

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>

hpcprobus@gmail.com Editor: fawmpl@optusnet.com.au

April 2022 Issue No.164

The HP Source – It's a bottler!



Richard's Rambles

I was very pleased to be able to be nominated for the president of HPC Probus club and even more pleased to have been advised that my nomination was successful. I am sorry both Julie and I are away, but hope to get into the swing of things on our return. We will be traveling here and there at times so I will

need to rely on others to assist when I am not around.

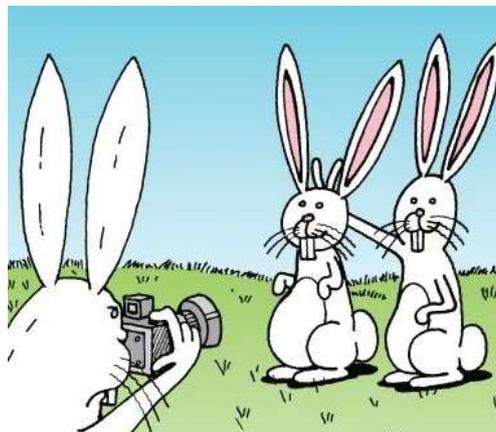
A successful club needs member participation and I am hoping we will have a great 2022/3 with many members participating in as much as they can. Both Julie and I have enjoyed the many functions we have been on when COVID has allowed. Hopefully we will be able to get out and about more often this year.

Thank you for your faith in me and I look forward to being at the next meeting in April.

Stay safe and everyone keep healthy.

Richard M

**THE COMMITTEE OF THE CLUB WISHES
ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES A
HAPPY AND SAFE EASTER**



**ODD
SPOT**

Would you believe it? Are people that gullible? Claims you can “devaccinate” yourself have been [circulating on social media](#), another example of extreme and dangerous misinformation about COVID vaccines. Methods said to remove COVID vaccines from the body include using bleach, snake venom extractors or a type of traditional therapy known as “wet cupping”.

Activities

Activities

MARCH 2022

Thursday 31st March Visit to Mayes Cottage 10.30am, 20 Mawarra Street, Kingston, and & the redeveloped Kingston Butter Factory, 270 Jacaranda Ave, Kingston, with Lunch at noon at **DEVON PIXIES CAFÉ** in the old 1900s caretaker’s cottage which has had a face lift. Car-pooling if anyone needs a lift. (Contact Lynne)

April 2022

Sunday 3rd Coffee and chat 10.30 Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 13th Lunch 11.45 at **Chatterbox Café**, Mt Gravatt Plaza, corner Creek and Logan Roads.

15th-18th Happy Easter!

Thursday 21st Monthly meeting 9.30am Newnham Hotel.

MAY 2022

Sunday 1st Coffee and chat 10.30 Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 11th 11.45 am Lunch at **Lovewell Café** on the top of Mt Gravatt, with magnificent views of Brisbane. 185 Outlook Drive (off Logan Rd in Mt Gravatt Central)

Thursday 19th Monthly meeting 9.30am Newnham Hotel.

Thursday 26th Vend MarketPlace, 1768 Sandgate Rd Virginia. 10.30am Giant undercover market: plants, craft, fashion, cafes all under one roof. Plenty of parking and wheel chair friendly. If you need a lift, let us know.

JUNE 2022

Sunday 5th Coffee and chat 10.30 Pacific Golf Club.

Wednesday 8th 11.45 am Lunch venue TBA

Saturday 11th Brisbane City Pops Orchestra, Church of Christ Kenmore, 41 Brookfield Rd Kenmore 2pm Cost \$26. Contact Brian

Thursday 16th Monthly meeting 9.30am Newnham Hotel.

Thursday 23rd Police Museum, Meet outside Police HQ, 10.30am 200 Roma St, City. **Lunch** Chez Nous 160 Roma St City.



Feel like travel? Australia’s new budget airline takes you to regions where the major airlines may not go, such as Albury, Avalon, Bundaberg, Cairns, Coffs Harbour, Gladstone, Mackay, Melbourne, Mildura, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba Wellcamp, Townsville and the Whitsunday Coast. Last month, Bonza also

unveiled its brand new fleet of 737 MAX aircraft. It aims to keep costs down by making its operation a paperless experience.



