

KIAMA DOWNS Men's Probus Club Inc.

Founded in 1986



Newsletter April 2021

Our next General Meeting is on Thursday 1st April at 11am at the James Oates Reserve.

If you cannot make the meetings, please advise the Secretary

Gentlemen,

Greetings to you all and I trust that you are in good spirits as we continue this year with our newly appointed management team at the helm.

I firstly would like to congratulate John and Marcia Brandreth for reaching the amazing milestone of 67 years married. Well done from the Club.



This year I am hoping to engender a little more life into our club. We have been enjoying our outdoor meetings and BBQs, now it is time to broaden our activities, we are exploring possible outings close to home and activities such as croquet. There are some other things or interest that we can do around the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. So, give some thought, all suggestions are considered.

I would also like to see more people participating in our meetings and assisting our office bearers where possible. We have a vacancy for Vice President which needs to be filled. For our meetings John Nash suggested that each of our members give a five to ten minutes talk perhaps starting with our longest time members. We could do two or three at each meeting.

We also have the issue of PSPL Capitation fee. As you already know we have requested a breakdown of the fee pertaining mainly to insurance premiums. We had a blanket response which avoided the request and another brief response comparing our fee with NZ with the difference being attributed to the insurance cover costs. At the April meeting we need to seriously discuss what we do next and ultimately what we want to achieve.

I look forward to our gatherings and working together as a group in the pursuance of fun friendship and fellowship.

Mervyn Clifton
President

Treasurer's report for March 2021

Opening Balance		\$ 547.99
Plus		
Annual Subs	\$ 225.00	
Door	\$ 54.00	\$ 279.00
Total		\$ 826.99
Less		
BBQ Expense		\$ 44.69
Closing Balance		\$ 782.30

Barry Spooner

Reminder, Annual subscription of \$25

Banking details

Subscriptions and other payments are best made direct to the IMB using these details

BSB 641 800
Account number 200881758
Reference your surname

Name of the Club is not essential

* Alternatively pay the Treasurer *

Barry Spooner, Treasurer

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
IN April 2021**

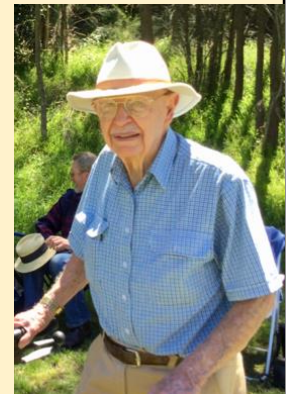
The Club sends its very best wishes to these members for lots of happiness on their birthdays and anniversaries

Partner's birthdays

9th April Norma Davey

Anniversaries

15th April, John & Marcia Brandreth (67 years married)



Current Officers and helpers 2020/ 2021

- President - Mervyn Clifton
- Vice President - Volunteer needed
- Past President- David Bourke
- Treasurer - Barry Spooner
- Events Co-ordinator- Ron Hills
- Catering -Barry Mather and friends, Geoff Orgill and Archie.
- Secretary - Howard Massey
- Attendance - John Porter & Roy Barwick
- Auditor- David Bourke
- Welfare -Brian Divers
- Speakers - John Nash
- Historian -Archie Walker
- Newsletter - Howard Massey

Ron Hills notes - Roo Theatre - A Midsummer Night's Dream (perhaps not as Shakespeare intended) starting 30 April 2021. Evening and matinees are being performed. Details and bookings by individual members.

Be proud of our Club - Some truisms - you will know others

The club's record of membership retention over 35 years would be hard to beat

80% meeting attendance

Punched above its weight - we have achieved a dialogue with PSPL at *Chairman of Director* level. PSPL is just a frustration to many clubs. We talk to them.

We are autonomous in running the club

A strong golfing activity

Objective to welcome more members

The original and worldwide concept for Probus is that Clubs are autonomous, are simple in structure, and run at minimal cost, free of constraints".

Be careful about reading health books.
You may die of a misprint - Mark Twain

What does Probus share with “au pairs”

The UK’s au pair childcare programme is at risk of disappearing as a result of new post-Brexit immigration rules. ie regulation.



An estimated 45,000 families in the UK, including many key workers such as doctors, nurses and police, rely on the longstanding au pair cultural exchange programme for affordable childcare.

Regulation strikes - With the end of EU free movement this year, au pairs have been categorised as “skilled workers” under the UK’s points-based immigration system alongside nannies and childcare workers,

The “Au Pair” System is simple and unregulated - The Chair of the British Au Pair Agencies Association said the new regime was not suitable for the au pair system, which was originally conceived as a simple cultural exchange programme for 18 to 26-year-olds. Before Brexit, au pairs — more than 90 per cent of whom came from the EU and European Economic Area countries — received board and lodging, a contribution towards English language classes and £100 a week “pocket money” in exchange for about 25 hours of childcare per week. Now, regulation puts the “au pair” concept in danger.

