

# 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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January 2022 Issue No.161

*The HP Source – It's a bottler!*



## Mary's Musings

### Happy 2022!

Did you know that even after all these years, our club is still different from a large proportion of other Probus clubs? We were trail blazers when we formed. In a way we still are, given the way we run our meetings and manage the club. We have never had a "head" table – we don't have minutes and financials (but they are always available for scrutiny). Decision making has always rested with the committee, but contentious issues have been put to members' vote. Someone once asked me "Well, what do you do in meetings?" My answer was, "we have fun". In our view, that is why we meet, not for administrative tedium.

However, the club must be administered, and I am again encouraging you to step up and volunteer for a position on the committee in 2022. All positions are vacant, although our treasurer and secretary are willing to keep doing the job. We also have a nomination for President, but all other positions are vacant. Being on the committee involves a 1.5 hour meeting and a couple of hours' worth of "work" each month. Our committee is small (can't afford to be smaller) but fortunately, we have many members who also help with jobs, such as maintaining the duty roster and communicating with speakers, running off the Watsons etc. Please help by joining the committee. Make it a New Year's Resolution! Nomination forms and AGM notices will be attached to the next newsletter.

Meanwhile, think about membership growth. Our February meeting will be a "bring a friend" one, so give some thought about whom you will invite - a friend or neighbour or even someone you know who may be lonely and would be interested in joining us. More details in the next newsletter.

Have a wonderful New Year.

Stay safe,

*Mary W.*

**ODD  
SPOT**

A few weeks ago, BA passengers expected their baggage to be on the carousel on arrival, but instead, they received nearly 100 large boxes neatly wrapped in blue. British Airways wouldn't explain how the luggage was swapped for a cargo of frozen fish.

## Activities

### 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

Wednesday **23rd** Redlands Performing Arts "I'm just wild about Harry", a tribute show to the life and music of Sir Harry Secombe. Time 11.00am, Tickets \$25. In order to secure tickets I would like names by 6th January to make the booking and payment by 20th January. Contact Lynne 0428 820581

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. Names needed by 10th.

### MARCH

### MARCH 2022

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

Wednesday **9th** Lunch noon at **Southern Cross Sports Club** Corner Klumpp Rd. and Logan Rd Upper Mt Gravatt. (Dittmer Park).

Thursday **17th** Monthly meeting 9.30am Newnham Hotel

More to come .....



Here is a thought to start the New Year. In the field of conversational commerce, it has come to pass that many who are ordering products, asking questions about them (and getting the answers) are conversing with AI (artificial Intelligence) chat boxes. AI has made the latter so sophisticated, that people cannot tell the difference between conversing with AI or a human. ... And it is only 2022. By 2030, it is

predicted that personalisation will move to a whole new level and conversational commerce will become more prevalent in the metaverse, (the virtual reality representation of the internet) with voice-enabled shopping potentially [accounting for 30%](#) of all ecommerce revenues. It seems foreseeable that we will be interacting with AI avatars in virtual reality stores, or talking to bots in real-life supermarket aisles via AR (augmented reality) glasses.

Did you know that asthma attack rates have decreased during the pandemic, and evidence suggests people with asthma are not at increased risk of severe outcomes from COVID?



With electric vehicles (EV) coming on the market, it is predicted that by 2035, 80% of Australia's 7,000 or so service stations will be unprofitable. To survive, the service station will have to change. Australian trials show about 80 per cent of EV charging will occur at home, but Hungry Jack's has already installed its first EV charger. So, the industry will have to radically reimagine the purpose of its strategically located roadside real estate. Many service stations are independently owned, and they don't necessarily have the money to "pivot" their business. However, whatever happens in Australia, it'll have happened overseas first. Norway is about 10 years ahead of us. There, they are building lounges, because when you put a car on a charging station you maybe need to wait for 40 minutes; and they're building cafes and a place with work stations, meeting rooms, dispatches for driverless cars and even warehouse delivery hubs.

