



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

Website [Click Here!!](#)

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Secretary:	Issue: 13 February 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 FEBRUARY MESSAGE

Hello fellow Greenway Probians,

I've been thinking about how important it is for us to keep participating in society. Many of us have lived in Canberra for years but only find out about interesting Canberra events after the fact, or when it is too late to plan an outing. This happens to me nearly every year when Enlighten comes to Canberra, so this year I've started researching early. To coincide with Canberra Day on 11 March, many activities are being planned between 1 March and 17 March 2024, under the Enlighten banner. On 8 March the annual competition for Canberra film-makers called "*Lights! Canberra! Action!*" will screen the finalists' films outdoor in the Senate Rose Gardens. No tickets are required, but it's a very popular event so get there early and take a rug or chair so sit on.

At Symphony in the Park on 10 March, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra will be performing with Hoodoo Gurus an Australian rock band which formed in Sydney in 1981. No tickets are required but this is also a very popular event, so plan to arrive early at Commonwealth Park, Commonwealth Avenue, Parkes.

Between 9 and 17 March at the Canberra Balloon Spectacular expect to see approx. 30 balloons dotting our early morning skies. This event is recognised as one of the four leading balloon events in the world! Thousands of locals and tourists are expected to be watching this spectacular sight, with great viewing from anywhere around Lake Burley Griffin and the Parliamentary Triangle. You can find details about events and sign up for the Enlighten newsletter at www.enlightencanberra.com. I encourage you to find an interested family member or a friend or two and make plans to participate in Enlighten this year!

Noela Power Vice-President/Acting President

NEWS FROM THE JANUARY MEETING

We currently have 63 members and January's attendance was 43 members and one visitor. At the March Annual General Meeting the whole committee will stand down though some are willing to be nominated for another year. As you'll see, we've compartmentalized the Secretary's role. The position of Vice President is a good role for getting an all-round exposure and although quite often it flows into President, it doesn't actually have to. You'll find the other committee members very supportive as you become familiar with whatever task you are willing to take on. **The following members have accepted nomination:**

President: Noela Power; (**Vice President:** **Vacant**)

Treasurer: Pam McPherson assisted by Gail Lacey; **Delegate:** Tom Anderson;

Minutes Secretary: Linda Tregonning; (**Membership Records Secretary:** **Vacant**)

Membership/Attendance Officer: Janice Petrie; **Welfare Officer:** Sandra Barker;

Newsletter Editor: Maria Polmeer; **Speaker Seeker:** Chris Baxter; (**Webmaster:** **Vacant**)



Here is John presenting Phil with a bottle of wine and an award for being the best liar at the 'Two Truths & A Lie' competition in November.

OUR PROMISE TO ALAN PARKER

As you'll see on the first page, we've divided the Secretary's role and are urgently seeking an organised person with basic computer skills to become Membership Records Secretary to update the membership list as soon as changes occur and to liaise with head office. Alan did the lot but we've found that it is a two-person job which is an indication of the herculean effort he put into the task. We promised Alan as he lay worrying about it on his death bed, that we will take care of everything in a good way. Please help us to fulfil that promise.

(Alan's funeral was very well attended and of course very moving. Probus was well represented. Wish I'd worn my badge ~ ed)



**TREASURER CALLING! \$30 MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE
(BEFORE MARCH 12th PLEASE)**



A HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY FROM ALL OF US TO:

Jan Deacon, Chris Finch, Lorraine Freeman, Tom Longhurst, Vi Rich & Alice Sams

WELFARE

We're sorry to hear that Peter Howitt had a fall and broke a bone in his knee. He's presently at National Capital room 307. Carol Martin is still in rehab, same hospital as Peter, room 350.

Founding member Norma Steel who now resides at Mirinjani in Weston said she would enjoy having visitors. If you wish to phone first, call nursing staff on 6195 5200 and they'll take a phone to her.

If you know of any other members who are unwell, please call

Linda 0407 485 876

OUR JANUARY SPEAKER WAS ASTROPHYSICIST/COSMOLOGIST DR BRAD TUCKER



This was Brad’s third visit to Greenway and he spoke about Space Race 2.0. It was uplifting to hear how proactive Australia has been in all the satellite activity going on in space. Last year, five Australian-made satellites were successfully launched aboard a Falcon 9 booster and have settled into their orbits. Brad referred to this as ‘carpooling.’ “*We’re finding cheaper ways to go into space now. We essentially ‘carpool’ into space*” he said. Apparently, Australia was the third country to launch its own satellite and they can nowadays be prepared and launched within one week. Rockets are also being retrieved and reused which saves millions of dollars. In the past, after their use-by-date, space junk just fell and dropped onto earth. One capsule speared into the ground northwest of Tumberumba and another crashed into the ocean off Tasmania. It seems there are three million objects floating about in space, even a spanner and screwdriver which were accidentally dropped or jettisoned. As they all travel at 25,000 kms per hour, space

junk poses a risk. Even a flake of paint travelling at that speed can cause damage. The ideal is for space junk to burn up in the atmosphere on re-entry and the great news Brad delivered, is that **2024 will see the first wooden satellites in space, which will burn on re-entry when their time is done!** Further good news Brad shared, is that the hole in the Ozone Layer is closing and by 2042 it will be closed.

We heard extraordinary facts about our own country that many of us probably had no idea about. Who knew that Australia had ‘Standing Stones’ older than Stonehenge? On screen we were shown *Wurdi Youang* which is sometimes described as ‘Australia’s Stonehenge’ only it is older than Stonehenge in fact calculated to be 11,000 years old. Fifty metres wide containing one hundred basalt stones some of them waist-high, this egg shaped ring of standing stones was once used by Indigenous people to calculate the longest and shortest days of the year. NASA technology was used to measure the position of each rock in relation to the sun which has demonstrated the stones’ connection with the Solstices and Equinox. In ancient times, *Wurdi Youang* provided guidance for four major events each year whereas Stonehenge calculated only two.

Tuesday February 13th.	Mutiny On The Bounty: The Real Story	Dr Mark Lax
Tuesday March 12th.	Painting Fun	Maria Polmeer
Tuesday April 9th.	Rebuilding Guitars, Rebuilding Lives	Colin Greef
Tuesday May 14th.	Return of Rock’n’Roll Schtick	Tim Kilby
Tuesday June 11th.	An Unorthodox Life In Music	Ambre Hammond

If you receive a message from 0444 444 444 it is not a scam

It is The Emergency Alert a national warning system which sends messages to landlines and mobile phones about emergencies such as fires, floods, or significant storms. The Police can also use this number to send out alerts. Members of the community are being asked to save this number in their phone as 'Emergency Alert.'

OUTINGS

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.

More people needed... More people needed... More people needed...

WE BOOKED 18 SEATS AT THE Q THEATRE IN QUEANBEYAN FOR THE AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF BILLY ELLIOT FOR THE

SAT 27 APRIL MATINEE

BUT MORE PEOPLE ARE NEEDED!

TICKETS ARE \$69 EACH, PLEASE PAY BY FEBRUARY MEETING.

CONTACT LINDA:

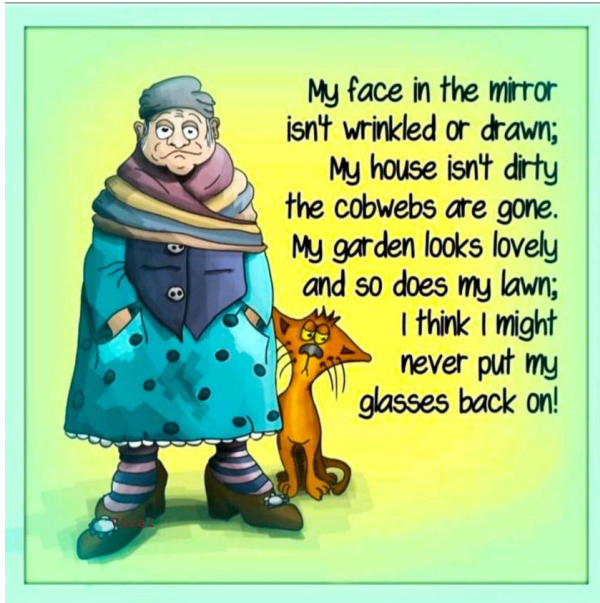
0407 917 133 or linda.tregonning@bigpond.com

(We're not organising these next two outings we're just letting you know about them)

TUESDAY 20TH FEB 'MUSIC AT MIDDAY' CANBERRA THEATRE, THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE BAND. GOLD COIN ENTRY. Arrive 11.45am. All proceeds go to Council of the Aging A.C.T. A great way to spend a lunchtime. Why not meet up with others and go to lunch in Civic. Register online quickly as seats going fast or if you prefer, phone Canberra Theatre on 6275 2700 and they will register you that way.

TUESDAY 5TH MARCH CHIEF MINISTER'S CONCERT ALBERT HALL THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE BAND. GOLD COIN ENTRY. Morning & afternoon sessions. 10am and 1.30pm. Arrive half an hour early and sit towards the back if sensitive to noise. Register online or if you prefer, phone COTA on 6282 3777 and they will register you.

Laughing at your own mistakes
lengthens your life.
Laughing at your wife's mistakes
shortens it.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MAY BE HERE TO STAY BUT IT WON'T BE REPLACING HUMANS ANY TIME SOON...

A Robot has already written a novel which is called '*I The Road.*' It is said to lack a coherent plot, is a ragtag assemblage of modern American imagery but has some striking and memorable lines. A collector's item.

In Japan, a hotel hired 243 robots to fill positions ranging from Concierge to Hotel Porter. Unfortunately, the check-in robots had trouble answering guests' questions and photocopying passports, while porter robots kept banging into walls and tripping over footpaths. One in-room assistant sprang to attention every time a guest snored saying "*Sorry I couldn't hear that. Could you repeat your request?*" Not long after the experiment, the hotel fired half the robots.

In the USA, Facial Recognition software caused embarrassment when it matched mug shots of criminals to photos of 28 US politicians.

China's technology hasn't fared much better. Some cities use Facial Recognition cameras to take photos of people who illegally cross the street, then their faces and names are displayed on billboards for the purpose of public ridicule. This backfired when a VIP billionaire whose face was appearing on the side of a bus was snapped by the camera just as the bus passed and she too was posted on the 'wall of shame.' She took umbrage and the traffic police quickly removed the offending photo from the wall.

Finally, a computer was fed 30,000 cookbooks then programmed to create its own recipes. The result:
Beothurtreed Tuna Pie: Take 1 hard cooked apple mayonnaise, add 5 cups lumps thinly sliced, surround with one and a half dozen heavy water. (Jamie Oliver can rest easy for now.)

ARE MOBILE PHONES A WORLDWIDE ADDICTION?

Research shows that the average person in the USA touches their mobile phone 2,617 times a day. Internet and Tech Addiction Anonymous (ITAA) is an American 12-step, fellowship program that aims to help those addicted to technology recover from their affliction. Members share their experiences and provide support to one another. Studies published about mobile phone addiction suggest that heavy usage is associated with unfortunate outcomes such as lower self-image, higher levels of anxiety, stress and poor sleep. Apparently this addiction is an enemy of focus.

One cold day in 1936 a stray tabby cat crept inside St. Augustine's Cathedral in London, seeking food and warmth. Several times she was cast out. But eventually she prevailed, and went on to win hearts as the beloved church cat. Called Faith for her determination, she sat in the pulpit at Father Henry Ross's feet as he preached, and cozied up to him by the fireside at night. Four years later, she gave birth to an adorable tuxedo kitten, dubbed Panda. On September 6, 1940, Faith made it clear that she *must* go down to the basement. She was so insistent that Father Ross obliged. Faith carried Panda down there with her, curling up with him in a far corner. The rector was perplexed. **Why was Faith so intent on hiding out in that dark, cold, dusty place?** The next day Father Ross left on a trip, and over the following two nights there were heavy air raids in London. Upon his return, the rector was horrified to find St. Augustine's a mass of twisted wreckage, with flames rising from the shattered timbers. He pushed his way past the firemen who were warning him that the roof was likely to collapse at any moment and he clambered over the debris toward the place where he thought the cats would be. Calling Faith, he heard a faint answering 'Meow'. He dug through rubble and found her, dirty but unharmed, nursing Panda. "*She was 'singing,'*" said the rector, "*such a song of praise and thanksgiving as I have never heard.*" With tears of relief, he spirited the cats to safety. Soon the roof collapsed in a shower of sparks, burying the corner where they had been. How did Faith know that disaster was imminent? Animals seem to have uncanny instincts and mankind too is known to have what could be described as 'human instincts.'

