

# KIAMA DOWNS Men's Probus Club Inc.

Founded in 1986

President Mervyn Clifton



## Newsletter

October 2021

The October General Meeting cannot be held due to the obligatory restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic but there will be a virtual meeting by Zoom - see the President's address

*Greetings everyone,*

I trust that you are all comfortable in this Lockdown environment or at least putting up with it. Hopefully we are approaching the end of the current hard lockdown which should occur on the Monday after NSW has reached 70% double dose of a COVID vaccination. Then up to 20 double dosed members will be able to meet outdoors for our November meeting, fingers crossed.

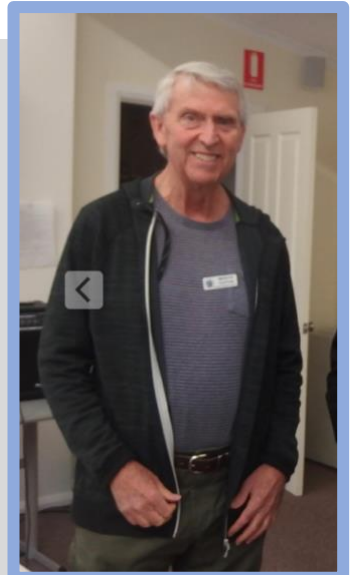
**Meanwhile there will a Zoom meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 10.00am.** This will be a short informal chat followed by a 25 minute presentation by Ron Parkinson from Kiama Men's Probus about the defence of Darwin from Japanese attacks during WW2. Some further information is found in the Newsletter. Try to be available.

As you are aware we lost a valued member on 27<sup>th</sup> August with the passing of David Carus after a long illness. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to his wife Jean and their family as they come to terms with their loss.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> October it will be the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our club. I guess that we will have to toast the club individually and celebrate at home. Also remember that it is the self-proclaimed "PROBUS" day on 1<sup>st</sup> October and I'm sure that will excite you all. So, well done to everyone and the club for reaching the 35 year milestone.

Best wishes to you all and your families.

*Merv Clifton - President*





### **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**Very best wishes to these members  
during October**

#### **Member's Birthdays**

1<sup>st</sup> John Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ray King  
5<sup>th</sup> David Westgate  
7<sup>th</sup> Dennis Price  
18<sup>th</sup> David Carus  
23<sup>rd</sup> George Early  
29<sup>th</sup> Barry Mather

#### **Partner's birthdays**

13<sup>th</sup> Jean Carus  
16<sup>th</sup> Judy Carr  
25<sup>th</sup> Ann Walker

#### **Anniversaries**

18<sup>th</sup> David and Jean Carus

#### **Significant Membership**

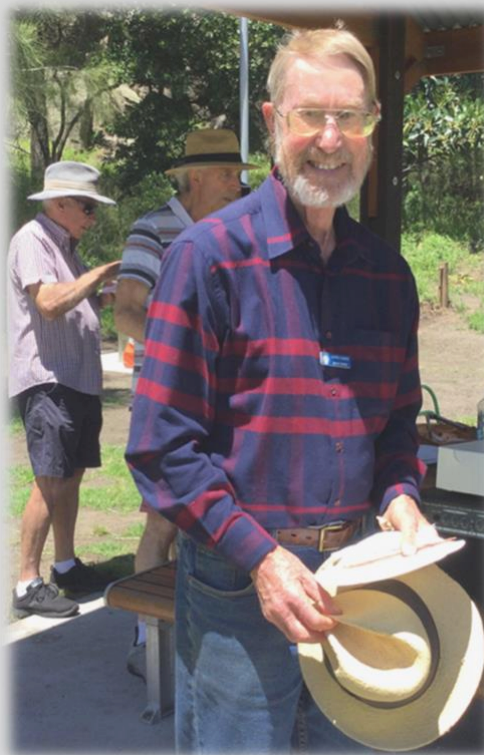
6<sup>th</sup> October Arch Walker 27 years

### **Valé David Carus**

David Carus was inducted at the General Meeting on 4 July 2013 and was the Club's President in 2015/2016 also the club's representative at liaison meetings for a year.

David possessed a dry humour and will be remembered for tales ranging from horse racing, his ancestors in the UK and to a mouse in his bedside table.

We wish David a peaceful journey and perhaps to meet again in some other place.

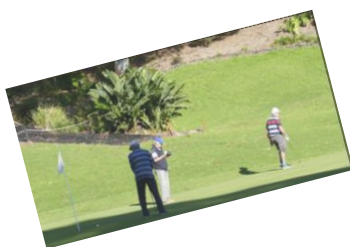
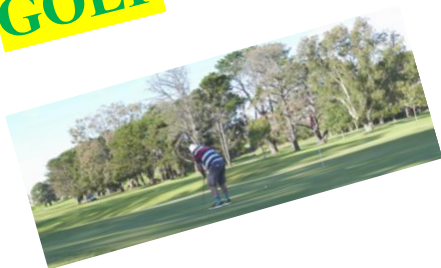


### **Presentation by Ron Parkinson**

Ron is a 17 year member from Kiama Men's Probus and held the roles of President in 2012 and Secretary for two years.

