



## 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  
Catherine Evans 0419 410 606 (then you are an apology rather than an absence.)**

### PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER MESSAGE

#### Dear Members

I've returned after being missing in action for 2 meetings. I started with an amazing bus tour of the Kimberleys, WA which I'll share later as Maria has asked me (and I've agreed) to do a write up for a future newsletter. After the WA trip was behind me, I headed off to visit family in Queensland. It was time well spent. Highlights included attending my brother's sunrise beach wedding, a fun karaoke pub night with my daughter, my niece's 18th birthday dinner, not winning at bingo with my niece and her mum, and taking my mum (93) to visit her 2 sisters, given none of them drive or can navigate public transport.

The Committee has been busy in my absence. Linda T and Gayle L are very happy with the number of members who jumped at the Murray Princess / South Australia trip in April 2026 and the Christmas in July 2026 Cruise. They're also working on smaller activities and outings. The complete list is elsewhere in this newsletter and will also be available at October's meeting.

Within a few months we'll be asking for nominations for our 2026 Committee. I encourage you to think seriously about putting your hand up for a role. New Committee members generally come with fresh ideas and experiences. Turnover is essential if we want to maintain a healthy club which members enjoy being a part of. Now is the time to chat to the current incumbent/s if you aren't clear about what a role entails. I think if you ask Committee members whether they enjoy being part of the Committee group, you'll get a resounding yes. It can be both fun and rewarding. Lastly, thank you to Vice President Sandra A for stepping up during my absence.

**Noela**

#### NEWS FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

\*Greenway's membership is 71 and the September meeting was attended by 43. Thank you to the 14 members who notified that they would be an apology.

\*Karen Kidd is now available as a Justice of the Peace at each meeting. Don't forget to bring the original if needing a photocopy certified.

#### 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 Concert.)

**HERE WE ARE ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2025 CELEBRATING 18 YEARS!  
(There was a big round of applause for Glenda who wrapped all the prizes but couldn't attend because she was recovering from influenza.)**



**MORE BIRTHDAY PHOTOS BY PAM**



*Sandra LOVED her prize!*



*Speaker Russell joined us for lunch.*



It was with great sadness that we announced the passing of Sue Green. We'll miss that quiet, friendly lady and we extend heartfelt sympathy to hubby Tom and their family. Sue's funeral was held at St Mary in the Valley Anglican Church on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

### WELFARE

Sending good wishes and positive thoughts to Tessa Kenehan who had a fall.  
If you know of any member who is unwell, please call Sandra Barker on 0429 133 363

### LOOKING BACK AT FOOD IN THE OLD DAYS

Pasta was not eaten in Australia or N.Z. Curry was a surname. A takeaway was a mathematical problem.

A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower. Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.

Calamari was called squid and we used it as fish bait. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.

Brown bread was something only poor people ate. Oil was for lubricating; fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green. Sugar was regarded as white gold in those days and cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Fish didn't have fingers in those days. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.

Indian restaurants were only found in India. Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly, muesli was readily available; it was called cattle feed.

Water came out of the tap and if someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!!

(Something that we never, ever, had on our table in the fifties & sixties were elbows or phones.)

### NEVER GIVE UP YOUR DAYDREAM

There was a young man who was born to poverty-stricken parents on 12/02/1809 (the same day as Charles Darwin). He wasn't able to go to school, so he taught himself. His mother died when he was nine and his father married an impoverished widow with children. Fortunately, she was a kind step-mother who encouraged his studies. He dreamed of being a lawyer and when he completed military service, he decided to use his self-administered study of law to enter politics, so he ran for a seat in the Senate. He was defeated by a large majority so he temporarily retired from the law and became a store keeper. His store went bankrupt and he spent the next seventeen years paying off his debts while picking up whatever odd jobs he could find, but his daydream continued to urge him on. He fell in love, married, struggled to support his family and again entered politics as a candidate for Congress. He was elected by a very narrow margin, but when he ran for re-election, he was defeated. Next, he tried to get a position with the United States Land Office, but they wouldn't hire him. His lack of education, poor background and lack of social graces and connections went against him. He held up his head, ignored his hurt pride and ran for the Senate. Once again, he was defeated. Eventually, he was nominated for Vice-President of a major party. On the final ballot, he lost again to a political unknown. Running again for the Senate, he waged a campaign which captured the imagination of a nation yet it resulted in another defeat. He didn't dwell on failures, kept following his daydream and finally, at the age of fifty, still clinging fast to his destined life path, Abraham Lincoln became President of the United States of America. Never give up your daydream.

