



TOOWOOMBA RANGE PROBUS



Newsletter

Issued June 24, 2026

Next Meeting – Tuesday 30th June 2026
Ballymore Room, 341 Hume Street

Guest Speaker MARK HOLLAND

Mark has been practising bonsai for almost 40 years and currently teaches bonsai at U3A. He runs a free bonsai community session at Emmerson Park every two weeks. Mark will be introduced by bonsai student Noel Radunz



Next Outing – Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary
Tuesday 14th July -- \$125 per person

There will be a roll call for this outing at next Tuesday's meeting. Payment and final numbers required by midday 10th July



Timetable for 14th July:

Coach departs Picnic Point: 8:30 am

Arrive Lone Pine: 10:30 am

Morning Tea: on arrival (tea/coffee station with platters of muffins, cupcakes and slices)

12:30 pm : Lunch

Alternate drop: Fish and chips GF/Crumbed chicken burger and chips and a soft drink

Down the Track . . .

July 28 Guest Speaker: Author Jame Smith will discuss her latest book

August 11 Outing: Queensland Transport Museum, Gatton; lunch Plainlands

August 25 Speaker: Vicki Flamsteed and Janelle Smith will talk on the benefits of exercise for seniors

September 29: Big Springtime Program! No speaker; instead, renowned veteran entertainer Owen Ray will perform. He'll include lots of singalong songs in his one-hour "gig".

Owen will be wearing his best and brightest springtime shirt – and there'll be prizes for anyone who can out-shine him! Usual time: 10a.m. Morning tea 10.30. Owen Ray 11 to midday. \$20 per person. Make sure you don't miss this one!

EDUCATION . . . and how it has changed over the years

Last month's Guest Speaker was Alan Jarrott, a highly respected educator who served for many decades as a school principal.

Alan began his talk addressing the intriguing question: *How to become a school principal without really trying in 90 seconds.*

He explained that he began his teaching career at Nambour, arriving at school with a surfboard strapped to the hood of his car. He soon learned it wasn't a good look; but along with that advice, he acquired, in 90 seconds, some valuable information on promotion through the State school system: *Rather than become a classroom teacher in a moderate-sized or large school, accept a posting to a one-teacher school "out in the sticks".*

So, one of Alan's early posts was as principal at Mt Pelion, north of Mackay. It was a one-room school with 15 students. His accommodation was in cancutters' quarters. He talked of primitive conditions in oppressive heat and incessant rain. He also talked of the scheme which provided small bottles of milk to students – but the milk was delivered at 3 in the morning, and in Mt Pelion's tropical climate was of dubious quality when required for consumption.

Alan Jarrott served at many Queensland rural schools. One of the best was at Ramsay, near Toowoomba.

He took early retirement after 16 years as principal of East Toowoomba East State School. He then spent two years in England where Alan was Deputy Head of a school called Harcourt, near Dover, Kent.

The speaker gave some insightful views on the role of school inspectors, perceptions of regional offices, directors, and State-wide moderation leading to the appointment of principals.

Alan outlined landmarks in the development of Queensland's education system from the 1970s through to this millenium -- from direct monetary



The Power Point slide says it . . . Thank you Alan Jarrott for a most interesting talk.

grants to schools and the introduction of teacher aides in the 70s to the IT "explosion" and the influence of mobile phones and laptops in the 2000s.

He listed as some of the QE highlights of the past 50 years: Direct grants to schools; introduction of teacher aides; better training for Education students; promotion of women to senior positions; links between schools and industry at a secondary level.

His "lowlights" included the phasing out of free milk scheme; aggressive parents on the increase; difficulty in attracting newcomers to the profession; staffing problems at country schools; and Bridging the Gap failures.

Alan presented some thought-provoking comments on reasons for the fall in literacy and numeracy standards and the issue of funding private schools versus the funding of State-run schools.

His whole talk, interspersed with amusing and relevant anecdotes, was thought provoking, well presented, and highly interesting.

