



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

March Bulletin

Volume 19

Issue 12

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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Judy and Colin enjoying drinks at Zen Rooftop

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, 5 March, 2025
10:30am - General Meeting

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

Tony's Titbits

As I sit to write this, my final, Titbits I am once again amazed at what a wonderful club Probus is to belong to.

Wednesday last week a number of us attended the Gardening Club's outing at the Trailer Boat Club and listened to a presentation on Mealey Bugs. I kid you not Mealey Bugs can be interesting. This was followed by an enjoyable lunch at the venue. Then on Wednesday this week yet another group enjoyed coffee and cakes at Carmello Café followed by a vigorous game of bowls to work off the effect of the cakes. I managed to score 102 the winner being Richard with a score of 111. And then in the evening a terrific dinner at Fiddlers Green at which most of the world's problems were solved. But we did leave a few for next time.

I have indeed enjoyed my time as President of Darwin Probus this past year. Many thanks to those who guided me and befriended me. Particular thanks to those behind the scenes who do most of the work, and without whose input the wheels would fall off. The President's report on things that happened during the year is at page 4.

I started the year with a few words from Dylan Thomas and cannot think of a better way to end it:

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Slainte
Tony



Guest Speakers

Jayne Porter and Romaine Oorloff

Aunties Free Feeds

Volunteers and Feeding the Homeless

March Anniversaries

Ian and Heather Dawson*



Hope you enjoy your special day

March Birthdays

**Ron Wright
Bill Porte
Kevin Cluley***
Elaine Ellard
Charlie Haynes
Jim Wright
Judith Medley**

March at at Glance

Event Date	Meeting/Event
Mon Mar 3 - 11:00 am	Book Club at Cas Club coordinator Bev Barnes
Wed Mar 5— 10:30	AGM and General Meeting, Tracy Village
Fri Mar 7, 14, 21, 28 10:15 am	Craft Group at Cas Club. (Occurs each Friday), coordinator Bev Barnes
Wed Mar 12—10:30am	Garden club at Bunnings, Darwin Bev Aitken coordinator
Tues Mar 18—11:00am	Writing group at Cas Club - coordinator Ron Ninnis
Wed Mar 19—10:00am	Meet for coffee at 10:00am at Caramello Café then 10 pin bowling at 11:00am coordinator Shirley Porte
Wed Mar 19—6:30pm	Dining Out, Tim's Surf and Turf contact Bev Whitby Phone: 0407 053 903
Tues Mar 25—1:00pm	Games at Pearl Retirement Village, Coordinator—Maxine
Fri Mar 28—9:30am	Morning Tea at Eva's, Botanical Gardens.

Board Games

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

25 March 1:00pm

Maxine Dienelt—Coordinator



Table Tennis Interest Group in

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



March Dining Out

19 February, 2025 6:30pm

Tim's Surf and Turf
10 Litchfield Street, Darwin

Contact: Bev Whitby
Phone: 0407 053 903

President's Report 2025

The end of yet another year of Fun, Friendship, Fellowship and must not forget Frivolity. At our age we are allowed to be silly and not take life too seriously. Speaking of age, it is interesting to note that the average age of our membership is 78.6 years, who would have believed it.

Some membership figures; current membership is 115 of which 7 are life members, female 77 and male 38. During the year we had six new members inducted and we lost 13. Relocated 7, left for other interests 3, and passed away 3. We need a recruitment drive over the next year, preferably younger people to do some of the heavy lifting.

Probus South Pacific have increased capitation fees from \$19 to \$20 this year. However, your Management Team have decided that our club can live with the extra cost so there will be no increase in fees this year.

The Travel Committee have been busy this year with a day trip to Crab Claw Island, supported by a Community Grant to lower our costs, where we found out that a shorts back pocket is not the ideal place to keep a dinner roll. A trip to Timor Leste which was enjoyed by some twenty-nine people. The roads were interesting. A highlight of the trip was a visit with the President, Jose Ramos-Horta. Later in the year a small group enjoyed a cruise on the Queen Elizabeth from Darwin to Fremantle.