CLEVER SCIENCE: Scientists at the Australian Institute of Marine Science are rearing large numbers of baby coral to help our Great Barrier Reef. They're breeding heat-resistant coral because of the rising temperature of the sea. The Reef contains 400 different species of coral and if simply left to nature, the natural adaptation process would be too slow for the rate of warming that is taking place. Now able to replicate the natural signals that corals respond to in order to spawn, they can mix spawns and create baby corals that have a mixture of heat-hardy genes as well as the vulnerable genes. They can control who mum is and who dad is to create baby corals that have a mix of these genetics.



TESSA KENEHAN...My story



I was born in 1939 in a little village in the Midlands UK where my father was a GP. I was the sixth out of eight children. The first five babies came closely one after the other then when Mother was forty I came along, my sister Winefried arrived the day before I turned one, then when Mother was forty three, Stephen was born. We lived in a large three storey home called The Grange with quite a lot of staff including nursemaids and nannies and although there was accommodation upstairs, our staff didn't live in. Although Mother had come from a home where the parents showed little affection, she adored her children so much that all of us thought we were her favourite. When a surgeon suggested a hysterectomy after the first five were born, she absolutely refused, saying *"I'm not sure the Lord has finished giving me children and I'd welcome as many as He sends me."*

As a doctor, Father served five villages. There was a dispensary in our home as there were no pharmacies. I remember all the brown bottles filled with medicines and Father drying orange peels on the Aga stove to flavour them. I was never a good student for the Governesses, then later at school and boarding school I was restless and naughty and I never did catch up. Our Headmistress said *"You're wasting your parent's money being here."* I left school at 15 and helped out at home. Mother told the daily cleaner she was to call me "Miss Teresa." My mother's Aunt Emmy used to come and stay for extended periods and once she even stayed for years. She was quite a character who loved to play Rummy; in fact Mother, Father, my maternal Grandfather and Aunt Emmy used to play Rummy every night. We called them 'The Ancients.' Usually the house was full of visitors on the weekends and I did some of the cooking. We had High Tea in those days between five and six and I'd bake cakes and pastries.

In the 50s I became a registered Nurse and Midwife. I trained in Birmingham and it was very good training spread over four big hospitals. I then took a position living in with a family with four young children where the mother was ill. My dog, a Keeshond, came with me. During the school holidays, I took the children by night train to Aberdeen Scotland where their grandparents met us at the station. I was given a maid to assist with the children and she stayed with them in a small cottage on the estate and at night after the children were in their pyjamas, my dog and I went to the big house, which is where I stayed and after bathing and changing, I joined the grandparents for a very formal dinner each night. It was a beautiful big house in the countryside with Butler and two maids. Everything about their lifestyle was completely different to mine, they were people of some standing, high up in the Campbell Clan.

In 1965 I headed to Australia by air as a "Ten pound Pom." We were given the option of sea or air. I wasn't able to say goodbye to my lovely parents, it would have been just too sad so I slipped away at nine o'clock one night with my sister. I was only planning to come here to work for two years. I'd heard good things about the outdoor life and that appealed to me. I've always loved the outdoors and as a child I used to borrow a horse named Bella from a local farming family resulting in many tumbles. However; as it turned out, I didn't return to England to visit the family for twelve years. There were still six of us alive out of the eight at that time. Mother had died of a stroke in 1965 at only sixty seven years of age, just three months after I left and I still think of things I would have liked to share with her. Father went to her funeral mass then he died three months later. He wasn't interested in living after she'd gone. The Matron of Cooma Hospital had offered me a job while I was still in the UK and I started straight away when I arrived. On my first day, 6 injured men were admitted after an explosion at the Snowy Hydro Scheme had gone wrong and the most damaged man was in my care. He had no English and nobody to translate for him. His leg was amputated and the next day I accompanied him to the airport for a transfer to Sydney where his second leg was removed. We heard that he eventually married a lovely Sydney nurse.

