



# PROBUS CLUB OF DARWIN INC #355594

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Darwin North Inc

The Probus 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

May

Volume

21

Issue

2

President—Mary Verus

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Secretary—Trish Greenfield

Phone: 0421 708 161

PATRON

His Honour the

Honourable David Connolly

Administrator of the NT

## Next General Meeting and AGM Tracy Village Social and Sports Club Wednesday, 6 May, 2026

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



*Barb on her travels*

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



## Mary's Musings

Well Easter has come and gone once again. I hope you all received your fair share of chocolate. I love Christmas and Easter. I am one of those people who likes to have the decorations everywhere and lots of people over to enjoy it all. We always have an "inside Easter Egg Hunt" for my two Grandchildren and I love the screams of excitement and the chocolate faces.

Apart from Easter, it has been fairly quiet around my place. I attended Dining Out last Wednesday night at Tim 's Surf and Turf. What a wonderful turn out. You all seemed very happy with your meals and Tim entertained us with his magic tricks which I thought were very funny.

I have been trying to make an effort at these functions to talk to more of you and get to know you all. In doing so I am hearing a few sad stories. Many of us have full lives but many of us, are dealing with sad situations. I would ask that you try to be patient if you think someone can benefit from a listening ear. Sometimes that is all that is needed to lift someone's spirits.

I am very excited about the news of the Kununurra Trip and truly hope that it goes ahead. I think that joining a bus full of Seniors will be a lot of fun. Really, what could possibly go wrong?

Just one more point. As you know I was the Guest Speaker Co-ordinator until recently. The people who come to talk to us are all busy and give their time freely. It would be really appreciated if your mobiles could be turned off and if you really need to comment about something, please whisper it. Also, your comments about the microphones not working were heard "loud and clear". Please be patient. Rest assured I am a bit like a dog with a bone. If I think something needs fixing – I keep at it.

Regards. Mary Verus



Guest Speaker

Clare Martin

A Politician's Life  
the good and bad

**May Dining Out**

**Saffron Restaurant, Parap**

**20 May, 2026 - 6:00 for 6:30 pm**

Contact Bev Whitby ph 0407 053 903



# May at a Glance

Event Date	Meeting/Event
<b>Fri May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 10:15 am</b>	<b>Craft Group at Cas Club. (Occurs each Friday), coordinator Bev Barnes</b>
<b>Mon May 4– 11:00 am</b>	<b>Book Club at Cas Club      coordinator Bev Barnes</b>
<b>Wed May 6 - 10:30 am</b>	<b>General Meeting at Tracy Village</b>
<b>Sat May 9 - 5:30 pm</b>	<b>Sunset drinks at Zen Rooftop, 6 Carey Street, Darwin. - coordinator Rowena ph 0413 289 555</b>
<b>Tues May 12—11:00am</b>	<b>Writing group at Cas Club - coordinator Ron Ninnis</b>
<b>Wed May 13—10:30am</b>	<b>Garden Club— at Kaye and Mike Foley’s place. coordinator Wendy Darwin</b>
<b>Wed May 20—10:00am</b>	<b>Morning Tea at Caramello at 10:00 and 10 pin Bowling at KingPin at 11:00am coordinator Shirley Porte</b>
<b>Wed May 20—6:30pm</b>	<b>Saffron Restaurant, Contact is Bev Whitby Ph 0407 053 903</b>
<b>Fri May 29—9:30am</b>	<b>Greenhouse Cafe, Nightcliff Contact— Robyn Wright ph 0408 811 620</b>
<b>Tues May 28—1:00pm</b>	<b>Board Games at Pearl Recreation Centre, Coordinator— Maxine Dienelt 0424 283 537</b>



## Sunset Drinks

**At Zen Rooftop on 9 May, at 5:30pm  
Contact Rowena McHugh 0413 289 555**



## Writing Group

### April meeting

#### We will now be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month.

We met in our usual spot at the Cas Club. We read out our contributions to the last topic, which was "limericks". Everyone found the topic to be hard, but a challenge to be met. Our next topic is:

#### "Chinese Restaurant".

Everyone is invited to write. This should be an easier topic. You could even make a murder mystery, (skeletons in the cupboard!), or romance, or write about your favourite restaurant, or recipe, or whatever you fancy. The field is wide open.

The reason I chose this topic is that you can make your writing more real by including smell as one of the senses. We usually just include what we see when we write, but we can also include smell, sound and touch. Using the entire five senses gives more of an "experience" for the reader. It is sometimes called "*showing, not telling*".

An example would be for taste: "The coffee was bitter and scorched, leaving a bitter residue on the tongue." rather than "We sat down for coffee."

Give it a go.

