

THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE Inc

'The Young, Friendly, Fun Club'

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Club Website: www.ajcnsw.com/mpcov or scan



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 26 February

APOLOGIES to Robert Rae on 0411 141 823

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS are:

February '24	Marnie Crichton	Topic:	Accident Survivor
March '24	Adrian Humphries	Topic:	Ukraine/Middle East Conflict

Current Activities

WALKING AND COFFEE GROUP - Meets every Wednesday morning, contact Ron Tooney our coordinator on 0409 467910 for more details.

GENTLEMEN'S LUNCH - Monday 4th March '24 at Valentine Bowling Club at 11.45 for 12 noon. Contact John Benson our coordinator on 0437 043014 for further details.

William The Fourth Outing

Our Sunday 4th February 9 members, their partners, Ted and Mary Tait's granddaughter Harriot, and John and Kerry Haines enjoyed being on Newcastle Harbour. John was a guest at our January meeting and has walked with the walking group on Wednesday mornings.

The morning was sunny, seas were calm and excellent commentary was received along with the morning refreshments.

A few journeyed up to Queen's Wharf later and enjoyed lunch and good company.

A thank you to Brendan for organising a great outing.

President's Report

A great start to 2024 with our young speaker Corren Ingersole, Trevor Brown's grandson, providing a fascinating presentation on the history of Rubiks Cube. There was never any question of our members offering to mount a challenge to better Corren's fastest time to solve Rubiks Cube.

Our first social outing for the year, a cruise around Newcastle Harbour on the William the Fourth was very enjoyable with perfect weather and informative commentary. Many thanks to Brendan Mannion for organising the day and Robert Ray for coordinating payment for the day.

It was rewarding to have the opportunity to celebrate Ken Watts 97th birthday, that fell on the same day as our Gentleman's Lunch. Ken continues his quest to catchup to Austin Greener by his 100th birthday. Wouldn't it be great to celebrate that occasion with each of our members.

John

AGM March Meeting

If you missed Robert's earlier email, the content is below.

A very important matter which I need to tell you about.

A number of Committee Members will not be standing for re-election for the 2024-2025 Probus Year. If these committee positions cannot be filled, the Club will not

be able to meet PSPL's Club requirements. Hence, the Club will close. The crucial positions that need to be filled are:

President.

Secretary.

Treasurer.

Other positions which are necessary for the Club to function include:

Events Coordinator.

Newsletter Director.

Historian.

Membership Secretary.

Please consider if you are in position to undertake any of these roles and if so complete the nomination form attached to Robert's email and return it to Robert by return email or bring it to the next meeting.

Guest Speaker Section

I introduced Corren and outlined what he was going to talk about.

Corren commenced by saying his interests currently extend to mountain biking, trampolining and miniature painting. He completed year 9 last year and is 15. However, he loves Rubik's Cubing.

His presentation covered the invention of the 'magic cube' comprised of 27 wooden blocks made by Erno Rubik (Hungarian Professor) on 19 May 1974. It took a month to find the solution to the puzzle. 'It was like staring at a piece of writing written in a secret code. But for me, it was a code I myself had invented! Yet, I could not read it. This was such an extraordinary situation that I simply could not accept it.' - Erno Rubik

The cubes started selling in 1980 and renamed 'Rubik's cubes' after Rubik. The technology has substantially changed over the 50 year period.

Present day cubes have magnetic cores, edge and corner magnets. Maglev (repelling magnets), springs and a core adjustment system are found in the centre piece of a cube. The cube will have either a spring system or maglev system. The cubes can range in price up to \$150 for a 3x3.

There is a variety of puzzles and events a speed cubing competition has, this includes; 2x2, 3x3, 4x4, 5x5, 6x6, 7x7, pyraminx, Skewb, Clock, Megaminx, Square-1, 3x3 one-handed,

Guest Speaker Section Continued

3x3 blindfolded, 3x3 fewest moves, 3x3, multi-blind, 4x4 blindfold, 5x5 blindfolded. There are many more twisty puzzles you can buy, but not for competition.

