

# 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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December 2022 Issue No.172

*The HP Source – It's a bottler!*

## Christmas Greetings to All



### **Richard's Rambles**

Firstly I want to thank Mary for stepping up and standing in for me while Julie and I were away. I'm hoping we are going to be able to spend more time in Queensland in the coming months.

Julie and I spent around two months living with our daughter in a small two-bedroom flat in Ben Boyd Road in Neutral Bay on Sydney's North Shore. We could just see the Harbour Bridge over the roof of a nearby block of flats.

It was quite a test of patience as we were monitored in just about everything we did. Our daughter "hovered" to see that we made the coffee correctly, that the right recycling was put in the right bin and we had to lift our feet every time she put her "robot" vacuum cleaner on, which seemed far more often than was actually required. She also had a new washing machine which transmitted information to an App on her phone so she knew every time we did a load of washing and would text us to tell us when it was finished. As if we could not miss the strange tune the machine emitted when it had completed the wash.

On the plus side the walks around that area were terrific. We walked from her flat down under the Harbour Bridge, through North Sydney, across the freeway and back to her flat. Around 6 Km in about an hour and a quarter. We also walked down to the water in Middle Harbour near Northbridge. On another occasion we walked all the way to Cremorne Point to watch the sunrise. The area around Cremorne Reserve is very well maintained by the council and the pathway is in very good condition. The only down side was that what went down (us) had to come back up at some time to get home. Good exercise I think.

We could also walk down to the water and catch the ferry to Circular Quay and from there the RiverCat up to Parramatta, or investigate The Rocks area, or perhaps visit the Botanical Gardens. Things we had not done for a long time. We really enjoyed it despite the cramped quarters in our daughters flat.

That's all for now. I do hope everyone is keeping well.

***Richard***

**ODD  
SPOT**

Jo, the young bush stone-curlew, has taken up residence outside a hardware store in Evans Head, NSW. He spends his time admiring himself in the shop window. It seems the endangered bird has fallen in love with its own reflection while searching for a mate.



## Activities

### **DECEMBER**

Sunday 4th **Coffee and chat**, 10.30 am at Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 7th at 9.00am **Lord Mayor's Christmas Carols**, Brisbane City Hall. Six free tickets available. Two still left.

Wednesday 14th **NO Ethnic Lunch** this month.

Thursday 15th at **10.30** am **Christmas Lunch** at Newnham Hotel.

Entertainment: Ian Maurice 11-12 noon. Names and payment by November meeting. Partners, friends welcome. \$50.

**Happy New Year!**

### **JANUARY 2023**

**Note:** Coffee Morning postponed to **2nd Sunday**. (The first Sunday is New Year's Day).

Sunday 8th **Coffee and chat**, 10.30 am at Pacific Golf Club

Thursday 19th **Monthly meeting** 9.30am Newnham Hotel.

Wednesday 25th **Lunch** 11.30am at Cafe Boulevard, 1/1420 Logan Rd, Mt Gravatt. Lunch meals under \$20. Free undercover parking in basement.

### **FEBRUARY**

Sunday 5th, **Coffee and Chat** 10.30a.m. Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 8th **Lunch** 11.45 a.m. Cenzo's Cafe + Bar, 131 Lumley St, Upper Mount Gravatt.

Thursday 16th **Monthly Meeting** 9.30a.m. Newnham Hotel

Thursday 23rd **Maritime Museum** Sidon St, South Brisbane. 10.30am.

Tickets \$15.00 available at door. Followed by lunch at The Ship Inn. Train station, Bus station and Ferry Terminal are close by.

### **MARCH**

Wednesday 1st Possible tour of Suncorp stadium. More to come.

Sunday 5th **Coffee and Chat** 10.30am. Pacific Golf Club.

Wednesday 8th **Ethnic Lunch** 11.45am. Roman Empire, Metropol, Creek Rd, Carindale

Thursday 16th **Monthly Meeting** 9.30am. Newnham Hotel.

More to come.

What is Santa's dog's name? Santa Paws!





Serval animals have come back from extinction. It's difficult for scientists to know exactly when to declare a species extinct. Probably the most famous comeback story in the animal kingdom is a fish which was thought to have snuffed it with the dinosaurs. Coelacanth, nocturnal deep-sea

dwellers have been found in underwater caves in the Indian Ocean, but remain critically endangered. Then, the Lord Howe Island stick insect thought to be extinct for 80 years made an appearance in Melbourne in 2001 and have now been bred in captivity with a view to repopulate Lord Howe Island.

