



PROBUS CLUB OF GREENWAY INC.

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A few words from our President

Your Committee has been considering the prospects for a resumption of our monthly meetings. The COVID-19 outlook remains poor, and the conditions in nearby NSW are impacting on Canberra's situation. Furthermore, our Vikings Town Centre Club venue is still only partially open and is not ready to accommodate club meetings. So, we continue to sit, wait, and monitor.

In the circumstances, we are unable to hold our birthday party in September this year. That is a real shame. On the guardedly positive side, however, we have secured a booking at the Town Centre Club for our Christmas lunch on 8 December. Let us keep our fingers crossed for that one!

I hope we are all not just distancing but keeping ourselves occupied. Contacting others by phone, email or Skype can be a blessing for both parties. For those with gardens, a few hours pottering in the sunshine can have a therapeutic effect. It is inevitable that some will feel out of sorts. Seek a little help from family or friends. Do not become addicted to the media's relentless coverage of the virus.



Alan and I recently had the pleasure of presenting Louise and Charlie Samuel with a Certificate of Appreciation and a bouquet of flowers. This is in recognition of their generous and valuable service to our club since its inception in 2007. The certificate is dated 17 March. That was the date of our cancelled General Meeting, at which it was planned to make the presentation in front of everyone. So, rather than wait any longer, we decided to do it in Louise and Charlie's home. And we were rewarded with coffee and cake.

Charlie turns 90 on 28 August. We all wish him a very happy birthday.

This issue contains news of another guessing competition, and other timely items. So, read on.

Take care and be safe.

Paul

Louis and Samuel responded: -

What a lovely surprise this morning!

President Paul and Secretary Alan came visiting and presented us with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a 'Certificate of Appreciation for our past services to the Greenway PROBUS club'.

We did it with pleasure and enjoyed every minute of it!! **PROBUS is especially important to us!**

A big THANK YOU to everyone! Keep safe and in friendship!

Louise & Charlie Samuel.

Wednesday August 5th, 2020

BUTTONS IN A JAR



It is time for yet another, buttons in the jar guessing competition. This time we have one of Marti's jars, and it is full. The jar is 11.5 centimeters wide, and the height of the buttons portion is 17 centimeters. You must guess the number of buttons. As you can see, some are quite large, but others are exceedingly small.

Please submit your estimates to Marti on 6231 5252, or email at varsanyi@aapt.net.au

Entries close at 5.00 pm, Sunday 30 August. The closest estimate will win a box of chocolates and a bottle of wine.

HINT: the total number of buttons this time is less than it was in the June competition.

Knitwits News

Hello everyone. Hope you are all 'safe and well' and keeping in touch with each other!

Joy (Chandler) will be greatly missed! Other than being Greenway's 1st President, Joy was also a member of our knitting group!

All the girls wish Joy and Toni 'all the best and hope their new venture in Coffs Harbour will be all they hope for! 'Good luck & God bless!'

Last month we had our first meeting since March. It was great, to catch-up and chat, yes, we all kept to the required distance.



Coincidentally, it was one of our 'Girl's' birthday, so we had a double celebration!

Our fingers have not been idle! From all the wonderful gifts of wool, which has been greatly appreciated, we have been able to give St. Vinnies 'night patrol' more beanies scarves & gloves.

Vera Lyn's song 'we'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when', is very apt at present. Anyway, let us hope it will be soon!

Please Note: - There will no meeting in August !

Take care,

Louise.

Note from the Editor: - my sincere apologies to Louise for misspelling "Knitwits" in the July Newsletter.

Cameos

Over the years we have had many members present a “cameo” at our meetings.

Who can forget Joan Munro describing the problems she had in one of her Spoken English Classes when one student asked what are “budgie smugglers”, or the jokes Glenda tells and her tales about growing up in Northern NSW?

Because of COVID-19 we are deprived of these gems, but the presenters are still there, so now we are asking you to step up!

We invite you to prepare more cameos. I know that most of you are all shy and are unhappy about public speaking, so we have come up with a few options!

The first would be an article about something that could be of interest to others that would go in the Newsletter though if anyone wanted to do a video for the webpage this could be accommodated.

To get the ball rolling I have put together a short piece on my arrival in Australia 50 years ago - down to you Guys for the next one!

Peter Howitt’s Arrival in Australia

It was late 1969 and my then wife and I were students living in a two-room bedsit in Wimbledon – the tennis Courts were up the hill from us.

We were facing the prospects of both graduating from our tertiary education in just over six months and having to find paid work and a move to another house!

