

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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September 2022 Issue No.169

The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Richard's Rambles

"Spring has sprung, the grass is ris,
I wonder where the boidies is
Some say the boid is on the wing,
But that's absoid
From what I hoid
The wing is on the boid!"

Yes, spring is here and we have a "boid" of sorts sitting on an egg on our back veranda.

A few months ago we had two Tawny Frogmouths sitting on a shelf on the outside of our upstairs veranda. They sat there during the day and at night they took off to feed. They disappeared for a short while and after about a week only one returned. Then, to our amazement one morning, we saw one (maybe the female) sitting in a pot that was on the shelf. The plant in the pot had died and the Tawny Frogmouth had built a nest on top of the dirt. We could see the edges of the nest and assumed there was one or more eggs being incubated.

Then we got the chance to find out. At about 7.30 one evening we went to see if the bird was still there. It was not but there was a single egg sitting in the nest. We worried we might have scared it away but about half an hour later the bird was back sitting on the egg. We were mightily relieved. Now we are hoping the egg will hatch while we are still here in Brisbane.

We did a bit of "Google" searching and this is some of what we found:

"Tawny Frogmouths **mate for life** and in the wild they can **live up to 14 years**. Females typically lay two to three eggs each breeding season (around August to December). The nest is made of sticks and rests on a horizontal tree branch (pot in our case).

At night the breeding pair take turns incubating the eggs, but the father normally takes the day shift."

So, the days are getting warmer but the nights are still quite cool. The August westerlies were not as severe as they have been and summer is just around the corner. I am definitely looking forward to some warmer climes but hope it is not too hot this summer. Wishful thinking on my part I guess.

That's it for now.

Richard

ODD
SPOT

Born in 1923, Giuseppe Paterno grew up in a poor family in Sicily but he wasn't able to go to university as a young man. So he is making up for it now. He acquired his undergraduate degree two years ago, and a Master's Degree in July this year, at the age of 98. [Never too late folk!]



Activities

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 \$79, morning tea and lunch included. Pick up 7.15am sharp at Greenslopes Mall. Return 5.30pm. Bookings closed.

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. Bookings Closed, tickets to hand.

Wednesday 28th Rescheduled free guided **tour of Port of Brisbane**. Car Pooling. Arrive at new Port Office visitors' car park, 3 Port Central Ave by 9.30am. Enjoy views from 7th floor viewing platform. Then board the Port of Brisbane bus for a one hour guided tour of the island. **Lunch** at Pelican's Nest Wynnum.

OCTOBER

Sunday 2nd Coffee and chat 10.30 Pacific Golf Club.

Tuesday 4th 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. Pay by September meeting.

Wednesday 12th Ethnic lunch. 11.45 am. Tabbouli 1/196 Wishart Rd Wishart. Mediterranean and Turkish meals. Parking under the building off Newnham Rd.

Thursday 20th Monthly meeting 9.30 Newnham Hotel.

Thursday 27th River City Cruise to lunch. Board at 10.15 am for morning tea at City Botanic Hub and cruise to Newstead. Walk to Breakfast Creek Hotel for set menu lunch. (Menu available). Cruise back to South Bank with commentary. Arrive 2pm. \$71. Payment by September meeting.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 6th Coffee and Chat 10.30am Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 9th Ethnic Lunch Wil's Resto, 4/148 Chatsworth Rd Coorparoo. 11.30am Mexican and Filipino Cuisine Some parking behind and in side street.

Thursday 17th Monthly meeting 9.30am Newnham Hotel.



Last month, Spanish police seized autonomous underwater vehicles, each capable of transporting around

200 kilograms of drugs. It's not the first time police have caught an uncrewed vessel carrying illicit substances. These remote-controlled "narco-drones", "narco-subs" or "underwater drones" herald a new era in international drug trafficking. Drugs and other illicit goods can now be transported across the oceans, controlled by a remote operator located anywhere in the world. It's only a matter of time before Australian Border Force is confronted with these "maritime autonomous vehicles" being used to smuggle contraband into the country. Determining who might be held criminally responsible when an uncrewed vessel is seized isn't immediately apparent. Australian legislation criminalises drug-trafficking when a "[person transports the substance](#)" but doesn't refer to a situation where the person isn't present at the time of transport. A person isn't necessarily in "possession" of illicit drugs if they're remotely controlling a narco-drone. Both international and Australian laws need to catch up.

