



**PROBUS CLUB OF GREENWAY INC.  
FELLOWSHIP FRIENDSHIP & FUN**

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**If for any reason you are unable to attend the meeting, please call or text  
Annette Hales 0408 926 128 (then you are an apology rather than an absence.)**

**PRESIDENT'S NOVEMBER MESSAGE**

**Dear Members**

I hope we don't get any of the nasty storms that Queensland has been coping. I grew up in Brisbane and remember the November ones vividly. A thunder storm tended to break out about 20 minutes before the final school bell and you knew you'd be walking home in it. It was a good day if you'd remembered to put your raincoat back in your school port after the last storm. I'd often take my leather school shoes off and walk in the overflowing gutter and had strict instructions never to shelter under trees! The storms indicate that we are getting really close to the end of another year and once again, our Social Coordinators have planned a fun Christmas lunch to end our year off. Have a look at all the future events being planned and decide which ones you'd like to participate in. I'm really loving the range being offered; hopefully there is something that suits your taste, budget and availability. If you know of other outings or activities that might be of interest to us all, feel free to give details to Linda T and Gail L our Social Coordinators and they'll consider the logistics and discuss viability with the rest of the committee.



*Welcome new member Russell Dew*

**Noela**

**NEWS FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING**

Russell was inducted, Greenway's membership is 71, the meeting was attended by 44 members, there were 14 apologies and we welcomed 2 visitors Anne Meade & also Robert Cussel who will be joining us.

**LAST CHANCE TO PAY FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH. \$30.** Pay Treasurer at next meeting or online.

**BANKING DETAILS FOR DIRECT DEPOSITS:**

Probus Club of Greenway Inc.

BSB: **062914**

ACCOUNT: **10634121** (In Reference put your name and what the amount is for e.g. John Smith Opera.)

**THE SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Roger Bean, Margaret Anderson, Pam McPherson  
& Linda Tregonning

**A Happy November Birthday To:**

Sandra Barker  
Graham Lacey  
Jill Leicht &  
John Payne

**WELFARE**

**Peter Howitt, Lorraine Freeman, Jan Buchanan, Tessa Kenehan & Clem Longdon,**  
you are all in our thoughts and we send best wishes your way.

(If you know of any member who is unwell, please call Sandra Barker on 0429 133 363)



**THIS YEAR THE COMMITTEE NOMINATED JAN PETRIE  
FOR A PROBUS DAY AWARD!**

JAN WAS DEEPLY MOVED BY THIS. A FOUNDATION MEMBER OF PROBUS GREENWAY, OVER THE YEARS JAN HAS HELD MANY COMMITTEE POSITIONS AS WELL AS PRESIDENT. HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS JAN!!

**GUESS WHO??**

**At our 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 meeting we'll see photos, guess who and win a prize.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR PHOTO TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING.**

From childhood, teens, or early twenties.

Please attach your name to your photo.

**SOCIAL GROUPS:** Report by Sandra Allen. At the recent Committee Meeting it was agreed that:

**Walking Group:** This would meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month – 20 November, 18 December, 15 January, 19 February, 19 March, 16 April and 21 May. Please meet at the Coffee Club **by 9.25am** for departure **at 9.30 prompt**. We shall walk to the café, have coffee and return. There will be no designated co-ordinator. However, I have put these dates in my diary and shall endeavour to get there. This will be reviewed in May.

**Book Club:** As there had only been one expression of interest, it was decided not to proceed with setting up this club. However, as an alternative, it was suggested that members who had really enjoyed a good book might like to write a review for inclusion in the newsletter.

**Craft Club:** Currently 5 registered expressions of interest. It was recommended that those members who were interested should meet during the interval at the meeting.

**Mahjong:** There had only been 1 expression of interest so it was decided not to proceed with setting up this club.

## OUTINGS

### THE WALKING GROUP

**3rd Thursday each month.** Starting up again **20<sup>th</sup> November 2025**. Meet at The Coffee Club Hyperdome, **9.25 for 9.30am**. We walk to a café, have refreshment and return. (No Co-ordinator)

### GREENWAY SUNDAY DINING GROUP

**First Sunday of each month** members meet at various venues for lunch. There are usually about 20 of us and you'll be welcomed. Why not come along and give it a try and then decide if you want to join?

