

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

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The HP Source – It's a bottler!



Richard's Rambles

"The best laid plans of mice and men, Gang aft a g-ley" (oft go awry). This statement is of unknown origin but is attributed to Robert Burns in his poem "To a Mouse", published in 1876. Well, no truer word has been spoken. Julie and I planned to be in Sydney in early June and most of July but due to my skin cancer operation I was slowly recovering at home. I am now just able to get around but it seems to be taking forever to heal. As a result we headed for Sydney in mid-July and back to Brisbane early this month.

During school holidays we were on grandparent duty with our 7 year old grandson. At this age they never seem to stop and we are still worn out. To try to keep him away from the TV and other electronica, we took him to the local park where we had to push, pull and generally exhaust ourselves to keep him occupied. Or we took him to a bike park but he wanted to go to the BMX bike park. And then he wanted me to take my bike so I can ride at the BMX bike park with him..... which I did twice, and fell off both times. Fortunately I suffered only a cut lip and a few grazes but that's it for BMX bike parks for me.

A good friend of my father in-law used to say when he saw young kids rushing around like mad things:

"ALL THAT ENERGY WASTED ON CHILDREN"

Another very true statement.

That's it for this month. Keep warm folks,

Richard

ODD
SPOT

Would you believe it? A Gold Coast café worker was recently dismissed from her job for failing to include a smiley face emoji in her food orders and texts to her boss, which her boss interpreted as being 'unfriendly'. The worker was awarded \$5,357.80, plus 9.5 per cent superannuation for unfair dismissal.

Activities

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 annivaersaty.

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. **Lunch** afterwards at Goldfinch in the Pullman across Ann St from City Hall. Small plates from \$14 - \$18

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 Bring-and buy table. Bring your items and/or cash to buy.

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. Should have been paid for at 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.

OCTOBER

Sunday 2nd Coffee and chat 10.30 Pacific Golf Club.

Tuesday 4th (tentative date and venue) **Meet and Greet lunch** in the park with **Eastern Suburbs Club**, to celebrate Probus Day. Broadwater Park. 11.30 am. Bring your own drinks and chairs. Lunch provided \$10.00.

Wednesday 12th Monthly lunch. 11.45 am. Venue TBA.

Thursday 20th Monthly meeting 9.30 Newnham Hotel.

More to come.



Bed bugs are back with a vengeance. After an absence of around 70 years, thanks to effective pesticides such as DDT, they've been popping up in fancy hotels, spas, department stores, trains, movie theatres – and, of course, people's homes. Historically, these tiny bloodsuckers were common in human dwellings worldwide, giving the old

saying "sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite" real meaning. They had nearly disappeared in developing countries until the mid-1990s, when they began making a comeback due to some pesticides (DDT) no longer being used and a developing immunity to others. A bed bug needs only between three and 10 minutes to consume up to six times its weight in blood in a single meal. Their principal medical impacts are related to nuisance biting and the associated itching and inflammation. However, recent research has found that these 5mm-sized bugs can have [emotional and psychological effects on their victims](#), causing stress and many PTSD type symptoms.



The desire by people in richer countries for a diverse range of out-of-season produce imported from overseas is driving up global greenhouse gas emissions. It's never been clearer that eating local produce is a powerful way to take action on climate change. Carbon footprint of food can be established

from the concept of "food miles" - the distance a food item travels from where it's produced to where it's consumed. Food miles constitutes 19% of total food production emissions. In-season, local produce is as healthy as imported food and consumers could do well to encourage traders to save on food mile emissions.



Last month, the Federal Court of Australia has handed down a \$14 million fine to Samsung Australia for what it says is misleading advertising about the water resistance capacity of some of its phones. The ACCC started proceedings against Samsung in 2019 after reports emerged that charging ports on these

phones failed to work properly after being in water. This penalty is a strong reminder to businesses that all product claims must be substantiated.



Eight of us met at Chez Nous Café on Roma Street for a preliminary coffee before walking over to the Queensland Police Museum. We were warmly welcomed and led to a small theatre where we had a short introduction to the museum, followed by a 17 minute video. The video was entitled "The Tale of the Taxi and the Dog" and outlined the true story of the murder of a taxi driver in Southport in 1952 and subsequent arrest and conviction of 'Slim' Halliday. Halliday's dog was used as a part of the evidence – but the dog had to be exhumed and taken to the taxidermist first! The dog is still on display in the museum. We were then free to wander through the museum. Of particular interest were exhibits and stories of both solved, and unsolved murders in Brisbane dating back to the 1950s. Other exhibits included memorabilia from the very early days of QPS up to the present time and modern technology used in solving crimes. After a leisurely look through the many displays, we returned to Chez Nous for lunch. The café was bustling but efficient, with many affordable meals from which to choose.



