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

October Volume 21 Issue 7

President—Mary Verus
Phone: 0439 891 473

Secretary—Trish Greenfield
Phone: 0421 708 161

PATRON
His Honour the
Honourable David Connolly
Administrator of the NT



Next General Meeting
Wednesday, 7 October

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

PO Box 40452 CASUARINA NT 0811
Web Page: www.darwinprobus.org
Email: secretaryprobusdarwin@hotmail.com

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

Mary's Musings



Hello to all my PROBUS Darwin Friends

I normally don't write my Musings for the Bulletin until the end of the month. However, I am taking off to QLD with my 12 year old Granddaughter for two weeks and need to get this done.

I managed to get to Garden Club and my goodness, what a wonderful morning we had. We went to the home of Peter and Adina Poole in Fiddler's Lane, Knuckey's Lagoon. Apart from the facts that they are such lovely and welcoming people and have a beautiful property, there is the most beautiful lagoon just at the end of their road. Adina assured me that it is worth venturing down there at around 6.30am to see and hear the beautiful birds waking up.

I am hoping to get to Dining Out at Fiddler's Green this Wednesday. I love anything Irish and with PROBUS thrown in it is bound to be lots of fun.

I am hoping a few of you were able to attend the Information Session at Tracy Village Club being given by Jenni Law. It commenced at 10am on Monday 21st September and weny for approximately 2 hours.

The next time we should all see each other is at our annual PROBUS Day Celebration on Friday 2nd October at PEARL Retirement Village. It commences at 10am but doors will be open at 9.30am. We always have so much fun on that day and catch up with lots of familiar faces. So please come along.

That's it for me and I look forward to seeing you on 2nd October.

Have a great month!

Regards. Mary Verus

Guest Speaker

Peter Medway

Peter's presentation will introduce the science of radiation and radioactivity, highlighting applications in environmental science for protection of human and environmental health, as well as understanding environmental processes.

Peter is a nuclear scientist with a career spanning over a quarter century. He has worked as a government scientist undertaking research and monitoring potential impacts of uranium mining in the Northern Territory.

October Dining Out

51 Marina Boulevard, Cullen Bay

21 October, 2026 - 6:30 pm

Contact Rowena McHugh 0413 289 555

October at a Glance

Event Date	Meeting/Event
Fri Oct 2—10:00am	National Probus Day—Pearl Recreation Centre
Fri Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10:15 am	Craft Group at Cas Club. (Occurs each Friday), coordinator Bev Barnes
Mon Oct 5 11:00 am	Book Club at Cas Club coordinator Mary Greenup
Wed Oct 7 10:30am	General Meeting at Tracy Village
Tues Oct 13—11:00am	Writing group at Cas Club - coordinator Ron Ninnis
Wed Oct 14—10:30am	Garden Club at Trailer Boat Club. coordinator Wendy Darwin
Wed Oct 21—10:00am	Morning Tea at 10:00 at (to be advised) then proceed to 10 pin Bowling at KingPin at 11:00am coord Shirley Porte
Wed Oct 21—6:30pm	Seafood on Cullen, Contact Rowena McHugh ph 0413289555
Tues Oct 27—1:00pm	Board Games at Pearl Recreation Centre, Coordinator— Maxine Dienelt 0424 283 537
Fri Oct 30—9:30am	Café 21, 100 Smith Street, Contact—Julianne Quinn ph 0418 209 782



Writing Group

September meeting

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

We met up at the Cas Club as usual. Our 7 minute practice write-up was on the topic “Toes”, and this proved an interesting challenge. It is really extraordinary what can be written about such a simple topic. We had a laugh over some events in the stories.

The topic for the coming month is: “At the hairdressers “. And the interesting thing is that women do not just go there to get their hair cut or trimmed, but we all know that don’t we?

Anyone can send a story: the hard thing is to start…

Anyone can contribute **Give it a go and Have fun**

Ron Ninnis, Coordinator

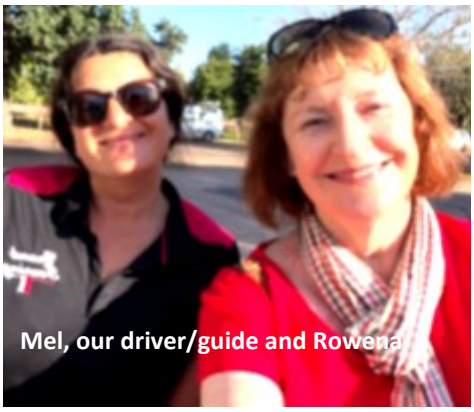
Probus Club of Darwin Bank Account Account : Probus Club of Darwin Inc BSB: 633000
Account Number: 226771376 Bendigo Bank, Nightcliff

