



## THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE Inc

'The Young, Friendly, Fun Club'

NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2021

Club Website: [www.valentineprobus.au2.com](http://www.valentineprobus.au2.com)

The official publication of the Men's Probus  
Club of Valentine Inc.

Private and confidential for Probus use only and no other purpose

The Club meets in [The Tingira Community Church at 13 Neridah Road Belmont North](#)

4th Monday of each month at 10 am

### NEXT MEETING - 23 AUGUST -

APOLOGIES to Robert Rae

on 0411 141 823

and our SPEAKER is Ken Watt talking  
about his life from Cooks Hill to  
Valentine

Future Guest Speakers:

September - Representative (TBA)  
from Fire and Rescue Services NSW  
and  
actual topic subject TBA

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES (subject to restrictions)

WALKING GROUP -  
Meets every Wednesday morning

GENTLEMEN'S LUNCH -  
First Monday of every month

LIFE OF RILEY TOUR TO JINDABYNE -  
From Sunday 24 October '21 to  
Friday 29 October '21

CHRISTMAS LUNCH -  
Booked for 14 December 2021

*Our Guest Speaker write up of Pat Conroy  
has been succinctly described by  
Geoff Black as follows:*

Pat Conroy, ALP Member for Shorten, was  
our guest speaker on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Pat did  
an Economics degree at USYD and worked  
as an adviser to Greg Combet.

Pat gave a wide-ranging talk about Federal  
Labor's policies on communications,  
healthcare, aged care, energy and jobs.  
Some of the highlights of his talk were:

- His description of the ongoing battle  
with telecommunications companies  
in providing complete mobile phone  
and TV coverage in certain suburbs  
within his electorate
- Pat's passionate support of Medicare.  
He lamented the reduction in  
Medicare's list of funded surgical  
procedures that were sorely needed  
in an aging population. He also  
mentioned the reduction in GP  
availability. GPs in suburbs such as  
Windale are now funded the same as  
Hunters Hill in Sydney – as  
metropolitan rather than regional.
- Pat also lamented the decline in  
availability of aged care, and in  
particular the lack of availability of  
home modifications that would keep  
the aged at home rather than in a  
nursing home.
- Pat revealed that Federal Labor

- would look carefully into its policies on negative gearing and capital gains tax breaks for property investors before the 2022 election. He seemed to indicate that housing investment would be treated differently from other investments.
- Pat explained that the “levelized cost” (which included making up ‘down’ time) of producing solar and wind power per kilowatt hour, was now half the price of coal power, and one quarter the price of nuclear power. Liddell and Eraring would limp on as the last coal-fired power stations in NSW.
- Pat also said that, as local member, he advocated for all citizens. To this end, he was particularly interested in retraining workers in the coal industry.

Much of Pat’s talk was parrying questions from members.

Pat endeavoured to answer questions *inter alia* on aged care, energy, the price of housing and ‘Question Time’ in Federal Parliament.

### **Presidents message:**

In lockdown again! My ‘To Do’ list is rapidly diminishing. Apart from that I’ve been enjoying some woodwork, reading and exercising to keep the mind clear. I still have our family history saga to continue or organising and completing our last overseas trip (distant memory) photos into slide shows. Hope you all have had similar experiences and enjoying life as much as you can.

If you are feeling like a chat at any

### *Continuing the Presidents message*

time give me or a club member a call.

During our July meeting the investiture of David Braidwood for Life Membership was conducted. David joined the club on the 2nd December 2002 and has participated in many committee roles including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Social Events, Program & Historian over a period of 12 years. He has also and still is organising theatre outings COVID permitting.

Thank you for your involvement and support to the club David, well deserved.

It was sad to learn that John Wiltshire passed away on 24 July 2021 at the aged of 78 years. John joined our club on 23 October 2017 and enjoyed the fellowship of our members.

In respect for John we had a minutes silence in our last meeting.

I’ve contacted Lake Jindabyne Hotel for our upcoming Life of Riley Tour in October. At this stage all venues are open and the tour will be operating. I have emailed our members who have paid a deposit for the tour seeking their decision as to whether they intend participating with the tour in view of the present COVID restrictions and circumstances. It is an ever evolving situation.

*Continuing the Presidents message*

You might have noticed various segments in the newsletter change from edition to edition. However, if you are looking for a particular segment and can't locate it then it has disappeared. If you would like it reinstated please let me know.

If we are fortunate enough to hold our meeting this month please abide by the restrictions in place at the time. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Until next time take care and be safe.

If I or any committee member can assist you in any way please contact us and we will endeavour to help.

Trevor

**Video Time**

My technical skills let me down at our last meeting. Even if you are not interested in fast cars you may still find this video on glass blowing fascinating:

“What an artist ! A Murano glass blower makes me the Ferrari logo”.

The link is:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFloPi7oA\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFloPi7oA_c)

The image for this link on youtube is below.



**GREATER BANK.** *Payments to the Club*  
Details for making payment either on-line or at a branch.

BSB 637-000 and

Account no. 780356294 and

(record your ‘ surname’ + one word as a brief reference covering the purpose) e.g. “FEES”

**Movie Time**

‘*The Queen of the Desert*’ movie is based on Gertrude Bell’s life as a British traveller, writer, archaeologist, explorer, cartographer and political officer.