This capped off a very enjoyable outing.

Mary B.



Long ago, almost up until the end of the last ice age, in the days of mega-fauna, a peculiar giant kangaroo roamed the mountainous rainforests of New Guinea. It was first thought that they were closely related to Australian kangaroos, but recent research has found that they actually represent a previously unknown type of primitive kangaroo unique to New Guinea. It is thought the strange NG kangaroo may have evolved from an ancient form of kangaroo that migrated into New Guinea from Australia in the late Miocene epoch, some 5–8 million years ago. In those days, the islands of New Guinea and Australia were connected by a land bridge due to lower sea levels. The squat, muscular animal became disconnected from their Australian relatives and evolved separately to suit their tropical and mountainous New Guinean home. Palaeontologists wonder why they became extinct – they have just two fossil jaw bones and some teeth to extrapolate their history and researchers will be returning to PNG to look for more intact fossil specimens.

The term “to give someone the cold shoulder” comes from medieval England where it was customary to give a guest a cold piece of meat from the shoulder of mutton, pork, or beef when the host felt it was time for the guest to leave. This was a polite way of saying, “You must leave now.”

Roundup: The Glenmore club (NSW) which roamed far and wide for its monthly lunches has decided to stick closer to home in order to save money on members’ fuel bills...And then, the Hanover Area club (Canada) is looking for leaders in pole walking and potluck activities. Not sure what they are, but they sound interesting! ...The Beachcombers club in Ontario has an interest group of genealogy, members of which share research skills and ideas. The Lochaber club (Scotland) has an upcoming speaker on African Drumming. There is an enthusiastic African Drumming group in this small town, and during lockdown, when they had ‘clap for carers’ recognition, the drummers sounded their drums.



Scientists have found a bacterium that is thousands of times larger than most bacteria and it lurks in a stinky, swampy mangrove forest in the French Caribbean. Being 1 to 2 centimetres long, visible to the naked eye, it’s about 5,000 times bigger than most bacteria. The discovery, published last month, surprised scientists because they did not have nuclei, the tiny structures within our cells that hold genetic information.

Instead, the thread-like organism looked more like a single cell than a chain of hundreds. Genetic analyses revealed that the oddball organism's makeup matched a genus that includes bacteria that feed on sulphur and is relatively complex. The discovery challenges the idea that bacteria are simple microbes.



A tiny parasitic mite that lives on the European honeybee has breached Australia's border quarantine and been detected in managed bee hives in NSW. This is bad news for Australia's honey industry with a potential economic impact at around A\$70 million per year, but the broader impacts to agriculture are not yet known. Thirty-five agricultural industries in Australia rely entirely or in part on bee pollination, including almonds, apples and cherries. Indeed, the total contribution of honeybees to Australia's economy is estimated at \$14.2 billion. But there's another way to look at this pest: as an effective biocontrol for feral honeybees, because our native bees are not impacted by the mite. Our own bees don't produce as much honey, but in many areas where they are threatened, the mite, which is now likely to be here to stay, can be used to reduce the competition. Not a significant silver lining, but one none-the-less if implemented properly.

It being our 14th anniversary this month, we are following tradition and having entertainment instead of a speaker. Enjoy the versatile music of the duo of Marina and John Thiedeman as they play on the electric keyboard and sing for us. Morning tea and birthday cake will be served 15 minutes earlier this coming meeting.



If you often feel far colder than what the weather forecast has warned you to expect, there's another temperature measurement you should be considering: the "feels like" temperature. The daily temperatures are calculated to take into account the air temperature, which is measured in isolation by a thermometer that is sheltered from the wind, rain and sun – also known as a Stevenson screen. But it doesn't take into account other factors that impact how we experience temperature, such as humidity and wind speed. Accounting for that, the Beaufort of Meteorology has a formula to estimate how the average human will experience the weather, as in "feels like".

The Mt Gravatt Pacific Probus club has now organised an Octoberfest to celebrate Probus Day so its members won't join with us and the Eastern Suburbs club for a Meet and Greet Lunch in the park. Also they have a couple of trips away that month, including a caravan and cabins trip. The date in October and venue of the Meet and Greet is currently being negotiated with the Eastern Suburbs Probus Club.



