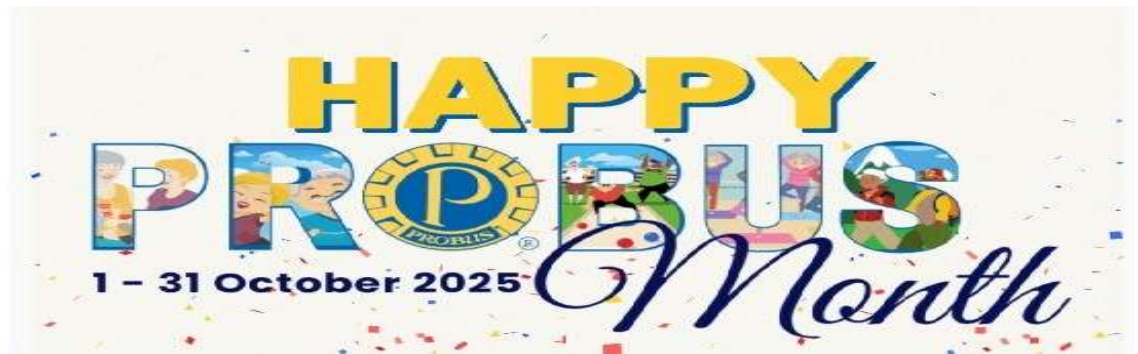




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## Howick East Combined Probud Club



### *Lynda's Outlook*

#### Travels in Trumptonland

As you probably know, Rob and I are spending the whole of Sept and Oct. in the United States, travelling by train, car, air and sea, viewing the scenery and engaging with the locals. We had no problems with US Immigration despite a few raised eyebrows over our previous visas to Cuba and Iran but Rob whipped out the itinerary and the I.C.E man let us in.



As Alastair Cooke said 'Americans are invariably polite' as has proved to be the case in most situations. Our Samsung Android phone is apparently incompatible with the US phone networks so we have relied on free wi-fi to plan our routes, to book ahead and the kindness of strangers to assist us when we reach the confused and bewildered stage. However, when our AMTRAK train from L.A. via San Francisco to Denver, having barely left L.A. Union Station, drew to a halt due to a breakdown of the train ahead, this renowned politeness was severely tested. Our train had to shunt the other to a siding and then took on all of its passengers; standing room only and a 5 ½ hour delay, frayed tempers all round. One old gal, resplendent in Pearls and a Rhinestone studded outfit, turned the air blue cursing everything in earshot. But someone must have heard as the train conductor handed out free bottles of water and snacks..Apart from this minor difficulty the double decked train was comfortable, clean, smooth travelling and quiet for night time sleeping (33 hours SFO to Denver) the restrooms, cafe, dining car, observation cars spotless and the car attendants helpful and efficient. .... [continued on next page](#)

Next meeting  
Tuesday 21st October  
At 10am

We remember with affection our member David Armishaw who has recently passed. Heartfelt condolences to Mary and all the family.



Don't forget to wear blue and yellow to celebrate Probud month.



Greeters for  
October  
Gerry Brainch &  
Joycelyn Bremner



The California Zephyr route into the deserts of Nevada and Utah always interesting and awakening to sunrise over the Rockies was spectacular. I recall there was also a splendid sunset over a resort outside San Luis Obispo - Rob reminds me it was actually a men's prison, very pretty all lit up in the setting sun!

We collected a hire car in Denver, the 'Not A Toyota' has carried us over 2,000 miles so far. We've opted to stay in Campgrounds of America (KOA). Rob and I are seasoned campers and have brought with us silk sleeping sheets, lightweight blankets and inflatable pillows, invaluable on the train journeys and in the basic cabins. We get to meet lots of Americans. Weirdly, at one campsite in Vernal, Utah we arrived in the midst of a Phenomecon - a convention for fans of Paranormal Activity and Extraterrestrial Occurrences. Seemed peculiar at anytime but in conservative Utah, where to buy alcohol is very restrictive and even tea and coffee can be hard to come by, to see people walking around in strange costumes was bizarre. I had to lasso and hogtie Rob to prevent him outfitting our family with "I was probed" souvenir T-Shirts.

Rocky Mountains NP (National Park) was glorious with lots of walking trails through forested mountains and beautiful lakes. We have survived on a diet of burgers, fries, pizzas and salad; it doesn't seem to vary much. No Lamb or Pork, fruit and veges are expensive, but we didn't come for the cuisine.

Into the desert lands of Utah, we've been on the trail of dinosaurs. These lands are full of fossils (not old Mormons) that scientists have been digging up and selling to museums all over the world for years and Dinosaur National Monument in Utah is an unusual place to visit but absolutely fascinating.

