



PROBUS CLUB OF DARWIN INC #355594

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Darwin North Inc

The Probuss 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
when it is easy to become complacent and self-centred.

December Bulletin

Volume

18

Issue

9

PATRON

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

PO Box 40452

CASUARINA NT 0811

Web Page: www.darwinprobuss.org

Email: secretaryprobussdarwin@hotmail.com



Next meeting

Meetings begin
at 10:30am and
are held on the
first

Wednesday of
each month

Christmas Lunch at Silks

Wednesday, 6 December, 2023

11:15am - in lieu of General Meeting

Janet's Jottings



MERRY CHRISTMAS to you and your families from the Probus Management Committee!

May you all stay safe and enjoy the spirit of Christmas.

It has been a very busy year for Probus, so, many thanks to all the Coordinators of our many interest groups. You have been consistent meeting each week or month making your groups interesting and fun.

I thank the Social Committee for keeping us eating our way around Darwin, dining out, coffee mornings, the Dinner cruise. Our newly formed Travel team, off to Norfolk Island and cruise in February, a bus trip to Adelaide River earlier in the year, we thank you.

Our diligent morning tea coordinator, Jill, and our music director.

I thank our Management committee and Bulletin editor for always being there to sort out concerns and challenges!!

We have laughed together and cried together, danced together and attended funeral services together.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas Party on the 6th December, what surprises will there be on the day???

I thank all of you for your support and input, with all those jobs taken care of to help our club run smoothly.

You are all much appreciated.

See you all soon,

Cheers

Vale

Neil Prosser

8 March 1939—21 November 2023

Sadly we say goodbye to Neil, a wonderful man who has been involved in our Probus Club since April 2007. Neil served as President in 2009 and on the Management Committee 2008—2019.

A very supportive and active member of the club, Neil quietly offered suggestions to enhance the club. Neil will be missed greatly.

Sincere and heartfelt condolences are extended to Elaine and family on the passing of a much loved man.

Rest in peace

Management and Members of Probus Club of Darwin



Interest Groups

December at a glance

Event Date	Meeting/Event
Friday Dec 1 - 10:15 am	Craft Group at Cas Club. (Occurs each Friday), coordinator Bev Barnes
Monday Dec 4—11:00 am	Book Club at Cas Club coordinator Bev Barnes
Wednesday Dec 6 - 11:15am	Christmas lunch at Silks (in lieu of a general meeting)
Saturday Dec 9 - 5:30pm	2023 Carols at the Leanyer Waterpark
Wednesday Dec 13- 10:30 am	Next garden club at Allora Gardens Nursery, Christmas theme, coordinator Bev Aitken
Tuesday Dec 19 - 11:00am	Writing group at Cas Club coordinator Ron Ninnis
	10 pin bowling. In recess
	Golf in recess
	Board Games at Pearl in recess
	Morning Tea in recess

GARDEN CLUB

46 garden club lovers attended Bagot Road Bunnings—so good.

Thanks to Tony and Sunasa who gave us a talk on plants and shrubs in the garden and how to keep them happy, healthy and alive. Big welcome to new faces "every body loves Bunnings"



Next meeting ALLORA Gardens Nursery, 13th December at 10:30 am. We're having a Christmas theme meeting.

Bev Aitken—Coordinator



Tracy Village
Social and Sports Club

The home of

Probus Club of Darwin Inc.

Thank God its Friday

In recess till
2024

Probus Club of Darwin

Christmas Lunch

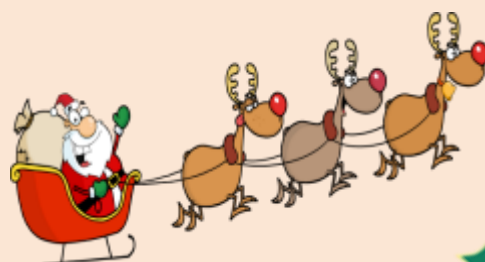



Silks Restaurant

Wednesday, 6 December,

11:30am





Come along and enjoy.





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Ken Cohalan OAM

Seniors Snippets

- **Cost of people in Prison** - 40,000 in jails, an increase of 25% in the last 10 years. Aboriginal 3.8% of the population but 32% of prison population. Cost is enormous more than \$120,000 a year per prisoner.
- **Flagman** - sorry to hear Ron Strachan has to move at short notice. Our hearts go out to him, seems very unfair.
- **Indigenous Business** - There are about 470 Indigenous owned business in the NT many in joint ventures and many operating from Aboriginal communities. Great news for these business ventures.
- **10 Retirement money mistakes that hurt Seniors**

