

SEPTEMBER
2026
Issue 238



Club email:
Ascot.probus2005@gmail.com

Club website:
<https://probussouthpacific.org/microsites.ascot> (old)
<https://clubs.probusouthpacific.org/sites/ascot-probus-club> (New)

We thank Councilor Julia Dixon and her staff for their generous support throughout the year.

President's Message



Hello everyone, I'm back and almost fully mobile again.

Thanks to Fran, the other committee members and all the Club members for keeping everything going smoothly while I was incapacitated.

Fran has kept me up to date with Club activities as well as reading the information in PROBE. It looks as though we have an interesting programme ahead and I look forward to participating in these outings and tours.

CLUB MEETINGS

23 Victoria Street, Clayfield
10:00am – 3rd Wednesday of month
To assist with planning
APOLOGIES and NAMES OF VISITORS
are important. Please Advise the
Secretary at
Ascot.probus2005@gmail.com

QUEENS WHARF AND HISTORIC
WILLIAM STREET- Wednesday 27 May

INTEREST GROUPS

LUNCH AND CARD GROUPS

2nd Wednesday of the month

1.00pm - Gallopers Club
Lancaster Road, Ascot
(Fran Sheahan 0402 G15 323)

MOVIE GROUP

4th Monday of the month
Dendy Theatre, Portside
Movie times will be advised
(Peta Cavanough 040G 711 83G)

BLOKES COFFEE

1st Wednesday of the month
G:30am - Ascot Park
Bring own chair G refreshments

ACTIVITIES REPORT

1. ORMISTON HOUSE AND CLEVELAND

Wednesday 23 September A Day trip discovering some of the history and natural beauty of Cleveland. Some of the attractions will be a Devonshire tea and guided tour of Ormiston House, time at Wellington and Cleveland Points, lunch at the historic Grand View Hotel (own expense) and Cleveland historic sights.

Cost: \$50 (bus and morning tea) Depart: 8:45 from T C Beirne Park Return: 3:30pm

2. DALBY AND JONDARYN TRIP

Tuesday-Friday, 6-9 October All arrangements are in hand.

3. LUNCH AT THE GIBSON

Wednesday 28 October Lance is booking lunch, ostensibly for those not going to Dalby, but of course everybody is invited since the Dalby trippers will be back then. Register your name at the Activities desk. Time: 12 mid-day Address: 352 Stafford Rd Cost: just your meal and drinks

4. PHOENIX SCULPTURE GARDEN AND SAMFORD

Friday 20 November The Phoenix Sculpture Garden, "a place where nature and art meet, so that Peace becomes a tangible reality", featuring the marble, onyx and bronze sculptures of the late

Graham Radcliffe, is the focus of a bus trip to Mt Glorious and Samford. Enjoy the "glorious" views from the View Cafe during morning coffee (own expense), lunch (own expense) and wander the Samford Museum in the afternoon.

Cost: \$70 (bus and garden entry) Depart: 8:30am from T C Beirne Park Return: 4pm

5. LORD MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday 8 December I have requested this date but as yet no tickets have been issued.

6. CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND BREAK-UP

Thursday 10 December This year the Christmas lunch will be at the historic Rose and Crown, a proper London-style gastro-pub in South Bank. Cost and menu to come - not yet available.



Right Place at the Right Time

In Three Parts

In August 1963, (aged 23) I decided to go to a Barrier Reef Island in the Christmas-New Year holiday period. The travel agent said "every island is booked out" but he could put me on a waiting list for ANY of the islands. A month later, I received a call to say. "I have you into South Molle Island", so I booked flights, immediately. This small decision changed my life as I met Davina (aged 22) who was from W.A. and usually went home to Singapore for Christmas.

Davina's parents were coming down to Perth in March, so Davina Booth and Margaret Cross (both schoolteachers from W.A.) decided to holiday in the Eastern States of Australia, which happened to include South Molle Island. **A Chance in a million that we met.**

Davina came back to QLD to be a teacher at St Margaret Girls School in Ascot.

My father was a businessman in the Rotary Club of Brisbane. Very formal attire in those days, Suit, Tie, Hat C Remember the White Australia Policy?

Dad said to his mates in his Club, that Graham has just announced his engagement.

Asked the question , To whom ? With a straight face Dad said "To a lovely girl from Kuala Lumpur" then a stony silence!

Little did they know that Davina was a blue eyed blonde, whose Scottish parents were expatriates in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

(You will have to wait until October for the second episode)

Think about it – I'm sure you also have a '**chance in a million story**' to tell?

Speakers' Corner

I am grateful that all of the guest speakers booked for the past months have been able to come to our meetings to date . I hope this continues in spite of all of the viruses that seem to be circulating. I only hope this will be the case in the following months.

This month (September) Gary Thorpe manager of the radio station 4MBS will be coming to try to convince us that 4MBS is "not just a radio station."

October. We will hear from Jeff Thomson (a local resident of the Ascot/Hamilton area) . Jeff will provide us with some history of the activities in which he and members of his family have been involved over the years in the area.

November. Dr Daryl Wall a former transplant surgeon at the Princess Alexandra Hospital will be joining us.

As there is no meeting in December, we will start the calendar year with ;-

January. 2027 Ralph Dowling a former principal botanist with the state government will give us a presentation outlining the flora which exists along the river.

February. 2027. Under negotiation with ideas ranging from finance, history and decluttering!

I will not be at the September meeting; John Miles will look after our speaker.

Again, thank you to the members who have presented me with me ideas for future guest speakers.

