



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

Website [Click Here!!](#)

President: Paul Varsanyi 6231 5252	Editor: Maria Polmeer 0400 301 516 marjam4@optusnet.com.au
Secretary: Volunteer needed	Issue: 9 January 2024

**If for any reason you are unable to attend the meeting, please call or text
Janice Petrie on 0426 104 454 to pass on your apologies.**

PRESIDENT'S JANUARY MESSAGE

Hi all,

Now Christmas and New Year's day are behind us, it is time to think about what 2024 has in store for us. It will be the Year of the Dragon in the Chinese Zodiac. 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964 and every 12 years after that, belong to Year of the Dragon. Very sad news is that Alan Parker passed away peacefully on Christmas Day surrounded by his family. Alan was a longstanding member of Greenway Probus and will be sorely missed. President Paul (in Hungary until March on family business) wrote a few words, below. In December we had a delightful Christmas Party at the Kambah Woolshed. I'd like to say a big thank you to Gail L and Linda T for organising the fun event and my thanks go to members who assisted with the catering and logistics on the day.

It is time once again for our annual membership renewals. The \$30 renewal fee should be paid to the Treasurer on or before our annual general meeting (AGM) on 12/3/2024 please. As we draw closer to our AGM, please consider nominating for a position on the 2024 Committee. The Committee meets on the first Tuesday monthly at 11am. We hold responsibility for keeping the club running smoothly. We have a lot of fun at our meetings, with most of us staying on for lunch. You can chat with any of the current Committee members if you need more information or reassurance about the roles.

Noela Power
Vice President/Acting President

ALAN PARKER

I'm so going to miss this wonderful man. There are so many out there who know about various aspects of Alan's life history and activities. I will leave it to them to write their eulogies. I wish to focus on my experiences with him since Marti and I joined Greenway Probus.

Alan was Secretary by then, following his stint as President. By the time I attended my second meeting, he was subtly tapping me on the shoulder to join the Committee. I recall I waited two years before that move, telling him I wanted some time to get the feel of the club. Alan had been an engineer in his professional life so he had a talent for precision, for getting his facts right, for putting his point of view succinctly, clearly and with authority. I found I could relate to and depend on, all these traits.

When contemplating an issue, I found it useful to run it by Alan to get the benefit of any historical or political aspects I might need to take account of and on occasion, he would volunteer his advice when he felt I was missing something. It was always appreciated and in all this he was always an honest friend. Someone to be trusted. I'm sure he is already sorting things out in the afterlife.

Paul Varsanyi
President, Probus Club of Greenway

THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR IS THAT THE LIFT AT THE CLUB IS FIXED.



OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY was attended by 38 members. The food was delicious, we had fun and laughter, were entertained by the *Canberra Chordsmen* whose four-part harmonies were fabulous and lots of us won good prizes. The weather behaved itself and there was hardly a fly to be seen. Sorry that several members were unable to attend. Noela standing in for Santa did a good job making the Santa Sack a success. The Woolshed is an ideal venue for future parties with good shady cover, lots of parking a leafy outlook and it is economical. All in all, a great party.





The Chordsmen

All photography by Pam



**FROM ALL OF US A HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:
Robyn Oats, Paul Varsanyi & Carol Wall**



**AT THE JANUARY MEETING WE'LL
WELCOME OUR JANUARY SPEAKER
ASTROPHYSICIST DR BRAD TUCKER**



2024 GUEST SPEAKERS

Tuesday January 9th.	Space Race 2	Brad Tucker
Tuesday February 13th.	Mutiny On The Bounty: The <i>Real</i> Story	Dr Mark Lax
Tuesday March 12th.	Easy-Peasy Painting Workshop	Maria Polmeer
Tuesday April 9th.	Rebuilding Guitars, Rebuilding Lives	Colin Greef
Tuesday May 14th.	TBA	
Tuesday June 11th.	An Unorthodox Life In Music	Ambre Hammond

WELFARE

OUR HEARTFELT GOOD WISHES TO: JANICE & DON REID ALSO CAROL MARTIN

If you know of any other members who are unwell, please call Linda on 0407 485 876

OUTINGS

WE HAVE BOOKED 18 SEATS AT THE Q THEATRE IN QUEANBEYAN FOR THE AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF BILLY ELLIOT FOR THE SAT 27 APRIL MATINEE.

