

PROBUS NEWSLETTER



Howick East Combined Probus Club

Nov 2025

November Christmas Party !!

Lynda's Outlook



Travels in Trumptonland

Trains, Planes, Boats and Automobiles

in Ascending order - most loathed to most enjoyable.

1. Most Loathed: Planes

Airlines charge for everything. On an International flight from Denver USA to Montreal Canada, Rob was allowed to check in one piece of luggage for free while I was charged an extra \$35 USD for my 1 x bag! Half a bag between two people - whoever heard of such a thing! (Not Air NZ I might add.)

Being herded through vast halls, corridors and gates has a demoralising effect on people. It is a tedious, wearisome experience best got through with gritted teeth and the relief of arriving safe and intact. And there are never enough toilets on disembarking, the queues are long but you will have an even longer queue in the immigration hall so hang in there folks.

2. Tolerable in phases: Cars

A testing ground for marriages, families and any sort of partnership therefore preferably a solo experience. Exposure to anxiety attacks, expletives from language both inside and outside of the vehicle, whinging, frustration and downright unpleasantness. All of this is entirely relieved of course when you get off the Interstate Highways and by leaving the car and its occupant(s) at frequent and regular intervals. Visiting restrooms, refreshments, shopping and sight-seeing revives flagging relationships in no time at all.

3. Sophisticated Imprisonment: Boats

Cruise Ships are delightful floating hotels dedicated to providing you with wonderful service and general jolliness whether you want it or not. It is lovely, everyone wallowing in the moment and having everything done for you. And the food!!! the sins of sloth and gluttony unashamedly indulged in, but at a price. Buy a drinks package at \$65 USD per day for/

Lynda *Wear your Xmas 'bling'
for our Christmas
themed Party !!!*



DOOR
GREETERS

NEXT PROBUS MEETING
Tuesday, 18 November

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This is our Christmas Party
& final meeting for 2025.
Delicious food : Raffles : Fun!!
Please note Members Only
We regret no visitors.

Continued from page 1

soft drinks, special coffees and alcohol, even the internet is a package at \$32 USD per day (and this is per each passenger!). Of course you get free internet and cheaper drinks at the nearest onshore pub/cafe you visit on your cruise schedule. Shush - don't tell the passengers that paid up. And what is this obsession for shopping on board for jewellery and a cuddly bear dressed in a captains uniform?

4. Best of the Bunch: Trains

If you can tolerate sudden changes in timetable arrangements and sometimes the result of a breakdown further along the line, then trains are the way to travel.

Relaxing in a large, reclinable seat and being able to wander the various carriages, plus a car attendant who keeps the restrooms clean but does not feel the need to disinfect every door handle, elevator button or the buffet station tongs every five minutes provides for a relaxed and calm environment.

SPRING CAR RALLY

This year we had seven cars - some with four, some with three and others with two people. One driver, one navigator and the others looking out for answers to the questions along the way. The rally was approximately an hour long and everyone got home safely and within the hour.

We started at Barry Curtis Park and headed south taking in Redoubt Road where there are beautiful park-like homes and then in and out of Flat Bush with all its new subdivisions and ending up back at Barry Curtis Park.

We then ambled across the road to Summerset by the Park retirement village for a lovely lunch of pie, chips and salad. There was a lot of chatter over lunch, so we presumed everyone had a good time.



"We have to go where ???"

CHANGE OF ADDRESS or PHONE NO.

Please inform
Rob Hargreaves
of any changes
Phone: 533 8283

airheadrob@gmail.com



Brian Stocking is available
for JP duties on Club days
from 9.30 a.m.

You are not required to share your dining table with your fellow travellers with whom you are obliged to make polite conversation.

In the current situation navigating through very sensitive political currents can be bad for the digestion so conversations can be banal. And we're on holiday so I couldn't give a hoot!

So, three cheers for train travel. It may not be as convenient but it is smooth riding with lots to see along the way, stop offs at stations in which to toddle about and restock supplies including alcohol if so inclined. And all of this delight at a reasonable price.

