



## THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE Inc

'The Young, Friendly, Fun Club'

NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2022

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**

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

### President's Message

Been watching the Test Match? I thought it appropriate to make our colour this month PINK.

I hope you all had a relaxed and enjoyable festive season and now looking forward to our next meeting where we can catch up and enjoy a chat over a tea or coffee and a biscuit or two.

The beginnings of a new year, changes are happening, a new format for the newsletter, what can you expect? Keep reading and it will be revealed.

Have you set your new year's resolutions and implemented them? It could be more relaxation, organising your 'Booster Jab', planning for your next 'intra' state travel or just catching up with family and friends.

Our walking group gathered on 5 January at Speers Point car park for a walk to Cockle Creek and back. After a 'short' chat we moved off on our merry way. Ron, our coordinator, sent me an email of that morning's walk and you may like to have a read under the "Activities" section of this newsletter. If you are up to it come and join us on Wednesday, 2 February (no walking group on Australia Day).

If you missed out on Ken's talk or write up then have a look at our Christmas Newsletter. You'll find it on our website under the heading 'Newsletters'.

*Continued on next page*

***President's message continued***

Talking about the website, Alan does a great job in maintaining it and keeping it up to date. If you haven't looked at it in a while then check it out now at: [www.valentineprobus.au2.com](http://www.valentineprobus.au2.com)

Our AGM is in March which is not far away. Our Vice President, Geoff Black, will be looking for 'new blood' to join the committee. As you are aware there are vacancies in this years committee and Geoff is looking to fill these positions in the upcoming election. All positions will become vacant so don't be bashful in coming forward if you are interested in any of the positions (either filled or vacant now). All positions are shown on the last page under 'Committee Members'.

More information about Probus is contained in the 'Probus Club Handbook' which also contains suggestions on the individual positions of the committee. The direct link is: [https://www.probusouthpacific.org/probus/microsites/479/Documents/2020\\_-\\_2021\\_PSPL\\_Handbook\\_-\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.probusouthpacific.org/probus/microsites/479/Documents/2020_-_2021_PSPL_Handbook_-_WEB.pdf).

It's your newsletter, so let me know what you would like included and what you think of the new format, majority rules, I'm only the messenger until March 2022 (our AGM) 😊.

Cheers Trev

**NEXT MEETING - 24 January - (SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS)**

**APOLOGIES** to Robert Rae on 0411 141 823

and our GUEST SPEAKERS are:

January '22	Dr John Page	<i>Topic:</i>	12 Miracles of our Anatomy
February '22	Adam Loong (Pilot)	<i>Topic:</i>	Angel Flight
March '22	TBA (our AGM)		
April '22	Sarah Fenton	<i>Topic:</i>	Travel Post Pandemic

Synopsis of this months talk is:

You are going to have to wait and come along to the meeting and listen to Dr John Page. Is he going to talk about the brain, heart, veins, lungs, kidneys, liver, prostate, bowel, skeletal, skin, spine, mouth or other parts of our anatomy that are unknown to us. Well, come along and listen.

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**  
**(*SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS*)**

**WALKING GROUP -**

Meets every Wednesday morning, contact  
Ron Tooney our coordinator for more details.

An extract of Ron's email -

Well, we had our first walk for 2022 last Wednesday and it poured rain. So instead of getting saturated we opted to visit the new cafe TABLE 1, that has replaced Sals which had served us very generously. It is a bit more up market Cafe than Sals with all great naughty foods, like pancakes with chocolate strawberries etc. But we resisted these temptations as we are a health conscious group! Maybe in the future we could visit there for some special events!

**GENTLEMEN'S LUNCH -**

First Monday of every month, contact  
John Benson our coordinator for more details.

**Vale Ern Alchin**

Ern's funeral was held on 4 January and a number of members attended to farewell him.

Ern was one of the people instrumental in the establishment of our club in December 2002. At the time Ern was the Chairman of the Belmont District Rotary Organisation. Ern joined our club in 2003. Positions he held were Vice President, President in 2006/07 and Social Event Coordinator in 2008/09. In addition, he established the walking group that Ron now coordinates.