Interesting to note that PSPL went out of its way to advise that it is maintaining its annual capitation fees of \$15. Maybe it wanted to bring to our attention that it was not hiking up its fees yet again. This is part of your annual dues which the club pays to Probus South Pacific. We certainly don't get anywhere near value for money. Indeed, we get much more value for our annual \$2 per member from the Probus Association of Queensland (PAQ). Unfortunately if we wish to remain under the Probus umbrella and use its logo, we have to pay up. (Unlike the many NZ clubs which broke away from PSPL some years back, forming Friendship New Zealand Incorporated (FNZI). [FNZI affiliation fees are \\$3.50/member with comparable benefits.](#) A revolutionary idea: Could we join FNZI? After all, PSPL is managed from Oz, and still has some NZ clubs affiliated to it, so why can't it work the other way round as well?)



Think about this: The average age of Nobel Prize winners is 62 years old; the average age of the presidents of prominent companies in the world is 63 years; the average age of the pastors of the 100 largest churches in the U.S.A. is 71; and the average age of the Popes is 76 years. It is also said (*New England Journal of Medicine*) that the most productive years of our lives are between 50 and 80 years, particularly between 60 and 70. They claim that at age 60, we reach the top of our potential, and this continues into the 80s. If true, no wonder Probians were so innovative through the height of the pandemic!

Beware! If you are planning to travel and stay in Airbnb accommodation, the company has abandoned its reasonable Covid refund policy and now allows hosts to implement their own cancellation policies. Some give no refunds at all, others vary, requiring from 24 hours' notice to 30 days in advance. So read the small print before booking. There are no set laws governing what companies should do with refunding consumers in the event of COVID lockdowns or border closures. This is not just an issue that is impacting short-term rental providers but also airlines, hotels and travel agents. So it is a "buyer beware" situation.

Reminder: Coffee and chat on the second Sunday this month.



Black Friday, Christmas, and other 'shopping events' take a toll on the temporary workers hired to get purchases to consumers. For the warehouse and shipping workers who actually get these purchases to their destinations, the run-up to Christmas means long hours and demanding work, often under poor conditions and with little job security. Amazon Australia alone, mobilised more than 1,000 short-term workers in the lead-up to the Christmas rush. They often experience some of the most intense working conditions – long hours at an accelerated pace. And being short-term, they tend not to join unions and are prone to burn-out in a relatively short time. Already there are swarms of robots ferrying items around the vast floor spaces, but there are plenty of things even the most advanced warehouse robots still aren't good at, or that humans can do more cheaply. Unfortunately, it seems workplace automation does not necessarily replace workers but push them to keep up with the pace of machines and algorithms.



Our January speaker will be Mike Timms who has been in IT security since 1963. He has worked for governments, banks, and IBM, among several other organisations. Originally a Chartered Engineer, he rose high in the ranks of Information Technology, and will talk to us, in simple terms, about why we need passwords, the difficulties of generating useful passwords and the use of password management software to take away most of the pain. For a bit of fun he will get people to invent their own passwords and we'll try out a few to find out how good they are. He'll finish with a look at some of the other emerging security techniques.

Did you know that a survey of 45 museums in the UK has found a vast number of Indigenous Australian objects (stone tools, clubs, boomerangs, decorative shell-work)? Some were gifted or traded but many were stolen, and successfully repatriating them is a long and arduous procedure.



Are you still a person who prefers paper books? There are some 1,900 bookstores in Australia that contribute about \$1.4 billion to the national economy. Most of the market – 84% – is made up of small players, therefore they can't afford to keep large inventories. Larger Australian book retailers such as QBD and Booktopia have organised themselves to hold bulk inventories because the supply chain has been severely disrupted. Covid, lorry driver problems in the UK, paper and cardboard scarcity along with labour shortages in the US, shipping and other transport problems have all contributed to the supply train breakdown. Our three major book distributors all use one company to distribute their books, and the company is reportedly "overwhelmed with demand." The 84% of smaller book retailers are reported to be in crisis, because they can no longer utilise the low-cost, fast-paced principles of lean supply chains where inventories are minimised with few resources wasted on books sitting idly on shelves.

