



THE GLOBAL NEWSLETTER

PROBUS Global is an activity of Probus Clubs
that seeks to connect members globally



PROBUS is an international organisation of retired people who come together in autonomous clubs providing opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances to make new friends and to maintain and expand their interests within their own region and also globally.

The objective of this Newsletter is to encourage Probians to make contact with others around the world.

We are all in “strange times” in our lives affected by health threats and political and economic uncertainty. This may be a time when coming together would be, not only a personal comfort, but also a move in the right direction within our Probus culture. It can do no harm and may do a lot of good. But it's up to each one of us.

Here you will read articles written locally in various parts of the world in the local culture, local humour and different sensibilities to our own. It seeks of the reader curiosity and hopefully a desire to make new contacts.

PROBUS Global was founded by an international group of volunteers from the UK, Canada and Australia comprising the Shirley Roberts (UK), Derek Treagus (UK), Howard Massey (Australia) and four from Canada namely, Richard Furlong, Peter Jennings, Stephen Campbell and Dale Fawcett.

There is a [website](https://probusglobal.org) that serves as a central point to provide a unified identity for all regions while respecting the unique identity of major regions of the UK, Canada and Australia and the South Pacific. You can join by registering with ProbusGlobal at <https://probusglobal.org>. There is no cost, it's a Probus activity.

It is hoped that you will write to the editor of this edition with contributions, ideas, questions and feedback to the address below. Your communications will be answered.

Editor at hafmassey@gmail.com



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Request for feedback let's talk

Break out of lockdowns and restrictions with **ProbusGlobal**

Our times have never been so propitious, for making contacts worldwide, with time on our hands, with email connections and video available to most of us with Zoom and other platforms. Probus is in nearly twenty international locations from Silvertown to Shrewsbury and Ontario to Oodnadatta, with the potential of connection and fellowship (that includes ladies) of Probus Global. There are Probus members falling over each other to make contact with other countries.

FACT CHECK - Globally there are about 270,000 Probus members and about 4,200 Probus clubs.



United Kingdom



Harold Blanchard - a founder

CATERHAM PROBUS CLUB, SURREY

Attending the July 2019 General Meeting of Caterham Probus Club was a significant event for me. After all Caterham was the first Probus Club to have the name Probus having been founded 54 years ago in 1966 on the classic tenets of simplicity and freedom from constraints and obligations and has successfully held to these up to the present day.

There is an immediate good feeling when joining a general meeting at Caterham since on entering the venue all attendees are greeted by the President with the Secretary alongside. I found this a simple but very welcoming practice especially perhaps having come from Australia, and, on the day, traversing half of the M25.

Meeting a number of members over pre-meeting drinks is a good way to start. Seating on this occasion was random, out of hat, so one met a number of members in short period of time.

I certainly felt that after the meeting that I had experienced the true feeling and practices of Probus from the source.

Howard Massey



Shirley and Bryn Roberts have worked tirelessly for many years to grow and co-ordinate Probus global activities in the UK from their home in the depths of the Suffolk countryside. They are an impressive example to the rest of us.



Bill Broadhead, on the left, a committee member at Caterham Probus Club greets Howard Massey from Australia in a real life example of global communication (2019). Caterham Probus is the oldest club to bear the name Probus in the world. Bill's father was a colleague of Harold Blanchard (pic top left) a founding member of Probus.

"Who am I "Derek Treagus from Locks Heath Probus, Hampshire, England



Aristocracy or what? Who knows? Treagus is a derivative of Tregoz so I'm going to claim it! As such, my ancestor Baron Tregoz came over to the UK with his mate William in 1066 and the rest is, as they say, history

My own career very different, computers and programming rather than rape and pillage. But many people worldwide have probably used software that I've been involved in creating. Perhaps Will could have learnt a lesson or two on world domination from me!

My wife and I have three kids (children not goats) and three grand kids, we do like the odd cruise or two abroad much like Will but a bit further afield! And I do still like my tech so with us all being health conscious these days there are plenty of Apples in my house!

So that's me, if you've read through all that I'd just like to say (as Will probably said to Harold) "c'est un dans l'oeil mate"

Derek

LOGOS

Mankind's favourite symbol

It would be a struggle to find a group or organisation that does not have its logo. It is on show at every level of government, manufacturing industry, commerce and not-for-profit organisations or groups. When an organisation is launched the need for a logo is a priority.

