



PROBUS CLUB OF DARWIN INC #355594

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Darwin North Inc

The Probud Club of Darwin Inc. is not for profit and non fundraising. It is non sectarian.
Its objects are to stimulate thought, interest and participation in activities at a time of life

August Bulletin

Volume

20

Issue

5

PATRON

**His Honour Professor the
Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM
Administrator of the NT**

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CASUARINA NT 0811

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**Meetings begin at
10:30am and are
usually held on the first
Wednesday of each
month**

**Next meeting
Tracy Village Social and Sports Club
Wednesday, 6 August, 2025
10:30am - General Meeting**

Many thanks to the office of Khoda Patel MLA, member for Casuarina, for the printing of our bulletin this month.



President's Perspective

When the bulletin arrives my first port of call is the list of activities that members can take part in during the coming month. From reading group to coffee group, there is a welter of activities to try and decisions to make. Will I try the reading group, the garden event looks interesting, definitely the dining out and coffee are on the list, bowling I will go to watch and join the cheers and laughter. In the coming months there are two more events I hope to see you at. The first is a Gala Event, our 40th anniversary celebration, on 17th September at Tracy Village with our Patron, His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM and his partner, Ruth Jones, as our guests, as well as the current president of our sponsoring club, Rotary Club of Darwin North Inc. Then in early October it is the annual Probus Day gathering where we celebrate with members of the other three Probus clubs in the Top End.

We welcomed two new members in July. Please say hello to Jane Gunner and Colene Lunn.

Interesting fact: In the 18th century Samuel Johnson and Jonathon Swift wanted to ban the word "fun". Where would Probudians be without one of the **Fundamental** beliefs of Probus!

Cheers
Lyn Barlow



Guest Speakers

Dr Susan Bandias and Dr Janie Mason will present the fascinating story of the Outpost Radio Service VJY (Victor Juliet Yankee).

VJY was a coastal radio communications network that existed in the Northern Territory prior to the availability of a telephone service.

From its initial operation until its closure in 2002, the VJY was indispensable in developing the community of the outback.



Tracy Village
Social and Sports Club
The home of
Probus Club of Darwin Inc.



Previous guest speakers from Aunty's Free Feeds are looking for some help.

If you can please bring in paper grocery bags to the meeting, this will help with food distribution and be very much appreciated.
The bags will be collected from our meetings.

August at at Glance

Event Date	Meeting/Event
Fri Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 10:15 am	Craft Group at Cas Club. (Occurs each Friday), coordinator Bev Barnes
Mon Aug 4– 11:00 am	Book Club at Cas Club coordinator Bev Barnes
Wed Aug 6 - 10:30 am	General Meeting, Tracy Village
Wed Aug 13—10:30am	Garden Club at Jenny Parish's home Bev Aitken coordinator
Tues Aug 19—11:00am	Writing group at Cas Club - coordinator Ron Ninnis
Wed Aug 20—10:00am	Meet for coffee at 10:00am at Caramello Café then 10 pin bowling at 11:00am coordinator Shirley Porte
Wed Aug 20—6:30pm	Dining Out—Ski Club
Tues Aug 26—1:00pm	Games at Pearl Retirement Village, Coordinator—Maxine
Wed Aug 27—12:00pm	Lunch at Casuarina Sports Club
Fri Aug 29—9:30am	Coffee Lovers at Saltwater@Bundilla

August Lunch Dining Out



27 August, 2025 12:00pm

Contact: Rowena McHugh

Phone: 0413 289 555

August Dining Out



20 August, 2025 6:30pm

Contact: Robyn Wright

Phone: 0408 811 620

Out and about in July



*Margaret
and Jim
receiving
15 year
membership
certificate*



Out and about in July



Inducting Colene and Jane



Guest speaker Shea with a Black Foot Tree Rat



We're all young at heart— an icecream for our Bev



Traveller's Report by Mary Martin and Di Lunn

Mediterranean Treasures, the title of the cruise said it all. Venice to Istanbul, cruising for 14 days on the Mediterranean, through 5 countries, calling into 14 places all dating back many centuries, with many of them having played important roles in world history. What an adventure!

Well, why not go a little further? Let's start in London, there's sure to be some great shows, ballet or theatre. A trip 13 months in the making, all planned down almost to the last detail, what could go wrong?

Di and I set off all prepared for the 13 plus hour flight from Singapore to London after the flight from Darwin and a four-hour stopover in Changi. What we didn't plan for was the extra four-and-a-half-hour delay in the Changi Airport. We learned that our Airbus A380 had experienced technical problems. Oh well, Changi Airport is quite a good place to kill eight and a half hours and it was much better for us for the plane problems to be discovered while it was on the ground.