I met Kevin my husband at Dodd's Hotel in Cooma less than 12 months after I arrived. He was the Best Man at the wedding of my new nursing friend Maggie and I was the Bridesmaid. Eventually, the Bridesmaid fell pregnant to the Best Man and I was deciding whether I should return to England, when he warned me *"I'll come over and get you."* We married and had three children in two and a half years which was too close. Gerald came first, then Mary then Jane after that I didn't want to have any more. Lifting babies and toddlers was hard on my back. Gerald and Mary were still in nappies and Jane still breastfeeding, when my back gave out and I had to go into hospital for a spinal operation so we were forced to farm the babies out to friends and neighbours who did a great job of looking after them. The operation was successful and the Orthopaedic surgeon said the falls from the horse had also contributed to this.

During my Cooma days, 2 friends and I opened a Coffee Shop which we happily ran for 10 years though it made no money. I loved cooking and we served cheap meals. Though we had a varied menu, we specialized in vegetarian meals, which in those days was well ahead of the times. It was considered the 'In' place to be. Kevin had worked on the Snowy Mountain Scheme and when that was completed, he and a partner bought houses that were left behind, Kevin cut them in half and converted them into flats to be sold to farms and his partner did the books. The children were in their twenties and we were still in Cooma when Kevin's business went bankrupt and we lost everything.

We left Cooma in 1988 after Kevin had recovered from a heart attack and we moved to Sydney, where he'd been offered a job as Caretaker of a big block of units on the waterfront at Darling Point. It provided us with a unit and we lived there for five years. During this time, I did a refresher course in nursing. After five years, we were ready to leave Sydney. I'd re-trained in Palliative Care and a twenty bed free-standing Hospice was opening in Newcastle in the grounds of the Mater Hospital which I was very enthusiastic to work in. Before we left, Kevin in a lot of pain, was diagnosed with cancer. We moved to Newcastle, bought a small home and I worked in that wonderful Hospice for many years until I retired. Kevin wasn't sick for long, that lovely, lovely man went to Heaven the next year in 1993 when I was fifty four. Being a palliative care nurse I could look after him and he died at home.

A while after Kevin died, I thought it was time I learnt about Aboriginal culture so I took one year unpaid leave from the hospice and went to work as a nurse in a very remote Aboriginal community in the Gulf of Carpentaria. It was a sad experience with four different tribes lumped together in one township. This was not compatible with their culture and also it was not a 'dry' or alcohol-free community as it was supposed to be. In summer when it was the wet season, we were cut off.

After I returned, Jane came to live in Newcastle then eventually I sold that house and Jane and I moved to Canberra. I bought a house here and Jane lives with me, looks after me and is very kind and patient. She's in the Australian Federal Police and so is Mary who also moved to Canberra. Neither of my daughters have married. Christmas 2023 we spent with Gerald, his wife and my two lovely grandchildren who live in Sydney. In June 2023, when I was eighty four, my daughters and I flew to the UK for a family reunion and we stayed in Liverpool with my older sister Veronica. The girls hired a canal boat and had a great time with new friends. One of those friends left her huge rabbit "Frankie" with us. (That's him in the photo.)

I joined Probus after seeing an ad in the paper and it filled my life and gave it meaning. I joined the committee, was Outings Officer with several different people and then as Speaker Seeker I couldn't believe how lucky we are in Canberra to have access to so many interesting speakers. I used to attend exhibitions at the museum and I'd ask the person in charge to come and share it with us. You make friends in Probus and though I don't always feel like going to meetings, once I make the effort, I'm glad I did and I feel good.