



From the President

Welcome to the Fourth Quarter PROBUS Global Newsletter.

We are thrilled to welcome new members from around the globe as our community continues to grow. One of the main objectives of PROBUS Global is fostering global communication, which serves as a cornerstone of our mission. By joining, members gain access to a vibrant and welcoming network of retirees and semi-retirees worldwide. PROBUS Global offers opportunities to build lasting friendships, engage in lifelong learning, and participate in diverse cultural exchanges. With programs and initiatives designed to bring people together, it provides a supportive and enriching environment to enhance your retirement years.

In our commitment to deliver ongoing value, we are continually exploring new programs to meet members' evolving interests. A key event for early 2025 is the PROBUS Global General Meeting, set for the first quarter. [RSVP to receive the link](#). This meeting will focus on communication strategies and the benefits of PROBUS Global. It will feature a keynote speaker and include open discussions throughout. We are currently seeking suggestions for speakers to help make this event a success. Who would you like to hear? [Vote for speakers](#).

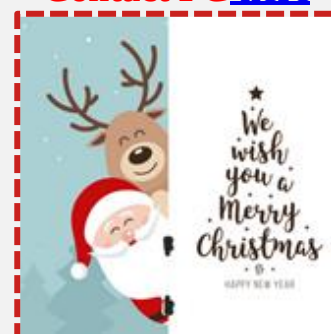
Our virtual club initiative, which uses Facebook for engagement, has shown promise. We are now reviewing the next steps to expand and improve its reach to serve members more effectively.

This quarter also highlighted special celebrations. In November, we paid tribute to veterans worldwide, honouring the legacy of the diminishing number of World War II veterans. In October, PROBUS Global joined the international celebration of seniors, marking the United Nations' International Day of Older Persons on October 1st. For more details about this important day, visit <https://www.un.org/en/observances/older-persons-day>.

Thank you for being a vital part of the PROBUS Global community. Together, we continue to create meaningful connections and opportunities for all.

Richard Furlong

Contact PG [here](#)



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Contributions welcome (200-500 words) for March issue. Deadline
February 15, 2025

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Editorial

Naturally, we as older persons, are a threatened species because our life expectancy is at its pointy end. We do our best because we are intelligent and try to mitigate illness through a balanced diet, exercise and all the other ways we are told help. Probus alleviates loneliness, keeps us active and our minds sharp. However, spare a thought for other species which are threatened or about to become extinct, due to human activity. Last month saw a "Nature Positive" summit in Australia, followed by a multinational meeting in Colombia for a symposium about global biodiversity. Human survival depends on insects pollinating and trees slow floodwaters, earthworms, fungi and soil critters make healthy soil and

natural vistas improve our well-being. Offsets by big businesses don't work, and developers need to do more than net gain in habitat. It needs to be net gain plus (absolute net gain). Planning laws in the UK will soon require net gain plus 10%. Unfortunately, the other need, to recover what was lost by restoring ecosystems, is not seen as financial gain and governments avoid it. How can we help? It has been shown that if enough volunteers of "ordinary folk" support conservation in local projects with volunteer labour, it can make an enormous difference and motivate governments to do better. Also, we, as individuals must hold our politicians to account, cut our consumption, choose renewables, and support biodiversity programs.

Mary

In Search of Home

Ram Mukherjee, Probus Club of Hyderabad, India

The famous late scientist Stephen Hawking said we'll have to leave Earth in the next 200 years for our survival. Earth could be wiped out by a disaster such as an asteroid strike, alien invasion, climate change or nuclear war. The Earth has faced catastrophe almost every 30,000 years.

Why it is necessary to leave Earth?

75,000 years ago humanity was almost wiped out because of the violent eruption of TOBA in Indonesia. It projected a colossal amount of ash, and smoke covering thousands of miles. Only a few people survived. 10,000 years ago there was the ice age extinguishing almost all living beings. An asteroid strike, population explosion and dwindling resources, climate change, weaponised microbes such as airborne Aids, Ebola and nuclear war are all threats to consider.

