



PROBUS Global Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2023



From the President

Welcome to the 2023 3rd quarter edition of the PROBUS Global Newsletter. We wish to thank the many PROBUS Global members from around the world who contributed to our newsletter and hope you will enjoy reading its global content and partake of the many programs PROBUS Global has to offer.

PROBUS Global survived the pandemic extremely well, adding members from many countries when many clubs and National PROBUS Groups were seeing a reduction in membership. The positive is we have reports of membership rebounding in many areas with the goal of getting back to pre-COVID membership and achieving positive growth around the globe.

We have had some sad news recently, Wayne Tester, an Honorary Life Member of the PROBUS Club of St. Catharines in Canada passed away. Wayne was one of our first International PROBUS members and without his vision and commitment, we would not have the global organization we have today.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/st-catharines-on/dr-wayne-tester-11413134>

In 1994, Wayne was one of the founders of the International PROBUS Network that evolved into PROBUS Global. He and his cofounders set up a communication system around the globe, targeting many topics. Wayne was an excellent photographer and shared this skill with many of his international friends. Wayne and Shirley Roberts, the first President of PROBUS Global, shared many insights on how to expand the global concept of PROBUS and they were among the first to host members visiting from other countries. Shirley was in Canada and they spent enjoyable hours touring the Niagara Area, especially a visit to Niagara Falls. We will miss a true pioneer and his passing is noted on the PG Memoriam page. If you are aware of a PROBUS Global member who has passed, please let us know.

PROBUS Global will have a general meeting in the 4th quarter to review our status and our feature will be Liz Smith presenting Focus New Zealand. Once the date and time is confirmed, an announcement will be issued and all PROBUS Global members will be invited.

With travel restrictions lifted, our members are spreading their wings around the globe. Take the opportunity to check in on PROBUS clubs/members wherever you are traveling. Many members have taken advantage of this opportunity. Check the PROBUS Global website, you will find members in most countries you may travel. Enjoy the newsletter and when traveling, make new friends.

Contact PG [here](#)

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Contributions welcome (200-500 words) for December issue: deadline: November 12, 2023.

newsletter@probusglobal.org

Richard Furlong



Editorial

Let's try harder! Children born today will see literally thousands of animals disappear in their lifetime, as global food webs collapse. New research from the University of Helsinki shows 10% of land animals could disappear from particular geographic areas by 2050, and almost 30% by 2100. This is more than double the previous predictions. It means children born today who live to be our age, will witness literally thousands of animals disappear in their lifetime, from lizards and frogs to iconic mammals such as elephants and koalas. As individuals, we can help by lowering our

carbon footprint, planning our gardens so they provide habitat, donating to organisations that work to save at-risk species, and keeping our cats confined. As a group of Probians, we can get educated about animals at-risk through speakers on habitat, carbon capture, global warming, fire and floods, and other subjects that threaten vulnerable animals. We can then spread the word and talk knowledgeably about the problem with our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The latter will grow up in a world we created and none of us are too old to make a difference, even if it is small.

Mary Wilson

What makes a good newsletter?

Most clubs have newsletters, although a few communicate with members via social media. Some editors make skillful use of programs such as Microsoft Publisher, but many, such as this one, are produced with Microsoft Word. Editors have various competencies and while it is desirable for a newsletter to be aesthetically attractive, it is more important that it serves as a communication tool that strengthens the sense of community and engagement of members. Contents should provide timely updates and announcements regarding club activities, events, and initiatives so members stay informed and actively participate in club affairs. The newsletter should be educational with appropriate items of interest to members. The opportunity for members to contribute their own content and actively seek feedback and suggestions is also appropriate. Member achievements spotlighting their talents or skills can be reported on, but this is only possible if the relevant information is given to the editor. Sometimes it is difficult to get member contributions, but they serve to foster a sense of recognition and appreciation within the club. Ultimately, a good newsletter for club members is a comprehensive platform that fosters communication, engagement, recognition, and collaboration, enriching the overall club experience. Production hints? Limit the number of typefaces used. Ensure photograph contrast and brightness are appropriately adjusted and that photos are large enough to discern detail. As members get older, they appreciate larger typefaces. Don't include minutes or financials – they are “business reports” and are generally inappropriate for newsletters, but do inject a little uplifting humour.