DUTY ROSTER

Chair: **Maxine**, Five Minute Spot: **Helen**, Fellowship: **Grace and Marilyn**,
Door: **Brian and Ron**

Recently, a team of researchers from Stanford University, California, achieved the first milestone towards the development of 7.8mm wide robot: a proof-of-concept prototype. These robots are operated wirelessly using magnetic fields to move in narrow spaces and morph their shape for medical tasks, such as disease diagnosis, drug delivery, and even surgery. There is still much work to be done on these tiny robots, particularly because there is still no battery technology small enough for energy storage. That means that, either these robots display short power

life, or they need a tether or some kind of wireless energy pointed at them. Also, they are too small to carry and power fully-fledged artificial brains to make them autonomous.

Our ethnic lunch (Indian) turned out popular last month, so we shall continue with the ethnic flavours in future. We were sorry that some stayed away because they did not like spicy foods, but maybe this month's Asian food will suit them. Most (though not all) of us had the \$10 lunch, and we could get any sort of curry on the menu for that, with rice and naan. We were given the choice of mild, medium or hot, and all of us found our meal very tasty and good value.

Did you know that despite decades of research, no-one has been able to identify a set of personality traits or a personality type that can predict whether someone will have problems with alcohol or other drugs?



The rapid expansion of Australian cities and towns presents planning challenges in the face of demands to subdivide undeveloped land for

housing, countered by demands for connected, treed, public, green spaces. Providing large and well-connected green spaces is going to be essential urban infrastructure for increased urban populations facing climate change. Unfortunately, seen from above, parts of our cities now have very little green space, and we're losing the green corridors that enable wildlife to move between the remaining urban habitats. Green space is not a luxury for a privileged minority, but a vital component of a sustainable economy and environment for all.

None of us are getting any younger and our memories may not be what they used to be. So here is a request from the management committee: When we go for a meal as a group, please pay upon ordering, even if the restaurant prefers payment when guests leave. There have been occasions when members have forgotten to pay upon leaving, or have ordered extras about which they forgot when paying. The last person to pay is then "lumbered" with the unpaid amount. So please remember to pay up front.



Did you know that legislation now entering the NZ parliament aims to make Aotearoa New Zealand smoke-free by 2025? It is a world first and modelling shows that there are huge potential health gains for all, but more than five-fold for Māori people.

By now, most of us are aware social media companies collect vast amounts of our information. By doing this, they can target us with ads and monetise our attention. The latest chapter in the data-privacy debate concerns one of the world's most popular apps among young people – TikTok. Yet anecdotally it seems the potential risks aren't really something young people care about. It is argued that the Australian collected data are stored in the US and Singapore, but the point isn't where it is stored, but who has access. China does, and has used it (even here) to censor content to suit its policies and "socialist core values". For example, discussions on Hong Kong politics and in 2020, hashtags related to LGBTQ+ are suppressed in at least eight languages on TikTok. Of course most major social media platforms are "unsafe" and have been shown to digitally meddle but TIKTOK is far the worst. The consequences of mass data harvesting are not hypothetical.



Well, after being told that there is now plenty of parking at the Golf Club, just three of us were lucky enough to get a parking spot on the grounds. It seems every man and his dog were playing golf on a glorious sunny day. Never-the-less, 18 of us managed to park not too far down the street, which made it a comparatively good turn-out. Chatter

lasted until well after 12.30pm when the lunch crowd were arriving. Remember, our coffee morning will be on the second Sunday this month because of Father's Day.

In the first two years of the pandemic, Australia's COVID elimination strategy was among the most effective in the world. Now we rank second in the world for the most cases per capita. Winter may be a partial reason. Other reasons may be a combination of low vaccine booster rates and less natural exposure than other countries and the relaxation of almost all mitigation measures. Whatever the cause, overall it reflects the narrative by political leaders since the beginning of the year that the pandemic is in the past tense. That has profoundly affected the attitudes and behaviours of the public.

According to three criminology experts in Melbourne universities, new research shows that half of Australians will experience technology-facilitated abuse in their lifetimes. Abuses range from image-based abuse (such as distribution of images or their manipulation without consent), harassment, emotional abuse and threats, plus monitoring and controlling. In a study of 4,562 adult victims and perpetrators, over 60% of the latter were men. Almost half of the victims or perpetrators were current or former intimate partners, and there were high rates of victimisation among sexuality diverse populations. Technology-facilitated

abuse certainly has gendered dimensions, and recently there have been some recent changes to improve responses and legal frameworks, but more needs to be done.