How to travel to the Moon and Mars

Various scientific theories postulated by reputed scientists such as Newton, Galileo, Goddard, Einstein and others have contributed to the fields of Motion, Rocket science, and Quantum science resulting in the invention of transistors, Laser, supercomputers, nanotechnology, biotechnology Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and robots. These tools have made it possible to explore the solar system and beyond. Scientists now explore the stars and the Galaxy to unveil the mystery of the universe, with the help of the Hubble telescope and Kepler spacecraft. To this end, NASA built powerful rockets and satellites to explore the stars in the solar system and beyond. The first landing was on the moon in 1969. Since then, several countries sent up astronauts for scientific experiments. Recently India has also been active in

space exploration. Several people such as Elon Musk (Space X), and Jeff Bezos of Amazon are now also making space travel possible as private enterprises.

Survival on Moon and Mars

Several satellites have been sent to Mars to probe its atmosphere and the possibility of sustaining humans. The absence of Oxygen and an adequate gravity force, radiation, sun flare, and the lack of water will pose problems. However, gradually, with various scientific aids, the obstacles are being overcome with spacesuits, Lava tubes for shelter from radiation and weightlessness, terraforming (to modify the soil and climate etc.), and bioengineering. Space-ship travel to the moon is three days and to Mars, an estimated nine months by 2033. Exploration of deep space, the closest star –Proxima Centaur is two light years away. Laser transport, space elevator, advanced civilization, transhumanism, hibernation, invitro-fertilization and cloning are future possibilities.

Ref. The future of humanity by Michio Kaku.

Did you know?

Articles not bylined in this newsletter can be copied for your club's newsletters. (Acknowledge PG please). Some others need the Author's permission (contact the Editor at PG). For example, following the last issue, with permission, John Payne's article about Relevance Deprivation Syndrome was reproduced in *The County Weekly News* in Ontario, Canada.

Hidden ways of promoting your club

There is more to promoting your club than the obvious. Flyers, community announcements, open days, and displays at shopping centres certainly have their place, as do maintaining contact with local government, advertising and signage. The advantages of these discernible ways of promotion are evident. However, there are more subtle ways of promotion, of equal (or more) importance. Existing members are a club's best resource, so nurture them. First and foremost, if members are having fun, are enthusiastic enough, and look forward to the meetings and outings, they will tell their friends and encourage others to join. Members will feel appreciated by management which should create opportunities to involve them and make them feel more valued. (One way is to ask them to present a cameo talk at meetings). If overt involvement doesn't appeal to them, then everyone needs to be encouraged to offer them warmth and a welcome at every opportunity. Challenging members to bring friends, particularly when there is an exceptional speaker, is also a worthwhile move. New members enrich clubs, so listen to their ideas and initiatives and carefully explain the reason, if their suggestions are not to be adopted. (Does your club have a suggestion box?) Visitors' email addresses need to be noted and their permission sought to include them on the club's newsletter circulation list. Newsletters themselves are great promotional tools. Committees need to consider the average age of members, encourage younger retirees to join and tailor the activities for both "younger" and older groups of participants. Keeping close contact with the Club's sponsoring and/or neighbouring Rotary clubs usually has positive results. When Rotarians decide to join a Probus Club, the one closely aligned will be the first they'll think of. Consider how your club can exploit hidden promotional capabilities as much as overt ones.

Anyone for Opera at a Meeting?



**Brian Stewart, Probud Club of Kenmore Gardens,
Australia**

Our club wished to do something special for Probud Month, which is also Seniors Month in Queensland. We therefore sought a grant from the Queensland Government. Our goal was ambitious. It was to replace the guest speaker part of the October Meeting with a concert featuring a professional opera soprano, a tenor and a piano player, presenting a range of duets and solo performances from operatic favourites to operettas and contemporary musicals. However, we were unsuccessful getting the grant, but a local businessman, the son of one of our members, came to our rescue. Negotiations with a music group ensued, but funds weren't available for national streaming therefore we could not involve Probudians from around the country as we would have liked. Almost 100 of us gathered in the function room of a local hotel to listen to the lead performer D'Arne Sleeman, soprano, who was joined by Bernard Wheaton, tenor and Mark Connor pianist (see picture above). The three had performed in over 50 Opera Queensland productions, among other joint performances. Everyone experienced close-up, the magic of the operatic song list which included well-known favourites from Verdi, Mozart and Puccini, and other stunning operatic and contemporary music. Nobody was disappointed. ... Pure bliss.

