



# Kiama Downs Men's Probus Club Inc.

## HELLO 2021

**GREETINGS to members of Kiama Downs Men's Probus Club Inc. This edition of our Newsletter covers events and activities in January and February 2021**

Our next General Meeting is on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 11am the James Oates Reserve. If you cannot make it, please let Secretary Howard know



I wish a happy New Year to you all and trust that you had a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year spending some time with family and friends and of course good food and lots of presents. Personally, I had a wonderful Christmas, one of the best ever. Our family were down for four days and we thoroughly enjoyed all the usual activities and played indoor games when the weather was not so good.

The club's Christmas celebration lunch at Kiama Leagues Club went very well considering we were a little down on numbers and had some COVID restrictions to follow. I feel that the food was the best out of the four years that I have attended. Well done to Ron Hills and his team.

I hope that you are all ready for more outdoor meetings and maybe some other activities that we were unable to participate in during 2020. Please remember that the 4<sup>th</sup> of March meeting is our AGM and I expect there to be some energetic jostling for positions on the management team. Please give serious thoughts to nominations. Current Officers are tabulated below.

As a matter of interest, I have compiled a list of past Presidents from the Collar of Office and we thought it worthy of including in this Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all at James Oates Reserve on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February. Stay safe, stay well.

*Mervyn Clifton, President*

### **Current Officers**

President - Mervyn Clifton

Treasurer - Barry Spooner

Secretary - Howard Massey

Newsletter - Howard Massey

Past President- David Bourke

Speakers -John Nash

Welfare -Brian Divers

Events Co-ordinator- Ron Hills

Catering -Barry Mather

Attendance -David Westgate

Historian -Archie Walker

Auditor- David Bourke

## Christmas Lunch and 2020 closure

In spite of the Covid pandemic 40 members and guests enjoyed a great afternoon of fun and entertainment being a fitting closure to a very challenging year.

Because of the ban on singing "Probus has Talent" was without our usual choirs but we still enjoyed the poems and stories from Thelma Allman, Roy Barwick, Mal Bracken, Brian Divers, Ron Haddon, John Porter, Barry Spooner, and not forgetting Archie Walker gathering of members on the floor for the annual closing rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

Food and service was excellent and door prizes brought a smile to the faces of our members.

*Cheers, Ron Hills*

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2021

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

### Members birthdays

10th January	Barry Laing
24th January	Brian Divers
26th January	Ron Hills
6th February	Les Davey
7th February	David Bourke
17th February	Arch Walker

### Partner's birthdays

21st February	Heather Shield
5th February	Diane Westgate

### Anniversaries

8th January	Ray & Wendy King
13th January	Merv & Lindy Clifton
25th January	Nigel & Sylvia Hicks
25th January	David & Diane Westgate
26th January	David & Heather Shield
29th January	John & Margaret Porter
2nd February	Arch and Ann Walker

**The Annual General Meeting of Kiama Downs Men's Probus Club Inc. will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 11am at a venue to be decided.**

Nominations for positions on the Management Committee should be provided to the Secretary as soon as possible.

## Treasurer's Report at 31 December 2020

Treasurers Report December 2020			
Opening Balance		\$ 1,311.41	
Plus			
Annual Subs	\$ 25.00		
Christmas Party	\$ 783.00		
Interest	\$ 0.01	\$ 808.01	
Total		\$ 2,119.42	
Less			
Christmas Party	\$ 1,360.00		
BBQ Expense	\$ 55.00	\$ 1,415.00	
Closing Balance		\$ 704.42	

## Banking details

We bank with the IMB

Payments need to include . . .

**BSB 641 800**

**Account number 200881758**

**Your reference ie.. your surname.**

Name of the Club is not essential

*Barry Spooner, Treasurer*

**Brian Divers** reports having taken and passed his aged driving test. Evidently Brian was accredited with being "not the best driver in NSW". Therefore, Brian deduces that he must be second best. Maybe just look both ways twice when crossing Oxley Avenue.



Help

Insulated water container found after the last BBQ meeting ? To whom does it belong?