At our August committee meeting we discussed so many outing ideas that it seemed we could fill the calendar for six months. Of course, not all ideas will bear fruit, given our needs for parking, transport or available dates, but your committee is certainly not stumped for choice!



Humans have an evolutionary preference for sweetness. Sweet foods, like fruit and honey, were an important energy source for our ancestors. Now, we are consuming too much sugar in foods and drinks – the kind that is added rather than sugar that is naturally occurring – and it is harming our health. Because of health concerns, manufacturers started using non-nutritive sweeteners to sweeten food as well. There is a double standard in the sweetening of the food supply, with manufacturers providing less sweet, “healthier” products in richer countries. However, the addition of non-nutritive sweeteners may be harmful in themselves. Recent [reviews](#), suggest consuming non-nutritive sweeteners may be linked with type 2 diabetes and heart disease and can disrupt the gut microbiome. They also influence our palates and encourage us to want more sweet food. We need to monitor our intake of sugar and substitutes by reading the labels on the products we buy.



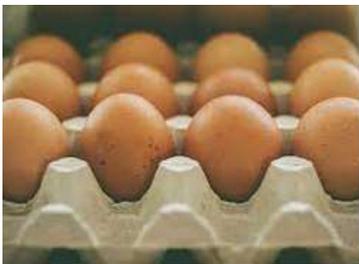
Our September speaker will be Mike Timms who has been in IT security since 1963. He has worked for governments, banks, and IBM, among several other organisations. Originally a Chartered Engineer, he rose high in the ranks of Information Technology, and will talk to us, in simple terms, about why we need passwords, the difficulties of generating useful passwords and the use of password management software to take away most of the pain. For a bit of fun he will get people to invent their own passwords and we'll try out a few to find out how good they are. He'll finish with a look at some of the other emerging security techniques.

In a win for biodiversity, CSIRO has revealed 139 new species were named and described by its researchers and partners in the past year. From fish to ants, only about 25 percent of Australia's species are known to science. Those named were: Marine fish (4), plants (3), frogs (1), insects (117), and other invertebrates (14).



In the year since the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, human rights abuses are off the charts, particularly towards women and ethnic minorities. It is difficult to gather evidence, but Human Rights organisations Report large scale civilian casualties, restrictions on women's rights and freedom of speech, extrajudicial killings and ethnic minority persecutions. There are forced displacement and systemic genocide against the

Hazara population, targeted violence and eyewitness reports of the mass killings of 600 Tajik hostages. Secondary schools for girls have disappeared, women are forced to wear the hijab or burqa, park visits are segregated by sex and women were recently sacked from their jobs at the Finance Ministry in favour of male relatives. Pictured above is a female news reader after she was ordered to cover her face when on air. Amnesty International's recent report describes the situation of Afghan women as "[death in slow motion.](#)" Men have been ordered to grow their beards and not trim them, and to wear local clothing. China has engaged with the Taliban by expanding trade and investment plans and U.S. humanitarian aid delivered to Afghanistan via Defence Department resources has ended. And the Taliban has some support from Pakistan, Qatar and Iran. This illegitimate regime is not in any way representative of Afghans — the rest of the world needs to step up.



Why is there an egg shortage in our supermarkets? Farmers are moving towards free range chickens which exposes them more to winter. The cold weather naturally reduces their egg output. Also, many suppliers let their flocks of egg-laying hens dwindle during the pandemic, as restaurant and café closures meant egg demand drastically dropped. And then, free range hens are more prone to disease and death by predators. It all added up to our current egg shortages.

This month we are holding our inaugural bring-and-buy table. (Bring some cash). Arts, crafts, plants, used items in good condition, unused gifts etc., books, household items, are all welcome. Here are some rules:

- The item(s) you bring needs to be labelled with a yellow sticky note with the item name, your name and asking price.
- Before displaying them, they need to be registered with Una who has volunteered to keep a record.
- Advise Una when an item is sold, (or give her the label off it) and give 10% of the asking price to the Treasurer at the door.
- Look after your own goods and take unsold items home with you.