See the full story and more photos at https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/kenmoregardens/Previous_Outings

Probud returns to study at 87

The Durham Central Probud Club is proud of its member **Patricia Bayley** who recently returned to university at 87. She has been an educator most of her life and is particularly interested in poetry. Patricia is undertaking a Doctor of Education program to study the impact of poetry on older adults. Despite the challenges of adapting to new technologies she is determined to give her studies her all, fuelled by her love for learning and poetry.

The Power of Walking

Nineteenth Century Theologian and philosopher Soren Kierkegaard on the power of walking:

"Above all, do not lose your desire to walk: every day I walk myself into a state of well-being and walk away from every illness; I have walked myself into my best thoughts, and I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it. Even if one were to walk for one's health and it were constantly one station ahead — I would still say: Walk! "Besides, it is also apparent that in walking one constantly gets as close to well-being as possible, even if one does not quite reach it — but by sitting still, and the more one sits still, the closer one comes to feeling ill. Health and salvation can be found only in motion... if one just keeps on walking, everything will be all right."



The Spirit of Christmas: A Global Celebration

Christmas transcends its religious roots to become a vibrant cultural event embraced almost worldwide. While traditions vary from country to country, the core values of joy, generosity, and togetherness unite people across different cultures.

In many parts of the world, festive decorations fill public spaces, and Cities come alive with twinkling lights and bustling markets, where people gather to share food, laughter, and gifts. From the enchanting Christmas markets in Germany and the lively parades in the United States, to bar-b-ques on the beach in Australia, each celebration offers a unique flavour of festivity.

Food plays a central role during this season. Families often come together to prepare special meals, incorporating traditional dishes that reflect where they live. Whether it's a hearty roast, sweet treats, or warming beverages in the Northern Hemisphere, or summer ham and cold turkey and a cool beer in the Southern Hemisphere, these culinary delights foster a sense of community.

Acts of kindness and giving also define the season. There is a spirit of compassion for those in need.

Ultimately, like Probus, Christmas serves as a reminder of the importance of connection, kindness, and joy—values that resonate universally and inspire people to come together, regardless of their backgrounds.

A Probus Poem

Generated by AI

In golden years when work is done,
A vibrant path has just begun,
Probus clubs, a haven bright,
Where laughter dances, hearts take flight.

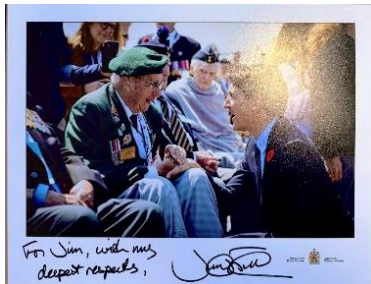
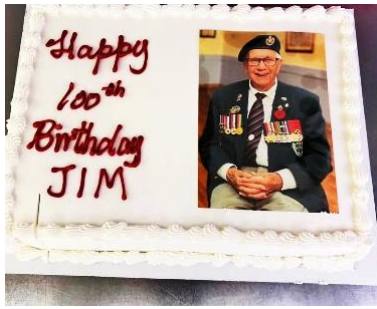
Gathered friends with stories
shared,
Each life a tapestry prepared,
From travels near to journeys far,
Together, they shine like a star.

With coffee cups and cheerful
cheer,
They reminisce, embrace the year,
Activities that spark delight,
A bridge to joy, a guiding light.

From games and outings, trips
anew
To wisdom shared in every view,
The bonds they forge, both strong
and true,
A tapestry of friendship grew.

