

February
2025

PROBUS NEWS

The Probus Club of Burnie



Find a Way ... Make a Way

A Word from the President

Hello Fellow Probians. Our first meeting for 2025 was truly entertaining. Our **club speaker** was David Stevens. David's topic was about humour and how it interacts in our everyday lives. He started by asking members for their memories of past TV programs and comedians that they enjoyed in years gone by. Some that came to mind were *Fawlty Towers*, *The Two Ronnies*, *Yes Minister*, *The Vicar of Dibley* and of course, *Mr Bean* played by Rowan Atkinson. It brought back many good memories and David's interaction with members brought about some good discussions and was greatly enjoyed. David then related to us a joke where he required us to answer humorous questions. He kept us in stitches for a considerable amount of time and we all had some good healthy belly laughs !



All can say to you David is that you have an amazing talent! You have missed your vocation in life and Hollywood is waiting!

Our **Guest Speaker**, Michael Cruickshank has been associated with the Burnie Highland Band for many years. He gave us a very good idea of the origins of the world's oldest instrument with origins that may date to 1000 BC. It's believed to have developed independently in many cultures. Iran and Egypt come to mind plus a few others.

The Bagpipes arrived in Scotland during the 13th and 14th centuries, brought home by the returning crusaders, and is the national instrument. The Scots celebrate their pipes in songs, stories, and poems.



The bagpipes is a wind instrument, so bagpipes are classified as aerophones because the sound is created by air being blown into a bag and then through reeds, causing the air to vibrate and produce sound.

The sound may be produced by either single or double reeds and there are many varieties of bagpipes. Originally it was a pastoral instrument used by shepherds and made of hide.

Michael also spoke about the wearing of the Tartan and the sporran which emerged in the late 16th century. It was the women who wove the cloth out of wool and there are many different patterns identifying various clans.

The bagpipes were also used as a call to war. Today they are world renowned and are used in many important events.

Michael could have talked a lot longer about this topic had he been given the time. He received long and sincere applause.

I have had a walk around McKenna Park. It is nearly finished and we expect to be able to meet there this month. It looks very good.

Gradus.



Coffee at Delish

Coffee and the company were good, and Mark's quiz was a highlight.



A devilishly curly question!!



He can't be serious.



Serious discussion is always underway.



Next Coffee Meeting: 10:00 am Thursday February 13th.

Our mad world

Meet Karla Sofia Gascon who has been nominated for the award of **Best Actress** at this year's Academy Awards for **his** portrayal of Emilia Perez in the movie of that name. Yes, Gascon is a man. He is the first ever openly transgender actor to be nominated for an Oscar. Gascón certainly doesn't deserve to be in the running for Best Actress – for the simple reason that he is not an actress at all. Why should a man be nominated for an award that is intended for women?



Why not be a Digital Mentor?

The Multicultural Council of Tasmania is offering a series of Digital Mentor programmes soon. You may like to help someone who has difficulty managing the digital world. It might be a member of the aging community, a new migrant, someone with disabilities, someone from a remote area, and perhaps, local community groups.

There are two morning sessions at Burnie Library on Wednesdays March 12th and 26th to equip future mentors with the skills to help others feel more confident getting online.

The topics will be:

- Using apps and basic software
- Navigating the internet
- Fundamental skills like taking photos and making video calls
- SMS and voice to text

To find out all about it, follow this link:

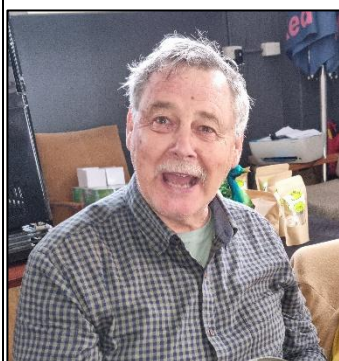
<https://mcot.org.au/digital-mentor-program-2025/>

Life in Australia Today

Have you received a parcel lately with this stencil?
Does this mean someone tramples on our mail
on its way to us? Why would someone trample on
a parcel? Will your parcel be trampled on if it is not
stencilled with a protective instruction?
It's a new world.



David's Wisdom



Wisdom does not necessarily come with age. Sometimes age just shows up by itself.

As we grow older, we become like old cars. More and more repairs and replacements are necessary.

I'm so old, my blood type is discontinued. (Bill Dane)

Old people should not eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get.

Lunch at Hellyer's Road Restaurant



2025 is away to a good start with a very enjoyable gathering.



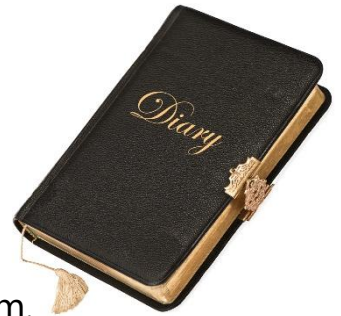
Good company and good conversation



Images by
Sam Samec



For your Diary ...



February 13th (Thursday): Coffee at Delish, 10:00 am.

February 17th (Monday): Club Meeting at McKenna Park.

Club Speaker: David Stevens. at 10:00 am.

Guest Speaker: Peter Ansell – *The supermarkets*.

February 27th (Thursday): Lunch at the Ikon Hotel (aka Club Hotel),
22 Mount Street. 12:00 for 12:30.

March 7th (Friday): Committee Meeting.

December 8th (Monday): **Christmas Luncheon** at S. Burnie Bowls Club.

Write this one on your calendar straight away!!

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Club Office Bearers

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Making a payment to the Club.

If you wish to pay by direct transfer, the codes are: BSB 633-000 Account 112668025.

Remember to indicate who it is from.

Probus News is printed by courtesy of the Office of The Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC.