

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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The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Richard's Rambles

Well, we celebrated our 15th birthday at the last meeting. It wasn't bad, but could have gone better. I was told the jokes went on for too long, and the music, while pleasant, was a little slow. It wasn't as much to our members' taste as it was last year. When we had Marina and John entertain us then, we had quite a bit of positive feedback, so we thought they would be good for this year's event. Unfortunately, this year, they needed to up the tempo. Please let any committee member know what you thought of the meeting. If we don't hear from you we will never know how you felt about it. My email is: richardmorse14@gmail.com so please let me know what you think.

It was nice to see Carmel and Trish T there and a pity the Dwyers and Powells could not make it. Jill and I will visit both couples and present them with the certificates we have for them.

It was also pleasing to see that more members had registered for the Probus Month lunch at RQYS on the 11th of October. Please let us know if you need a lift and we will see what can be arranged. And then, keep in mind the Bay Island Cruise on the 31st of October. We aim to have the Transit Care Bus pick us up at the Newnham Hotel and take us to the ferry at Redland Bay and bring us back at the end of the day. We won't know the final costs for the bus until we have firmer numbers so please show your interest by filling in the form Lorelei provides at our meetings.

On a lighter note, you may recall that last year, Julie and I had a Tawny Frogmouth couple take up residence on our back veranda and had two eggs that unfortunately didn't hatch. Well, we are not sure if it is the same couple but they appear to be back. They come and go. We'll just have to wait and see if they decide to stay and have an egg or two to sit on and hopefully hatch. Time will tell.

That's it for this month. Please let me know what you felt about our Birthday meeting. Good and bad. The committee needs to know. If you have any suggestions please make them known too.

Richard



In last month's heatwave in California, police were called when a bear was spotted cooling off in a Jacuzzi in the backyard of a private home. With one paw resting casually on the side of the pool, the bear looked very cool and comfortable.



SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 6th Lunch Lovewell Café, 185 Mt Gravatt Drive, Mt Gravatt Lookout. 11.30 am. Numbers please as booking required.

Saturday 9th Brisbane City Pops Orchestra, "Golden Memories" Church of Christ Community Centre, 41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore 2.00 pm. Cost \$26.00. Lunch at Table One café onsite at 12.30 pm if you wish at own cost. Bookings closed.

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

Wednesday 13th Mamma Mia the musical, Lyric Theatre, QPAC, South Brisbane 1.00 pm. **CLOSED**

Thursday 21st Monthly Meeting at Newnham Hotel. 9.30 am.

OCTOBER – PROBUS MONTH

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

Wednesday 11th LUNCH Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, 578 Royal Esplanade, Manly 11.30 am. Own cost.

Parking available; carpooling; opportunity to watch Wednesday sailing.

Thursday 19th Monthly Meeting at Newnham Hotel. 9.30 am.

Tuesday 31st Cruise on Moreton Bay to visit the Bay islands. Transport by Transit Care bus to and from Redland Bay Marina; cost to be advised. Morning tea at Aunt Alice's café on Russell Island, then back on the ferry to Macleay Island for lunch at the Bowls Club, ferry back to Redland Bay Marina. Ferry cost – use your Go Card. Morning tea and lunch at your own cost.

Expressions of interest, please.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 4th Brisbane City Pops Orchestra, "An Afternoon in Vienna", Church of Christ Community Centre, 41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore 2.00 pm. Cost \$26.00. Lunch at Table One café onsite at 12.30 pm at own cost if you wish. Numbers & payment by **October** meeting.

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

Tuesday 7th Melbourne Cup function. Venue and cost TBA.

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

Tuesday 21st Visit Brisbane Holocaust Museum, 168 Charlotte Street, Brisbane City 10.30 am. Cost \$10 Concession. Followed by lunch nearby.

DECEMBER

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

Tuesday 5th Lord Mayor's Seniors Christmas Party, Brisbane City Hall
1.00 pm Cost \$5.00 payable at **August** meeting. **CLOSED**

Thursday 14th Christmas lunch at Newnham Hotel. More to come.

As Australia has recently learned, to its detriment, the employment of big consultancy firms can have negative impacts. Contracts between consultancies and government, and advice that arises, are not easily publicly available and can go so very wrong as recently experienced by the tax office. Did you know that both the Federal and State Governments consult with the same large organisations on health and climate strategy among many others? How can an organisation that represents mining also advise on climate or the tobacco industry on health? When firms have both government clients, and private sector ones, and information is shared, then isn't confidentiality under threat? A government audit showed outsourcing to consultants in 2021–2022 was equal to the cost of paying 954 full-time public sector staff. This, and other forms of outsourcing, creates a so-called "shadow public service". With such a lack of transparency, it begs the question: Who is running the country? Big consultancies or Government?