The flight delay meant that instead of arriving at early morning, we were treated to midday traffic in Central London on a week day. Almost two hours after leaving Heathrow, we found ourselves outside our hotel, Page 8, which is located next door to St Martin's of the Fields and not far from Trafalgar Square.

We were both ready to sleep but determined not to succumb until the evening. What to do? Let's explore, after all it's June, summer in the United Kingdom. Well, everything we witnessed indicated that it was summer, but what we felt suggested something else. We discovered that in summer, Londoners, and tourists from around the world, stand on the footpaths to drink at the pubs and eat al fresco, under heaters. Not our style, please we will have a table inside out of the cold.

Great visits to art galleries, the National Portrait Gallery was opposite our hotel, and the usual tourist spots,



Queen Mary and Princess Di waited patiently for King Charles to open the gates

including a boat ride on the Thames. A roof of a foot bridge that we passed under was decked out with solar panels? Londoners must be very optimistic people. Didn't they realise that solar panels require sun to generate electricity?



While King Charles was in Buckingham Palace when we dropped by, he chose to ignore our presence and keep the gates firmly closed.

A visit to Harrods was one of our must dos too. While we were there, we window shopped the vast array of designer labels on offer, made friends with characters in the toys section, and ate a delicious and expensive Devonshire tea.

"The Fiddler on the Roof" at the Barbican Theatre was another highlight. A fabulous show, in a wonderful theatre with great actors, was made so much better as it brought back the memories of seeing it for a first time, many, many years ago.

And then, it was time to say goodbye to London and head to Heathrow for our flight to Venice to catch our cruise. The flight with British Airways was short and uneventful, but the transfer to our hotel was something else.

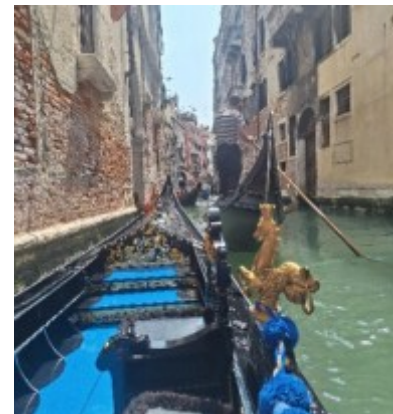


Traveller's Report cont. by Mary Martin and Di Lunn

For those of you who are yet to experience a city on water.... everything, well almost everything, is by boat and much to our amazement, we discovered that water taxis only go to designated stops.

So, despite having booked an airport to hotel transfer, we found ourselves on a boat landing some 300 metres from where we wanted to be. That distance, pulling heavy suitcases over very rough cobble stones, was challenging enough, but the bridge that lay between us and our hotel made the journey even more daunting. A bridge, nine steps up and nine steps down. We thanked our good fortune for several young, generous folk who happened along and manhandled our suitcases over the obstacle.

During our 24 hour stay in Venice, we pondered on the huge variety of exquisite Venetian glassware on offer and tried to comprehend the vast history of the city. We also found tourists, from all over the world, abound as do steps, stairs and bridges. We also discovered that gondola and water taxi rides can be fun, particularly when the waterways are very busy and your chauffeurs have comical bents.



After a leisurely breakfast at water level watching the gondolier apprentices prepare the vessels for a day's work, we whiled away the morning, strolling around the centre of Venice wondering at its past and its architectural masterpieces such as St. Mark's Basilica and Doge's Palace.

Then we indulged in one of the Venice must dos, a gondola ride.

Ignoring the cruise transfer that had been booked, we chose to arrange a water taxi through the hotel which, to our delight collected us, and our heavy suitcases, from a landing pier at the hotel reception, saving us from another 300-metre trek pulling our suitcases. Boarding time for our cruise was 4pm. *(to be continued with the Mediterranean cruise next edition)*

Can you help?

As there is so much need at present for items to help the Mission to Seafarers to assist the mariners coming in to Darwin it has been decided to keep the collection boxes going for a while longer.

If you are able to help out, the following items are most needed :

Toiletries—soap, razors, toothbrush and paste

Clothing—smaller size underwear, t shirts, socks and beanies.

The boxes will be at the next meeting and the items taken into the Mission.

GARDEN CLUB

27 garden lovers enjoyed a wonderful day at Colin and Dorothy's magic garden. A beautiful day surrounded by lovely gardens, fruit trees and ornamentals.

Many thanks to Dorothy for the pumpkin scones, jam and cream plus apple slice. Our lovely flowering orchid was won by Ros from Charles Darwin Club.,

Then we went to Coolalinga Tavern for lunch.

