



TOOWOOMBA RANGE PROBUS

Newsletter

Issued May 21, 2025

| Management Team 2025-26 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| President | John Randall |
| Vice President | Mike Butt |
| Imm Past Pres | Tony Mullen |
| Secretary | Tony Mullen |
| Treasurer | Ken Stephenson |
| Program Director | Rob Catto |
| Trips/Outings | Floyd Wilson & Paul Barrett |
| Welfare Officer | Rob Catto |
| Newsletter | Bruce Hinchliffe |

Birthday Greetings June

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Jeffrey Martin | 1 |
| Pam Harrison | 7 |
| Mike Browning | 7 |
| Doris Watson | 19 |
| Ros Linnett | 19 |
| Paul Barrett | 29 |
| David Free | 29 |
| Jill Cory | 29 |

NEXT MEETING – at the Ballymore Room,
341 Hume Street, Toowoomba
10a.m. Tuesday, May 27

Program:

*It's a surprise! Program Director Rob Catto will
announce the guest speaker on Tuesday*

NEXT OUTING – a Fun Musical Lunch at
Rink 46 (Drayton Bowls Club), 46 Gipps St – 🎵
Tuesday June 10 at 12.30pm for 1pm lunch
Trips/Outings directors Paul and Floyd will be calling for
starters on Tuesday. Likely cost will be around \$40 per person.

Music by Kathy (keyboard)
and Chris March (guitar).

***This should be a
fun, sing-along,
toe-tapping event!***



Welcome Mick!

New member Mick Coorey (centre) gets the exclusive Range Probud “three-way handshake” after his induction into the Club on Tuesday April 29 by Vice-President Mike Butt* and Mick’s proposer Ray Taylor. Mick Coorey is retired. He and his late wife, Dianne, operated one of Toowoomba’s leading hotels, the Spotted Cow, for many years.

*Mike Butt deputised for President John Randall at the meeting.



The Sport of Bridge – Glenys Clift's entertaining talk

The sport of Bridge came under the microscope in a most entertaining and enjoyable talk by Bridge Master Glenys Clift on Tuesday April 29.

That's right – "SPORT of Bridge"! In 1960 the Olympic committee designated bridge – the world's most popular card game – as a sport.

Glenys told how Bridge had originated around the time of the Crimean war when the Russian card game of biritch was introduced to the Turkish Diplomatic Corps. Biritch, the forerunner of Bridge, spread throughout Europe.

The British later changed the scoring and the name of the game to Auction Bridge.

Early in the twentieth century, American Harold Vanderbilt invented Contract Bridge while aboard the SS Finlandia travelling through the Panama Canal.

Glenys outlined the advancement of the game in Australia, and finished with a warning about the danger of playing with one's spouse.

She told of the Bridge Murder Trial . . .

Myrtle and John spent much of Sunday, September 29, 1929, with their upstairs neighbours, Charles and Myrna Hofman. The husbands played a round of golf at the Indian Hills Country Club that morning, and then went back to the links that afternoon with their wives joining them. At dusk, they returned to the Bennett apartment at 902 Ward Parkway in the Country Club District of Kansas City. After sharing dinner, they sat down to a game of bridge in the Bennett living room, the couples playing as partners, the Hofmans versus the Bennetts. After midnight, as the Hofmans began to pull ahead, the Bennetts began to bicker. In the ultimate hand, John failed to make his four spades contract and Myrtle, frustrated by the failure, called him "a bum bridge player". He stood and slapped her in the face several times, and announced he was leaving. He said he would spend the night in a motel in Saint Joseph, Missouri. As he packed his bag, and moved from room to room, he mocked his wife. Myrtle told the Hofmans, "Only a cur would strike a woman in front of guests."

After an ongoing argument, John Bennett went to pack a suitcase as he told Myrtle to retrieve the handgun he typically carried on the road for protection. Myrtle walked down the hall to the bedroom of her mother, Alice Adkins. Still sobbing, Myrtle reached into a drawer with linens and pulled out his .32 Colt semi-automatic and



Guest Speaker director Rob Catto presented Glenys with a bottle of "Substitute Bailey's Irish Cream" from his own cellar in appreciation of her talk on the game of Bridge.

walked into the den. There, she brushed past Charles Hofman, and shot at John's back twice in the bathroom of the apartment. John escaped into the hallway, but fell to the floor in their living room.

Myrtle Bennett was tried before Judge Ralph S. Latshaw. The trial began on February 23, 1931, and lasted eleven days. Her defence lawyer was James A. Reed, former three-term U.S. Senator and onetime Democratic presidential candidate.

Reed showed jurors that John Bennett had been previously violent and abusive, and attempted to explain that Mrs Bennett was either insane or acted in self-defence. The judge barred the prosecuting lawyer, James R. Page, from presenting the testimony of John Bennett's nephew Byrd Rice, as he was not on the original list of witnesses. After an eight-hour deliberation, the jury returned a not guilty verdict. The prosecutor's assistant, John Hill, said, "It looks like an open season on husbands."

Probus Fun at Tangalooma . . .



Whee! Carmel Barrett was one of the more successful sand surfers at Tangalooma



Thanks Floyd!
Floyd took our photo at dinner . . . and we photographed him in return . . .



