



TOOWOOMBA RANGE PROBUS

Newsletter

Issued 22nd July 2026

Next Meeting – 10a.m. Tuesday, 28th July, 2026
Ballymore Room, 341 Hume Street, Toowoomba
Guest Speaker: Toowoomba author Jane Smith
Topic: Hannah Rigby: Moreton Bay's Last Convict Woman



Jane Smith, author and freelance book editor, loves bringing history to life through fiction and non-fiction for all ages. She has had more than twenty books published, four of which have been short- or long-listed for literary awards. Jane worked for many years as a librarian and archivist but is now a full-time writer and editor. She received a Visiting Fellowship from the Harry Gentle Resource Centre at Griffith University in 2024 to research the Queensland convict Hannah Rigby. Her resulting biography, 'One Free Woman', was published by Big Sky Publishing in 2025.



Hannah Rigby was the only convict woman to remain in Moreton Bay when the penal establishment closed. She was notorious for being sentenced to transportation three times – once to New South Wales, and twice to Moreton Bay. Hannah was a poor Liverpool seamstress transported for larceny; she was typical of women of her time struggling against

poverty, relentless hardship and gender inequality, and yet her story was largely undocumented until now. Jane will talk about the events that led to her own discovery and publication of Hannah's story and reveal some of her discoveries about the life of this fascinating woman.

Next Outing – Tuesday, 11th August - Queensland Transport Museum, Gatton, and Porter's Plainland Hotel for lunch

Total Cost: \$65 pp

Coach departs Picnic Point: 9:00am

Morning Tea: 10:00 – 10:30am Colonial Cafe

Guided Tour of Transport Museum: 10:30–11:30am

Drinks at Plainland Hotel, 12 noon

Lunch, 12.30pm Own expense. The pre-ordering of lunch will be explained in the Reminder sent out on 5th August



The Queensland Transport Museum (QTM) features a magnificent display of military transport dating back to World War 1. The museum allows attendees to step back in time and explore the power, resilience and legacy of these vehicles and gain a deeper appreciation of the role of transportation through the world's most challenging times.

At the June General Meeting . . .



Thanks Mark for a most interesting talk... Mel Kong presents the now-famous and highly-prized Probus enamel tea/coffee mug to Mark Holland, our guest speaker at the June General Meeting.

Bonsai master Mark illustrated his talk about the art of bonsai with a magnificent bonsai specimen, and made the point that bonsai trees were not “tortured”. In fact, he said he could almost hear appreciative murmurs from them when he applied frequent doses of fertiliser!

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.

He was introduced by bonsai student Noel Radunz



Welcome new member John Morgan

John was inducted at the June meeting by President Mike Butt. Looking on is John's proposer Floyd Wilson.

John, a retired accountant, is a resident at Palm Lake, and lists reading and walking as his chief interests. He is married to Jeanette.

MANAGEMENT TEAM – 2026-27

President **Mike Butt** email mikebutt@email.com Ph0438 666 411

Immediate Past President **John Randall** johnrandall4370@gmail.com 0427 984 370

Vice-President **Mel Kong** mlkong@bigpond.com 0488 591 997

Secretary/Welfare Officer **Tony Mullen** anthonybmullen@yahoo.com.au 0408 238 091

Treasurer **Ken Stephenson** kenstephenson@internode.on.net 0439 552 106

Programs Director **Rob Catto** robcatto67@gmail.com 0415 956 100

Trips and Outings Co-directors **Floyd Wilson** floydwilson@email.com 0418 110 344 and **Paul Barrett** vpbarrett262@gmail.com 0422 820 825

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



Member Noel Radunz presented a most interesting 10-minuter at the June meeting. Noel served for some time as a horse racing steward in North Queensland and related tales of encounters with angry dogs, jiggers, and one horse trainer who was able to encourage a false “limp” from his charge in order to gain longer betting odds!

