



TOOWOOMBA RANGE PROBUS

Newsletter

Issued 19th August 2026

NEXT MEETING – 10a.m., Tuesday, 25th August, 2026

Ballymore Room, Gold Park, 341 Hume Street, Toowoomba

Guest Speaker: **Vicki Flamsteed** – “*The Benefits of Exercise for Retirees*”



Vicki is owner-manager of All Stars Gym, Toowoomba, and will tell us how the gym started, the setbacks it had, and how it has succeeded.

She will give some helpful advice how we can improve our mobility and physical well-being through simple exercises at home. Some exercises you can do while performing household chores or personal tasks such as cleaning your teeth!



NEXT OUTING – 10a.m. Tuesday 8th September

Morning Melodies at Oakey RSL Club

Entertainment from 10.30a.m. featuring Cathy Drummond

Cathy is a Toowoomba-based professional singer and entertainer who has been performing full-time since 1998. She is well known throughout Queensland, particularly on the Darling Downs and in regional communities, for her Morning Melodies shows, cabaret performances, country music, easy listening, jazz, and classic popular songs.

\$5 per person includes entry and morning tea

(Preferred payment in advance by EFT)

Lunch at own expense off the Club's menu

This is a self-drive event. Car-pooling is suggested.

Paul Barrett will call for starters at next Tuesday's meeting (25th August)



Birthday Greetings

September

Sandra Martin	2
John Clift	25

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2026/27

President	Mike Butt	0438-666-411	mikebutt5@bigpond.com
Vice President	Mel Kong	0488-591-997	mlkong@bigpond.com
Immediate Past President	John Randall	0427-984-370	john.randall@gmail.com
Secretary/Welfare Officer	Tony Mullen	0408-238-091	anthonybmullen@yahoo.com.au
Treasurer	Ken Stephenson	0439-552-106	kenstephenson@internode.on.net
Programme Director	Rob Catto	0415-956-100	robcatto67@gmail.com
Trips/Outings Coordinator	Paul Barrett	0422-820-825	vpbarrett262@gmail.com
Trips/Outings Coordinator	Floyd Wilson	0418-110-344	floydwilson@email.com
Newsletter Editor	Bruce Hinchliffe	0418-795-038	hinchb@bigpond.net.au

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

Get your favourite baby photo ready

The October outing to Highfields Tavern will feature Baby Snaps – pics of members and partners as babes from 1 day to 5 years. Copy your favourite pic baby snap and print it on A4 paper. More details in next month's Newsletter

Guest Speaker at our last meeting - July 28, 2026 – was
Toowoomba author and book editor JANE SMITH

From Feathers to Felonies:

The Remarkable Story of Hannah Rigby

Two years in an English prison for stealing an ornamental feather. . . that's one of the punishments Hannah Rigby received back in the early 1800s.

Hannah, from Liverpool, was a serial haberdashery thief. She had a string of offences, and while serving her time for the feather theft was transported to New South Wales where, unfortunately, her behaviour didn't improve. She would be released only to reoffend soon after. She was one of very few women to be transported twice from Sydney to Moreton Bay, the penal settlement for recidivist convicts.

Her story was extensively researched by renowned Toowoomba author Jane Smith and resulted in a book "One Free Woman."

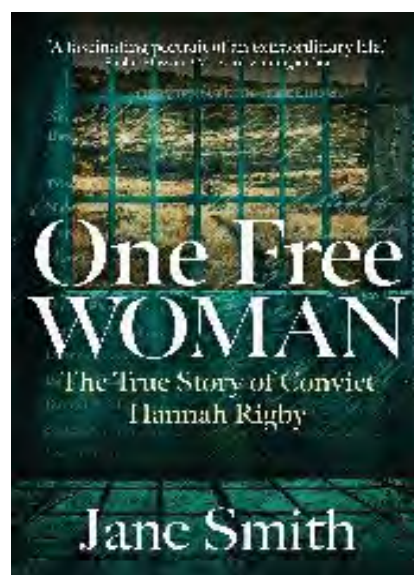
The book was the basis of an expertly presented talk by Jane to the July general meeting of Range Probus.

Jane presented a fascinating story of convict life from the horror of transportation from England to her assignment as a servant to a highly respected Brisbane surgeon, Dr David Keith Ballow.

