

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.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/hollandparkcentral/Home>
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Julv 2023 Issue 179

The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Richard's Rambles

Hi to the members of Holland Park Central Probus Club.

We had a great turnout at the Aveo presentation at their Carindale facility on 16th June. There were 19 attendees in total, mainly members, a few partners/spouses and one visitor. Thank you to all who took the time to be there.

Just a reminder to members that the coffee and chat on 2nd of July at Pacific Golf Club will be a 10 o'clock event to see if parking will be better than at 10.30. Remember the club only opens at 10am.

As I mentioned at the General Meeting last week, the 4th July is the day that Americans celebrate their independence and the 14th July is Bastille Day which celebrates the start of the French Revolution.

America's colours are red, white and blue while the French colours are blue, white and red which leads me to suggest that we should all try to dress in red, white or blue or a combination of the three. Let's see what we can come up with for our July meeting.

Remember too that our August meeting is our 15th birthday and we have entertainment booked from 11am to noon. The format of the first part of the day will be more social than formal and will include games and quizzes. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10am but please get there by 9.30 so we can get things rolling at 10am. If you have any "Trivia, quizzes or jokes" you wish to share please bring them along too.

As you are all aware Julie and I travelled to Tasmania recently and on our way back we travelled along the "Great Ocean Road". This story will have to wait until next month as I think I have used up enough space with the above.

Keep safe everyone and see you all at the BIRTHDAY BASH at our August meeting.

Richard M



One third of Americans aged between 18 and 24 believe the Earth is flat, and there seems to be a growing belief in this conspiracy theory. Interest in most of these other far-fetched theories remains [stable](#) but the flat-Earth movement is growing. Social media “influencers” can now hold more sway than an expert in the field.

Activities

JULY

Sunday 2nd Coffee and Chat at Pacific Golf Club, **10.00am**.

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. [Bookings closed](#).

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. **10.00am**.

Wednesday 9th Lunch TBA.



Thursday 17th Monthly Meeting [Celebrating our 15th anniversary](#) with Entertainment by John and Marina and birthday cake. Newnham Hotel. 9.30am.

SEPTEMBER

NOTE: [Sunday 3rd- coffee morning postponed a week due to Father's Day.](#)

Wednesday 6th Lunch TBA.

Saturday 9th Brisbane City Pops Orchestra “Golden Memories” – Church of Christ Kenmore Community Centre, 41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore. Cost \$26 – PAY BY AUGUST MEETING Lunch available at café on-site.

Sunday 10th Coffee and Chat Pacific Golf Club. 10.00am.

Wednesday 13th MAMMA MIA the musical, Lyric Theatre, QPAC, South Brisbane. 1.00 pm. \$79. Limited seats available. Bookings closed.

Thursday 21st Monthly meeting Newnham Hotel 9.30am.

More to come

OCTOBER

Sunday 1st Coffee and Chat Pacific Golf Club. **10.00am**.

Thursday 19th Club meeting, Newnham Hotel 9.30 am

OCTOBER is Probus Month. The committee is looking at possible options to celebrate. More details and date to come.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 4th Brisbane city Pops Orchestra "An Afternoon in Vienna" – Church of Christ Kenmore Community Centre, 41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore. Cost \$26 – PAY BY OCTOBER MEETING. Lunch available at café on-site.

Sunday 5th Coffee and Chat Pacific Golf Club. 10.00am

Thursday 15th Club meeting Newnham Hotel 9.30am

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd Coffee and Chat Pacific Golf Club. 10.00am

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

Fire managers in northern Australia have developed one of the world's [best bushfire management programs](#) by joining cutting-edge technology and knowledge from Traditional Owners and other fire managers. Their success is drawing international interest from other fire-prone areas. Good fire management, as a case in point, requires an ability to blend skills and ways of thinking across multiple knowledge systems as well as a huge amount of hard work on the land.