A small colony of the Tahake (pictured above, left) a NZ flightless bird, deemed extinct in 1898 was found and has now been fully rehabilitated.

The Pygmy tarsier – a saucer-eyed primate (pictured right) was called extinct in 1920. It was found high in the mountains of Sulawesi, Indonesia in 2000. Small, nocturnal and insectivorous, there is still much we do not



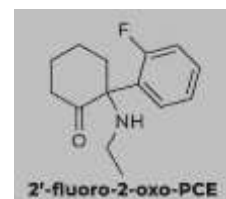
know about these mysterious creatures, and two brand new species of tarsier were discovered in Sulawesi in 2017. The Omura whale, was deemed extinct for dozens of years until in 2013, DNA evidence

confirmed a small population off the coast of Madagascar.

A few semi-mythical, thought-to-be-extinct Caspian horses were found in the Caspian Mountains. It has a gentle nature and attractive looks and they now enjoy worldwide domestic distribution, and sustainable populations in Australia, the UK, and the US. Bring back the Thylacine!



An entirely new illicit drug has been discovered by Australian chemists. Chemists at [CanTEST](#) – Australia's first and only fixed-site, face-to-face drug checking service, located in Canberra, was handed in a bag which looked and acted like known drugs but did not quite fit any analysis. They could find no associated clinical information from anywhere in the world. The chemical was subjected to many multi-dimensional tests, only to find that they had never seen this compound before. They contacted the UN Office of Drug Control, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, as well as several well-positioned researchers in this space from around the world. None had seen the compound before. Eventually they found a single report out of China from a forensically obtained analytical sample, where it was described with the same chemical composition that our own researchers determined, with no known further details. The full effects of the drug are still not known, but at least now it can be identified.



**DUTY ROSTER – Christmas function**

**Greeter: Heather**





Our AGM is in March and now is the time we call on volunteers to fill committee positions. Please talk to one of the committee members if you wish to nominate, and don't be surprised if you are approached and asked to serve. We are a happy, vibrant club and there are plenty of ways you can help us stay that way.

Did you know that in October alone, seven major Australian businesses have been hit by cyber-attacks? The cybercrime ecosystem is vast and complex – and increasingly littered with specialists who will cheaply sell your data. One of the fastest-growing and most damaging forms of cybercrime – ransomware attacks – involves malicious software that paralyses a victim's device or system until a decryption key is provided following payment of a ransom. There is a massive and growing underground market for this type of crime and there is no silver bullet to solving the threats posed by cyber criminals.



Thousands of young people roaming the streets at night in scary costumes, knocking on strangers' doors and threatening pranks if their demands for treats are not met. There is a horrifying amount of waste produced by those few hours of Halloween fun. In recent years, Halloween has become other consumption ritual to become an entrenched celebration on the Australian calendar – especially for young kids and their parents. Tonnes of cheap throw-away items are purchased each year; lolly wrappers abound, plastic pumpkins (could be replaced by real ones and then cooked), fake spider webs (which actually snare small animals and catch birds) single-use party decorations among others. Halloween is a fledgling celebration in Australia, but the Australian Retailers Association estimates that we spent about \$430 million on it this year, up on previous years.



Our Christmas function this year will include a 15 minute mini-meeting at 10.45am, to bring members up to date with club news. Before that, tea and coffee will be on tap, or if you wish to partake of the Christmas spirit so early, we can organise for someone to man the bar. At 11 am,

we will have an entertainer for your enjoyment (see profile further on in this newsletter). The bar will be open at noon, after which we'll be served an alternate drop lunch of ham or turkey with cranberry, and desserts. The tea and coffee will remain available throughout the day.

What did one cranberry say to another at Christmas? 'Tis the season to be jelly!



Early in the 1950s, Twentieth Century Fox studios decided to make a "western" in Australia. Twentieth Century Fox believed the easiest way was simply to swap the prairie for the bush, cowboys for stockmen, Native Americans for First Australians and bison for kangaroos. Of course, it wasn't that simple and they faced quite a few unanticipated hurdles at almost every stage of production. For example, the flies on set were so bad that they had to spray the actors with DDT using only a handkerchief to protect their faces. There was no workplace health and safety in those days. Another problem was Australia's post-war housing shortage. The then Premier of South Australia, (Sir) Thomas Playford, stepped in to assist and ordered the hasty erection of homes on the outskirts of Port Augusta. Completed in a month, the film crew called it 'Zanuckville' after their studio boss [Darryl F. Zanuck](#). While the houses had three bedrooms each, they were basic. Given the cast and crew were used to living in luxury in Hollywood, Zanuckville had shockingly few mod cons. They could cool off in the metal swimming tank, twenty-five feet round and six feet deep. There was a single telephone in town in a box on the main street. Once the first film had wrapped upz, the hundreds of goods and chattels from Zanuckville, including buildings, kitchen appliances, motor vehicles and even "the bed that Maureen O'Hara slept in" were auctioned. The film was deemed a failure and Zanuckville itself fell into disrepair after Hollywood left. In 1964, it was reported that those buildings still standing were sold off to be "converted into church halls and sporting club rooms" around the country.