## OUTINGS

### GREENWAY SUNDAY DINING GROUP

**First Sunday of each month** members meet at various venues for lunch. Why not come along and give it a try and then decide if you want to join? Contact **Sandra Barker** on **0429 133 363** for information.

### 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 afterwards. (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** at Vikings Erindale, 6 Ricardo St Wanniasa. \$25--\$30 lunch. On the day, we'll bring a \$10 wrapped present for the Santa Sack. Ladies will bring a lady present and gents a present suitable 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.) More info soon...

**\*\*AT THE FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING** we'll be looking at each other's photos on display and playing "Guess Who." Please bring along a photo of you from **baby to young adult TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING** and give it to Annette on the front desk. They'll be handled with great care and there will be a prize on the day. This should be great fun!

**\*\*APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> 2026 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** on the harbour. Price \$237. **4 SEATS LEFT.** Make your own way there, Linda will book a dining venue. Find your own accommodation. Payment due 3<sup>rd</sup> March but \$100 deposit now please. linda.tregonning@bigpond.com. (*Great outdoor setting by the harbour & Opera House. Perhaps bring a rain poncho? Umbrellas not allowed.*)

**\*\*APRIL 18<sup>th</sup> 2026 BUNDANOON HIGHLAND GATHERING** Phil is happy to drive us in a hired bus. We'll leave Friday 17<sup>th</sup> afternoon, stay in a motel enjoy the day then return Saturday afternoon. **Please enter your name on the bookings table ASAP before motels fill up.** Cost depends on size of bus we hire.

**\*\* JULY 19 to 29<sup>th</sup> 2026 XMAS IN JULY CRUISE:** (A great response 21 members have already booked cabins & paid their deposit!) 10-day cruise Sydney to Noumea; including Port Vila; Mystery Is & Lifou. Balcony room \$3,208 per cabin (same for solo cabin); Obstructed window ocean view room \$2,608 per cabin; Interior room \$2,346 per cabin. Add your name to the list on the Outings Table.



[linda.tregonning@bigpond.com](mailto:linda.tregonning@bigpond.com)

We hear the Fun & Games Day was a success with 48 attending and the "Probian of the year" chosen was Dorothy Mckenzie from Probus Gold Creek Club. Dorothy joined Gold Creek in 1998 and has served on the Committee in various roles over all these years. Having always thought of it as genteel, Tom was surprised at what a competitive ("cut throat") game croquet is! Belconnen Croquet club members were there to give tuition.





**OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER was Russell Dew who has now joined Greenway. We are glad that we met Russell at MJ The Musical and booked him to speak at our Birthday Lunch as it was informative and interesting.**

**Russell is Senior Financial Planner at Dew & Partners** so we had an expert to bring things into perspective for us and make us aware of matters some of us may not have thought about, known about or perhaps took for granted. Russell provided the statistics of improvement to our way of life since WWII which was a story of Baby Boomers and their opportunities with the level of education raised. Australia now has a more comprehensive social welfare system for the unemployed, children, disabled and the retired. Some countries like Indonesia still have absolutely no social welfare at all, but we've had an age

pension since 1909. We even found out that it is since 1970 that we've had a sewerage network instead of the 'Night Soil' man.