Regarding gun laws, as Australians, we are stunned by the lack of ability of the American people to implement changes that most of us would see as sensible, lifesaving and, frankly, self-evident. Somehow, guns became enshrined in the American culture. What about us? We are more sensible about guns, but then, we have gambling enshrined in ours. We have a reputation as a nation of

people who will bet on anything. Two-up was the national pastime for eons and off-course betting the norm, before some smart cookie in government saw a way to legalise betting and give the nation TAB shops to rake in the taxes associated with the ill-gotten gains of the gambling world. Victoria has a public holiday for the Melbourne Cup and all other states celebrate it with a long lunch. We allow gambling advertising at the footy, the grand prix and on the television. Every second pub seems to have a pokies room and food at reduced prices to lure punters. Casinos are now seen as perfect places for laundering money from other criminal activities. Australia is now the number one gambling nation in the world. Do all countries have blind spots as far as their culture is concerned?

It seems that despite the fact that cash is still legal tender, businesses can refuse to accept it (or cheques) in payment for goods or services. The flip side is, that they can have "cash only" notices prominently displayed, and accept just cash. 2019 Reserve Bank figures indicate that at the time, cash was still used in 32 per cent of transactions. However, only 19 per cent of the total value of all transactions was paid for in cash. At this rate, cash is expected to be effectively be non-existent by 2045, but it will probably happen a lot sooner because of the attrition rate among people who prefer to use cash. Did you know cash dates back to the Romans in the first century before Christ?

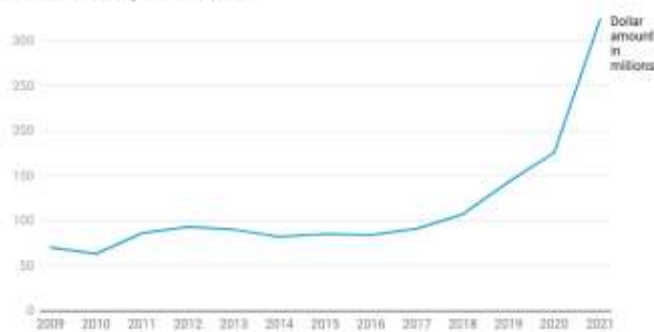


The show of hands indicating interest in a Bring and Buy table was enough for the committee to agree to having one, and then maybe making it regular. Park Ridge Probus club's bring and buy initiative has been running for three months, and has proved to be very successful.

Thank you Una for volunteering to keep the record of what is brought, by whom and what the selling price is, when we hold one in September. The club will seek to keep 10% of the selling price, and encourages people to bring art and craft items, plants or items they feel are good but they no longer need. Hopefully there will be no "junk", just quality articles. We shall hold our first one in September.

We have summer, autumn, winter and spring but did you know there are Indigenous seasonal calendars? They're based on tens of thousands of years of observation and knowledge. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language groups from across Australia have partnered with CSIRO to document their own seasonal calendars. Each area has its own calendar which can be used for sharing and learning about Indigenous science and management of Country.

Consumer losses from scams reported to the ACCC / Scamwatch, 2009-2021



The ACCC has just released figures showing that Australians lost over \$2 billion last year to scammers. This is more than double the amount lost the previous year. The increase was driven by a rise in crypto investment scams and pyramid schemes. A disproportionate amount of old and vulnerable people were

scammed. Losses from scams offering fake investment opportunities more than doubled during 2021 with pyramid schemes and identity theft being the major scams. ...And the scammers are getting smarter and more sophisticated. Impersonating a bank or another authority, and phishing for passwords and personal information was also high on the list. Last year even saw the largest scam text message campaign in Australia's history, and there is an increase in scams on encrypted apps such as WhatsApp. Despite 185 million scam phone texts being blocked last year, those fighting scams say "It's a bit like an arms race. Every time we put in place a successful strategy, they work around it."

DUTY ROSTER

Chair: TBA Five Minute Spot N/A Fellowship: Jill and Marilyn
Door: Lyn G

Did you know that in 18th century England, sugar was a valuable commodity that was consumed in excess? Because it was expensive, it was mostly enjoyed only by the rich. As a result, if someone had [black teeth](#), a sign of eating too much sugar, they were considered to be wealthy.