The early days of business

Before we had computer-based graphics the task of designing or painting a logo' would be in the hands of someone with artistic skills. As the industrial revolution progressed the trade of the commercial artist grew to provide visual solutions working with printers, publishers and directly with an organisation. The trade grew out of the artists who were employed in heraldry but there was no formal structure for the tradesman, if an individual had the talent and skill to draw or paint, he could produce the image that was needed.

As manufacturing, marketing and the printing industry developed the need for artists grew. Images, that we call logos today, were known as Trademarks and the registration of these marks began so that the owner of the mark had the protection of Statute Law to prevent others 'passing-off' goods and services, a legal tool that gradually spread across the world and remains in place today. Copyright.

So, what is Copyright?

Incidentally, you do not need to register your mark, although many organisations do, in my opinion it is best done by a trained designer – now styled as a graphic designer with the advent of computer graphics. Many countries base their copyright law on The Berne Convention of 1886, protects Literary and Artistic Works. Someone using your mark without your consent is treated as a thief.

The role of the Artist or Designer

Set against that background, how do you make a logo'? The task is best done by a designer or graphic designer, as we are called now with advent of computer graphics. Computers are tools and particularly good they are too, but they have limitations in the sense that they lack imagination and the ability to visualise an idea, something the human brain can do! Plus, the designer can be objective in assessing the needs of the organisation and how they can be visualised. He or she will also be aware and knowledgeable of all the constraints in the reproduction and legality of the mark. The designer will take account of the key factors that need to be reflected in the logo':

Once the 'brief' – in other words what the organisation or individual needs and expects, is understood by the designer the idea of how the result may possibly come to mind immediately! It then needs to be sketched out or generated on computer to visually test if the image meets the criteria agreed in the brief.

What happens next?

This can happen because individuals who have artistic talent are able to visualise an idea, its shape, colour and all the other elements required for the final image. If the idea does not come to mind, the alternative would be to make sketches or generate images in computer graphics and gradually work through these until the mix reveals a way forward to a design that meets the brief.

As an example of the thinking process to design a 'logo' for Probus Global . . .

- 'Global' suggests a sphere or a circle
- The purpose is about communication Globally
- Circles arranged in a larger circle can represent the worlds continents.
- All the circles touch each other – contact.
- Each different colour represents a continent widely used in Geography.
- The final image needs to be legible in small sizes.



Zero 4 Probus Club, located in Botley, Hampshire, England.

The Writer was pleased to accept a generous invitation to a general meeting at the club in July 2019 and enjoyed a very friendly atmosphere for somebody arriving from the Great Southern Land, "down under". Formed in 2004. Hence, the name "Zero 4". Perhaps it is a little bit different, after all with the unusual name it is saying '*here we are, and we are not scared to be seen*'. The club certainly has its own personality.

Zero 4 is a mixed gender club retired people but much more than that. A very friendly gathering of people made me feel welcome. Zero 4 meets for a quite informally structured general meeting procedure with plenty of banter and laughter that emphasises the social nature of the club of about 80 members. Over a very good lunch there were toasts to The Queen and to Probus, the latter that the club invited me as a visitor (from down under) to give. So I emphasised the global quality of the Probus network and we toasted that.

Zero 4 also hosted Andrew Negus who presented the second part of his talk on " Harlots, Dung & Glory" that talked about the development of the naval dockyards before Portsmouth existed as a City. He illustrated how dockyards and people of Portsmouth and Gosport helped to make the Royal Navy Master of the Seas and Britain the most powerful Nation in the world. One of the best and interesting presentations that you will see.



Photo - Secretary Jim Watson. Andrew Negus, President Sally Robinson and the bloke from down under.

The Club has continued during the months of lockdown by keeping in touch with the membership through e-mail and holding their usual monthly meeting with a speaker and presentation on the Zoom platform and "Ed" has been doubly happy to be present as a video visitor.

For more information have a look at the Zero 4 web site "zero4probusclub.weebly.com" it has resumes of many of their meetings. Also email the club and make personal one to one contacts with this excellent club.

World Wide Overview of Probus

Probus exists in about twenty regions of the world. The most significant region is the United Kingdom where Probus was first established by Harold Blanchard. There are about 1,250 clubs in the UK all totally autonomous with a membership of over 71,000.

Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific is the largest region despite shrinking from 180,000 in ten years to about 120,000 today.

Canada is a "switched on" region with an excellent website and a "light touch" central service. It celebrated 30 years of fellowship in 2018 and now has grown to approximately 39,000 members in 256 clubs. This is a region to watch.