The movie covers her early twenties until her death and several struggles and challenges after she travels to the Middle East to defend her homeland's interests in the region.

The cast includes Nicole Kidman, Robert Pattinson, James Franco and Damian Lewis.

Well worth a watch.

The movie can be viewed on Netflix or purchase of the DVD.

Share with a Friend

Don't forget to send our newsletter on to a friend or direct them to our website :

<http://www.valentineprobus.au2.com/>

Encourage your friends to come to our meetings. We have great Guest Speakers.

## Readers Corner

What's in the library that you haven't read and would be interested in, adventure, fact, comedy, biography, science, culture 🤔. Only you know. However, one from our library is Demelza by Winston Graham.

Demelza as a girl's name is of Cornish origin meaning "fort on the hill". It was first used as a given name in the 1950s.

The book Demelza is the second of twelve novels in Poldark, a series of historical novels by Winston Graham. It was published in 1946. Demelza continues the story of Ross Poldark and his wife, Demelza. It opens in May 1788, six months after the final events depicted in Ross Poldark, the first book published in 1945.

There is also a TV series on Poldark (the original 1970's and the remake in 2015).

Whatever you are reading, *ENJOY*.

## Technical Section

*If you missed Alan Carter's emails the first time around or deleted them accidentally, well here they are for the last month:*

### 17 July

The 2021 Local Government Elections are planned for Saturday 4th September 2021. Here is a link to check your enrolment details:

[https://roll.elections.nsw.gov.au/NSWLookUp/?\\_ga=2.80776791.1743564534.1626514803-990734533.1607717478](https://roll.elections.nsw.gov.au/NSWLookUp/?_ga=2.80776791.1743564534.1626514803-990734533.1607717478)

**NOTE - in view of COVID the elections have been rescheduled for Saturday 4 December 2021.**

## Continuing Technical Section

### 29 July

Here is an interesting online assessment of your 'bone condition'. Unfortunately bones don't improve with age but they can be helped.

<https://www.knowyourbones.org.au/>

## Puzzle Segment

*Last month questions and answers:*

8. Show an empty box to a friend. You put in 2/- and get your friend to do the same. Close the box and rattle it to let your friend know the coins are still there. Now ask your friend to buy the box and all it contains for 3/-. Most people will buy, though they lose 1/-. Can you tell why?

*Answer:* He was buying back his own 2/- shillings.

72. From Sydney to Melbourne is about 600 miles, If one car leaves Melbourne travelling at 60 mph and the other leaves Sydney at the same time at 50 mph, which car will be closer to Sydney when they meet?

*Answer:* They were both the same distance away.

*Of course you knew the answers.*

*Try this one and maybe on the grandchildren:*

56. Tell a person to think of any number, say 12; multiply by 3, equals 36. Add 2, equals 38. Multiply by 3, equals 114. Add the number first thought of, equal 126. If he tells you the answer you can tell him the number he first thought of.

## **Committee Vacancies**

Remain as outlined in last month's newsletter. One position I haven't covered yet is the 'Newsletter'.

Who's going to take up the challenge?

I've endeavored to include topics that I thought maybe of interest to you all in one respect or another. I've had mixed responses.

I've created the newsletter as I saw fit and whoever takes it over can compose it as they wish keeping in line with the Probus protocol.

In the Probus Club Handbook - Helpful Guidelines for Management Committees the following suggestions are:

### *Newsletter Officer*

Monthly newsletters vary widely in Probus, some providing concise news and announcements on a single A4 sheet and others assuming the proportions of a community newspaper. The size, format and choice of material are the responsibility of the Officer (or Management Committee).

The Newsletter Officer should ensure requests by members for privacy are met. A Club's newsletter may include the following:

1. A meeting's guest speaker and subject.
2. Program for the next two or three meetings.
3. Calendar of activities and outings.
4. Future outings and co-ordinators contact numbers for each outing.
5. Report of previous meeting, often with a précis of the guest speaker's address and Club member's talk.
6. News of Club interest groups and co-ordinators contact numbers.

## *Continuing Committee Vacancies*

7. Extracts from Active Retirees magazine highlighting feature articles or special offers.
8. Information on Active Retirees competitions.
9. Reminder to visit PSPL website and Facebook page.
10. Special news regarding members: birthdays, anniversaries, overseas trips.
11. Information from the Committee and PSPL.
12. Information on local Rotary projects.

It is recommended that a copy of the newsletter be sent to the Club's sponsoring Rotary Club. This will help strengthen the Club's relationship with Rotary and share what is happening in the local community.

Copies of the newsletters should also be forwarded to a Club's RDPC and/or PDC, PSPL and the editor of Active Retirees for inclusion of newsworthy items in the Active Retirees publications or on the PSPL website. Committees are responsible for ensuring that they have consent from members for their photographs to be published in PSPL's publications prior to sending these to PSPL.