So far the weather has been hot during the day, cold at night, mostly dry with hardly any wind. From long drives through desert and ranch lands we have climbed again into the mountains of Wyoming, The Grand Tetons. Truly epic, these huge mountains border Yellowstone NP. In these two parks we've opted for the luxury of staying inside the parks at designated lodges. Actual bed linen, towels and en-suites!!! Very expensive at \$300 USD + per night, plus food(?) at their cafe/dining areas. And yes, we have seen bears, deer, elk, bison, bald eagles, buzzards, glimpsed a moose and all manner of rodent critters disappearing up trees or into rock cavities. To do this we've walked up to over 12,000 feet in the mountains and rafted down the Snake River. Our room at The Old Faithful Inn, a shoebox with bed and hand basin, toilet and shower across the hall, nevertheless overlooked the Old Faithful geyser and a bison munched grass in the car park.

One encounter with 2 - legged variety of wildlife (US citizenry) occurred when we got a puncture and pulled to the side of the road. A following car stopped and a father and son from Alabama changed the tyre for us. We limped a few miles to a Ranger Station - the spare tyre was very flat too. She directed us to the Rabbit Hole Repair Shop, a further 10 miles down the road away. The guys there pumped up the spare, tightened the wheel nuts and sent us down to a garage in the nearest town where a bunch of Hispanic guys supplied a new tyre while we drank free coffee. They even phoned the car hire company for us who said we would get a refund. We shan't hold our breath for that!

Still, once again on the road we spent a lovely afternoon on top of a mountain in Jackson Hole. A great day all round due to the kindness of strangers. At the same time, flags were at half - mast to commemorate 9/11 and the assassination of Mr Trump's advisor filled the news. Scratch the surface and it reveals a seething underbelly.

Forecast: Mind our own business, but enjoy invigorating conversation where we can, enjoy the scenery, eat fruit and veges wherever we can find it.

Happy Trails!

## October Speaker



Our speaker for the October meeting is Phil Taylor who will be speaking about his work as a journalist.

Phil, who is also known as PJ, is a senior journalist and editor, who has had 36 years working in the media in NZ, the UK and Chile. He will tell us about his experience working both overseas and on our local paper the Eastern Times in the new era of Bo Burns' ownership, what his work involves and how it's done.

He was the editor at the Times between 2005 and 2015, and the Eastern Courier from 2016 to 2018, among many different roles.

PJ has also voluntarily broadcast the She'll Be Right on Saturdays Show on east Auckland community radio station East FM for 16 years. And he MCs many community events such as the Howick Santa Parade and the Auckland Brit and Euro Classic Car Show at Lloyd Elsmore Park each year.

He's happy to answer questions about his work.

### September Trip to Ayrli's Gardens

We eventually got to visit Ayrli's Garden a couple of days late due to bad weather.

It was a cool but sunny day as eleven garden enthusiasts arrived and wandered to the Gazebo, where Jan had organised a very welcome morning tea by the swimming pool.

The garden is vast, with lots of hidden paths, waterfalls, ponds and a summer house and a gallery of photos depicting the planning and conception in 1964.

The first photos showed a bare piece of land with not a tree in sight, right up to today with hundreds of huge trees of every shape and size including a redwood forest and every type of shrub, flower and bulb.

The vast amount of landscaping and planting was in full glory around the millennium.

In the past, Bev Mc Connell and her large team of gardeners have dedicated their lives to maintaining and sharing this beautiful garden with the public.

Sadly, today, it is in need of a lot of tender loving care and a huge army of workers to bring it back to its former glory.

It was a morning spent enjoying the peace, calm and beauty among the trees, plants and the birds. So close to Auckland but you could have been a million miles away.

A yummy lunch at Whitford's Lime tree cafe was enjoyed before heading home.

Contributed by Maureen Saunders



**BUDDHIST TEMPLE VISIT**  
A group of Probus enthusiasts met for lunch at the Buddhist Temple recently. The meal was delicious and the company great. After lunch we gathered for a tour of the art exhibition with a guide who was very knowledgeable. The exhibits were many and varied. There were certainly a talented group of artists with their work on show for our enjoyment. A lovely time was had by all.

Please make all payments for outings into the trips account 02 0168 0277062 01 or at the Probus meeting. It is important that you include your name as a reference for the payment. Contact Janelle Lucas on 021 915 969 if you need any further information



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

**Please notify Rob Hargreaves on 0204 183 7002 of any change of address or phone number.**

**Please let Maureen Saunders know of any welfare and sickness issues. Her number is 0212598308**