In every meeting, laughter rings,
With tales of life and all its flings,
A refuge found in each embrace,
In Probus clubs, they find their
place.

So here's to those who've paved
the way,
In golden years, they seize the day,
With every smile, and every cheer,
Probus clubs make life so dear.



Canadian Club Celebrates War Hero's Centenary

Major Jim Parks has spent much of his later life recounting his wartime experiences, with a special focus on educating schoolchildren. Recently, the Men's Probus Club of Newmarket, Ontario, celebrated Major Parks' 100th birthday, honouring a member who has been a central figure in the club's culture and spirit for over two decades.

The celebration included a special presentation by Inspector Paul Hayle of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who delivered a letter from King Charles III congratulating Major Parks on this milestone. Photos and videos captured Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, and Lieutenant

Governor Edith Dumont personally extending their congratulations. Several others presented Major Parks with tokens of appreciation, in recognition of his distinguished military service and his enduring contributions to the community and the club.

During the event, club membership chair Dave Elms presented "From Scallywag to Honour," a tribute that highlighted Major Parks' military journey and achievements. Members were also informed of an ongoing documentary in France titled "Little Black Devils," which focuses on Major Parks and the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. Major Parks' story has been widely featured in books, articles, and television programs, and his presence has profoundly enriched the Probus Club.

Video footage of the celebration is available on the club's website, serving as a lasting tribute to a member whose influence continues to inspire and shape the club's community.

<https://www.mensprobusclubofnewmarket.ca/jim-parks-100.html>



*Travels of
a Donkey*



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

Part 10 – Being Serious

Greetings Dear Reader "Fit like foo're ye a' deein?"

Our Editor in Chief has asked me to bring a serious note to this particular missive and who am I to argue with the C-in-C? Therefore, will tell you a little about my visits to Croatia.

So, I should start with Dobra Dan (hello) – that's my lot as far as the Croatian Language is concerned!

Some of you may recall that when I started out with this column I'd been refused employment with Tripadvisor so I'm painfully aware that the foregoing should not resemble anything that the aforementioned Critic may produce.

What first attracted me to visiting Croatia? I in short, "HEDONISM" – the ethical theory that pleasure (in the sense of the satisfaction of desires) is the highest good and proper aim of human life".

I first visited Croatia around 2009/ 2010 and laid my bones down in a small town called Vela Luka which translates as “Big Port”, since it’s tucked away in a wide bay and is the largest town on the Island of Korcula.

Getting there from Aberdeen is an adventure in itself.

True to form, Aberdeen international Airport, the Hub for the Oil capital of Europe, doesn’t offer a wide portfolio of destinations unless you consider anywhere south of the Scottish/ English divide as International – it requires a three-hour hike to Glasgow, an overnight stay at a nearby hostelry, then a three-hour flight to Split.

Split is well worth a visit, not least for its amazing Port, being the second largest city in Croatia, but houses the site of the Palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Sadly, the locals have seen fit to dress some of the inhabitants in Roman Guard-type clobber, which looks pretty naff, but is there to impress the vast bodies of tourists that visit yearly. You have to admire their entrepreneurial and job-creation approach.

After visiting some of my favourite haunts and stocking up on carbohydrates and some of the splendid local Dingac (Red Wine), it’s off to catch the ferry to Vela Luka.

The ferry journey is around three hours and arrives in the lovely wee town of Vela Luka where I hibernate for around five weeks.

Holidaying in Croatia is not for the faint-hearted especially if you’re into cycling. In the day, I used to hire a Bike, and I’ve cycled pretty much all over Korcula – breath-taking in more ways than one.

Folk come from the US and Australia to sample the delights of scuba-type diving, and I’m told the experience is wonderful.

Croatia boasts an incredible and varied history and I’ve been fortunate to visit loads of Historical Sites throughout the country. Near Vela Luka there’s a Cave called Vela Spila (Big Cave). Folk have been digging around in this spot since the late 1940s and their finds date back to the Mesolithic and Neolithic Ages.

