

The Probus Club of Holland Park Central



PO Box 5151 Mt Gravatt East 4122
Meetings: 9.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. every third Thursday of the month.
Venue: Newnham Hotel, Newnham Rd, Upper Mt Gravatt

<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/hollandparkcentral/Home>
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February 2024 No 186

The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Richard's Rambles

Thank you to everyone who dressed in green and gold (or red, white and blue) for our Australia Day meeting. The guest speaker was very appropriate, talking about some of the myths surrounding the happenings on the actual day of Captain Cook's landing and about quintessential Oz foods.

A reminder to all that we have our AGM in March and we need everyone to think seriously about helping out in various positions. We most importantly need someone to act as secretary for next year. Margaret has performed this role extremely well under very difficult personal circumstances. So, please think hard and nominate for this position if you are able. Just joining the committee will give more of a voice from the members of this club to your committee. Nomination Forms are being sent with this newsletter.

We will also need members to handle the role of arranging speakers and also a membership officer. We would like someone to look after the club computer and the archives too. Trevor has volunteered to take over as newsletter editor from Mary effective March 2024..

We are aiming to keep the cost of membership of HPC Probus Club the same as last year, despite our costs having increased and will seek grants or donations as we can. We can potentially visit another Aveo site (they give us a donation to do so) via the transit care bus and will approach councils and other businesses to see if they are prepared to help in any way. We are actively seeking new membership via Facebook and Local Council Newsletters and will try other avenues as they appear which should also help keep us in a good financial position.

Entertainment prices have risen as well and it costs more to get better quality entertainers. We are working on this and hope to have a pleasant surprise for our birthday bash in August.

Keep in mind some of our members who have not been well and are struggling with their health. I wish them all the best.

The Pacific Golf Club booking for our Coffee & Chat mornings has been renewed, so looking forward to seeing everyone there on Sunday 4th February. That's all for now and try to stay out of the heat.

Richard



A New Jersey couple welcomed a set of twins who were born not only on a different day, but in a different year. Ezra Humphrey was born at 11:48 p.m. Dec. 31 at Virtua Voorhees Hospital giving him the same birthday as his father, and fraternal twin Ezekiel was born at 12:28 a.m. Jan. 1.

ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday 4th Coffee and Chat Pacific Golf Club in the new clubhouse. 10.00 am. Members may choose to remain at the Golf Club for lunch.

Friday 9th Leaving Jackson – The Johnny Cash & June Carter tribute show at Redland Performing Arts Centre. 7.30 pm. Cost \$64.00. Bookings closed.

Thursday 15th Monthly meeting at Newnham Hotel 9.30 am

Wednesday 21st Lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year. Asian House Chinese Restaurant, Shop 3 82 Meadowlands Road, Carina 11.30 am.

March 2024

Sunday 3rd Coffee and chat at Pacific Golf Club in the new clubhouse.

Wednesday 6th Lunch – The Lighthouse Restaurant, 237 Shore Street North, Cleveland Point. 11.30 am.

Thursday 21st Monthly meeting at Newnham Hotel, 9.30 am.

Wednesday 27th Beauty & the Beast at Lyric Theatre, QPAC at 1.00 pm. Bookings CLOSED. Lorelei will distribute tickets.

APRIL 2024

Sunday 7th Coffee and chat 10.00 am at Pacific Golf Club

Wednesday 10th Lunch 11.30 am at The Nurso, 1666 Old Cleveland Road, Chandler.

Thursday 18th Monthly meeting at Newnham Hotel 9.30 am.

More to come

Diary Date:

July 2024

Wednesday 10th Tina – the Tina Turner musical, Lyric Theatre, QPAC, 1.00 pm. Cost \$89.00. Names and payment by March meeting please. When paying into the Club bank account use TINA/your name as reference please.

Have you heard of drip pricing? For example, when you book a hotel room for (say) \$120 a night because it sounds reasonable, and when you get to the checkout, there is an added \$15 booking fee, \$25 cleaning fee and other miscellaneous charges. Canada has outlawed certain types of drip pricing, and the US, UK and India are following suit. Here, it is in the ACCC's sight, but drip pricing tends to morph into other ways of adding

fees and it isn't easy to define and regulate. The psychology is people find it hard to abandon their shopping carts as additional costs are revealed. Often starting a search and booking all over again feels like a burden and people settle for the higher-priced hotel room. If companies strategically use obstacles and complexities in the online checkout process, it discourages customers from abandoning their transactions even after discovering the true cost.