When transportation to Moreton Bay ended and the settlement was being wound down, only a handful of convicts remained in government service. Hannah, then about 45 years old and serving her third sentence of transportation, was assigned to Dr Ballow, the Assistant Colonial Surgeon. She worked in his household in Brisbane, and her youngest son, James (later known as James Hexton), was with her. Although Hannah had a long criminal record - including three transportation sentences - Dr Ballow formed a very high opinion of her. In July 1840 he wrote to the authorities recommending that the remainder of her sentence be remitted. In his letter he stated that she had "conducted herself in the most exemplary manner" and had not given him "the slightest cause for distrust or complaint."

Hannah had three sons – all to different fathers. Jane pointed out that society's views on single mothers were a lot harsher than on the fathers of the children. Similarly, female convicts were reviled, scorned and subjected to greater punishment than were male convicts.

Hannah Rigby stayed on in Brisbane as a free woman and died at the age of 59 after a night out of dancing and drinking at a friend's wedding. The official causes of death were stated as "intemperance" and "an act of God".



More
Books
by
Jane
Smith



Well done, Bob Dodman

It was probably a bit incongruous . . . one of our longest-serving members giving an introductory talk.

But Bob Dodman (inducted in June 2003) admirably filled in for a new member who couldn't make it to the meeting.

His 10-minuter revealed that Bob –

- Was brought up and schooled in Adelaide and completed an Agricultural Science degree at the University.
- Did post-graduate work in the U.S.
- Moved to Toowoomba in January 1971 and worked for 10 years at the Department of Primary Industries Queensland Wheat Research Institute investigating root disease problems in wheat. He then transferred to the laboratories in Tor Street and investigated root and stalk rot problems in sorghum.



He retired in 1995.

He's been a stalwart of Toowoomba Choral Society for 50 years, serving as secretary and president. He has been awarded life membership of the Society.

Bob has been a keen supporter of the eisteddfod movement in Toowoomba – both administratively and competitively.

He says his once-fine baritone voice has now faded. But he still comes in handy for leading the singing of *Advance Australia Fair* at the conclusion of our Probus meeting.

Thanks for filling in, Bob!

Smile a while

A customer asked, "In what aisle could I find the Guinness?"

The shop assistant asks, "Are you Irish?"

The guy, offended, says, "Yes I am. But let me ask you something: If I had asked for Italian sausage, would you ask me if I was Italian?"

"Or if I had asked for German Bratwurst, would you ask me if I was German?"

Or if I asked for a kosher hot dog would you ask me if I was Jewish?

Or if I had asked for a Taco, would you ask if I was Mexican?

Or if I asked for Polish sausage, would you ask if I was Polish?"

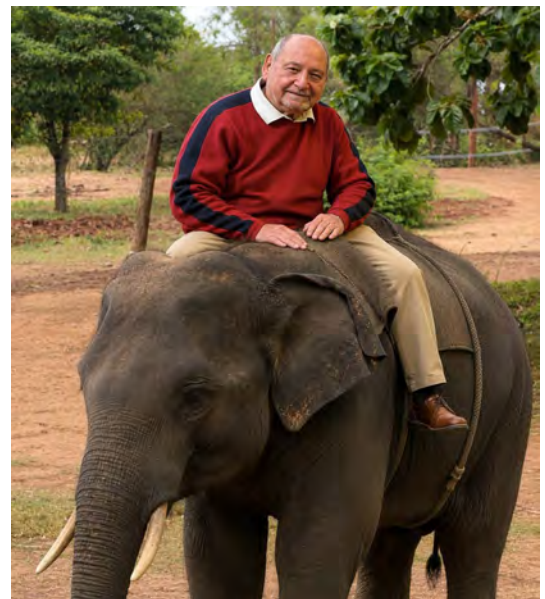
The shop assistant says, "No, I probably wouldn't."

The guy says, "Well then, because I asked for Guinness, why did you ask me if I'm Irish?"

The clerk replied, "Because you're in Bunnings."



Our Dave in Sri Lanka



While Dave McEvoy was in Sri Lanka, we asked him to send a picture with him in it. This is what he sent. Thanks Dave!

Photo contributions are sought from Members travelling to interesting places

LAST OUTING – Tuesday,
11th August, 2026

Gatton Art Gallery tour, Morning tea at the Colonial Café, followed by a visit to the Queensland Transport Museum - all in the impressive Gatton Community Centre. Lunch at Porter's Plainland Hotel.



Around the Colonial Café table: Hilary and Tony Mullen, coach driver Bruce, Mike Butt, Peter and Jill Cory, Lyn and Davd Free, Bruce Hinchliffe, Paul and Carmel Barrett, Jeff Martin and George Gothe.



Peta Catto and Hilary Mullen with a friendly strawman who was part of a display advertising the Laidley Spring Festival (September 11 to 13).