MANAGEMENT TEAM – 2026-27

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Newsletter **Bruce Hinchliffe** hinchb@bigpond.net.au 0418 795 038

Members unable to attend next General Meeting should contact Secretary by email with an apology.

Birthdays in July

Bob Dodman	1
Ken Stephenson	11
Bruce Hinchliffe	21
Helen Fulbohm	22
Col Wockner	24
Bob Peirce	25

Up the River - A cruise full of interest - Tuesday, June 9, 2026
 38 enjoyed a cruise up and down the Brisbane River on
 the "Queen of the River", *The Lady Brisbane*



Ross and Bev McCasker, George Gothe,
 Jeffrey and Sandy Martin, Carmel Barrett



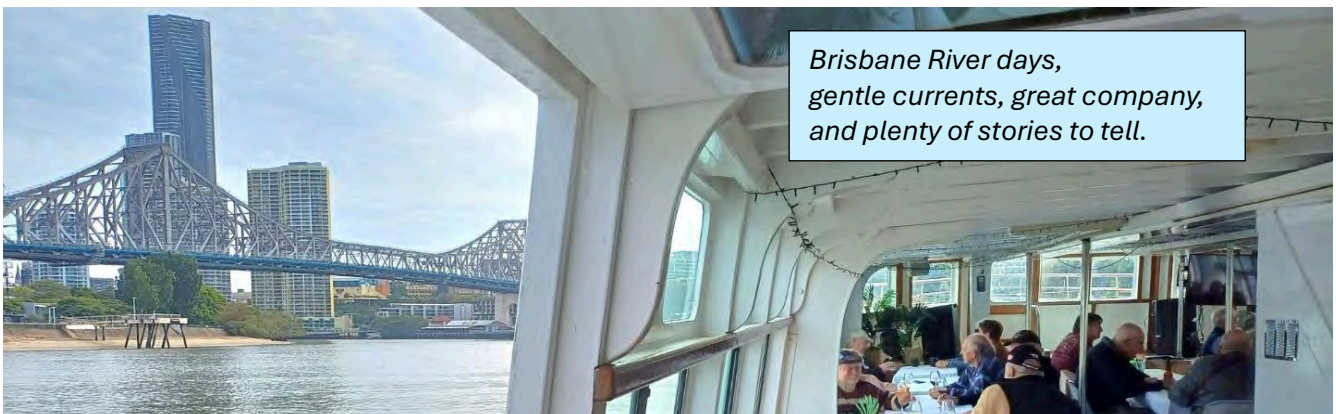
Peter Cory, Bob Turner,
 Karen and Mel Kong,
 Floyd Wilson, Meaden
 Turner, Jill Cory



Veronica Gordon, Trish and Tim Sullivan, Bruce
 Hinchliffe, Hilary Mullen, Mike and Jan Browning



Bob and Carolyn Kretchmann, Derm Guerin, Lyn
 Anderson, Peta and Rob Caton, Max Wilshire,
 Lyn Free, Loretto McGahan, Bob Dodman, Noel
 Brampton, Mick Corey.



*Brisbane River days,
 gentle currents, great company,
 and plenty of stories to tell.*

Cruisin' Down the River - Part 2

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY . . .



They were there to save us in the event of maritime disaster. . . the Emergency Lifeguards of the June 9 Cruise of *Lady Brisbane*. Our safety was in good hands!

Outings organiser Paul Barrett had President Mike Butt well and truly “drown-proofed” (is that lifejacket on the right way?), while Secretary Tony Mullen is ready to blow the whistle on the whole affair!



BIRTHDAY TRIO

They're not triplets, but they are all celebrating birthdays on 29th June. . . David Free, Jill Cory and Paul Barrett - photographed on the River Cruise.

By the way, the Club also boasts four “double-up” birthdays.



A poignant moment of reflection captured by up-and-coming apprentice photographer Mike Butt . . . It's Claudia Stephenson looking soulfully at hubby Ken as they recall tender moments cruising down the river . . .