Member trip to Kununurra

From 18 - 22 August some ouf our Probus members went on a bus trip to Kununurra, WA. It took two days of travel, over and back, and we spent three delightful days in and around Kununurra, exploring the beauty of the region. A special thank you must be given to those who organised the trip - The Travel Committee (Bronwyn, Trish, Nancy, Janet, Bev Luke and Tony) - a lot of hard work went into making this trip such a success. A huge thank you too to our Treasurer, Di, who did a wonderful job in looking after the finances, was our leader who kept us organised and on time. Our sincere appreciation goes to Judy who made sure we did not go hungry on the trip. We enjoyed her salads on the way over and back and tasty slices, cakes, muffiins etc cooked by some of our members.



People and bags, All aboard!



Mel, our driver/guide and Rowena

We were most fortunate in having a wonderful Driver/ Guide, Mel. Nothing was ever too much trouble and she was always happy to assist us. Her commentary and anecdotes were interesting and varied and her driving skills first class.



Day 2 started early for Mary, Robyn and Karin. It was a 6am pick up for them to be driven to the airport where they took a light plane flight over the Bungle Bungles. They said their flight was fabulous and they were amazed at the vastness of Lake Argyle and the layers of varying colours within the Bungle Bungles.

For the rest of us it was a chance for a good sleep in after the previous day of travel. Our first stop for the day was a visit to the **Argyle Homestead Museum.** which was completed in1895 by the Durack family, early settlers in the Kimberley. It is now a museum which showcases the Durack family and the lives of the early pioneers.

We then drove along **Lake Argyle Road** and stopped at a lookout which gave stunning panoramic views of the lake and surrounding landscapes.

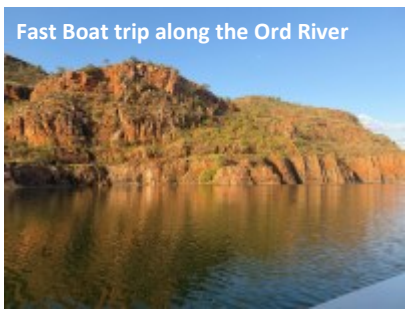




Lake Argyle Panorama

We boarded a f**ast boat** at the base of the Ord River Dam which took us on a spectacular 55 km trip down the Ord River to Kununurra. The fast boat, which at times travelled 55 - 65 km per hour, was exhiliarating and fun. Our Skipper Jeff was a wealth of information and most interesting. The scenery was spectacular and we enjoyed spotting local wildldife - crocs, birds, etc. We enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea along the way at a riverside camp before a sunset arrival back to Kununurra. This was a fantastic boat trip, thoroughly enjoyed by us all and for many of our group, was considered to be the highlight of our Kununurra trip.





Fast Boat trip along the Ord River



Pelican Rock

Kununurra continued


Afternoon tea along the Ord


Kununurra Sunset

On our way to Wyndham on **Day 3,** we stopped at The **Grotto** where steep steps lead down the chasm. Scenic **Maggie's Valley** was our next stop. This vantage point gave great views of the surrounding ranges. It was named after the first woman to drive a motor vehicle into the valley.


Maggie's Valley


The Grotto

A very steep, winding road with three extremely sharp hair pin bends took us to the **Five Rivers Lookout,** 360 metres above Wyndham. It gave a panoramic view of the five rivers which flow into the Cambridge Gulf. In the afternoon we drove along the **Gibb River Road** as far as the Pentecost River Crossing, which is only 4WD accessible. What a stunning drive this was!


Ivanhoe Crossiing

Day 4 - We visited the **Diversion Dam** which was built as Stage 1 of the Ord River Project and the **Ivanhoe Crossing** which spans the Ord River, accessible to 4WDs only in the Dry Season.



The thriving cotton industry in Kununurra has a state of the art Cotton Gin as a processing facility, built to save long distance transport costs. We went on an interesting tour of this facility.

We enjoyed lunch at and toured the **Hoochery Distillery**, WA's oldest continuously operating legal pot distillery

Mirima National Park, known as the **Mini Bungle Bungles** - striking sandstone ranges with narrow valleys and layered cliffs. As the sun dips the change in colour is striking.