Waiting for a bus in foyer of the Gatton Community Centre are Tony Mullen and Mel Kong.



Left to right: Mel and Karen Kong, Rob and Peta Catto, Claudia Stephenson, John Clift, Bob and Carolyn Kretchmann, Bob Dodman, Trish and Tim Sullivan, Noel Brampton, Lyn Anderson, and Derm Guerin.



A nicely restored 25-pounder artillery piece caught the eye of Mike Butt who trained on the popular weapon as a young officer.

These Minutes will be presented to the next General Meeting for adoption “as read”

**PROBUS CLUB OF TOOWOOMBA RANGE
GENERAL MEETING 28th JULY 2026 MINUTES**

1. MEETING OPENING

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

2. ATTENDANCE

25 members were in attendance and there were 14 wives/partners and ladies.

3. APOLOGIES AND WELFARE REPORT

The secretary advised that the following apologies had been received:

Bob Peirce, Patrick Murray, Dave McEvoy, David Free, Mel Kong, Ross McCasker, Don Watson, Peter Cory, John Brien, Jurij Petriwskyj, John White, Mike Browning, Col Wockner, John Randall, Mick Coorey, Jeff Smith, Floyd Wilson, Chris Tait.

Bob Kretchmann advised that Patrick Murray was now in Brodribb Nursing Home. Tony Mullen advised that Floyd Wilson was out of hospital but receiving treatment from a Haematologist.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30th JUNE 2026

The Secretary advised that the minutes of the June meeting had been included in the July 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 invitation to the 2 Tenors Concert at St Lukes Church on 26th September. (interested members to contact the Secretary for details)

A request from a prospective guest speaker to talk on fixed income investing. (rejected by the MC as it was an advertisement to provide fee paying services)

The 2026 Financial Results for PSPL. These showed an operating surplus of \$2302 and a total comprehensive surplus of \$127977.

The Secretary move that the correspondence as tabled be accepted. This was seconded by Bob Kretchmann.

CARRIED

7. TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer advised that the June report had been included in the July newsletter and moved that it be accepted as tabled and all outstanding invoices be approved for payment. This was seconded by Tim Sullivan.

CARRIED

8. PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Programme Director advised as follows:

Vicki Flamsteed will talk on the benefits of exercise for older people at the August meeting.

An entertainer Owen Ray will perform at the September meeting.

Professor Jonti Horner an astro physicist will talk at the October meeting.

Author Peter Long will talk on his latest book “Wooden Ships and Iron Men” in November.

9. TRIPS AND OUTINGS UPDATE

Paul confirmed numbers for the Gatton and Plainlands trip on 11th August.

The September trip on 8th September will be Morning Melodies at the Oakey RSL Club followed by lunch.

On 13th October we will have a “baby snaps “guessing game at the Highfields Tavern followed by lunch.

Planning is proceeding for a trip to Acland Coal Mine in November. (To be confirmed)

10. 10 MINUTE TALK

Bob Dodman talked about his career at DPI and his long- term association with the Choral Society.

11. GUEST SPEAKER JANE SMITH

Author Jane Smith gave a fascinating talk on the life of Hannah Rigby, a convict who is the subject of her latest book. Jane’s presentation was very professional and prompted many questions from the floor. A vote of thanks was given by President Mike, and members expressed their appreciation by acclamation.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25th August 2026 at 10am at Gold Park.

13. CLOSURE

As there was no other business President Mike closed the meeting at 1145 am with the singing of the National Anthem.

TONY MULLEN
SECRETARY

28th July 2026

The following Treasurer’s Report will be presented for adoption “as read” at the next meeting of Toowoomba Range Probus Club

Toowoomba Range Probus Club

Treasurer's Report

Summary: 1 Jul 26 - 31 Jul 26

<u>Opening Balance 1 Jul 26</u>	\$5,175.03
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Plus Receipts for July:

Lone Pine Excursion	\$120.00	
Brisbane River Cruise	\$3,875.00	
Morning Tea	\$487.50	
Subscriptions	\$200.00	
Membership	\$30.00	
Badges	\$25.00	
	Total	<u>\$4,737.50</u>
		\$9,912.53

Less Expenses for July

Rocky Sports Club (June)	\$612.00
Lone Pine	\$2,395.50
Mugs	\$59.13

Total

\$3,066.63

Balance at 31 Jul 26 per bank Statement:

\$6,845.90

DON WATSON'S

LAST WORD

I knew a bloke who had a job at a calendar printers.

He got fired, because he took a couple of days off!