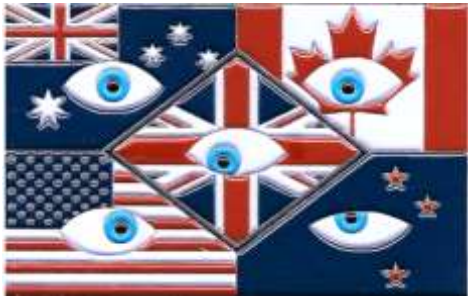


Pictured left is President Richard with Bev who was inducted at last month's meeting. Bev has already enjoyed the fellowship and friendship we extend at a few of our meetings and coffee mornings. Welcome Bev, and continue to enjoy all our club has to offer.



Not into Cruises? Here's a hotel like a cruise ship on land. Opened less than a year ago, just outside the Cotswolds in the UK, is Heythrop, a 337 bedroom hotel for adults only. It provides a fully equipped wellness centre with gym, spa, hot tubs, sauna, indoor pool, a qualified masseuse and fitness classes. There are bowls, archery, trivia quizzes and snooker in the billiards room, live music, dining experiences in the three restaurants or movies and stage shows in two theatres. So you just wish to lounge around? There are six lounge areas and guests can partake of a sumptuous Sunday afternoon tea at around \$A90 for two. The 448 acres of grounds include a championship-standard golf course (18 holes) and a shooting range. Guests eager to spread their wings have plenty of options for easy day trips or a flight from the nearby aero club. Many activities and food are

included in the price, with a minimum of a three-night stay costing around \$A700-\$900 per person. [Maybe our club could include a stay at this place in its activities?]



The Five Eyes Alliance, (FEA) an intelligence alliance between Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and the United States, usually work in secret. Last month it made the rare admission that it engaged in a targeted search and detection scheme to uncover China's clandestine cyber operations. Such

public admissions from the Five Eyes alliance are few and far between. The seriousness of the most recent attack on US infrastructure by an organisation called Volt Typhoon led to the announcement by FEA so that it serves as a warning to other nations in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2019, Australia was targeted by Chinese state-backed threat actors gaining unauthorised access to Parliament House's computer network. Indeed, there is evidence that China is engaged in a concerted effort to target Australia's public and private networks. The Five Eyes alliance may well be one of the only deterrents we have against long-term, persistent attacks against our critical infrastructure.

Parking conditions have changed again at the Golf Club, so it wasn't easy. However, even though we may have had some members who came, but decided to turn around and go home because of the situation, we still had about 10 there at the coffee and chat to enjoy the friendship and conversation. It has been decided to move the coffee and chat to 10 am for a better opportunity to find a parking spot.



The largest city fire in 55 years in Sydney last month was an abandoned six-storey brick structure built in 1912. It started life as a ladies' hat factory in the centre of the fashion manufacturing industry, or "rag trade", for NSW. Ready-made clothing developed in 1860s Australia with the uptake of Isaac Singer's sewing machine. As the population became more

prosperous, it needed better clothes. Electric-powered machines that sped up production were introduced from 1914. Until the 1980s, most Australians wore Australian-made clothes. High import duties meant there was enormous impetus for local production. In 1939, 94% of establishments were operated by working proprietors. Personal interactions between boss and worker were close. The shop floor was often set up as a "family", with all the tensions that entails. In the 1940s,

half of the women working in manufacturing in Sydney were working in the rag trade. When the Whitlam Government cut tariffs by 25% in 1973 to reduce inflation, it decimated the rag trade industry. With this fire, another piece of Sydney's rag trade and workers' history is lost.

Given July celebrates Bastille day in France and USA celebrates Independence Day, the committee thought it can be an excuse for us to wear red, white, and/or blue, to the next meeting. Why not?



The Varroa mite, a notorious killer of honey bees, finally infiltrated Australia last year after decades of successful biosecurity measures. In a new analysis, experts argue that despite this incursion, we're in a unique position to eliminate this parasite and thus protect our agriculture. Currently they are primarily in NSW, and just like with human viruses, scientists are contact tracing infested hives and culling them. Our incursion is relatively small and it was identified early so the management zone is small enough to be feasibly eradicated. European bees are mostly the hardest hit, so replacement with other native pollinator species is being implemented.

