

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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May 2023 Issue No 177

The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Richard's Rambles

As Julie and I are away, I must thank Jill for standing in for me at this time. Thanks also go to Margaret for agreeing to remain as secretary until we can find a replacement and also to Ron who has agreed to stay on as Treasurer as an interim measure. Thanks also go to Barrie for his efforts and help with the committee.

Julie and I left Brisbane in late April and after a few days in Sydney drove down the south coast and spent the night at Eden. We visited the whale museum and learnt how the Orcas would herd humpback whales in towards the shore so the whalers could catch them more easily. As the whalers were only after the blubber and the rest of the carcass was just deposited back in the sea, this was an easy feast for the Orcas.

After Eden we drove on to Lakes Entrance which is a very pretty spot to stay and then on to Geelong where we spent a night before an early start to board the ferry to Tasmania. I was quite amazed at how long it took the ferry to get out of Port Phillip Bay. After nearly three hours we finally hit Bass Strait expecting a bit of sea motion but it was so flat you could have played snooker on it. Hopefully there will be more movement when we return.

After a couple of days with friends in Oatlands we drove down south of Hobart to pick up our grandson from school and take him home to Pelterata. Their small two bedroom house is halfway between Huonville and Kingston in a very pretty valley and thankfully has a combustible fireplace in the lounge room, as it was quite chilly outside. On the weekend we drove to Russell Falls where the temperature was eight degrees. After a short drizzling walk we drove on to Mt Field National Park where the temperature dropped to four degrees and it started to snow. Brrrrrrrr!!

Following a few days of sightseeing around this very cold but beautiful area, our daughter-in-law came down with Covid and so we moved into the Kingston Hotel and kept clear of the rest of the family. We have been doing RA tests and even had a PCR test and fortunately have tested negative. After five days here we are moving to stay with our friends in Oatlands and then if all is clear, will move back to stay with the family in Pelterata.

That's all for now. Keep safe and I will update our travels next month.

Richard M



A New South Wales surf club has banned its members from being nude in the changerooms. The decision was made to protect the large number of younger people at the club. While it's difficult not to be nude when changing out of your bathers, on the other hand, children under 16 might find it a bit awkward being exposed to adult nudity. But really? What is the use of providing change rooms if one is to struggle under towels and other clothing as one changes?

ACTIVITIES

MAY

Sunday 7th. **Coffee and Chat** at Pacific Golf Club, 10.30am.

Wednesday 10th **Lunch** Snag & Brown, 97 Ekibin Rd Annerley. 11.30am

Thursday 18th **Monthly Meeting** 9.30am. Newnham Hotel.

Thursday 25th **Maritime Museum** (which had to be postponed last time) Siddon St South Brisbane. 10.30am followed by lunch at the Ship Inn.

JUNE

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

Wednesday 7th **The Mousetrap** Playhouse QPAC South Brisbane 1pm
BOOKINGS NOW FILLED

Thursday 15th **Monthly Meeting** at Newnham Hotel. 9.30am.

Wednesday 21st **Lunch** at **Esher St Café and Deli** 46 Esher St Tarragindi , 11.30pm

JULY

Sunday 2nd **Coffee and Chat** at Pacific Golf Club, 10.30am.

Monday 3rd **Christmas in July at The Coolum Beach Hotel** Bus Tour. Departs Greenslopes Mall bus stop, 8.30am. Morning Tea and lunch provided. \$78. Names and payment TODAY please

Wednesday 12th **Lunch** Pinto Thai, 1295 Logan Rd, Mt Gravatt. 11.30am. Monthly meeting. Newnham Hotel. 9.30 am.

Thursday 20th **Monthly Meeting** at Newnham Hotel. 9.30am.

Thursday 27th Visit **William Robinson Gallery** in historic Old Government House, QUT, Gardens Point. 10.30am. To be followed by lunch in Gardens Cafe.