Snoring

Roberta Cava, Probus Club of Robina, Queensland, Australia.

Snoring can be a serious problem, particularly for couples. It has noble origins that go back to prehistoric days. For those who must put up with snorers, this knowledge probably won't make up for the hours of sleep they've missed. Nor will it make up to the snorers who've been elbowed, yelled at, and even kicked out of their own beds.

A recent study suggests that we shouldn't hit a snoring man, because:

a) He might hit back!

b) In his own way he may be protecting you!

That roof-jarring commotion may be the remains of an ancient protective device that's outlived its use. Men snore far more, and far louder than most women. In addition, snoring occurs during a person's period of deepest sleep, when their conscious mind is least aware of its surroundings and when the snorer is most vulnerable.

Why do men snore so much louder than women? When our human ancestors left the safety of the jungle and ventured onto the materializing tundra some five million years ago, sleep proved to be one of man's most defenseless times of the day. So, nature stepped in, and provided men with a unique defense mechanism. It enabled men to utter the earth-shattering noises they practice nightly. By mimicking the sounds of their most common predators (the carnivorous nocturnal cats and hyenas), early man could broadcast throughout the night: 'Hear me roar! Leave us alone or you'll have to contend with a mighty warrior!'

So, what works? Start with a thorough medical. People who snore usually do so because there's an obstruction to the free flow of air in their breathing passages. A laser treatment can eliminate snoring in most patients by using a technique that removes tissue at the back of the mouth and nose, to allow for greater airflow.

Far more serious than the snoring itself, is 'sleep apnea' which occasionally accompanies snoring. Often, this distinct, rhythmic form of snoring (four or five times in quick succession, then a 20- to 40-second pause, then a new eruption) results from a blockage of the snorer's air passages. They lack the ability to sleep and breathe regularly at the same time. Their snores are actually the brain rousing itself, so their body is stimulated to gasp for air.

The first treatment prescribed in those cases is weight loss. There are also medications that promote regular breathing, and small nasal masks work with some patients that force air into the nose to keep breathing passages open.

Roberta Cava is the author of over 60 books. www.dealingwithdifficultpeople.info



Retirement - loss of authority and isolation

Ram Mukherjee Coordinator, PROBUS Global, India

Researchers have discovered abundant evidence of the need for retired business and professional people to associate with others of similar vocational/educational backgrounds. The sense of isolation experienced by many people who formerly held positions of responsibility and challenge often leads to emotional stress which can result in physical illness. The need for peer group companionship and intellectual stimulation is growing, with increased longevity.

Though PROBUS clubs are not fundraising bodies, some have undertaken valuable community projects. Our club sponsored a daycare center which later became a part of the All India Senior Citizens Confederation under the care of our member RN Mital. The primary objective of our club is to provide solace to formerly highly-placed professional businessmen suffering from a sense of isolation and loss of status and authority. Therefore membership is by invitation and we admit a limited number of people who are compatible with one another and provide unconditional friendship. The following stories are eye-openers of the mental affliction of some of the wealthy, who were very successful in their profession and business lives.

1) In 1923, eight of the world's greatest financiers met in Chicago. The group included the president of the largest independent steel company, the president of the largest gas company, the greatest wheat speculator, a member of the President's cabinet, the greatest bear on Wall Street, the head of the world's greatest monopoly, and the president of the Bank of International Settlement. These

would certainly be considered among the world's most successful men. At least they had found the secret of making money. What happened to them?

* The president of the largest company Charles Schwab died a pauper. For the last years of his life he lived on borrowed money.

*The president of the largest gas company Howard Hobson became insane.

*The greatest wheat speculator Arthur Colton died abroad, insolvent.

*The president of the New York stock exchange Richard Whitney served time in Sing Sing prison.

* The member of the President's cabinet, Alfred Fall was pardoned and released from prison so he could die at home.

* The greatest bear on Wall Street Jesse Livermore, died by suicide.

*The head of the world's biggest monopoly, Ivor Kruger died by suicide.

The president of the Bank of International Settlement shot himself.

