

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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June 2022 Issue No.166

The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Richard's Rambles

Wasn't it wonderful to see the numbers that braved the conditions to commemorate ANZAC DAY recently and remember those who did not return, the survivors who did return, as well as those who were not able to serve but supported the Diggers from home? Despite the rain in Brisbane the numbers were fantastic, as they were all around the Australia. It was fabulous to see many youngsters out wearing their parent's, grandparent's or great grandparent's medals proudly. The ANZAC spirit lives on.

I thought our last month's speaker, retired cartoonist Brian Doyle, was an excellent choice, full of fun and well delivered. I have tried to copy his style but to no avail. I will have to do more homework in this area and will try his technique with my grandkids and see what we come up with.

We are still seeking helpers to understudy our secretary, treasurer and activities positions. Anybody willing to assist please contact me or any other committee member to show your support of what they do. We cannot operate without the committee and others to help out.

The rain has recently returned and fortunately was not too heavy here in Brisbane - that is, until the heavens opened up. I have never seen so much rain in our area at one time. Our garden and pool were absolutely flooded. It is also interesting to see how much rain is falling in outback Queensland and NSW and I am wondering how the farmers out west will handle the quantity of water that is collecting there. It seems global warming is really upon us and I wonder if the rain will come again next year or if we will return to drought. It seems Australia is a country of boom and bust when it comes to climate. Indeed, I thought we were having a reprieve from the rain when the sun came out for about half a day last week. Unfortunately it returned and along with it was mould, to add insult to injury. We have been fairly fortunate here at home in that regard and hope everyone else is doing the same.

That's all from me for now.
Stay safe and keep well,

Richard

**ODD
SPOT**

Weighing in at 5.7kg, a NZ couple applied to the Guinness Book of Records (GBR) as having dug up the world's biggest potato. After GBR insisted on a DNA test, they were told it is not a potato but a "tuber of a type of gourd". The British 5kg potato found in 2011 retains the record.



Activities

JUNE 2022

Sunday 5th Coffee and chat 10.30 Pacific Golf Club.

Wednesday 8th 11.45 am **Lunch** at the Copper Keg, Holland Park Hotel in Logan Rd.

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

Saturday 11th Bus trip: Scenic Rim Clydesdale spectacular. \$63 Pick up at Greenslopes shopping centre 8.35 am sharp. (Bus won't wait). Travel to the Boonah showgrounds for the Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular which celebrates the traditions and heritage of 'the breed that built the nation'. It also showcases the Fassifern Highland Gathering, a stirring massing of pipes and drums, highland dance, caber tossing and more. Fare includes morning tea and entry. Lunch at own cost. Return after 4 pm depending on traffic.

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.

JULY 2022

Sunday 3rd Coffee and chat 10.30 Pacific Golf Club.

Sunday July 10. Christmas in July Champagne High Tea on the verandah at Ormiston House, 277 Wellington St, Ormiston 12 Noon \$50 Car-pooling suggested.

Wednesday 13th Lunch 11.45 a.m. Dee-Dot Café, 973 Logan Rd Holland Park. Small car park at rear or side street parking.

Thursday 21st Monthly meeting 9.30am Newnham Hotel.

Tuesday July 26 Free guided tour of Port of Brisbane. Car-pooling to arrive at 9.50 at the visitors' car park at Port of Brisbane for 10.00 am tour. Enjoy the views from 7th floor rooftop of port office building. Then board their 25 seater bus for an hour long guided tour of the island. Followed by lunch at The Fish Factory, 355 Lytton Rd. (The Bistro is currently closed due to current staffing issues but kitchen remains open for take away)

AUGUST 2022

Sunday 7th **Coffee and chat** 10.30 Pacific Golf Club.

Wednesday 10th **Ethnic Lunch**, noon at Punjabi Masala 1/407 Logan Rd Mt Gravatt. Parking available nearby. Lunch selections from \$10.

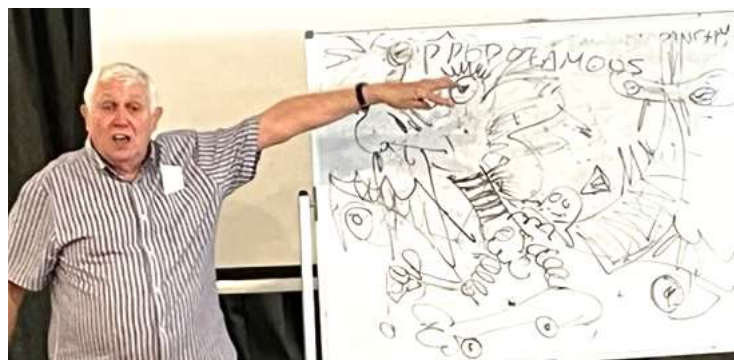
Thursday 18th **Monthly meeting** 9.30am Newnham Hotel