Retirement villages have formed the backdrop for several hit books and television shows including the popular [The Thursday Murder Club series of crime novels](#) and the [Australian TV comedy The End](#). Now Gold Logie winning actor John Wood, most famous for his roles in Rafferty's Rules and Blue Heelers (pictured), has written a new comedy, *Home to Roost*, set in a retirement village.

For those of you who were put off coming to the Coffee and Chat at the Golf Club, because of the lack parking due to building works, there is a temporary car park at the rear of the Pro Shop. Signage is not at all good, but come in the main gate and continue past the shop instead of circling back. We only had about 11 at our last one and some said they went home due to perceived lack of parking space.

New adult-sized robots have been introduced at Kmart. They sport a bright pink base and three cube-shaped sensors stacked on top of one another with a sign that reads, "Hi! I'm Tory! Don't mind me, I'm just counting stock on our shelves. No need to move out of my way, I'll go around you!"



We visited historic Ormiston House for a "Christmas in July" celebration on Sunday July 10th. It was a beautiful winter day, under a cloudless Queensland blue sky. The house and grounds are well cared for and a lovely backdrop for this High Tea event. Unfortunately the presentation was

somewhat disrupted by the Covid-hit to some of the hosts' staff, as well as to the group who were to provide musical entertainment. That affected the quality of service but did not diminish the pleasure our group shared together. The volunteers who maintain the house are to be congratulated for the dedicated attention to detail in portrayal of an important extended era in Queensland history. I recommend a visit to all who've yet to enjoy the experience.

Richard R.



We do it when we are bored, tired, hungry or even on the march (pictured). We yawn around 250,000 times over the course of a 70 year lifespan, and babies in the womb do it from as early as 12-14 weeks. Birds do it, fish do it, in fact nearly all cold and warm-blooded vertebrates do it, with the exception of giraffes and whales. Yawning is catching, and has been

linked to empathy in humans. Strangely, in macaque monkeys, where the male yawns before mating, castration causes him to lose his dominant status, and the yawning stops.



Did you know that wombats might look like slow and snuggly teddy bears, but they can outrun a dog when they need to get away? Also, wombat poo, which is square, has its own specialised flies. Wombats are marsupials (like kangaroos) but their pouches face backwards to prevent the pouch filling with soil when digging. They tend to fluoresce under UV light, which suggests that they can see in the UV spectrum - patterns on fur, feathers and flowers are visible to them but not to us.

Did you know Japan's first Probus Club was chartered in 1988? There are around 100 Probus Clubs in Japan, a few of which are mixed. Like us, they meet once a month, although one or two meet more often. They vary in size but are generally similar to the size of clubs here in Australia.



We have all read and heard about pets being beneficial for the health of older people. Most retirement villages are now pet friendly, and grey nomads can now find many more accommodation sites which encourage pets. The working age group are now, increasingly, shown to be facing pet separation anxiety. Pet ownership surged with pandemic lockdowns and working from home, and now, with the boundaries between work and home already so blurred pet owners are anxious about leaving their pets for any length of time. Even birds can suffer from separation anxiety. Studies show that having pets around the workplace include benefits such as reducing stress and improving social interaction and job satisfaction. The problem is, not everyone likes animals around, some fear them and some are allergic to them. All workers have a right to feel safe and not have their health compromised at work. The time spent petting, feeding or taking animals for toilet breaks may also stoke negative feelings among some colleagues. And do the animals like being away from home for days on end? Work places, especially smaller businesses are increasingly becoming pet friendly, in consultation with staff.

What a pity the Port of Brisbane tour had to be cancelled. Too many staff were ill with Covid and we couldn't be hosted.

Earlier this year, a deepfake impersonation of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spread on Tik Tok – with Zelenskyy supposedly asking Ukrainians to surrender to Russia. TikTok, is now host to a steady stream of deepfake videos. One impersonating Tom Cruise had 3.6 million followers in very short order, in another Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg seems to be confessing to conspiratorial data sharing. While the technology is used to good effect in the digital arts, it also causes much damage when used as “proof” of disinformation, to discredit celebrities and politicians, using people’s faces in pornography and in identity theft. Unfortunately, to date, Australian defamation laws fall short of protecting people against deep fakes.