# Past Presidents and Present Priorities

Here's list of our Presidents from the inauguration of the Club, back in 1986, to the present day.

Year	Name
1986	Jack Mallion
1987	Jack Mallion
1988	Keith Parker
1989	Bert Amos
1990	Max Hanna
1991	Jack Tibbert (known as "Curly")
1992	Fred Hutton
1993	Gordon Rutherford
1994	Les Davey
1995	Trevor Davies
1996	John Martin
1997	Harry Smith
1998	John Lothian
1999	Bert Deveson
2000	Kevan Whalan
2001	Ron Hills
2002	Peter Allman
2003	George Coroneos
2004	Roy Barwick
2005	Norm Sharpless
2006	John Nash
2007	John Brandreth
2008	Peter Jones
2009	Brian Colquhoun
2010	David Probert
2011	Barry Mather
2012	Neville Sully
2013	Neil Matheson
2014	Graham Arthur
2015	David Carus
2016	Terry Sharman
2017	Arch Walker
2018	Mal Bracken
2019	Rob Stubbs
2019	David Bourke
2020	Mervyn Clifton (36 <sup>h</sup> )
2021	

## About the PROBUS Organization

PROBUS is an association of retired persons who join together in autonomous clubs throughout the world.

The basic purpose of a PROBUS Club is to provide regular gatherings for those who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and of similar levels of interest. Clubs may be established as men or women only or mixed.

There is no compulsion to attend any number of meetings. Participation in various activities is encouraged to get the most value for your membership.

### Kiama Downs Men's Probus Club Inc (established 1986) and Probus South Pacific Limited (established 2011)

*An update - Members may recall that about this time last year we ran an informal survey on member's attitude to PSPL. The main outcome was that the amount of the capitalised fee for service was questioned. The Club's management adopted this matter by writing to PSPL requesting details of its compilation. We received a three page letter in response but it lacked any of the detail that we had requested. So, we wrote directly to the PSPL Chairman, Mr David Simpson, repeating our request. At the time of writing (26 January 2021) no response has been received to that letter.*

*PSPL has the nominal power of accreditation of Probus Clubs and the use of the Probus trademark. It is evident that PSPL takes the view that Probus clubs are effectively required to support its solvency despite the fact that there is no contractual or other legal obligation to do so. Clubs are required to pay a reasonable fee for service.*

*At this time PSPL's service has been reduced largely to providing annual insurance cover, a reduced digital Active Retirees magazine and emails as deemed necessary.*

*We need to decide how to go forward.*

### The role of the Liaison Committee

Liaison groups exist to optimise the activities of the thirteen clubs involved ie. Albion Park/Oak Flats, Blackbutt Flinders, Gerringong, Kiama Beachside Ladies, Kiama Downs Men's, Kiama Men's (Choir), Kiama Harbour Combined, Kiama Seaside, Kiama Mixed, Oak Flats, Shellcove Combined, and Shellharbour.

An(other) entity with autocratic tendencies



Did you know that it took more than two hours to do it, but a group of volunteers managed to avoid having their faces caught by one of the 89 spy cameras on

a 1.1 km stretch of road in Beijing? Moving slowly and carefully along the pavement, some crouched, others tilted their heads towards the ground, as curious onlookers snapped photos. By 2018, there were already about 200 million surveillance cameras in China. And by 2021 this number is expected to reach 560 million, according to the Wall Street Journal, roughly one for every 2.4 citizens.

*..and something else to be wary of ....*

*Did you know that more than 8,500 Australians are hospitalised and about 550 die annually from causes linked to cat dependent diseases each year?*

Toxoplasmosis (T. gondii), cat roundworm and cat scratch disease are caused by pathogens that depend on cats and the economic cost of these pathogens in Australia is more than \$6 billion per year. The T. gondii parasite (from cat poo) stays with us for life, encased in a cyst, often in the brain effecting routine mental functions. There is no cure. Roundworm infections cause mild symptoms, but can cause tissue damage, which can be serious if it occurs in a place like the eye or heart.