Conventional wisdom says eating breakfast is the most important meal of the day. However, most don't recognise that meeting nutritional needs is more about the overall quality and balance of daily meals, than the timing of a specific meal. So a bowl of cereal cannot be deemed the most important meal of the day, even if it energises. Breakfast is best only if a person is hungry an hour or two after waking, and then eats a nutritious, satisfying meal that will serve as fuel for several hours.



Surely they can do better! Probus Canada had its first photo competition and the winning photo is left. Technically, there is nothing wrong with it, but where are the faces to say they are seniors (Probian)? Some of the text which went with it says, in part *"This photo doesn't show any faces, for that reason it is perfect because it represents everyone. Everyone and anyone, regardless of creed, colour, or gender identification can be a Probus member and we welcome you with open arms..."*. That sounds as if a politician's publicist compiled it. Can a Probian be a young person? Does the picture show the people enjoying themselves?

They may be frozen stiff, dashing towards warmth. Isn't such an image supposed to show Probian having fun? What were the judges thinking?



The technology never fooled the audience. Instead, they were awe-struck. A phrase heard repeatedly was: 'How do they do it?' A long-dead soprano, Maria Callas, has taken to the stage with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. While the live orchestral sounds filled Hamer Hall, the vocals were directed from the speakers, rather than the

hologram at centre stage. One of the limitations of combining live music and a pre-recorded voice: you can't respond to the temperament of the audience. You can't speed it up when required. Callas in Concert has

been performed across the world since 2018 ... and she is not the only performer to be in concert as a hologram. Even live artists are creating hologram concerts. Audience reactions are mixed. While the holograms are of the “real” in the sense films are, some people feel they are “profaning the dead”, manipulating the memory of the real person, and posing an existential threat to the live music industry. We’re cynical about greedy copyright holders, and what if Maria Callas never wanted to perform holographically? But the overwhelmingly positive reception probably means hologram performances are here to stay.

Retail activity has been a defining facet of cities since antiquity. Now, our CBDs are under threat due to COVID which still has 30 per cent of the workforce working from home, suburban shopping hubs (such as Chermside which appeared in 1957) are closer to home, and the rise of online shopping (now 18% of our retail market). Our CBDs are fighting back in various ways. Office space is being converted to residential accommodation, free commuting is being offered, in some instances free parking, pop-up bike lanes, and parklets, increased entertainment and food and beverage offerings, and multi-million-dollar refurbishments and redesign of arcades and big stores. More changes are on the way, but autonomous delivery raises major questions about retail, urban and residential design, infrastructure provision, employment, human behaviour and, ultimately, regulation. Therein lies the devil in the retail.

The Coffee Morning, with the change of venue, was enjoyed by about a dozen members. Remember we’ll be back at the Golf Club in February - in its new club rooms. The monthly Wednesday lunch was also very pleasant. Many of us had never been to the Camp Hill Hotel, and while an old hotel, the dining area was bright, light and pleasant. As were the food and the company.



Do you read the “small print”? In 2019, a travel insurance company held a secret contest in which it included a line in the fine print of its policy promising \$10,000 to the first person who spotted it. Seventy-three policies were bought before the award was finally claimed. But those 73 who had obviously not read the policy, would not have

been alone. Ninety-eight per cent of participants in another study effectively agreed to give up their firstborn child after supposedly having read the fictional terms and conditions of an agreement online. It seems that most people don’t read the fine print because the terms and conditions are too long and time-consuming, they are full of legal jargon, and they have no choice but to accept them if

they want the particular product. For example, Microsoft's small print would take over an hour to read at an average reading speed.



The club's lone birthday baby for February is John. If there are others, please let Lynne know so John won't feel lonely! Our best wishes John.

.....And then, our erstwhile President, Richard, and Julie, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. Congratulations to both of you. Have a happy day.



It is that time of the year. From relatively humble beginnings, the Australian Open has emerged as a centrepiece in both the global tennis and Australian sporting calendar. It's been 101 years since it became a designated grand slam, and 119 years since the very first game. Early tournaments were a

far cry from the economic enterprise of the modern grand slam; in 1909, it was held in the Perth Zoo. It toured Australia until 1979 when it settled in Melbourne. On two occasions it was held in NZ. Melbourne invested in building appropriate infrastructure, and when the Kooyong courts were completed it became an immediate success. Total attendance increased from 140,000 to 266,436 in the first year. The 2023 tournament broke attendance records, with 839,192 people coming through the gates. It featured a total of 817 players from 68 nations and was reported on by more than 800 journalists and photographers from 52 nations. Incredibly, more than 12,000 staff helped stage the tournament. Perhaps the tournament's biggest challenge now is its longer-term adaption to climate change. Players and attendees are increasingly affected by heat.

