

PROBUS NEWSLETTER



SEPT 26

Howick East Combined Probus Club

Gordy's Gossip



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TRIPS

02 0168 0277062 01

I went to Woolworths in Highland Park a couple of weeks ago to buy apples, milk and bread. That's all I needed at the time but, as usual, I studied the Specials Board at the entrance to the supermarket. What stood out to me was Cadbury's Dairy Milk Chocolate at half price. So, having put what I came for in my trolley, I stood staring at the chocolate display in the confectionary aisle.

A lady, pushing the smaller of the trolley sizes, stopped beside me and asked me what I was looking at. When I said "I'm thinking about the Cadbury chocolate at \$3.50", she beat me to it and grabbed her favourite, Caramello, saying "If you can't enjoy what you want at 95 years old, when can you?" I looked at her. She didn't look a day over 80, and told her so. She said "Wait until you see my husband. His 103rd birthday is next week!" Her husband then appeared with the bigger trolley full to the brim with food, more than usual because their daughter and her husband were staying with them to celebrate his birthday.

My question to them, as I was standing there with my two artificial knees was "How do you stay so fit?" Her answer was ... "We swim twice a week at Lloyd Elsmore swimming pool, walk at least two or three times a week when it's not raining, do Tai Chi, take part in Line Dancing & eat a healthy diet." That obviously works for them.

As I was walking to the self-service checkout with my three original items plus my Cadbury fruit and nut chocolate, I pondered on that chance meeting with the 95 year old lady and her even older husband. If that was their philosophy for a healthy life

.....where is my nearest Line Dancing venue???

Gordon



NEXT PROBUS MEETING
Tuesday 15 September

Website Link -

<https://www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/howickeast>
www.facebook.com/howickeastcombinedprobus/

IMPORTANT NEWS !

Our Probus Meeting in September will
return to the Howick Bowling Club

WELCOME !

A warm Probus welcome to:
Graeme Cox, Linda Nickalls,
Charlotte Thompson, Thelma
Sobiecki and Kathy Miln
who were inducted at
the August Meeting.

DOOR GREETERS

Edwina Feurstein
Elaine Flashman
Please report
by 9.30am



SPEAKER IN AUGUST

Author - Colleen Brown

Colleen Brown is a woman with great compassion and a willingness to assist others. Not only has she been a local body councillor, but has been an advocate for the disabled community, amongst many other activities.

Today we heard about her continuing career as a published author and what a fascinating story it was. The themes for her books all have been as a result of family photographs or related stories and reiterates our unique type of life in New Zealand, whereby those of us who were fortunate to grow up here know there is always a connection to be had in other areas, simply by word of mouth.

As Colleen told us, "some stories announce themselves." This proved to be so when she was shown a picture of her great uncle Bertie Jarrett. At a height of only five feet one inch he was under the regulation size to go overseas during World War One, but managed to join the army regardless. He died in 1919 in England while waiting interminably to be shipped home. His fiancée, sadly along with thousands of other young women, never married.

Although surviving the actual war Bertie had been living in very difficult circumstances in Sling Camp in England and the post war influenza was decimating huge numbers of people around the world.

Huge politics were involved in England at that time and the country was on the brink of civil war. Tanks were used on the streets in some towns.

Six thousand men were living in a camp designed for far fewer numbers. They were desperate to be shipped home and many had endured an enforced march in Germany of two hundred and fifty kilometers with insufficient food, shelter or boots, with rats stealing their

food. Sling camp in 1919 had been the site of a riot and the cost of repairs had to be repaid by the New Zealand Government to the Imperial Army.

To occupy the New Zealanders at Sling it was decided to cut the figure of a Kiwi in the chalk on the hill at Bulford above the camp. Victor Low was a member of the first Chinese family in New Zealand and he drew the design and the positioning, also accounting for a twist in the hill.

Two hundred and fifty men who had been trained to kill for the last five years climbed the hill and cut out the shape of the Kiwi in the chalk with their trenching tools.

Colleen managed to unearth many diaries and information about the Kiwi and its lack of maintenance. Thus her book "The Bulford Kiwi" was written. Sadly during the Muldoon years a grant maintenance of the Kiwi had been declined. Maintenance help has now been achieved with help from Lt.Col. Danny Fisher, an Arctic Warrior, (NATO forces from the British Army) who saw the Kiwi and organised a large group of men to assist.

During World War Two covering the Kiwi had been essential as it could have been a visible landmark for the Luftwaffe pilots to navigate by when bombing English towns.