There are numerous such instances all over the world where celebrities from all walks of life who have suffered from depression and mental illness, driving them to commit suicide or to a prison sentence. The sense of isolation from the community, loss of authority, and lack of emotional support from family, causes mental illness. It has been proved that status, wealth, and power cannot be the sole criteria for happiness. Success and happiness are not synonymous. Some possessing wealth, power, and fame after retirement become non-entities, losing their sense of purpose and happiness. They don't, however, own up to their depression and suffer quietly ultimately resorting to suicide. They are the people who create wealth and provide jobs contributing to the prosperity of the nation. PROBUS and similar groups can provide friendship through companionship and understanding. Our club can be a pioneer in attracting such lonely people by letting them know of our existence, using personal contact and social media.

Brain-computer link in human trials



Early in July, Elon Musk's neurotechnology company Neuralink was given permission from the US FDA to undertake human trials of AI brain-computer interface (BCI) implants. BCI is a device that connects the brain to an external computer via a Bluetooth signal, enabling continuous communication back and forth. Using a precision

surgical robot, it splices a thousand tiny threads from the coin-sized implant to certain neurons in the brain. Each thread is about a quarter the diameter of a human hair. The company says the device could enable precise control of prosthetic limbs, giving amputees natural motor skills. It could revolutionise treatment for conditions such as Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, and spinal cord injuries. It also shows some promise for the potential treatment of obesity, autism, depression,

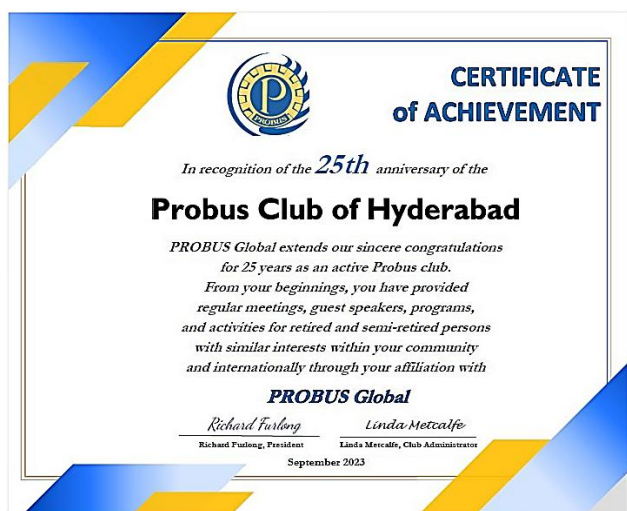
Schizophrenia and tinnitus. It's said it helps older people train their motor and cognitive abilities to moderate the worst effects of aging. Trials started almost three months ago, however, the question remains whether the FDA is completely satisfied that concerns have been met regarding potential harmful side effects, the reliability of the hardware and the protection of the privacy of users' brain-wave data. It took just six months for the FDA to decide.



Survey of seniors' wishes

Mary Wilson - Editor

When I was younger and my daughter was just 13, she and a friend were at home when my husband and I had a party. They “spied” on us from the top of the stairs. We had music for dancing, good food and alcohol to loosen up, and generally had a lively time. While there was nothing untoward, my daughter and her friend who had a sleepover, were disgusted with our behaviour. She and her friend, whose parents had also attended the party, criticised us for being too loud, for “wriggling” when we danced, and for “pigging out” with the food. According to them, it was totally unbecoming behaviour for their parents and “old” adults such as us. It seems, in the eyes of our children, we, as adults and parents, are not entitled to enjoy innocent fun, nor to have emotions similar to that of the younger generation. ... And anecdotally, it is still the case today. Wouldn't they be surprised if they knew that in a recent US survey **73% of people 65+ years still yearned for or appreciated true love?** Conducted by OnePoll on behalf of home care provider Comfort Keepers, the survey of 2000 seniors also found the top three things that make older people happy; namely family (71%), friends (49%), and good weather (26%). Also, 86% would go back in time if they could. Most would do so to make better decisions (57%), spend more time with loved ones (46%), and relive all their happiest moments (31%). Younger people would be surprised that while 25% of “oldies” didn't trust social media, 67% used it daily and 41% thought their insights were worthy of a book. We are not as stodgy as the young ‘uns would like us to be.



Congratulations

The certificate pictured left was awarded to the Probus Club of Hyderabad (India) in anticipation of its silver jubilee meeting later this month. The club will prepare a souvenir publication showcasing its major developments over the past 25 years. **Dr. R H G Rau**, who is PG's Coordinator in India, is the Souvenir Committee Chair. He says many elders still love to go through print versions of such events and that is why they are publishing it that way.

