been vaccinated. If you press 1, the phone is immediately blocked and hacked. [Incidentally, 91 calls are from India].



Stumped for a small Christmas gift for a fellow Probian? Cooler bags (pictured) are \$19.95, mugs, coasters, key rings, wine and whiskey glasses, glass clocks, large boxes of dinner mints, ties and scarves, pens, notebooks etc., all emblazoned with the Probus logo, are available through the PSPL web site. Most of these items are used as speaker gifts or awards, but some make a nice gift.

Most find it easy to use a smartphone to check in or to prove vaccination status or checking exposure sites on line. For others though, it presents a challenge. Advocates claim many, particularly older people, are fast becoming disconnected and pushed into isolation because they don’t use or own technology that has become essential. Indeed, given their vulnerability, it is likely they will be advised to continue isolating themselves because government is not supplying adequate solutions for them.



Defenitions:

- Coffee** (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.
- Circumvent** (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.
- Negligent** (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
- Testicle** (n.), a humorous question on an exam.
- Willy-nilly** (adj.), impotent.
- Gargoyle** (n.), olive-flavoured mouthwash.
- Balderdash** (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
- Lymph** (v.), to walk with a lisp.

**My stomach is FLAT.
The L is just silent.**

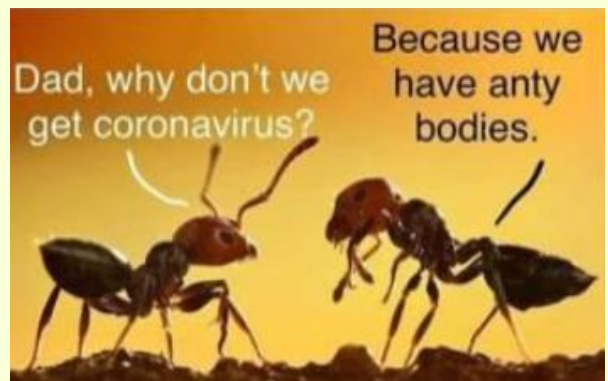
**THERE ARE TWO WAYS
OF ARGUING WITH
A WOMAN.**

NEITHER ONE WORKS.

*One tequila, two tequila, three tequila... Floor.
Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
Would a fly without wings be called a walk?
If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?
If the police arrest a mute, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?
Can an atheist get insurance against acts of god?*

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)



- *In the olden days ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced'. . wore a tightly tied lace.*
- *Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.*
- *A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.*

It is with great sadness that I have to mention the loss of a few local businesses. A local bra manufacturer has gone bust, a submarine company has gone under, a manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation, and a dog kennel has had to call in the retrievers....