Now that our borders are open our Queensland "free and easy" life style has become a "take care" life style. So, members are reminded to keep washing their hands, wear a mask when appropriate, keep social distancing where possible, avoid crowds, and stay safe. Your Probus family needs and values you.

The world's first true millipede with more than 1000 legs has been discovered in Western Australia. It has 1306 legs. Prior to this discovery, no millipede had been found with more than 750 legs.





In a break from the usual tradition, Macquarie asked the public to choose their word of the year in advance of its committee's decision. The pundits were betting on a COVID-19 inspired word. They were right. Some of the word choices were not well known, (such as "brain tickler" instead of nose swab), but both the Macquarie choice and the people's one, was "strollout", inspired by our slow vaccine rollout – sorry, strollout. Macquarie pipped the National Australian Dictionary which also had picked strollout as its word of the year. The American Dialect Society also chooses words, each year, in several intriguing sub-categories. Some previous choices included most useful "they" (as a gender-neutral pronoun); most unnecessary "manbun"; most outrageous "gate rape" (airport pat-down); most euphemistic "scooping technician" (a person whose job it is to pick up dog poo); most productive "shaming" (as in "fat-shaming"); most likely to succeed "binge-watch" (many of us can confess to that), and most unlikely to succeed "sitbit" (a device that rewards a sedentary lifestyle), which is, of course, a pun on Fitbit. Some of us may like a "sitbit".

In 2019, a 90 year old lady (Lorna Prendegast) graduated with a Master's degree from the University of Melbourne. That same year, a 94 year old (David Bottomley) became the oldest person to graduate with a PhD, from Curtin University. In 2019-20, around 73,000 Australian adults aged 60 or more were enrolled in degree and diploma courses. That's enough to populate a mid-size Australian city. Formal education is just the tip of the seniors' learning iceberg. Learning also extends to hobbies such as sewing, bird watching or working with tools in a Men's Shed. Who said you can't teach old dogs new tricks?



A dozen happy Probians felt privileged to be able to enjoy again, the wonderful music of the Brisbane City Pops Orchestra. The theme was "Gold and Silver" and "Musical Favourites to Treasure". We all agreed the program was the best ever. It began with the overture from the Pirates of Penzance, followed by Franz Lehar's "Gold and Silver Waltz" and selections from the Merry Widow. A clarinet solo of the "Golden Wedding" attracted huge applause from the audience. A 13 year-old girl (Isabella) and her teacher wowed us with their "Duet for Two Cats" by Rossini. Isabella will be a star of the future opera scene. Daubney's stirring recitation of "The Man from Snowy River" was enthusiastically received and an interesting diversion came when the audience was invited to sing a verse from "Love's Old Sweet Song". In all, it was a joyous afternoon of romance, love, and talented musicians.

*Carmel*



The wrong sunglasses can do more harm than good. Many people confuse polarized lenses, which only reduce glare, and glasses which offer UV protection. Some dark sunglasses which filter out visible light and glare only, means that pupil size increases, thus allowing UV light into the back of the eye, which can increase the risk of melanoma of the eye and other eye problems. In 2019 Australia introduced standards which mandate adequate filtration of ultraviolet radiation, and prevent the sales of just polarised glasses. However, if your sunglasses were purchased before July 2019, or purchased any time on line, there is no guarantee that they provide adequate UV protection, unless they met the UV filtration standards in the first place.

Did you know that the Scenic Rim region in southeast Queensland has recently been named one of the best places to visit in 2022? It is the only spot in Australia to make the list and was placed eighth among the top 10 areas to head to in the *Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2022* guide. West fjords in Iceland took out first place, West Virginia in the US came second and China's Xishuangbanna placed third.