Ron Ninnis, Coordinator



## GARDEN CLUB

23 garden lovers went to Hibiscus Shopping Centre and Estelle's niece Tori gave a wonderful demonstration of how to arrange flowers. A very informative morning.

Next garden lover's meeting will be at Kay and Mike Foley's place on 13<sup>th</sup> May – 46 Witherden Street, Nakara. Eleanore will give a talk about growing orchids.

Coordinator—Wendy Darwin ph 0437 910 388

Probus Club of Darwin Bank Account  
Account : Probus Club of Darwin Inc  
BSB: 633000 Account Number: 226771376  
We now bank at the Bendigo Bank in Nightcliff

### Membership fees due

Membership fees for period  
1 April 2026 —31 March 2027 are now due.  
Please either pay Treasurer Di at the general  
meeting or pay into our bank  
account.



\$65 per person.



### Coffee Lovers!

#### GREENHOUSE CAFE

Shop 21, 40 Progress Drive, Nightcliff  
**9:30am 29 May**

Contact  
**Robyn Wright**

**Ph 0408 811 620**

## Welfare Support Karin Promchinwong



has offered to undertake this role for the club. Ph 0429 474 779

### Seniors' Snippets

#### Ken Cohalan OAM



**\*A surge in the number of older workers**—A record of 760,000 Australians over the age of 65 are in the workforce. An increase of 100,000 over 2 years. Cost of living pressures are one of the main reasons for older folk returning to work.

**\*The Order of Australia Assoc NT**—As a member I attended the AGM. You may be interested in NT members—136 with 52 female and 84 males. Members—AC—2, AO—15, AM—43 and OAM 76. If you know of a deserving person nominate them.

**\*Probus Annual General Meetings**—It was good to attend the 4 Top End Probus Clubs AGMs. Thanks to all outgoing committee members and the ones that have been reappointed great. The new Committee members will have some new ideas and we look forward to being involved. Well done and congratulations.

**\*AANT**—The report stated that in 2025, 52 road deaths, an improvement on the 60 lives lost in 2024. AANT assists 40 Territorians every day. Do not forget you can get fuel discounts being a AANT member.

**\*Flu Vaccination**—New Flu vaccine now available.

\*If you have difficulty seeing through your car's window screen, try Rainex for water repellent. The rain beads off your glass and visibility is greatly improved. Rainex is available at all Austo product stores.

## May Birthdays



Sheena Short  
Barb Pollock\*\*\*  
Julian Jong  
Allan Mitchell  
Anne O'Connor\*\*  
Jule Doherty  
Robert O'Connor  
Pam Utting  
Richard Dempster  
Janet Elliott\*\*  
Renzo Guiliano  
Shirley Porte  
Margaret Egglestone  
Ron Ninnis  
Beatrice Dubach  
Trish Greenfield\*\*

## May Anniversaries

Ken and Connie Cohalan  
Anne and Robert O'Connor  
Bob and Kay Schulze  
Lynette and John Ponter

Hope you enjoy your special day

## 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.

# Out and About in April



# Out and about in April





**PEARL**



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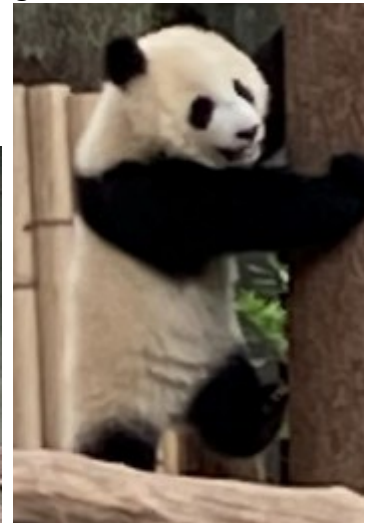


# Member Travels

## China Trip - by Barb Pollock

Who doesn't love Pandas? I've always wanted to go to the Giant Panda Breeding Research base In Chengdu (Sichuan Province, China). So when Tripadeal offered the trip including Emeishan and Guilin I was more than happy to go.

Sichuan Airlines flew direct from Sydney to Chengdu. The Research Institute sends its babies all over the world, but they are only ever on loan!



**Chengdu**, a "small" city of 30 million people, is famous for hot spicy food.



## Zhangjiajie National Forest Park

was China's first and has the world's largest concentration of quartzite and sandstone formations.

Photos of Emeishan and Zhangjiajie



The final days were spent in Guilin, a 7 hour high speed train ride to the south west, built on the Li River in a stunningly beautiful area as popular with both national and international tourists.

## Literature, Lunch and Laughter

April 2026

9 of us met for Book Club today, great discussion and a new reader to the group. Most of us stayed for a lovely lunch

### Read March discuss April

**Remarkably Bright Creatures.** By Shelby Van Pelt

5 people read and 4 thoroughly enjoyed the book. A lovely story. I personally could not get into the story.



