

November  
2025

# PROBUS NEWS

## The Probus Club of Burnie



### *Fun, Fellowship, Friendship*

#### *A Word from the President*

Greetings Gents,

It is hard to believe our meeting this month is our **final regular meeting** for the year, and Summer is only weeks away provided we survive this wet and windy Spring. It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas with our Luncheon at the Burnie Tennis Club on Monday December 8<sup>th</sup> approaching fast.

What a great way to celebrate "**Probus Month**" with a visit last Meeting from Leoonie and Jenny from the Penguin Probus Club, which happily coincided with Penguin's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations. Hopefully the connection between our Clubs will continue to grow over time to our mutual benefit.



**Peter Ansell's illuminating talk on AI** was fascinating and scary; the discussion surrounding AI is at the centre of conversations at all levels around the world. This exciting technology as it continues to roll out has and will change our world forever. It is already impacting on me, "I have deleted sultanas from my diet"!

How fortunate are we, to have **David Dean's vast experience and knowledge** of our Timber and Forestry Industry. It is interesting that the decision makers rarely seem to seek the input and advice of the real experts on a sensible and sustainable way forward. Thank you, David, we look forward to learning more.

**Some interesting observations on life:** Sad has 3 letters as does **Joy**. Fall has 4 letters as does **Rise**. Curse has 5 letters as does **Bless**. Ignore has 6 letters as does **Listen**. Enemies have 7 letters as does **Friends**. Immature has 8 letters as does **Maturity**. Ignorance has 9 letters as does **Knowledge**. Negativity has 10 letters as does **Positivity**. ***You have two realities to choose from; it is up to you!!***

**Food for thought** now the better weather is on the way and daylight savings is happening it is time to get active. I spent 15 minutes on the treadmill today, tomorrow I might even turn it on. Happy walking.  
Best wishes see you hopefully on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>.

*David.*

# Coffee in October

Eighteen hardy coffee lovers braved dreadful weather to enjoy a cuppa and the company of fellow Probians at Delish.



Peter's questions tested everyone's ingenuity. Did you know that computer mouse-speed is measured in *mickeys*????



Ian said, "It might be *mickeys*"



John and Gradus said, "He can't be serious!"



## October Meeting



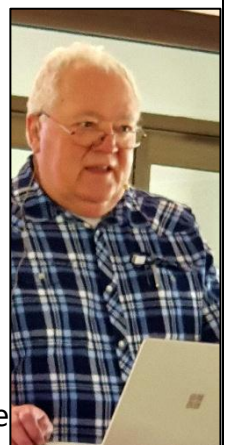
President David gave a very warm welcome to **Penguin Probud** President, Leonie Bramich and Secretary, Jenny Rowden. He congratulated the Penguin club on their establishment, wished them every success for the future and foreshadowed close future co-operation between the two clubs. Jenny responded very graciously, thanking our club for its assistance.

Arthur Holland who is trying out the club, was also made very welcome.

John Packham received an accolade for his recent trip to Queensland, where he presented to the winner, a scholarship in Baking. The award is in memory of John's father who, like John, was a master baker.

A posthumous accolade was recorded for Brian Smith, who is to be recognised at this year's Lions Convention for his many years of service to that organisation.

**Club Speaker Peter Ansell** demonstrated the current power of Artificial Intelligence with some eyebrow-raising examples. Peter attributes AI's remarkable rate of evolution to user acceptance, pointing out that governments are powerless to manage the phenomenon. He illustrated the ability of AI to manipulate attitudes with his Big Sultana experiment, proving that we viewers must be alert, skeptical and even suspicious of what we see. At the same time however, AI agents such as booking clerks, telephone receptionists and information kiosks, being better informed than human operators, are enormously valuable. Peter explained that while there is potential danger in the ability of AI to educate itself, it has evolved critical thinking, so its analysis of issues is unemotional and free of dogmas. Peter will continue this fascinating discussion at a future meeting.



**Guest Speaker David Dean** spoke with great authority about Tasmania's Forestry Industry and the issues which it is facing. David first described how the industry operates – site preparation, planting, fertilising, pest exclusion, thinning, harvesting and preparing for the next crop. He explained how current community sensibilities have created difficulties for foresters, examples being the banning of poisons and snares, and urban objections to smoke in the air.

David next outlined a number of destructive issues confronting the industry. Firstly, he said, far too much Tasmanian forest has been locked up unnecessarily. Eucalypt forests need patient management to be productive and will degenerate if denied this. Secondly, he pointed out that ownership of forestry companies is now in overseas hands so the only return to Tasmania is the payment of royalties and the consequence of exporting our first-grade timber is a shortage of timber here!! Moreover, the manufacturing of timber products has left the state. For example, all veneer is sent away for the making of plywood which we then need to import. As David explained, what was once a booming Tasmanian industry, is now a shadow of its former self. David had time to answer only a few of the many questions which arose from his talk. He intends to bring representatives of various branches of the industry to look further into this important topic.