Thank you

The members of the Probus Club of Darwin Inc very much thank the Department of the Attorney General and Justice for the Community Benefit Fund Grant.

This grant has assisted with a highly successful and very enjoyable trip to Kunurra for many Probus members.

Reception at Government House for Probus 50th anniversary



Jenni Law, the representative for Probus Clubs in the NT and South Australia on Probus South Pacific Limited board, visited Darwin recently. Her main reason for visiting Darwin was to be present at the celebration of 50 years of Probus in New Zealand and Australia. All Australian states and territories held celebrations to mark the occasion. On Tuesday evening last more than 45 members of our four clubs were present at a gathering at the Administrator's residence to celebrate. His Honour, Michael Connnolly, spoke of his pleasure at meeting some of our Probarians while said members feasted on canapes and cool drinks. Jenni presented His Honour with a bottle of champagne.



Jenni took the opportunity while here to meet with members from the 4 Probus clubs in the NT to provide guidance and information to help Management Committees through a successful year. She gave suggestions about many ways we can do this including marketing, knowing more about the club's insurance cover, ideas for wine, fishing, cinema, theatre groups, the support available through PSPL head office.

Her talk was interesting, educational, useful and entertaining. Ask one of us about her call from police when her red sport's car was spotted leaving an area where a bushfire started shortly after she had passed by.

A reminder for members who have never been on one of the Darwin Probus Club committees: when you completed your application form you agreed to take part in running the club. Think about that before the AGM in next March. There is always a member who has been on a committee who will help you.

Welfare Support

Karin Promchinwong



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

Seniors' Snippets

Ken Cohalan OAM



* **NT Seniors Recognition $550 Visa**—now available.
* **Aged Pensioner**—Centrelink advise that there will be an increase on 20 September—singles $36.80 per fortnight, couoples $55.60 a fortnight..
* **Jennifer Law**—Vice Chairman and Probus Rep member for SA and NT. Jennifer's working life was spent in the WA local government sector. Post retirement she operated a small consulting business for rural and remote local governments providing assistance on governance and policy matters, delivering training and support programs.

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.

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.

C21
cafe twenty one

Coffee Lovers!

CAFÉ 21
at Smith Street, Darwin

9:30am 23 October

Contact
Julianne Quinn

Ph 0418 209 782

October Birthdays



Ed Howard
Judy Beard
Jill Kuhn
Ken Cohalan
Gwenda Smallacombe
Beverley Luke**
Peter Toll
Betty Lam

October Anniversaries

Richard and Henrietta Dempster
Jill and Chris Kuhn
Bev and Colin Whitby

Hope you enjoy your special day



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.

Out and About in September







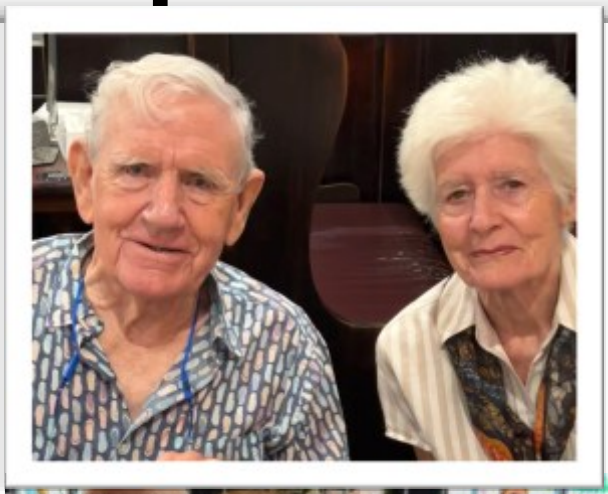






Out and about in September

















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Literature, Lunch and Laughter

September 2026

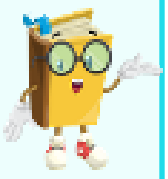
A small group of us met for Book Club today, a few people away on holidays. Great discussions. Lovely lunch and more banter. A very enjoyable time.

Read August discuss September
House Rules. By: Jodi Piccoult
Jane sent review by email as not able to attend. Interesting read, Shows insight into a family with an Aspergers child and the difficult, different emotions and closeness. It seemed obvious who the murderer was part way through and a mystery as to how it would be dealt with. Sheila Loved it and would recommend. Bev, still reading and enjoying. Mary Read years ago and did not enjoy it then tried again but still could not get into it.