There has been a power shift in global economics. Low interest rates and COVID-19 mean governments, not central banks, now control the world's key economic levers. Low interest rates has left banks largely powerless to combat economic shock. When the pandemic hit, most governments understood early on that massive cash injections directed to businesses and households were needed to support them through a looming recession. Surprisingly, rich countries' governments had no difficulty financing their large budget deficits and, despite the increased public debt, interest rates remained low. Because central banks and governments have different priorities, the successful governments' fiscal policies (based on employment) rather than banks' monetary policies (based inflation and interest rates) has created a major shift in who calls the shots when it comes to economic management.



Women in Australia account for 50% of all medical graduates, yet only some 14 percent are surgeons – the smallest proportion of any medical speciality. Women, because they bear children, are perceived as less committed, and are set on a hidden curriculum of subtle, sometimes unintentional messaging that surgery is not an appropriate choice for them. Also, a major deterrent for aspiring female surgeons is a lack of contact with female role models. Now, a new Canadian study has found that women surgeons are missing out on referrals because male doctors

are much more likely to refer patients to male surgeons. They believe this is also the case in the US and Australia.

Trade Travel, a long-time supporter of Probus and PSPL, has advised Probians to carefully check any travel insurance policy because COVID cover differs greatly from company to company.

Have you ever tried to do up a zip or button a shirt one-handed? Put on a pair of jeans while seated? If your feet are different sizes, or you only have one foot, how do you buy shoes? Adaptive clothes are specially designed for people with a disability. This can mean providing one-handed zippers on shoes, replacing buttons with magnetic closures, using Velcro or designing clothing and footwear so you can get dressed while in a seated position. Other ways to make adaptive clothing is avoiding physical tags, offering a range of hyposensitive bamboo and linen fabrics and selling shoes as single items. Fashion is being embraced by bionics too. 3D printing now advocates that hearing aids, bionic limbs etc., need not be unobtrusive. They can be made in colours, and designs customised to a person's preference.



There were not as many as usual at the last very enjoyable Coffee and Chat. Those there, wondered if the lower numbers had to do with December being such a busy time, what with the lead-up to Christmas. However, feedback indicated that quite a few meant to attend but forgot. That seems to be the pattern when there is a gap of about a week between the first Sunday of the month and the reminder which comes with the newsletter.

Did you know that fires in arid Australia are extensive, largely unmanaged, often destructive and significantly under-reported? Some have been burning for months.



About 66 million years ago, it wasn't survival of the fittest. A massive asteroid, more than 9 kilometres wide, slammed into the shallow sea near what is now Mexico. The explosion from this was so huge, it led to global earthquakes, tidal waves, bushfires and even poisonous rain. The asteroid hit at one of the worst possible places, where the rocks could easily be vapourised. This threw up massive amounts of dust into the sky, blocking out the sun for many months and sending Earth into a long, dark and freezing winter. Without sunlight, the green plants died, followed by the plant-eating animals that ate them, and the meat-eaters that ate the plant-eaters. While dinosaurs died out



(except for some flying ones), along with 75% of the animal species, crocodiles famously survived. The latter can go without food for months, and sometimes more than a year. This would have been very helpful when food (such as other animals) became hard to find once the asteroid hit. Crocodiles also lived in places where losing green plants didn't make a big difference. Mammals, rat-like creatures from which other mammals evolved, also lived because they ate insects and worms which live in dead leaves and timber.

Unfortunately it is not something that the committee can do anything about, but it has come to our attention that a couple of members (who are computer literate and went to the appropriate web site) had no joy about their several queries about PSPL travel insurance. Their frustration caused them to phone PSPL in Sydney, but they were just redirected to the web site, so they gave up. Let's hope others get more joy.