**Contact Sandra Barker on 0429 133 363**

### GREENWAY REGULAR MOVIES GROUP

Want to go to the movies but reluctant to go by yourself? Why not join our regular movie group? Just give your name to **committee** and you'll be in the loop for the regular outings also to have coffee or lunch after. This is likely to be alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays on a fortnightly basis if there is a movie that members wish to see.



**\*\*TUESDAY 9 DEC GREENWAY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** Vikings Erindale, 6 Ricardo St Wanniasa. **Please pay \$30 for lunch by November meeting.** On the day, we'll bring a \$10 wrapped present for the Santa Sack. Ladies will bring a lady present and gents a suitable present for guys. When in doubt, a bottle of wine is suitable for either. This is optional, so it's OK to bring nothing if you don't wish to participate in Santa's gift-giving.

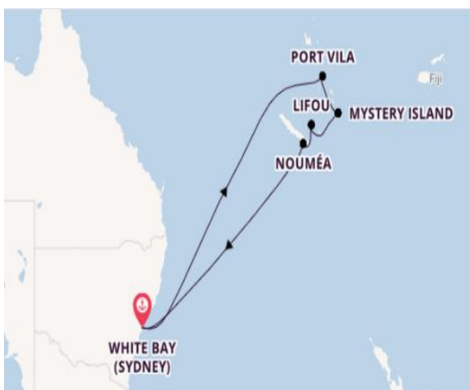
**\*\*MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY TOUR PARLIAMENT HOUSE AND LUNCH** followed by Question Time at 2pm. Put your name on the list on the Outings Table.

**\*\*APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> PHANTOM OF THE OPERA on the harbour outside the Opera House.** Price \$237. **(Please pay \$100 deposit now)** We're making our own way there; Linda will book a dining venue where we can meet up. Find your own accommodation. Payment due 6 weeks prior to show.  
linda.tregonning@bigpond.com

**\*\*18 APRIL 2026 BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING** Leave on Friday pm 17 April in Mini Bus (driven by Phil McPherson) Max 22 people. \$55 per person. Overnight in Spring Motel in Mittagong \$175 per room, pay on check-in. Gathering Saturday 18 April entry fee \$22. Return to Canberra after the closing ceremony. **Final numbers and deposit for coach and games entry of \$35 by 11 November** Final payment by 10 February meeting. If you would like to come along email Linda - linda.tregonning@bigpond.com

**\*\* JULY 2026 XMAS IN JULY CRUISE: (So far 27 members.)** 19/7 to 29/7. Ten days of fun.

Balcony room \$3,208 per cabin; Obstructed window ocean view \$2,608 per cabin; Interior room \$2,346 per cabin.

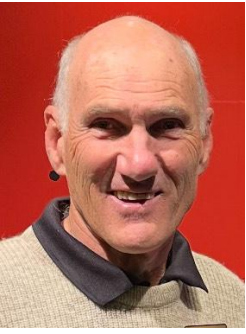


*A society grows well when old men plant trees in whose shade they will never sit.*

~Greek proverb



Stories Without Words



**OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER PHILL McPHERSON** shared his experiences while doing the ground work for building the Australian Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq during the war of 2005. As a non-military person, Phill had a few days security briefing and training, then he and his team of three were flown into Baghdad amid gunfire. In The Green zone, which was set up to give protection to embassies and troops, they worked seven days a week, in the fifty-degree heat for six weeks protected day and night by the Australian Defence Force, who lived with them. The wrecked building Australia was given for this embassy, had once been the elaborate home of one of Saddam Hussein's sons. As aircraft flew in at ground level to avoid being shot at, their portable accommodation vibrated strongly until Phill became so used to it that eventually the

vibration felt necessary for relaxation.

They shipped all their own equipment and tools over and also carried a lot of food like Weetbix as they didn't know Iraqi food. At first, the cook--a Moroccan lady--provided huge cooked lunches for them which



*The completed Embassy*

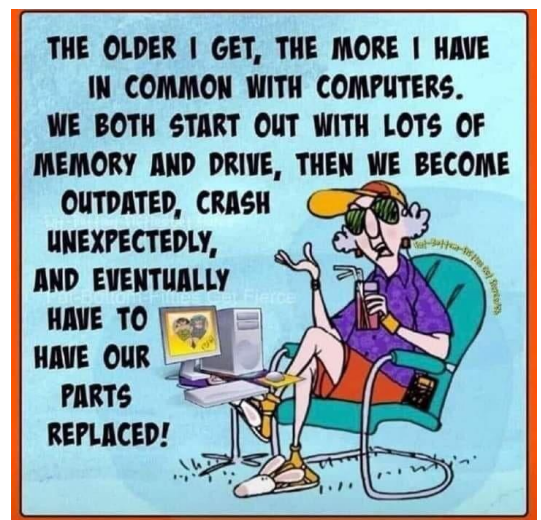
was too much in the middle of a hot day, so Phill explained to the Iraqi man who was assigned to look after their needs and who had a little English, that just a sandwich would do. As the man had never heard of a sandwich, Phill explained what it was and after that, each of them was provided every day with a whole loaf of bread with meat and salad inside each slice!