Wednesday 31st **High Tea** in Orchid Room Sunnybank Community Sports Club, 470 McCullough St, Sunnybank. 10.30am \$27 9\$25 members)



News Corporation makes no bones about using its news reporting to push its own agendas. Its internal code of conduct states: *Comment, conjecture and opinion are acceptable in reports to provide perspective on an issue, or explain the significance of an issue, or to allow readers to recognise what the publication's*

standpoint is on the matter being reported. So much for impartiality in news reporting and for separating news from opinion – principles that are explicitly required by the codes of The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and The Australian Financial Review, by the editorial policies of the ABC, and by The Guardian. Yet News Corp's audience, except in Melbourne, has grown. This raises questions about the kind of news Australians seem to want, because for decades, surveys have shown Australian media consumers prize impartiality in news reporting very highly, rating it second only to accuracy as the attribute they value most in news content. Social media has a huge following, but most are aware that raw material is given various treatments – memes, altered contexts and distortions of multiple kinds – to entertain, enrage or mobilise. So what do we want? Because manipulation of news is a disaster for democracy.



The two photos left were taken at the April meeting. On the left, Past President Mary is



inducting Richard M as President – a month late, because Richard was interstate when voted in. The picture on the right is of our entertaining guest speaker, Brian Doyle, demonstrating the quirks of being a successful cartoonist. Pencil in hand, we all had fun when he gave us a practical lesson about how to draw a cartoon. And then, Rod Preston (pictured left) gave us a wow of a talk and

slide show in May, about the history of world postal services (from about 1600s) and the very weird things that were allowed in the post, including young children and preserved human heads! He was one of the most enjoyable, humorous and interesting speakers we've had.



As the mercury drops and days get shorter, sniffles, sore throat and other classic symptoms of flu typically start rearing their snotty, grotty heads. But this winter, we're looking down the barrel of an unusual flu season. Why? Because lock-downs and border closures have prevented the spread of the flu, and therefore we have lost immunity and are more vulnerable than ever. According to the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System, which keeps tabs on lab-confirmed influenza case numbers, Australia racked up 409 cases in March — most of which were in Victoria and NSW. That was nearly the equivalent of the total for the whole of last year. Flu vaccines last 4-6 months, and the peak of the Australian season is usually August. However, experts believe that because of our greater vulnerability, it may peak a little earlier this year.

Probus France has agreed that France's 65 all male clubs can now accept women. About time, n'est ce pas?



Have you been to the Vatican City? Here are some facts about this tiny 49ha city/nation you may not know. It has just 800 permanent residents, 134 of them Swiss citizens aged 19 to 30 and unmarried. They are the guards keeping the city "safe" with their pointed weapons. The rest are clergy and a few service people. All have to be Roman Catholic and there are no children. Citizenship is awarded to workers, but revoked when they stop working there. The Vatican consumes 74L of wine per person per year. (That's a lot of communion wine!). In comparison, Australians drink about 30L of wine per person per year. Pre-pandemic, 6.8 million people visited the Vatican City (just 1.3 million in 2020). It has one of the highest crime rates in the world, but mostly due to pickpockets, purse snatching and shoplifting by outsiders. Those caught and convicted get incarcerated in Italian prisons with the Vatican paying for their upkeep. It has no hospital but there is a pharmacy, a post office and a tiny supermarket. It has the shortest rail line in the world at 852m, mostly used to transport freight.



Your Editor is privileged to have been asked to edit Probus Global's (PG) newsletters, despite not being familiar with MS Publisher! To that end, last month, along with another 55 Probians across the world, I attended (via zoom) a PG general

meeting. PG now has grown from humble beginnings in 2019 to well over 800 members across Canada, UK, Oz, France, Belgium, and India among others (13 countries in all). Why not join Probus Global? (Google it!) It is free – you just have to be a Probian to be a member.



