

July
2025

PROBUS NEWS

The Probus Club of Burnie



Fun, Fellowship, Friendship

A Word from the President

Good morning, Gentleman,

I begin on a sad note with the passing of Marie Clark recently, our condolences to Bruce and his family at this difficult time. I know Bruce appreciated the number of Probians at the funeral, and we look forward to welcoming him back at the appropriate time.

I apologize for my absence at this Meeting due to family commitments in Melbourne and take the opportunity to thank Ian Broad for filling in for me and I know you will give him your full support.

It was most interesting to listen to two of our newer members (Geoff and Robert) speak about their lives, experiences and interests. The talents and achievements of our members never ceases to amaze and demonstrates that we all have a story to tell, while understanding that the mode of sharing needs to be varied to accommodate the individual. Perhaps you have a story to share, if so, we would love to hear it.

Shane Crawford celebrating the 6-month anniversary of his appointment as General Manager at Burnie Council was refreshingly open and honest about the challenges and opportunities he will face during his tenure. We wish Shane well in his endeavours and look forward to his positive influence in our community.

I know I often urge members to invite a friend as a guest to a Probus Meeting or function; it has been proven overwhelmingly that social interaction through Clubs such as ours and other activities, promote well-being and help manage loneliness, which is one of biggest challenges for many as we age.

The problems with our portable sound system have been rectified thanks to the efforts of Peter and Brian. Apologies to some of our members who have found it difficult to hear our speakers at recent meetings. We are optimistic that the speaker system at McKenna Park will be operational in the near future providing us with an excellent audio-visual combination. A scammer rang me the other night and said, "I have all your passwords," with glee I said, "Please give me a moment while I get a pen and paper."

On a more serious note, scammers are becoming more sophisticated and we need to be on high alert; the use of Artificial Intelligence is making scams more difficult to identify. This topic will be explored at a future meeting.



Time may be a great healer, but it is a lousy beautician.

Kindest regards,
David

June Meeting

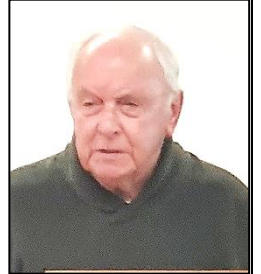
An enjoyable and well-attended meeting gave an indication of the Club's energy.

Birthdays in June: Mark Lord, Richard Chapman, Tony Hite, Kevin Lucadou-Wells and David Stevens. Gradus's astrological description of their virtues and shortcomings raised lots of laughs.

Club Speakers:

Rob Haslock described his working life, which included working ten-hour days at Lactos, with only one day off per week and working at Paper Makers, before settling in to his main vocation in Tasmania's Health System.

Rob's entertaining talk was cut short by the clock, so we anticipate his continuing the story at another time.



Geoff Starick left his Victorian footwear employment to come to Burnie to establish Tas Farmers' footwear department here. Soon after, he went into his own shoe shop, trading in Cattley Street, and later, in Wilson Street. Driven out of business by K-Mart's competition, he took up employment at Yaarandoo, then at Oakleigh House. Subsequently, he invested in rental homes and in the construction of motor homes. His story is one of courageous enterprise.

Guest Speaker: Shane Crawford, CEO, Burnie City Council spoke feelingly of the importance to this region of a strong Burnie. He is convinced of the potential in this city and spoke of "Making a Better Burnie" which is the title of the council's 20-Year Plan. Shane focussed on one of the many elements of the plan, The Urban Centre. Revitalising the CBD is imperative, for which the city has received a \$17m government grant. Included is a car-parking strategy, a transport strategy, and the creation of city centre playground spaces. Shane reported that the \$20m Arts centre redesign is nearing conclusion and that a redevelopment of the Upper Burnie Sports Centre is being planned. Details of the 2027 Burnie Bi-Centennial celebration are forthcoming. Shane ended his informative presentation by predicting a rich future for the city from the coming Marinus Link.



Images; Kirby Cunningham

Club Office Bearers

President: David Stevens: davidstevens1951@gmail.com

Secretary: Sam Samec: samsamec@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Tim McCarthy: timothymc1951@hotmail.com

Speaker Chairmen: Tim McCarthy: timothymc1951@hotmail.com
and Peter Ansell: pansell@live.com.au

Coffee at Delish



Quiz Master Peter had everyone searching for inspiration,



... pondering,



... explaining,



... and amused.