NIGHT AT THE TROTS



What a great night we had last Saturday night. Approximately 28 Ascot Probus-ites turned up at the Breakfast Creek harness racing for a night that turned out to be extremely enjoyable. Some of us remembered The Creek racing complex from the days of the thoroughbred racing (which finished in 1980) as well as its current format for harness racing, or 'The Trots' as it is widely known. Some, however, had never as much as seen a trotting race before (not mentioning names, Jan) so it was an absolutely first experience for them.

Our dinner tables gave us a grand view of the horses racing and, of course, the TAB was on hand should any of us need to have a wager or two.

Wherever and whenever our hard-working Social Committee organise a night out for us, we thoroughly enjoy the evening as ... the company is superb and conversation never in short supply.

Our night at the Trots proved my point and thank you to Greg and his Crew for organising yet another such opportunity for us all.

Guest Speaker Report

Thanks David Phillips

We were fortunate to have Dr Daniel Blackmore, a true scientist, present just one of the research projects of the Queensland Brain institute. Research on the ageing brain is of course of great interest and importance to our members. True science involves developing a



hypothesis



and extensively

testing it on an animal model, in this case mice. The results after great effort from the scientific team showed that an exercise regime had a huge impact on the cognitive ability of mice. To design and implement a large-scale model to see if similar results applied to humans, was a mammoth task. Results after many years was confirmatory good news. A standard exercise programme improves human cognitive abilities of older adults, and the beneficial effects are maintained for years into the future. The research and resources of this unheralded group is truly amazing.



Blokes Coffee

5th August



Lance, Michael, Andrew, David, Greg, John and Winton on the camera

Beautiful warm mid-winter day – rather too bright for photos. Shared memories of our travels. Some trips that were really memorable even those when things went wrong such as lost bags; stolen goods and ‘lifted’ wallets and phones.

NOTE: back to a 9:30am start in October.

SAVOYARDS PRODUCTION OF PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Tickets have now been booked for Saturday Matinee on 3rd October.

The cost is \$46.50 which is the Group Booking Price. If you have not already lodged your money into the Probus Bank account, please do so.

I have a couple of extra tickets for anyone who wishes to go but did not put their name on the list. Please let me know if you want those tickets.

Carole Watkins – 0447 330 008 OR
carolewatkins215@gmail.com

EARLY TIMES OF 'THE CREEK'

Our August outing at the Albion Park Racecourse brought back memories for me and I was particularly pleased to be there as in researching my family tree I found connections to the very early days of the course. From the 1880s, my maternal great grandfather, Patrick (Paddy) Byrne trained horses in Brisbane and consequently, ran them at 'The Creek'.

I decided that we could have a history lesson so for background on the course, I went to the club's Facebook site...

'The course has been an integral part of Queensland's racing history since the early 1880s when a 700-metres racetrack was built on what was swampy land. A larger, permanent course – almost 12 metres in circumference with sharp turns and a sandy surface- - was built later.

A 'Telegraph' article of 31st December 1932 (p.5) with the heading 'Reminiscences of Racing: Veteran Looks Back Over 50 Years' followed what much have been a very lengthy interview between the journalist 'Alister' and Paddy who was born in 1863 in Booval. Paddy's prodigious memory covered his childhood, his introduction to the industry, working days in the racing industry in Sydney and his return to Queensland around 1885. Alister commenced the article with...

'One of the first batch of trainers to be issued with a trainer's licence by the Australian Jockey Club and later a trainer under the control of the Queensland Turf Club, Mr Patrick Byrne, J.P., of Appel Street, Highgate Hill has memories that take him back over half a century to the days of grand old sportsman Sir Joshua Peter Bell.'

'...he (Paddy) was always a keen admirer of the thoroughbred and it was this love of horses, when it became known to the late Sir Joshua, that led that sportsman to apprentice the lad of 14 to the late Mr John Butler, then trainer and stud groom at the famous 'Grange Stud' owned by Sir Joshua.'

Research on the web revealed ... *'The Telegraph (August 31, 1885) reported that the inaugural meeting of the Brisbane Sports, Trotting and Pony Racing Club drew almost 3,000 spectators. The early 1850s rolled out a wide range of events at the Sports Ground. The list included Rugby Union, lacrosse, Australian football, cycling, athletics under lights, a balloon ascent with a parachute jump by Miss Gladys Van Tessel, massive picnics, concerts and gun club contests. In 1852, an international tug of war competition was staged in front of a crowd of 8,000.'*

This is a snippet of Paddy's memories that relate to The Creek in the mid to later 1890s...

'At the time the late Mr M.B. Gannon was preparing Breakfast Creek Racecourse...I ran a pony called Canary at the first meeting of this course and, if my memory serves me rightly, the first race was won by a pony named Isabel. I won the hurdle race with a pony named Yellow Boy.' He goes on to say... *'Ultimately the course became the property of Mr Wesley Castles who, in turn, sold to Mr John Wren, a transaction that meant a great deal for racing in Queensland for Mr Wren put on a programme including a prize worth £2,000 where formerly they had raced for a total of £110 a day. Wren took ownership in 1910.*

...and just to round off my little story... Paddy Byrne trained his horses from the Tattersalls Lodge racing complex which was at the corner of Oriel Road and Yabba Street. Paddy and Maggie's home was in Manson Road, Hendra where my great grandmother, Edie, the first born of twins, was the twelfth of their 13 children.

The caption underneath this large, framed picture housed in the Racing Museum on Eagle Farm Racecourse notes that it depicts the 'prominent trainers and jockeys of 1897'. Patrick 'Paddy' Byrne is third from the right in the second back row.



THE END