July Roster

Chair: Mary W, **Fellowship:** Marilyn and Rosemary, **Door:** Lyn and Ron,
5 min. spot: Maxine

Last month, the free trade agreement between us and the UK kicked in. It's now cheaper for Australians to buy Scotch whisky or their favourite old-time British confectionery, and Brits can now enjoy cheaper Australian steaks and bottles of Jacob's Creek. But as you enjoy your imported English products bear a thought to the greenhouse gasses global trade produces. While other trade deals have taken strong steps to act on this threat, this one, brokered by the Morrison government, ignores it.

Monash University Research shows that driving with lights on during the day reduces car accidents by 8.8 per cent. Scientists there believe it should be mandated in Australia. In some parts of Europe it has been law since 2011 and cars are now manufactured for lights to be automatically on all the time.

A few stragglers still haven't paid their annual dues. It would be appreciated if they did so by the July meeting. (For EFT payments, bank details on back page).



The early Cretaceous period of Australia took place roughly 107 million years ago. At the time there was an abundance of pterosaurs, but few fossils remain. The oldest fossils found were in Victoria at a fossil site called [Dinosaur Cove](#), a few hours' drive west of Melbourne. Some have been found in Queensland and a few others along the East Coast, but none of them are complete. A partial sacrum belonged to an individual with

a wingspan estimated to exceed two metres. At the time, Bass Strait was a narrow valley occupied by fast-flowing rivers. Conifers and ginkgoes grew here instead of eucalypts and grasses, and dinosaurs reigned. Conditions were arctic.

The July speaker will be **Geoff Crane** who started out as an aviation forecaster in Victoria, Tasmania and WA. Then he moved to Darwin where for eight years he spent working in tropical meteorology and in particular tropical cyclones. Having spent a year in Hobart, his next 12 years were here in Brisbane as Head of the Brisbane Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre. He has also been, for 25 years, part of Queensland's State Disaster Response Committee. Geoff retired in 2011 and is a member of two Probus clubs. He will talk us through the evolution of technology over his half-century career in meteorology.



The ancient Romans venerated wine. It was accessible to the masses, a fundamental staple of mainstream life and an indispensable part of the Roman economy and trade. It was utilised in a range of practices: a remedy in medical treatments, a common ingredient in cooking, and customarily used in religious ceremonies as libation to the gods. Despite its centrality to the everyday life of the Romans, the ancient sources continuously attest it was a problematic drink when consumed by women. Ancient Rome was a patriarchal society in which women were perceived as the objects of men. They were brutally punished if found drinking. It was not until

the time of the transition from Republic to Empire (around the first century B.C.E), that it became customary for women to drink wine. With the popularisation of Roman *convivium* (a type of banquet or dinner party) and increasing cultural appreciation of viticulture, female participation in these practices signalled a social acceptance of their drinking.



New research from Swinburne University suggests the four-day work week really can be win-win for workers and bosses. Ten Australian companies were surveyed. These businesses have the philosophy that employees keep 100% of what they were paid for five days while working 80% of their former hours – so long as they maintain 100% productivity. Four of these ten organisations have adopted the change permanently after trials. The other six have extended their trials, though are still to formally make the move permanent. Strangely, four of the companies reported unchanged productivity with 20% less working hours, while six reported greater productivity than before. Based on internal surveys and anecdotal evidence, managers reported the extra day off each week meant workers felt more relaxed and re-energised. Participating managers said the biggest barrier was overcoming scepticism both internally and from external stakeholders.

Reminder: In August, our birthday month, the meeting format will be slightly different. You are welcome to arrive at 9.30 a.m., but formalities start at 10.a.m.: A few games and quizzes, followed by morning tea and birthday cake. Then, John and Marina, whose entertainment the majority of members enjoyed the last time they visited us, will amuse us with songs and music, from the 70's and 80's.

