



From the President

Welcome to our September 2022 PROBUS Global Newsletter. I would like to thank Mary Wilson for editing and publishing and for PROBUS Global members from around the world who contributed to this edition.

We continue to expand our membership as we just added our first member from Japan. I am sure one of many to come. The management team for clubs in Japan will meet in November, first time in number of years due to the pandemic, and PROBUS Global will be introduced to members in Japan during that meeting.

We continue to add new programs for our PG membership. We had recently added Speakers' Corner, Question of the week, Country/Region Coordinator, Armchair Traveler, Map for all the members/clubs of PROBUS Global and newest program being Photos by Members. Please review these programs on our website, use them and if you have suggestions for adding additional programs, please contact us as we are willing to review all options to enhance the PROBUS Global experience.

October the First is PROBUS Day, please review the number of articles about our day in this edition about PROBUS Day and the opportunity to not only celebrate our club but take the time to introduce your friends, neighbours, relatives to our great social clubs, dedicated to fellowship. I will steal a slogan from PROBUS Canada, for PROBUS Day

BE A FRIEND-BRING A FRIEND-MAKE A FRIEND

On September 22nd the PROBUS Global will have a virtual meeting to review the current status and review action plans for moving forward. Some of our agenda items will be to review current status by country or region, revenue generating options, expanding the Coordinator program and marketing Probus /PROBUS Global. We will also have a report on PROBUS in Europe. **We will follow the agenda items with an open discussion/ Question and Answer session.** The meeting is open to all PROBUS Global members. If you, as a PROBUS Global member, would like to attend this meeting, go to <https://probusglobal.org/Meetings/#PG-SEP22> (login may be required). Click on the red **Invite Me to the Meeting** Button. You will get an invite to attend. Looking forward to seeing you on the 22nd.

Enjoy PROBUS DAY

Richard Furlong

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Contributions of 200-500 words to the next issue of this newsletter are welcome. Deadline November 15. Contact us [here](#)



Editorial

On thinking about it, I have discovered how guilty I am. Yes, sometimes I play on the fact that I am old. I recently had a situation when I declared “I am too old for this nonsense” and refused to do what was expected. It later made me think that I want my cake and eat it too, because I abhor ageism, yet sometimes I take advantage of it. Then there is benevolent ageism which is even worse. It is where every day biases manifest in the belief that older people need special “help” or “support”. This could be assumptions about what our preferences are because of our age group, or that by a certain age most people should be “slowing down”. Benevolent ageism leads to false assumptions or inaccurate and limiting stereotypes about older people being “not competent” and lacking individuality. It can show up in everyday judgements made about our

capacity to work, how we dress or whether we are in need of assistance or attention because of our age. A [recent report](#) from the World Health Organization states one in every two people shows moderate to high levels of ageist attitudes, with their definition of ageism encompassing stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel) and discrimination (how we act) towards others or oneself based on age. It is the least understood form of discriminatory prejudice and more pervasive and socially accepted than sexism and racism. Most Probians are intelligent and educated and therefore are probably aware of the problem of such ageism, but only in the background. On thinking about it, I brought it into my “foreground” of thought, yet I still use it to my advantage. If others are like me, how can it be stamped out? Perhaps other Probians can help stamp it out by being aware of it in the foreground.

Mary Wilson

Payment for speakers?



In a recent letter to our President, **Barrie Morgan**, VP of the PROBUS Club of Guildwood (Canada), expressed how much he appreciated the Zoom speakers available on the PG web site. Sometimes his club pays for speakers and lately they have been discussing reimbursing speakers for the fuel used to get to their club. Most clubs do not pay for speakers, except perhaps on special occasions. Clubs in larger cities, have plenty of speakers from which to choose; from well-known personalities to the more quietly successful local business owners. But many clubs never pay. Not because they are unappreciative, but because club

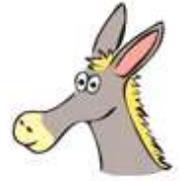
finances just cover the running of the club. They usually give the speaker a gift of appreciation. Those clubs which boast many members (say 200+) can probably afford professional speakers regularly. It is understandable that country and more remote clubs struggle for variety of speakers, and for them, with fuel prices increasing, a refund of speakers’ travel costs is reasonable. Indeed, it is reasonable for any speaker expected to travel a significant distance to address a meeting. But on principle, should clubs pay for speakers? Those on a payroll come on paid company time, others have the opportunity to educate or do community service, not to mention gently promote their ideas and business. What is your view?