... And while on the subject of travel, did you know that our north-west train, *The Ghan* that travels between Adelaide and Darwin (2929km – over 53 hours) owes its unusual name to a combination of Australia's love of contracting words and a bit of light-hearted irony? It was originally nicknamed the *Afghan Express* because it traced the route Afghan cameleers used to open up Australia's interior and the fact that it was anything but 'express' – it was once stranded for two weeks. Over the years, it was shortened to the '*Ghan*' and when modern diesel-electric engines replaced steam trains, the route lost its reputation for unreliability.

Interesting to note that the Probus Club of Port Perry (Canada) has just closed off its membership, having reached its maximum of 350 members! Needless to say, the club has dozens of interest groups. And yes, there are some clubs around the world much, much bigger than the average, but not many.



Strangely, while the pandemic increased social media usage, particularly Tik Tok, which surpassed two billion downloads worldwide, many have stepped back from their digital lives. People are increasingly finding reasons to cut back their social media usage, or quit altogether. Gen Xers (41-56 years old) led the way in social media reduction and disconnection – outperforming boomers (57-75 years old) and millennials (25-40 years old). Many are finding that social media is no longer making them happy and it exhausts them to maintain it. In a Deloitte survey at the end of last year, only 18% of Australians felt information obtained via social media was trustworthy, and 66% felt it was harmful. Many are trying to wean themselves off overuse to eventually give up on it almost completely. Relationship counsellors decry social media and believe that to build genuine relationships, people need to do it in person.



The death of the coal industry is now inevitable what with our largest coal plant closing years early and others set to close. The Australian coal industry directly and indirectly supports [less than 1%](#) of our workforce. But Australia is also abundant in many of the minerals and rare earth elements our society will run on in the future, including lithium, cobalt and copper. If government and industry pivot from coal to green energy, Australian jobs

in energy and the minerals industry will still exist. All our polies need to do is plan, which is not the strong suit of any party. Winding down coal mining in certain small towns of Queensland, Victoria, NSW and WA would be devastating for those towns, but if we transition carefully, these communities will survive. It is estimated that 1.8 million new jobs could be created in Australia in renewables and low-emissions technology. If clean energy manufacturing can be based in affected towns, and miners are willing to relocate to mine minerals such as copper, cobalt, lithium and rare earth elements, job losses would be minimised. All it needs planning.

Subiaco's Probus Club (WA) had a January newsletter which they called a 'Claytons' newsletter (because there was no January meeting): the kind you get when you're not getting a real one. It followed with an explanation that: "For those that don't know what a Clayton's is, it's an alcohol-free drink that looks like whiskey. The drink you have when you're not having a drink". It never-the-less was a comprehensive newsletter.



While we're familiar with our maggies being intelligent and social creatures, even the scientists were amazed how they were outwitted by them. Staff in the Ecology department at the Sunshine Coast University attached tiny, backpack-like tracking devices to five Magpies as a pilot study to learn more about their social behaviour and to test-run the new equipment. The birds began showing evidence of cooperative "rescue" behaviour to help each other remove the tracker. Animals living in larger groups tend to have an increased capacity for problem solving, such as hyenas, spotted wrasse, and house sparrows. Australian magpies are no exception. Within ten minutes of fitting the final tracker, an adult female without a tracker worked with her beak to try and remove the harness off of a younger bird. Within hours, most of the other trackers had been removed. By day three, even the dominant male of the group had its tracker successfully dismantled. The birds needed to problem solve, possibly testing at pulling and snipping at different sections of the harness with their beaks. They also needed to willingly help other individuals, and accept help. It showed seemingly altruistic behaviour: helping another member of the group without getting an immediate, tangible reward.

Newer members may not be aware that Probus South Pacific Ltd. (PSPL) has joined with several organisations to provide discounts for Probian. If you hop on to the PSPL web site, under "member benefits" you will find discounts under four sections: Travel, Finance, Life Style/Entertainment and Health.