Next get together is at Jenny Parish's home, 6 Aralia Street, Nightcliff on Wednesday, 13 August.

Bev Aitken—Coordinator ph 0412 196 032



Out and about in July



Dining out at Cullen Bay





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Seniors' Snippets

Ken Cohalan OAM



•**Washing Machine**—with Connie still in hospital (she is progressing), I have learned how to do my clothes washing. I am surprised how much fluff is caught in the filters which must be cleaned after each wash.

•**Aged Pension**—Federal Govt updates Aged Pensions assets and income tests three times per year.

*How much can you earn before losing entitlement—Single \$5,512, Couple \$9,672

*Nil pension entitlement—Single \$65,260, Couple \$99,746

*Deeming Income—Couple Bank \$5,000—TD \$30,000—Shares \$50,000—Super \$100,000. 0.25% on first \$103,000, excess 2.25%

*Assets Test—before losing pension can have—homeowner \$314,000; couple \$470,000; non-homeowner \$949,000; couple \$1,299,500

*Age pension rate change—reviewed in March and September

*Qualification for age pension—67 years.

*Further information—ph 1300 527 727 or email: hello@retirementessentials.com.au

Board Games

Come and join us playing your favourite Board Games at Pearl Recreation Centre. Lots of challenges and fun.

26 Aug 1:00pm

Maxine Dienelt—Coordinator

Golf

Contact

Jeff Mosel ph 0422 187 263

For dates and times



Table Tennis Interest Group



Every Thursday 9.00 am—11.00 am
\$5— 2 hours including bat and ball hire.

Organised by Charles Darwin Club.
Contact Chris 0429171326.



Coffee Lovers!

9:30am August 29

Contact
Bev Whitby
Ph 0407 053 903



Heart Foundation Walking

The regular walking group is on Mondays, leaving from Casuarina Square, near the K Mart car centre at 7:30am

For further details,
contact Janet 0432 154 306

August Birthdays

Gelita Shapcott

Henrietta Dempster

Elaine Prosser

Wendy Darwin

Russ Swan

Ron Lawford

Nancy Lay

Mary Verus

Ton Errity

Robyn Wright

Rexine Lamshed

Lyn Barlow **

Maureen Burr

Bob Schulz

Rita Cluley ***



August Anniversaries

Earl and Wendy James

Hope you enjoy your special day



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Darwin Weather by Sheila Bizley, Darwin Probus Writing Group

Whether the weather be warm
Whether the weather be wet
Whether the weather be windy
One of us will be whinging.

When it's hot someone hates it
When it's raining someone rants
When its breezy someone battles it
When it's humid it's HORRENDOUS.

Whatever the weather in Darwin
We can't complain of boredom
Heat, rain and storm
We just have to accept it.



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Literature, Lunch and Laughter

8 of us met for Book Club today, great discussion and a lovely lunch..

Read June discuss July

Blackbird By: David Crookes

Review—Sheila, Margaret and Helmi enjoyed, good story.

The Rain Herron By: Robbie Arnott

Review— Helmi enjoyed being a bit different. Mary and Bev did not enjoy at all.

Dusk

Review— Trish, Sheila and J=Helmi found it very good, really enjoyed. Bev enjoyed it but took a while to get into it.

The Trauma Cleaner By: Sarah Krasnostein

Review— Mary did not enjoy, found it jumped around too much. Bev could not get into it. Helmi, listened to it and enjoyed it.



Mercy (Department Q Series Book 1)

By: Jussi Adler-Olsen

Review— Brian read it a few years ago and really enjoyed it.

Read July discuss August

Time of the Child By: Niall Williams

The Mystery Guest By: Nita Prose

The Secret River By: Kate Grenville

The Nowhere Child By: Christian White

Read August discuss September

The Unique Grave—by Dervia McTiernan

The Great Escape from Woodlands Nursing Home by Joanna Neil

Tai-Pan by James Clavell

When the Lion Feeds by Wilbur Smith

Read September discuss October

The Boy in the World or 4 Letters of Love by Niall Williams

The Bath Conspiracy by Jeannie M Adams

We Solve Murders by Richard Osman

The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory

We meet at the Casuarina Sports Club every first Monday of the month at 11am. If you enjoy reading, this is the golden opportunity to join us and share your reading experiences. Stay well and stay safe and happy reading. Next meeting is 4th August at Cas Club at 11am
Mary Greenup for Bev Barnes, Coordinator

TEN PIN BOWLING

A very pleasant coffee was enjoyed before heading off to Kingpin for a game of ten pin bowling. 13 players divided into 3 teams cheered on by Maxine, Lyn, Bill and Shirley. This month we welcomed Pam and Alan Utting, prospective new members for the Darwin Probus Club and Teo, 7 year old grandson of Anne and Ed Howard.