Mother Mary comes to me. (Biography) By: Arundhati Roy
Jane; Listened to this book, Loved it easy to listen to in her own voice, unfortunately loan expired before the end so have reserved to borrow again. It details the tensions between her and her mother, and her relationship with her. It also gives an insight into different social levels. and income. Bev, would recommend. Mary, Did not enjoy.

Nobodies Girl By: Virginia Guiffrie
Cheryl: Read book, good memoir. No opinion of the situation. Descriptions not overdone. Would recommend for the way it was written. Brian, has not finished yet.

The Uncommon Reader By: Alan Bennett
Bev: did not enjoy. Not realistic



Read Sept discuss October
Broken Horses. By: Brandi Carlyle
Small Things. By: Claire Keegan
Mademoiselle Eiffel. By: Aimie K. Runyan
Yesteryear. By: Caro Claire Burke\

Read October discuss November

The best kind of beautiful. By: Francis Whiting
Force of Nature By: Jane Harper
Bye Bye Baby or The Chocolate Tin By; Fiona Mc Intosh.

Read November discuss December

Hollow Bones. By: Jodi Picoult
The Flight of the Stolen Children By: Jina Bacant

Next meeting on 5th October at 11am at the Cas Club. New readers welcome. Happy reading everyone. Mary Greenup Coordinator

Probus Club of Darwin

Christmas Lunch

Silks Restaurant

Wednesday, 2 December, 11:30am

Cost: to be advised

Bookings and payment need to be finalised by 20 November



Board Games



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

Lots of challenges and fun.
27 October 1:00pm

Maxine Dienelt—Coordinator

Salvation Army Collection

Our Probus Club contributes to a collection of non perishable food and other items to help with the compilation of parcels for Christmas delivery to those members of the community in need.

This is a voluntary donation and all items are welcomed. Items will be collected at the November meeting only.



TEN PIN BOWLING

Cafe Mount 8848 was closed for renovations so sadly no coffee break there this month. My thanks go to Trish for sending out an urgent email on Tuesday afternoon to inform all Probus members of the change.

At Kingpin thirteen players split into 3 teams with Lyn and Bill watching on.

Nancy started well one point in front of Colleen and Alan. Ros took over in round 2 with Colleen, Nancy, Pam and Alan in hot pursuit. In round 3 Ros remained in the lead closely followed by Pam, Janet and Colleen with only a couple of points between them. By round 6 though it was clear it was a race between Nancy, Alan, Molly and Pam. In round 9 Alan went into the lead until Molly shot into first place in round 10 winning by 3 points. Final scores Molly 106, Alan 103, Nancy 99 and Pam 96. An exciting and very close game between the top four players.

Well done everyone.

Next month we meet up again on Wednesday 21 October. Hope to see you all then.

Shirley Porte, Coordinator



GARDEN CLUB

Peter and Adina made us all feel so very welcome at their place on Fiddler's :Lane known as Rainbows End. We wandered around their extensive garden/block admiring their garden and trying to find the answers to 10 questions.



Peter, Ed and John pushed a carriage up and down the short railway track while us ladies laughed and enjoyed the ride. Morning tea was delicious under their big Raintree and Peter told us about the history of their piece of paradise. It was a very enjoyable morning.

Next garden club will be at Trailer Boat Club on 14 October. Bring a plant if you want to go in the draw. Our guest speaker will be Helen Montgomery who will be talking about fertilisers.

Coordinator—Wendy Darwin ph 0437 910 388



Our lovely friends Kay and Mike Foley of the Probus Club of Marrara, featured with their wonderful garden in a Darwin episode of Gardening Australia that appeared on Friday 25 September.

Thanks to Allan Mitchell for including the photo in his Walking newsletter.

Craft Club

Lots of great activity on a Friday morning at Cas Club with many wonderful items being produced by the attendees.

Shown is the shawl crocheted by Margaret Egglestone.



The Giving Tree by Shel Silverston (a book I read by Wendy James)

This is a story of the power of a simple children's picture book.

I closed the book and looked at the 24 sad, puzzled young faces looking back at me. "That's really sad.' Said Jake.

"Why did he keep cutting the tree down?" Asked Lizzie. "Because people are greedy." Replied Oliver. "No they're not!" Said Charlie. "My dad's not greedy. He doesn't like cutting down trees." "It's wrong to cut down trees" injected Mary "they clean our air and the birds live in them." "Anyway" pipped up practical Sarah "You can't be friends with a tree. That's just plain silly." "Oh yes you can!" Called out Anne. "my mum and dad are friends of the botanical gardens and all the trees and plants are their friends." "But you can't talk to trees" came back Sarah. "Yer You can!" Said James. "There was a man on TV and he talks to his plants everyday and they grow really big!"