Romeo and Juliet Lunches

The PROBUS Club of Hope Island in Queensland, Australia, has introduced monthly Romeo and Juliet lunches for members. What are they? They are **Retired Old Men Eating Out** and **Just Us Ladies Interacting and Eating Together**. The two groups go to different cafés and restaurants. The Romeos and Juliets swap venues month-about, so that menus can be discussed and impressions compared.



*Travels of
a Donkey*
Part Le Deux



From the pen of the NEWBURGH (incorporating International) Correspondent of the PG Newsletter (Reuters Syndicated)

Greetings Dear Reader

Since my last posting, I've received some good and some bad news, which I'd like to share with you. First the bad news – my application as a contributor to Trip Advisor has been turned down - I quote...

"Dear Sir/ Madam

Further to your Application, we regret to advise that your proffered submissions do not meet the General Standards and Impartiality required of our reviewers. We felt that your predilection with things sanitary and smutty, frivolity and glib style, did not reflect the true ambience of the places visited. Yours etc"

Am gutted.

The good news is that your intrepid reporter has once again been elevated to the dizzy heights of International Jet Setter, Bon Viveur and International Playboy – or should that be International Play Pensioner, International Crinkly, and International Grumpy Old Man? – None of those titles have any romance about them, so suggestions please, preferably clean, would be most welcome.

What has brought on this euphoria and status upgrade you ask?

I've extended my travel portfolio to Holland Denmark, Orkney, Switzerland, as well as the home grown tourist hot spots of Peterhead, Montrose, MacDuff and even Hull – Impressive eh?

I have just returned from Switzerland – more of that anon.

On my way home I decided to avail myself of modern technology and use the GPS.

I don't know about you, but GPS and I have serious relationship issues, which, if this were a marriage scenario would lead to major counselling, drinking heavily and eventually divorce, or perhaps that series of events could be other way around.

You assiduously fill in the destination details, and the "Let's Go" flashes on the screen - we're off!

Into the journey and destressed by soothing background music, out of the ether or the Twilight Zone, comes the command make a "U" turn and you're smack bang in the middle of a Motorway where turning is verboten.

I'll come back to Scottish Motorways, a blatant misnomer if ever there was one, later.

So not only does this unsolicited command unnerve you, makes you wonder if you've entered the correct destination details, but completely undermines your concentration, confidence and self-esteem and ruins what has been to date, an uneventful journey.

You pull into a Layby, check the details, and wonder what the hell has just happened.

Your confidence, both in yourself and this freaky GPS now greatly diminished, you proceed with caution until you enter a built-up area where the latter goes completely berserk – "Take the next turning on the right; at the roundabout take the second exit" – you're torn between reading the road Signs and listening to the commands of a lunatic robot.

Do you shut it down? – Common sense tells you it's the most acceptable course of action – but NO! – It's become a battle of wits – you can do this unaided, who needs modern technology?

You finally reach your destination shell shocked, stressed, angry – defeated. You didn't need GPS in the first place – so remember this when planning your next trip – read a map before you travel. Long Live Google Maps.

Back to Motorways (Scottish in particular)

A two lane Motorway becomes a one single lane with the signage "Road Works to Infinity and beyond".

There are no Road Works - it's a disguise for a Mobile Gardening Unit comprising a massive assortment of gardeners and machinery, pruning the central reservation, cutting the hedging, trimming the grass edges to PGA Golf Green proportions, but leaving the potholes, melting tarmac, debris and general road surface totally untouched. But be of good cheer, the scenery is pretty, well-kept, and should sooth the savage beast.

Once again I'm over my "Words" allotment, as per the Ed's instruction, and I haven't yet told you about my travels, so I'll save my ramblings for the next instalment.

