



PROBUS CLUB OF GREENWAY INC.

FELLOWSHIP FRIENDSHIP & FUN

Postal address: – Website [Click Here!!](#)

<p>President: Paul Varsanyi 6231 5252 Acting Secretary: Tom Anderson 6287 3845</p>	<p>Editor: Maria Polmeer 0400 301 516 marjam4@optusnet.com.au Issue: 12 March 2024</p>
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If for any reason you are unable to attend the meeting, please call or text **Chris Baxter 0414 644 649** to pass on your apologies.

PRESIDENT'S MARCH MESSAGE

Dear Members

As you know our general meeting for March will be followed immediately by the 2024 AGM. President Paul has assured me he will be back in time to chair our general meeting. He's hoping he and Marti won't be suffering from too much jet lag. At the same time as our AGM, about 15 of our members will be enjoying a trip to Linga Longa. This trip was organised before we realised the double booking of our AGM date. Never fear though, we are holding committee nominations from several of the Linga Longa group in advance of the AGM. I'm still calling on members to consider nominating for Vice President, Secretary or Webmaster. If you take on any of these roles I promise you that you will be supported in your role. If you have planned any trip/s away during the next 12 months, the committee would arrange to cover your role while you're out of town. We absolutely must have a Secretary for the club to function and the Secretary role is being split into several small, more manageable positions which we will refer to as Assistant Secretary roles. The Secretary role (for which we are seeking your nomination) will be one of five signatories to the bank account, be the first point of contact from external points and liaise with PSPL about membership matters. The Assistant Secretaries (for which we already have nominations) will manage all other secretarial tasks. The Vice President is a support role for the rest of the committee and if needed we can appoint more than one Vice President. The Webmaster maintains our website. John and I are both happy to tutor you in that role. I assure you that if you have a laptop or computer and even a small amount of technical know-how it's not difficult, or onerous. Being on the committee can be very rewarding and it is appreciated by our club's members. Please take care and make the choice every day, to be happy. Noela



The February Meeting was attended by 44 members & 1 visitor with 15 apologies and Terry & Terri Flanagan were inducted by Noela which brings Greenway's membership to 65. Linda T began her new role as the Minutes Secretary and Glenda asks that the member who left an envelope with \$30 inside and just PROBUS written on it call her on 6231 9822 or speak to her at the meeting. After 15 years as Treasurer, Glenda will retire at the AGM and we have two willing and capable members interested in taking on the task of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Two will be necessary because both ladies enjoy travelling with their husbands.

**AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING WE SANG HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
VI RICH, TOM LONGHURST, JAN DEACON & CHRIS FINCH**



BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:

Gayle Abbott, Cheryl Dobson, Gail Graham, Susanne Green, Tom Green, Gail Lacey, Sheri Longhurst, Phill McPherson, Karen Nastvogel & Janette Wentworth.

From Glenda

If the person who named Walkie Talkie named everything:

Stamps would be Lickie Stickie

Defibrillators = Hearty Starty

Bumble Bees = Fuzzy Buzzy

Pregnancy Test = Maybe Baby

Nightmare = Screamy Dreamy

Fork = Stabby Grabby

WELFARE

We send best wishes and positive thoughts to Lorraine Freeman and Jenny Southwell

If you know of any other members with health issues,
after the AGM call Sandra on 0429 133 363

OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER
RETIRED AIR COMMODORE & MILITARY HISTORIAN, DR MARK LAX



We were given an interesting talk on Captain William Bligh of *Mutiny on the Bounty* fame about whose life and naval career, Mark has done extensive research. Captain Bligh had a bad rap over the years, largely because of Hollywood distorting of the facts in order to make films exciting. Reports about his heavy handed tactics with crew seem to have been exaggerated in order to make him appear the villain while Fletcher Christian always portrayed as the suave one, could well have been a manipulator. Bligh was such a good Navigator and Cartographer, that after being put aboard a long boat with compass, food and water for one week and crew who were loyal, he sailed 3,600 miles to Timor charting the North East coast of Australia as he went. They survived the 47 day journey on a tiny piece of bread and a sip of water each day.