Over the next few months many letters were written followed by interviews and eventually I was offered a job in Canberra in the then Patents Office. My then wife was to be a teacher and was told all she had to do was turn up as they were always looking for teachers.

By 3rd August 1970 we had our tickets, our goods and chattels packed up and shipped off and it was time to make our way to Heathrow Airport to catch our flight.

When we arrived in Canberra the changes that we encountered were a bit difficult to appreciate at first. It was much like the UK but just a bit different: -

Houses	Most Australian Houses are single story while in the UK Bungalows are quite rare
Colour	The grass, shrubs and most trees were more an olive green, unlike the bright green of northern Europe
Cars	We noted the large number of Fords, Holdens and Chryslers that were significantly bigger than the smaller models of European cars we were used to. We also noticed how many cars were fitted with Automatic Gearboxes; a rarity in the UK.
Language	We worked out that Australians spoke a version of English, but it took a while to get used to some of the idioms, for example “are you right?” and “fair dinkum”!
Roads	Canberra’s roads were wider, and the traffic was less busy than in the UK.
Petrol	The price of Petrol was a real surprise, even considering exchange rates, Australian petrol was a lot cheaper. Plus, there were only two types, Standard and Super.

- Magpies On my first day at work I decided to walk to the Patents Office in Barton. It was not until much later that I realised that on that walk I had my first experience of being swooped by Magpies. I heard the noise and felt the swish but was too “green” to realise what it was.
- Meat Meat was not as expensive as in the UK, and our first proper meal was two or three thick slices of cold roast beef that just about covered the whole plate while vegetables were served in a small metal dish alongside. This was a total reversal of what we were used to. Meat was a bit of a luxury for students in the UK where a meal was mostly veg. with a bit of meat. I was in “heaven”.
- Shopping Getting used to the shops closing at mid-day on Saturday and being closed on Sunday took a while. The only Supermarket in Canberra was “Tom-the-Cheap” in Fyshwick. Then there was the Fyshwick fruit and veg markets on Sunday.
- Social Friday Dodging the “cruising” Cars and Panel Vans in Garema Place
- Generosity It took quite a while for our “goods and chattels” to catch up with us, however, I will always remember the generosity of Canberrans helping us out so that we could move out of the Hostel to our first house as soon as we did.

Over the next 50 years I have travelled in Australia for business and pleasure and had a few overseas trips, some back to the UK, but in all that time I have never regretted my move to Australia and while I will always be a “new chum” I consider myself more Australian than English! (Even when the Test Cricket is on)

Some Topical Thoughts . . .

New Year

This year I am going to stay up on New Year’s Eve! Not to see the New Year in, but to make sure this one **leaves!!!!**

Stressed?

When you are stressed, you eat ice cream, cake, chocolate, and sweets! Why? Because “stressed” spelt backwards is “desserts”!

For the Ladies: -

Ripping your mask off when you get back in the car is the new – “taking your bra off when you get home”.

Surviving

Just a second – so what your telling me is my chance of surviving all this, is causally linked to the Common Sense of others?

A new and easy test for COVID-19

Take a glass and pour a decent amount of your favorite whisky (or gin or rum), then see if you can smell it. If you can then you are halfway there. Then drink it and if you can taste it then you are safe to assume you are currently free of the virus. I tested myself nine times last night and was virus-free every time, thank goodness. I will have to test myself again today though, as I have developed a headache, which can be one of the symptoms

At Home

I have been blessed to be home with my wife these last few months. We have been able to catch up on everything I have done wrong in the past twenty years!

XMAS

Is it too early to put up the Christmas Tree yet?
I have run out of things to do

Social Distance

How Long is this social distancing thing supposed to last? My husband keeps trying to come into the house.

Trial

I am done with my 90-day Trial of 2020. How do I cancel my Membership?

Virus

So, let me get this straight, there is no cure for a virus that can be KILLED by sanitizer and soap?



Like i was saying, the circus is just one of my careers. The real money comes from frosted flakes



Get Well

Carl Thompson is out of hospital and Tom Longhurst has recovered well from surgery; both are awaiting further stages in their treatment. In the meantime, Charlie is progressing, and Tessa is back “in harness”. Stay well everyone and best wishes to anyone who is under the weather!

Birthdays



This month we wish a Happy Birthday to Chris Gillespie, Norma Steele, and Marti Vasanyi.

As Paul mentioned, the last but by no means least birthday wish for this month is the celebration of the 90th birthday of our long serving PROBUS member, Charlie Samuel. Happy Birthday Charlie and just try to imagine all the “virtual” Chocolate Frogs we are sending you!



Sunday Dining

This popular activity is about to resume with Glenda organising the first event on 6th September!