China is the biggest producer of urea and it is dramatically tightening its exports. Urea is an ingredient of a chemical called AdBlue, and the latter is an anti-pollutant that's added to most modern diesel engines to keep the fuel emissions clean. ... And there is a world shortage of AdBlue looming. This is partly because demand has risen as fuel standards – particularly in Europe – have become stricter, and China is withholding a key ingredient. In a worst case scenario, Australia's economy would be brought to its knees. However, we are not alone. Most supply chains rely on diesel trucks, as do agricultural heavy machinery. The implications are profound if a solution can't be found, because not only farming production will be curtailed, but deliveries may cease to supermarkets, manufacturers etc., among others. Prices for limited available items will soar.



Thanks to the Lord Mayor's Fund, a donation of \$260 has offset the Christmas function loss the club was prepared to carry. We applied for the grant in September, and received it last month, just in time for the celebration. Our thanks to the Brisbane City Council.

First off Queensland, and then in the rest of the country, we became one of the first nations in the world to abolish death duties in the late 1970s. Surely an inheritance tax (that's what a death duty is) would cut the size of inheritances, reducing the intergenerational transmission of inequality? Actually no, according to a ground-breaking study released last month by the Productivity Commission. The astounding finding was that these monetary transfers actually reduced inequality. Surprisingly, it was found that inheritances lift the wealth of the bottom fifth of the population far,

far more than that of people who are better off. While many countries still have them, the findings reinforce the current view that, in Australia, death duties are not going to happen any time soon.

Andrew Forrest and his wife Nicola have just purchased the leasehold for the 2000ha Lizard Island, in the Great Barrier Reef. It holds a high-end resort featuring 40 rooms and villas, a restaurant, bar and a day spa and cost \$42M. Weeks before, they also purchased, the \$30M Gaia, Olivia Newton-John's wellness retreat just outside Byron Bay. Then, not to be outdone, fellow mining giant Gina Rinehart is reportedly in final negotiations to buy the \$50M Great Keppel Island from the Queensland Government.



There has been a clear trend since the 1980s towards more favourable public attitudes on Indigenous issues. The reason? A better-educated citizenry. Now, ANU's survey shows that three quarters of voters are in favour of recognising First Nation people in our constitution. To change the constitution, there needs to be a referendum with at least 50% of voters and 50% of the states voting yes. Of the 44 referendums since 1901, only eight have been successful. An increase in referendum education for Australians could help people realise the importance of this amendment.

Did you know that after health systems collapsed due to COVID, India's hospitals are once again buckling, but this time due to Dengue?

### January Duty Roster

Chair: Elwyn                      5 minute spot: Lorelei  
Fellowship: Grace and Maggie    Door: Barbara and Ron

In 2020-21 an average mobile consumer in Australia, on a post-paid contract, used only 11.8 GB of data per month, compared to a median data allowance of 35 GB per month. This means many are paying more than they should. Have you checked your data consumption? Are you paying more than necessary, especially with the recent increases in most plan prices? Also, reducing the expiry periods on prepaid plans from 35 and 42 days to 28 days is a price increase by stealth. Over a year, it means consumers are recharging more often, and therefore paying up to 25 per cent more for their mobile phone service.



PSPL advises that the Board has temporary withdrawn Probus Travel Insurance due to unforeseen circumstances and expected to have it available in 2022.



Wow! What a great Christmas function! Pictures tell a thousand stories, but in case anyone is in doubt, the room looked good, the food was great, the company was in a happy mood and the entertainment was ... well, very entertaining!



**The following 10 answers about the Bible were written by children. They have not been changed.**

1. Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built and ark and the animals came on in pears.
2. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
3. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.
4. Moses led the Jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
5. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
6. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
7. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
8. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
9. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
10. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

**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)



**Weather in Scotland**

Just got off the phone with a friend who lives in Scotland. She said that since early this morning the snow has been nearly waist high and is still falling. The temperature is dropping far below



zero and the north wind is increasing to near gale force. Her husband has done nothing but look through the kitchen window and just stare. She says that if it gets much worse, she may have to let the bastard in.

(Courtesy Ipswich East Probus Club.)

