

OCTOBER
2026
Issue 239



The Newsletter of the Probus Club of Ascot Inc., Chartered 2005

President's Column

from anonymous

A Probus member was telling his friend about his new "Brain Power" health routine. "I've started taking these expensive memory supplements, and I've never felt sharper!" he boasted.

"That's impressive," his friend replied. "What are they called?"

The man froze. He looked at his watch, checked his pockets, and stared at the sky. Finally, he asked, "What's the name of that big red flower with the thorns?"

"A rose?"

"Exactly!" He turned toward the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, honey! What's the name of those memory pills I'm taking?"

-:-

It's not the way I look that reveals my age, it's my use of complete sentences, proper grammar and spelling when I text.

(Editor, please note)

Club email:
Ascot.probus2005@gmail.com

Club website:
www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites.ascot

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

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY 16 SEPTEMBER 2026			
	Ladies	Blokes	Totals
Number present	32	19	51
Non attendees	11	9	20
Total Members	43	28	71
Percent attended	74%	68%	72%
Guests	2		1
Non-active			
Apologies			20

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

A

NEXT OUTING

Lunch at the GIBSON
28 October

INTEREST GROUPS

LUNCH AND CARD GROUPS

2nd Wednesday of the month

1.00pm - Gallopers Club
Lancaster Road, Ascot
(Fran)

MOVIE GROUP

4th Monday of the month
Dendy Theatre, Portside
Movie times will be advised
(Peta)

BLOKES COFFEE

1st Wednesday of the month
9:30am - Ascot Park
Bring own chair & refreshments

ACTIVITIES REPORT

from Greg

1. 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

2. 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

3. LORD MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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

4. 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.

5. BREAKFAST AT THE COFFEE CLUB DFO

Wednesday 27 January. Our first outing for 2027 is a continuing tradition – breakfast in air-con comfort.

Time: 8am – Address Cnr 9th Av and the Corso - Pay for your breakfast on the day.

6. BLUE BUS MYSTERY TRIP

Wednesdays 24 Feb Another outing which is becoming an Ascot Probus tradition.

Depart at 8am Return 4:30pm Cost \$40 (bus only).

7. 4 DAY 3 NIGHT RAIL TRIP TO HERVEYBAY AND K'GARI

August 2027 – I would like to gauge member interest in a return rail trip to Hervey Bay organised by Queensland Rail and Viva Holidays with accommodation for 3 nights in Hervey Bay, a day trip to K'Gari, and whale watching in Hervey Bay. Cost would be around \$1000 per person

Right Place at the Right Time

Second Part

By Graham

On a flight in the 1960's (before emails and cell phones) we used to talk to those sitting next to us on an aircraft. Unbeknown to me, the somewhat inquisitive gentleman next to me on a Mackay-Brisbane flight was the Qantas Manager for QLD.

A week later, I received a Telegram from Qantas stating " We are looking for a Commercial trainee In Brisbane and consider you a suitable applicant' I was interviewed, (for the second time time) and started a career in Qantas Airways.

My goal and ambition were for an overseas posting in the Qantas' worldwide network.

It happened in 1969 with two years in KL, four years in Singapore, two years in Bangkok, then some years in Europe, living in Stockholm, Paris and London.

On return to Australia, I quickly realised that Sydney Head Office was not for me, so I resigned and returned to Brisbane, to settle our four daughters for their High School years. They made lifelong friends, after having been to so many primary schools. It was a better future for all our family in Brisbane.

My love of 'property' had me settling back into Property Investment and Property Development which was absolutely the right decision.

Living again in Queensland. Whacko !

As Ned Kelly famously said *Such is Life*

Speakers' Corner

From Wendy

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.

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!

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

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

Guest Speaker Report

from Greg

The September guest speaker, Gary Thorpe, has worked in radio for over forty years, and is general manager of three Brisbane music radio stations, the best known being 4MBS Classics FM. Perhaps more surprising was finding out about the other two stations; Silver Memories which is broadcast into nursing homes, and 4MBS Light.



Gary's presentation covered a behind-the-scenes look at how 4MBS operates, an explanation of the other two stations including a persuasive rationale for music as therapy for dementia and social isolation, an informative overview of other artistic initiatives of 4MBS and then "interval" of video clips from some of these initiatives. The irrepressible Gary, as well as being one of the founders of 4MBS, was instrumental in expanding their brief into annual music and Shakespeare Festivals featuring Queensland performers, and the commissioning of plays based on musical and composer subjects. Gary's enthusiasm, dynamism, and prodigious contribution to music, community radio and theatre is a good example to us all on "how to get things done".

Ormiston House Excursion

from John

26 or so members and friends had a pleasant day outing visiting Ormiston House on Moreton Bay. We had a short stop at Beth Boyd Park at Thornside with views across the Bay to Wellington point.