How long are elf's legs? Just long enough to reach the ground!



What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?  
Claustrophobia.

Before the social distancing restrictions were introduced, we mixed and mingled during Morning tea as if at a cocktail party. The result of the restrictions has markedly curtailed our camaraderie and members seem to sit in the same place at every meeting. It is OK to sit with friends, but for the sake of newer members you are encouraged to sit at a different table during morning tea, mix mingle and socialise with those whom you don't see on a regular basis. Therefore, if you find your seat taken after you pick up your morning tea, just move somewhere else for the duration. Return to your friends when we are called to order again.



In 1915, an unmarried, 40-year-old woman by the name of Fanny Kate Boadicea Cocks was hand-picked for the role of South Australia's first policewoman. It is believed she was the second policewoman appointed in Australia, but she was the first woman in the British Empire to enjoy the same salary as her male counterparts, and to receive the same powers of arrest. Most of the time, Cocks walked the beat, patrolling railway stations, beaches and parklands for 60 hours a week in prim neck-to-ankle civilian outfits and one-and-a-half-inch heels. But Cocks was instrumental in solving several major crimes, too. She was an advocate for neglected and delinquent children, including what we now know as the stolen generation - prominent, pious and resolute in the view that prevention was better than cure. Cocks was the natural pick for the policing of immorality. A complex character, a staunch Methodist, and sometimes unorthodox, she was mostly well liked, received an MBE, but left a mixed legacy due to her evasiveness, and repeatedly claiming privilege on issues she felt strongly about, when in the witness stand.



The recent sudden end to Australia's high profile rape case last month begs the question whether a jury is fit for purpose in a 21st century hyper-connected world. With easy access to the internet and social media, for any juror who owns a mobile phone, is it conceivable that s/he will abide by the strict instructions of a judge admonishing them to pay attention only to the evidence adduced in the trial? On the one hand, juries have stood the test of time. On the other hand, there are doubts about their efficiency. Studies have shown how jurors overrate some evidence despite judicial directions. Indeed, although jurors report they understand directions, they often don't appear to use those directions in arriving at a decision. One alternative to the jury is mixed, as in European countries, where one may find a panel of judges or a combination of judges and lay people. But the common law world has never looked like following that lead. In the end, we must accept there



are flaws in jury process, but finding acceptable alternatives has proved difficult. Let's hope the new jury at retrial of the rape case can still be impartial.

What do you call someone who can't stop talking about past Christmases? Santa-mental!



In October, the Biden administration made a decisive move against China – but it barely made the news worldwide. Biden decided to unequivocally sever China's access to high-end computer chips (aka semiconductors). This measure is intended to tilt the global balance of power in favour of the United States. Without semiconductors your phone, TV, and microwave would be transformed into bricks. Your car wouldn't drive and planes wouldn't fly. Weapons systems, the stock exchange, and telecommunications all depend upon semiconductors. The new US controls are finely calibrated: they apply only to these most leading-edge chips, which China cannot manufacture itself. The US controls extend extraterritoriality to all advanced chip manufacturers outside the US because they are all US allies and access to essential US equipment and software for their manufacturing. Making semiconductors is incomprehensibly complex, but China's ability to innovate should not be underestimated.



Our Christmas entertainer will be Ian Maurice – TV & radio host, entertainer, MC and speaker. He is a veteran TV presenter having appeared on three commercial networks, he has over 30 years musical experience with a very pleasant singing voice and has released four albums, he is a radio personality, and as a speaker, he delights audiences with a walk through his life in the media. Indeed, he is the perfect all-round host and entertainer and we'll have the privilege of being entertained by him before our Christmas lunch. It is not too late to book and friends are welcome.