TICKETS ARE \$69 EACH WHICH MUST BE PAID TO GLENDA NOW OR BY THE FEBRUARY MEETING. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST LIST WILL BE AT THE JAN & FEB MEETINGS OR CONTACT LINDA:

0407 917 133 or linda.tregonning@bigpond.com

GREENWAY SUNDAY DINING GROUP

Members meet on the first Sunday of each month at various venues for lunch. Why not come along and give it a try and then decide if you want to join? Please contact **Sandra** on **0429 133 363** for more information.

REGULAR MOVIES GROUP

Want to go to the movies but reluctant to go by yourself? Why not join our regular movie group which is now established. Just give your name to **Gail 0417 432 474** and you'll be in the loop for the regular outings also to have coffee or lunch after. This is alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays on a fortnightly basis if there is a movie members wish to see.

**THE CRUISE TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S HOUSE
HAS BEEN DEFERRED UNTIL SPRING.**



**TUGGERANONG PROBUS IS INVITING US TO JOIN
THEM ON A TRIP TO
LIGHTNING RIDGE**

8 - 14 September 2024 - 6 nights/7 days

Cost: \$2,748.00 pp Twin Share or \$3264 Single

Tour Price Includes: Trade Travel Tour Host,
Luxury coach travel, 6 Nights quality
accommodation, breakfast, lunch & dinner as per
itinerary (17 Meals)

**OUR \$30 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE & SHOULD BE
WITH THE TREASURER BY THE A.G.M IN MARCH SO EITHER
PAY NOW, OR AT THE NEXT MEETING...Many thanks ~ Committee**



GOOD NEWS...GOOD NEWS...GOOD NEWS...GOOD NEWS...

Good news is good for us; it touches our Humanity.

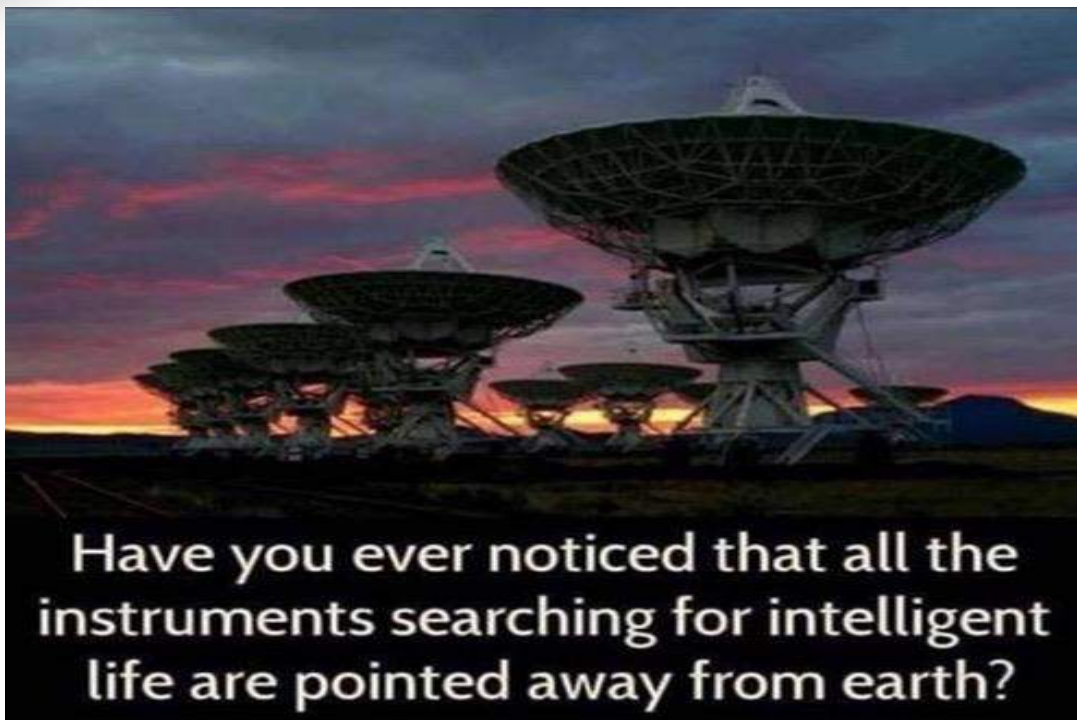
There is always good happening somewhere in the world...