There was a time when our government was very protective of our car manufacturing industry so that we had to produce three vehicles first, before being allowed to import one car and apparently, "*Getting rid of our car industry was the best thing we ever did.*" Like Donald Trump we, too, once had high tariffs on imported goods, but that made everything too expensive so it was dropped. We de-regulated and that was the good for our prosperity.

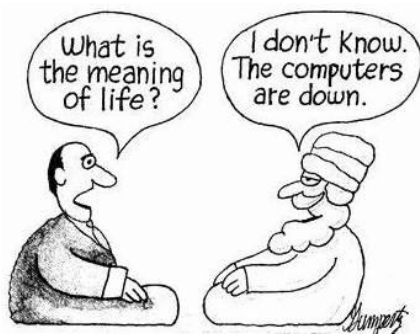
Compared to our ancestors, our generation have experienced extraordinary wealth. We stabilized our economy by floating the dollar and borrowing now is cheaper than in the old days because banks charge in a fairer way and the accumulation of \$3.4 trillion in superannuation will allow many Australians to retire with a decent lifestyle.

The question now is, says Russell, can such a run of good luck continue without:

- A major World War?
- A major health epidemic?
- Chronic environmental impact brought on by climate change?

### FUTURE SPEAKERS

Tues 14 October	Baghdad experiences	Phill McPherson
Tues 11 November	Craft + bring your photo to Annette	Marti
Tues 9 December	Christmas Party	Santa
Tues 13 January	Bingo	Sandra A
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Guess Who?	Annette





*We had a bird's eye view from Sally's apartment*

### **LETTER FROM BEIJING:**

**Tom was there at the time of the huge Victory Day celebrations for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan's surrender at the end of WWII with 1000s of troops marching in parade along Tiananmen square, while a military band blasted trumpets and China showcased its latest military hardware before world leaders as a show of strength and a reminder of history.**

*Tom wrote: Beijing Wednesday 3rd of September 2025 I am visiting our daughter Sally and her family in Beijing for 9 days having flown in from Ho Chi Min City via Hanoi on Friday the 29th of August. I've been in Vietnam with our son*

*and his family who were holidaying there before returning to the UK. What is happening in Beijing is a Summit of over 20 world leaders on the 3rd of September, (not the 2nd which is when World War II ended.) The conflict with Japan during World War II is not forgotten here in China. Their view is that Japan has never really apologised for its wrongs.*

*Sally has been telling me about the city's preparations for over 3 weeks with practices every Sunday morning in Tiananmen Square of the Military and the fly past. Road closures are starting and already there are no-go areas. I noticed this on the way in from the airport. Having lived and worked in China [Beijing] for over 3 years from 2005 and 2008 and visited Sally on a number of occasions, none of this was remarkable to me. You need to know and understand China; it can't be compared to Australia as it is very different.*

*Ten days before the event, the city started closing down its centre. Subway stations closed and trains just went through them. Progressively, road closures expanded out from Tiananmen Square. These were well publicised. Beijingers are used to this, life readjusts and just goes on despite the restrictions, whereas we in Australia would be mortified. Monday, all schools were told to close and do on-line learning until Thursday, which is great for me as the grandchildren are home for another 3 days. No parking allowed in the avenue where Sally's apartment is. Fences were up on Monday all along this avenue which is about 10 lanes wide. Guards are stationed every twenty metres by Tuesday lunchtime as Sally and I walk for coffee and although we are 5kms from Tiananmen, there are security people everywhere.*

*Sally had predicted a blue-sky day for Wednesday, but it was not to be. It was hazy with no wind. The TV coverage started at 8am and we were all ensconced watching the live feed. We watched Daniel Andrews arrive and then a host of others including President Putin in his own limousine. They are all greeted by President Xi and his wife and then they walk through the "gate" and along a line of soldiers who are their guard. Then it's time for the Group photo, after which they all have to climb up the stairs to the seating area. It's a fair haul and some of the original leaders need time. Many of them are my age!!*