AUGUST

Sunday 6th **Coffee and Chat** Pacific Golf Club. 10.30am.

Wednesday 9th **Lunch** TBA.

Thursday 17th **Monthly Meeting** Celebrating our 15th anniversary with Entertainment. Newnham Hotel. 9.30am.

More to come

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 6th Lunch TBA.

Sunday 10th **Coffee and Chat** Pacific Golf Club. 10.30am.

Wednesday 13th **MAMMA MIA** the musical, Lyric Theatre, QPAC, South

Brisbane. 1.00 pm. \$79. Limited seats available. Secure your spot with name and payment TODAY.

Thursday 21st Monthly meeting Newnham Hotel 9.30am.

More to come

Diary Date: Christmas Lunch December 14, Newnham Hotel, (note one week earlier than our usual meeting).



Planning on cruising? New ideas are being introduced by cruise lines this year. There will be more opportunities for single cruising without a singles supplement. Wi-Fi is being improved on cruise ships with stronger signals and cheaper access. Younger travellers are being wooed with tailor made entertainment and tattoo parlours. Also, more round-Australia cruises will be available for those wishing to stay closer to home.

Medical imaging is a cornerstone of healthcare. We use it to monitor health, diagnose conditions, inform treatment and observe disease progression. At the [Australian e-Health Research Centre](#) (AEHRC), tools are being developed to facilitate medical imaging. Medical imaging uses advanced technologies to visualise internal parts of the body. These include X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, computed tomography (CT) scans, positron emission tomography (PET) scans, ultrasounds and more. The images produced are highly complex, so they are often time-consuming and difficult to interpret. Now with the application of Artificial Intelligence, software is being developed that helps health professionals diagnose, treat and monitor the progression of disease more rapidly and confidently. Researchers use data to train machine learning models, and after undergoing extensive validation and trialling the AI software diagnosis allows for more precise treatment scenarios, less damage to nearby healthy tissue and reduced side effects. Future software will enable AI to identify biomarkers for early diagnosis or risk prediction of such illnesses as Alzheimer's.

**Have you paid your Membership Renewal?
\$40 was due last month. A/C details back page.**

Those members who have been with the club for 10+ years will remember Patricia and Graham who left the club and moved to Warwick. In the interim, some years back, several of our members were welcomed by them when we had a bus trip to the Warwick Jumpers and Jazz Festival. They, and a friend Bev, joined us at our coffee morning early in April. Hopefully we may see more of them now that they have re-

established their roots at Eight Mile Plains. Indeed, Trish and Bev were two of the four visitors we had at the last meeting. When they left, they asked to be included on our mailing list for our newsletters and have received them ever since. It was also nice to see that our numbers at the last morning coffee are beginning to build up again, because it is always an enjoyable interlude.



While some countries have a multi-century history of a day to celebrate mothers, the modern American version of Mother's Day began in the United States in 1911 at the initiative of Anna Jarvis, who organized the first Mother's Day service of worship. Hallmark cards were the first to commercialise the concept.

The good news is that Australia's homicide rate has continued its overall downward trajectory in the [latest crime data](#) released last month. In fact, in 2020-21, Australia recorded the second-lowest number of homicides since the Australian Institute of Criminology began compiling national statistics in 1989. Overall, the national homicide rate has dropped steadily from a rate of 1.88 per 100,000 people in 1992-93 to 0.82 in 2020-21 – a decrease of 55% over nearly 30 years. In 2019, the world average homicide rate was 6.1 per 100,000 people in 2017, a rate inflated by the Americas with 17.2 per 100,000 people. Overall, crime in Australia is also on the decline, except for sexual assaults which often go unreported. Despite some perceptions, Australia is becoming a safer place to live.