Australia is facing a huge medicine shortage. So far, 320 drugs are listed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) as being in short supply, with another 80 anticipated to be added to that list. Drugs for diabetes, hormone replacement therapy, depression, nausea and stroke are all either scarce or becoming so, as are some over the counter drugs. The supply shortfalls are primarily due to COVID-impacted medicine supply chains, but some supply constraints had been apparent for years before the pandemic hit. Australia used to be great manufacturers of medication but unfortunately, more and more of that has been lost, especially the generic medicine industry.

It was pleasing to see that Janice won the raffle last month. She needed a pick-me-up because she had been suffering from long Covid. Lorelei did a wonderful job of preparing the laden hamper.

The Australian financial watchdog, Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA), has had good press recently. It has handled 72,358 complaints in the past 12 months, mostly against banks, insurers, super funds, investment firms and financial advisers. Overall, in 2021-22, successful complainants secured more than \$200 million in compensation and refunds. In addition, AFCA’s investigations resulted in remediation payments to consumers totalling more than \$18 million.

Did you know that most Probus clubs in Ireland meet weekly or fortnightly?...And that of the 130 Irish clubs, only five are mixed?

We lost the plot on COVID messaging - now governments will have to be bold to get us back on track because Australia recently passed the grim milestone of 10,000 COVID deaths in total and we have become complaisant.

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

Payment for outings and membership: CBA Probus HPC

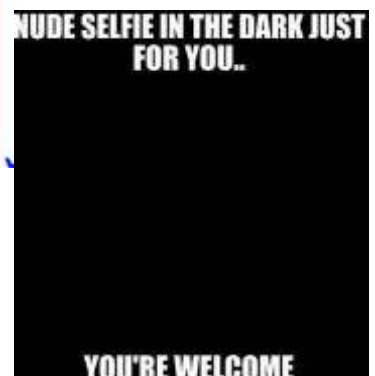
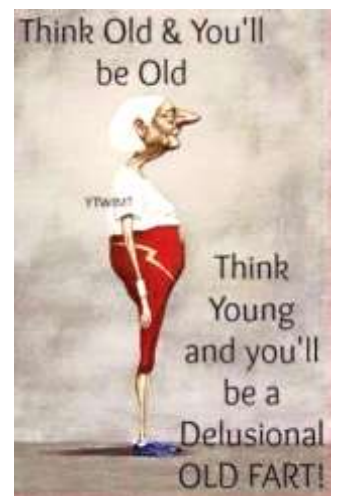
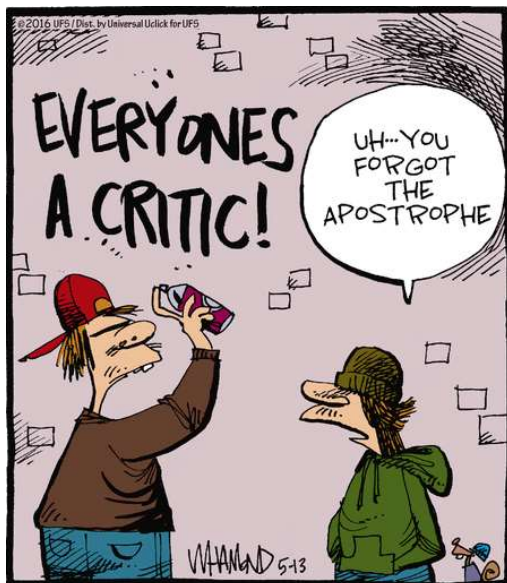
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A Russian army platoon is walking through a Ukrainian field. Suddenly a voice yells at the other side of a hill. It says:

"One Ukrainian soldier is equal to 10 Russians." The Russian commander sends 10 soldiers to the hill. They hear gunfire, then silence. Soon the same voice yells again: "One Ukrainian soldier is equal to 100 Russians!" The angry Russian commander sends 100 soldiers to the hill. They hear gunfire and screams followed by a longer silence. Soon, the same voice yells: "One Ukrainian soldier is equal to 1000 Russians!" Now furious, the Russian commander is about to send 1000 soldiers and a tank to the hill when a heavily wounded Russian soldier crawls from the hill and yells: "Commander! Don't send any more troops, it's a trap! There's two of them!"

Found an extra pair of boots at the worksite so I decided to give my boss a heart attack



What did the left eye say to the right eye? Between you and me, something smells.

What do you call a pony with a cough? A little horse.

What did the buffalo say when his son left home? Bison.

Why did the gym close down? It just didn't work out.

I got my daughter a fridge for her birthday. I can't wait to see her face light up when she opens it.