The idea behind "quiet hour" shopping is to set aside a time each week for a retail experience that minimises noise and other sources of sensory overload. What began as a boutique or specialist retail strategy has become more mainstream. Major supermarket chains and shopping centres in Australia and overseas have introduced it in recent years. It has been found that while it benefits neurodivergent (such as autistic and hypersensitive) people most, other people also welcomed the relief from sensory overload, once they'd overcome the feeling of having wandered into an eerily quiet "post-apocalyptic scene". It begs the question whether urban noise and light is

really part and parcel of a vibrant city. This is an under-researched area. More research needs to be undertaken to assess how sound intensity matters in cities, buildings or public spaces and how it is affecting peaceful reflection and life balance.

Did you know that when you travel from home (directly) to a Probus function or when you return (directly) home from one, if you have an accident and are injured, Probus insurance carries your gap medical fees?

What do you get when you combine a Christmas tree with an iPad?  
A pine-Apple!



In the market for a new mobile? Did you know that the phone itself is probably the same price bought outright without a lock-in contract compared to being on a plan? The telcos make more money on their plans and keep you as paying customers than on the phone. So if you have the money, buy a phone that is not "locked" to a SIM and shop around for a mobile plan that suits your use and budget.

They're typically considered nuisances for their noise, mess and potential spread of diseases. But bats are often forgotten for their ability to control insect pests, disperse seeds, and pollinate plants. Heavy rain as we have experienced on the east coast hinders their echolocation abilities. At such times they stay put to keep dry, sleep more and lower their body temperature to use less energy, but they may also fall from their home due to starvation. On the other hand, for bush turkeys, the increased soil moisture provides the heat that incubates their eggs. However, research shows males avoid constructing their nests during long periods of heavy rain or, sensing the coming weather they reshape their nesting mounds to provide an extra layer of protection by creating a more conical shape so water can run off the sides.



Why did we all go ga-ga when the six month-old trainee police dog visited at the last meeting? Was it any different from any exuberant, friendly pup? Didn't seem so. However, we did enjoy Glen Ayub's interesting talk about training the dogs and the different jobs for which they are trained.

Did you know that Business analysts [Digital Financial Analytics](#) estimate that The Bank of Mum and Dad is the ninth-largest mortgage lender in Australia, stumping up an average of \$90,000 per child. But it's not just about cash. Many people are acting as guarantor on their children's housing loans. It is not known how much parents underwrite their adult



children's day-to-day living expenses, or pay school fees on behalf of their grandchildren, but it is estimated that it is at least as much as mortgage loans.



Pictured left is our newest member John, (left) having just been inducted by President Richard. Welcome to the club John! We hope you make many friends in the club and take advantage of all the club has to offer.

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Why do Christmas trees like the past so much? Because the present's beneath them.



Human sperm count has halved since 1973 and the rate of decline seems to be increasing. A study published in the Human Reproduction Update journal announced the results, and while previous studies concentrated on European, North American and Australian data, the latest studies took a more world-wide approach with 53 countries studied and found the same findings. And no one is quite sure why. There are proposals that it has been influenced by environmental concerns and health and diet, but it's still under research. Scientists are concerned in 50 years there may not be enough young people to support the economy. Shouldn't we be concerned about the human race as a species?

Australian Bureau of Statistics has revealed that the life expectancy of a child born in Australia today is 84.3 years. This puts us in third place on the world rankings, behind only Japan (85.9 years) and Monaco (84.8 years). This is a jump from sixth place only a year ago. The rise reflects our handling of the pandemic because Australia is one of only a few nations where longevity has risen since its onset.



Meeting in Versailles, France, last month, the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures has [called time-out](#) on "leap seconds" – the little jumps occasionally added to clocks running on Coordinated Universal Time, to keep them in sync with Earth's rotation.

From 2035, leap seconds will be abandoned for 100 years or so. Leap year, with the extra day, changes this sync. The difference is only in milliseconds, but accumulates inexorably. Complicating matters further, Earth's rotation, and thus the length of a day, actually varies erratically and can't be predicted far in advance. The solution worked well, but these days it is diabolical when it comes to software implementations. Software is being developed to solve the problem but it is a little way off yet.

**Day 21, no one suspects a thing.**



Impress her with something expensive



**On our way to church, we asked our grandchild why is it important to be quiet in church. She said "Because there are people sleeping!"**



**Farmers writing romance novels**

Her body tensed and quivered as she felt wave after wave surge through it.  
I probably should have told her about the new electric fence.

**2022/23 Committee**

**President:** Richard M

**VP:** Vacant

**IPP and Newsletter)** Mary W

**Secretary:** Margaret

**Treasurer:** Ron

**Activities:** Lorelei

**Speakers:** -

**Committee:** Richard R  
\*\*\*\*\*

Not on committee

Membership; Bill

Welfare: Lynne

Payment for outings and membership: CBA Probus HPC

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