For years we've known organisations such as Google and Facebook are collecting data on every search and social media post we make, and every website we visit, as do those involved with loyalty cards. Now ABC is embarking on the same road by tracking the viewing habits of all users of its iVIEW streaming platform. Significant amounts of information could be inferred from our viewing habits: everything from our political leanings to our attention span. What that can then be used for is anyone's guess, but the public needs to go in with their eyes wide open when they create yet another account, even if it is with Aunty.



A good cartoon speaks all languages and we can all draw a cartoon, believes **Brian Doyle**. Brian will be our speaker at our next meeting. He is a retired professional cartoonist with a lifetime experience in the advertising industry. Brian believes cartoons are an ideal communication link with children as well as adults on almost any subject. Two of his long standing clients were the federal and state education departments. The then Premier Anna Bligh gave him a grant to assist the promotion of drawing for fun amongst children - a programme which discovered cartoon drawing could open closed communication among children with Autism and Asperger's. The "I can't draw syndrome" shared among most of us will be shattered at our next meeting when we'll all be drawing a cartoon. Promise.

Leading Australian consumer group CHOICE has conducted a study into the privacy policies of 75 of the most commonly used websites and apps in Australia, and found most are extremely long and almost impossible for the average person to comprehend. And it's not uncommon for most, if not all of us, to just agree to its terms and conditions without even glancing at the privacy policy. The average read time clocked in at 16 minutes with Microsoft's taking an hour. CHOICE is calling on the government to introduce standardised privacy statements with a uniform layout to be used by all websites and apps operating in Australia.

<https://www.spymuseum.org/exhibition-experiences/about-the-collection/collection-highlights/>

Above is the web address for the spy museum in Washington DC. Check it out! It has some interesting items in its collection, some of which are pictured on the right.



Shoe with Heel Transmitter
1960s, Eastern Europe



Lipstick Pistol
1965, KGB



Stirn's Buttonhole Camera
1886, Germany



A new study shows that blood sucking mosquitoes can learn to avoid a pesticide if they survived a previous exposure. Mozzies were exposed to enough pesticides to knock them out but not kill them. Then they were put under netting separating them from a rat (bait). When the net separating them was soaked in pesticide and holes were made in it, only 15% of pre-exposed mozzies took the bait. Of the control group which was not pre-exposed, 58% flitted through the holes. Mosquitoes learn from their own experience and change their behaviour accordingly, but it is not yet known whether the knowledge gained is passed to the offspring. Such studies can help control disease carrying mozzies.

Crazy as it may seem, there is one Probus club in Perth which has a web site, and all it says is "welcome to our club". No contact number or any other information whatsoever is given, and all the links are blank.

Have you heard? The National Australia Bank has ordered branch staff to refuse to accept payments from customers who wish to settle credit card bills over the counter. It is the elderly who are most disadvantaged. They are redirecting them to the Post Office. The union says banning over-the-counter credit card payments is designed to reduce foot traffic to NAB branches, reduce jobs and, ultimately, close more branches.



Pictured left are some of the dozen or so members who visited the Queens Wharf project. What is the Queen's Wharf project and why the name? Well, when the wooden wharf was built in 1827, it was called King's Wharf but, when Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, the name was changed in her honour. This development is taking the site to a much more elaborate level and what an outstanding addition it will be to Brisbane's skyline. You would have seen the new Neville Bonner pedestrian bridge rising to span the river to connect Queen's Wharf with South Bank. Add to that, two residential towers (71 and 64 stories) plus a smaller business tower, the casino, hospitality (50 restaurants and bars), retail outlets including high-end fashion, new footpaths, bikeways, the mangrove walk, parks and more public spaces. Also included are the preservation and refurbishing of the historical precinct of the area, comprising the Commissariat store and the Mansions, and the Treasury Building once the current casino is closed. So, do you begin to understand the enormity of the project? The expected opening of the core integrated resort, including hotels, restaurants, bars and public realm area, the Neville Bonner bridge and the Landing public space is the middle of this year. The tour guide for our visit was very knowledgeable and very happy to answer our many

questions. We were able to watch several videos covering the project development since 2017 and experience, by virtual reality glasses, the projected view from the observation deck. After the tour we travelled by the Loop Bus to Eagle Street Pier for a scrumptious lunch at George's seafood restaurant. It was a very enjoyable day and our thanks to Lynne & Bill for their organisation.