Ron took a personal interest in Darwin's role in the war. Ron's father served in the air force and was lost in 1945 in an air accident in the Territory. So, Ron's interest is both historic and personal as he tells the story of the air war and his father's role.

# GOLF



"You think you're having a bad game?  
I'm looking for a bowling ball!"

The Probus golfers have battled on through lockdowns, excluded players and ever changing rules. We have only managed one event since the last newsletter where John Porter put together a good round after listening closely to my tips on putting and then adopting an alternate strategy. His 39 points on 7 Sep puts him in a good position for the next monthly medal which is now awarded on a quarterly basis. I told you it was strange times.

We eventually held the draw for the Winter prize voucher in a well attended event in the car park where all our presentations are now held. The winner was drawn under strict supervision with an independent auditor but Ron Hills still managed to waltz away with the BWS voucher and vowed to pay a visit on the way home.

The club has introduced a new booking system which means we have to arrange for 3 different members to book instead of just one. It's like herding veritable cats. From Monday 20th we can play in groups of 4 again as long as you have had both shots of a vaccine. The great unvaxed still play in pairs so the timesheet has to have a mix of 4 and 2 person slots. How do we cope?

All these changes and mask rules have Archie not knowing if he is Arthur or Martha. When he was riding with Sir Ron Hills they both wore masks. When forced to one person carts Archie continued to wear his mask and was going quite well until Barry pointed out he no longer had to wear it. Arch removed it and started to play poorly so he put it back on again but still couldn't putt. At the conclusion we found he had it on upside down so no wonder the putts weren't going in. Now he plays with a tam o'shanter from his extensive range with a blue surgical mask under his chin. A sight to behold.

The final piece of woe concerns the wall of orange trumpet creeper which has adorned the 17th tee for as long as anyone can remember and is particularly colourful at this time of year. The savage winds in August reduced the once proud wall of green and orange to it's contorted version below.

Many will be aware this feature is no more. Gone. Kaputski! I have stood on this tee and watched some of our greats of yesteryear play this penultimate hole. The silky smooth skills of Ray King, the precision of Nash and Brandreth and the craft of Geoff Orgill. I have watched Ron Haddon summon all his talent to tame this hole and the mercurial Roy Barwick defiant and undaunted by it's length. Our current players and those champions of yesteryear I never got to play with will mourn its loss.



Now we can see the cars along Federal Ave staring at us as we line up our drives. Please replant it. Soon.

Cheers . . . . David S



## Diversions from Ron Hills and David Shield



This is Bruce Wayne and Kevin having been rejuvenated with a fresh coat of paint. Just another way you can pass time during lockdown  
Ron Hills

... and David relates ...Earlier this week at doggy park we had a visit from an echidna. He found himself in open country and decided to dig in where he was and wait for nightfall before continuing. We formed a loose protective circle around said monotreme to keep curious pups at bay but failed to apply dog logic. After chasing a ball or having a tug of war the dogs would look up and ask themselves why their food and shelter providers were gathered up there. We had better go and see what's up. The more constructive plan was to escort dogs to other parts of the park for activities.

On the subject of monotremes, we know there are only two, the platypus and the echidna and are mostly found only in Australia. The echidna has been classified into 4 different types. Three long beak models which are only found in New Guinea known as eastern, western and Sir David (yes it was named after Mr Attenborough). The shorter beak model is found throughout Australia with some small populations in New Guinea.

We also know that baby echidnas are called puggles but people also use the term for baby platypuses seeing as they are just as cute. There is no official term for a young platypus. David S..



A couple of unrelated articles of interest...

**A Covid-induced rancour** has broken out between Sydney's commercial radio shock-jocks, (principally 2GB's Ray Hadley and SKY's Alan Jones). Under normal circumstances this would be quite funny, but behind all this spittle-flecked slanging there is a serious issue: the disproportionate political power of a small group of radio and television broadcasters throughout Australia. It is not conservatism, as they like to claim, but rank reactionaryism [is there such a word?] which some voters in marginal electorates find very appealing. That is what has given these jocks political power incommensurate with their position in Australia's democratic institutional arrangements. It is hardly a surprise then that politicians procrastinate and prevaricate when it comes to Covid control – decisions about lockdowns and vaccination roll-outs. It affects us all.

### **Work on unearthing a 2000 year old**

**city**, similar to Pompeii, has begun.

Falerii Novi lies buried beneath agricultural fields and olive groves 50km from Rome and detailed ground-penetrating radar mapping (pictured) indicates a city which was occupied through Roman



antiquity to the 6th or 7th Centuries. The city was founded by Rome in 241 BCE, following the defeat of a revolt led by the inhabitants of nearby Falerii Veteres (now Civita Castellana). When and how Falerii Novi became buried remains a mystery. How did such a large walled city become covered in so much soil? And what happened in late antiquity to cause its abandonment? The current dig may answer those questions. 120 small test pits have revealed ceramics and glassware dated from the city's establishment, to Post Roman occupancy, with pieces of shimmering, iridescent green-glazed medieval pottery. Work will continue in 2022 when the first large trenches are opened and a new view of life at Roman Falerii Novi is illuminated.