**Birthday** this month: Ian Lancaster.

### *A pleasing compliment:*

*From Penguin Probus Club's Facebook page (20.10.25)*

*A Great Visit to Burnie Men's Probus Club!*

*What a fantastic morning! Penguin Probus Club representatives, Leonie B and Jenny R, had the pleasure of being invited guests at the Burnie Men's Probus Club today. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how our neighbouring clubs operate and gain some valuable insights.*

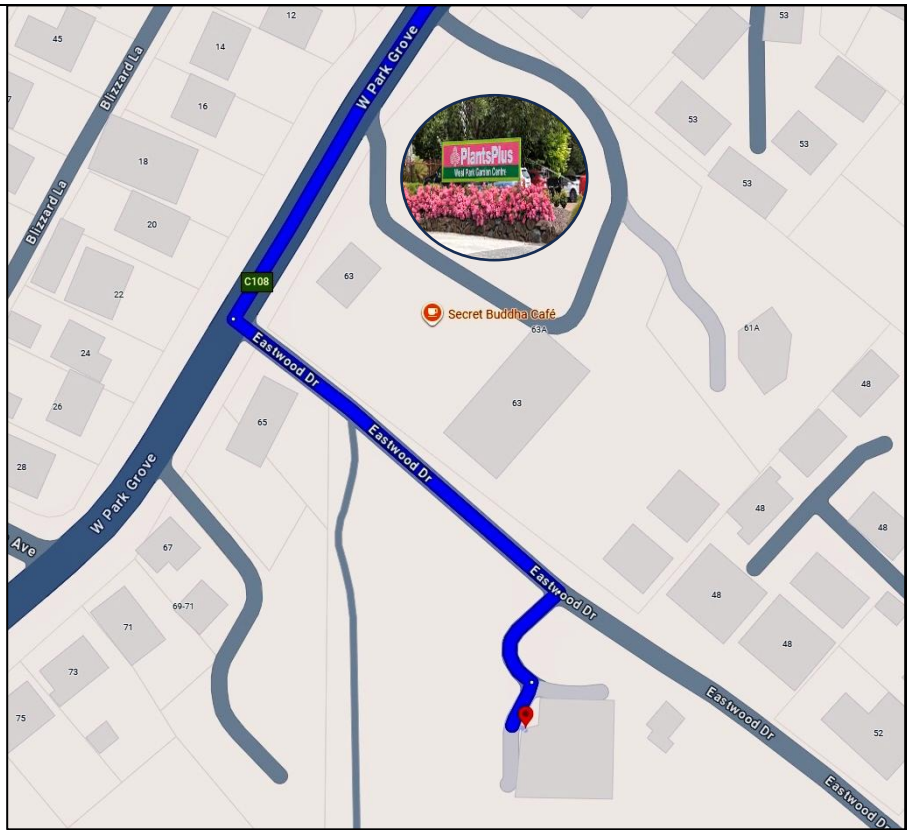
*We received such a warm welcome from the 26 gentlemen who attended – you all made us feel right at home! A huge thank you to John L, who has been a great mentor to our new Penguin Club, and to Peter A for offering his expertise to help us with our website.*

*The speakers were fabulous, covering two fascinating and timely topics: Artificial Intelligence, Peter A. and the Tasmanian Forestry Industry, David D. A truly engaging program!*

*We look forward to ongoing collaboration and friendship between the Penguin Probus Club and the Burnie Men's Probus Club. It's great to be part of the wider Probus community!*

## How to go to the Burnie Tennis Club

Turn left off West Park Grove  
into the first street south of  
the nursery.



## For Your Diary

Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup>: **Coffee** at Delish at 10:00 am.

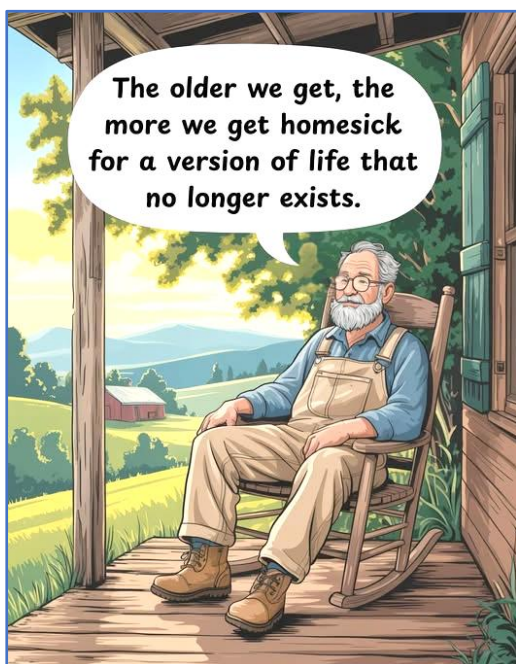
Monday November 17<sup>th</sup>: **Club Meeting** at McKenna Park at 10:00 am.

Club Speaker: Tim McCarthy - *Changes to My Aged Care*.

Guest Speaker: Vanessa Skipworth, *Tasmanian Minerals and Energy Council*.

Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>: **Christmas Luncheon** at Burnie Tennis Club at 12:00 for 12:30.

Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup>: 'Unofficial' **Coffee** at Delish at 10:00 am.



## Club Office Bearers

**President:** David Stevens:

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and Peter Ansell: [pansell@live.com.au](mailto:pansell@live.com.au)

*Remember to visit our club's website*

Just click on this link:

<https://probussouthpacific.org/microsites/burniem>



## *Lunch at Fish on the Edge*



Happy Diners as always

Images: David Stevens



A portrait of pleasure



*Where will we have lunch in January??*

Sam would like to have your suggestions.

Making a payment to the Club.

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

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