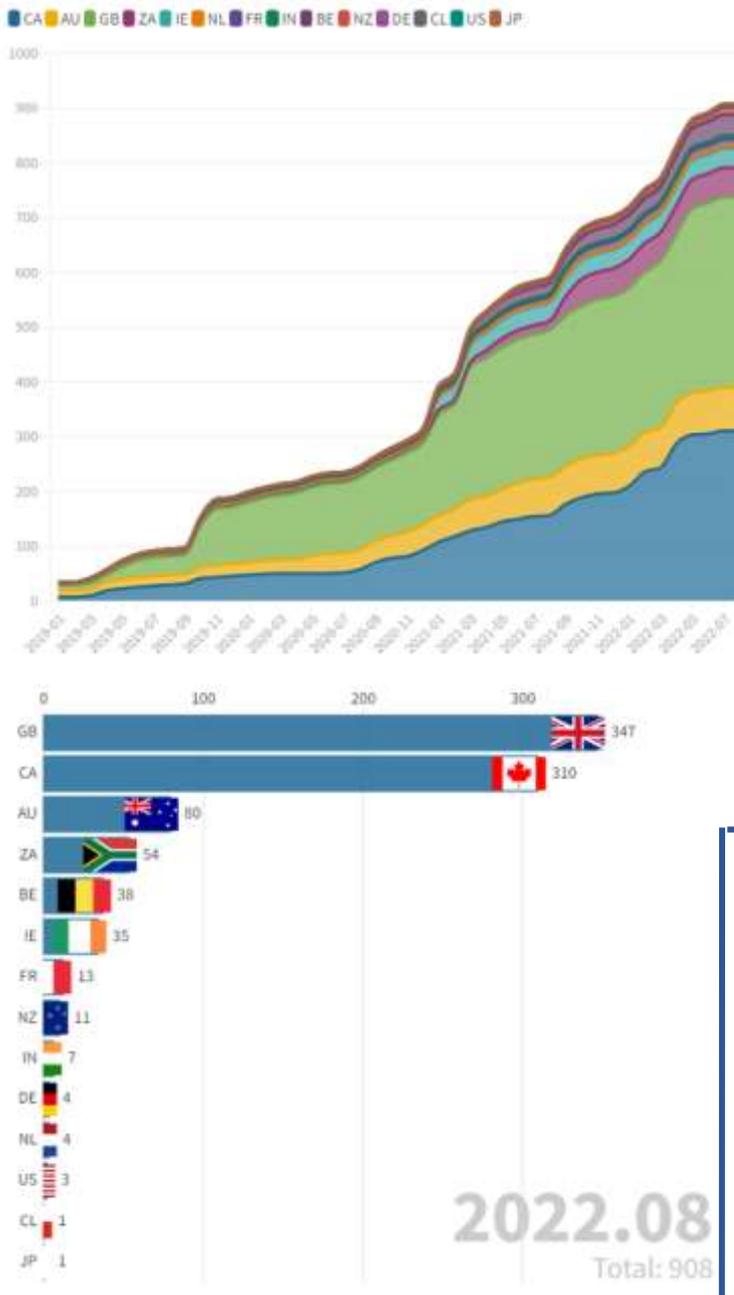
Any comments – I'd love to hear from you – graham@mmsgam.co.uk.

'Till the next time



We are growing!

Graphs created by PG webmaster, **Peter Jennings**



In 2018 a small group of PROBUS members from Canada, Great Britain and Australia decided to reincarnate the International PROBUS Network (IPN) which had dwindled to just a few members. PROBUS Global was founded and began 2019 with 34 members in seven countries. Less than four years later, we have welcomed 908 members from 14 countries.

At this time, 38% of the members come from the UK and 34% from Canada.

The interactive animated charts are [here](#). They allow you to look at the data more by country, by month.

PROBUS clubs in different countries vary greatly in their operation and membership.

PROBUS Global provides a forum for the discussion of our common interest in promoting PROBUS and enhancing the lives of our members everywhere.