Pictured left is a drone photo of "fairy circles" in the Australian Pilbara. Strange barren patches in the Australian outback have been long-studied by scientists – but until recently, nobody had consulted the Aboriginal people who live among them, and for whom they

are important aspects of their "dreaming" and knowledge passed down over generations. The Aboriginal people who have lived in the area for 5000 years, have always known that fairy circles in the Western Deserts of Australia are flat, hard "pavements" inhabited by spinifex termites. They know that the termites that live in the pavements are like the krill of desert ecosystems – they are super-abundant. Most people think of



above-ground termite mounds, but here is a whole community that lives mostly below the soil surface, only emerging to eat dead spinifex or to fly to reproduce. Termite pavements hold water after big rains, which was unknown to scientists until we recognised clues in the stories and art of Aboriginal country folk. And the flying termites are an important food source and have deep spiritual significance. Why has it taken 60 years of scientific study to arrive at semi-accurate conclusions, before we asked our First Nations people who knew all along?



A Melbourne retailer was bewildered, saying a shortage of sex dolls had never happened in the company's 30-year history – especially given the lifelike dolls cost at least \$3000 and up to \$5500. Why was there a shortage? It seems a video went viral about the dolls being used as passengers in cars, so that many Melbourne commuters could use the much faster transit lanes where there has to be a minimum of two people in a car.

Well, your editor missed it. Did anyone else not see the February issue of PAQ's *Queensland Probian*? I went into the website to check on the new office bearers (which incidentally had not yet been updated), and discovered the magazine. If interested, you can find it [here](#).

Broadcaster prominence, described by some network executives as the most pressing regulatory issue facing free-to-air television stations, involves giving those stations greater prominence as a default on televisions. According to major TV manufacturers, it's Australian viewers who will suffer the most if broadcaster prominence is legislated. This is because it would generate significant costs for reconfiguring TVs here, and would also likely result in a much smaller range of TVs available to Australian consumers. Global tech giant Google and Telstra are both against the concept. They have doubts the broadcaster prominence framework will lead to more people viewing Australian content. Unsurprisingly, Free to Air Australia, which represents the Seven, Nine and Ten networks, disagrees. Submissions on the broadcaster prominence proposal have now closed, but no date for a decision has yet been set. It is now watch and wait.

Duty Roster for May

Chair: hair: Mary W; **5 min spot:** TBA; **Fellowship:** Rosslyn and Janice; **Door:** Barrie, Ron

Alarm is rising among Australian Antarctic researchers. Since the late 1970s, scientists have been able to measure sea ice from satellites. They've witnessed an annual cycle of freezing and melting. The sea ice

rhythmically expands and contracts, almost like a heartbeat. At the winter maximum, Antarctic sea ice covers an area more than twice the size of Australia (20 million square kilometres). During summer, it retreats to cover less than a fifth of that area. But the record minimum has been broken three times in seven years: in 2017, 2022 and 2023. This summer, the minimum was just 1.7 million square km. The deeply concerned scientists have released a diagnosis for policy-makers. Not only does sea ice play a crucial role in pumping seawater across the planet, it insulates the ocean underneath, which supports many levels of the food web ...and the culprit has been proven to be our consumption of fossil fuels.



Despite their reputation as man-eaters – which came from exaggerated 19th century seafaring tales and Pacific Island legends – giant clams, which can weigh in at 250kg, are gentle giants. They are under threat not only from fishing for their meat and shells but from climate change. While they are still common in Australian waters, in other areas they have not fared so well due to over-exploitation, and are registered as “threatened”. Under stress, they bleach, just like corals. In an effort to save them, marine scientists have recently developed a program which can help by breeding baby clams and getting them used to slightly warmer, more acidic waters before transplanting them into the oceans.

Did you know that Probus Day is now being referred to as Probus Month? After all, Probians celebrate it throughout the month (October) so it makes sense. If anyone has a good idea about how to celebrate it, now’s the time to either put your suggestion into the suggestion box *Ida*, or mention your idea to someone on the committee for them to follow up. Last year we had a very enjoyable joint picnic lunch in the park, with the Eastern Suburbs Probus Club. Indeed, the committee is seeking details about a grant available for Probus Month Celebrations.



It is still happening. Years of complaint has fallen on deaf ears. Many modern products from phones to cars are designed so that you can’t fix them. Vital parts are inaccessible. At the most extreme, manufacturers actively prevent you from repairing their products at the local mechanic’s. If you can’t repair your washing machine, you have to buy a new one. But it’s a hidden cost to all of us – and a huge source of avoidable waste. Last month, the EU passed a “right to repair” policy. In the United States, 26 states have proposed laws. But we are dragging our heels. A good start, but limited was, in July 2021, the passing of our

first right to repair laws, a mandated [data-sharing scheme](#) on the “how””. Labor has made positive sounds to expand the laws, but we are yet to see the promised action. It is the minimisation of waste in landfill that is driving the change, but we, the consumers would be the winners, no matter what the drivers are. Yes, the manufacturers would lose out on replacements, but if we return to the old ways of repairing rather than throwing out products, we would also trigger a rebirth of repair-based businesses, employment growth and up-skilling.

For a change, we are moving away from Probus pens again as speakers’ gifts and reverting to bottles of wine. Our VP (Jill) has been given the privilege of purchasing then (hic!).



Recent excavations just outside of Rome have uncovered a mid-third century winery which portrays a sense of opulence and performance almost never found at an ancient production site. As well, the other parts of the complex excavated over the years, illustrates how elite Romans fused utilitarian function with luxurious decoration and theatre. The site, yes a working winery, has decorative architecture, including coloured marble tiling,

high-quality statuary recovered over the last 400 years, and a monumental bathing complex. It also has an enormous circus for chariot racing. The complex possesses features commonly found in [ancient Roman wineries](#): a grape treading area, two wine presses, a vat to collect grape must and a cellar with large clay jars for storage and fermentation sunk into the ground. However, the decoration (such as the marble mosaic pictured above) and arrangement of these features is almost completely unparalleled in the ancient world.



There has been a reshuffle on the Committee since the AGM. Ron has agreed to remain as Treasurer until Barrie’s health improves. Margaret has agreed to continue as Secretary, until a replacement can be found, and John has now withdrawn because he’ll be travelling too much to devote time to the committee. Con has joined the committee.



You may remember the famous image of Princess Dianna walking through a live landmine site in Angola in 1997. Her efforts drew international attention to the

plight of communities recovering from war. The United Nations subsequently announced the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty to eradicate and stop their use and production. More than 100 million active landmines exist worldwide and these mines kill or maim about 6500 people each year, mostly civilians and more than half of whom are children. Clearing minefields is slow, laborious, and hazardous work, but now our own CSIRO has developed a more accurate and safer method of detection which will speed up the rates of landmine clearance. It is based on technology similar to MRIs used in medical imaging. It uses radio frequency pulses and measures how the radio waves interact with atoms and molecules and the resulting signals which correspond to a distinctive molecular signature from the landmine explosive help identify the hazard. A hand-held device is now being developed by an Australian company. By next year, it will be a game-changer in the speed and accuracy of land mine detection.



The May speaker will be Queenslander **Libbie Escolme-Schmidt OAM**, who had a varied career, firstly as a teacher in Papua New Guinea later as an air hostess and then became involved in the beef and wool industries. She had a training and education consultancy and was awarded her OAM for her women's advocacy work. In 2010, she had a book published collating a multitude of stories of her memories as a British Airways air hostess.

Almost from a standing start, generative AI has rapidly infiltrated Australian life over the past few months. New users of ChatGPT and other similar recent programs have found novel applications, often far from the world of Big Tech corporations that had invented and tested the technology. A young man in Queensland consulted it for relationship advice. An Adelaide woman asked for a poem to her boyfriend. A Brisbane rideshare driver turned to it for legal advice. An octogenarian man found ways to improve his system for placing bets. A young woman in Melbourne commissioned a love poem to her neighbour's dog — on behalf of her own dog. All these uses have been documented, although the tool was meant to be an assistant to business. Next month, your editor may use ChatGP to generate something for this newsletter.