Born 19 September 1754 the son of a Plymouth customs officer, William Bligh first went to sea aged seven as a captain's servant on board *HM Monmouth*. He became a skilled young seaman and at age 22 was appointed sailing master and chief navigator on *HM Resolution* serving under **Captain James Cook** on that fateful last voyage when he brought the vessel home after Cook was speared in Hawaii. During his distinguished career, Captain Bligh suffered three mutinies, fought several significant battles under **Lord Nelson** who took the time to write him a good reference. It was Bligh who took **Matthew Flinders** under his wing as Midshipman and trained him in navigation.



What some of us didn't know is that far from being the underdog, Captain Bligh was promoted three times and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society while **Joseph Banks** was President. It was Joseph Banks who recommended him for the post of 4th Governor and Captain-General of NSW and he arrived in 1806 with orders to 'control the use of rum as barter, restrict trade monopolies and stamp out corruption among officials and the military' known then as The NSW Corps. His attempts to follow orders resulted in what is known as The Rum Rebellion when two years later, on 26 January (now Australia Day) with fixed bayonets, the NSW Corps marched on Government House, put their Governor under house arrest and placed the whole colony under military rule! So there he was, once again with another rebellion on his hands. Two years later he was given control of a supply ship to return to England where he gave a full report. He was a pretty important man by the time he retired

comfortably as Rear Admiral in 1811 and published his memoir which became a best seller. Although he was away at sea for such extended periods, William Bligh and his wife Betsey managed to have six children. Bruny Island Tasmania is where the old sailing ships used to go to fill their casks with water and there is a lot of memorabilia to be seen there.

Tuesday March 12th.	Painting Fun	Maria Polmeer
Tuesday April 9th.	Rebuilding Guitars, Rebuilding Lives	Colin Creef
Tuesday May 14th.	Return of Rock'n'Roll Schtick	Tim Kilby
Tuesday June 11th.	An Unorthodox Life In Music	Ambre Hammond

Colin Creef our Speaker for April, repairs old guitars and donates them to those who can benefit. Bring any unwanted or damaged guitars to the April meeting and Colin will relieve you of them.

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.

ALL ABOARD!!

THURSDAY 2ND MAY

**WE'RE GOING FOR A CRUISE ON A LARGE BOAT
TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S HOUSE.**

COST IS \$24 CONCESSION

(An optional \$30 afternoon tea is available)

CALL LINDA on 0407 917 133

linda.tregonning@bigpond.com

--NUMBERS ARE LIMITED, SO FIRST IN BEST DRESSED--

Watch this space... When they return from the Linga Longa trip, Gail & Linda are thinking about a bus trip to Cooma with a proper guided tour, a Birds Nest Fashion Tour and perhaps a visit to the jail.

The Ladies Club of Majura is planning a Mystery Tour on Tuesday 9th April. Some vacancies are available. Bus leaves Yowani 9AM and arrives back in Canberra approximately 4 PM same day. \$95 per person includes morning tea and lunch. If you want to bring alcohol please bring a plastic glass. No corkage fee. Please wear casual gear for a fun day! Prize for guessing correct destination. Payment due by 25th March. Contact Janice Baxter 0406 272 273 or Libby Robertson 6241 1075.

The Friendship Lunch is held so that all the Probus clubs can come together and we can meet new people. It was a great success last year and will be held again in **July or August**, the venue yet to be announced. The speaker last time was Hugh Mackay author of *The Kindness Revolution* who confirmed the importance of clubs like Probus. He said: "Social isolation has become the No 1 public health problem. We suffer from 'eye hunger' when we don't get enough eye contact every day. We are a social species and at our best when we acknowledge the differences between us and others because we share a common humanity. The survival of the species is dependant not on the fittest, but on the kindest and most co-operative. It's in our DNA to co-operate and since earliest time, mankind has survived better in friendship circles which nurture us, sustain us and give us that all important sense of belonging."