The Social Committee have, as usual, provided us with lots of venues in which to enjoy dinners and morning teas, breakfasts, for members every month. The night at Tims Surf and Turf was a highlight for me. It is unusual to sit at a table, enjoy your meal, and yet see people eating five or six other meals you wished you had ordered. A great place. In January, the social team decided to have a lunch instead of a morning tea, so some thirty of us descended for lunch at Dollys in Leanyer. A great success, expect more lunches in the coming year. The end of year lunch at Silks was enjoyed by a large number of people, attended by the Administrator and his Partner, and entertained by an energetic group of ladies waving feathers.

The Gardening club meets on the second Wednesday of each month and is something not to be missed. Of particular interest was a visit to the Deck Chair Cinema in August. We were given a talk on the history of the cinema and how the gardens surrounding the cinema were reestablished after cyclone Marcus. Well done Bev.

We celebrated National Probus Day on the 4th of October at Pearl Recreation Centre. This was a combined Probus clubs' event with skits performed by all four clubs, with Palmerston excelling by performing three skits. It was a great morning with five members of the government attending including the Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro. Bill Roy provided the music, and Janet masterminded the whole thing with the able assistance of the Social Committee and Probus members from Pearl.

Being President for the past year has been both enjoyable and fun. However, this would not have been possible without the support and help of the Executive Committee, the Management Committee, and the coordinators of all the special interest groups who make being a member of Probus so rewarding. A special thanks to Jill our Secretary who kept the paperwork flowing, Anne our Treasurer who kept us solvent, Mary who organises our speakers and Gwenda who is our Bulletin Editor. And not forgetting our morning tea coordinator Elaine and her offsider Ed, the welcomers at the door and those who come early to set up and stay late to pack up.

Also, many thanks to Tracy Village club which provides the facilities free of charge. Thanks for making me President it has been fun, see you around.

Slainte Tony

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We have a new bank account!

**Our new account is with
Bendigo Bank, Nightcliff.**

Account : Probus Club of
Darwin Incorporated

BSB: 633000

Account Number: 226771376

We encourage our members to use this account for transactions with the club. The old account with Commonwealth Bank will stay open for a couple of months.

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.

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



Tracy Village Social and Sports Club

The home of
Probus Club of Darwin Inc.

Golf

Contact
Jeff Mosel ph 0422 187 263
For dates and times



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Literature, Lunch and Laughter

Another great get together with seven avid readers. Interesting discussions on various topics.



Read January discuss February

Long Island by Colm Tobin

Review: Good story. Well written. Easy read. Page turner. Interesting.

The Five Wishes of Mr McBride by Joe Siple

Review: Beautiful gentle story where an elderly man, 100 years old, becomes the Big Brother to a seriously ill ten year old lad who has five wishes to fulfill before he dies. Well written. Recommend.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khalid Hosseini

Review: Excellent read. Still reading and enjoying. Would recommend.

Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee

Review: Not read

Read February discuss March

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time by Mark Haddon

Dear Mrs Bird by A J Pearce

The Granddaughter by Bernhard Schlink

Read March discuss April

The Sea Detective By : Mark Douglas-Home

Prima Facie By : Suzie Miller

The Bookshop Ladies By: Faith Hogan

Feel free to join us on the first Monday of each month at 11am at the Casuarina Sports Club.

Stay well. Stay safe and happy reading, Beverley Barnes

TEN PIN BOWLING

Probus members gathered for coffee at Caramello prior to a game at Kingpin which included Diane, a new Darwin Probus Club member. As usual the 3 teams of 4 were cheered on by Sue, Maxine, Bill and Shirley.

Cheryl and Betty started well but in round 2 Lynette went into the lead and remained there until round 7 when Ron took over. From then on it became a race between Lynette, Ro and Richard with only a few points between them. Final scores were Richard 111, Lynette 108 (1 strike), Ron 103 (1 strike) and Tony 102—his maiden 100.

We meet again next month on Wednesday, 19 March.



Shirley Porte, Coordinator.

GARDEN CLUB

30 Garden Lovers joined us at Trailer Boat Club for a great day.

Many thanks to our guest speaker Brian Thistleton who is the Northern Territory's principal entomologist and works at Berrimah Farm. He spoke about mealy bugs, using a projector and screen to illustrate.

Thanks also to Elaine for donating a garden seat as the lucky door prize.

We stayed for lunch at Trailer Boat Club. Next meeting at Bunnings, Darwin, 10:30am on Wednesday 12 March
Bev Aitken—Coordinator ph 0412 196 032



Travel Group

Upcoming travel events

An up to date report will be given at the General Meeting on 5 March.