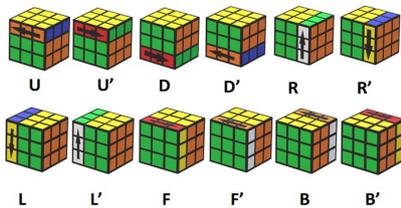
In solving a cube there are many different methods but 3 main ones:

- beginners method only requires between 4-7 algorithms
- CFOP (Cross, First 2 layers, Orientation of last layer, Permutation of last layer,) is the most common method to solve speed cubing. It's a compressed upgrade of the Beginners method which you can learn hundreds of algorithms to perfect this method
- ROUX is a totally different method to the previous two. This involves block building and M slices (as shown below)



There are competitions all over the world. The first one commenced in Budapest in 1982. Corren has competed in Newcastle, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. His competition PB (Personal Best) in 3x3 is 10.90 seconds (single) and 12.23 seconds (average).

Corren gave an example of an algorithm. He demonstrated through the presentation his skills in solving the various types of cubes.



Speed Cubing Improves the development of muscles in hand, forearm, and fingers. It also improves the strength of the muscles in your eyes. It improves better streams of thought towards a solution, improves memory, and helps to grasp concepts quicker.



This is the current 3x3 Official World Record (WR) single by Max Park (3.13 seconds)

Guest Speaker Section Continued

This is the current 3x3 Mutli-blind Official WR by Graham Siggins (62/65 cubes in 57:47 minutes)

Note: The competitor must first memorise every single cube before donning the blindfold and solving them.



If you are interested in diving deeper into the world of speed cubing, check out this documentary:

'The Speed Cubers' DOCUMENTARY ON NETFLIX (40 minutes).

Following his presentation there were numerous questions. The members thanked Corren in the usual manner.

Corren asked me to pass on his 'thank you' in allowing him the opportunity to present this subject to you.

Book Corner

Browse our library and take what interests you or borrow from Ted's collection of interesting authors.

Cryptic Conclusion

Last month you put your thinking cap back on. For ease of reference the questions are below followed by the answers I was looking for.

Cryptic Conclusion Continued

- Q1. Which is the most mysterious letter in the alphabet? [The letter "Y"](#)
- Q2. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they? [Footsteps](#)
- Q3. What tastes better than it smells? [The tongue](#)
- Q4. What is in front of a woman but at the back of a cow? [The letter "W"](#)
- Q5. Before Mt Everest was discovered, what was the tallest mountain in the world? [Mt Everest](#)
- Q6. What can be opened but cannot be closed? [An egg](#)
- Q7. What building has the most stories? [A library](#)
- Q8. If I have it, I don't share it. If I share it, I don't have it. What is it? [A secret](#)
- Q9. What can you keep even after giving it to someone else? [Your word](#)
- Q10. Which month has 28 days? [They all have](#)
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Something to Ponder Over

'If you fail', never give up because 'F.A.I.L.' means 'First Attempt in Learning';

End is not the end, in fact 'E.N.D.' means 'Effort never dies';

You get 'No' as an answer, remember 'N.O.' means 'Next opportunity'.

REMEMBER What ?

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember...

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

REMEMBER What ? Continued

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness' sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

'Where's my toast?'

BANKING DETAILS for Payments to the Club

GREATER BANK (details for making payment either on-line or at a branch).

BSB 637-000
Account 780356294

(record your 'surname' + one word as a brief reference covering the purpose eg "Xmas", 'Fees', etc

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023

President	John McGrath 0405 887 881	Vice President	Vacant
General Secretary	Paul Rheinberger 0427 704 432	Assistant Secretary	Bruce Helman 0412 485 610
Membership Secretary	Robert Rae 0411 141 823		
Treasurer	Brian Sullivan 0431 068 729		
Events Coordinator	Roger Wakefield 0418 431 426	Ass Events Coordinator	Brendan Mannion 0412 544 647
Program Manager	Roger Wakefield 0418 431 426	Ass Program Manager	Vacant
Newsletter	Trevor Brown 0488 469 119		
Webmaster	Alan Carter 0411 425 668	Historian	Kevin Hepplewhite 0420 355 743
Attendance	Robert Rae 0411 141 823	Welfare	Vacant
Roving	John Benson 0437 043 014	Roving	Bob Maloney 0439 808 286