AI technology making gains

Don't envy the younger generation. It is a truth, universally acknowledged, that AI machines are taking over. What is less clear is when the machines will know that. Recent claims by a Google engineer that the LaMBDA AI Chatbot might be conscious made [international headlines](#) and sent philosophers into a tizz. Neuroscientists and linguists were less enthused. As AI makes greater gains, debate about the technology moves from the hypothetical to the concrete and from the future to the present.

This means governments and people who embrace AI need to form a more sophisticated view of it. After all, how policy-makers talk about AI is already shaping decisions about how to regulate that technology. In a recent legal case in Australia about patents, the judge reasoned that AI can be deemed to be an inventor. So who owns the intellectual property? Who is liable for the acts of a robot? The owner? The manufacturer? The software developer? The operator? While the judge's decision was overturned on appeal, it was specifically noted that there is an urgent need for policy development in this area. Recently in Russia, a child's finger was broken by a robot playing chess. Why? It seems the child took his turn too quickly and some robots "do not deal well with unexpected events". Then there are the drone subs crossing oceans delivering contaband. Who is the law breaker?

We, as Probians are embracing Zoom and other "simpler" technologies to our advantage, but we, too, need to further our understanding of how technology impacts our lives and the lives of people around us. After all, our longevity and quality of life may already depend on health bots and other AI aids as we grow older. Our lack of basic understanding of these technologies already adds to our disadvantages and vulnerability.

Celebrating Probus Day



A poem for Probus Day by **Prabha Chakravarti**,
Probus Club of Chennai, India

The Golden Age of Wisdom

“Senior Citizens” - the words often evoke mixed emotions

Awe and respect in some, sympathy and pity in others

Wholesome admiration for the many achievers,
now past their prime,

Some just growing old after a normal, even humdrum life
But all nearing the last quarter of their lives
All raring to keep busy, not wanting to be discarded like an old shoe
Hark back to those halcyon days when grandparents held sway,
Joint families where unity was the only way

Avenues and openings are many these days
No need to feel dejected or useless
Hobbies are a plenty, jobs for the newly retired abound
Scan the papers, discuss with friends
You are sure to find something that would suit;
It is indeed tough to suddenly find oneself with nothing to do
Those that once headed huge corporates
Now twiddling thumbs, hard to believe, but it is reality
Come, pull up your socks, there is work to be done!
You need to keep your heart unwrinkled, keep yourself healthy
Always be hopeful, kind, reverent and full of cheer
It is the PROBUS way to triumph over old age
For isn't it said “Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art”?
Truer words ne'er said before, nor ever will be

So seniors, this is a clarion call for each of you
Rise above neglect, abuse, insults, disappointments, loneliness
Time to reach out and conquer all negativity
Mould your remaining years doing whatever you enjoy
Read, write, learn, do whatever you always wanted to but never had the time
Be a beacon light to all youngsters, you are a repository of wisdom
There cannot be a more rewarding span in your entire life
Learn to Be Alive! The PROBUS way!

For more poetry, visit our poetry page: <https://probusglobal.org/Poetry>



To celebrate PROBUS Day on
**October 1st, there will be almost
60 landmarks in the capital cities
and country towns in Australia and
New Zealand, lit up in PROBUS
blue and gold.**

Celebrate with these ideas

Get together with one or more
neighbouring PROBUS clubs to
plan:

- a special luncheon,
- potluck dinner,
- 1950's Music tribute Night (includes clothing from the 50's)
- themed dance (50's, Disco, Roaring Twenties, Big Bands, etc.)
- picnic – join many tables together for a “Big Lunch”
- activity - bowling, bocce ball, or other group activity such as hiking, bicycling, skiing, snowshoeing
- tournaments – golf, bowling, tennis, pickle ball etc.,
- card Game Competitions – bridge, poker, etc.
- dance Class – line dancing
- perform fun skits or charades
- have a party (like a New Year's celebration)
- karaoke night
- pool party
- group rate for dinner theatre, live performance,
- charter a boat for day's sail and meal
- Trivia Night.
- serve a special cake
- tour of a point of interest – provide bus to transport attendees
- visit a vineyard or brewery and celebrate the day
- invite a special guest: a local celebrity, a VIP who can help raise the profile of your event and hold at a larger venue
- memorabilia night e.g., War medals and photos, antiques
- wine tasting. Have a sommelier to help you organize the day
- make a Proclamation and put it in the local paper

More on Probus Day

Here are some more Probus Day ideas!

