

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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March 2022 Issue No.163

The HP Source – It's a bottler!



Mary's Musings

Well folk, this is my final musings, given that I will be handing over the baton of President this month. It has been fun, and I was honoured to be your "leader" despite it being my second time, and just because I was too slow when everyone else stepped back at the last AGM!

Given that there will be no long speeches at the AGM, and my own report will take just a minute or so (as every other report), I won't have time to list all my helpers, so I'd like to list them here and thank them publicly. My heartfelt thanks to my committee for their tremendous support – **Ron**, who is not only an excellent treasurer, but sat at the door each meeting, **Lynne**, who wears several hats including activities organiser, welfare officer and door prize purchaser, **Barbara**, our conscientious secretary, **Bill**, our membership officer, and **Margaret O'D** whose research into grants and legal requirements, jumping in when needed, and also her wise counsel behind the scenes kept me on my toes. Also, **Brenda** who assisted with activities, and **Jill**, as IPP, who helped at the beginning of the year, before she embarked on her travels. Then there were the helpers not on the committee; **David**, who organised the speakers, the AV equipment and speakers' gifts, **Lorelei** who took on the duty roster, **Richard R** our unofficial club photographer, **Trish** who kept us amused with her funnies and **Dale** for distributing the Watsons. And all those **members** who volunteered for door duty, for the cameo talks, as greeters, and for the occasional odd jobs that required attention – without them, there would be no club.

I am aware that we'll lose a few members due to COVID considerations, relocation and personal issues this coming Probuss year. So, my final wish is that you all work hard towards increasing membership. This year, it was my pleasure to induct seven new members. Also there is another new member we will induct soon. However, this year's inductions have just kept the status quo and did not increase membership. My final wish as President, is that you support your new President and introduce "new blood" to keep the club vibrant and healthy.

On another rather important matter, the person who was to stand for Secretary needed to withdraw her nomination because of unforeseen health issues. We have a reluctant "emergency Secretary" in the wings, just so we can continue with the club, but her availability is often moot, so PLEASE consider nominating for the position

which is now vacant. **Nominations from the floor at the AGM are welcome.**



This coming meeting will be on St. Patrick's Day. How about wearing something green (or orange)?

Stay safe,

Mary W.

**ODD
SPOT**

Pictured is a million dollar painting by Anna Leporskaya: 'Three Figures' (1932–1934) held in a Russian Gallery. On his first day at work last month, a security guard defaced the painting by drawing eyes on the faces with a ball point pen. He said he was bored. In Russia, vandalism as a crime comes with a small fine and a one-year correctional labour sentence.



Activities

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 (St Patrick's Day)

Thursday 31st Visit to Mayes Cottage & the redeveloped Kingston Butter Factory with Lunch at **DEVON PIXIES CAFÉ** in the old 1900s caretaker's cottage which has had a face lift. Car-pooling if anyone needs a lift. Plans are yet to be finalised and emailed to members.

April 2022

Sunday 3rd Coffee and chat 10.30 Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 13th (note this is the 2nd Wednesday) Lunch noon at **Southern Cross Sports Club** cnr Klumpp Rd & Logan Rd Upper Mt Gravatt.

Thursday 21st Monthly meeting 9.30am Newnham Hotel.

More to come.



Get out of the doldrums and head north to Mooloolaba where, for the first time in Australia, tourists will be able to dive to depths of up to 30m below the ocean's surface on board a fully submersible hybrid submarine. The sustainable, battery operated, zero emission

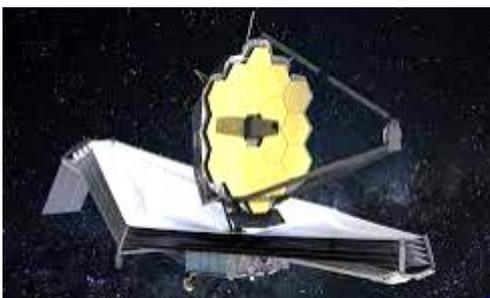
producing SUBCAT-30 can both dive underwater and travel on the water's surface like a catamaran, making it the only operating submarine of its kind in the world. The yellow SUBCAT-30 has an interior design similar to that of a plane cabin. If you want to sit back and relax, video monitors provide real-time footage of the ocean around you from four cameras located on the sub's exterior. The sub travels at around 2km/h and is extraordinarily manoeuvrable to ensure it never comes into contact with coral reefs or marine life. The breathtakingly beautiful dive experience will set you back \$250.