Being Too Fugal	Failing To Talk, Or Listen
Paying Too Much Tax	Ignoring Insurance
Wrong Asset Valuation	Misunderstanding Income Products
Gifting Dangerously	
Property Investment With Children	
Leaving Everything To A Spouse	
Downsizing Dilemma	
- **Christmas/New Year** - I hope you have a great Christmas with family and friends and I look forward to working with you in 2024



Update from the Darwin Probus Travel Committee

The committee has discussed a number of suggestions put forward by club members for travel in 2024 and 2025. At this stage they are being investigated for feasibility. Some suggestions include:

- ◆ Dili October 2024 experience (Timor Leste), looking at 4-5 days, possibly in March.
- ◆ Mudgee—too expensive and now off the list.
- ◆ Sri Lanka tour/cruise and Cambodia and Vietnam cruise/tour. These two activities are currently being investigated.
- ◆ Kununurra Full Moon Experience.

Probus Darwin—Travellers on the move

Armenia sent in by Barb Pollock

In May 2023, I enjoyed a TripaDeal bus tour of 3 small borderline European countries, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. These countries all have long histories of conflict and conquest but became independent after 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed. This page is only about Armenia, maybe more to come on the other countries later.



Armenia is a mountainous (Caucasus) country, rocky and few forests, bordered by Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia. It was the first country to adopt Christianity, ancient monasteries and churches dot the countryside and the Armenian church is very important in the lives of the people. Today the population is declining, dependent on the many expatriates for financial support. The country is landlocked, but has the beautiful lake Sevan, appreciated by many in the summer months. Food is a mix of Eastern and Mediterranean, lavash, nuts, pomegranates, apricots (national fruit). Both hydro and nuclear power production are in place



Lavash is the staple food—Rollout the pastry and cook in hot ground oven. Armenian fast food is lavash and cheese



Chess and wrestling are the national sports and crafts feature widely.



YEREVAN - capital



The call has gone out from our sponsor the Rotary Club of Darwin North Inc.

The Rotary club is providing the barbecue at Carols at the Leanyer Water Park on the 9th December commencing at 5:30pm and are looking for some Probarians to provide some extra help.

Can you help..... not necessarily cooking. There are heaps of other less onerous jobs.

If you would like to be part of the fun please call Bronwyn Russell on 0414 894 547.



A festive poster for 'Carols at the Waterpark' set against a starry night sky. The title 'CAROLS AT THE WATERPARK' is prominently displayed in white. Several teal circular callouts provide event details: 'FREE community event', 'BYO rug or chair', '5:30pm Activities & BBQ', 'Candles by donation', and '6:30pm Carols'. At the bottom, a silhouette of the Nativity scene is shown. The event is scheduled for Saturday 9 December at Leanyer Recreation Park, with a wet weather venue at St James Anglican Church. It is sponsored by Darwin Chinese Christian Church, Top End Lutheran Parish, St James Anglican Church, Christ Church Cathedral, and St Peters Anglican Church.

BYO rug or chair

FREE community event

5:30pm Activities & BBQ

Candles by donation

6:30pm Carols

CAROLS
AT THE
WATERPARK

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER LEANYER RECREATION PARK
WET WEATHER VENUE: ST JAMES ANGLICAN
Brought to you by Darwin Chinese Christian Church, Top End Lutheran Parish, St James Anglican Church, Christ Church Cathedral, St Peters Anglican Church.



A poster for 'City of Darwin's Carols By Candlelight' featuring a woman and a man in formal attire. The background is a warm, golden glow with bokeh lights and fireworks. The event is held at the Gardens Amphitheatre, George Brown Botanic Gardens, Darwin, on 3 Dec 2023. Hosts Sarah Passalick and Shalom Kaa are featured. The Variety logo is also present.

CITY OF DARWIN'S
Carols By Candlelight

GARDENS AMPHITHEATRE
GEORGE BROWN
BOTANIC GARDENS
DARWIN

3 DEC 2023

HOSTS
SARAH PASSALICK & SHALOM KAA

variety
the children's charity

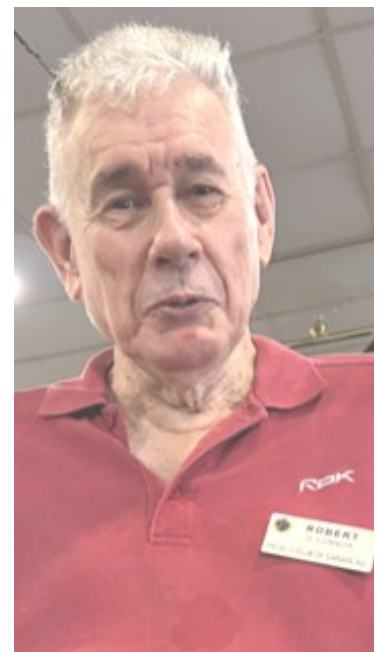
Out and about in November



Presentation of 15 year membership certificate to Bill and Shirley.