Within a Club

- Create a PROBUS Club flag or banner.
- Have your club's flag flown over City Hall.
- Have your Mayor proclaim National PROBUS Day.
- Enjoy cake, or a breakfast, or a luncheon.
- Arrange for your local press to attend.

Promotion of Event

- **Hand out Flyers** - Distribute flyers, or post notices or signs at schools, shopping malls, community centres and local businesses. Check if



permission is required for posting.

- **Register on the Community Calendar** - Promote your event in newspapers, shopping malls, on community television or radio, bulletin boards or in pharmacies and restaurants. Go where seniors are!
- **Create a Social Media Presence** - Facebook and Twitter are a great way to get the word out and keep your event going past October 1. Many seniors today are tech-savvy—you can keep in touch all year long electronically.
- **Issue a media release** - Let your local news outlets promote your plans, including newspapers, local cable, community blogs and radio stations.

All Ideas compiled by **Linda Metcalfe**, PG Administrator and **Marlene Pearce**, PG Canadian Coordinator.

Pick out your most exciting or interesting photo of your PROBUS Day event and upload it onto our photo web site! It doesn't have to be a perfect picture, but if it tells a story, all the better!

Reach Out

US research indicates that the more of a shock or surprise a message or small gift is, the greater it is appreciated by the recipient. Researchers extrapolated that when one makes contact “out of the blue” with lost friends, it is appreciated all the more. It usually takes resolve to contact someone after a lengthy period of time. Therefore, these findings suggest that people's hesitations may be misplaced, as others are likely to appreciate being reached out to more than generally thought. Dr Peggy J. Liu, from the University of Pittsburgh who did the research, said that “one reason this underestimation of appreciation occurs is that people considering reaching out do not think about how positively surprised others would feel upon being reached out to”. So, if you had a friend in PROBUS (or indeed, any friend) whom you haven't seen or heard from for a while, make the effort, reach out and see what happens.



New President for Probus Canada

Pictured left is **Brenda Andrews** the new President of PROBUS Canada. She is the 30th President and the 6th lady to take on the role of President. With her 13 Directors, a Managing Director and a Financial Manager, she is hoping that now that some lock-downs have eased and the pandemic abates, that “our clubs will soar.”

Photos

What do camels in Kazakhstan, snakes in Australia, bicycles in Kenya, and snow in Canada have in common? There are amazing photographs of all of these on the PROBUS Global Photos <https://probusglobal.org/Photos/> page.

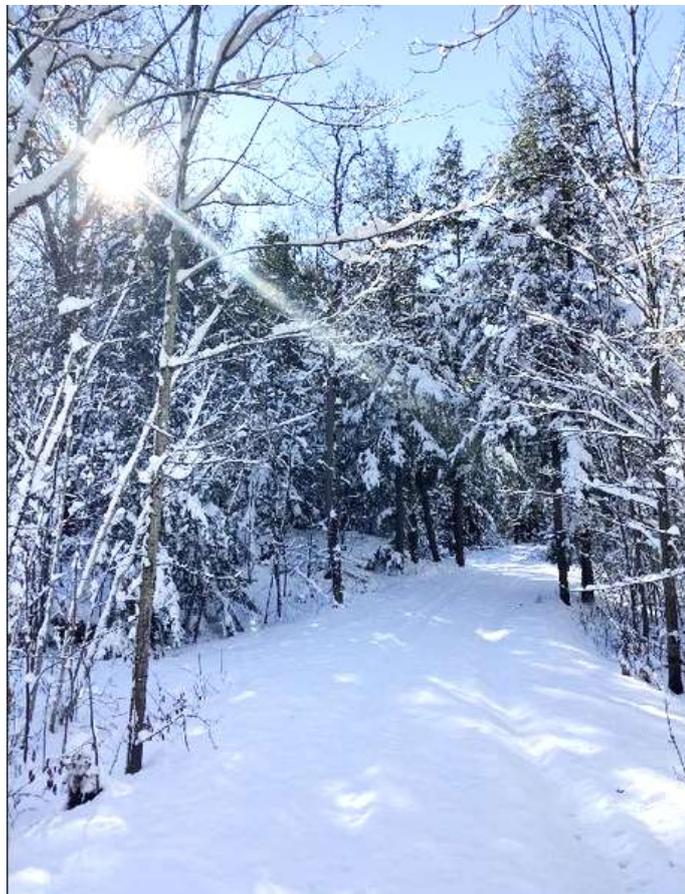
In just a few short weeks since the Photos page was opened up for contributions by any member of PROBUS Global, we have seen how global our membership truly is. At the time of writing, we had 30 images by 11 photographers from 10 countries. One of the photographs was so good that it won a Photography competition and has been printed on postcards available in the local shops. Can you guess which one?