It has been tradition for soldiers to have a drink with Chloé at the Young and Jackson Hotel in Melbourne since the first world war. So no wonder so many gathered there on ANZAC Day. Chloé, the French nude by [Jules Joseph Lefebvre](#) made her debut at the 1875 Paris Salon and won medals at the 1879 Sydney and 1880 Melbourne international exhibitions. In December 1880, a Melbourne surgeon bought Chloé and later, when he loaned her to the National Gallery of Victoria, there was a furore in the press. Public opinion was sharply divided over the propriety of publically displaying a French nude painting on the Sabbath. After the surgeon's death in 1908 the painting was sold for £800 and hung to gaze over the bar at the hotel. Private A. P. Hill, who was killed in action in WWI, put a message in a bottle and tossed it overboard. It read: *To the finder of this bottle. Take it to Young and Jackson's, fill it, and keep it till we return from the war.* The bottle was found in NZ. By the start of the second world war, Chloé and Young and Jackson's were so enmeshed in military mythology they were included in the 2/21st Australian Infantry Battalion's official march song: *Good-by Young and Jackson's; Farewell Chloé too; It's a long way to Bonegilla; But we'll get there on stew.* At one stage, during WWII radio transmissions, the soldiers were asked "where is Chloé"? The answer was to prove that the communication came from a dinky-di Aussie.

What a happy day for the Women's Probus Club of Cambridge Riverside in the UK! Last month was its first in-person meeting in two years since the pandemic began! Members still wore masks and had to prove that they were vaccinated, but hey, it makes us realise how lucky we have been to miss just three face-to-face meetings!



Mad as a hatter: This expression was coined long before Louis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. In the 17th Century in France, poisoning occurred among hat makers who used mercury for the hat felt. The "Mad Hatter Disease" was marked by shyness, irritability, and tremors that would make the person appear "mad."

What about our native pollinators? The Royal Australian Mint has released a \$2 collectors' coin to celebrate 200 years since the introduction of the European honeybee. Honeybees, both feral and managed, compete with

our native species for nectar and pollen in flowers. We have, among others, 11 native species of stingless bees which can produce honey – though not to the extent honeybees can. Some native bee species can nest on the ground in stubble and other parts of crops. In contrast, honeybee hives often have to be trucked from crop to crop. Australia’s native species are tenacious – often the underdog fighting for a fair go in a harsh environment. Surely that’s a story also worth telling.



The President of the Probus Club of Pickering Lakeside (Canada) started his editorial of the April issue of the club’s newsletter with the amazing announcement that he had successfully negotiated for the club to receive a \$100,000 grant from the Pickering City Council to subsidise activities and grow membership. He explained that the donation was because the council felt seniors needed to overcome the suffering and hardships caused by the pandemic and consequent shut-downs. Wow! He continued for another page and a half about other issues before reminding members that it was April Fool’s Day – hence no \$100,000 😊.

Did you know that in 2020 alone, Americans spent nearly \$104 billion on their animal companions, according to the American Pet Products Association – a sum that is the equivalent of the GDP of Slovakia?

Global hotel booking giant Trivago has been fined nearly \$45 million for misleading customers with advertising that claimed it made it easy to find the “best price” for rooms. The company had breached Australian Consumer Law over a “lengthy period of time” by placing higher priced offers on the top position over alternative lower priced offers in 66.8 per cent of listings. There were approximately 57 million click-outs on a top position offer for an identified hotel from which Trivago earned approximately \$92 million in revenue. It also had to pay the ACCC’s legal costs. The court also estimated that consumers ended up paying about \$30 million more for their hotel rooms than if they had always clicked on the cheapest offer, rather than the top-position offers featured by Trivago. The web site now complies with Australian Consumer Law.

It is interesting to note that one Probus club in Melbourne acknowledges, on its web site, the traditional custodians of the land where they meet. Our area is on the land of the Yuggera and Turrbal peoples.

Did you know that the miniature brains of honeybees are able to understand the concepts of odd and even, despite only having 960,000 neurons (compared to 86 billion in humans)?



Staff shortages affect even Probus clubs. Our monthly May lunch had to be moved, because the café on the top of Mt Gravatt was so short staffed that it was serving take-aways only. As it turned out, we would have been unable to see beautiful Brisbane from the mountain anyway, due to bucketing rain. We relocated, but there was just a few of us because the heavy rain kept many away. It was pleasant anyway.

We're a society obsessed with numbers, and no more so than when managing our health - one of the most popular of which is the Body Mass Index (BMI). But BMI is increasingly under scrutiny, with more and more experts questioning its accuracy. The concept of BMI was developed in 1832 (yes, almost 200 years ago!) by Belgian statistician who was called on to create a description of the "average man". It was updated 100 years later to reflect more health values than statistical values. However, BMI is based on body weight, but a person's disease risk is linked to body fat, not weight. While body weight can be a proxy for body fat, muscle is much denser than fat, and because BMI calculators can't differentiate fat from muscle, nor its distribution, people can be easily misclassified. Nor does it account for ethnic or demographic differences. Health needs to be measured on a scale that includes levels of triglycerides, blood pressure, blood glucose, heart rate, presence of inflammation, stress levels and many other considerations than a blanket and easy BMI number.



