



**THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE Inc**  
**'The Young, Friendly, Fun Club'**

**NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022**

Club Website: [www.ajcnsw.com/mpcov](http://www.ajcnsw.com/mpcov)

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 - MONDAY 24 OCTOBER - (SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS)**

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

and our GUEST SPEAKERS are:

Oct '22	Ian Hemphill	<i>Topic:</i>	Demystifying Wonders of the Spice World
Nov '22	Wayne Cooper	<i>Topic:</i>	Tribute Artist: Acts, sings and dresses like a celebrity to entertain

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

**WALKING GROUP** - Meets every Wednesday morning, contact Ron Tooney our coordinator on 4958 7910 for more details.

**GENTLEMEN'S LUNCH** - First Monday of every month, contact John Benson our coordinator on 0437 043 014 for more details.

**OUTINGS ORGANISED**

Thursday, 17 November - **Picnic** at Bennett Park Valentine at around 4pm.  
Bring your own picnic, drinks, chairs and enjoy some fun and friendship.  
Festivities to include a game of Boules and/or Croquet.



## CURRENT ACTIVITIES (*SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS*) - *Continued*

Wednesday, 14 December - our Christmas Function

### OUTINGS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION:

- TBA: Hi-Vis factory tour at Carrington
- 2023: A two or three night stay in a guest house at Katoomba (to include wives/partners)
- TBA: Lake Macquarie Light Rail at Toronto

If you have any other suggestions or would like to assist in organising any outing please contact John McGrath.

Our banking details are opposite. ➡

The Christmas Function cost is \$45pp. If you have placed your name on the list or intending to go please make your payment as shown opposite.

Please ensure you place your surname and 'XMAS' in your deposit.

### **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.

### **President's Message**

A thank you to John McGrath for chairing the September meeting.

We were enjoying ourselves on Norfolk Island. If you are a history buff and appreciate rugged landscape coupled with tranquility and the peacefulness then a visit is worthwhile.

A photo from Queen Elizabeth Lookout overlooking Kingston is on the next page. In the foreground you will see the residential houses and in the distance is where the penal colony ruins are, some of the buildings are being restored. More later on the history and attractions/tours.

Your committee has been busy organising various activities leading up to Christmas. We are having a special celebration this meeting, a picnic in the park in November, sausage sizzle at the November meeting and in December our Christmas function. Read through the newsletter and place the dates in your diary. Don't forget about our weekly walks and monthly gentlemen's luncheons.

Recently we visited the Van Gogh Alive exhibition in Newcastle. It is not the 'normal' art exhibition. If you have the opportunity it is worth a visit.

### **President's Message Continued**

Apart from his art work he also wrote poetry. One of his sayings was 'Great things are done by a series of small things brought together'.

Until next time be safe and keep well.

Trevor

## **Overlooking Kingston, Norfolk Island**



### **Guest Speaker Section**

I haven't received a write-up of our guest speaker, Kathy Edwards talking and reciting Bush poetry. However, some members have commented Kathy's presentation was thoroughly enjoyable and created a lot of laughter.

It was mentioned that Kathy would be welcomed back any time to present again.

Any volunteers to write-up our next speaker for November's newsletter?

## **A Journey Back to Railway Days**

It was a trip down memory lane for one of our foundation members, Ken Watt, on the October long weekend.

Ken worked at the Junee Roundhouse for five years when it first opened in 1947. I believe his daughter was instrumental in Ken returning to the Riverina rail town to mark the 75th Anniversary of the facility's official opening.

The Daily Advertiser, The Riverina's own newspaper had a write-up of the celebrations. One section was about Ken and generally read as follows:

"Ken Watt had just been employed as a fitter and turner at the Junee Roundhouse when it first opened in 1947.

This year, he returned to the Riverina town for the 75th Anniversary celebrations.

Mr Watt said the railway department had advertised across the state to hire workers for the soon-to-be opened roundhouse, and he answered the advertisement from Newcastle.

"I was at Cardiff railway workshop in my 5th year and a mate of mine and I decided we'd give it a go," he said. "We came down here at the end of August and we were here for the opening of the actual roundhouse in September."

Mr Watt said one of the reasons they decided to take the job was because he had already done some work on one of the trains that stopped at the roundhouse as an apprentice.

"That was the part my mate and I thought was pretty good," he said.

Junee Roundhouse Museum chair Gail Commens said Mr Watt was the only person they knew who was at the opening.

"There's nobody in town who any of us know of who was at that event," she said.

"He saw (the anniversary) advertised and said he'd like to come."

Until it was closed in 1993, workers at the Junee Roundhouse carried out maintenance on steam trains travelling from Albury and back.

It's the largest roundhouse in the southern hemisphere.

Mr Watt worked at the roundhouse for about 5 years and said the place was "flat out" for the entire time.