Anyone is welcome to contribute. The upload procedure is painless, just drop a file on the target or copy and paste a picture from your personal albums. We also encourage anyone to join the group discussion on Groups.io. (See article below on page 8).

Discussions can range from the subject of the photo, snakes, birds, and exotic plants to the techniques used to enhance the image, lenses, Photoshop and free tools.

John Thorne (Aus) and **Patrick Whittick** (UK) host and moderate the page.

We look forward to your participation.



How to use groups.io for discussions

Peter Jennings PG Webmaster

Comments on the photos posted to PROBUS Global are invited in the groups.io message boards. We invite all our members to join groups.io and the PROBUS Global message boards. It is very easy to do. The message board can be accessed in a web browser or you can interact by email. Many of you are probably familiar with bulletin boards such as Yahoo Groups and Google Groups. It is very similar.

Joining by email? Simply send an email to the following address:

photos+subscribe@probusglobal.groups.io

You will receive an email confirming your subscription with full instructions on how to participate, which is as simple as replying to emails you will receive. You can choose to receive

one email a day in “digest” form, or an email immediately when someone makes a comment.

Participating on the Web Page? If you would rather participate on a web page, just go to **<https://probusglobal.groups.io/g/photos>** and click on the blue **JOIN this group** button. Once you have been admitted, click on **Messages** in the menu on the left.

For full instructions there are introductory videos on YouTube that will guide you through all of the features of groups.io.

Interacting via email:

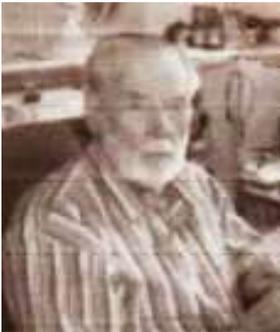
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oiV5QnRcRU>

Interacting via the web interface:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml4SmVllnCc>

Contemplations on life

A contribution by **Leo Kirk**, South Africa



Born in 1934 and educated in England, I joined the Territorial Army (TA) in 1954. However, that year, I was hit by a drunken driver and ended up smashing my elbow and losing my right leg. Naturally, I was deemed “unfit for service” and discharged from the Army.

A couple of years later, when I had a prosthesis, I managed to re-join TA, but was discharged again and I went to South Africa in early 1961 on a three year contract, but changed careers and did not return to England until 1987. I had with me my wife and two adult children.

There in early 2000, I discovered the British Limbless Ex-Service Men’s (& Women’s) Association – BLESMA.

My wife and I really enjoyed its social activities. April 2006 saw me on a one week BLESMA Training Sailing Course from Gosport down the Channel to Poole & back. When my health deteriorated in 2008/9, BLESMA came to the fore and helped me with a curved Stair Lift.

Our daughter in Durban (South Africa) persuaded us to pool finances and so, in 2012 we emigrated and happily retired into a Granny Flat at our daughter’s home.

My wife of 54 years passed away in 2017. I stayed independent in the Granny Flat and had my daughter’s family to keep me from being lonely. Meanwhile I kept in touch with BLESMA which organised for me to buy a tablet and coached me to master Zoom. With that, I am able to attend meetings and get involved. I joined the North Durban PROBUS club as well as the South African Association of Retired People and have a great number of interests which keep me busy.