Birthday Greetings August

Rosemary Worden	4
Jeff Young	5
Anne Petriwskyj	9
Ross McCasker	14
Max Wilshire	15
Elanne Peirce	18
Chris Tait	20
Florence Smith	23
Horst Brosi	23
Peter Cory	25
Netta Obst	28
John Randall	29
John Worden	31



CLUB NOTICES:

For the LINK to our Internet page . . . all the news, past minutes, photos, Club Constitution and Standing Resolutions:

Copy and paste the following link into your web browser:
<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/toowoombaorange>

EFT details:

Payee: Toowoomba Range Probus Club Inc

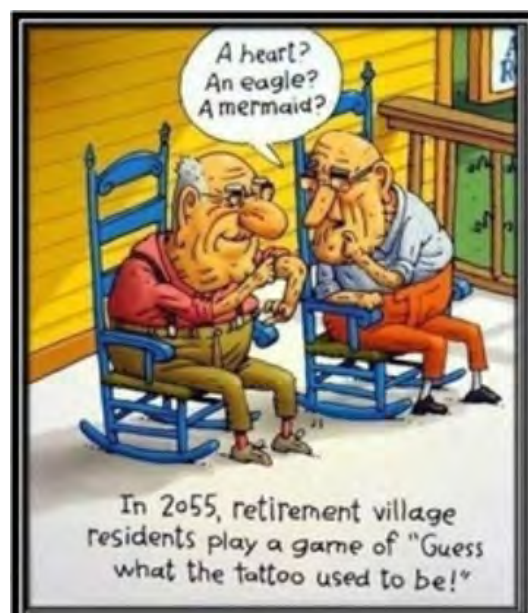
Account number: 00931546

BSB: 064-433

Reference: It is important that you include your name AND the event you are paying (eg Subs, m/tea, Bris trip) Please do not combine transfers; make individual transfers for each payment. If paying for monthly morning teas please try to do it before the event or at the latest within the next 24 hours.

When attending the monthly meetings please continue to register when you arrive. Tell the Treasurer you've paid by bank transfer.

Smile a While



Just before I die I'm going to swallow a bag of popcorn kernels
 My cremation is going to be epic!

FAREWELL TO OUR BARBECUE/TRAILER - IT'S FOUND A GOOD HOME

Toowoomba Range Probus was the proud possessor of a fine barbecue mounted on a trailer. For more than 20 years it was the centre of many good times at outings to Toowoomba and regional parks, backyards, and the wide-open spaces. These outings were organised by John Clift, assisted by many volunteers – in particular Mike Browning and Graham Mayes who took charge of the cooking and became 'Masters of the Grill.' But in recent times the mobile barbecue became redundant, and committee decided it was time to let it go.

John Clift was commissioned to find a good home for the unit – and he is pleased to report that he's done just that.

The barbecue/trailer, built by late members Brian Ball and Ted Luck, was handed over last week on behalf of Range Probus by John Clift and Horst Brosi to the director of Better Day Community Care, Sam Thomas. Better Day provides services to the handicapped. We hope the barbecue/trailer serves this organisation as well as it did ours.



Maybe you forgot to pay your Subs . . .

No invoices are issued so it's easy to overlook them
The annual fees of \$50 are overdue.

Payment by Electronic Bank Transfer is available.

Access details:

Payee: Toowoomba Range Probus Club Inc

Account number: 00931546

BSB: 064-433

Reference: It is important that you include your name AND "subs".

Please do not combine two or more payments in one transfer. Each payment (subs, morning tea, outings, etc) should be separate transactions.

Cash is, of course, still acceptable for payment of subs, etc.

Not sure whether you've paid? You're welcome to check with
Treasurer Ken Stephenson on 0438 552 106 or email him at:

kenstephenson@internode.on.net

WE HAD A **SMASHING** TIME AT LONE PINE!

We had an absolutely lovely time at our outing to Lone Pine on Tuesday, July 14.

And the trip down was literally smashing!

Our coach came into low-speed contact with the open cantilever lid of a tool bin on the side of an Energex truck – one of a half-dozen or so working on power-line maintenance in a narrow street only a kilometre from our destination.

The impact smashed through the nearside half-windshield, and shattered the large panoramic window right next to the front seat occupied by our President Mike Butt.

The good news was no one was hurt, and – after an entertaining and most enjoyable day at Lone Pine – another coach was sent down from Toowoomba to take us home – event-free.

AT RIGHT: *Mike surveys the shattered window which was only centimetres away from his head.*



“What have you got there, Noel?”

Fish and chips and a softdrink. A nice lunch after a tough day looking at koalas, kangaroos, platypus, dingoes, crocodiles, and so on . . .

It was Noel Brampton’s meal that Bob Dodman was inspecting.



Environmentally friendly pair Veronica Gordon and Loretto McGaham left things nice and tidy after morning tea at Lone Pine.



Cake anyone? . . . Rob Catto made sure everyone filled up on delicious cake and slice at Lone Pine. Others, left to right, are Peta Catto, Ros Linnett, Trish and Tim Sullivan.

More from our lovely day at Lone Pine



Cheers! A good-morning-coffee toast from four of our regular travellers, Lyn and David Free and Peter and Jill Cory.