A new study by the Retirement Commission of NZ has found there are five types of money personalities. They are:

- The enterprisers who are money savvy and enjoy looking after their finances
- The minimalists are frugal, confident with their saving ability, low on materialism, and are not risk takers, so often don't make their money work as hard for them as it could.
- Socialites are joyful risk takers, outgoing, and confident with their money handling. Generous extroverts, they are more likely to be materialistic, may find themselves overspending or vulnerable to over-extending themselves with consumer debt.
- A contemporary doesn't enjoy managing money and lacks confidence when it comes to financial matters. Contemporaries are generous to a fault, and spend by paying down debt. They try to build savings then take a passive or "set and forget" approach to their financial life.
- A realist is future-focused, not confident in money handling, very conservative with risk, and values money highly. Automation of bill payments and savings appeals.

According to the people who did the survey, knowing the type of money managers we are, assists people, particularly retired people, to improve the way they manage their finances.

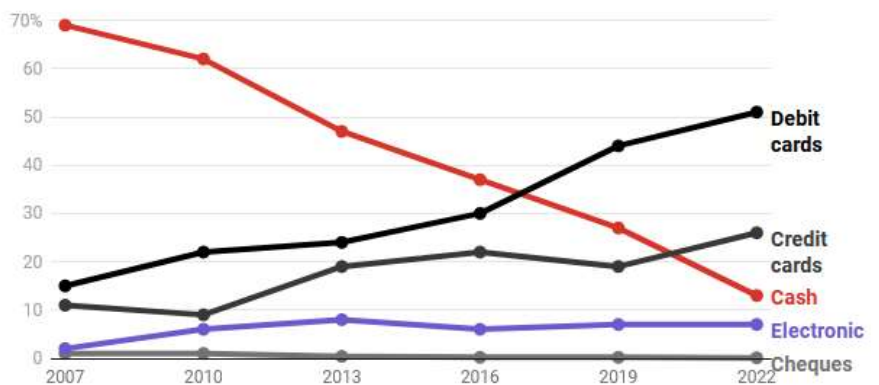


On a mild sunny day, eight of us met for lunch at the Esher St Café in Tarragindi. It was our usual second Wednesday lunch which was postponed for a week because of other Probus activities. There was a momentary silence when we all tucked in, but lively

conversation and much laughter made this outing a very pleasant experience.

Less than 20 years ago, 69% of Australians' purchases were made with cash. It's now 13% and falling. Cheques are horrendously expensive to process. The average cost of everything that had to happen to process a cheque exceeded \$5 per payment, mostly borne by banks. Processing them has become somewhat cheaper with electronic transfers, but they are still expensive. Cheques will be phased out fairly soon, because it is only one percent of transactions that are paid by cheque. The chart below shows how the way we pay has completely changed in just one generation. Pure extrapolation would suggest cash, which carries its own expense in manufacture and transport, has less than a decade to go, but it will probably hang around for longer as an (expensive, little-used) backup that maintains privacy. Like cheques, cash will probably die gradually, then suddenly. By the time it does, there will be few users left who care.

Percentage of consumer payments



Winter solstice was only a few days ago but it doesn't mark the beginning or middle of winter in Australia. It is not the shortest day because all have 24 hours, but the day with the least daylight time. In the eastern and central states in Australia that is just after midnight on Thursday, June 22. In WA the solstice falls just before midnight on Wednesday, June 21. All because the Earth tilts at about 23 degrees!

July Birthday (s) – **Happy birthday Con!**



When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.



We plan to borrow enough money to get us completely out of debt!

Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.



Alternate meanings to common words:

Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.

Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.

Testicle (n.), a humorous question on an exam.

Gargoyle: olive-flavoured mouthwash.

Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.



2023/24 Office Bearers

President: Richard M

Vice President: Jill

Secretary: Margaret

Treasurer: Ron

Activities: Lorelei

Committee: Barrie and Con

Helpers:

Bill (membership), Mary W

(newsletter), Lyn (welfare

and prizes), Speakers

Richard R

Bank details: Probus HPC,

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