Allan Mitchell will be escorting a small group to Ambon during March.

Visit to Sri Lanka will be reviewed over the next six months. The group is looking at 2 weeks of travel, flights and land content.

Japan's Cherry Blossom tour—bookings are at a premium.

Bronwyn will revisit with ITravel to look at a cruise around Japan in November/December 2025. This is not cherry blossom time!

Looking at tour of Cambodia/Vietnam in February 2026.

Two night visit to Lake Bennett during the dry season. Sheets for expression of interest are available at the meeting.

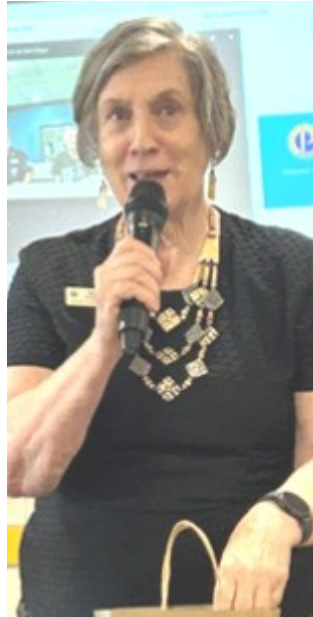
Coffee Lovers!

Morning Tea / Breakfast

Eva's Cafe Botanical Gardens

Friday, 28 March
9:00 for 9:30am

Out and about in February



General Meeting



Dining at Fiddlers Green

Out and about in February



Writing Group

February meeting



The Darwin Probus Writing Group met up at the Cas Club as usual. (Always the third Tuesday of the month.)

Our writing exercise was a 7 minute write-up on the topic of a photo of an old sailing ship in a storm. The next month's writing topic was chosen by randomly choosing three words from a dictionary! The words are: flexible, speech, excite.

Anyone is invited to join in, and email your contribution in. Put your imagination caps on.....

Ron Ninnis, Coordinator

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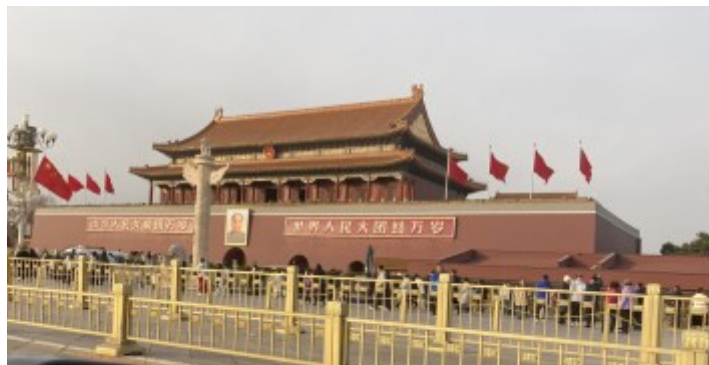
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Member's Travels

Sent in by Ron and Annabelle Lawford

We visited Beijing and Kun Mun for 7 days in January. Here are some random thoughts.



It was interesting to see people walking on the surface of a lake. In Beijing.

Tiananmen Square is still there and is the centre of Beijing in all respects.

Cameras, cameras

everywhere – and we were told they do facial recognition. Scary.

Very few young children to be seen – no babies sighted and no baby bumps – a real demographic problem for the Chinese Government. Young people aged 20 to 30 - we saw lots of woman/woman couples, and lots of man/man couples among the crowds, but only a few man/woman couples. Another sign of the demographic difficulty in China.



Driving in traffic – if you leave a car's space between the front of your car and the one in front, a car from the lane next to yours will probably move into it. No road rage – everyone just accepts this happening.

Having a ride in a rickshaw.

Beijing office, commercial and residential buildings are mainly high rise – about 60/70 metres in height. However, one building was about 250 metres high. I have no idea why it was built that high.

Visited an aviation museum north of Beijing. There are millions of islands around the world but only one that I would easily recognise from the air, and there was an air to ground photo of that island – Rottneest Island off Fremantle in WA.

I sat down to rest my legs while visiting the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. A young lady approached me and indicated she would like to have her photo taken with me. Her



friend took a photo, then asked me if she could have her photo taken.

The first lady took a photo of us.

