

# The Probus Club of Holland Park Central



PO Box 5151 Mt Gravatt East 4122

**Meetings: 9.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. every third Thursday of the month.**

Venue: Newnham Hotel, Newnham Rd, Upper Mt Gravatt

<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/hollandparkcentral/Home>  
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*The HP Source – It's a bottler!*

## Richard's Rambles

Well, in the words of the nursery rhyme, "rain, rain go away" and it has (for now) and Incy, Wincy spider was washed down the water spout. But then "out came the sun and dried up all the rain" (it was lovely for a few days) BUT then "Here we go around the mulberry bush on a cold and frosty morning" (and evening, and night). The cold has come with a vengeance. I hope everyone is keeping as warm as possible under the circumstances. The cold winds are not normally due until August around show time but I guess we have to look forward to changes in the climate these days.

It was actually an ideal time for me to be sent to hospital overnight to have an SCC (Squamous Cell Carcinoma) removed from my heel and repaired with a skin graft (taken from my forehead) where there was another excision done. As a result I have had to remain inactive (in bed) with my foot up and only allowed to get up to go to the toilet. It is not until a time like this that one realises how much we do actually move around in our daily lives. Julie has been looking after my every wish (long may it continue), bringing me breakfast, lunch and dinner in bed, along with "a cup of coffee or Bonox or glass of wine, please" and "could you just get a book from the office for me" or similar request. Andy has very kindly loaned me a very interesting book to read (he didn't tell me it was over 800 pages long excluding notes and references) so I have hopped into reading it and am up to page 150 at the moment. The only downside of being cooped up in bed all the time is that I get a bit of a numb bum. Ahh well, a small price to pay if it all heals well. Fingers crossed.

Talking about nursery rhymes earlier leads me to what young kids learn from us without our even noticing it. Many years ago I was put in a rather awkward situation when my mother and father came out from South Africa and while we were driving I thought I used some very polite language to curse a car that had cut me off. Our son, who was 4 years old at the time, said "No dad, you mean XXXXXXXX". I was mortified as I didn't even know he knew those words. I bravely said "No, I don't mean that at all" trying to wheedle my way out of the predicament I was in. "Yes dad, he said, you always say XXXXXXXX". The only way to shut him up was to agree with him and we drove on in stony silence with my parents in the back saying nothing.

In the same vein, a few months ago Julie and I returned to Brisbane from Sydney and one of our daughters FaceTimed our grandson (6yo) whom we had not seen for quite a while. He was so excited that we were home and asked his father if they could come over to see us straight away. As they were about to head overseas they were isolating from Covid and my son said that they could not come over to see us. He put on a sad face and my daughter said to him "Don't worry, Granny will be disappointed that she will not see you too". Quick as a flash he responded with "Oh well, she'll just have to suck it up then." I recounted this story to my surgeon when having other skin cancers removed and he told me about how he was trying to explain to his grandson, of a similar age, how we got around before GPS and Google Maps. He told him that we had to use a Refidex, a book with maps on paper. The grandson quizzically replied "Do you mean like pirates?" I guess he was alluding to the fact the pirates had paper maps of where their treasure was hidden.

That's all from me for now, except to thank all helpers and committee members who are keeping things running while I am away. Julie and I will be heading to Sydney as soon as my leg is fit for travelling.

Take care everyone and keep WARM

**Richard**

ODD  
SPOT

The great dunny run was on again! Each year the Incontinence Foundation updates the [National Public Toilet Map](#) with the help of the public. Last year's run resulted in 3,877 registrations of regional public toilets around the country, including 607 new entries on the map.