At first, after a hard day's work, they sat on the roof with shirts off having a cold beer, until a couple of mortars flying over convinced them not to go there. Eventually a fine-looking building was the result, but building an embassy in a war-zone was a dangerous assignment and while they were working there, the electrician, a young local man, was abducted for ransom, also the abducted Australian engineer Douglas Woods was rescued from

being beheaded. Phill and his team had a stopover in Bangkok on the way home and worked off some of the stress with a few laps of the go-cart track. *(Anne Meade the editor from Probus Tuggeranong came as a visitor for Phill's talk, because she'd had a posting to the former Baghdad Embassy approx. thirty years earlier during her time with the Dept of Foreign Affairs.)*

## FUTURE SPEAKERS

Tues 11 November	Fun Craft + bring your photo	Marti
Tues 9 December	Xmas Party	Santa
Tues 13 January	Bingo	Sandra A
Tues 10 February	Guess Who?	Annette
Tues 10 March	TBA	



**TRUMP THE PEACEMAKER?** While tearing the US and the White House apart, President T has found time to arrange peace deals between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Cambodia and Thailand, Congo and Rwanda, Egypt and Ethiopia, India and Pakistan, Israel and Iran, Serbia and Kosovo. ( Not quite for Israel/Palestinian territories and Russia/Ukraine.) I don't think it is politically biased to call this remarkable.



### **CHRIS BAXTER'S TURN TO SHARE HER LIFE:**

Hello everybody, I was born in the Western Suburbs of Sydney and because dad was a travelling salesman, we moved around a lot so I went to many different schools. Dad was a very good cook, which was just as well because Mum couldn't get lamb chops, mashed potato and peas ready at the same time. The only thing she could cook well was rabbit stew in the pressure cooker and even then we had a couple of instances where we had to scrape it off the ceiling! My sister and I used to dread Dad being away. No such thing as takeaway in those days. Because Mum didn't like being a stay-at-home mother, she went back to work as soon as my younger sister started school. A very heavy smoker, Mum died of a heart attack at age forty-nine

and I've missed her every day since. Dad, on the other hand, lived until ninety-four.

My best childhood memory is our holidays in Terrigal. I loved Terrigal! I had just one sibling, a sister two years younger and we didn't get along so when on holiday, we each took a friend with us. We also used to take our cat "Puddy" with us as well, but one year she got out and sadly we never saw her again. (Now I have "Ally" and she's a very naughty cat, so I'm being careful of my new hearing aids because she runs off with things.) In my teens I belonged to a Marching Girls group. Very disciplined, but lots of fun with competitions all over the country. I also became involved with ballroom dancing, at least twice a week and eventually teaching, though I wasn't very good at it.

I got my driver's license on my seventeenth birthday and bought my first car a couple of weeks later. It was a mini minor 850, so then I had to learn to drive a four-on-the-floor, as opposed to the three-on-the-tree that I'd learnt on. I've had many cars since, including a 1954 Chev Belair after my twins were born because it was the only sedan we could find that the rather large twin pram would fit into. It was such a massive vehicle that I had to drive it with my big toe! My first job was as a junior stenographer at the Gasworks in Mortlake, Sydney in an office down by the river. Just me and sixty men. When I returned from a working holiday in New Zealand, I returned to the Gas Company, but this time to its Head Office in the city and it was there that I fell into IT or EDP as it was called in those days. I remained in IT for the rest of my working life until I retired in 2010 at sixty-three after eighteen years in the Public Service. I just couldn't stand working any more.

I was married at twenty-two and by twenty-seven, had four children. We lived in suburban Sydney until 1979 when we moved to Canberra. My marriage dissolved in 1980 and I raised the children on my own. I'm very proud of my children they've done very well for themselves and more important, they're *good* people. That means a lot to me. They're in their late thirties and early forties now. We lived in Wanniasa for twenty-three years, then after they left home, I built a new house in Gordon where I lived for thirteen years. I thought that would be my forever home, but the garden became too much for me so I moved into a retirement village in Isabella Plains in 2015.