Other people started to gather

around and were getting ready to do the same. Perhaps they mis-took me for someone important. Do I look at all like our Handsome Boy from Canberra?

Seeing bronze age artefacts in a museum in Kun Mun, and a small (20m metres long) replica of the dozens of huge three masted junks the Chinese built in 1413 to explore the unknown world, including Australia. Did you know that Kun Mun is the fourth largest city in China? Neither did I till I went there. It is about 200 kilometres north of the Thai border.

Travelling on a bullet train doing 350 kilometres per hour, then passing another bullet train going in the opposite direction, also

doing 350 kilometres an hour, and only a metre apart. Phew. Beijing to Kun Mun took eleven hours, and it was equivalent to Darwin to Rockhampton in Queensland. Or Darwin to Merredin in Western Australia.

Getting dressed – in Darwin, shorts, shirt, socks and sneakers if going informal. In Beijing, layers and layers of clothing, all enclosed by a long padded overcoat. And it was still an effort to stay warm outside.





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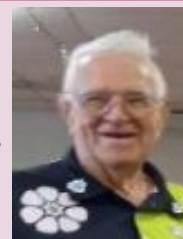


Seniors' Snippets

Ken Cohalan OAM

Charles Darwin Probus Club Member Biographies—author Jeanie Bennett PhD.

A very interesting read with Probus members highlighting their travel, family and community involvement. Strongly recommended, cost \$20.



\$440m for Aged to stay at home—Federal Government has increased funding to allow more seniors to stay at home. Covers transport assistance, meals, personal care, home modifications.

Darwin Museum—I took the time to visit after many years. Well worth the time as they have great displays on NT, showcasing many birds, insects, Aboriginal paintings and artifacts. There is also a 200 plus seating Theatre showing film of the destruction caused by Cyclone Tracy.

Bev Barnes—Fridays Bev is busy at the Casuarina Club with a group of Probus members working on hand crafts. Interesting, great conversation and social group.



What a beautiful group of talented ladies.



A couple of pieces of wiring done by Jan Bell. Jan's work is amazing and always creative



Another show and tell is a little cardigan, for a recent arrival.

We meet at the Casuarina Sports Club, Friday at 10.15am. You are very welcome to join us.



Bev Barnes, Coordinator

Darwin Chinese New Year Festival 2025



Saturday 1 March

Territory Netball Stadium

Gates open at 11am – 7pm

Free
Event!



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from the Minutes 7 March 2001

Held at the Darwin Bowls Club

Present: Messrs Dally, Simmons, Thompson, Dimery, Plew, Scott, Washington, Blackmore, Steven, Kerr, Roberts, Upton, Fisher, Taylor, Chin, Bromich, Short

Apologies: Johnstone

Visitor: Ron Workman.

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

Correspondence: Inwards Senior Card; Tambling Report; NT Safe; NTU News; Aus Post a/c \$49.50

Outwards—Nil

Treasurer's: Report as per Appendix A. Meeting accepted the Treasurer Report. Mr Simmons not seeking reelection. The meeting acknowledged his long and dedicated service to the club.

Closing Balance. \$412.11

President's Annual Report: Copies circulated. Mr President referred to highlights including the need to increase membership and thanked members for their support.

AGM: Mr Dally acted as returning officer. Officers elected were: President—A Thompson; Vice President—D Steven; Treasurer—A Dally; Secretary—R Chin; Programs B Plew.

Patron—Club to invite His Honour The Administrator to accept the office of Patron.

Annual Subscription to remain at \$20

Guest Speaker—Sue Johnston—Exec Officer and Psychologist with Victims of Crimes. Magistrates directions; break and entry laws, guidance for victims and offenders, victims support units in Darwin and Alice Springs, victim impact statements, counsellors

She answered many questions. Mr Dally thanked her on behalf of members.

New President Mr Thompson assumed the Chair.

Next meeting—Wednesday, 7 March 2001



Our AGM will be held at the meeting
on **Wednesday, 5 March 2025**

at Tracy Village Social and Sports Club,
Tambling Terrace, Wanguri

To help ensure a continuation of our wonderful
club and social activities it is important that all
members think about how they can contribute to
its running.

Membership fee \$60 due

**Pay into Probud Club of Darwin Inc account at
Bendigo Bank, Nightcliff**

BSB: 633000

Account Number: 226771376

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INSURANCE

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

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