## Activities

### **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** Dee-Dot Coffee, 973 Logan Rd Holland Park. Small car park at rear or side street parking. 11.30am

**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 – Celebrating our 14th birthday.

**Tuesday 23rd. World of Wonder: Margo McKinney Exhibition** at Museum of Brisbane in City Hall. This exhibition probes the history of the McKinney family's Qld retail jewellery dynasty, showcases the timeless elegance of Margo McKinney's work, and tells the story of how she sources the precious peals, opals and other gems that make up her fabulous creations. 10.00am. \$12 concession. Names and [payment at July meeting please.](#)

**Followed by lunch at a nearby venue.**

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

### **SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Note Changes: The first Sunday (4th) is Father's Day – coffee and chat will be on the 2nd Sunday, and lunch will be on the FIRST Wednesday, not the 2nd.**

**Wednesday 7th Ethnic lunch** Asian House, 82 Meadowlands Rd Carina.  
11.30am

**Saturday 10th Brisbane City Pops Orchestra**, 41 Brookfield Rd,  
Kenmore. 2.00pm "Come to the Proms" \$26.50

**Sunday 11th Coffee and Chat**, 10.30 am Pacific Golf Club

**Thursday 15th Monthly meeting**, 9.30 am Newnham Hotel

**Wednesday 21st Toowoomba Carnival of flowers** Bus trip \$75,  
morning tea and lunch included. Pick up 7.30am at Greenslopes Mall  
Return 5.30pm. See some of the top displays and competition gardens  
and stop and smell the roses and floral exhibitions in parks. Pay by July  
meeting.

**Sunday 25th. Outback Spectacular**, Entertainment Rd, Oxenford. Car-  
pooling suggested. From Pacific Motorway, Take Exit 60 to Warner Bros  
Movie World and Wet'n'Wild Gold Coast, pass under the Motorway and  
turn left at the traffic lights. Free car parking available at front of venue.  
Gates open at 11.15am to get a coffee before show. Lunch begins at  
12.30. Show lasts 1hr 45mins.

Australians with all other arrivals from overseas now have to fill out a detailed online form before they arrive, including uploading their passport details, travel history and vaccine certificate. Since its launch in February, the app has been widely slammed with a rating of 1.2 out of five stars on the Google Play Store and 1.6 out of five on the IOS App Store. Complaints span everything from scanning passports, issues to signing into the app to even being able to register in the first place. Gone are the days when you could quickly fill in an arrival (or departure) card. The poorly designed and programmed app currently has bugs galore.



The war in Ukraine is being described as the first social media war. Memes, tweets, videos and blog posts communicate both vital information and propaganda, potentially changing the course of history. This highlights the importance of agile and critical social media use. This kind of immediate, vibrant and global communication needs to be the basis of study in English in schools. Students need to be able to create memes, write rolling news blogs and produce digital news podcasts, all for networked audiences. They need to determine aims, invent concepts, manipulate images, combine different media, compose compelling text and respect copyright law. Without this, our education system is now outdated. Dropping traditional English lessons is not an option, but the addition the "new" social media way of communicating is a must.

**Probus in Ireland: 134 Clubs (95 male, 34 ladies and 5 combined), with 4,700 members (approx).**

Research shows that having an unplanned child is more common than you might think. In Australia 40% of pregnancies are mis-timed, unexpected or unwanted. That's an estimate comparable with rates worldwide. While unplanned pregnancy studies focus on the mother, new research highlights that the dad, whether still in a relationship with mum or not, can go through similar emotional trauma as the mother. Indeed, some new dads even get postnatal depression. The surprising finding also debunks the notion that men don't seek help when impacted by unplanned or mis-timed pregnancy issues. It may not necessarily be from professionals, but as in many other instances, peer support from friends and often online, can be a foot-in-the-door for men who feel uncomfortable disclosing vulnerability.



Do you realise that we, as a club and as individuals, have missed out? We have had it too good here in Brisbane, having missed just three face-to-face meetings during COVID. Most other Probus clubs around the world have become so proficient with virtual meetings, that they are beginning to combine face-to-face meetings with virtual ones, so that those who are unable to attend (ill, or just holidaying) can still attend the "normal" meeting, virtually. Many clubs here (including us) on the other hand, wouldn't even know how to set up for a plain virtual meeting, let alone a hybrid one. We are also missing out on the plethora of fascinating speakers who have recorded their guest speaker spots on Zoom which are now available on line. One monthly activity could be for small groups to meet over coffee (maybe in a home) and listen to one of these speakers on a lap-top! Yes, it IS more fun to meet face-to-face, but we could also replace "live" speakers with ones from around the world if we wished. Especially if a speaker can't make it at the last minute.