Cat scratch disease is a bacterial infection with typical symptoms of sores, fevers, aches and swollen glands. But more serious symptoms, such as inflammation of heart tissue, cysts in the organs and loss of vision can also occur. So, cat owners should take care. Wash your hands when handling them, avoid scratches and contact with cat litter (when gardening too) and isolate your cat when outdoors. Do not feed them raw meat as that can be a source of T. gondii.

AVAILABLE

### **Norway becomes the first country to sell more electric than petrol cars**

Electric car sales in December set and monthly record in Norway with 66.7% of Console. Electric vehicles accounted for 54% all the new car market's last year from 42% are you earlier.

The four best selling models in the Nordic nation were the Audi e-tron, the Tesla Model 3, the VW ID 3 and the Nissan Leaf - all fully electric. and in this English or fully electric



## Probus Golf 2020

We started this year with only five names on the playing list, high quality names but not many of them. Covid 19 made things grim for a while when we weren't allowed to touch the rakes, the bubblers, the flags or even each other. Worst of all we weren't allowed in the club for refreshment. However, we negotiated our way through and managed to finish the year with seven players when Dennis re-joined for the second half of the year and Arch Walker was coaxed out of retirement.



We also had some guests though the year and even managed to field three groups on a couple of occasions. Our six monthly and annual awards have been determined as set out below.

The final monthly medal went to Dennis Price. Through the year Barry Laing and David Shield won 3 each with Covid 19 awarded two titles. Most balls won in 6 months returned to David S with 27 from Barry on 24 and John Porter and Dennis Price on 20 apiece.

The ironman award was a 3 way tie but as current titleholder was retained by Ron Hills (photo). This makes it his 4th time in a row and was only beaten in a dodgy countback on the other occasions. It was determined to make this highly esteemed trophy a permanent fixture in the Hills household.

The 2020 eclectic trophy was decided in the last round. David Bourke narrowly lost the title last year to Barry by 0.1 of a shot and led into the final round. David S managed a birdie on hole 14 to move 0.1 shots ahead only to have Dennis Price also make up a shot on the same hole to go 0.1 in front of David S. Mr Bourke was relegated to third spot by 0.2 and 0.1 shots.

The final trophy is the best average points score for the year with 3 players averaging over 30 points. Barry Laing was third with 30.58 behind Dennis Price who had a strong finish to the year to average 31.4. However once the numbers were tallied David Bourke emerged the winner with an average of 31.416. Yes he won by 0.016 which was only fitting after narrow losses in other events.

The 2021 competition is underway with seven on the books plus guests. Who else will make a comeback in 2021. Stay tuned.

*David Shield, Golf Convenor*



Have you ever heard of pardalotes? Very few have, yet these thumb-sized birds are quintessentially Australian. Their diet is unusual, comprising mostly the sweet manna that seeps from eucalypt foliage, and "lerp", the sugary coating of psyllid insects (a specialised group of bugs). They track these resources with the seasons but of the four species, one is now endangered through loss of habitat.

## RNA Vaccines

Vaccination is one of the major success stories of modern medicine, greatly reducing the incidence of infectious diseases such as measles, and eradicating others, such as smallpox. Conventional vaccine approaches have not been as effective against rapidly evolving pathogens like influenza or emerging disease threats such as the Ebola or Zika viruses. RNA based vaccines could have an impact in these areas due to their shorter manufacturing times and greater effectiveness. Beyond infectious diseases, RNA vaccines have potential as novel therapeutic options for major diseases such as cancer.

### Summary

- Unlike a normal vaccine, RNA vaccines work by introducing an mRNA sequence (the molecule which tells cells what to build) which is coded for a disease specific antigen, once produced within the body, the antigen is recognised by the immune system, preparing it to fight the real thing
- RNA vaccines are faster and cheaper to produce than traditional vaccines, and a RNA based vaccine is also safer for the patient, as they are not produced using infectious elements
- Production of RNA vaccines is laboratory based, and the process could be standardised and scaled, allowing quick responses to large outbreaks and epidemics
- Most current research is into RNA vaccines for infectious diseases and cancer, for which there are several early-stage clinical trials, there is also some early research into the potential of RNA vaccines for allergies
- There is still a lot of work to be done before mRNA vaccines can become standard treatments, in the meantime, we need a better understanding of their potential side effects, and more evidence of their long term efficacy.