Jill

The hacktivist collective called Anonymous, has mustered its global army of cyber warriors to target Russia. The group has previously claimed responsibility for acts of hacktivism against a wide range of targets, including against big businesses and governments. Anonymous's activities are often aligned to major events, and the group claims to have an "anti-oppression" agenda. The problem is, Anonymous is a movement with no formal legal status or assets, and responsibility for actions shifts to individuals. But there remains a fundamental issue of attribution in cyber security incidents, wherein it's difficult to determine a specific source for any attack. While taking responsibility, unfortunately the impact of these and other "private" cyber-attacks on Russia remain unclear, but for its first act, it disabled several Russian government websites including, for a couple of hours, the state-controlled Russia Today news service.



Did you know that Wing, Google's start-up drone delivery company, last month launched a pilot program in Canberra, in tandem with Coles, to deliver groceries by drone to households in several suburbs?

Durham Probus Club (Canada) has requested that members do not wear perfume, scent or aftershave to meetings and outings. And then, how long since you used a cheque book? It also requests that members pay for outings and membership renewals by cheque.



The Russians are using Thermobaric or 'vacuum' bombs which create an oxygen-eating fireball followed by a deadly shockwave. There is no escaping them because they spread fuel which makes fireballs that suck the air out of any living being in the vicinity. It

also creates a massive shockwave that literally travels further and causes invisible injuries, including burst eardrums and crushed inner ear organs, severe concussions, ruptured lungs and internal organs, and possibly blindness. They can penetrate bunkers and other underground locations, and there is very little that can protect humans and other life forms from their blast and incendiary effects. It is evil and the horror of it all is almost unbelievable.

Did you know that the ability of animals to sense an impending natural disaster is an increasingly hot area of research?

Only a small number of members tend to turn up for our monthly lunches on the second Wednesday of the month. It was suggested that some people don't enjoy club and pub food, so the committee has decided on a trial of making it a moveable feast each month, in various cafes around the Mt Gravatt/Carindale areas. Watch for different venues on our activities page.



Prone to flooding, by the 1970s Brisbane's South Bank was largely undeveloped open space. It is now home to Queensland's major cultural institutions. This area, once full of

waterholes, creeks and wetlands, provided sustenance for Turrbal and Jagara peoples for centuries. By 1893 when a flood of 8.35 metres occurred in central Brisbane, South Bank was an industrial site occupied by wharves, factories, commercial businesses, and the railway line, with residential estates in nearby West End. After the flood, commercial businesses abandoned the area and up to 1970 it was left as largely undeveloped open space. Undeterred by the 1974 floods that reached 5.45m, the state government decided to build its cultural centre thinking its river location would enhance its aesthetic appeal. So we acquired the Queensland Art Gallery in 1982, the Performing Arts Centre (1985), the Museum (1986) and the State Library (1988, extended 2006). It expanded with the Conservatorium (1996), the Playhouse Theatre (1998) and the Gallery of Modern Art (2006), and ABC studios (2013). Since then we have had two more major floods. What was the wisdom of placing all our cultural repositories on the banks of a flood-prone river and surrounding wetlands?

Hanover Probus Club (UK) now has its Zoom meetings closed captioned for those with hearing impairment. Great innovation!

Did you know some countries have what they call thundersnow storms in winter?



An underwater brigade of ecologists, biologists and tourism operators donned their neoprene 'uniforms' and united off the coast of Cairns last month for their annual check of the results of a four-year Coral Nurture Program that aims to protect high-value Great Barrier Reef sites

against future extreme weather events. Following two years of excellent growing conditions the program seems to be an unprecedented success. The trained team salvage broken coral fragments and grow these on nurseries suspended two metres beneath the ocean surface. The collective action of operators and scientists planting tens of thousands of corals means that even though on a small scale, restoration of bleached coral can be successfully achieved.