Ern was also very involved in Dementia services in the Newcastle and Hunter Regions.

Ern left us at the age of 86. Our sympathies go to Heather and his family. At our meeting we will show an array of photos of Ern.

**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.  
'XMAS', 'FEES', etc.

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 very interesting  
Guest Speakers.

## **Technical Section**

### **Alan Carter's hints:**

#### HINT FOR WINDOWS PEOPLE

If you ever need to add an EMOJI to an email or document, here is a quick way for you.  
Press WINDOWS KEY (on the keyboard) + . (full stop)

Below you will find a selection of available emojis that will appear for you to select.  
Just click the one that you want and it will be added to your email/document.

#### *Some good news!*

#### Regional Seniors Travel Card:

17th January 2022 - keep this date in mind as on that date you will be able to apply for another \$250 Travel Card.

Here is the link that will allow you to apply online as from 17-1-22.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-regional-seniors-travel-card>

## **Members Contribution**

Geoff Black has been kind enough to provide his story which he forwarded onto the Newcastle Herald.

### **Pelé the Pelican**

Pelé was the leader of a pelican flock of 30 birds. He led them on fishing expeditions around Lake Macquarie.

When Pelé was young, Peggy, his partner during one year, had not laid any eggs. Being resourceful, Pelé had carried a child's toy, a small egg-shaped plastic rugby ball from the beach, up to their twig nest on Pulbah Island. There, Peggy and he had tried to hatch the 'egg'. As a result of this fiasco, another pelican had named him 'Pelé'. The name had stuck. The football wasn't even round like a soccer ball! Why hadn't they named him 'Sonny-Bill'?

Pelé's young son, Pelé Junior, put out his webbed feet to slow his landing, and slid into the water next to Pelé on Swansea Channel.

Pelé Junior said, in his shrill, youthful, rasping voice, "Hey dad, wasn't I silly to say that I would be a dinosaur when I grew up?"

Pelé replied, "Yes, I guess you were a little silly, Junior."

Pelé Junior continued, "I know that we birds are descended from dinosaurs. But now, dinosaurs are extinct. So, I could never grow up to be a dinosaur."

### **Pelé the Pelican continued**

Pelé thought, ‘At last, the fledgling is beginning to make sense.’

But then Pelé Junior pronounced, “So, I have decided to grow up to become a man instead.”

If they had been standing on a Swansea Bridge lamp post, as the pair often did after they had eaten their fish breakfast and the tide was running, Pelé would have fallen off his perch.

Pelé tried to reason with Pelé Junior.

“Junior, you are a pelican, and will be for the rest of your life. You can never be a human.”

Pelé Junior looked annoyed. He had obviously set his heart on growing up to become a human.

Pelé tried to discourage Pelé Junior.

“Son, you wouldn’t like to be a human anyway. You would have to go to school at your age. Boring. Later you would have to work all day, just to live.

“Us pelicans get all the fish we can eat when we fish in the morning. Then we just bask in the sun and wile away the rest of the day, whilst the humans toil. We don’t need clothes, houses or cars. You are really lucky to be a pelican.

“A little thing. If you were a human, you would have to use a smelly toilet to relieve yourself. But since you are a pelican, you can let it go anytime you feel the urge, even when you’re flying.

“When I am flying, I amuse myself by trying to splatter humans below. If I get the wind and the timing right, I sometimes succeed. It’s a lot of fun.”

Pelé could see that his son was not convinced. He still wanted to be human.

Just then, there was a commotion. Pelé’s brother Pete, who was floating nearby, started to take off. Pete croaked, “Fishermen!”

Pelé Junior took the opportunity to take off and escape his father’s lecture. All the pelicans were soon skimming over towards the Blacksmiths Boat Ramp. There, two fishermen were cleaning their fish at the table, and throwing unwanted scraps into the Channel.

As they landed in the water near the table, the pelicans saw that a noisy, white cloud of their hated enemy had already arrived, and were circling. Seagulls! Flying rats!