### Galway Irish Pub

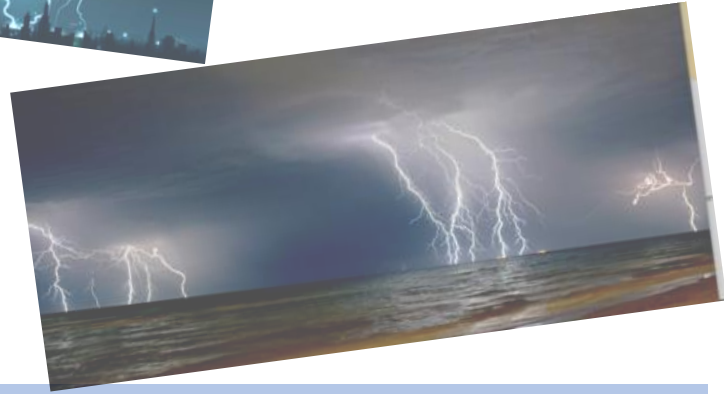
"As good as this bar is," said the Scotsman, "I still prefer the pubs back home. In Glasgow , there's a wee place called McTavish's....  
The landlord goes out of his way for the locals.  
When you buy **four drinks, he'll buy the fifth drink.**"

"Well, Angus," said the Englishman, "At my local in London ,  
the Red Lion, the barman will buy you your **third drink after you buy the first two.**"

"Ahhh, dat's nothin'," said Paddy Sheehan, the Irishman. "Back home in me favourite pub in Galway , the moment you set foot in the place, they'll buy you a drink, then another, all the drinks you like, actually. Then, when you've had enough drinks, they'll take you upstairs and see dat you get laid, all on the house!"

The Englishman and Scotsman were suspicious of the claims.  
"Did this actually happen to you?"

"Not meself, personally, no," admitted the Irishman, "but it did happen to me sister quite a few times."



### **Fulgurite and Faraday - fast facts about lightning**

What is Fulgurite you ask. Well, if you were on a beach and lightning struck the sand and not yourself you might see some created. When lightning hits the ground and particularly beaches, the mineral sands are fused and vitrified. The resulting product varies widely depending on types and volume of mineral sands.

Faraday on the other hand keeps you safe in your car from lightning. You are not protected by your rubber tyres but by being enclosed in a metal cage acting as a rudimentary Faraday cage. Lightning finds the fastest way to the ground via the car's metal shell and loses interest in your frail being. Another reason not to buy a convertible.

Lightning bolts are said to be only 20 to 30 ml thick despite their appearance to the naked eye. I'm just not clear on how they measure that but sure sounds like a dangerous enterprise. The average bolt is about 3 miles in length and travels relatively slowly compared to the speed of light. A bolt will take 0.00066 seconds to reach you, but you will see it 2,481 times sooner. Not really comforting is it.

So where do you shelter from lightning. Your home away from metal pipes or in your car are best. If in the open don't head for trees. The advice is to make yourself as low and small as possible. You should not prostrate yourself on the ground but rather crouch down as low to the ground as possible. Don't know about you but crouching is a little difficult nowadays. Might be best if you are in the open to have John Porter nearby. He always claims he only has bad luck which could represent good fortune for yourself.

David Shield



Ron Chestna, 89 years of age was stopped by police around 2asm and was asked where was he was going at that time of night.

Ron replied that "I'm on me way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects they have on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late.

The Officer asked who was giving such a lecture at the time of night.

Ron replied "That'd be da wife" !



**DILL:**

We had to have the garage door repaired.

The repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener.

I thought for a minute and said that we had the largest one made at that time, a half a horsepower.

He shook his head and said, 'You need a 1/4 horsepower.'

I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said, 'Nooo, it's not. Four is larger than two.'

**We haven't used that repairman since. This happened in Ipswich, Queensland.**



**"Sorry Arthur, your answer was actually correct, but Paul shouted his opinion louder so he gets the point. And an extra bonus point also goes to Sue as she was offended by your answer".**