History always has some interest, so here is an extract from a General Meeting held in December 2012 (the unusual copy is caused by it being a photograph of a page from a Minute book that refused to lie flat on a scanning plate).

80

Kiama Downs Men's Probus Club  
opened the meeting and congratulated birthday and anniversary members and wives.  
Alan Cox was later introduced by Les Davey as a guest.  
Apologies: David Probert and Peter Allman (possibly a latecomer).  
Previous Month's Minutes read and confirmed.  
Correspondence Inwards:  
1. Probus Centre: Proposed Amendments to the Constitution  
2. Kiama Council: Aust. Day Awards  
3. \*\*Letter to Alb. Pk/Oak Flats Probus Club returned.  
Fliers: Shoalhaven Cruises, Arcadians Theatre Group  
Correspondence Out:  
Invitations to Widows to Christmas Luncheon; M. Steel, L. Southern, G. Stevenson, t. Janson and V. Hoskins.  
Letter of appreciation to Alb. Park/Oak Flats Probus Club re- District Luncheon\*\*  
Treasurer's Report: Treasurer reported a Balance of \$707.77  
Moved Spooner/Porter That the Report be accepted. C/d  
Attendance: Cedric reported 29 members, 80%  
Welfare: Bill McLean hopes to get into Hospital soon for his hip operation.  
Ron Hills reported that former member Les Bishop has succumbed to dementia.  
Bulletin: All OK and Peter thanked members for the good wishes re- hip operation  
Liaison: President Neville reported that the General Manager and Treasurer of Probus South Pacific attended the Meeting but little was learned. Membership has declined by 13,000.  
Catering: All ok.  
Visits and Entertainment: Ron Hills outlined the New Year's program:  
1. Visit to Capitol Theatre in March  
2. Croquet on 11th or 18th February.  
3. John Nash was congratulated and received the Golf Safari Trophy for the Four Days of Golf while he and Ray King were equal and outstanding recipients of the Turkey Trophy.  
4. Christmas Luncheon arrangements were outlined and volunteers dragooned into becoming choir masters.  
Speakers:  
Les Davey outlined the day's Program and then the February Speakers:  
Guest Speaker: S.E.S. Officer with Vote of thanks from Bill Martin  
Ten Minute Spkr: Neil Matheson.  
General Business:  
1. Vote on Proposed Amendments to the Constitution: After brief introductions by President and Secretary and some discussion:  
Moved Porter/Brandreth that the Club votes against Amendments 8 and 9 and pass the remainder. C/d  
2, Vice-President Neil Matheson spoke briefly on the need for officers for the coming year at the AGM in March.  
10 Minute Speaker: Frank Hickey was absent and Graham Arthur stepped into the breach and gave an enlightening, emoti and heart-felt resume of B. & B's, accommodations from the Grampians to Qld  
Graham's talk was much enjoyed and struck more than a few chords.  
Morning Tea.  
Guest Speaker: Garry McKay spoke on "Vietnam Today" and gave an absorbing talk on his war experiences after being conscripted in 1968 and serving until 1998. Garry has written four books on Vietnam, created many oral histories and run "Vietnam Today Tours". Garry's graphic descriptions of some battles, the historic scenes visited since and the human and economic costs of the wars were followed by experiences today as a tour guide and the situation in Vietnam, especially a tourist would find them  
Vote of Thanks: Roy Barwick congratulated Garry on his talk and discovered another family connection before present Speaker with traditional thank-you gift.  
President Nev closed the meeting at 11.05 and wished all well, especially from his soon-to-be bed in hospital.



## Graffiti Wall



GBShaw "The English are not a very spiritual people, so they invented cricket to give them some idea of eternity."

**Fun** should be spontaneous right? Well, no. When it is, it does bring the joy of the unexpected, but conscientious scheduling of fun into our lives is important. Life can feel like you're stuck on autopilot if you don't. The joy of spontaneity can be replaced by the buzz of anticipation and simple scheduled pleasures can enliven us. It could be the watching of a favourite TV show, a walk in the great outdoors, relaxing with a good book or just getting together with friends for a cuppa'. Indeed the simple things are great relationship builders. Plato said, "You can discover more about a person in one hour of play than you can in a year of conversation." We ignore play too much. More complex planning, such as events for which you need to book tickets, or planning a dinner party also need to be dotted between the simple activities. ... And then, holiday planning is another dimension. But learn to play and learn to laugh every day, otherwise the minutiae of life take over.



Recently noticed on a wall in London

**"Guy Fawkes Lives"**