Looking back over my 88 years, thinking of all the world travel I did, of being a guinea pig for the first ever Fibreglass leg made in England, of my adventures on motorbikes, tanks, forklifts boats and caravans, I am now, sadly, thinking of giving up driving. I have owned about 30 cars in my lifetime, ran half a dozen businesses, and Yes! – THANKS a GREAT LIFE – thanks to so many people many of whom became good friends and also especially to my late wife – Polly.

Probus in Japan

From Kenichi Ito

I am a member of Tokyo Tama Probus Club in Japan. Our city Tama is located in the suburbs of Tokyo. In recent years, due to the impact of the corona crisis, our club has been unable to engage in substantial activities for a long time. Many members withdrew, due to the aging or health reasons, and membership numbers decreased sharply. However, new members are joining, and I feel that our Club is regaining its vitality.

The other day, I was looking for information about overseas PROBUS Clubs and found 'PROBUS Global' by chance. I thought it's very interesting and useful exchange site between PROBUS Club members. I also got the impression that it's very active and dynamic. Soon after I registered as a member of PROBUS Global, I was surprised and proud to learn that I was the only member from a Japanese Club.

I introduced about PROBUS Global at our club's board meeting and another monthly meeting. I hope I will continue to use this site to deepen exchanges with Clubs and Probians around the world.

By the way, about the current state of Japanese PROBUS Clubs: There are 103 clubs and about

2,700 Probians in Japan. (as of 2013). As far as I know, PROBUS Clubs in Japan are generally mixed gender. There is the Probus Centre-Japan, as a horizontal liaison. General meeting of the Probus Centre-Japan has been held once every two years in various places, but last year's 9th General meeting (Goshogawara Convention), which was postponed for one year due to the influence of the corona disaster, was cancelled. Only the General meeting was held on paper.

This year, on November 24th, the 10th General meeting of the Probus Centre-Japan and the Tokyo Hachioji Convention will be held at the Keio Plaza Hotel Hachioji. It will be the reunion of the national Probians for the first time in four years. The Hachioji Probus Club will manage the event as a host, and three nearby Clubs, Tokyo Tama (my club), Tokyo Hino, and Saitama Ukishiro, will support as co-host Clubs. On the day after the General meeting and the Hachioji Convention, an optional excursion to "Enjoy the fall of Mt. Takao" will be held.

I pray that all events will be held successfully.

Llandrindod Wells Probus Club turns 40



Pictured above are members and guests at the celebration.

Llandrindod Wells Probus Club (UK) celebrated its 40th anniversary last month with a lunch at which Chairman **Geraint Hughes** gave an illustrated talk on the history of Probus in Llandrindod since its foundation, by Llandrindod Rotary Club, in 1982.

Letters

From **R.T.Namasivayam**, Past President, Probus Club of Chennai, India

Probus Club of Chennai will be celebrating every year "International Day of the Elderly" on 1st October. The club will be bringing a guide book with articles on general interest, particularly to the senior citizens. For the year 2022, we received a poem for publication. I am attaching the same with the photo of the author. If you find it good, please consider publishing in your newsletter. [See Page 5]

Some headlines from around the world:

Check out <https://probusglobal.org/FunnyPages/> for more humour

A Bit of Humour!



Contemplations of a Probian

My tolerance for idiots is extremely low today. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously there is a new strain out there.

As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of; it will be misspelt and have incorrect punctuation.

Me sobbing my heart out: "I can't see you anymore I'm not going to let you hurt me again". Trainer "It was just one sit-up".

I felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery. The GPS blurted out "You have reached your final destination".

I put my scales in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologises.

And in 1955...



I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$10.00.

Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging 7 cents just to mail a letter?



The fast food restaurant is convenient for a quick meal, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.

There is no sense going on short trips anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$2.00 a night to stay in a motel.



Why did the yoghurt go to the art exhibition? Because it was cultured.

What's the best way to quit being vegan? Go cold turkey.

The two people who stole a calendar each got six months.