How long does it actually take to make new friends? It shouldn't be a surprise that closer friendships take longer to build than casual acquaintances. US researchers have tried to quantify this, estimating it takes roughly 50 hours of shared contact to move from acquaintances to casual friends. To be a close friend? More than 200 hours. What's more, the hours you spend together need to be quality time. That doesn't mean casual check-ins and joking around isn't as important as deep and meaningful conversations. Probus gives us that quality, and opportunity and it is evident among members that many close friendships have formed over the years. Surveys now find over half (54%) of Australians report experiencing greater loneliness since the start of the pandemic, particularly older people. One issue that emerged was trust, which takes longer to establish than casual friendships and women find this more difficult than men. It stands to reason, that just dipping your toe in to clubs such as ours is not enough. The longer you stay and the more activities you join, the greater the hours for you to build up rapport with possible future close friends. It is therefore very vexing that COVID is still disrupting our activities planning, with venue closures, and cancellations. Your committee is hoping this will improve over the next few months.



Since the catastrophic volcanic eruption on January 16, Tonga has been largely cut off from the world due to a break in the undersea cable that links Tonga with Fiji (and from there with the world). Aside from the distress and inconvenience this is causing, Tonga's predicament demonstrates a more general vulnerability of our global communication system. Over 95% of the world's data travels along the 436 submarine cables – around 1.3

million kilometres long in total – that connect all continents except Antarctica. These cables carry data integral to the internet, communication, and financial and defence systems worldwide. Apart from natural disasters, the cables are increasingly vulnerable to terrorism and cyberwarfare by private and state actors. Would you believe the rules regarding undersea cables remain largely unchanged since 1884? The realisation that they need modernising is just dawning on the powers that be.



The James Webb Space Telescope, launched on Christmas Day is now well over 1.6 million kilometres away. It took nearly 30 years, and more than US\$10 billion (roughly A\$14 billion), to get the Webb off the ground. It is the largest, most complex, telescope ever put into space, with a gold-coated mirror 6.5m in diameter (compared with Hubble's 2.4m mirror), and the entire structure

needed to be folded to fit inside the nose cone of a rocket. For Webb this means unfolding and positioning the 18 hexagonal segments of the primary mirror, plus a secondary mirror, to a precision of 25 billionths of a metre. It must be kept incredibly cold (roughly -233°C) to maximise its sensitivity, and be completely protected from the Sun – achieved by a 20m multilayered reflective sunshield underneath. The entire unfurling process involved more than 300 single points of failure (mechanisms that had only one chance to work). Quite a technological feat! In addition to studying the early beginnings of the Universe, Webb will be a NASA “Great Observatory” and will support a diversity of other projects. Astronomers await with anticipation for the first data to be collected in the next few months, and are expecting paradigm-shifting discoveries.

March Duty Roster

Chair: **Richard R** 5 minute spot: **N/A - AGM**
Fellowship: **Judith and Lowleen** Door: **Lyn and Ron**

In the 1950s, very few Australian films were being made. Those that were produced were largely documentaries. Despite this, an avid film culture flourished through local film societies. Australian film buffs were thirsty to see international films from Europe and Asia, but local cinemas only screened Hollywood fare. Australian authorities would, however, allow international films to enter the country for exhibition at a film festival. So in the small town of Olinda in the Victorian Dandenong ranges, The Australian International Film Festival was born. Expecting some 80 people, over 800 turned up. Many locals threw open their doors to accommodate the influx, but it was not enough, and some slept in the tiny church hall. The appeal of the film festival was so great that some people travelled back and forth from Melbourne daily. Organisers set up a makeshift screen under the stars, and borrowed another hall in a neighbouring town. But not everyone celebrated the festival’s success. Even with Menzies’ support, it was discovered after the event that, while cinema enthusiasts were enjoying the event, ASIO was watching. Evidently the Australian government regarded the film festival as a prime draw-card for subversive characters intent on overthrowing authority. The festival will celebrate its 70th anniversary in August, making it one of the world’s oldest film festivals.

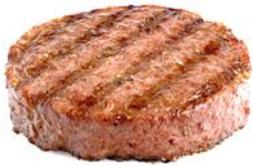


It is interesting to note that the President of the Probus Council of Southern Africa (PCSA) recorded his Christmas message on YouTube. It

runs for 10.5 minutes and is accessible through the PCSA's web site. PCSA, representing 30 clubs in Southern Africa, has found yet another innovative way of communicating with Probians during these COVID times.