Also:

- When buying an item please pay the owner direct.
- Don't forget to bring some cash

We'll assess how it all went, and adjust for improvements for next time. Ideas/comments in the suggestion box (IDA) are welcome.



Did you know that decades of research into whether single sex or co-ed schools are better, remains inconclusive, and when it comes to social outcomes rather than educational issues, the debate becomes more complicated. There is a growing list of private single-sex schools around the country that are either considering going co-ed or have already done so. Unhealthy attitudes about gender are rife in all schools as they are in the broader social world. The shift in society's expectations has pushed the trend to go co-ed by the need to stamp out sexism, misogyny and abuse and promote gender equality. Also, single-sex schools tend to be private and are businesses. So financial considerations are at least as influential in pushing the trend to co-education because schools need students and the change makes good business sense. Are we seeing the end of single-sex education?

The latest outbreak of violence between Israel and Palestinian militants has already come at a huge cost for the people of Gaza. Some of the statistics make for grim reading: about two-thirds of the Palestinian population of Gaza are refugees, spread across eight refugee camps; a staggering 97% of the water is undrinkable, and the inhabitants of Gaza receive on average just 12 hours of electricity a day. The unemployment rate is 46.6%, and over 62% for young people. Over 2 million Palestinians live in the densely populated territory of about 365 square kilometres, and nearly 80% of people depend on aid to survive. Gaza has been under blockade for 15 years and is often referred to as "the world's largest open-air prison".



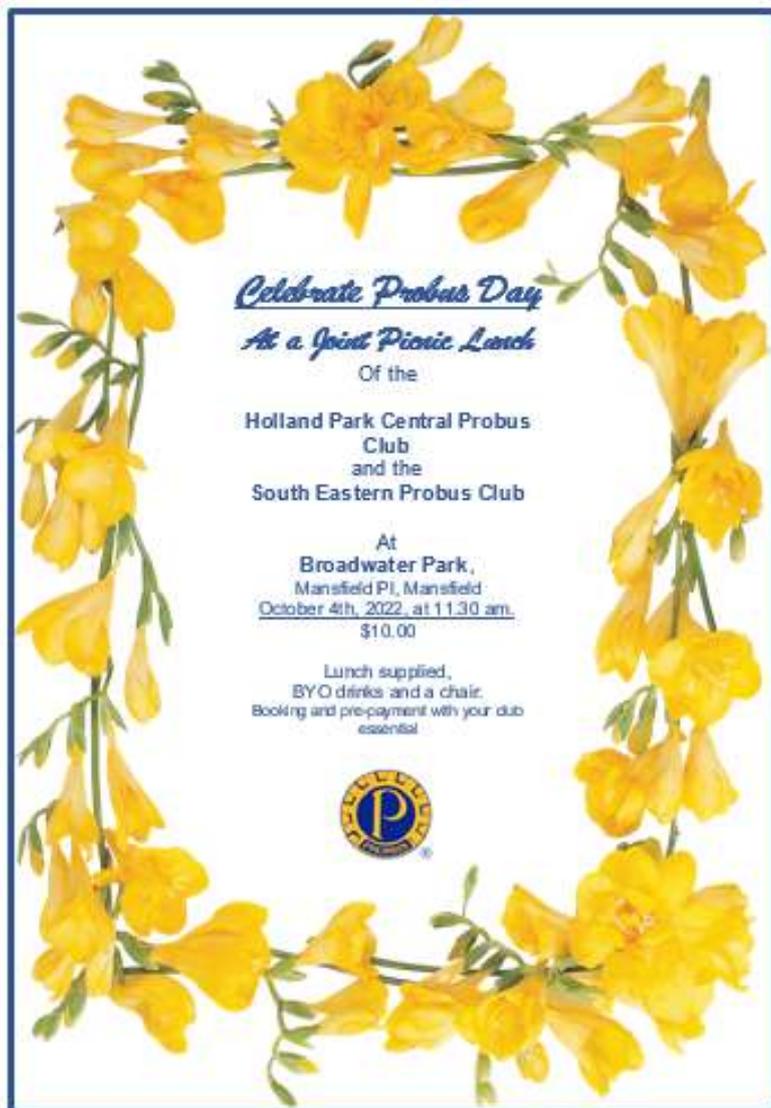
A US\$90 million film (Batgirl) almost ready for release was scrapped last month. Ostensibly it was because Warner Brothers have "changed their strategic direction" but it is widely known in the industry that Hollywood studios believe they will make a better financial return on a film by writing it off as a loss instead of releasing it. Several other

films have gone that way also, including one that cost US\$200 million to produce, starring Nicholas Cage. Imagine if the money went to charities instead!