Letters

I am a member of PROBUS Global and enjoyed this issue as I did the first one I received this Spring. I am Charter President of #205 – Canada. I am an Honourary Life Member of the Club which is now 13 years old. We have just celebrated the recruitment of our 105th active member after a significant decline during Covid-19 but are now past a pre-Covid high of 93. We have been “Pinning” all past Presidents, introducing the practice as part of our 10th anniversary celebration. Several years ago, I constructed a portable box for our members to store their name tags between meetings or events. Sometimes members discover their tag is not in the box and realize they forgot to store it in the box. They show up at the next meeting “tagged”. With our increased membership the capacity of the box had to be doubled.

Forest is a community of approximately 3,000, in the Municipality of Lambton Shores, about 2 ½ hours west of Toronto Ontario ½ hour east of Sarnia and the Blue Water Bridge crossing to Port Huron, Michigan. Visitors to this part of the Globe would be welcome to attend our meetings. Perhaps there are Canadian members (Snow Birds) of the Probus Club of Palm Cove Florida, passing over the Blue Water Bridge on the 2nd Tuesday in the Spring Months who might like to visit us. Our Club data (see www.Probus.Org) is current.

Sincerely – **Don Coates**, a proud Probian

I have read with interest about PROBUS clubs who have twinned. Since October of 2022 the Pickering PROBUS Club of Pickering, Ontario, Canada has been twinned with the Raumati PROBUS Club of Raumati, New Zealand. Monthly Newsletters and occasional emails are exchanged. It has been rewarding to connect with a club very different from our own, but sharing the PROBUS experience. We look forward to a continued twin friendship between our two clubs.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Werry, President, Pickering, PROBUS

The clipping below was submitted by **Larry Wright** (USA)

Palm Coast Observer, June 8, 2023

YOUR TOWN

PROBUS CLUB TWINS WITH COASTAL NEW ZEALAND CITY

The Probus Club of Palm Coast has "twinned" with the city of Waikanae, New Zealand, according to a news release from the club.

Waikanae, pronounced "why can I," is a coastal city on New Zealand's northern island about 30 miles north of Wellington, with a population of approximately 15,000.

The name "Waikanae" is a Maori word meaning "waters of the grey mullet," and the city lies at the foothills of the Hemi Matenga, head of the Waikanae River, which snakes through sandy beaches, according to the news release.

The city is a popular retirement and beach holiday destination, with the Tasman Sea surf beach great for swimming and beachcombing, and a balance of nature and cultural activities.

Probus clubs are nonprofit, non-

political, nonfundraising social clubs for retired and semi-retired men and women. The Probus Club of Palm Coast meets at the Social Club of Palm Coast on the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m.

The speaker on June 14 is Palm Coast Fire Chief Kyle Berryhill.

All are welcome to attend. For information, contact Larry Wright at palmcoastprobusclub@gmail.com.

PROBUS GLOBAL 会員数

2019年1月 - 35名
2023年1月 - 1025名
15カ国 |

PGの会費 - 無料

Pictured above is one of the slides in a Power Point presentation translated into Japanese. The slides are used to promote PROBUS Global in Japan.

Authors sue Open AI



Two authors are suing OpenAI for ChatGPT training its artificial intelligence with their books. It is the first lawsuit against ChatGPT that concerns copyright. The basis of the lawsuit is that OpenAI trained itself on their novels and produced accurate summaries of their works when prompted. But the lawsuit faces some immediate hurdles. Generally, Western copyright protection doesn't apply to ideas – they'll need to demonstrate the likelihood of economic loss. The litigation may fail, but it is just the first salvo in this type of copyright challenges.

Clubs Helping Clubs by Sharing

Peter Jennings – PG Webmaster

The other day, I shared a survey done by the PROBUS Club of Springwood in Queensland, Australia with the Management Committee of our club in St Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

https://probusglobal.org/Newsletters/2023-06_Springwood_AU.pdf The survey was published in the club newsletter that they generously share with the world on the PROBUS Global website Newsletter Page. <https://probusglobal.org/Newsletters.php>

Despite being on the opposite sides of the planet, both clubs share the same concerns and opportunities and the opinions expressed by the Australian members are interesting to read, regardless of where your club is located. The PG Newsletter Page includes links to hundreds of Newsletters shared with us. You could spend days browsing the content of them looking for ideas for your own club or just enjoying reading about the activities, accomplishments, and challenges of other clubs.