We are not organising the following but you might enjoy going to it ☺

The Alchemy Chorus will hold its Autumn Concert Saturday 16 March at 2.30pm at Weston Creek Uniting Church 16 Parkinson St Weston. Donations gratefully accepted.

ABOUT THE PAINTING WORKSHOP AFTER THE AGM

This workshop has been successful for disability, children and beginners and is always fun. I avoid using anything toxic or with fumes. Acrylic paints are easy to use because they dry very quickly and if smeared on clothes can easily be removed by a drycleaner. However; perhaps it would be best if we all wear second-best clothes or bring an apron or loose shirt to put over our clothes while painting. ~ Maria

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

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



THIS IS ‘SCOUT’ A MUTT WHO WAS ONCE A STRAY. HE ESCAPED FROM AN ANIMAL SHELTER THREE TIMES AND EACH TIME, AFTER CROSSING A BUSY HIGHWAY, HEADED FOR THE SAME ELDERLY CARE FACILITY WHERE HE WENT TO SLEEP ON THEIR RECEPTION AREA COUCH. At first the Shelter was called to come and collect him, but then it happened again a few nights later. The third time it happened, the Administrator decided that this was not something to be ignored. So Scout was adopted –by everybody. *“I’m a person who looks at outward signs and if*

it’s meant to be, it’s meant to be” said Marna Robertson the Administrator. One of the nurses said *“To each and every one of them, it’s **their** dog.”* Formally adopted by the nursing home, Scout, whom the staff say was clearly an abused dog in his past life, quickly set about the business of making friends with the residents. To a long-term/permanent care facility that houses dementia patients, elderly with no family support and those in the end-of-life stages, having the dog around has turned out to be a priceless addition. He patrols the halls in a manner that’s part security guard part professional greeter, routinely visiting those who are dying, or popping in on residents who still have the energy to play with him and always stopping by the rooms of those who keep dog treats in their walkers. He’s not big, nor menacing, but he’s protective and if someone who doesn’t live there rings the doorbell he barks an alert.

In the public library, a man with his new library card questioned the pretty librarian. “Do you mean to say,” he asked, “that with this card I may take out any book I want?”

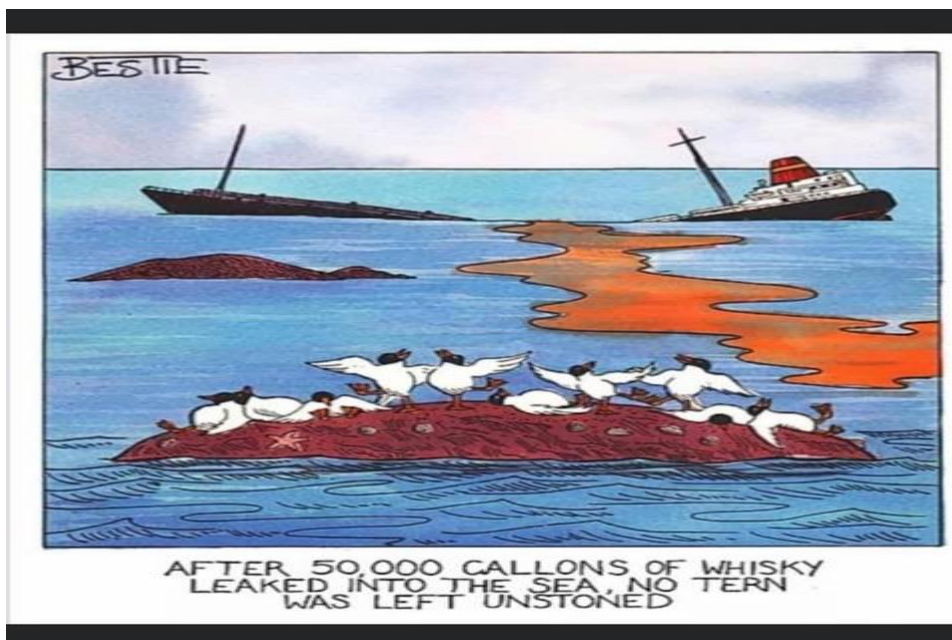
“Yes,” she answered.

