

# KIAMA DOWNS MEN'S PROBUS CLUB inc.

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

President Mervyn Clifton

Vice President David Bourke

Newsletter Howard Massey

**The November General Meeting** is to be held at the Anglican Church Hall Minnamurra on Thursday 2nd November at 10am. If you are unable to attend, please advise Howard on 0479 193 246 or <hafmassey@gmail.com>

### From the President . . .

Greetings fellow Probian. First and foremost, my thanks go to David Bourke for standing in for me during my time in WA. I hear that David did a sterling Presidential job.

The trip to WA was sooner than planned as some of you know my brother is not very well and was in hospital. He is entering the final stages of this life due to severe lung disease and other issues. He was delighted to see us and that seemed to pick him up a little. He has been home for a few weeks and is back in hospital now. We don't know how long he has. It is very sad and hard to see him in this state. We all know that this life must end sometime and depending on one's spiritual faith and knowledge it can help to ease the grief when the time comes. We know that life goes on but not in this physical form.

On a brighter note, we visited my cousin who lives in an independent living retirement village in Eaton near Bunbury. He is 95 and lives by himself, cooks all his meals, still drives, plays pool and snooker and cards. He is an inspiration to all of us in our autumn years.

I heard that the numbers were down for the last coffee morning at the Quarry Café in not very good weather and that other Probus clubs are getting in on the idea. I am hoping that the next one on **Wednesday 15th November** will be well attended.

I look forward to our next meeting in the new format with morning tea first around the tables. I have scheduled our guest speaker, Don Brown, to speak immediately after morning tea and before the rest of the meeting to enable him to leave in time for other commitments. He will be speaking about himself as an artist and his times working at the Art gallery of NSW.

See you all at the meeting next Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

*Mervyn Clifton - President*



Merv and his sprightly cousin.

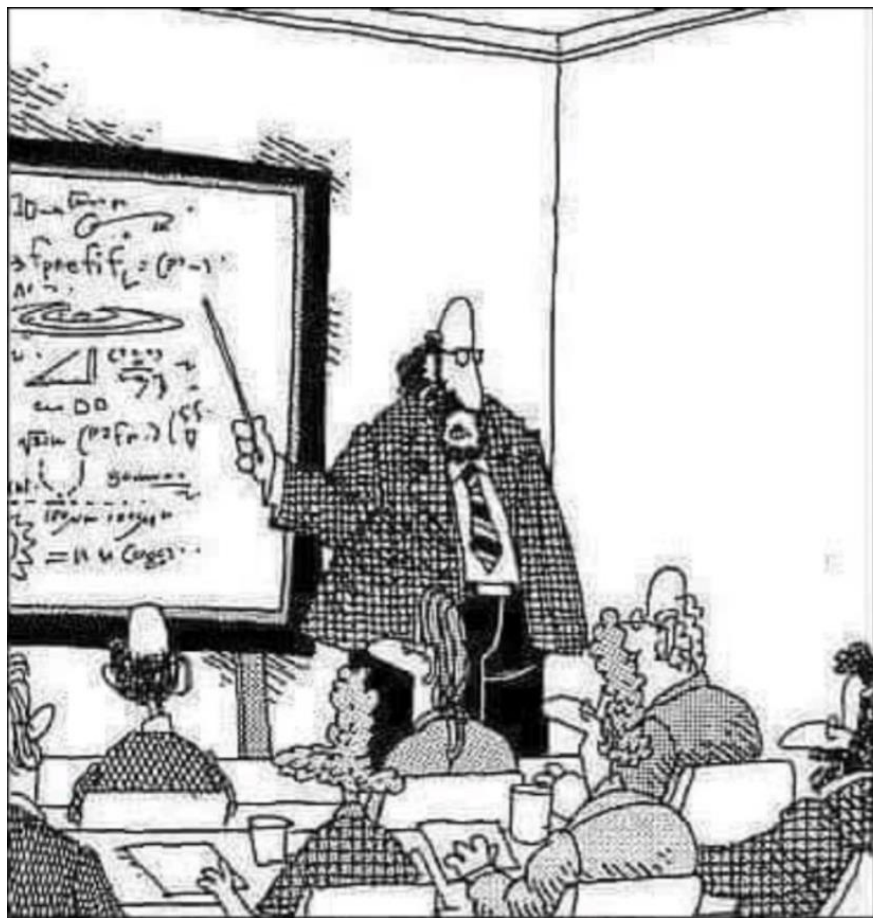
## Treasurer's Report, November 2023

The October accounts opened with a balance of \$757.09. The only outlay was \$65 to Barry Mather as reimbursement for moneys spent providing morning refreshment. Last month saw our strongest attendance for some while which meant the \$60 collected at the door almost covered the outgoings. Yes, we have a balance of \$752.09.

With a positive balance we are outperforming every OECD country who are universally in the red. Least in the red is Estonia with debt at 24% of GDP. At the other end is Japan where debt sits at 255% of GDP. Australia sits in a middling position at 70% debt.