Forecast: Stay home, pull down the blinds, switch off all modes of communication, pull up the covers and sleep the deep sleep of the unstressed on your own pillow.

Happy Holidays. Lynda



The winners of the rally were: Lurlene (driver), Sue (navigator) and Unni (the answerer of the questions) and they got all nine correct. Well done ladies!

*A man sent his friend
a cryptic Christmas
card.*

*It said:ABCDEFGHIJK
MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ.
The recipient puzzled
over it for weeks. He
finally gave up and
wrote asking for an
explanation. In July
he received the
explanation on a
postcard: "No L."*

*"I note that fewer schools
teach handwriting!"*



WELFARE

Welfare/Sickness Issues : Please inform
Maureen Saunders - Phone: 021 2598308

SPEAKER SEPTEMBER

Phil Taylor . . .

Phil (PJ) Taylor has been part of the Howick editorial scene for 20 years. With a good old fashioned love of words, correct spelling and English grammar, he enjoys word power and insists that the dictionary is his favourite book! After a short career in banking, he has been a journalist, sub-editor and now co-editor of our local paper for 20 years. He spent 8 years in London and 2 years in Chile before returning to New Zealand and joining the Howick and Pakuranga Times and the Eastern Courier. With local papers struggling to survive, in recent years these two publications have been joined and have now become the Eastern Times. It is a bright, colourful publication with 72 pages full of local news, sports and stories. Originally run for 52 years by Rae and Rob Neben, it has now been bought by our local councillor Bo Burns. It employs 40 staff, some full time, some part time and they also encourage young student volunteers to come and experience journalism as a possible future.

The paper receives no funding and relies on its many local businesses to advertise in the paper. All political parties are invited to contribute as are local sports clubs, social groups and private citizens with stories of interest. The paper is not distributed to mail boxes but is found in many collection bins around the area.

It's a great, colourful, enjoyable read that will keep you up to date with all the up and coming events to enjoy in our lovely community. *Happy Reading!*

.....Maureen Saunders



Genealogy Assistance

Alan Sheath is available to provide individual genealogy assistance. If you would like help, please contact Alan on 0274 389100 or alan.sheath@gmail.com



DISCOVER AUCKLAND . . .

Tom Owen organised another 'Discover Auckland' trip on a recent Friday to Cheltenham Beach and North Head. Hiking in the sunshine and then a cafe lunch. These enthusiastic Probus folk enjoyed the fun day out.



GROUP ACTIVITIES



Enjoying a recent trip on Gulf Harbour.



- • • • •
- **EMERGENCY**
- **CONTACT**
- **FORM**
- Please make
- sure you
- complete and
- return this form
- if you have not
- already done so.
- Medical Cards
- also available.
- • • • •



These smiling ladies were snapped enjoying their Rumicub game recently.

Who says men don't remember ?!

A couple were Christmas shopping. The shopping centre was packed and as the wife walked around she was surprised to discover that her husband was nowhere to be seen. She was quite upset because they had a lot to do and hence, she became so worried that she called him on her mobile phone to ask him where he was.

In a quiet voice he said: "Do you remember the jewellers we went into about five years ago, where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we couldn't afford, and I told you that I would get it for you one day?"

The wife choked up and started to cry and said: "Yes, I do remember that shop."

He replied: "Well, I'm in the pub next door!"

LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Many of our activity groups are looking for new members. A list of all the groups is available with contact information for each one. Have a chat with the group leader and find out about their particular group.

If none of the existing groups appeal, maybe you could suggest a new one ?? We are open to suggestions. Tom Owen happy to hear from you - metsol@msn.com



Don't Forget to wear your Christmas Finery to our Xmas party on the 18th November.



**FUN
FRIENDSHIP
AND FELLOWSHIP
IN RETIREMENT**

Staying connected



*I said to my wife this morning:
"Why do we always argue about everything?"
She replied:
"Well if I agreed with you, then we'd both be wrong!"*

"I woke up this morning with a strong feeling that the lottery ticket you bought is going to hit!"

Website Link -

<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/howickeast>

www.facebook.com/howickeastcombinedprobus/