“And may I take out record albums, too?” “Yes, you may.”

“May I take you out?” he ventured.

Drawing herself up to her full height, she replied,

“The librarians, sir, are for reference only!”

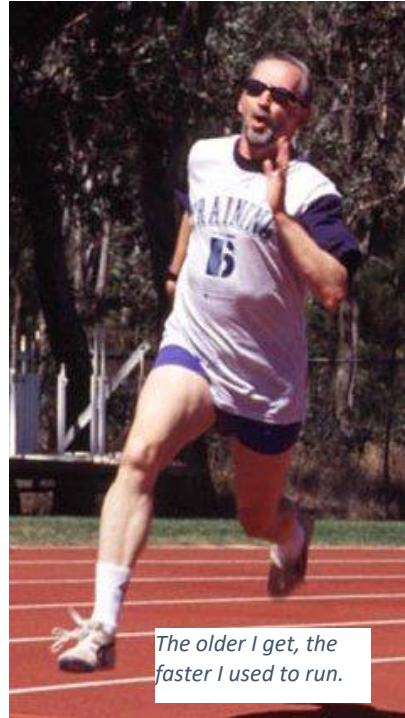


A POTTED BIOGRAPHY: JOHN PAYNE

John Spencer Payne who is about to retire as our Speaker Seeker & Webmaster, was born in Sydney in 1944 the only child of Phylis May Turner and Alexandra John Payne. (No, that's not a misprint, his dad was born in Alexandra, Victoria.) John joined Probus with his recently deceased wife Clare in 2017.

A lifetime Marketer, John saw a need and straight away set up our website—the first Probus one in the ACT region—which is often remarked on and was in fact the reason that Vice-President Noela chose Greenway above other Probus Clubs. *“Probus Clubs need to attract new and younger members and a good website helps them find us”* says John, who for some years was Publisher & Editor of *“A Better Life is your Future”* Web Marketing Ezine.

A pioneer of consumer electronics, when he was the proprietor of ElectricLand in Phillip, he introduced products such as video recorders, personal computers and microwave ovens to the Canberra market. John has always been drawn to pioneering technology and the educational element that goes with that, so after being employed in the area of water treatment systems, he researched water storage and re-use and was responsible for introducing water tanks to urban living in the A.C.T. Also, it was his family company Enviro Friendly Products, which introduced solar hot water technologies and solar panels to Canberra.



Life has not always been easy for John, who has the distinction of being the well-adjusted survivor of not one, but three broken homes. Yet he has gone on to distinguish himself—often in a pioneering way—in the above areas of commerce while having a loving marriage and raising his three boys in a stable environment. *“When you're flat on your back, everything is looking up”* was the motto John created to see him through the tumultuous years of his youth after his parents separated and he changed primary schools many times, moved house twelve times in one year and attended four different high schools in three years, in three States.

He was saved, he believes, by the steadying influence of two families who befriended him during those years, when their sons brought him to their home. First in Mosman, Sydney, the Loblay family a Romanian, Jewish family took him into their warm hearts and their home became virtually a second home while he was living with his mother and her parents. Later, when John was living in Melbourne and experiencing two of his father's relationship breakups, quite by chance a Polish Jewish family, the Silbersteins made him welcome in their home as he was the friend of their son. John's positive attitude to life is borne out in the statement *“If my parents hadn't broken up, I never would have met Robert Loblay, my best friend of almost 70 years.”*

Although his wide-ranging interests include Archaeology, Paleontology, Astronomy, Space Science, Current Affairs and politics --he's a Member of the A.C.T Greens, his special interest has always been sport and to that end, he took up Track & Field Athletics at 45 and has won many medals State, National and Oceania levels. He was also an Australian Pentathlon Champion. Ten years as Merchandise Manager at the Australian Institute of Sport, saw John working with many icons of Australian sport such as George Gregan, Liz Ellis and Rob De Castella to name a few.