The company and the coffee were as good as ever.

Images; John Lamb

Making a payment to the Club.

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

Coffee at Delish: Have you given it a try? **Why should you??**

Well, for a start, coffee tastes great, and there is always that caffeine lift! Then, as Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a professor of psychology says, "Coffee groups provide opportunities to build support. The worst thing that older adults can face is the dreaded isolation. Cut off from socializing can damage the brain and weaken a person's sense of self. Feedback from others, like the normal give-and-take of what goes on at the coffee group, is good for the brain. Loneliness dampens the spirit, compared with these coffee groups that are life-affirming and energizing. Having a standing appointment to see each other gives people something to look forward to, something to base their week or month around." So, *see you at Delish on Thursday July 10th at 10:00am.*

An Invitation from the Menzies Institute

Take part in an important **national consultation** on behalf of the **National Health and Medical Research Council**. **Share your views** on how consumers, researchers and communities can be more effectively involved in research decision-making.

- **Help shape national policy** that impacts all Australians.
- **Date:** Saturday, 9th August, 10:00 am – Noon.
- **Location:** Cradle Coast Campus, Rm 126

How to Register:

Visit <https://www.thekids.org.au/roundtables>

Where do you get your news and can you trust it?

National Seniors reports: Among the main sources of news, TV news does still rule, but for the first time since the Australian survey began, social media platforms have overtaken online news as a main source of news. Facebook remains the top social media platform for news consumption overall.

However, online platforms are also regarded as posing a major misinformation threat, with 59% of respondents nominating Facebook, followed by TikTok (57%), X (49%), Instagram (42%), and YouTube (35%).

Encouragingly, when people encounter misinformation, 39% said they turned to trusted news sources to **check the veracity of the information**. This represents good fact-checking practice, which is key to navigating a complex media environment.

For Your Diary

Thursday, July 10th: Coffee at Delish at 10:00am.

Monday, July 21st: Club Meeting at McKenna Park at 10:00am.

Club speaker: David Dean

Guest Speaker: Chris Johnson, Jayben Group: *Creating vehicle technology in Burnie.*

Thursday, July 31st: Lunch at The Greenhouse Restaurant Hellyer College.

12:00 for 12:30

Lunch at The Beijing Restaurant

Fifteen diners enjoyed an excellent Chinese meal.



Images: Bev Hite

PROBUS MONTH

Probus Month in Australia is celebrated throughout October.

The theme for Probus Month in 2025 is **"Reinvent your retirement"**

Probus Clubs across Australia will be celebrating Probus Month with various events and activities, such as picnics, lunches, BBQs, and themed gatherings. These events aim to honour the organization and raise awareness of Probus among retirees and semi-retirees.

What will our Club do??

Can we have a special meeting in October? Should we have a special activity one day? Would we like to have guests at Coffee morning and Thursday Luncheon?

The Committee will be calling for your ideas. Soon.

Penguin progress

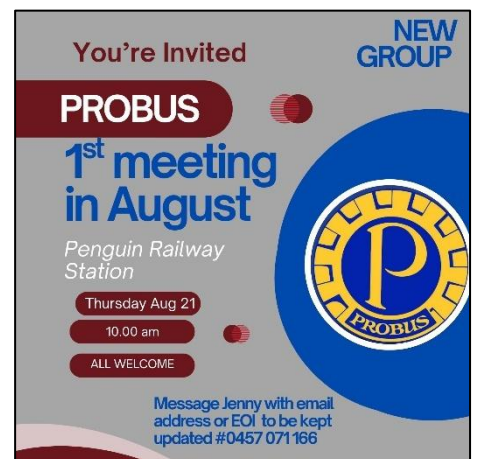
All the signs are good for the formation of Penguin Probus Club.

Jenny Rowden and Leonie Bramich, who share responsibility for secretarial and presidential duties are powering along in conjunction with Probus South Pacific.



The Foundations Committee at work.

Images: Jenny Rowden



The launch of Penguin Probus Club is planned for August 21st.

News

The Club's public address system is operating well. Many thanks to Brian Smith and Peter Ansell who have worked it over. Now, we will all be able to hear clearly!

For Christmas Luncheon on December 8th we will be dining at the Burnie Tennis Club. As always, the South Burnie Bowls Club caterers will provide the meal, but away from their home-base, where renovations will still be in progress.

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