Sex" and "gender" are terms that are often used interchangeably, but they are not the same thing. Sex refers to biological attributes, including genetics and reproductive organs. Gender is shaped by social and cultural influences, and may or may not align with an individual's biological sex. Both sex and gender can influence our health. Given that, there remains an undercurrent of sex bias against women (and occasionally against men) in Science fields. Nature journals are introducing a new requirement for scientific publications (whether about human, animal or cell research) for authors to describe whether, and how, sex and gender are considered in study design, and if it isn't

considered, then authors need to clarify why. Accounting for sex and gender makes for better science.

Halicin, named after HAL, the artificial intelligence (AI) in Arthur C Clarke's classic *2001: A Space Odyssey*, might be the first antibiotic that fights resistance, discovered using AI. AI programs have played an important role in other patented inventions from electrical circuits, through meta-materials and drugs, to consumer products such as toothbrushes. Society urgently needs to consider the impact of AI on the innovation system, particularly on laws regarding intellectual property and patents. Can software be an "inventor"? This question has been the focus of some recent high profile court cases around the world, including here. To date, for the purposes of patentability, the courts have ruled that inventors must be human. Who might own the rewards from an AI patent? The programmer? The owner of the computer on which it runs? And what about the owner(s) of the data on which the AI might be trained? AI presents a watershed challenge that requires us to think carefully about how to reward and encourage innovation.

Did you know that as at the beginning of this year, there were 60 Probus clubs (all male) in France, with a total of 1300 members? The clubs have as few as six members, up to 36 with the average being 20 (and growing). Around the world there are 4,500 clubs with a membership of around 300,000 – third of them in Australia and NZ.

Last year, Woolworths had a trial run of cashless stores in its inner-city stores in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. It was met with fierce opposition from customers, and was quickly shut down. Some described it as "a form of ageism" that disproportionately affected older Australians. The cashless society is some time away in Australia.



Infrared cameras, which detect both mobile phone and seatbelt offences, were launched in Queensland last July and are not only proving very effective but also very profitable. The technology is exceptional, the image quality is very high and it rarely gets it wrong. Of the 75,000 fines handed out in six months, 20,000 were for seatbelt offences. It was \$413, but as of July 1st, it jumps to \$1078 – and one can be also fined the same amount for wearing it incorrectly.

The Beaver Valley Probus Club (Ontario, Canada) held, after two years, its first face-to-face meeting in May. We here in OZ can hardly identify with the club's size. This from its May newsletter "**Please Wear Your**

**Name Badge!** It's very hard to remember everyone's name. Our Club has nearly 600 members...many we haven't seen in over 2 years...in the hall where we are wearing masks...with our memories that are not necessarily improving with time!". ...And they have a waiting list. Do they come any bigger?



This Australian grasshopper gave up sex 250,000 years ago. Few animals have babies without sex, so biologists assumed asexual reproduction must have evolutionary drawbacks. But this all-female species reproduces by self-cloning. It lives in our southern arid zone, where it feeds on mulga trees and other shrubs and bushes. The *Warramaba virgo* species arose about 250,000 years ago from a cross between two different sexually reproducing species of grasshopper, and giving up sex appears to have had no negative repercussions for them whatsoever. All members of the species have virtually identical genes. The danger is that they might be less able to adapt when the environment changes. What's more, parthenogens could accumulate bad mutations that reduce their fitness.

Would it work in our club? One of the clubs in Melbourne has several interest groups, one called The Grumpy Old Men. They meet regularly each month to discuss some Secret and Important Men's Business. ...And would you believe they meet at a place called the "Naughty Boys Café"?



Medical advice is, that even if it is cold, drink plenty of fluids during the day to keep hydrated, because you may not feel as thirsty as in the warm weather. Although it may be tempting to avoid drinking so you don't need to keep rushing to the bathroom, this can lead to undetected dehydration and consequential problems. For some people, going to the loo more often in the cold is normal because we perspire less. Also, when suddenly going from a warm atmosphere, out into the cold, the body protects itself from the shock, by diverting blood away from the skin to avoid losing its heat to the outside air. This means more blood ends up flushing through your internal organs and your kidneys are working harder. So keep hydrated and warm in winter.