The findings in a new research paper published in *Science Advances* last month are, according to the authors, quite alarming because nearly half of the world's language diversity is at risk. Linguists believe diversity, especially in grammar, is a historical record about our history, our cognitive abilities and what it means to be human. The findings show that South America and Australia are expected to lose *all* indigenous linguistic diversity, because all of them are threatened. Even other regions, where languages are relatively safe, such as the Pacific, South-East Asia and Europe, still show a dramatic decrease of about 25%. Without sustained support for language revitalisation, our shared linguistic window into human history, cognition and culture will become seriously fragmented.



One would have thought that a talk mostly about safety would have been a bit of a bore. However, Robert Lentile, (pictured) a Volunteer in Policing, made it interesting. We all learnt something new. Indeed, not one of us were aware that a blue line exists on train platforms, which is the safest place to wait. It seems the security cameras are directed at that area. Most of us thought that car thieves break into cars, but the majority of car thieves have keys - stolen when people leave them lying around the house, and/or from bags, and pockets. Robert touched on all sorts of things, such as road rage, identity theft and scams.



It is well known that the bond between humans and pets is good for mental health, for promoting engagement and for keeping a positive attitude. It also promotes physical activity and movement which is often missing from the lives of older people. Most independent living retirement centres now allow residents to have pets. What is new, is that recently there have been moves by higher care, aged care facilities to introduce communal cats and dogs for engagement therapy and companionship.

Migrant wives of skilled workers often have a hard time. Their own education and professions don't get airing and many are left isolated and dependant on their husbands. For some couples, it does not take long for the husband to turn his wife's financial dependency into a tool to control her mobility. Spousal financial abuse thrives when one partner starts manipulating, deceiving or coercing to create or maintain the other partner's dependency. When these women migrate, they have dreams. How many realise them in this land of sunshine and presumed equality?

2023/4 Office Bearers:

President: Richard M, Vice President: Jill, Treasurer: Ron, Activities: Lorelei, Secretary: Margaret

Committee Members: Barrie and Con

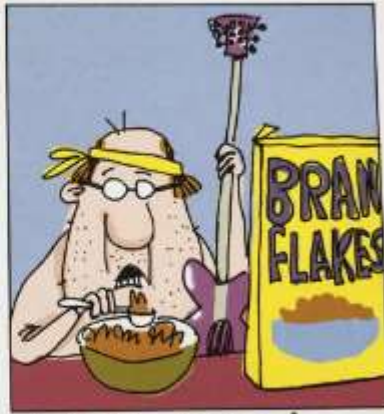
Helpers: Bill (Membership), Lyn (Door prizes/raffles/ and Welfare) Mary W: (Newsletter), Richard R (Speakers).

(Bank details: Probus HPC, CBA, BSB 064112, A/c 10186858).

ROCK'n ROLL BANDS FOR FOLKS YOUR AGE



The Grateful
we're not Dead



Earth, Wind
and Fibre



YOU KNOW YOU'RE
OLD WHEN YOUR
KNEES GIVE YOU
A MORE ACCURATE
WEATHER FORECAST THAN
THE GUY ON THE TV.

**Felt
uncomfortable
driving into the
cemetery. The
gps blurted out
you have reached
your final
destination.**

**Did you know on
the Canary
Islands there is
not one canary?
And on the
Virgin Isles?
Same thing - not
one canary there
either!**

It's a five-minute walk from my house to the pub.
It's a 35-minute walk from the pub to my house.
The difference is staggering!

Today I saw a dwarf climbing down a prison wall. I thought to myself, "That's a little condescending."

I asked my 91-year-old father, "Dad, what were your good old days?" His thoughtful reply: "When I wasn't good, and I wasn't old."