Now to see if you are awake and/or reading this I think we should consider raising the monthly meeting fee next year to a nicely rounded \$5. This is more for ease of collection than a naked grab for your hard earned. I am always scrabbling to find a couple of gold coins and I think the gate-keepers job would be simplified if we deal with fivers and the occasional blue or even red note.

Cheers....David S



"Along with 'Antimatter,' and 'Dark Matter,' we've recently discovered the existence of 'Doesn't Matter,' which appears to have no effect on the universe whatsoever."



## Celebrate , Salute, Recognise

### Membership Anniversaries

6<sup>th</sup> John Brandreth 26 years

### Birthdays

6<sup>th</sup> John Dixon

9<sup>th</sup> Trish Orgill

10<sup>th</sup> David Shield

23<sup>rd</sup> Beryl Early

24<sup>th</sup> Ruth Haddon

30<sup>th</sup> Mervyn Clifton

### Anniversaries

24<sup>th</sup> Barry and Val Mather



I WAS JUST RINGING TO SEE  
IF YOU RECEIVED THE LETTER  
ABOUT THE E-MAILS I SENT YOU?



**GOLF** Since our last report we have had two regular Tuesday events. These were won by Barry Laing on the 3rd October and Arch Walker on the 24th October. Both gentlemen returned scores of 34. Another Tuesday was a washout and the last event on 10th October was another foray into the Vets competition.

We fared a little better on this occasion with myself and John Porter on the right side of the century line of shame with Barry Laing just on the wrong side. However this improved showing was completely overshadowed by the disqualification of Arch Walker - a first as far as I can determine. As part of the group I didn't witness any foul play or abuse of other players. There were no allegations of biting (almost impossible) and no one went to the sin bin for a professional foul.

As near as we can tell Arch has brought the club into disrepute by signing a card with a score of 26 when the club calculated it at 27. Hmmm. Doesn't seem that big a crime when you claim less points than you could but there it is and a suspended gaol sentence is a possibility.

When not playing golf I have been spending time on the Minnamurra headland with Sandy the wonderdog keeping an eye out for whales. These last 2 weeks are the best I can recall for the number of sightings and particularly rewarding the number of calves who tend to come closer and are more likely to be putting on a display.

One particular calf this week was breaching and flopping so often that one of the ladies was heard to remark "It's having a whale of a time". I asked her to leave the park under the bad pun rule but she declined on the basis that this may be where the phrase originated. But she is wrong as I discovered.

It appears to have started out as simply denoting something big such as a whale of a fib. This was around the 1830's but by the end of the century had come to mean something along the lines of an expert or particularly interested in a subject. In modern times we might say a person is big on Probus protocols rather than a whale on the subject.

A definition from 1895 refers to a prodigy intellectually or physically or simply something that is exceptionally large. It is around this time that it became associated with a jolly occasion and our modern understanding of the term. I guess there is some connection to the largest mammal.

Cheers

*David S*



## COMBINED PROBUS BOWLS DAY

The weather was perfect for the Combined Probus Bowls Day held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the Kiama Bowling and Recreation Club. The games were played in a very friendly manner and there was excellent competition. Six of the district's Probus Clubs participated (Shell Cove, Gerringong, Kiama Seaside, Kiama Men's, Oak Flats and Flinders/Blackbutt). A total of twelve teams of three players competed.

We played three player triples and competed over two games of ten ends each. Overall winners on the day were Shell Cove's team 1. Congratulations to Malcolm Pattie, David Kempton and Graham Jones. Nipping at their heels and coming in close equal second were Team 1 from Gerringong (Cliff Mallinson, Ian Mangelsdorf and Brian Arberry) and the Blackbutt/Flinders team (Pat Tildon, John Tildon and Marion Skinner).

Following completion of play, we lunched together at the Bowling Club. The winning team was announced and awarded the perpetual trophy. Various lucky number prizes were drawn to finish off a great day of fellowship, fun and friendship. A big thank you and congratulations to everyone for your participation and the manner in which the games were played.

Colleen Behl

Kiama Seaside Probus Club Inc.

# MONTHLY, WEDNESDAY BOWLS

## Monthly Probus Bowls 8th November 2023, repeating . . .

Every month a number of the Clubs in the district meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month to have a relaxing morning of Lawn Bowls.

This has been running for more than 10 years, originally by Kiama Harbour and Shell Cove and Kiama Downs Men's Probus Clubs. Now Oak Flats Probus Club has joined as well.

I would like to invite your members to come and join us at Kiama Bowling Club from 9.45am to 11.15 for fun and relaxation, and if you like, you can stay for a drink and or lunch.