Anyway, I’m sticking to what I know/do best - the quaffing of the local hootch.

So, until my next communication... “Lang may yer lum reek”. Sliante.

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



The Rotary Connection
Merv Richens – PG Coordinator Australia

In 1917, a Rotarian, Arch V. Klumph was responsible for forming a charitable arm of Rotary called **The Rotary Foundation** – “an organisation for doing good in the world”.

Donations are made to this Foundation by Rotary Clubs and Individuals from all around this global village. The funds, plus interest earned, are then used to fund various programs to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs.

The Rotary Foundation's projects focus on seven causes:

- **Promoting peace:** Rotary encourages understanding across cultures by training leaders to prevent conflict and help refugees.

- **Fighting disease:** Rotary educates communities to stop the spread of diseases such as polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria.
- **Providing clean water:** Rotary supports local solutions to bring clean water to more people.
- **Saving mothers and children:** Rotary works to improve health care and sanitation for mothers and children.
- **Supporting education:** Rotary works to improve literacy and numeracy.
- **Growing local economies:** Rotary works to create opportunities for work and enhance economic development.
- **Protecting the environment:** Rotary works to tackle environmental issues.

To find out more about The Rotary Foundation or if you wish to make a donation to assist in any of these projects, visit: <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation>.

[**Editor's note:** ALL funds donated to The Rotary Foundation go to charities. Volunteers mostly administer it, and where administration needs to be paid for, it comes from interest earned, not donations received].

Congratulations to the Denbigh PROBUS Club in North Wales which celebrated its 50th Anniversary on October 19, 2024.



PG's webmaster chose the above photo as one of the best in recent months. It was supplied by John Thorne, from Tasmania (Australia) who took this photo near Little Porky Beach on King Island in Bass Strait between Tasmania and the Australian mainland. Another travel destination for your bucket list?

Check out the magnificent and interesting photos on the PG Website, or upload your own! It's easy. <https://probusglobal.org/Photos/>

50 Years of PROBUS in NZ

Liz Smith – New Zealand coordinator.

A week celebrating 50 years of PROBUS in New Zealand culminated on Friday 8th November with High Tea at Government House hosted by his Excellency Dr. Richard Davis. Presidents, Probus District Chairs and Probus Ambassadors from around New Zealand were invited, and a number flew to Wellington especially for the event. The Probus chairman, the CEO and the NZ PSPL Board member were also present. The function, buildings and landmarks lit up in Probus colours and clubs celebrating throughout NZ, were a fitting end to a great week for the recognition of the part Probus plays in communities across the country.

First Probus Club in NZ celebrates 50 years

Liz Smith - New Zealand Coordinator



PSPL Chairman Michael Ransom, Ceo Silvana Martignago, and Probus club of Kapiti's Richard Chilton.

November 2024 saw a very special day for the **Probus Club of Kapiti Coast**, the first Probus Club in the Southern Hemisphere, as they celebrated their 50th birthday.

One hundred and sixty guests attended the luncheon, including Mi-

chael Ransom, the Probus South Pacific Chairman, Silvana Martignago, the CEO, Margaret Drake, the New Zealand member on the PSPL Board, Tim Costley the local Member of Parliament, Janet Holborow the Kapiti Mayor and Wayne Gordon the immediate past District Governor of Rotary.

The event was held at Southward Car Museum and the conference room was decorated with magnificent blue and yellow floral arrangements and blue and yellow balloons. Great food and wines were enjoyed by all.

The surprise of the day was a section of the floor parting and a Wurlitzer organ rising with the organist playing Phantom of the Opera music - a very special and unexpected entertainment for the guests.

The 50th Birthday cake was cut by Kevin Henderson, the Club's longest member, having joined the Probus club of Kapiti Coast in 1993.



Will it work?