Gail and Col Wockner found a nice way to keep warm on a cool Brissie day



Happy Lone Piners who thoroughly enjoyed a day out among the gum trees and Aussie animals: Mick Coorey, Max Wilshire, Ken and Claudia Stephenson.



16,519 km to London, "my home town" . . . Tony Mullen is now very happy to call Toowoomba home – and it's a lot closer!



The Mayeses and the Martins at Lone Pine . . . Beryl and Graham Mayes, with Sandy and Jeffrey Martin.



A quiet spot overlooking the Brisbane River was the choice Lone Pine site for morning tea for Noel Radunz and Gloria Ridley, Bruce Hinchliffe, and Karen and Mel Kong.

Monopoly –

Get Out of POW Camp Card

You'll never look at the game the same way again!

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd, Leeds. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together



3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set -- by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card!



**Adoption of the following Minutes “as read” will be moved at the
next General Meeting**

**PROBUS CLUB OF TOOWOOMBA RANGE
GENERAL MEETING 30th JUNE 2026 MINUTES**

1. MEETING OPENING

President Mike opened the meeting at 10am and welcomed attendees.

2. ATTENDANCE

35 members were in attendance and there were 17 wives/partners and ladies.

3. APOLOGIES AND WELFARE REPORT

The secretary advised that the following apologies had been received:

Bob Peirce, Ray Taylor, Patrick Murray, Bob Cheesman, Bob Turner, Noel Brampton, Elton Thompson, Mick Coorey, Jeff Young.

Bob Kretchman advised that Patrick Murray was now in Brodribb Nursing Home.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26th MAY 2026

The Secretary advised that the minutes of the May meeting had been included in the June newsletter and **moved** that they be accepted as a true and accurate account of proceedings. This was **seconded** by Bruce Hinchliffe. **CARRIED**

5 BUSINESS ARISING

NIL

6. CORRESPONDENCE

An email from Qld Health advertising a symposium to be held on 8 August. Full details will be contained in the July Newsletter.

A membership application from Mr John Morgan proposed by Floyd Wilson and seconded by Bob Cheesman.

7. TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer advised that the May report had been included in the June newsletter and moved that it be accepted as tabled and all outstanding invoices be approved for payment. This was seconded by Mike Browning. **CARRIED**

8. PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Programme Director advised as follows:

Jane Smith an author will talk at the July meeting

Several other speakers have been sourced, and the programme is confirmed up to November.

9. TRIPS AND OUTINGS UPDATE

Paul confirmed numbers for the Lone Pine Sanctuary trip on 14th July.

A visit to the Qld Transport Museum at Gatton followed by lunch at Plainlands is planned for 12th August.
Planning for September, October and November events is continuing.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

John Morgan was inducted as a member by President Mike following the approval of his application at the July MC meeting.

11 10 MINUTE TALK BY NOEL RADUNZ.

Noel gave an amusing and interesting account of some of his experiences as a North Queensland Horse Racing Steward.

12. GUEST SPEAKER MARK HOLLAND

Mark Holland a Bonsai Master summarised the history and origins of Bonsai and explained the process which favours the Toowoomba climate. The talk prompted several questions from the floor and a vote of thanks was given by Vice President Mel Kong. Members expressed their appreciation by acclamation.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

28th July 2026 June 2026 at 10am at Gold Park.

14. CLOSURE

As there was no other business President Mike closed the meeting at 1155 am with the singing of the National Anthem.

TONY MULLEN
SECRETARY

1st July 2026

The following Treasurer's Report will be presented to the next meeting of
Toowoomba Range Probus Club for adoption "as read"

Toowoomba Range Probus Club
Treasurer's Report – June 2026
Summary 1/6/2026 to 30/6/2026

<u>Opening Balance</u>	01/06/2026	\$4,672.03
<u>Plus Receipts for June:</u>		
Cruise Payments	\$3,670.00	
Morning Tea	\$500.00	
Subscriptions	\$50.00	
	<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$4,220.00</u>
		\$8,892.03
<u>Less Expenses for June:</u>		
Brisbane River Cruises	\$2,502.00	
Refund (Hinchliffe)	\$10.00	
Toowoomba Trophies	\$20.00	
Discovery Coaches	\$1,185.00	
	<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$3,717.00</u>
<u>Balance per Bank Statement, Cash Book</u>	30/06/2026	<u>\$5,175.03</u>

DON WATSON'S
LAST WORD

I read recently that the easiest word to spell
is 'icy'.
Yes . . . I see why.