Our unhappy news, for those who were not at the AGM, is that the Hotel has increased its room hire and morning tea fees, and we are unable to absorb it. So the members have voted for an increase of \$3 per meeting.



Nutritional information labels detailing the contents of most packaged foods and drinks has everything from energy value (kilojoules) to the tiniest amount of potassium. Except where the food contains more than 1.15% of alcohol. The sugar content of wine can be quite high and this has come up in discussion by federal government's statutory body Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). Non-alcoholic wine must comply with FSANZ regulations so why not regular wine? So now, FSANZ is considering introducing energy labelling of alcoholic products, but the industry is opposing the regulation. Talks are in progress. It has been found that some bottles of wine have up to 59 grams of sugar – more than a glazed doughnut. Are kisses really sweeter than wine?

Duty Roster

Chair: Elwyn 5 minute spot: Tba
Fellowship: Grace and Maggie Door: Joan and Ron

It's still legal to rape your wife in India. In late February, a court in Delhi finished hearing a case on married Indian women's right to sexual autonomy, and now, a decision on the matter is awaited. Since 1860, when British colonial law exempted rape except between husband and wife, rape provisions in the penal code have undergone several changes, but the husband's immunity has been retained. The court case was based on the constitutional validity of the marital rape exemption and the compatibility with the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Indian constitution. To date, the government refused to criminalise marital rape on the grounds it would weaken the sanctity of marriage and the practical difficulties in enforcing a criminal prohibition on non-consensual sex in marriage. The government asked the court to not decide on the matter based on constitutional principles or legal arguments alone, given its far-reaching social implications, but the court went ahead anyway. We can

only hope the Delhi High Court, in its much-awaited judgment, will put the spotlight on what the issue is really about – the husband's unquestioned claim to the wife's body.

Ever since our club was established, speakers' gifts have been two bottles of wine (one red, one white) with our own, specially designed label on the back. It was decided that the better wines now cost more than we wish to outlay, not because we don't appreciate the speakers, but because the club membership has shrunk over the past Covid years, meeting costs have increased, and we no longer hold that much in the kitty. We are ordering boxed pens with the Probus logo and will be giving those to speakers for the coming year.



Australia has a particularly large gap between the educational results of children from advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds. What we don't hear much about is that one in six Australian children are living in poverty. New research puts a spotlight on just how much of Australia's lack of progress on education outcomes comes down to this. Disadvantage at home carries over into disadvantage at school. The study found that when the government introduced the JobKeeper payment and added the Coronavirus Supplement to the Jobseeker Allowance, poverty rates declined, at least temporarily, while these supports were in place. The government, helping to reduce poverty, has positive flow-on effects for children's well-being, development and educational outcomes.

Dietitians Dr Anthony Villani, from the University of the Sunshine Coast, and Dr Evangeline Mantzioris, from the University of South Australia, are seeking help with a research project about the diet of people over 60, as it relates to eating behaviours and physical and mental health. Participants in the anonymous online survey which takes 20 to 30 minutes to complete will be in a draw to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards. Click on [this link](#) for more information and to participate.

With a looming election, all sorts of myths and wild stories have been flooding social media and the internet. Stories such as; the election will be "rigged" with Dominion voting machines; the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is aligned with one party or the other; the Government might delay the election into next year. Therefore, the AEC has launched a [disinformation register](#) to counter the nonsense flying around. The register will be updated regularly, is free, and searchable if you wish to check on the veracity of any rumours.

Australian-designed livestock ear tags launched commercially less than a year ago, are already being used in 19 countries. They are solar powered, with built-in GPS as well as biometric monitors. Basically, if there's something an animal's doing that's out of the ordinary, it sends out an alert. First used here on farms for livestock, they are now used as trackers in conservation, welfare and monitoring of wildlife. For example a team of scientists will use them to move more than 350 giraffes from South Africa to neighbouring Mozambique over the next few years. The creatures almost became extinct in Mozambique mainly due to civil war from 1977 to 1992. The tag can be used as a tool against theft and poaching.