Reminder: [Wear something green to the meeting on St Patrick's Day!](#)



Collaborative research between three universities (Curtin, Bath (UK) and Sydney) has shown that plant based "meats" are resisted by many men because they perceive a strong link between animal meat and their own masculinity. Many men see meat as a core part of their identity. This could pose a stumbling block for an industry still expected to grow strongly, adding \$3 billion to the Australian economy by 2030. The challenge for the industry is to market the product by presenting new forms of male identity, focused on food, to describe a masculinity centred on caring for themselves and for the wilderness. Men need to be persuaded that plant-based foods is a deliberate choice to make, to improve nutrition, reduce health risks and improve the environment.



While Australians' general knowledge of the Holocaust is high, few people knew who William Cooper (pictured) was or that Australia refused to accept Jewish refugees in 1938. William Cooper was a Yorta Yorta elder who took part in a protest organised by the Australian Aborigines' League to deliver a letter to the German consulate in Melbourne, condemning the "cruel persecution of the Jewish people by the Nazi government". Holocaust educators in Australia took up Cooper's march as an example of being an "upstander", rather than a "bystander" during the Holocaust. A recent survey showed that just 11% knew Australia joined with 32 other countries in 1938 to refuse to accept more Jewish refugees. Yet now, Australia has one of the largest number of Holocaust survivors in the world per capita, outside Israel. With his protest, Cooper also wanted to use the opportunity to draw attention to racism and violence against First Nations peoples in Australia. Currently, there is a rise of anti-Semitism – including online hate and Holocaust denial and distortion, but our federal government recently became a full member of the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance](#). Understanding the relationship between Holocaust awareness and efforts to combat racism today is more important than ever.

The care and compassion for our club members is important. So if any member knows of another who is unwell please let Lynne know so she can send our good wishes. Also, at these times, if you or another member is particularly lonely and reluctant to socialise, please let her or

Since 1976, a university in Michigan has produced an annual list of "banished words" - overused or misused words or expressions. Second on the latest list has caused a stir by including the distinctively Australian phrase 'no worries'. Dislike of this idiom appears to be based on the misconception that it is an instruction not to worry. "If I'm not worried, I don't want anyone telling me not to worry," complained one person who nominated the phrase for boycotting, adding: "If I am upset, I want to discuss being upset." Originating in Australian English in the 1960s, the phrase is, in fact, used to mean 'all right' or 'fine', or to acknowledge thanks. Its international spread was encouraged by the success of the 1986 film Crocodile Dundee and the long-running TV series Neighbours. Another phrase being black banned is being caught with your pants down. That is, being taken off guard in an embarrassing situation. It carries different degrees of humiliation depending on which side of the Atlantic you are on at the time. That's because in the US, pants refer to what we and the Brits call trousers, while in Britain it refers to what people wear under their trousers. Linguistic meanings of this kind should be researched before making the world-wide list otherwise they, themselves, get caught with their pants down.



Annual membership fees (\$40) are due to be paid by the end of April. No invoices will be issued, but if you require a receipt, please let the Treasurer know. BSB: 064112 a/c 10186858 Probus HPC

Did you know that a scathing report by the University of NSW published last month, stated that in 2020/21, instead of making the lives of contact tracers easier, the \$7.7 million COVIDsafe technology not only missed contacts but added markedly to their workload?



Our March speaker will be Ian Mathieson who will be talking to us about his time in Canberra in the late 1960s and early 1970s. At the time, he was with the Commonwealth Department of Trade and also had various roles in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Initially he graduated from UQ with an Arts degree and later took an Economics degree at ANU. Currently, while retired, he is still very busy as an author and manuscript editor. Ian was married to Rosemary for a couple of decades.



Here is a bit of trivia from a Canadian Probus newsletter: Knocker-uppers were people whose purpose was to wake workers up during a time when alarm clocks were expensive and not very reliable. They earned about six pence a week using a pea shooter to shoot dried peas at the windows of sleeping workers in East London, in the 1930s. They would not leave a window until they were sure that the workers were awake .. [and knocked up?]



You think 2020, 2021 and now the beginning of 2022 is bad. There have been wars, pestilence, and very adverse weather events within historical memory when it really was the worst time to be alive. But nothing compares to the worst year in human history - 536. A volcanic eruption, or possibly more than one, somewhere in the northern hemisphere would seem to have been the trigger.

Wherever it was, the eruption precipitated a decade-long "[volcanic winter](#)", in which China suffered summer snows and average temperatures in Europe plummeted. Crops failed. People starved. Then they took up arms against each other. It precipitated, in 541, the bubonic plague in Egypt, which went on to kill around a third of the population of the Byzantine Empire. Even in distant Peru, droughts afflicted the hitherto flourishing Moche culture. Increased ocean ice cover (a feedback effect of volcanic winter) and a deep solar minimum in the 600s ensured that global cooling continued for more than a century. Many of the societies living in 530 simply could not survive the upheavals of the decades that followed. There is evidence of further volcanic action in 536, 540 and 547 and ice core samples show the severe climate change of 536. For humans however, the worst moment would not in fact have been in 536 but sometime after – when the full effects of plagues and droughts, chills and famines had truly set in.