After almost seven years on the Greenway committee, John is handing over his roles as Speaker Seeker and Webmaster at the Annual General Meeting. His calm presence at meetings will be missed. One of John's notable qualities is that of supportive colleague offering help and encouragement when needed.~ ed



CONTINUING THE NAUTICAL THEME OF OUR SPEAKER, HERE'S A TRUE TALE OF AN UNLUCKY SHIP

IT'S A WELL KNOWN SUPERSTITION THAT CHANGING A SHIP'S NAME IS BAD LUCK, BUT THE *MARY CELESTE* WHICH WAS FOUND IN 1872 DRIFTING UNDER PARTIAL SAIL WITH NOT A SOUL ON BOARD, WAS UNLUCKY FROM THE START.

Built in 1861 in Canada, she was a 30 metre two masted merchant brigantine and her original name was '*Amazon*'. Her first captain became ill on the maiden voyage and died, she collided with fishing equipment off Maine, then after leaving London ran into (and sank) a brig in the English Channel. Over time, three of her captains died prematurely encouraging the idea that the ship was cursed. When *Amazon* was six years old, she was driven ashore in a storm and so badly damaged that her owners abandoned her as a wreck and she was sold as such to an American mariner from New York. He spent \$8,000 on restoration, made himself her captain and in 1868 gave her the name *Mary Celeste*. The following year she was seized by his creditors and sold to a New York consortium the composition of which changed several times. She had just undergone a major refit when 37 year old Captain Benjamin Briggs took command. He was headed for Genoa with cargo and had arranged for his wife and two year old daughter to accompany him, leaving his school-age son in the care of his grandmother.

On December 5th 1872 in the mid-Atlantic, David Morehouse, captain of the ship *Dei Gratia* who was also headed for Genoa, recognised the *Mary Celeste*—she had sailed from the same port just eight days before his own departure and he knew her captain. Concerned by her erratic movement and the odd set of her sails and receiving no reply to his signals, he changed course and launched a boarding party to check on her crew and passengers. She was found 400 miles east of the Azores Island Santa Maria off Portugal and in the last entry in the ship's log she would have been just six miles off and within sight of land. It makes sense that a captain ordering abandonment of a ship would do it within sight of land and Santa Maria was the last land for hundreds of miles. Now here she was ten days later, deserted, under partial sail after apparently drifting for 394 miles.

The ship was in decent shape, the lifeboat missing, cargo intact and she was well-provisioned. The captain and the crew's personal belongings were undisturbed but the captain, his wife, daughter and seven crew were never seen or heard from again. The cargo of 1,701 barrels of industrial alcohol was still there except for nine barrels which were empty. There was three feet of water in the hold which would not prompt a captain to abandon ship. Captain Briggs' sextant, chronometer and navigation book were missing as well as the ship's register which suggested orderly abandonment. Abandoning ship in the North Atlantic in December in a lifeboat is dangerous, but Captain Briggs was known as a good sailor and must have had a good reason. (It's believed that he suspected an explosion was imminent because of leaking industrial alcohol and that later, caught in bad weather in the longboat, all of them perished.)

By putting four of his crew aboard her, Captain Morehouse brought the derelict to Gibraltar where she was immediately impounded by the vice admiralty court to prepare for salvage hearings. After that she continued in service under new owners until in 1885 her captain deliberately wrecked her by sailing into a reef off Haiti trying to scam his insurance company. He was charged with a crime known as "barratry"—the wilful casting away of a ship—also fraud. He died three months later.

The fate of the captain & crew of the *Mary Celeste* remains one of the most enduring maritime mysteries in history.