*The handbook also covers sponsorship or donations to cover the cost of printing and issuing the newsletter to members. This does not apply to us and hasn't been included above.*

*If you are interested in any of the vacant rolls please contact me.*

*This is all from me. Geoff Black will be knocking on your door next year for assistance.*

### *Travel Time*

We were lucky enough to spend a few days in South West Rocks. That part of the mid north coast is very picturesque.

Our accommodation was well located and even though it was above shops and beside a hotel it was surprisingly quiet. A cafe was below and provided great take away coffee.

Weather treated us well. We were able to walk along the foreshore most mornings and afternoons. On the Sunday when the temperature reached 26 degrees I even walked along the beach and dipped the toes into the water which was nice and refreshing.

We visited the Trial Bay Gaol. It was established in 1886 and closed in July 1918.

Trial Bay Gaol was first established to provide a workforce to build a breakwater at Laggery Point to allow for safe anchorage in Trial Bay during rough seas. Construction using prison labour commenced on a 1500 metre breakwater. The granite stone was extracted from quarry sites below the gaol.

The gaol was also used to hold German's in the first world war. When the gaol closed all internees were taken to Holsworthy Internment Camp.

The gaol is now in the hands of NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (Parks) The Parks website is:

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/historic-buildings-places/trial-bay-gaol>

On our tour list was Little Bay, a quaint little beach, very serene.

### *Continuing Travel Time*

We ventured up to the light house at Smoky Cape looking down over Green Island. The climb was steep but the views spectacular.

There are a lot of walking tracks along the coast.

On our way home we travelled the coast road and stopped at Crescent Head. Another great part of the coast line. A lot of surfers were riding the perfect barrel waves.

As we were travelling home our daughter phoned and mentioned "we are going into lock down at 5pm".

We were about 30 kilometers from Taree and our fridge and pantry were depleted at home so we decided to purchase some supplies at Taree. Amazing how many people were in Coles but we succeeded and continued on our way home.

After lockdown is over and if you are thinking of booking holiday accommodation be wary. I noticed on the accommodation that we booked (in very fine print) the following clause:

"COVID NOTE: If you make a booking and the covid travel restrictions change after the confirmation is sent and the change effects your access to the property, the standard terms and conditions still apply, you are booking with the knowledge of covid and that it can affect travel at any time. It will be the property owner's choice if they agree to an alteration of the terms and conditions. Please note this term is only valid for the person making the booking not any other occupants that may be travelling with you."

*A Time to Reflect!*

A mother passing by her daughters bedroom was astonished to see the bed was nicely made & everything was picked up. Then she saw an envelope propped up on the centre of the bed. It was addressed, "Mum".

With the worst premonition, she opened the envelope with trembling hands:-

"Dear Mum, it is with great regret & sorrow that I'm writing 2 u, I had 2 elope with my new boyfriend because i wanted 2 avoid a scene with u & Dad. I've been finding real passion with him & he is so nice, even with all his piercings, tattoos, beard & motorcycle clothes. But its not just the passion Mum, im pregnant & he said that we will b very happy. He already owns a trailer in the woods & has a stack of firewood 4 the whole winter. He wants 2 have many more children with me & that is now one of my dreams 2. He taught me that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone & we'll b growing it 4 us & trading it with his friends 4 all the cocaine & ecstasy we want. In the meantime we'll pray that science finds a cure 4 AIDS so he can get better, he sure deserves it! Don't worry Mum, im 15yrs old now & i know how 2 take care of myself. Someday im sure we'll b back 2 visit so u can get 2 know yr grandchildren. Yr daughter, Sophie...

P.S. Mum, none of the above is true. I'm over at the neighbours house. I just wanted 2 remind u that there r worse things in life than my report card thats in my desk top drawer. I love u! Call me when it is safe 2 come.."

*Please send your contributions to:*

[probusnews2280@gmail.com](mailto:probusnews2280@gmail.com)

South West Rock foreshore and Trial Bay Gaol



**Committee Members 2021**

President:	Trevor Brown	4946 9119
Vice President:	Geoff Black	4972 2143
General Secretary:	Robert Rae	0411 141 823
Membership Secretary:	Alan Carter	0411 425 668
Assistant Secretary:	Bruce Helman	4946 7974
Treasurer:	Brian Sullivan	4946 1153
Events Coordinator:	John Benson	4948 1339
Asst. Events Coord:	John McGrath	4946 7460
Program Officer:	Roger Wakefield	4954 4373
Newsletter:	<b>Vacant</b>	
Webmaster:	Alan Carter	0411 425 668
Welfare/Attendance	<b>Vacant</b>	
Historian:	Kevin Hepplewhite	4946 7775
Roving:	Kevin Hepplewhite	4946 7775
Roving:	<b>Vacant</b>	

**Support Officers - appointed by the Committee**

Public Officer:	Brian Sullivan	4946 1153
Book Exchange:	<b>Vacant</b>	
Morning Tea Coord:	Ron Tooney	4958 7910
Walking Group Coord:	Ron Tooney	4958 7910
Computer Support:	Alan Carter	0411 425 668
BBQ Coord:	Austin Greener	4946 9192