Richard Morse, the President of the editor's Probus Club (Holland Park Central) in Queensland Australia, hosted a program on Brisbane's community radio 4MBS FM. During the hour-long program of his classical picks, he mentioned the club several times. Part of the deal (for which the club paid a nominal amount), included 10



advertisements of the club, at different times over the next few weeks. The radio channel's audience is primarily over 50s. It will be interesting to see if this marketing initiative worked. Listen to the entire broadcast on the [PG YouTube Channel](#)



Report on PG Presentation

*This is a report by PG's European coordinator **Gauthier De Barbandere** in Belgium, who presented Probus Global at the Probus Canada District 1 West Sector Meeting in October.*

Probus Global is meant to be a global community, facilitating contacts between Probus members from all countries and generating friendships across the globe.

When you put it in practice you can be confronted with language differences (for some these are difficulties), time differences, and cultural diversity. French people who speak and understand Dutch are not easy to find; as a Dutch-speaking Belgian my knowledge of Spanish or Italian is limited to a few words, and my knowledge of Japanese is zero. Luckily, English is more broadly known and spoken, but experience demonstrates it is not always easy to understand a person for whom it is not her or his mother tongue, and vice versa.

Imagine my surprise when Richard Furlong asked me to substitute for him to present Probus Global to the assembled representatives of the Probus Canada District 1 West Sector. Being six hours ahead of the morning meeting in Canada coincided with my afternoon nap, which I had to abandon.

Debbie MacDonald Moynes, the meeting organiser, put me at ease and invited me to attend right from its start, which was an excellent idea. I had the feeling of “being there”, and although I could only hear the presentations ahead of mine, I enjoyed the sensation – it gave me an insight into what is common to Canadian Probus members. The requested objective was to squeeze the essence of Probus Global into a 20-minute presentation. You should ask the attendants if they understood me. I certainly enjoyed being part of it all and contributing.

There was a “silent witness” attending: Christophe Leruste – the incoming representative for international relations in Probus France was pleased to learn more about Probus Global.

Thanks to Debbie and Richard for this opportunity! And a great hello to all Canadians who attended. Thanks to the people who arranged the technical aspect allowing it to run so smoothly.



Golf

Each year, Probus Belgium organizes a National Golf Tournament and issues invitations to Probus in Netherlands and France. Brigitte Kuijpers van den Assem, member of the Dutch Probus Board (pictured left with PG European coordinator Gauthier De Barbandere) joined the 94 Probians golfers in Waregem, Belgium.

WHAT'S IN A FEW PUNCTUATION MARKS?

I'm giving up drinking until Christmas.

I'm giving up. Drinking until Christmas.

It's time to eat kids!

It's time to eat, kids!

I love cooking my family and my dog.

I love cooking, my family, and my dog.

A woman without her man is nothing.

A woman; without her, man is nothing.

He saw her duck!

He saw her. Duck!

Caption: Man-eating chicken

Caption: Man, eating chicken

Lakeside sign: Crocodiles do not swim here.

Lakeside sign: Crocodiles! Do not swim here!

SMILE



How did the ornament get addicted to Christmas?

He was hooked on trees his whole life.

Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

Because he had very low elf esteem.

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

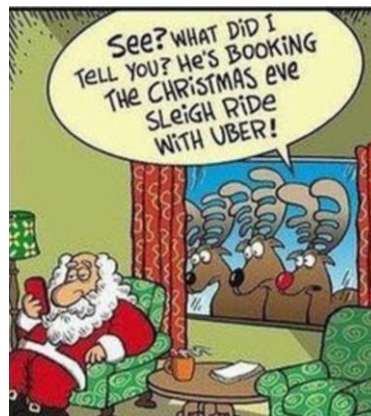
A rebel without a Claus.

Why does Scrooge love reindeer so much?

Because every single buck is dear to him!

How is Christmas exactly like your job?

You do all the work and some fat guy in a suit gets all the credit.



COFFEE

What do you call it when cafe customers joke about their coffee? A brewhaha.

Barista: How do you take your coffee? **Me:** Very, very seriously.

Someone stole my coffee cup at work today. I'm off to the police station to look at a few mug shots.