The Netherlands last reported 430 clubs and 13,000 members, then Ireland 134 clubs and 4,700 members followed by Belgium, South Africa, Japan, France and Germany that account for about another 12,000 members between them. So, there is plenty of room for growth.

GLOBALPROBUS



IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN IN ENGLAND

British Transport Police in Essex tweeted: "Yesterday we had a call about a body within the railway boundary".

Railway workers alerted the British Transport Police after they spotted a pair of bare feet that showed "no signs of life".

The police who responded reported having found a "person" in the act of sunbathing naked on the railway right-of-way

BTP have now issued seemingly obvious advice, urging the public not to sunbathe on the railway lines. And if you feel obliged to do so please advise the next stations up and down the line.

Who Am I ?

I am Bryn Roberts, an Englishman living in a village near Sudbury in the County of Suffolk some seventy miles north west of London and the Secretary of the Sudbury Gainsborough Probus Club, a male club of 35 members which was incorporated in 1975.

I joined Probus in 1995 in Basildon in the County of Essex on retiring from business where I had been a Research Director practicing the science of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics to produce Adhesives for a variety of uses.

I was not unused to community affairs as I had already joined Basildon Lions Club in 1974 and had become involved in Club, District, National and International Lionistic matters, as I still am as a member of the Ipswich Lions Club.

I quickly adopted Probus life and became Secretary and later Chairman of the Basildon Club. In 2005 our family moved from Basildon to Sudbury and my activities were soon transferred to the Sudbury Club in becoming Secretary and remaining so until today fifteen years later.

I have had the experience of being a member of two very different in programme, style and age-profile Clubs and recognise that Probus can accept and absorb a variety of modus vivendi across national and international boundaries to its eternal benefit.

I have seen new clubs arise, ladies clubs and mixed clubs arise and new initiatives such as PROBUS Global.

Long May they all prosper.

Winston would agree . . .

- These times of restriction and isolation provide the opportunity to strike out and to do something different.
- Here is an opportunity to invest a little time in establishing connections with other Probians, maybe outside your own club, and even outside the borders of your country.
- By finding new friends and establishing how they are going in these strange times you might just make your lives and theirs that much better.
- If we all made **three** Global Probus contacts ! What a change that would be.

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR ?

If WW2 happened today . . . would social media ask ...

Can I have more clarity please on "your country needs you" slogan - It's too ambiguous ? Anyway, why aren't we doing more to stop these air raids ? Incidentally, I find the term "black out" to be offensive.

Does the siren apply to everyone and hey there's only male and female toilet in the air raid shelter - I don't identify as either

Why can't I have almond milk on my ration card ?

I find the lack of colour options within the military uniforms oppressive ! Why didn't we stockpile spitfires at the start of the conflict ?

**As a visitor to General meetings in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada
by Zoom from Australia**

Your correspondent has been a visitor at general meetings, held on the Zoom platform, from Newmarket, Ontario, Canada. The meeting starts at 10 am local time (Ontario) ie. 12 midnight, in winter, in Sydney, Australia. Richard Furlong wasn't impressed and had advised me to "get a big mug of black coffee" !

From the start I was impressed by the calm organisation of the club and its officers. On time Steve Muir, the club's member responsible for the technical aspect of the meeting, had the meeting up and running and I could see participants coming through the zoom door. Steve handed over to President Sunny Lau. 'Oh Canada' was sung.

Well, I have to say that each time it was worth staying up for. It's likely that Canadians are a bit better behaved than their counterparts in Australia, however, it was impressive to be amongst about 50 members all "reading from the same script". Reports from officers were studded with, what seemed to be, obligatory jokes that did not trivialise the substance of their reports. A segment that was titled "Who am I" is something that any club would adopt. It has already migrated to some Probus Clubs in Australia.

Visiting speakers talking on economics aspects of Newmarket's development and travel to South Africa were absolutely fascinating – and I did not have the slightest temptation to fall asleep despite the early hour approaching 2am before the formal meeting was over... Thank you Probus Newmarket.

Howard Massey, Kiama NSW, Australia



The Website of Canadian Probus is well worth a visit. It is probably the best example of a regional website around today. On closer study you will see how well Probus in Canada is organised from Directors roles to activities, club locator and links to useful sites at ...

<https://www.probus.org/welcome.html>

Get connected: Stay Connected

THE MAIN USE OF THE LITTLE TOE ON YOUR FOOT IS TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL THE FURNITURE IN THE HOUSE IS IN PLACE

Richard Furlong ... who is Richard Furlong ?