*Tiananmen Square is pristine and a riot of colour. The backdrop and the Military are ready for this day and Parade. I am told that they have been ready since 6 am. The Military uniforms are crisp and colourful, the female soldiers are in one group and their hat and scarf remind me of "cowgirls" but I would not want to mess with them. President Xi speaks, then he does his inspection by car before climbing back up to the top to review the Military parade. It is precision with pomp and colour. Continues next page...*



*Every movement is choreographed from the soldiers moving to get into their tanks and vehicles, to precise marching along Chang 'An Avenue [the one through the centre of Beijing east to west that goes for 45 kms]. The soldiers are followed by tanks, missile carriers, planes, drones and finally unmanned submarines.*

*It's not too long before they have passed and we look out of our 17th floor apartment [not really as there are no 4th, 13th or 14th floors in China] to see the start of the air parade. First a mass of helicopters and there are screams of delight from the children at seeing them. Then a series of planes fly by culminating in those who let off colour streams. It is yet another show put on by the Military in China to show their might. I saw one in 2015 and it was very similar.*

*As we sit back to reflect, we hear the rumble of tanks on our Avenue. They are leaving the city now and we get a birds-eye view. Finally, the convoy ends with an Ambulance. Within an hour the road is open and it is as though nothing had happened!*

***GOOD NEWS...GOOD NEWS...GOOD NEWS...GOOD NEWS...GOOD NEWS...GOOD NEWS...***  
**(There is always good news happening somewhere in the world.)**

When Chinese businessman Jack Ma was a boy, he used to ride 17 miles on his bicycle each day for nine years to work as a tour guide for foreigners. The goal--to practice his English—eventually paid off. However; this determined young man had faced other challenges. Jack Ma (born Ma Yun) had struggled academically because his maths scores were so low that it had taken him two years to gain acceptance to an ordinary Chinese High School. By 1988 he'd managed to graduate from a Chinese university after which he applied for 31 jobs and was rejected by all. One hotel told him tactlessly that he was just too skinny and short (5'4) and that his looks would hurt their restaurant's image. After he moved to the USA, he was rejected by Harvard Business School.

Thankfully, Ma caught a lucky break in the rising Internet when in 1995, he registered a domain that quickly became a million-dollar venture, leading to many others. His worth is now estimated at \$24 billion. A philanthropist dedicated to improving education, the environment and public health, in 2015 Ma purchased 28,000 acres of pristine forest deep in New York's Adirondack Mountains for \$23 million. His goal was not to develop the land, as many billionaires would do, but to restore and protect it. **Instead of building luxury resorts or extracting resources, he's returning the land to its natural state.** *"Under my stewardship,"* Jack stated, *"There will be no logging, mining, or commercial projects. The land will be a safe sanctuary for wildlife, where forests grow undisturbed, rivers run freely, and future generations can experience a thriving landscape."*

We can all be inspired by quiet revolutionaries like Jack Ma, a self-made man who took the road less travelled. His actions prove that not all billionaires are greedy and selfish. He admits that his purchase of Brandon Park was not entirely selfless; he also envisioned a holiday home for his family on it. Still, his actions remind us that the greatest return on investment isn't always financial. Sometimes it can be measured in results like clean water, healthy wildlife and the quiet beauty of a pristine forest.

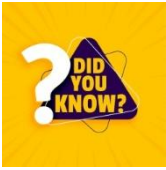
*"History is written by the rich and so the poor get blamed for everything."*

~Jeffrey Sachs  
 Economist

**TOILET PAPER IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY:** John Payne remembers his father telling him about an advertisement at the end of WWII for toilet paper which said “*Guaranteed—no splinters!*” Early production methods often failed to remove small wood fibres from the finished product until Sorbent pioneered the first commercial roll in 1952, but that product was slippery and waxed. Toilet paper was being manufactured in Australia as early as the 1930s but during the Depression, people couldn’t afford to buy this luxury item. Instead, every scrap of paper was saved and most people used torn-up newspaper. As early as the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Chinese made paper from rice straw and were using it for the toilet (with a special perfumed variety for the emperor’s family.) Meanwhile, Paleontologists tell us that the rest of the world made do with grass, leaves, hay, sand, snow, moss, corn cobs, fruit skins, wood shavings and coconut fibre. Apparently there was a sponge on a stick for the Romans and stones and pieces of clay for the ancient Greeks.