It seems normality is returning. We had the best turn-out for our May Coffee and Chat morning since COVID hit us. It was nice to see Bevan and Judy returning, after being absent from the club for a very long time!



After a false start in the early 20th century, electric mobility is back. It offers immunity to oil price spikes and geopolitical uncertainty, as well as cleaner air and quieter cities. It turns out electrification can work wonders for almost all of our transport options, from electric bikes to motorbikes to buses to freight trains and even to tractors and heavy trucks. There

will soon be no need to burn petrol and diesel in an internal combustion engine. If all cars on the road became powered by renewable electricity, we'd cut almost one-fifth of our emissions. Major miner BHP is testing battery-electric trains and even tractors are going electric. Regulations for electric vehicles need to catch up with what is to be an EV revolution. By focusing on all transport modes, instead of just cars, we will make our cities more equitable, safe and sustainable.



First discovered in 1967, pulsars are remnants of massive stars and offer researchers potential applications in areas such as guidance systems for spacecraft. They emit radio waves from their poles and there are 3300 known to be in our galaxy. 30 have been found outside it in the Magellanic

Clouds. To date, scientists didn't know of any others in existence. CSIRO last month announced that their scientists used an astronomical version of 'sunglasses' on a telescope to capture light that is polarised. Having searched for 50 years, they now found a never-before seen pulsar that is 10 times brighter than any other detected outside our Galaxy in the Large Magellanic Cloud, about 160,000 light years away. Before now, the bright spot in the radio data was overlooked as a distant galaxy. The "sunglasses" will pave the way for even more discoveries.

In The US, the [Roe v Wade draft opinion](#) to reinstate abortion laws, leaked in May, has shown the power of the legal system when it comes to facilitating (or winding back) social change. It is the same in Australia, and we don't have much diversity in the judiciary either. Every Justice of the High Court of Australia since Federation in 1901 has been white, and all but six have been men. What is more, This is reflected elsewhere in the judicial system, where the vast majority of senior judges are male and virtually all are from British and European ancestry. With two High Court appointments to be made in the next three years (and others on the Federal Court), this is a huge opportunity to recognise Australia's diversity in one of the most important systems in our society.

Park Ridge Probus Club has trialled a "bring and buy" table at its April meeting and it proved very popular. It was repeated at their May meeting, but there is no news of its success at time of writing. Would members be interested in the occasional "bring and buy" table? If so, (or not) drop a note in the suggestion box and let the committee know.

Australia is investigating digital dollars (or e-dollars). It could allow direct consumer-to-consumer and consumer-to-business payments without the intervention of financial institutions. For transactions, it would have a clear advantage over so-called cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, whose values fluctuate because they are not tied to a currency. In much of the rest of the world the use of cash is shrinking, in Australia there are more banknotes in circulation as a proportion of the economy than at any time since the introduction of decimal currency in 1966, but it is mostly held, not traded. China became the first major economy to pilot a digital currency in 2020. The downside of this proposal is the issue of privacy in transactions which at this stage cannot be guaranteed. Also, large amounts can be "held" in phones and digital wallets which can be lost,

stolen, laundered or hacked. Our Reserve Bank is particularly unenthusiastic, about its introduction despite what it could save in printing notes.

When Covid restrictions were put in place, we were encouraged to stay seated and restricted from mixing and mingling. Previously, one of the nice things about morning tea time used to be standing around and socialising with people with whom we don't normally sit. While the tea/coffee and yummy cakes and sandwiches are difficult to juggle standing up, members are encouraged to "play musical chairs" and sit at another table, with someone else, while having morning tea. It makes for more variety in our interactions and greater opportunities of strengthening friendships.

Airlines' rules about cancellation fees for passengers who test positive for COVID-19 or are a close contact will remain. But many other rules are now changing and it is advisable to check all fine print when booking flights to ensure you are aware of all the terms and conditions.



It is ironic. India has been working towards cleaner air but recently it has had weeks of over 40° temperatures. How does the two relate? Pollution particles in the atmosphere block sunlight from reaching the surface thereby keeping it cooler. Reducing pollution will have an unintended consequence of likely accelerating warming locally. Also, pollution

has helped mask some of the greenhouse gas-induced warming in the region. While reduced air pollution will have many health benefits, it will also likely lead to greater heatwave intensity and frequency over the Indian subcontinent.

DUTY ROSTER

Chair: Mary B **Five minute Spot:** Maxine **Fellowship:**
Dale and Carmel **Door:** Grace and Ron

Did you know that 30 million used toothbrushes are thrown away each year in Australia, according to an oral care brand? And most of those take 400 years to fully biodegrade. But there are alternatives. Although more expensive, there are products made from natural materials such as bamboo, corn-starch and cotton.