### Things to remember

Turn up at 9.45, game start at 10.00

Last bowls at 11.45 to 12.00

Cost (at this time) is \$7.00

Club badges to be worn (so we know how we all are)

Flat soled foot wear

### All I need to know

Your Name and Club,

Your experience, (bowls Experience that is)

Do you have your own bowls, or do you need to borrow bowls ( Kiama B C has bowls you can use)

If you would like a game, please Notify me, Gary Brunton, no later than 6.00 on Monday before so I have time to notify the Green Keeper and to arrange the cards.

My details are, Gary Brunton at 0409 224 935 or [gnbrunton9@gmail.com](mailto:gnbrunton9@gmail.com)

## **COFFEE AT THE QUARRY (BURNETT'S ON BARNEY) 15 NOVEMBER**

President's Invitation – Wednesday 15 November at 10.30am. Enter this in your dairies as an appointment between meetings. Good venue, good coffee and good company.

## Bazza, Master Mechanic

Bazza, or Barry Fleming, was member of Kiama Probuss until his passing a few months back. Barry's working life included being a steam engine driver and also the policeman for Kiama and at another time in the outback. Barry was good for a story and here is one from his time out 'around Bourke'. **In Barry's unedited words....**

One afternoon an ex-policeman walked into the Police Station at Bourke, and reported that Between Byrock, and Bourke he saw a car parked on the side of the road, which he thought was suspicious, I think in reality that he recognized it as belonging to a local aborigine. He removed the rotor button from the distributor, and gave it to me. He didn't tell me if he recognized the car. So a result I went out to where the car was parked. The land was scrubby bush, and unfenced. I saw two aboriginal men trying to start the car. I spoke to them, and asked them what they were up, I checked the vehicle and that they did not have anything in it, such as a sheep or beef. There were no sheep or cattle in the area, they had .22 single shot rifle, and they said they were trying to shoot a kangaroo, or a pig for the table, but they didn't have any luck. They informed me that they could not understand why the vehicle wouldn't start, I offered to have a look, and see If I could find anything wrong, by some miracle I went straight to the distributor, and asked them if they had match box, and could they tear off the black striking pad so that I could clean the points as they were pretty dirty. Whilst doing this I slipped the rotor back on and told them to give it a go, and away it went. I didn't tell them about the rotor button, and they immediately said you can fix my car anytime, you are a good mechanic. In my opinion I don't think the ex-policeman had any right to remove the rotor button, it could have turned nasty if they had caught him removing it. Anyhow all well the ends well.



## Long Live Probians and retirees. . .

There were huge demonstrations across France when the pension age was raised from 62 to 64 - that we should be so lucky. Our own pension age is being raised from 66 to 67 in July, (for those born after January 1, 1957.) Figures from 2020 showed a life expectancy, here in Australia, for females was 85.7 years and for men 81.6 years. Notwithstanding the effects of the Covid pandemic those numbers will continue to rise.

Around a century ago, life expectancy was 63.8 years for females and 59.1 years for males. In 2014, the then government flagged a staggered increase in the pension age, landing at 70 by 2035. At this stage though, there are no concrete government plans to raise the pension age further, and number crunchers claim that it would be unnecessary to lift the pension age (by increments) to 70 before 2050.

*. . . . acknowledgements ... to Holland Park Probus Club*

## **Beware of Scams. Probians are as vulnerable as other human beings**

Recently, an international collaboration placed investment scams via social media as outpacing other scams in Australia. Mid-May this year, \$88.7 million had been stolen from people through investment scams alone. New technology to lure and deceive victims is evolving all the time and scamming methods vary from impersonating official phone numbers, email addresses and websites of legitimate organisations to scam texts that appear in the same conversation thread as genuine messages.

The Federal Government allocated \$87 million in the May budget for a new National Anti-Scam Centre, where scams will be investigated, and there will be take-down functions for phishing websites and others that promote scams.

*acknowledgements ... to Holland Park Probus Club*



## Know your air conditioner

It is getting chilly. Energy experts say air conditioners are efficient heaters and should be set at 18 and 22 degrees in winter, while consumer advocacy group CHOICE suggests setting it to eight degrees warmer than the outside temperature. Constantly turning it off and on is not a good idea because the aircon is going to have to work hard to get back to that desired temperature. It is like revving your car to get up a hill. Indeed, it is best to leave it on even if you go out for a short while. With portable electric heaters, or gas systems, turning your device on and off isn't going to make much of a difference to the heater, except leaving them on is costly.

Summer is approaching and it is time to be wary of snakes on the move. Merv has seen a snake in his back yard and his neighbour had one living under her low deck a few years back.



## Ron's Romps

SS

Stuart Williams is sent to Dr Brown for psychological testing. Dr Brown gives him the Rorschach test. He shows Williams the first blot and asks him what he sees.

"A nude woman combing her hair."

He shows him the second ink blot and Williams says, "Oh, that's two people making love."

The third ink blot elicits, "That's two children playing doctor."

And so it goes . . .

"Well," says Dr Brown, "you certainly seem to have sex on your mind."

"What are you talking about, doc! You're the one who's showing me all those dirty pictures."