The original volunteer representing Canada in setting up Probus Global. Richard is a Past member of the Board of Directors for PROBUS Canada, serving as President for one year and also Director, Ontario, District 2.

Richard is a member of the Newmarket Probus Club, currently Vice President, previously served as Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Program chair.

Prior to retiring 14 years ago, Richard worked for major Chemical companies in both Canada and United States. He started his career in sales, moving to sales management and then general manager of two chemical business in Canada before finishing his career as North American Sales Manager for a company based in Texas.



Over 40,000 seniors who gather in friendship and learning in the 256 PROBUS clubs across Canada want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the front line and essential workers keeping us safe during the current pandemic.

Our thanks to all members of the medical community who are placing themselves at risk, those who provide the services to keep our homes functioning, and those who maintain the food supply chain without which we could not survive. Our thanks also to the combined efforts of every level of government and the companies who have collaborated to ease the financial burdens faced by so many at this time.

You make us incredibly proud and grateful to be Canadians

PROBUS CANADA Get connected - Stay connected
for further information www.probus.org

Words from Peter Jennings

**The Webmaster of
Probus Global
from Canada**



When I first heard about PROBUS Global, I was immediately attracted to the idea. I have to admit, it was for selfish reasons. I love to travel. I love to make new friends in new places. I know that PROBUS people are generally my kind of people - open, friendly, intelligent, ready to communicate. This was an organization I wanted to be part of.

No sooner had I joined than I was invited to help build the probusglobal.org web site. Sure, why not? I wrote my first computer program 55 years ago and learned HTML before most of the web designers around today were born. It would be and has been my pleasure to work on it.

The web site should be a place where members come to connect with other members of our community from around the world. A place where they can connect before going off to communicate by email and video chat. Get Connected : Stay Connected !

Once the pandemic has settled down and the borders are open, I am looking forward to putting my travelling shoes back on and heading off to visit new places. I am hoping to meet some of my new PROBUS Global friends in person. Perhaps, by then, I might even be able to shake their hands or give them a hug. Wouldn't that be great?

If your travels bring you to Canada, I would love to host you as a guest at our local PROBUS Club and show you Niagara Falls and southern Ontario.

A web site is never finished. If you see opportunities to do things better or discover problems affecting your use of the site, please let me know. I need to hear from you to make it better..... Peter

From Beth Mc Kee, Newmarket Ontario, Canada

I am the President of the Women's Probus Club in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada. We have 136 members and growing steadily. During this period of isolation, we have formed what we are calling a Communication Tree. We have divided the members into groups of four or five alphabetically and they will phone one another from time to time. This way they are getting to know members whom they would not necessarily know through the meetings. At our first time back at meeting we will get the groups together so they can put a face to the name. This idea originated from one of the other clubs in our district. We are continuing with our newsletter and I also send out an email to all members every two weeks. I send a note to those who do not have a computer. My favourite quote is "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is the present. Enjoy your present" Beth Mc Kee

BULLETIN WISDOM

Note for golfers seen on car rear bumper – if you think my driving is bad you should see my putting

As the Canadians say
Get Connected / Stay Connected

A PROFILE OF PROBUS IN SOUTH AFRICA

DISTRICTS	Number of Members					Number of Clubs				Type of Club			
	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018 / 2019	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018 / 2019	Men	Ladies	Mixed
Zimbabwe	Closed												
Garden Route		266	294	307			8	8	8	5	2	1	72
Gauteng North	116	87	73	74	79	3	2	2	2	2	2		70
North West	75	71	62	63	46	3	3	3	3	2	2		74
Limpopo	17	Closed				1	Closed						
Mpumalanga	132	131	129	128	136	3	3	3	3	3	3		72
Kwa Zulu Natal	744	721	634	584	537	17	17	16	16	14	3	11	75
Gauteng South	821	801	788	768	760	18	17	17	16	15	3	1	11
Eastern Cape	550	573	574	569	551	13	13	13	12	12	6		76
Free State	121	119	119	97	98	4	4	4	3	3	2	1	
Western Cape	1542	1527	1172	1094	1103	38	37	29	28	27	12	7	8
TOTAL	4118	4030	3817	3671	3617	100	96	95	91	86	35	11	40



This was written by Graham Lashbrooke when President of Probus Tokai Men's Club in Cape Town in June this year. Sadly, Graham passed away shortly afterwards. His writings are appreciated.