Deja vu! He did it again! I repeat last month's opening lines of my report - 'Fred started really well going into the lead in round 1 and staying in first place for the whole game'. Ed remained in second place until round 6 and from then on it was a race between Henrietta, Pam, Richard and Robyn. Final scores Fred 130 (3 strikes, 2 spares) an excellent score although not as good as last month's 140, Robyn 108 (4 spares) and Pam (3 spares) and Richard (2 spares) tying on 91. The rest of the players having scores in the 70's and 80's. A good game enjoyed by everyone except when Richard's own ball disappeared but was thankfully retrieved from the back somewhere by staff. Our strike total this month was 3 thanks to Fred and the total number of spares was high at 19.

Come and join us. We meet up next month on Wednesday 20 August.

Hope to see you there.



Shirley Porte, Coordinator.

by Sheila Bizley,

Darwin Probus Writing Group

There once was a lady in Darwin
Who found the heat quite alarming
So she stripped to her jox
And jumped in with the crocs
The result was a reptile embalming!

Probus Club of Darwin Bank Account

Account : Probus Club of Darwin Inc

BSB: 633000

Account Number: 226771376



Writing Group

July meeting

Our practice writing session- for 7 minutes - was on the topic of "The lone backpacker". This was inspired by the recent news of a backpacker being found after being missing for 11 days in outback WA.

Our topic for the month is : "The mushroom lady." This is a topical topic right now, and everyone has an opinion about it. It has captured the Public's imagination. Cooking or eating a Beef Wellington will never be the same again. This should make it for an easy write, and everyone is invited to send in their contribution.

Ron Ninnis, Coordinator

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PROBUS CLUB OF DARWIN INC
PRESENTS

A CELEBRATION OF 40 YEARS!

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BY PETER, PAUL AND JACKO



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TRACY VILLAGE SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB
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Combined Probus Clubs Games Day



Lyn receiving the trophy



Probus Club of Darwin are the 2025 winners!



Ed, the champion in the game Face Cream



A wonderful morning with players from all 4 clubs coming together to take on the challenge of competing in a variety of games, including Thong throw, Hoop ball, Golf pong, Face cream, Corn bag toss, Stacked dice. Great morning tea provided by members. Overall winner this year was Probus Club of Darwin who keep the perpetual trophy for the next 2 years.

Enjoying morning tea near the Nightcliff Jetty



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from the Minutes 1 August 2001

Held at the Darwin Bowls Club

Present: Messrs Thompson, Dally, Fisher, Dimery, Kerr, Roberts, Simmons, Blackmore, Plew, Steven, Johnstone, Washington, Penhall, Chin, Short, Bromich,

Apologies: Scott, Upton,

Visitor: Roland Falckh, Bill Finteln

Birthday: Best wishes to Hugh Roberts, for his 80th birthday

Minutes: The meeting adopted the Minutes of the previous meeting.

Correspondence: Inwards NT safe bulletin, Probus Director 2001/2002, Probus News, Probus History

Outwards—Sympathy card to Mrs Workman

Treasurer's: Report opening balance \$592.49, Income \$0, Expenses \$62.50, Closing balance \$549.99

Guest Speaker—Mr Phillip Hall, officer of the Recreational Fisheries Division of Dept of Primar Industries. He has been 20 years in the Territory, 13 years with the Dept. Maps were displayed and brochures distributed. From 1996-99 over \$1m spent by Govt in providing access to fishing spots in NT. Compensation negotiated with land holders for road access on properties. Landing facilities are provided at Roper River, Roper Bar, Finniss River. Toilet and shower facilities provided. Permits are required to enter some Aboriginal land. His work is on going. Mr Hall answered many questions. Dr Bromich thanked Mr Hall on behalf of the club.

Meeting ended 11:26am.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The information collected in relation to members shall be held in accordance with the information privacy principles contained in the Privacy Act (Privacy Act, Australia 1998). Each Probus Club shall ensure that it complies with such information privacy principles and shall not disclose any

INSURANCE

All financial members of the Probus Club of Darwin Inc. are covered by Probus Insurance. Insurance covers members, visitors and guests whilst attending or participating in a recognised Probus activity function or meeting (age restrictions may apply). Prior conditions may be taken into consideration.

DISCLAIMER

This Directory of Members is for the exclusive use of members of the Probus Club of Darwin Inc. and should not be made available to Non-Members. The information contained in this publication is "Private and Confidential" to Members and is not to be used for any other purpose.