We are fortunate to have a resource page for Club Management on the PG website with articles and documents that have been shared by their authors on a wide range of subjects.

Starting and Managing a PROBUS Club

Starting a Club

Club Reference Guide

Club Standard Bylaws

Club Standard Constitution

Club Operating Manual

Sample Club Application Form

Twin Your Club with another Club

Keeping Your Members Happy

Recruiting New Members

The information found on that page could be applied to the management of clubs anywhere in the world. (See list below). If you are involved in the management of your club, it would be worth taking the time to look through the articles for helpful information. <https://probusglobal.org/ClubManagement.html> If you are not involved in the management of your club, why not? All clubs need a few members who are willing to spend a little time and effort keeping things running smoothly. Please consider lending a hand.

On our Speaker's Corner page, you will find a long list of speakers who have presented to PROBUS clubs in person or by Zoom. Any of them would be happy to present to your club, often for free, sometimes for a nominal fee. They are all interesting people with interesting stories to share. <https://probusglobal.org/Speakers/> Looking at these pages makes me realize how much we all have in common and how the PROBUS community is not just our local club. If you have information to share that would be of interest to other clubs, please contact the webmaster. We are always happy to hear from you. <https://probusglobal.org/#contact>

Presentations to other Groups

Promotional Videos

PROBUS Day - October 1

Setting Up a Website

Club Administration Systems

Management Succession Planning

Awards and Certificates

Running a Zoom Meeting

Reopening after COVID

Finding Speakers for your Club

Do you know a PROBUS club member who would be interested in joining PROBUS Global? Tell us who it is, and they will receive a personal invitation from the PROBUS Global President. Your friend will not receive any spam and their email address will not be shared with anyone. Visit <https://probusglobal.org/invite.php>

Rotary Connection

Merv Richens – PG Coordinator, Australia

Following my article in our June Newsletter, here is a little more about Rotary and what Rotarians do apart from occasionally sponsoring a new PROBUS Club.

As mentioned in June, Rotary clubs have five avenues of service, and a former Rotary International President, Sir Clem Renouf is quoted as saying: ***“Rotary takes ordinary men and women and gives them extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they ever dreamed possible.”***

The Rotary Motto is ***“Service Above Self”*** and people join Rotary Clubs generally to give something back to their communities - to help raise money to improve the quality of life of members of their own and the world’s communities. They then become aware of the five avenues of service and may focus their interest in other areas e.g.

Clubs Service: is about making clubs strong and building friendship and fellowship.

Vocational Service: is about working with integrity and having good ethical standards in business and professions.

Community Service: is about improving the quality of life for people in their communities and serving the public interest. PROBUS, for retirees, was born from this avenue of service.

International Service: is about promoting peace, building stronger international relationships, or perhaps volunteering to work on a project in developing countries.

Youth Service: recognises the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and Rotary Youth Exchange.

This last avenue of service is a good reason for PROBUS clubs to keep in touch with Rotary clubs because Rotary often has difficulty in finding young candidates, generally between 14 and 20 years of age, for these youth programs. Many members of PROBUS clubs will have grandchildren of this age who could be candidates.

Empowering Active Retirees in the Digital Era:

An Inspiring Encounter

Gauthier De Brabandere – PG Coordinator, Europe



The President of European Seniors Union*, An Hermans addressed the members of Probus Kortrijk Rodenburg (Belgium). The club’s President is emeritus Professor

Marc Depaepe, who used to be An Hermans’ colleague at the University of Leuven (Belgium). During the event, An Hermans had the opportunity to present her publication titled [The digital era? Also my era! – Media and information literacy: a key to ensure](#)

[seniors’ rights to participate in the digital era](#)** rights to participate in the digital era’ which had been shared with all participants in English, along with a [synopsis in Dutch](#). The subject sparked great interest among the audience, as they all recalled their encounters with the digital information transformation during and after their professional lives. They were acutely aware of the digital challenges and the importance of continuous learning to keep up with the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

One song, in particular, resonated with the participants, the 1981 Willem Vermandere*** song [‘Lat Mie Moar lopen’](#): *‘k Moest heel mijn*

jong leven studeren En 'k wierd computerspecialist 'k Kost het zodanig programmeren Totda 'k van toeten noch blazen ni meer wist" which brought back nostalgic memories in the group of participants between 65 and 94. An Hermans shared how she came about writing the publication and mentioned the encouragement she received from Patrick Penninckx, head of the "Information Society Department of at the Council of Europe". The latter emphasized the significance of involving older individuals in policy processes concerning 'digital equity for all,' a statement

that found unanimous agreement among the participants.