I've done a lot of travelling; my first overseas trip was that working holiday to New Zealand when I was eighteen. I flew over, but came home on an un-stabilised ship because there'd been a plane crash at Auckland airport so no way, was I flying after that! It took me many years to get over my fear of flying. My first US trip was in 1979 when my husband's employer sent him over there for a training course and when the course was finished, I went over for three weeks and we did the usual touristy things, mostly in California and that was my first visit to Disneyland.

My girls were in the ACT Schools Selective Bands and I joined other chaperones and travelled overseas with them. One of the destinations in 1990 was to the US to Disneyland and it was a great trip (even with 62 teenagers). A memorable part of that trip was to be in Washington during the last government shut down. All government offices were closed and it was interesting as well as a bit scary. How do people manage without wages? Now it's happening again!

Apart from the US three times, I've travelled to Europe, China, and Japan as well as other countries.

*Continues next page...*

**CHRIS BAXTER Cont.** My third visit to the US was part of a six-week trip with my son David in 1994. When he turned twenty-one, I gave him a round-the-world air ticket but when he still hadn't used it after three years, we decided to do a "Grand Tour" and we went first to the US (Disneyland again) then to England to visit friends in London and York plus a coach trip around Europe.

My 1999 trip to Japan was also a band trip as chaperone. This visit was as part of an ACT Government delegation to the anniversary of the Canberra/Nara sister-city arrangement. Then in 2,000 I took a trip to China with a small group tour. We went during the Sydney Olympics (the fares were cheaper) and it was fascinating to see very few cars on the roads at that time. Back then in China, a car cost as much as a house and there was no infrastructure. Everyone rode bikes and you literally took your life in your hands crossing the road.

All in all, life has been good to me, with inevitable ups and downs, although there were a few tough years while I was bringing up the children alone. I had nine grandchildren, but early this year my family suffered an unimaginable tragedy. We lost my youngest grandchild, fourteen-year-old Ben who suffered a sudden cardiac arrest on the football field and died three days later. This is the worst event of my life. You don't get over something like that.



**DID YOU KNOW** that Australia once had a Poet Laureate? His name was Michael Robinson and he was a convict. Born in 1747 and educated at Oxford, he became an attorney in London but after being convicted of extortion and blackmail, he was sent to Australia. With his good manners and posh accent, he ingratiated himself until finally, his sentence deferred, he was appointed first clerk in the Government Secretary's Office. He is known to have been a corrupt official and has the distinction of being the first person to use the name 'Australia' in poems which he performed at Government House. ('Australia' was a word he'd heard in conversations there.) Apparently, he left advice for the next Poet Laureate, little realising that it would take 210 years before another would be considered for appointment as the Prime Minister is doing now.

**DID YOU KNOW** that Australia's history of 'Sovereign Citizens' (a movement which started in the USA), can be traced back to outback WA in 1970? Leonard Casley, a wheat farmer was unhappy about the government imposing strict quotas on oversupply of wheat and declared his huge farm a principality and named himself Prince Leonard. He and Princess Shirley had their own micro-nation, with their own Post Office, postage stamps and they issued passports to their subjects who lived outside the territory and who like them, refused to pay taxes to the Australian government. Tourists flocked to their principality and bought souvenirs. Prince Leonard died during Covid and his three-million-dollar tax debt was passed to his son. Justice Rene Le Miere of the WA Supreme Court dismissed their arguments as "Bizarre, irrelevant and gobbledygook." Canada, too, has its challenges with Sovereign Citizens 'Queen Didulo of the Kingdom of Canada' who has a large following even ordered her subjects to arrest certain police officers which landed them in court. (*When I was a Canberra JP, I encountered one who was convinced that it is against the constitution to charge taxes, was challenging the Tax Dept and insisted that as a 'Sovereign Citizen' he could sign his court papers with a red thumbprint! ~ed.*)

**DID YOU KNOW** that we can help save the bees by planting sunflowers? *New Scientist* discloses that sunflower pollen helps clear parasites like the Varroa Mite from their gut. Like humans, bees can tailor their diet to boost their gut and immune health and studies have shown that pollen from certain species of plants ~especially sunflowers~ can help them resist infection. Incidentally, Bees are apt not to touch flowers that are close to their hive, preferring to travel to the limits of their foraging range then gather food on the return trip.