More from Tangalooma . . .

All aboard for fish-feeding and wreck-viewing



Clockwise from the top: Tour Director Paul Barrett; Peta Catto, followed by Rob; Helen Fuhlbohm gets a helping hand; Jeffrey and Sandy Martin; Katie Fleming and Carmel Barrett.



Dolphin feeding was from the jetty...a bull shark was cruising among the dolphins!



Floyd Wilson has compiled a fine album of photos from the Tangalooma escapade. The link to it is <https://photos.app.goo.gl/CkkQHHgg9y6Bfi967>

Sand tobogganing on Moreton Island . . . and other Fun in Paradise



Relaxing before a wild slide downhill sand slide are Carmel Barrett (that's her, top-right) and Floyd Wilson



Well satisfied with her special-diet dinner is Gail Wockner.



Trish and Tim Sullivan uncover a hoodie-wearing, red-spectacled Sue Englart



Ray and Helen Fuhlbohm fed the Dolphins



Rob Catto – with a balanced diet . . .

Well done, Max!

Born in Kingaroy in 1939, Max Wilshire spent most of his life in the outback and rural areas. Max gave a most interesting 10-minuter to the last general meeting, recounting some of his experiences.

He recalled becoming a jackaroo at Tambo in his teens. He was given a horse to ride. It turned out the animal was used in rodeo buckjumping events, and young Max landed on his back within six seconds. Undeterred, he climbed back into the saddle, but this time he lasted an even shorter time – and finished back in the dust, saddle and all!

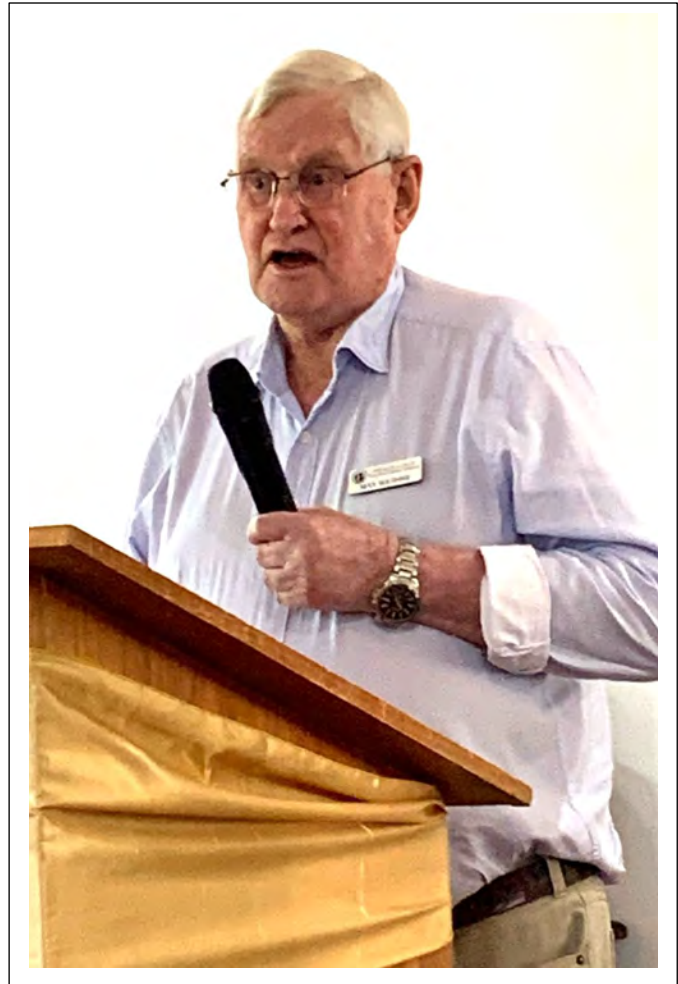
He farmed for a while.

He gave real estate a shot. (“I didn’t enjoy that,” he said.)

He then took on trucking wheat. (“That was a better job.”)

Max and his late wife had three sons and eight grandchildren.

Congratulations Max . . . a most enjoyable snapshot of an eventful life!



Our Welfare Officer needs your help

Rob Catto’s job as Welfare Officer is to “keep in touch with sick or bereaved members or those members feeling isolated or lonely or who may be in need of moral support or physical help.” *

He reports to each General Meeting on wellbeing matters, and he needs your help to identify any member or partner taken ill or in need of support, either by member visits or transport to meetings.

It’s an important job – entirely consistent with Toowoomba Range Probus Club’s culture and reputation as a caring club, one interested in the wellbeing of its members and partners.

If you have information to share about your wellbeing or that of another member or partner, please contact Rob.

He can be reached at 0415 956 100

* From the *Probus Club Handbook*

Please remember . . .

If you are not attending the monthly meeting it is very important that you submit an apology to the secretary to ensure that the exact numbers of attendees are known.

Otherwise catering volumes become impossible to manage effectively. Email to rangeprobus@outlook.com or text 0408 238 091.

Don Watson’s Last Word

I went to Maccas yesterday and had a kid’s meal. It was pretty good. But his Mum was furious.