**The Housemaid** by Frieda McFadden

3 people read and enjoyed. A very dark story could be confronting for some people in relation to DV issues. Consensus—the book is better than the movie/tv series.

**A Single Rose** by Muriel Barbery OR

**A Strange Country** by Muriel Barbery

2 people read, one stated not memorable and would not recommend. The other reader rated 6/10—very different from her previous books.

### Read April discuss May

**Foreign Correspondence.** By Geraldine Brooks

**The Pearl Thief** by Fiona McIntosh

**Mad Mabel** by Sally Hepworth

### Read May discuss June

**The Funeral Crashers.** By Joanne Neil

**Mischance Creek or Sactuary** by Garry Disher

**The Wattle Island Book Club** by Sandra Docker

**My Sisters Keeper** by Jodi Picouli

### Read June discuss July

**The Girl who told the truth.** By Catherine Hokin

**The Fall of Giants.** By Ken Follett

**James** By Percival Everett

**I will find you** by Harlen Coben

We meet at the Casuarina Sports Club every first Monday of the month at 11am. Next get together on 4 May at 11:00am.

New readers welcome. Happy reading everyone.

Mary Greenup for Bev Barnes, Coordinator



## TEN PIN BOWLING

A very large group met at Caramella for a relaxing coffee and chat then proceeded to Kingpin for the monthly game. . Fourteen players divided into 3 teams cheered on by 8 enthusiastic spectators including Lynne Holland who joined us for the first time.

Robyn and Ron shot into the lead in Round 1. Alan took over in R3 then he and Robyn tied on 53 in R4 and 61 in R5. Mara, Anne O, Ron Janet F and Tony in hot pursuit. Alan went into the lead once again in R6 until Robyn triumphed in R7 and remained in first place until the end of the game. Tony shot into second place in R8. Alan, Ed, Mara and Ron were battling it out in the last few rounds for 100 plus scores which made for an exciting finish.

Final scores Robyn 120 (first time in winning position), Tony 109, Alan 106, Ed 104 and Ron 100.

Ron, Mara (99) and Fred (94) had particular impressive scores as none had the bumpers up. 6 strikes and 17 spares this month.

Next month we meet up on 20 May. Come and join in the fun.  
Shirley Porte, Coordinator.



**Tracy Village  
Social and Sports Club**

**The home of  
Probus Club of Darwin Inc.**

These troopers were at the Scottish Festival in Canberra. Mara in front row 2nd from Left was our Darwin representative.

If you want to watch and learn Scottish Country Dance please come along to the Masonic Hall, Stokes Street, Parap at 10am on Sunday. It's fun it's fitness and the music is fabulous. 🙌🙌



## Board Games

Come and join us playing your favourite Board Games



at Pearl Recreation Centre.

Lots of challenges and fun.

**26 May 1:00pm**

Maxine Dienelt—Coordinator



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## Aunty's Free Feeds



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



Probus members attending the service at The Darwin Cenotaph in Bicentennial Park, Darwin



## Travel Club

The Travel Club has organised a trip in August. Booking sheets will be available at the next general meeting.



## Trip to Kununurra—18—22 August.

5 days in total including travel (by bus as flying is too expensive). Two travel days.

Cost will include bus travel, accommodation and river cruise.

An itinerary is being developed to incorporate visits to other areas in the region. Meals and spending money will be your responsibility.

Minimum. 20 passengers and maximum of 40.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from the Minutes 1 May 2002

Held at the Darwin Bowls Club

**Present:** Messrs Kerr, Upton, Johnstone, Simmons, Raby, Scott, Plew, Dimery, Maidment, Roberts, Washington, Dally, Chin, Bromwich, Blackmore ,

**Apologies:** Steven, Taylor, Fisher, B Martin, Penhall, Dr Short

**Minutes:** Minutes of previous meeting were circulated and confirmed.

**Correspondence: Inwards** His Honour the Administrator accepts Office of Patron, Invite to Govt House for Queen Birthday function for Allan Thompson, Probus Centre, Nt Consumers Guide to Scams..

**Outwards—Nil.**

**Treasurer's:** Report Opening balance \$674.49, Receipts \$80, Expenses \$181.08, Closing balance \$573.41

**General Business -**

**Guest Speaker:** Sgt Rod Strong of NT Police Neighbourhood Watch Section. Points addressed included: Police and Community relations, Neighbourhood Watch coordination, people keeping money in fridge and under carpets or bottom drawers, doors unlocked, more security if house is seen openly and more visible to roads, how to avoid dark spots. Many questions resulted from the talk and were all answered.

Acting President Kerr thanked members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 11:15.

Meeting concluded at 11:15 am



## 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

## 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.

### 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.

### DISCLAIMER

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