Duty Roster

Chair; Jill; 5 Min spot: Lowleen; Greeters: Maggie and Andy;
Treasury: Con and Rosslyn



Ever seen the type of poles pictured left along Compton Road, Sunnybank Hills, and elsewhere on Australian roads and in fields? They are an Aussie invention called glide poles and help gliders navigate their way around in areas where their habitat has been disturbed. Squirrel (and other) gliders shimmy up the poles and glide from one to the other to get places. Glide poles have become a fixture of upgrades along major highways such as the Hume in Victoria, the Pacific Highway in NSW, and the Bruce Highway in Queensland. Most of the 11 native varieties of gliders now permanently use the poles to cross roads and it has been shown that they reconnect populations, enriching the gene pool and also reducing roadkill. Glide poles are one of many structures designed to provide safe road-crossing opportunities for wildlife. Pipes and box culverts can provide safe passage under the road, while land bridges and rope canopy bridges offer an alternative pathway over the road. Even small birds, which cannot fly long distances have been found to use the glide poles to take a rest along their way.

As part of being in Probus, members should receive two magazines. The national *Active Retirees*, published by Probus South Pacific Ltd (PSPL). It needs to be subscribed to. It is free, and all you have to do is log in to PSPL and supply them with your email address and the club to which you belong. The second magazine is the *Queensland Probian*, (QLD only) one copy of which is emailed to every club and comes from our committee. However, if you don't receive one, it is available for download on the Probus Association of Queensland's (PAQ's) website. Both magazines are quarterly. There is also a monthly one or two-page blog from PSPL which is distributed to those who subscribe. For those members who are relatively new to Probus, a significant part of your annual dues goes to PSPL as a capitation fee. PSPL is the national body, has several paid staff, and has an office in Parramatta NSW. Members of PAQ are almost all Queensland clubs, and we pay a marginal membership fee. PAQ is run by Probian volunteers and has no fixed office.



Sharks are amazing. The Greenland shark – the world's longest-living shark - can live to at least 250 years according to recent research, and it's thought to take more than a century to reach sexual maturity. Shark courtship practices and copulation are barbaric, and the female bears the bite mark scars for years. Some species mature

in a few years, but most take considerably longer. Some are born as live pups and are immediately independent, others hatch from eggs. In very rare cases, the sharks can reproduce asexually. While there are usually several embryos in the shark, only one or two are born. This is because the embryos eat each other while in utero, ensuring the strongest pups get the best chance of survival. In contrast, other species such as the whale shark ensure some of their offspring survive by having hundreds of pups in a single litter. Humans are the greatest threat to sharks, but while small, sharks must eat or be eaten, and they take a very long time to grow.

This year marks a significant milestone for women in policing - the 125th anniversary of the first official recognition of a police matron in Australia. However, women worked in this role for at least 50 years before receiving official recognition. Known as "police matrons", these women (mostly policemen's wives) were asked to search female suspects, and were also helpful for comforting lost children, talking to female victims of crime, and occasionally soothing an unruly male arrestee. While many Australians will have never heard of them, they were trailblazers for women in law enforcement. Because their tasks were viewed as "natural" women's work, questions regarding police matron compensation were

skirted, yet their activities were viewed as an extension of their husband's roles. Though we know police matrons were working in this field in the mid-1800s, and gained a degree of official recognition in the 1890s, it was not until 1915 that the NSW Police Department advertised two positions for women police officers. The ads attracted 500 applicants. Today, women make up over 30% of police in Australia and have achieved the highest ranks.



There were just eight of us at the August lunch at Maude Café in Coorparoo. While the meals were attractively served and tasty, the lunch menu was limited to just six dishes, and those of us who were not wishing to eat seafood had just three choices.