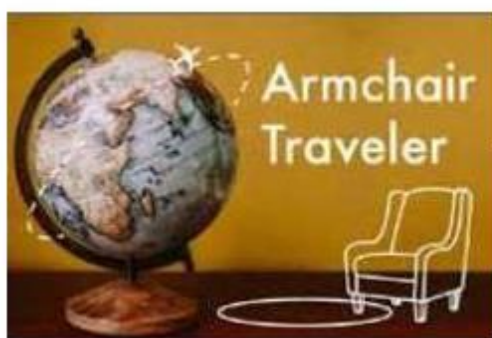
The COVID-19 pandemic particularly highlighted the essential nature of participating in the digital era, as it became evident that being part of the digital environment was no longer just a choice, but a necessity for everyone. An Hermans' meeting with the Probus group proved to be empowering and motivating, inspiring all participants to embrace the digital world with confidence and enthusiasm.

***The European Seniors' Union (ESU)** is the largest political seniors' organisation in Europe, member association of the European People's Party (EPP) and is represented in 27 states with 34 organisations and about 1.269.000 members.

****The brochure** text is available in several translations (French, English, German, Polish, Czech, Greek, Ukrainian) and can be found on the [Council of Europe's website](#). It is inspiring as well for policy makers and civil society involved in policy as for seniors and seniors' associations'.

*****Willem Vermandere** is a Flemish artist, writer, poet, sculptor, philosopher, singer, painter, playing many instruments, (most bass clarinet). He always sings in his local dialect.

Reference is made to one of his best-known songs *Lat me moar lopen* or "**Let me go about**" in which he recalls ... *that he had to study his entire youth and then became a computer specialist. I could program so well that I knew nothing any more....*



Travels of a Donkey

Part six



By Graham McCombie

PG's UK
Coordinator



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

Hi, G'day, Hola, Goeie dag, Dobar dan, Goddag, Bonjour, Guten Tag, Namaste, Sanibonani, - once again Greetings dear reader – here's me attempting to maintain an international flavour to my ramblings.

I'm somewhat at a loss with this quarter's contribution on which subject to regale you with.

I got the impression, rightly or wrongly, that my proposed diatribe on the Life and Times of Thomas Blake Glover didn't fit in with the spirit of "Travels of a Donkey", which I'd hoped would amuse as well as educate.

My travel scene has been a disaster this year, however, your intrepid reporter ever on the prowl for a good story, good food and, more importantly, good vino has decided to return to Croatia this year.

I find the concept of staycations patronising; it's like "Going out is the new Staying in" What in the name is that all about? As ET's mother said to him when he got home – "Where on Earth have you been?"

Aberdeen, being my nearest Airport, the Oil Capital of Europe and International Cold Spot, doesn't offer International Flights per se unless you consider the Orkneys and Shetlands as being overseas. Mind you, Orkadians and Shetlanders, are prone to aligning themselves with Norway so arguably flying from Aberdeen could be considered International Jetsetting.

Nevertheless to get to distant climes like Croatia requires leaving from Glasgow which offers direct flights. This necessitates a three to four-hour drive from chez mois.

As you know dear reader from past missives I've had issues with my satnav. I didn't realize how bad my driving was until my satnav said, "In 100 m do an emergency stop. Disregard any hazards, or other traffic, and let me out".

How did I find out about Croatia you may well ask – even if you didn't, I'm going to tell you anyway.

I was working in Norway with a Croatian who suggested I pay his country a visit – that was way back in 2010. My response was true to form viz...

"...never heard of the place, where is it, and, why should I go there?"

He answered very succinctly – "I can sum it up in one word – HEDONISM!"

I was hooked.

Interestingly as you approach the Croatian Coastline you see loads and loads of islands, which reminds me of a wee story.