Induction of 3 new ladies into tour Probus Club

Out and about in November



Out and about in November



Melbourne Cup



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Literature, Lunch and Laughter

There's no need to feel lonely or alone. Come along and join our happy, welcoming group of avid readers. Today we welcomed Valerie Whinney who generously shared with us a few of her favourite authors and titles. This is how we expand our appreciation of reading.

Books read October and discussed November

- **Bel Canto** by Ann Patchett Good read and would recommend.
- **Prodigal Daughter** by Jeffrey Archer This is one of Archer's early publications and thoroughly enjoyed the style of writing when read a number of years ago. Doesn't have the same appeal today.
- **Mightier than the Sword** by Jeffrey Archer Once again the style of writing/story line didn't keep the reader enthralled..

Books to read November and discuss December

- **A Certain Justice** by P D James
- **Crows Nest** by Nikki Motram
- **Wild Swans—three daughters of China** by Jung Chang



Come along and join this happy band of readers. We meet on the first Monday of the month at Casuarina Sports Club.at 11:00am.

Stay well, stay safe and happy reading, Bev

December Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Jim Sheehan | Dr Hunter McEwen |
| Beverley Aitken | Majella Graham |
| Hendrika Carlow | |

December Anniversaries

- Maureen and Jack Burr
 Judy and Colin Beard
 Annabelle and Ron Lawford
 Kevin and Rita Cluley



Hope you enjoy your special day

Table Tennis Interest Group



Every Thursday 9.00 am—11.00 am
 \$5— 3 hours including bat and ball hire.
 Organised by Charles Darwin Club.
 Contact Chris 0429171326.



Happy birthday
 Colin






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Golf

In recess.

Contact
 Jeff Mosel ph 0422 187 263



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Heart Foundation

Heart Foundation Walking

Mondays, leaving from Casuarina Square, near the K Mart car centre at 7:30am

For further details, contact Janet 0432 154 306

Board Games

Come and join us playing your favourite Board Games at Pearl Recreation Centre.

In recess for December



Maxine Dienelt—
 Coordinator

TEN PIN BOWLING


Once again bowling was a great morning with 10 bowlers and four supporting members attending.

Although not as many attending as in October. Molly put in a spectacular effort to make first place with 108 - quite a jump from her last effort! Anne O'Connor wasn't far behind with 102 and Janet dropped four points from October to come third with 100. Ed, Nancy, Anne Howard, and Mara placed in the 90's with Bronwyn and Fred close behind in the 80's. Not sure if Lyn started late but she managed to score 66.

Shirley, Bill and Maxine were staunch supporters along with yours truly.

We resume in February next year and wish you a Merry Christmas.

Chris Kuhn

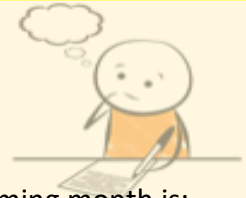


Morning Tea

Last Friday in the month.

In recess till 2024

Writing Group



We read out our circular Christmas story (below) and had a laugh.

The 7 minute write-up was on the topic: "I just can't do it!". The new topic for the coming month is: **"Some Christmas Limericks"**. Everyone is invited to join in and to email in their contributions. It should not be hard—after all a limerick is only 5 lines—and it's good fun.

The next meeting is : **Tuesday 19th December at the Cas Club at 11 am** when we will stay and have a Christmas lunch and celebrate the past year.

Ron Ninnis, Coordinator

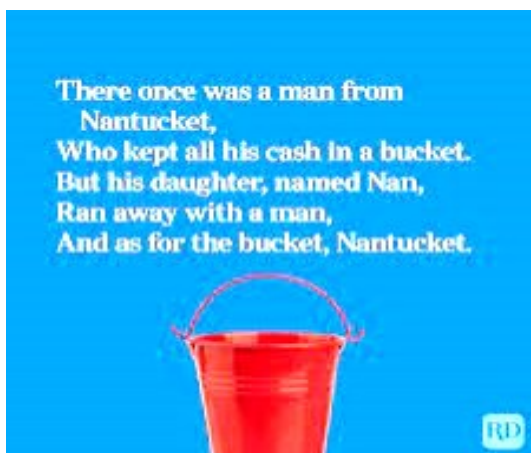
"Some Christmas Limericks"

There was a young woman named Bright,
Whose speed was much faster than light.
She set out one day,
In a relative way,
And returned on the previous night.

I'd rather have Fingers than Toes,
I'd rather have Ears than a Nose.
And as for my Hair,
I'm glad it's all there,
I'll be awfully sad, when it goes.

I once fell in love with a blonde,
But found that she wasn't so fond.
Of my pet turtle named Odle,
whom I'd taught how to Yodel,
So she dumped him outside in the pond.