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August marked the 78th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing. During the post-war Allied occupation of Japan, from 1945–52, the horrors of nuclear weapons could not be mentioned – and pictures and narratives about the atomic bombs were subject to strict censorship. Initially, no one knew what happened when the bomb fell. People who were not at the epicentre of the explosion went towards it, searching for their families. Of course, this meant they were unknowingly – and unnecessarily – exposed to radiation. It was the horror of not knowing that caused the

population to suffer as much as the effects of the bomb itself. And today, Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*, a film that looks head-on at the human-created horror of the atomic bomb, has no scenes set in Japan, nor does it give voice to the survivors. (Pictured: Nagasaki, before and after "Fat Man", the Atom bomb)

We have welcomed several new members lately and had the largest number of visitors to our meetings that we've had in a long time. Some of these have come in response to items Richard M has placed on Facebook and in Cr. Adams' Newsletter and probably elsewhere. There are some small changes at the meetings, one being the two welcomers at the door are now referred to as "Greeters" to make their task clear. Also, we have resurrected the yellow "Visitor" tags so that visitors are easily

recognised. Members are encouraged to make sure they are welcomed. Mary W will continue to ensure they receive a copy of the newsletter and Jill will follow up with a phone call or email. New members will also be followed up and the committee is considering a "new member survey" later on, and possibly a "get together" activity for new members.

Margaret O'D

Apple is soon to release its iPhone 17 and security updates will no longer be compatible with anything older than iPhone 9 (including iPhone X). The older iPhones will thus be much more open to security breaches. The move follows Apple's usual iOS release schedule that sees iPhone models 'retired' after around five years.



Do you ever wonder who is calling when it is an unknown number on your mobile? Well, here's some help. Google "Who is calling me from" adding the number. Most of the time you get an answer. Then Google "Should I answer" in the description area. You may get an answer to that also. Other sites that give you information:

www.reverseaustralia.com, www.whocallsmeau.com,
www.personlookup.com.au , www.reverseau.com ,
www.investigateway.com.au

Did you know? Telecommunications companies have begun capping mobile internet speeds without modifying prices. About half of the top providers, including Telstra and Optus, have implemented speed caps in their plans over the last nine months. For many of us seniors, speed caps are not of paramount importance, but it is a dishonest practice. It is claimed these measures are aimed at covering the costs of 5G network advancements.

Reminder: We are planning to celebrate Probus Month with a lunch at RQYS at Wynnum on Wednesday 11th October. It's a great setting and Wednesday afternoon should see plenty of sailing. (Richard M has been there fairly recently and could give some detail about it).



Almost 46 years later, after exploring the Solar System and beyond, one of two spacecraft – Voyager 2 – has lost contact with Earth. The Voyager 2 spacecraft is 20 billion kilometres away and a radio dish near Canberra is the only channel for re-establishing communication. All communication with Voyager 2 goes through NASA's Deep Space Station 43, operated by CSIRO, and after a week, a faint "heartbeat" signal from the craft has been identified, and scientists are confident of re-establishing full contact. The loss of contact was

because, on July 21, a series of planned commands sent to Voyager 2 inadvertently caused the spacecraft's antenna to point two degrees away from Earth. As a result, the spacecraft is currently unable to receive commands or transmit any data back to Earth. If the antenna can't be reoriented sooner, then the craft's automatic maintenance system will do it on October 15. Voyager's mission is to reach the edge of our Solar System, where the influence of the Sun's energy ends.

Please bring credit cards to meetings if at all possible. Some members are still paying cash, which makes the Treasurer's work more difficult because he has to physically go to the bank to make deposits.

Did you know that at most pharmacies you can have your blood pressure and blood sugar levels checked? Here in Queensland, they can also advise on uncomplicated urinary tract infections. Treatment may include supplying antibiotics, or referral to a GP if needed. They also have a [Return Unwanted Medicine Project](#), so any old or unused medication can be returned to them for safe disposal. ...And yes, if you drag yourself to see them when hung over, they have medication for that too!



Unfortunately, a new COVID subvariant is speeding through the UK and the US and is likely already in Australia. It's named EG.5.1, nicknamed Eris, after the Greek goddess of strife and discord, and was first detected in India. The symptoms of EG.5.1 are similar to the coronavirus in general, and it is considered less invasive and lethal, but more infectious than recent strains. Fortunately, we are entering our summer season which, to a degree, helps control the spread.

The October visit to the Bay Islands has been organised for Transit Care to pick us up from the Newnham Hotel and take us down to the ferry, also to bring us back at the end of the day. This will be our first use of Transit Care which is used by some other Probus clubs and community organisations.

Members are reminded that this month's Coffee and Chat is on the SECOND Sunday of the month, the first being Father's Day. Please join us. If you come at 10.00 a.m., there are still some car parks available.