"I enjoyed the shifts and the work, it was always busy," he said. "When the engines came off the line to the roundhouse for any repairs the driver might have mentioned, they'd be put down.

When it was my shift, I'd pick up whatever it was to be done and do that sort of work."

During Mr Watt's time in Junee, he met his wife Joyce and the pair got engaged before moving to Lake Macquarie.

"It's been a reunion since we set foot in the town, it's been non-stop," he said.

Hundreds made their way to Junee on Saturday to celebrate the iconic buildings 75th birthday.

The Junee Roundhouse Museum was bustling with visitors as they made the most of free entry and the long weekend. Celebrations continue today."

The link to the museum is '[www.roundhousemuseum.com.au](http://www.roundhousemuseum.com.au). In the web page there is a 30 minute video and a host of other information pertaining to the museum.

## Book Corner

Fellow Probus Members

This month, in addition to the *standard collection* we have: Bill Bryson and Sidney Shelton.

Should anyone want to borrow a book from any of the previous authors, please let me know.  
Happy Reading Ted

### Bill Bryson:

African Diary, A Short History of Nearly Everything, A Walk In The Woods,  
Down Under, Neither Here Nor There, Notes From a Small Island, One Summer,  
The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid, The Lost Continent.

### Sidney Shelton:

Chasing Tomorrow, Nothing Lasts Forever, Rage of Angels, Tell Me Your Dreams,  
The Best Laid Plans, The Doomsday Conspiracy, The Naked Face,  
The Other Side of Midnight, The Sky is Falling, The Stars Shine Down, Windmills of the Gods.

## WEBMASTER

Alan Carter, our webmaster, has updated the recently released version of **Probus Insurance**. The update is shown in our website, see opposite for access.

Thanks Alan for maintaining the website.



## Gosford Regional Gallery and Japanese Edogawa Commemorative Garden “Gardens”

On Thursday, 13 October, the sun was shining and we gathered at Croudace Bay park before heading off to the Gardens. Five couples arrived and wandered through the tranquil gardens that extended over 4000 square metres. Photos were taken and we conversed with the gardener to establish certain varieties of plants. The ambiance of the garden was a prelude for a very enjoyable lunch in ‘The Point Cafe’ within the complex.

Following lunch we strolled through the art exhibition and provided our comments on the art displayed. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all involved.

A thank you to John McGrath for the organisation.

## IMPORTANT DATES IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

There are a number of Important Days and Dates in the month October (if you want to know them all Google the heading).

The month of October is filled with festivals. The October name is derived from the Latin "Octo", which means eight. As per the Anglo-Saxons, it was called Winterfylleth, meaning "fullness of winter".

As you know October is the 10th month of the year and has 31 days. Originally, it was the eighth month of the Roman calendar until 153 BCE.

Festivals and events across the country are celebrated with full enthusiasm. Some events are focused on a particular theme. One of the important dates is:

### 1 October - [International Day of the Older Persons](#)

International Day of the Older Persons is observed on 1 October every year to raise problems faced by elder persons and to promote the development of a society for all ages. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on 14 December, 1990, and designates 1 October as the International Day of Older Persons.

I've mentioned this date in particular because Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) encourages celebrating Probus Day on 1 October. PSPL sent out a message to all members via a video which Robert, our Secretary, forwarded to you.

## CELEBRATIONS AT OUR MEETING

PSPL extended their congratulations to the members of the club on achieving a great milestone of reaching their 20th year.

A special morning tea has been organised for our meeting.

Share with a Friend

Don't forget to send our newsletter on to a friend or direct them to our website :  
[www.ajcnsw.com/mpcov](http://www.ajcnsw.com/mpcov)

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

Please send your contributions for the newsletter to the email address of:

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

### Committee Members 2022

President:	Trevor Brown	0488 469 119
Vice President:	John McGrath	0405 887 881
General Secretary:	Robert Rae	0411 141 823
Membership Secretary:	Robert Rae	0411 141 823
Assistant Secretary:	Bruce Helman	0412 485 610
Treasurer:	Brian Sullivan	0431 068 729
Events Coordinator:	John McGrath	0405 887 881
Ass Events Coordinator:	Vacant	
Program Officer:	Roger Wakefield	4954 4373
Ass Program Officer:	Graham Higgs	0407 658 269
Newsletter:	Trevor Brown	0488 469 119
Webmaster:	Vacant	
Attendance :	John Bear	0477 171 909
Welfare:	Vacant	
Historian:	Kevin Hepplewhite	0420 355 743
Roving:	John Benson	0437 043 014
Roving:	Vacant	

### Support Officers - appointed by the Committee

Public Officer:	Brian Sullivan	0431 068 729
Book Exchange:	Ted Tait	0401 397 499
Morning Tea Coord:	Ron Tooney	4958 7910
Walking Group Coord:	Ron Tooney	4958 7910
Computer Support	Vacant	
BBQ Coord:	Austin Greener	4946 9192