Did you know that Probus in Belgium has 4200 Probians in 116 clubs?



Science is about more than crisis management such as in pandemics and climate change. It's about how we understand our present and future, and realise our potential as people. Australian science is in crisis. We have just had elections, and it has hardly rated in any one party's campaign. Scientists themselves are having

a hard time of it. Facing funding cuts, pandemic-struck universities, and political interference in grant processes, as many as 20% of researchers say they are planning to leave the industry. With the stresses of fires, floods, illness and their flow-on effects, we appear to have become complacent about all that science entails. Nothing has been said of the role of science in supporting our defence and national security or its role in equipping the public with essential life skills. A strong science sector relies on long-term, consistent and coherent government funding to support discovery and innovation, but the problem is that it doesn't get quick and easy returns. Matters of science are complex and becoming more so every day. Our politicians must be better equipped to distinguish between evidence and fiction, while understanding how science works and how our knowledge base rapidly evolves. Supporting science needs to be prioritised because it is fundamentally important to life.

The pandemic brought on "employee monitoring software" which became the new normal, logging keystrokes and mouse movement, capturing screenshots, tracking location, and even activating webcams and microphones. At the same time, workers were dreaming up creative new ways to evade the software's all-seeing eye. Now, even returned office workers are be subject to these new tools. For an increasing number of workers, these tools appear less than benign. Once installed, it doesn't often get uninstalled. It is legal, but there are complications. There are no consistent set of laws operating across jurisdictions in Australia that regulate surveillance of the workplace. And sometimes workers find low tech solutions. Recently, an employee found a way to block the mouse jiggler spyware by taping his mouse to the office fan so it kept moving and then went out to lunch. Big Brother was thwarted for a while.



Richard Wynne, who died in 1895, would not recognise many recent entries in the art prize that he endowed with £1,000 to reward a "landscape painting of Australian scenery". The prize was akin to the Archbald prize for portraits. It was awarded

to just one female artist until the 1970s, and it took 50 years to give an award for a painting without a gum tree. The awards were given for less conservative paintings over time, (see 1998 winner by Ann Thompson, above). Today, it is more likely to be given to an Indigenous artist's

explanation of Country. Recently Wynne has been dominated by works by Indigenous artists living in communities in central and northern Australia.



The last time Brian Herd addressed us over three years ago, he managed to turn the dry, serious subject of the legalities of aging into an entertaining and informative talk. Brian is a lawyer specialising in Elder Law. For the past 20 years he has dealt with the fallout from families not planning adequately for dealing with old age, including estate planning, wills and family relationships. His talk is engaging and inspirational and members voted to have him back. He's our speaker this month.

Truckloads of avocados are being dumped all over Queensland and left to rot. According farmers there is an oversupply. One farmer explained that came about because of the closures of restaurants during COVID-19 lockdowns, the impacts of the NSW and Queensland floods, and the Queensland season clashing with Western Australia's avo harvest. It's become cheaper to throw away avocados than to pay the costs associated with packaging, transporting and selling them. Even dumping has a costs attached. The peak body is working on building greater export markets even as Australia imports avos from NZ as part of the free trade agreement.



Australia now risks relying on COVID vaccines from two main companies – Pfizer and Moderna – and that's a problem. While the need for COVID vaccines is not going away anytime soon, we need to shape the market to drive more competition for better access to improved vaccines. The AstraZeneca and Novavax vaccines are now rarely used. This effective duopoly further reinforces the already considerable power these manufacturers hold via the intellectual property rights to their vaccines. While Pfizer has negotiated advantageous and secretive vaccine contracts with governments, Moderna has also resisted sharing the formulation of its vaccine so it can be manufactured by other countries. The reality that current COVID vaccines only partially prevent transmission leaves us dependent on this effective duopoly. Australia should institute an economic "mission" to establish publicly-owned, not-for-profit vaccine and essential pharmaceuticals research, development and manufacturing infrastructure and capability here. That way, we can facilitate full freedom to transfer supplies to our regional neighbours, while boosting competition in the development of new formulations that prevent, rather than slow down transmission.

2022/23 Committee

President: Richard M

VP: Vacant

IPP and Newsletter) Mary W

Secretary: Margaret

Treasurer: Ron

Activities: Lorelei

Speakers: Judith

Committee: Richard R

Not on committee

Membership; Bill

Welfare: Lynne



BREAST INPLANTS



Women are Angels.
And when someone breaks
our wings,
We simply continue to fly....
On a broomstick.
We're flexible like that.