John and Marina
Entertainers

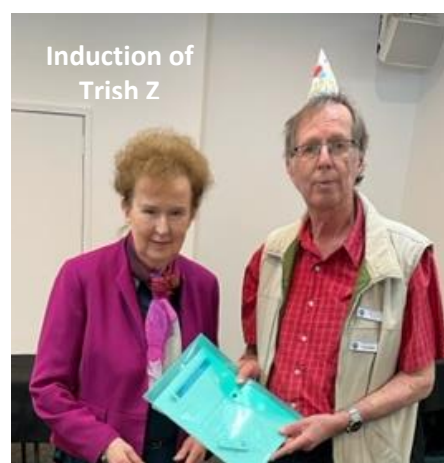


**Happy 15th
Birthday to Us!**



Trish T – one of
the certificate
recipients

We had jokes, pass-the-parcel (with a one-dollar coin hidden in each layer), a jar of jellybeans to guess the number, and John and Marina's pleasant voices to entertain us. Most of their songs, this



Induction of
Trish Z



time, were from the 1980s. The fresh cream sponge birthday cake augmented our morning tea, and coffee/tea was on tap throughout the morning. Faces we haven't seen in a while, of people who have left the club due to age and illness were welcomed and presented with certificates of appreciation for past contributions (see previous page). Also,

Patricia Z was re-inducted (see right above) after an absence from the club of some eight years, while she lived in the Warwick area.



The Victorian Supreme Court has determined the descendants of Ned Kelly's family are not a distinctive cultural group with the right to protection of their "intangible cultural heritage". The Kelly family argued that Glenrowan's proposed new tourist development will "disrespect" her family's "human rights" as cultural "custodians". However, the court ruled that

the family could not prove practices that would distinguish them as a cultural group. The redevelopment continues as proposed.

Stem cells are special kinds of cells in our body that can become any other type of cell. They have huge potential for medicine, and trials are currently underway using stem cells to replace damaged cells in diseases such as Parkinson's. It is mostly ethically unsound to gather the best stem cells from embryos, so often skin and other cells are used. Strangely, the stem cells derived from other cells sometimes carry a "memory" of the kind of cell they used to be, which can make them less predictable or efficient. It is only recently scientists have found a way to erase this memory and turn them into useful regenerative cells. They are basically reprogrammed in the laboratory, but much more work needs to be undertaken to completely mimic the damaged cells they replace.

The October speaker will be **Christine Duncan**, of Metro South Health. She will address us about a government initiative called *My Care, My Choices*, about advance health care. She will explain what it is and how to complete a plan. Richard R has heard her speak and he claims "she's knowledgeable and competent. Our club will enjoy and learn!"



Did you know the 45.52-carat Hope Diamond, found in the 1660s in India, is currently owned by the Smithsonian in Washington USA? It has a fascinating history associated with curses, going down with the Titanic, and there are also claims it is a myth and doesn't exist.

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Mary W – Newsletter, Lyn –
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a/c 10186858



Quotable quotes

"To get back to my youth I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early, or be respectable." - Oscar Wilde

"The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for." - Will Rogers

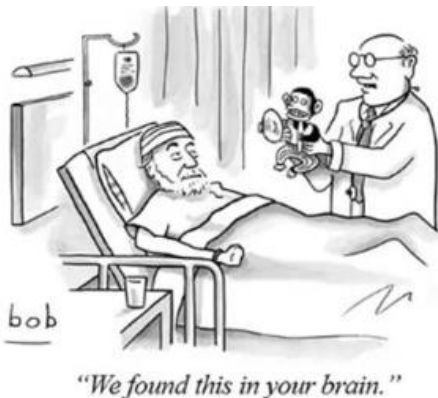
"Old age comes at a bad time." – San Banducci

"Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard there is nothing you can do about it." - Golda Meir

"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes, age just shows up all by itself." - Tom Wilson

"The idea is to die young as late as possible." - Ashley Montagu

A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked:
"Why do you think I wear this collar?"
One kid answered:
"Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days?"



When I was young, I was poor. But after years of hard, honest and painstaking work, I'm no longer young.

Pat is at the airport with a sack over each shoulder and when he is stopped at customs they find that both sacks are full of mobile phones. When asked why Pat said, "Well, while I was on my travels in America, I got a phone call from my mate Mick and he told me that he is starting up a jazz band and could I bring him back two saxophones."