Social researchers from Oxford University devised an experiment to place three men from diverse cultures on an otherwise deserted island. They decided on one man from France, one from Germany, and one from Japan. The German was told he was in charge of shelter, the Frenchman was put in charge of meals, and the Japanese was told he was in charge of supplies. The three were left alone on the island for 6 months. When the researchers returned, the German greeted them and showed them around the villa he'd built, which included electricity, hot and cold running water, and a sauna among other amenities. When it was time for dinner, the Frenchman served a scrumptious eight-course meal using all native plants and animals he had discovered on the island. The dinner was paired with several wines, which had also been vinted from native plants. After dinner, the researchers realized they had yet to see the Japanese guy. The German told them that immediately after his arrival on the island, he had disappeared into the jungle. Worried about his fate, a rescue party was immediately formed and set out to find him. About 200 meters down the path into the interior of the island, the Japanese guy suddenly leapt down from a tree, and in a triumphant voice yelled...

"SUPPLIES!"

More of my magnus opus when I return from hols.

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

'till next time

Charging stations



Warnings have been issued by cyber security organisations that using free charging stations at airports, hotels and shopping centres carries inherent risks. They may be used to access your data or introduce malware or spyware onto your phone. Modified USB sockets have been discovered at airports' charging stations with monitoring software which then load onto devices and steal data. Cyber security experts also warn that public Wi-Fi should not be used for sensitive information such as banking because it's possible that others can see what is being keyed in.

Report from PROBUS Canada

Wendy Machmer – General Manager Probus Canada

District Directors from across Canada met May 7 for a workshop in Toronto. It was a great opportunity for the three new directors to meet and mingle with the rest of the board and staff. Our vice-president made the learning experience fun with 'treasure hunts' through our new website, especially in the Director's portal. Our agenda included a presentation by our national insurance provider representatives, and presentations by some of our directors. The timing for the workshop was perfect, just a week after our AGM and the election of officers. If you want to 'meet' us, check on our website (probuscanada.ca) under Our Team.

We couldn't forget about fellowship, friendship, and fun. The evening before the workshop we gathered for an informal evening over snacks and drinks and we also had banquet and presentations to retiring board members. Many a good story was shared over the mic.

Not long after the AGM on April 28, we finalized the re-org of the districts in Ontario. Growth has been rapid, and some directors were looking after as many as 23 clubs. Two additional districts were added to ensure that clubs were getting sufficient support.

Our MCIMC (Marketing, Communications, and Information Management Committee) has taken on several new initiatives, including getting input from clubs across the country on what has been working to promote PROBUS. They are combining this knowledge with the recently developed branding materials and hope to have some user-friendly products to send out to the clubs in the fall. Both our Strategic Planning Committee and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee have been busy. The constitutions have recently been updated for both the national organization and the clubs. We will be updating our strategic plan in the months ahead.

I started as General Manager of PROBUS Canada on April 1st and so far, it has been a whirlwind of activity. I'm so fortunate to have such a great board to work with. I was involved with PROBUS at the club level for the last five years and have served on our Management Committee as Vice-President as well as being the chair of Communications (Newsletters, Facebook, emails). I have been heavily involved with non-profit organizations for most of my career as well as volunteering on several boards. I am looking forward to the years ahead with PROBUS.

Below: Left: PROBUS Canada Workshop, Right: Treasure Hunt on our laptops



Vale

PROBUS Global was sad to note the recent passing of **Wayne Tester** a founding member of IPN (in 1994), the precursor of PROBUS Global. He was an exceptional photographer who shared his photos and his skills with IPN and PG over many years. More on Wayne can be found [here](#).

PG has an In Memoriam page at <https://probusglobal.org/InMemoriam.html> on its web site. If you know of any PG member who has passed, please let the Administrator know.



Husband and wife had a fight.
The wife called up her
mum and said,
"He fought with me again, I'm
coming to live with you"

Mum replied, "No
darling, he has to pay for
his mistakes, I'm coming
to live with you."

Words to heal
the soul



"Sorry Arthur, your answer was actually
correct, but Paul shouted his opinion
louder so he gets the point. And an
extra bonus point also goes to Sue as
she was offended by your answer".

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



Children are quick with responses

TEACHER: Why are you late?

STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math
multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L.

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I
spell it.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for
water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we
have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say
prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good
cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is
exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy
his?

CLYDE: No, sir. It's the same dog.