We proceeded to Ormiston House, and after a morning tea with scones, jam and cream on the veranda, we were given a guided tour by well informed and enthusiastic volunteers.

Ormiston house and the surrounding 1000 acre property was established by the Scottish Earl of Hopetoun. In the new colony, he initially raised cattle and bred horses in the Kilcoy area. He later purchased land at Ormiston and commenced growing and milling sugar cane. He is regarded as the Father of the sugar industry in Queensland. He constructed Ormiston House using local timbers and locally made bricks. He continued successfully for some 20 years before returning to England.

Ormiston house subsequently passed to the pastoralist Macartney family, however by 1959 the house had fallen into disrepair and was purchased by the Carmelite order of nuns. The property is now maintained by a local historical society and is used for many events and functions during the year. The legacy of Louis Hope remains in current names, namely Hope Island and Hopetoun, and his decedent's have served as a premier of Victoria, and as Australia's first Governor General

After a drive around the foreshore to Wellington Point, we returned to the Grand View Hotel (the oldest licenced Pub in Queensland) for lunch.

A great day was had by all.

Great photos to follow.

ORMISTON HOUSE VISIT





A Swim in the Antarctic

From Beverley H

On a trip to the Antarctic from Ushuaia Argentina, we were to visit Deception Island. We were warned when we left Ushuaia that everything in the Antarctic depended on the weather. Luckily for us the weather was fine so the ship could enter through Neptune's Bellows into the flooded Caldron of the volcano.



Deception Island is indeed still an active volcano although the last time it erupted was 1971 destroying a Chilean Base. At one of the eruptions, it had blown out the area known as Neptune's Bellows allowing the sea into the cauldron. We could go ashore here and for the adventurous go for a swim. About 15 of us from the 55 passengers opted for the swim.

We sailed into Pendulum Cove near where the Chilean Base had been and could see steam rising from the water. We all went ashore, the swimmers wearing their swimsuits under their outdoor clothes. It wasn't that cold stripping off; there was hot steam on the beach as well as in the water. The water was warm in patches, and you had to keep moving as the patches moved. The water was very cold when you got out of the hot bits.

Sue - one of the staff - had a blow-up killer whale, which she brought ashore and launched among the swimmers - sitters more like it. No one stayed in long and then came the hardest part. There was nowhere except the open to get changed so with a towel (a very small one that didn't go around you), you got out of your swimsuit and back into your clothes. The little black pebbles of lava stuck to your toes and got into your underwear, and it wasn't till you warmed up that you realized they were there; still it was a worthwhile experience for which we were issued with certificates.

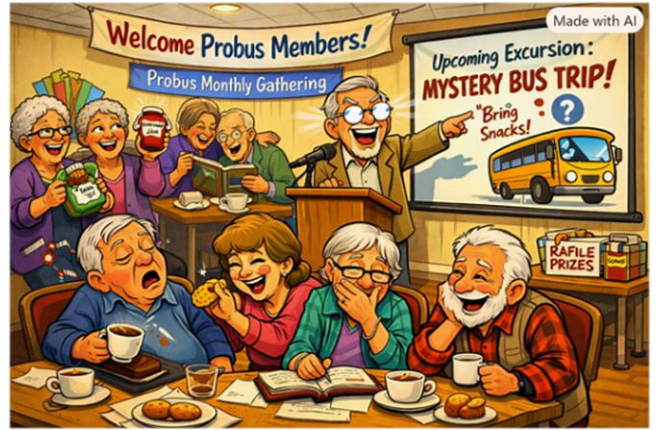


Gives you a good idea of the strength of a volcanic eruption. There was one solitary Chinstrap Penguin patrolling the beach that was quite bemused by these big things invading its territory but a large Weddell Seal just snoozed the time away undisturbed by these mad humans.

WELFARE REPORT

From Kim

Jan Sutton is moving next week to Tricare at Stafford. Please keep Jan in your thoughts and prayers as she settles into her new residence



LOST KEYS



They weren't in my pockets! Suddenly I realised I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My husband had scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He was afraid that the car could be stolen. As I looked around the parking lot I realised, he probably was right. The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police and gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it may have been stolen. Then I made the most difficult call of all - to my husband. "I left my keys in the car and it has been stolen". There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been



disconnected but then I heard his voice "are you kidding me?" he barked "I dropped you off". Now it is my turn to be silent and embarrassed, I said, "well come and get me?" He retorted "I will as soon as you convince this cop that I didn't steal your damn car"

(Thanks Lance)

Last Word

YOU SHOULD NEVER MISS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE OTHER
PEOPLE HAPPY, EVEN IF IT
MEANS YOU HAVE TO LEAVE
THEM ALONE TO DO IT