"Ok - ok children!" I said clapping my hands to gain their attention. "Form a circle and we will have a meeting."

I thought I was reading the children a delightful story about a friend-ship between a young boy and an apple tree. In actual fact I had unknowingly tapped into a much wider and bigger subject. The roll plants and animals play in our lives. Caring for our environment was about to become the new topic for our Preschool.

The extent of knowledge and feelings these 4 year old children had for environmental issues was amazing. This year of children and their families happen to be right into environmental issues and were pleased to support our Preschool endeavours in this area.

There was a suggestion to have pigs to feed our food scraps to then use the poo to fertilise the gardens. We were planning to grow organic vegies. David thought a buffalo would be better as they did bigger poo. Pigs and buffalos got replaced with chickens and ducks. We had a working bee one Saturday and the parents help convert the old, unused, shade house into a chicken coop and erected two veggie patches, and a flower garden to attract bees, all made from recycled wooden palettes, rocks and bricks from the tip.

We visited the botanical gardens and spent a very informative morning with the gardener learning about some very interesting trees. The cannon ball tree was a big hit with the boys. The children helped some very patient volunteers in the community garden and came home with tomatoes, beans and cucumbers to plant in the school veggie patch. Once the chickens were happily installed in their new coop and the veggie patch was planted and thriving we in-vited some of the volunteers from the botanical gardens to come for morning tea and to see our hard work. They bought more gifts of herbs which we planted in pots at the front of the classroom.

A sensory garden was made with plants of different colours, textures and smells. Flowering bushes were sourced to attract butterflies, insects, lizards and rocks were placed in the garden for the children to sit so they could enjoy the wildlife that came to live in our garden.

I had been to Saba where I visited the orangutang conservation for-est and I had bought back information about adopting a baby orangutang. We watched a video about these gentle endangered creatures and how they were becoming endangered from being hunted for their fur and the forest where they lived was being cut down. Some were caught for private zoos where many of them died from neglect. Twice a year we had a BBQ breakfast at school to raise funds for our baby orangutang Narda. AND we raised enough money to sponsor a tree for her in the forest.

Our veggie patch and chickens became well known and classes from the primary school came to visit and help in the garden and to bring food for the chickens. One of the most exciting things we did was to purchase an incubator.

The Giving Tree, for our classroom was a stimulant for the children which generated so many more learning experiences. The impact of this story was only the beginning of a long learning journey for several years to come . I have read The Giving Tree to many a child and is one of my favourite books.

When the book first came out this is one of the overviews. *"A metaphor for parental love, environmental destruction, and toxic relationships."*



National Probus Day

Top End Probus Clubs will gather together to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of PSPL in Australia.

Friday 2 October 2026

10:00am—12:00

At Pearl Retirement Village Recreation Centre

Please bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea.

Bill Roy will be providing musical entertainment.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Extracts from the Minutes 2 October 2002

Present: Messrs Steven, Washington, Roberts, Scott, Raby, Plew, Kerr, Martin, Chin, Fisher, Taylor, Dally, Bromwich, Simmons, Penhall,

Apologies: Blackmore, Johnstone, Upton, Dimery, Maidment

Minutes: Minutes of previous meeting were circulated and confirmed.

Correspondence: COTA Seniors Community Workshop; Get Up and Go.

Outwards—Nil.

Treasurer's: Report Opening balance $599.31 Receipts Nil, Expenses 7.65, Closing balance $591.66

General Business: The President reported that he attended as a guest at a Rotary function recently. The Probus Centre South Pacific matters were mentioned. There are about 30,000 Rotarians and about 120,000 Probus Club members.

Xmas Luncheon: The meeting resolved that the Executive to arrange a suitable venue for the Xmas Luncheon to take place at the December meeting.

Guest Speaker: At 10:20am Mr Raby introduced Ms Ann Kemp of the Diabetes Assoc. She then addressed the meeting on the awareness of diabetes, mentions were noted viz: 2 groups of diabetics, one requiring insulin injections, the other tablets. She spoke about exercise and diet to help the condition. Many questions and answers followed.

Barrie Martin thanked the meeting on behalf of the members.

The meeting closed at 10.55am.



Tracy Village Social and Sports Club

The home of

Probus Club of Darwin Inc.



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

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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