According to our newsletter editor’s great-uncle Arthur Polmeer, who was the A.C.T’s first Health Inspector, Canberra’s un-sewered days were his biggest problem because there were sanitation depots in Duntroon and Yarralumla close to the only school and all other night-soil was buried within two miles of the city (now inner suburbs.) Blowflies were a problem and then, to his horror, in 1928 when the first water and milk samples were collected for analysis, notification of contamination and infection was declared. During his twenty-six years in the job, he became so cautious about protecting Canberra that hairdressers had to be X-Rayed for TB before they were allowed to work in the A.C.T!

It was the invention of indoor plumbing in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that finally launched the toilet paper movement world-wide, because you can’t flush coconut husks or moss down the loo. These days, toilet paper production consumes tens of thousands of trees each day, so mass consumption in the wealthy countries is contributing to climate change. One day when the Amazon forest is gone, our descendants may well accuse us of wiping our bottoms on it!



That the clipper ship *Ticonderoga*, which was chartered by the Highland and Island Emigration Society to transport to Australia hundreds of Scottish families who had been forced to leave their homeland because of The Clearances and the potato famine, arrived in Melbourne in 1852, but was forbidden to dock? (Her arrival caused panic because she was flying the dreaded yellow flag of contagion.) On the horrific three-month voyage from Liverpool, deadly typhus erupted killing 200 passengers, many of them children and leaving others desperately ill. Of the 700 passengers, 190 were under seven years of age. Fortunately there was a Scots pastor on board, whose descendant today lives in Canberra. He and his wife were emigrating and their own two children died on that voyage. He performed funeral services daily, but had to assign two hundred bodies to the sea without a coffin because none were available which caused sharks to follow her passage. She was forced to quarantine at the tip of Mornington Peninsular which is now a Quarantine Station called *Ticonderoga Bay*.

**DID YOU KNOW** that in London during World War Two, after the Bethnal Green Library was bombed, resourceful locals took over the disused tube station and an entire community lived out the war underground with 5,000 locals sleeping on bunks, a 300-seat theatre, a café, a health clinic, children’s nursery, mobile hairdresser, and a library. They called the tube station *The Iron Lung* and the whole experience is captured in the book “*The Little Wartime Library*” by Kate Thompson in which there are interviews with survivors.

**DID YOU KNOW** that some people are literally unable to smile? It is a rare condition known as *Moebius Syndrome* which affects several cranial nerves impairing the muscles that control facial expressions & eye movements.

*“I trust AI the way a sailor trusts the sea. It can carry you far, or it can drown you.”*

~ Rick Spair

Technology Author

## OUR RECENT TULIP TOPS OUTING

Nine Greenway members who gathered at Tulip Tops reported *“The weather was freezing, the gardens were beautiful and the sandwiches were lovely.”*



**\*The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Probus in Australia is next year and will be celebrated in style. Here is one of the first events arranged for Probus by Trade Travel:**



**OCTOBER 31st to 10th NOVEMBER 2026 PROBUS AUSTRALIA'S 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CRUISE 11 days/10-nights on the newly refurbished Celebrity Solstice. Meet members from Probus Clubs all over Oz.** The cruise departs 4.30pm from Sydney on the 31st of October 2026 and interspersed with days at sea, the ship will call in for a day at Hobart then Adelaide, Melbourne and finally Eden, arriving back in Sydney at 6.30am on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of November.

\$2,284 per person twin-share interior room, \$3,907 pp twin share balcony room.