The February/March issue of Active Retirees has been distributed to those who subscribe. Subscription is free so hop on to the PSPL web site to subscribe if you don't already do so. Some have complained that they can't navigate the site, so just click on this  icon at the bottom right of the magazine and that will bring it to full screen. If you wish to enlarge (or reduce) what you read, then the + or – will do it for you. Escape to get out of full screen.



The painful bites of female march flies can ruin your day at some beaches. When we're not there, they bite wallabies, birds, and even reptiles. What are they actually doing on our beaches? The answer is breeding: Female march flies use blood to boost their egg production. Then they lay eggs in the sand. Did you know that wearing vertical stripes confuses them? This is

why which is one reason zebras are coloured as they are. March flies spend most of their lives as legless predatory maggots hiding underground. They are voracious predators of soil fauna. To subdue their prey, they have long fangs with venom canals. The maggots have been seen pulling down toads as they rest on the surface. Repellents with DEET can provide some reprieve, but the flies are so fast they can zoom in for a nip before being repelled. Luckily, they tend to settle for a moment before biting giving us a chance to shoo them away. The flies are not involved in human disease transmission in Australia, but they can carry pathogens to kangaroos and wallabies.

New medical cards were distributed to all members who attended the last meeting. We have more cards for those who did not attend. Please complete them and carry them in your purses or wallets, so we can use them in emergencies.

Did you know that during the winter Olympics, Chinese authorities used more than 350 snow machines to prepare courses for the world's athletes?

The cost to the Australian taxpayer of the Novak Djokovic saga has been revealed at \$360,000 as the tennis star maintains his stance against forced COVID vaccination and prepares to sit out of the French Open and Wimbledon.



Pictured left is President Mary inducting Leah into the membership of the club. Leah has been visiting us for a few months and said she has enjoyed the camaraderie to date. We warmly welcome her and hope she will be able to participate in the activities and meetings on offer.

It was great to see some 30 people turn up at our February meeting. Obviously there is more confidence in our community now, than when we opened our borders mid-December. Keep it up!



"Filters" are an important part of our everyday social interactions. When someone has no "filter", it means they say things without thinking - blurting out something inappropriate, or unkind. Do we lose our filters as we get older? To a degree. A normal part of the ageing process is known as brain atrophy, or shrinkage. Age-related shrinking in the frontal lobes with declines in inhibitory control and social cognition is not uncommon, but then, many older people just care less about what others think.



A doctor, a dentist and a lawyer were in a boat together when a wave came along and washed them all overboard. Unable to get back into the boat, they decided two of them would hold on to the boat and the third would swim to shore for help. They noticed that there were hundreds of sharks between them and land. Without a word, the lawyer took off. As he swam, the sharks moved aside. The dentist yelled, "It's a miracle!" "No," said the doctor, "That's professional courtesy."

2021-22 Committee

President: Mary W

Vice President: Margaret O'D

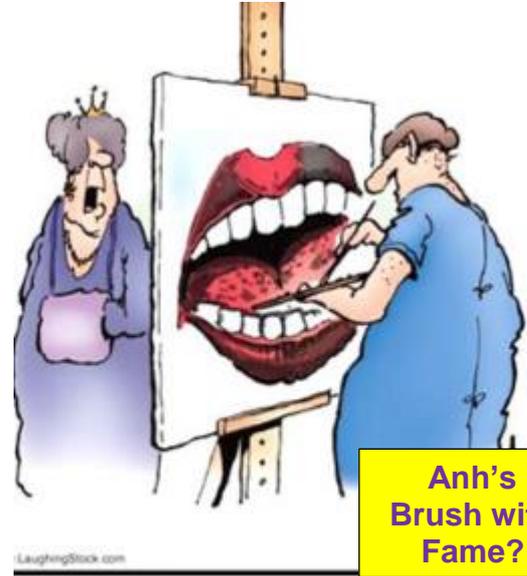
Immediate Past President: Jill

Secretary: Barbara

Treasurer: Ron

Activities: Lynne and Brenda

Membership: Bill



"For the money I'm paying, I hope you're painting the real me."

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? It gets toad away.

I saw two dogs walk over to a parking metre. One said to the other, 'How do you like that? Pay toilets.'



Teacher: "Give me a sentence which includes the words defence, defeat and detail."
 Student: "When a horse jumps over defence, defeat go first, and then detail."