Planning on travelling overseas? Need to renew your passport? The pressure on the Australian Passport Office (APO) is such that instead of the usual 10 days to issue new passports, it now takes 10 weeks. So plan early. Complaints about the APO have escalated exponentially. There have been 193 complaints about the APO to the commonwealth ombudsman in the past 12 months, compared to one complaint for the same period last year.



We have received notice from PSPL that it has partnered with The Travel Corporation (TTC) which offers “an amazing choice of holidays, from luxury river cruising to tailor-made adventure and a variety of touring experiences both internationally and here in Australia and New Zealand. There is a trip to suit every traveller.” Also, according to PSPL, “TTC’s Groups team can create bespoke itineraries to suit your Club’s needs, with a commitment to create seamless group experiences, with support and expertise every step of the way!” It seems Probus Club members receive access to exclusive discounts year-round including on packages put together by organisations such as Trafalgar and AAT Kings.

Find your next holiday here: [travel.ttc.com/en-au/probus](https://travel.ttc.com/en-au/probus) call or speak to a brand expert on 1300300911 or call or email ttc groups & charters: 1300 780 283 or [groupsaustralia@ttc.com](mailto:groupsaustralia@ttc.com)

Did you know that According to the Australian Cyber Security Centre, there had been a nearly 13% increase in cyber crime reports in the 2020-21 financial year, compared to the year prior? With some 67,500 reports, that’s one incident reported nearly every eight minutes. Self-reported losses totalled more than \$33 billion. Australia is fighting this seriously, with allocated funds growing from \$230 million in 2016, to \$1.67 billion in 2020, to \$9.9 billion in this year’s budget. Clare O’Neil was appointed Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cyber Security. It’s the first time cyber security has had its own portfolio in the Australian cabinet.



How does an image become an icon? It is estimated that we now produce more images in two minutes than we did in the entire 19th century. How, then, can one image be so powerful it can symbolise the horror of war and help mobilise anti-war sentiment? June 8 marked the 50 year anniversary since Associated Press photographer Hyung Cong “Nick” Út captured one of

the Vietnam War’s defining images. Despite its age, the image continues to retain the capacity to shock. The little girl’s proximity to the camera’s lens shows that her agony and terror is unambiguous, after four napalm bombs were dropped nearby. Initially the photograph was rejected by the Associated Press because of the girl’s nakedness. A few hours later, this decision was overruled and later was reproduced by newspapers across the world. Kim Phúc, the girl in the picture, later became the subject of television [documentaries](#), as well as a [biography](#) documenting her life and defection from Vietnam to Canada. In 1972, the photo became the

generation-defining image that captured the futility of the war in Vietnam. It won both the Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography and the World Press Photo in 1973. ... And it was the broad circulation of Út's photograph that led to Kim Phúc receiving the advanced medical treatment, unavailable to most, that saved her life.



Our June lunch at the Holland Park Hotel was interesting. The restaurant refused give us menus or take over-the-counter (or table) orders. QR scans had to be used. The orders had to be lodged via an app which was by no means user friendly. Indeed, each of us had to be coached by a staff member how to use it, meaning when the coaching was not even through, one member had already received and finished her lunch and another was half way through ordering. When the QR code wouldn't work on one member's phone, she gave up in disgust and ordered just coffee (over the counter) as a form of protest. Then, another member mastered the menu and ordering wrigmarole, but he cancelled before finishing because he objected to all the personal details that were required to be divulged. The Hotel doesn't keep your credit card and other details, - the unknown (to you) QR code broker does, with no promises of privacy – not to the customer at least. At that point, they accepted his order over the counter. Pleasant company, but even for the more phone/app literate of us, they didn't make it easy. They did say it would be easier next time, but by that time, with the frustration and the very staggered meals, none of us were inclined to come back. Are all restaurants going down that track? Even if they are, there must be a better, more user-friendly app and a more secure way of ordering and paying.