Recently, off the coast of Spain, two fishermen Jose and Miguel rescued a baby dolphin whose tail was caught in a rope attached to an anchor on the sea bed. It was continually being pulled under the water and the mother was actually calling to the men while trying to keep it afloat and occasionally managing to bring its head above water to breathe. She was holding its head up and had chewed on the rope without success. Eventually the men managed to lift the rope up enough to cut the baby free.

“I will remember this for my whole life” said Jose, “It was so hard to pull up, our hands were chafed, the baby was thrashing around and screaming and the mother sounded as though she was scolding as she tried to calm it down.”

N.B. Grieving dolphin mothers have been known to carry their dead calf on their back for days before letting it go.



In the 50s and 60s some of us read Isaac Asimov's science fiction such as *'I Robot'* and probably thought that robots would stay between the pages of a novel. Fast forward 55 years and they've arrived! The world is now in the early stages of adjusting to robots and driverless cars.

In the USA, two driverless brands have led the way. **Cruise**, a subsidiary of General Motors and **Waymo** owned by Google's parent company. For a year they both tested their driverless taxis (without permission) on the streets of San Francisco but in August 2023 they were given approval to operate there 24/7. However; a problem arose in November 2023, causing Cruise to recall all cars after one of them hit a pedestrian and slowly (7 kms per hr) dragged her for twenty feet because the car had no way of knowing that somebody was underneath. This lack of technological awareness has since been corrected. Another car got stuck in wet cement then several of them stalled during a music festival causing huge traffic jams. All of these wrinkles are being ironed out.

USA journalist Johana Bhuiyan, said *"The first time I encountered a car driving around in the wild without an actual person behind the wheel was jarring even for a reporter who has covered the self-driving car industry. I came across one at an intersection. It seemed to stop so I started crossing the street. Suddenly the car jerked forward so I pulled back, waiting for the driver to make a decision. Unsure if they planned to move any more, I looked through the front of the windshield searching for the eyes of the driver to acknowledge my existence or a little wave signalling I could cross. But there was no-one there. It took a few minutes to adjust my behaviour and get over how weird it was My Midwestern husband, too, had as big a reaction as you'd ever get from him when he drove by his first one. "What the heck!!" he exclaimed loudly."* In another encounter, a car driving at night without headlights was pursued by police and when it stopped at the lights, a policeman approached it on foot only to find that it was driverless. When he attempted to open the door, it took off then parked correctly nearby, so that the police could do whatever it is that police do when dealing with a car with no driver.

It was Professor Isaac Asimov 1920—1992 who introduced the word 'Robotics' into the English language. For his novels, he invented these three **Laws of Robotics: 1st Law:** A robot may not injure a human being, or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm. **2nd Law:** A robot must obey orders given it by human beings, except where such orders would conflict with the First Law. **3rd Law:** A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the 1st or 2nd Law. (So far--but probably not for long-- these laws are purely fictitious ~ed)



"And, if you fall behind on payments, it drives itself back to the dealership."

THE BACK PAGE...

SPEAKING OF ROBOTS...



Elon Musk has now been given the go-ahead to trial his Neuralink brain implants on humans who volunteer for the experiment. **Question:** What does the Neuralink brain implant do? **Answer:** Its goal so far is to grant humans the ability to control a computer and its keyboard using their thoughts alone. **Question:** Neuralink is still in its experimental phase...are there any negative

effects? **Answer:** According to *Merkley* and *Wired's* 20 September 2023 report, Neuralink experiments done on 12 macaque monkeys have so far resulted in chronic infections, paralysis, brain swelling and other adverse side effects, eventually requiring euthanasia.

☹️Heaven forfend!



MONKEY BUSINESS (Did the Delegates struggle to keep a straight face?)

To prevent macaque monkeys from disrupting the **September 2023 G20 Summit in Delhi**, officials filled the Exhibition-Convention Centre and its surrounds with life sized menacing cut-outs of the macaque's greatest enemy, the langur monkey and workers were paid to go about making langur monkey noises so that the cut outs seemed real.



"They don't appear to want to take over. They just want to dance."