Most of us don't live in a fire or flood zone, but the possibility exists that storm damage could cut off our water or electricity. The Brisbane City Council has a website which explains clearly how to prepare for emergencies (what to pack, pet emergency plans, etc). You'll find it [here](#) .

When ordering items on line, keep scammers in mind and know the warning signs about a supplier whom you have not used before. Consider if they have extremely low prices, or require payments through direct bank deposits (not good). Online stores that are very new or have limited information about delivery, return and privacy policies can also be signs of a scam.



The AGM (all of 10 minutes) will be held in lieu of the March cameo talk. Papers associated with it are attached to this newsletter. We are looking, in particular, for a secretary. Margaret, who has

done a sterling job these past few years (lately under great difficulties what with John being so ill) will not continue in the role. There are positions, however, which are not on the committee but which help make our club vibrant. Vacancies coming up are Membership Officer who updates records and holds the forms for prospective members, and Guest Speaker Organiser which involves around three emails and maybe a phone call each month. Leads come from the committee and members, and also a person to take responsibility for the club's computer. This member will update the archives of newsletters and meeting minutes etc., and bring the computer to each meeting. Trevor has volunteered to take over editing the newsletter.



China's population has shrunk for the second year in succession and the trend is accelerating.

Predictions from China are that its population will shrink from its present 1.4 billion to just 525 million in the next 75 years, and in that period, its working-age population will be just 210 million.

The fertility rate fell to 1.08 births per woman. By way of comparison, Australia and the United States have fertility rates of 1.6. One hope is that 2024 will see a bump in births, being the year of the dragon in Chinese astrology, a symbol of good fortune. Indeed, fertility rates have fallen throughout the world, but the accelerated decline in China's population will weaken China's economy and, through it, the world's economy. India is the world's most populous country, but its fertility rate has now fallen below replacement level (more deaths than births). Indeed, currently, the world fertility rate has fallen markedly in the past 50 years, is just above replacement level and is set to nosedive. Throw an ageing population in this mix and it is not good news for the human race.

DUTY ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY

Chair: **Mary W** Cameo Talk: **Mick** Greeters: **Bev F and Helen**
Door: **Lyn and Marlene**

So you think we are suffering from too much heat? Did you know that a recent heatwave in Antarctica was so drastic that it redefined scientific expectations of the Antarctic climate? Ideas for keeping cool for Seniors:

Try a cold footbath. Suck some ice. Get a spray bottle and a fine spray of water on face, arms and legs does wonders. And always, always keep hydrated with cool fluids.



Many of us remembered to wear green and gold at the January meeting, to commemorate Australia Day. Pictured above are those members who were “appropriately” dressed. The door prize on the day was a gift basket with true Aussie foods including Vegemite and lamingtons among others.



Pictured left is a mobile camera. These cameras are being adopted by more and more Councils to help eliminate car accidents. It'll catch you out doing everything from speeding, to using your phone while driving, to failing to wear a seat belt. We, in Australia, have around 1,200 fatalities from car crashes every year. The number of people seriously injured has risen from 34,000 in 2011 to around 39,000 in 2019 with no sign of decline. Mobile cameras can be deployed virtually anywhere at any time and can also be mounted on a vehicle or tripod. It is one of the ways government is trying to curb road trauma.



The February speaker will be **Sheryl Yeates** from the Brisbane City Council. Sheryl works with the latter's Waste and Recovery Services which educates Brisbane residents from school age to retirees, about waste avoidance, reusing, recycling and making sustainable choices.

2023/4 Office Bearers

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**S
M
I
L
E**

You know
me, if ever
I win the
lottery,
no-one
around me
will be
poor. I'll
just move
to a better
Neighbour
-hood



**I TOLD HIM I WANTED
TO WALK DOWN THE AISLE**



**HE SENT
ME GROCERY SHOPPING**

Archaeologists
discovered a
cache of pencils
used by
Shakespeare.
They can't
establish whether
they are 2B or not
2B.



In general, I don't believe in child labor. But sometimes they're the only ones who can figure out what's wrong with my computer.



kwame
@johlny_

Do men still open car doors?



Xavier
How do you think we get inside

SHORT JOKES: What did the triangle say to the circle? You're pointless.
Why can't you hear a pterodactyl going to the loo? Because the "P" is silent.
RIP, boiling water. You will be mist.
Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
I ordered a chicken and an egg online. I'll let you know what comes first.