Last month, Costa Rica came under cyber attack — again. One morning last month throughout the Central American country, printers at the national health service abruptly churned out copies of a ransomware note. Hospital record-keeping systems went down, and screens flashed up demands for a digital key needed to unlock compromised files and servers. This was just the latest in a string of cyber attacks by two Russian groups, that had knocked out 29 basic government services, including the ministries of finance, social security, meteorology, electricity, and sciences, innovation, technology and telecommunications. Costa Rica is now in an official state of emergency — the first time a country has done this in response to cyber attacks. Security experts fear other countries will be next, as criminals spy soft targets in public infrastructure, like trains, hospitals, and schools. And yes, that potentially includes Australia. The (government sanctioned) Russian groups are acting as brokers which hire out their ransomware

and data extortion programs for around 30% of the takings. The attacks in Costa Rica underscore the need for international collaboration and coordination to address ransomware and other cyber threats.

We'll be celebrating Probus Day in October with a "Meet and Greet Lunch in the Park" in October. The Eastern Suburbs Probus Club will be joining us. While the Mt Gravatt-Pacific Club has also been invited, we haven't yet heard its response. Date, and venue is yet to be set.



Are we that naiive? Woolworths is trying to convince us that the software they are installing to film customers and the goods they purchase at each checkout, is there to "improve scanning speed" and "make the self-serve scanning process more accurate for our customers."

Catching cheats and thieves has nothing to do with it!

### Duty Roster

Chair: **Barrie** Five Min Spot: **Bill**, Fellowship: **Lynne and Bev**, Door: **Roz and Ron**

Three University of Sydney researchers analysed five million individual tax returns over a four-year period. They found tax advisers are more likely to act as "tax exploiters" for wealthy clients but "tax enforcers" for the rest of us. For clients with annual taxable income more than A\$180,000, whose financial affairs make tax rules complex or uncertain, tax advisers can help identify ways to save money. But for everyday wage earners they mostly ensure compliance with the tax rules.



Most of the younger generation know **Michael Beatty** for his advocacy for the RSPCA but the older generation know him for the 40 years he spent as a television reporter. He covered wars, revolutions and royal weddings. He interviewed stars from Cary Grant to the Rolling Stones, and worked in Canada, the UK and here in OZ on *Willesee*, *Today Tonight* and *Good Morning Australia*. Michael will be our speaker this month.



An Australian-led team of international researchers say they have discovered, last month, a supermassive black hole that gobbles up the equivalent of one Earth every second. It is more than 500 times bigger than the one at the centre of the Milky Way and is the brightest and fastest-growing supermassive black hole of the past 9 billion years (that we know of). It is not in our galaxy but is located in the bright constellation of Centaurus. It is estimated to have a mass of three **billion**

suns, compared to the biggest black hole in our galaxy which has a mass of four million suns.



Left: The Darling Downs 11th Light Horse Brigade performs at the Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular.



Left below: One of the many Clydesdale horses and members rugged up at the Spectacular on a cold but sunny winter's day.

On a cold, crisp, clear Saturday morning, several HPC members joined a tour bus headed for The Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular. Our destination was Boonah which has the distinction of being named as a Lonely Planet top destination in the world for 2022. We headed for the Cunningham Highway and had been travelling for an hour when the bus turned off the highway at Swanbank and stopped at the decommissioned Swanbank Powerhouse. Morning tea of homemade biscuits and slice was served at the delightful picnic grounds on the edge of a lake. Apparently the lake was used to cool the water from the power station. Joining the Highway again, we took the route via Amberley, where we were lucky to see one of the RAAF jets flying low, and on past the Willowbank Raceway. Our driver gave a running commentary as we admired the magnificent mountains and hills that could be seen so very clearly due to the cloudless sky and lack of any haze. On past Mutdapilly, past Summer Land Camel farm at Harrisville and the Kalfresh carrot factory at Kalbar. At Fassifern, we turned for Boonah and were soon at the Showgrounds. There were so many displays and events listed in the Schedule it was difficult to decide. Those big beautiful heavy horses were strutting, or plodding, their stuff in both rings, coats shiny and tails plaited. They provided the horsepower on the surrounding farms before tractors and modern machinery made them redundant. In contrast to the heavy horses there was the Light Horse. The 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Darling Downs Troop is a historical re-enactment unit and their equestrian skills provided

an interesting and entertaining display and a reminder of Australia's military history.

A whip cracking competition was running, a billy boiling competition, lost trades being demonstrated and working dogs showing their prowess.