One seagull snapped up a larger scrap that it couldn’t swallow, and flew off. Other seagulls gave chase. The seagulls squabbled and ripped at the scrap. Thank goodness pelicans were more civilized!

### **Pelé the Pelican continued**

As scraps were thrown his way, Pelé, being an old hand, soon filled his beak pouch. When his pouch was full, he lifted his head, drained away the seawater from the corners of his beak, and slid the contents of his pouch into his throat and swallowed.

Pelé Junior, who was floating nearby, had seen his father do this.

Junior had missed out on a snack. He was still too slow and hesitant when scraps were thrown his way.

Junior protested with his shrill rasp. “Dad, you swallowed the lot! You could have left me some.”

Pelé replied, “It is time you learnt to fend for yourself.”

Junior was peckish. Now he was also cranky.

Close by, a gluttonous seagull, floated contentedly on the water, too full of fish scraps to move quickly.

Suddenly, Junior beat his wings and lunged at the hapless seagull and petulantly snapped it up. Then he swallowed the seagull, feathers and all! The other seagulls screamed in alarm. Many of them flew off.

Amidst all of this, Pete took off again, croaking, “Fishermen in trouble”!

The whole pelican flock then took off and followed Pete down the Channel towards the sea. They hung on the NE sea breeze over the Swansea bar.

Down below, on the bar, the runout tide was meeting the incoming ocean swell, causing chop and white caps. There, a small fishing boat, half submerged, with its engine swamped, was turned sideways into the incoming waves. The boat contained four fishermen.

One fishermen was desperately trying to start the engine, while another frantically bailed out water. Two others were using oars to try to straighten the boat. But all to no avail.

A big wave reared up and rolled the boat, leaving the four fishermen floundering in the water. A second wave sunk the upturned boat.

A crowd of shore fishermen and beachgoers had gathered on the Blacksmiths Breakwall shouting encouragement and instructions. One of them threw a lifebuoy with a line attached into the maelstrom. But none of the four fishermen could reach it.

Just then, a huge, clattering red and yellow shape appeared above the pelicans, generating a downdraft that buffeted them.

The pelicans flew away, together.

Pelé croaked a question to his son, who was flying nearby, “Do you still want to be a human?”

Pelé Junior rasped in reply, “Naw dad. They can’t swim very well and they can’t fly. I think I will stay as a pelican.”

## Multiple Section

What did we include in last calendar years newsletters? We tried Crosswords, Sudoku, Puzzles, Movie Time, Video Time, Music Segment, Readers Corner, Members Stories, some 'True Stories', Brain Teasers, Travel, Humour, Nature, Look-a-Likes and information of interest such as local libraries, dementia, energy plus a lot of computer technical information.

What would you like to see more of over the next couple of months?

History has not yet been included. Are there any history buffs in the Club who would like to provide a history lesson in writing?

Later this month we have Australia Day and a brief history is:

**Australia Day** is the official national day of Australia. Observed annually on 26 January, it marks the 1788 landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove and raising of the Union Flag by Arthur Phillip following days of exploration of Port Jackson in New South Wales. In present-day Australia, celebrations aim to reflect the diverse society and landscape of the nation and are marked by community and family events, reflections on Australian history, official community awards and citizenship ceremonies welcoming new members of the Australian community.

Did you know unofficially, or historically, the date has also been variously named Anniversary Day, Foundation Day and ANA Day.

Who's up next?

## Youtube

Are your grandchildren into Rubik's Cubes? My grandson has made a couple of videos on the various cubes available incorporating some useful information. If so you might introduce them to the videos.

Got to **youtube** and type in 'TwigCube' and view the videos. To see both videos click on 'TwigCube' beside the picture and not on the top.

The link to the first video is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVh8WcIc5tc>

## Readers Corner

Our books will be on display at our meeting. Please browse and take a book if it interests you to read.

Please bring books along if you feel our members would be interested in the read.

## 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>	
<b>Support Officers - appointed by the Committee</b>		
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