There is a young schoolboy named Mason,
Whose mum cuts his hair with a basin.
When he stands in one place,
With a scarf round his face,
It's a mystery which way he's facing.

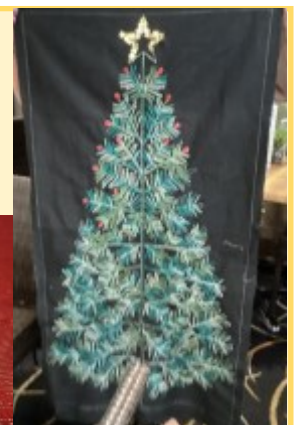


Craft Group

Wonderful group of very happy, talented ladies. I was shown the art of Saschiko and little did Elaine know, she created a 'Monster'. I just love this stitching. We were happy to welcome Pauline Barnes, a visitor from south this meeting. Lots of chatting and laughter.

These are just two of the many beautiful pieces of craft our very talented ladies have completed. We meet every Friday at the Casuarina Sports Club at 10.15am. Don't be alone, come and join us. You are always welcome.

Stay happy. Happy Crafting
Bev Barnes—Coordinator Ph 0434 866 226





**Decorating the
Christmas Tree, by
Darwin Probus Writing
Group
Contributors of this circular
story: Ron, Wendy,
Beverley, Marilyn and
Cherie**

The children always wanted to decorate the Christmas tree, and there always had to be a star on top of the tree. But this time, I could not find the star. It was not in the shed in the backyard where it should have been; it was not in the storeroom with the other Christmas decorations. Just where did I put it? Christmas Day was just 4 weeks away, almost time for the “count-down”.

Marly being the practical one of the three children said “Well just buy a new one Dad!” “Oh no.” said the other 2 children.

“We always have the one grandma bought us for the first family Christmas when Joshua was born.” Said Anne.

“OK - everyone calm down.” said Mum “We will find the Christmas Star. It has to be in the house somewhere. Let’s have a Christmas clean up and I bet we will find it.”

So began the great family hunt for the Christmas Star.

Although a Christmas clean up was not the most fun thing to be doing during the school holidays, Marley, Joshua and Anne all headed to their bedrooms. Each were convinced that the Christmas tree star was not in their domains. But their Mum expected them to do a tidy up of their room each school holidays, so they may as well get it over and done with now. While half-heartedly cleaning out her bedside drawers, Marley thought that working back in their minds to where they last saw the Christmas star was a better way to solve the problem.

They gathered together to discuss just where the star could be hiding, but it was a long time since last year when they were sure it had been put away safely. Maybe it had been left on the tree last year. Could that be possible? Surely it had not been thrown out

with the Christmas wrappings and broken ornaments. This was looking like an absolute disaster until...

Anne had an idea. “Has anyone looked in Bobby’s kennel?” she asked. Bobby was a rather old Labrador who had joined the family around the time of Joshua’s birth. He had had a real bond with their grandmother. He had pined when she died. “The star would have her scent on it.” said Anne. “We should look in his kennel.”

So, all the children trooped outside to inspect Bobby's kennel. Bobby thought that all his Christmasses had come at once, with so much patting from all the children.

Bobby had been keeping the star safe by sleeping on top of it for the whole year.

Save the Date for District Conference 2024
in Darwin

An exciting list of speakers and events.

Non Rotarians are invited.

Member Inductions

Welcome Robyn, Elise and Robyn, inducted as new members of Probus Club of Darwin at the October meeting.



Robyn Moo



Elise Smith



Robyn Wright

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from the Minutes 1 December 1999

Held at the Darwin Sailing Club

Present: Messrs Plew, Blackmore, Giese, Fisher, Dally, Dimery, Penhall, Thompson, Kerr, Roberts, Steven, McLaren, Thompson, Chin, Dr Bromich, Simmons

Ladies: Mrs Fisher, Bromwich, Simmons, Roberts, Steven, Dally, Dimery, Chin

Apologies: M Taylor, Milliken, Larcombe

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

Correspondence:

Inwards—Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise, Mr Ray Taylor.

Outwards—Nil

Treasurer's Report: Bal \$275.50, Receipts Nil, Expenses \$45.60, Bal \$229.90

Club of Darwin Sunrise: Letter dated 28 November 1999.

Members discussed this letter at length about the possibility of forming a second Probus Club in the northern suburbs with a membership open to retired men and women.

Several members expressed their disfavour in this proposal.

The meeting resolved that in view of our small number in membership, and liability to attract new members at this time, it is our opinion, that any proposal to establish another new Probus Club in this area may be premature at present.

Secretary to advise Mr Gerry Swan accordingly in due course.

Meeting ended 11:00am.

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.

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 such information, except in accordance with the Privacy Act.

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.

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