The original culture for Probus was also simple - *“Probus Clubs are autonomous and are simple in structure, to run at minimal cost and free of the constraints”*. However, in 1981 in the South Pacific and Rotary set up “Probus Centre South Pacific” (PCSP), with the best of intentions, to “optimise efforts to service Probus clubs and form new clubs”. Later (2011) the role was changed to a public company “Probus South Pacific Limited”, (PSPL) having the care, custody and control of the Probus brand and symbol. Thus, Probus clubs became regulated. In the last 11 years membership has reduced by over 60,000 members.

Regulation does not always serve us well. It could be time to get back to basics for Probus in the South Pacific and for the Au Pair culture in Europe. It is worth noting that the original concept for Probus continues in the UK without a central body and is sustaining itself very well.

Down at the Golf Course



March on the golf course loomed full of promise with no less than 5 Tuesdays occurring in the month. It was also the month the last of our fraternity would break his duck in competition wins. The question was would somebody win a second event before this happened. Well yes. Dennis followed up his good form at the end of February by also taking out the first event in March.

The next Tuesday was taken up by Vets but we returned to the fray the following week. In a nail-biting finish (scores even and countback applied) Arch Walker notched up his second win from our hapless colleague who had to wait a little longer for his maiden victory. The 4th Tuesday was abandoned due to 200mm of rain although the course was quite playable the following day unlike Port Kembla where lakes were visible as I drove past. The fifth and final Tuesday has been taken by a special Vets event so that's it for this month. Archie wins his first monthly medal which he can affix to the front of his cart - but only for a month.

This year saw the introduction of a new quarterly prize, a Bunnings voucher for \$50 on this occasion. Each competition week the first three players gain an entry so we have 24 tickets in play. The winner to be announced soon.

David Shield

Golfers got balls

The old Scots, golfer paced up and down outside the emergency room of the East Lothian Hospital near Muirfield Golf Course, Scotland.

Inside, the doctors were operating to remove a golf ball accidentally driven down a player's throat.

The sister in charge noticed the quite agitated golfer who was waiting and went to reassure him. "It won't be long now" she said quietly, "Are you a relative?"

He replied, not so quietly, "Oh, no lassie –it's my ball!"



PECULIAR ISN'T IT? THE QUEEN, WHO HAS REIGNED FOR ALMOST 70 YEARS AND HAS MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS WITH 13 PRIME MINISTERS, MULTIPLE DIFFERENT HEADS OF STATE, SUDDENLY HAS A PROBLEM WITH A MINOR TV STAR WHO IS ON A SECOND MARRIAGE, DOESN'T SPEAK WITH HER FATHER AND SIBLINGS, AND HAS HAD NUMEROUS FALL OUTS WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES. TOUGH CALL TO DECIDE WHO THE PROBLEM IS HERE.



This picture reminded me of the one that I used to have. I had to get rid of it. They're cute and look harmless but they are loud, incredibly expensive to keep, and absolutely untrainable!

The other one is a kangaroo. I don't know anything about kangaroos.

An “older” couple are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember . . .

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, so write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

'Where's my toast?'

This is a quiz for people who know everything - check your answers at the meeting

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

GRAFFITI WALL



This guy was idly walking along the beach when we came across a lamp partially buried in the sand. He picked it up and, on an impulse, gave it a rub and, sure enough, a genie appeared and told him he had been granted one wish.

He thought for a moment and said, "I want to live forever." "Sorry," said the genie, "I'm not allowed to grant eternal life."

"Okay then, I want to die after our government balances the budget, eliminates debt and stamps out corruption."

You sneaky blighter..." said the genie.

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.'

The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.'

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'



'I'm not going to be caught out again by lockdown. I'm moving in with my hairdresser'

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.
Groucho Marx



Barry Spooners clever play with words . . .

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.

Practice safe eating - always use condiments.

Shotgun wedding - A case of wife or death.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.

What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead give away.)

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

In democracy your vote counts.

In feudalism your count votes.

She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist - You get repossessed

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

not finished yet

Just a few more

A lot of money is tainted - Taint yours and taint mine.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia - the LAN down under.

Every calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted - Taint yours and taint

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.

Once you've seen one shopping centre - You've seen a mall.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture is a jab well done

Thanks Barry (Spooner) - isn't Barry a Treasurer