Scotland provided many of the settlers in the Scenic Rim and their descendants celebrated this in a Gathering of the Clans. Two pavilions were packed with all things Scottish for sale and many people wore tartan, some in kilts. We took the opportunity to sit and be entertained by the Warwick Thistle Pipe Band marveling at the skills of the very young musicians. The skirl of the bagpipes is a stirring sound.

We had been advised to line up for lunch early, as the queues could be very long so we thought we would try the Camp oven fare. Everyone else must have heard too so we opted for an Aussie Burger comprising a beef patty, fried onion, tomato, lettuce and BEETROOT! Given that lettuces were bringing up to \$12 a head, it was a luxury lunch.

The forecast westerly winds didn't arrive and it was really warm by lunchtime. The bus was much quieter on the way home as we were all weary after our day out. An alternate route home took us through Peaks Crossing and different scenery. I'm only sorry more of our fellow Probianos couldn't share the experience.

*Lowleen*

New rules on mobile app stores could trigger a wave of creative, cheaper apps with more privacy options for users. A 2021 study showed just 0.5% of consumer apps succeed commercially. Developers have to jostle for attention among the almost 3 million apps and games on Google Play and 4.5 million apps and games on the Apple store. Up to now, independent developers develop an app, and not long afterwards the Google and Apple platforms embeds the app's features in the operating system itself, killing the developer's product. Both platforms are now fighting a multitude of law suits. A report from the UK's Competition and Markets Authority highlighted concerns that the tech giants are creating barriers to innovation and competition. The EU's Digital Markets Act could be in force by Spring 2023. The legislation is designed to open up mobile platforms by allowing users to install apps from alternative stores, and ensure app store providers don't favour their own products or services over third-party developers' offerings. The European Commission itself looks set to become a dedicated regulator for the first time.

Bring some cash to the next meeting. We will be holding a raffle. Win a wonderful hamper put together by Lorelei. Tickets will be one for \$2 or three tickets for \$5.

**2022/23 Committee**

**President:** Richard M

**VP:** Vacant

**IPP and Newsletter)** Mary W

**Secretary:** Margaret

**Treasurer:** Ron

**Activities:** Lorelei

**Speakers:** Judith

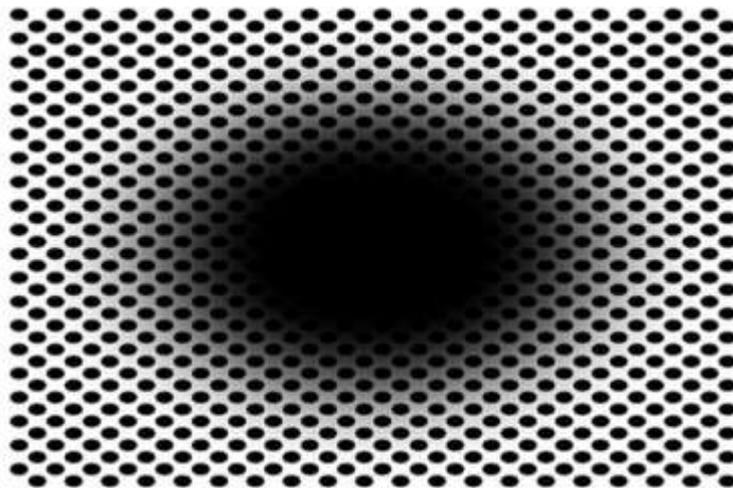
**Committee:** Richard R

\*\*\*\*\*

Not on committee

Membership; Bill

Welfare: Lynne



Above: The image is stationary, but most people will look at it and see the black area appear to expand, as if entering a dark tunnel. It's not every day you see a completely new visual illusion, and 86% of people will see it that way. Neuroscientists in Norway and Japan studied people's eyes as they looked at the illusion, and found that their pupils dilated.



The only board meeting I'm willing to attend.



Above: What do you see? An old lady and an old man or people - one playing a banjo?



*Husband: What if I bought you some diamonds for our anniversary?  
Wife: Nothing would please me more.  
So she got nothing.*



*It's not my age that bothers me. It is the side effects.*

*Don't want to brag or make people jealous, but I can still fit into the earrings I wore in high school.*