CSIRO, has opened a new \$23.1 million national lab in Melbourne that will bolster the nation's ability to produce vaccines and drug treatments onshore. Researchers at CSIRO's National Vaccine and Therapeutics Lab will turn vaccine and drug candidates into products that can be manufactured in large quantities for clinical trials. The ability to do this in Australia, rather than needing to go overseas, has been the 'missing link' in Australia's biomedical science sector being able to produce vaccines and drugs here.



Did you know that some of our favourite native trees, including paperbarks, lilly-pillies, eucalypts and bottlebrush, are grappling with their own pandemic as the exotic myrtle rust fungus spreads?



Welcome to the club Con! Pictured above, are President Richard inducting Con to the membership of our club.

Classified ad:
If anyone knows of someone who restores and binds books, please contact Elwyn. He has an ancient recipe book which is falling apart and which needs some TLC.

On August 20 1977, 45 years ago, an extraordinary spacecraft left this planet on a journey like no other. Voyager 2 was going to show us, for the first time, what the outer solar system planets looked like close-up. It was like sending a fly to New York City and asking it to report back.

Voyager 1 was launched after Voyager 2, on September 5. Attached to the flank of each Voyager was a Golden Record carrying greetings, sounds, images and music from Earth. The spacecraft were more or less twins, but they had different trajectories and scientific instruments. While both flew by Jupiter and Saturn, Voyager 1 then sped onwards to interstellar space. Voyager 2 tarried to make the only visit ever to the ice giants, Uranus and Neptune. Even more than the many glimpses of the far icy planets these craft send back, what fascinates people is the famous [Golden Records](#), which took a year to compile. There is music, 116 images of our history, and messages of greetings in 55 languages (the Portuguese greeting says simply "Peace and happiness to all"). Slowly, Voyager 2's systems are being shut down to eke out the power as long as possible. But sometime in the 2030s there will be none left, but even after Voyager 2 stops transmitting, it won't be completely dead. The half-life of the plutonium-238 in its nuclear power source is 87.7 years, while that of the the small patch of uranium-238 coating on the Golden Record is 4.5 billion years so it be at least partially legible after 5 billion years. However, the Earth portrayed on the Golden Records will probably be unrecognisable even 100 years from now.



It was a meeting with a difference. Members really enjoyed the pleasant voices and music of Marina and John (pictured) on our 14th birthday. Also appreciated was the fluffy, colourful fresh

cream birthday cake, supplied by the hotel. We had several visitors at our meeting as well, and, hopefully they will join the club and enjoy the fellowship and outings we have on offer.



Did you know that we have no energy security? They're the fuels powering the cars and trucks on our roads, to the planes and ships connecting Australia to the world. Even while we export crude oil, with just two crude oil refineries left in Australia, we import about 90% of all those refined fuels – and conflict in the South China and East China seas has the potential to choke our supplies. Most of our fuel traffic is via this area. Our government must diversify import sources; increase local refining capability; reduce dependence on fossil fuels; increase strategic reserves; and educate and prepare the population for possible shortages.

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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Remember Einstein's comment: "There is a major difference between intelligence and stupidity; intelligence has its limits."

When people tell me, "You're going to regret that in the morning!", I sleep in until noon because I'm a problem solver.

A lady helps her husband install a new computer. Once it's completed, she tells him to select a password – a word that he'll always remember. As the computer asks him to enter his password, he looks at his wife, and with a macho smirk and a wink, he

selects the word 'Mypenis'. As he hits 'enter', to validate his selection, his wife collapses with laughter and rolls on the floor hysterical. The computer had replied: TRY AGAIN. TOO SHORT

The drinker asks "What's the Wi-Fi password here?", "You have to buy a drink first" says the barman. So the man buys a Coke. "Okay now what's the WiFi password?" The bar tender replies, "you have to buy a drink first – all lower case, no spaces"

They say every piece of chocolate eaten shortens your life by two minutes. I've done the math. Seems I died in 1537.