"Elvie the Sheep" is a delightful children's book which Colleen based on a sheep her Aunt had kept in a field behind her house in Kilburnie in Wellington. Trained to walk on a lead to the local park, Evie loved being a local identity.

"The Bulford Kiwi" has now been rewritten as a children's book and the latest story is a delightful tale "The Cloughley Family" about Violet, an eight year old who knitted a scarf as a gift for a soldier during the first World War.

Colleen has certainly been assiduous in following leads for stories all over New Zealand and her information is always totally accurate.

A morning to remember.

..... Mary Wilton



GENEALOGY

Alan Sheath is available to help you with genealogy.

Alan's phone: 0274 389100
alan.sheath@gmail.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

or PHONE NO.

Please inform
Rob Hargreaves
of any changes
airheadrob@gmail.com
Phone: 533 8283



WELFARE

Welfare/Sickness
Issues

Please inform
Maureen Saunders
Phone:
021 2598308

Brian Stocking
is available for
JP duties on
Club days from
9.30 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE

27 OCTOBER

PLANETARIUM

& EDEN GARDENS FOR LUNCH

\$25 pp

*My mind still thinks I'm 25.
My body thinks my mind is an idiot!*

RYDERS CINEMA



Our recent trip to Ryders Cinema in Avondale was a real treat. We left Nixon Hall at 9.15 sharp and before we knew it, the bus was backed expertly down the narrow drive into the Ryders complex by our wonderful driver. We were greeted with morning tea of coffee and biscuits which was most welcome. Then it was off to the movies in the small and cosy cinema. The movie was about

the adventures of a 103 old man who had escaped from a rest home. It raised quite a lot of laughs and was certainly 'different'! The wonderful roast dinner that followed was worth waiting for and enjoyed by everyone. We arrived back in Howick after a speedy drive home and all agreed it had been another lovely Probus day out thanks to Jan and Shirley.



"No, your computer didn't get a virus because you sneezed on it. Let's go over clicking on email attachments again, shall we?"



SPEAKER IN SEPTEMBER

Our very own Julia Banks delights in entertaining with her lighthearted original verse and cheeky song parodies. Julia has been performing on stage in plays, and singing in musicals, most of her life. She will tell how she's used her love of words in many other ways in various careers, plus writing shows which have been produced worldwide. Her recent book of humorous poems: "Written in the Nick of Time" by Julia Banks will be available for sale - please bring \$25 per book.



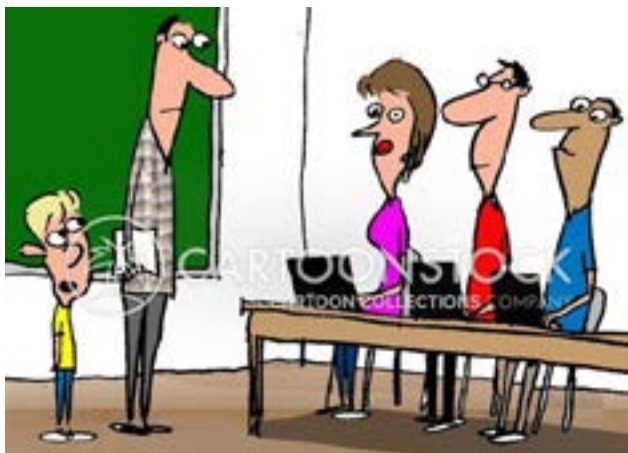
I never make the same mistake twice. I make it five or six times, just to be sure!

Last week Ronnie Walsh went to the movies at the Rialto Cinema in Bristol to see "Slumdog Millionaire" but because of two women loudly chatting together who were sitting in the row in front of him, Ronnie was unable to hear the dialogue clearly.

Ronnie leaned forward and said in a stage whisper, "Excuse me ladies but I can't hear." "I should hope not," stormed the woman "this is a private conversation!"



A few intrepid Probus members made their way to the lovely Narrow Neck Beach by ferries and a novel walk through the quaint Bayswater suburb.



"I'm the teacher. Normally, the students would be kids, and the instructor would be an adult. But this is a technology course."



Have you thought about joining one of our fun groups ???

Ten Pin Bowling

Scribblers

Walking Group

Potangue

Book Group

Rediscover Auckland

*It's not too late !
Contact the Coordinator for details.*



DON'T FORGET !

Our Probus Meeting in September will return to the Howick Bowling Club

Welcome to Spring!

**FUN
FRIENDSHIP
AND FELLOWSHIP
IN RETIREMENT**

**Staying connected
with PROBUS**