The sad reality is that while some wildlife may survive the floods we have experienced, they may not survive the aftermath. Survivors may find their homes destroyed or, like those aquatic animals living in landlocked water systems find themselves

displaced far from their original homes or suitable habitat when their waterways join with the river systems. We know surprisingly little about the impacts of floods on wildlife. While most animals are born with the ability to swim, many are caught in burrows and the fast flowing, powerful floods pose a very different proposition to calm pools or lakes. Even birds are vulnerable to waterlogging, exhaustion and exposure. Food becomes hard to find and the high levels of pollution carried by flood waters also poison food chains. Earth's two existential crises – climate change and biodiversity loss – are inextricably linked and we humans must find a way to slow both.



A group of our members went to a well-attended concert at RPAC recently. The concert was a tribute to the late Sir Harry Secombe, the well renowned Welsh-borne singer and entertainer (think The Goon Show and Hymns of Praise). We were delighted that the tenor on the day was Johnathon Welch AM, well known as the founder of the Choir of Hard Knocks as well as a number of other popular choirs. He was also the Musical Director for the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras at one stage. After studying at the Qld Conservatorium of Music, he sang with some of the greats at the Queensland Opera, Victoria Opera and Opera Australia. So it was a musical treat with Johnathon showcasing the songs made famous by Sir Harry such as "If I Ruled the World", "This is My Song", "Falling in Love with Love", etc etc. Certainly a concert for lovers of the human voice. It was great to go to a concert after the restrictions of Covid.

Rosemary



Pictured left is President Mary, inducting Terry, who was referred to the club by a member of another Probus Club – a club a bit too far from where Terry lives. Welcome Terry and enjoy the fun, fellowship and friendship our club has on offer.

International and Australian travellers will start seeing more 'dual names' for major Australian destinations. Tourism Australia will be promoting our cities and tourist destinations in dual terms, with their English names along with their traditional Aboriginal names. The move is planned to re-introduce more than 60,000 years of Indigenous custodianship, language, and knowledge into the public psyche.



It was nice to see the numbers who, at the last meeting, entered into the spirit of the day (St Patrick's Day) wearing green, along with the few who opted for orange. But, did you know that the more popular St Patrick's Day eclipsed St Gertrude's Day on the same day? Gertrude of Nivelles

(pictured) was a seventh-century abbess and who, somewhat inexplicably, became the patron saint of cats. It is thought that this was probably because she and her nuns kept a large population of cats to control the rodent population.



There is growing regulatory interest in the question of indoor air quality. The matter building up inside homes includes not just dust and dirt from people and pets shedding hair and skin. About a third of it is from outside, either blown in or tramped in on those offensive shoe bottoms. Scientists have found that some of the microorganisms present on shoes and floors are infectious agents, very difficult to treat and are drug-resistant pathogens. Add in cancer-causing toxins from asphalt road residue and endocrine-disrupting lawn chemicals, and you might view the filth on your shoes in a new light. They claim that beyond the occasional stubbed toe, from an environmental health standpoint there aren't many downsides to having a shoe-free house. In a paper published last month, their advice is to leave your shoes at the door, and if you suffer from cold feet, have some "indoor shoes" that never get worn outside on hand.

Why not bring some prospective members along to this month's meeting to hear our fun speaker?

2022/23 Committee

President: Richard M

VP: Vacant

IPP: Mary W

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Ron

Activities: Brenda and Lorelei

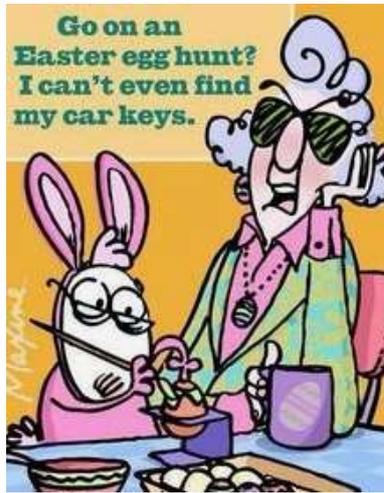
Speakers: Judith

Committee: Richard R

Not on committee

Membership; Bill

Welfare: Lynne



I'm gonna quit my job and travel the world until I run out of money!

I estimate I'll be home again around 10 PM this evening...