Hello from South Africa or, more accurately, the Southern tip of our country – Cape Town. Well, hang on, not quite the most Southern tip or even the reputed spot where the two oceans, the Atlantic and the Indian meet. They actually meet at the true Southern tip, at a small coastal village called Cape Aghulas, which is about 230 Kilometres roughly South-East of Cape Town. There you go. Suddenly you know more about South Africa's geography than many South Africans.

I really enjoyed writing those words which allowed me to virtually travel from my firmly Covid-19 locked-down home in Cape Town to Cape Aghulas. You see, our government is absorbed in an absolute control frenzy and is determined that South Africa shall be the last country in the world that is allowed a minuscule peek outside their double-locked front door. And their frenzy doesn't end on the doorstep, currently we are not even allowed to buy alcohol or smoke tobacco. Crazy but true. Of course, wise people like me laid down a lot of beer, wine and spirits prior to the initial lockdown way back in March.

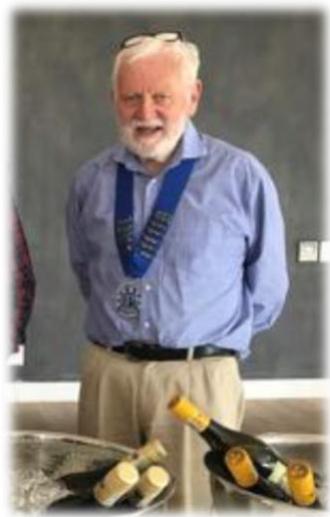
However, Howard Massey, from Australia asked to write about the "Network of Clubs" in South Africa. The singular severity of the lockdown has ensured that this has become more a "Jumble of Clubs." March and April in South Africa is when all the clubs organise their Annual General Meetings to allow time for the Provincial Oversight Clubs to organise their AGMs in June. Many of the Western Cape Clubs have not yet held an AGM.

Some might say that this article is becoming about as chaotic as our current Club structure, other might have seen the subtlety of the scribe holding it all precariously together with little bits of string and chewing gum. *If you spotted it, well done, if not plod on, we are getting there.*

In the third paragraph I mentioned our current government's obsession with control and it occurs to me that, in all my eighty years I have spent on this planet, seventy-two of them have been in South Africa, four in New Zealand, three in Australia and one in England and Europe. Most importantly, in all the seventy-two years here.

To wrap-up (take a deep breath, it is all in one sentence); I have also collectively spent many months of my life on holiday in and around Cape Aghulas and, whilst that didn't alter my status, the freedom offered by being at the bottom end of a huge continent; looking North and knowing that I am gazing across countless countries, cities, towns, villages, mountains, lakes and rivers all the way to the Mediterranean Sea, whilst directly South behind me two vast oceans are fighting for supremacy by crashing on the ancient rocky outcrops and even further South, the same two oceans are making their steady way, West to the Americas, East to Australia, South to the Antarctic and North-East all the way to India and Asia.

Graham Lashbrooke



The unique humour of Graham Lashbrooke lost to us all too soon.

Why put photos on the wall of a police station with a photo that says
WANTED? Why not just arrest the guy whilst taking his photo?



A nice bit of home spun philosophy

When do we start feeling old? In retrospect I believe I started feeling that I had moved out of that huge period of one's life called middle age when I turned 73. Whatever, the actual age is clearly a personal thing. During our pre-lunch drinks time, I look at fellow members and I get a warm feeling about ageing, for what I see is a whole lot of people all enjoying themselves just as they did in their earlier lives, just a smidgen slower.

I'm not sure where I am going with this, but I do know that the point I want to make is that we are all extremely lucky to belong to an old man's fellowship group like Probus. Old men, like very young children, tend to spend a lot of their pleasure time on their own, reading, drawing, thinking or often just sleeping. The point is belonging to Probus provides us with a necessary social outlet. Until a few minutes ago I did not know who thought up Probus but now, thanks to Google, I know the first club was formed in England in 1965 by a Rotarian, Fred Carnill, who decided to form a luncheon club for retired men. Others, also Rotarians (names are unimportant), decided that retired people had a need for fellowship and so an excellent idea took root and now there are Probus clubs in which men and women collectively and separately, get together on a monthly basis for fellowship and lunch worldwide.

What I can say is that I am thrilled to be a member of Probus and I, like so many fellow members, heartily enjoy the fellowship.

by Graham Lashbrooke

STONED CROWS ALSO FROM SOUTH AFRICA

In South Africa a Department of Tourism clean-up crew recently found over 200 dead crows off and along N2 near Cape Town and there was concern that they may have died from some sort of Avian Flu.

A Pathologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was NOT Avian related. The cause of death in fact appeared to be from vehicular impacts. However, during analysis it was noted that varying colours of paint appeared on the bird's beaks and claws. By analysing these paint residues it was found that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with motorbikes, while only 2% were killed by cars. The Department of Safety then hired an Ornithological Behaviourist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of motorbike kills versus car kills.

The Ornithological Behaviourist quickly concluded that when crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow to warn of danger. They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Cah", not a single one could shout "bike."

If you have not previously heard this piece of music - do so now. The *Angel City Chorale* rendition of "Rains in Africa" use this link but skip the ads...

<https://youtu.be/-c9-poC5HGw>

Did you know that the word "Race Car" spelled backwards still spells "Race Car" – and that "eat" is the only word that, if you take the first letter and move it to the last, it spells its own past tense "ate".
.... Now isn't that interesting.

SOUTH AFRICA CALLING

There are over 3,000 members of Probus clubs in South Africa. From these articles you will guess that there must be unique aspects of lifestyle in the country with issues of history and industrial unrest to name but two. Probus is also valuable.

It's reasonable to guess that some contact with other countries might be one small relief from the restrictions experienced by our Probus friends who are resident. There must be a bunch of interesting stories too.

I am looking for a new Probus contact in South Africa to fill the big shoes that Graham left behind. Somebody who is interested in nourishing international contacts. Please contact me at hafmassey@gmail.com



Where is it ? and who produced it. Any ideas ?

INCIDENTALLY ...

Nasa: Congratulations, your mission is now complete. You may return to Earth.

Space crew: Thanks but no



An original May Gibbs drawing from 1919 which she drew for the Spanish Flu epidemic

WORDS OF WISDOM

"You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life" ~ zig Ziglar ... find people and connect

"One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone." — Shannon L. Alder..... *your email might be the one thing that gives somebody happiness.*

"Although we live in an information technology age, we often find ourselves in failure to communicate situations." Paul Bailey *The Strength of Newsletters*

Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much.- Helen Keller

A respected 90 year old 60 years married
Probian told ed. that the secret to a
happy marriage was simple "Yes Dear "

Teacher – Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?
Glenn – K R O K A D I A L
Teacher – No Glenn, that's wrong.
Glenn – Maybe its wrong, but you asked me how I spell it'

Thursday, November 7th, 1918

CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF KELOWNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, in order to prevent the spread of Spanish Influenza, all Schools, public and private, Churches, Theatres, Moving Picture Halls, Pool Rooms and other places of amusement, and Lodge meetings, are to be closed until further notice.

All public gatherings consisting of ten or more are prohibited.

D. W. SUTHERLAND,
Mayor.

Kelowna, B.C.,
19th October, 1918.

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending;
and to have the two as close together as possible.- George Burns

BULLETIN WISDOM

*O God we know you are divine
You change the water into wine
Have mercy on this bunch of men
As they change it back again.*

Kees Nederveen, from the Netherland, is a long standing member of the International Probus Network with many email contacts. He had work in Australia for several years.

Cornelis Nederveen (Kees) was born in Rotterdam (1941) right after the destruction of the City by the Germans in WW II. Kees graduated in Utrecht as Master of Science in Chemistry.



Joined the largest chemical company DuPont in working at its EU HQ in Geneva as Product Specialist in synthetic fibres and for 25 years with the Dutch multinational Akzo Nobel. In 1998 Kees formed his consultancy in worldwide marketing of chemical and pharma specialties. Kees started his career of voluntary activities in legal assistance of victims of violence and foreign detainees. He joined the local Noordwijk Probus club and participated in the International Probus network (IPN) making e-friends all over the world.

During retirement he joined the Dutch PUM network (Programme Senior Experts Abroad) assisted eight Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries, setup by the Dutch Ministries of Economics and Foreign Affairs. Similar voluntary expert groups have been established in many EU member states, Switzerland and Norway. I also joined the ancient private club "De Witte" (1796) in den Haag in 2011 with some 25 expert tables.

Now living on the Dutch coastline in a penthouse in the dunes with my spouse of 53 yrs, two sons and five grand kids nearby. . . .Kees

Kees Nederveen – my mission to Xian and Quigdao China in 2007

Having travelled extensively in the People's Republic of China during my 25 year employment at the Dutch multinational company Akzo Nobel at last as Divisional Development Director Asia Pacific I was pleased to assist a vitamin manufacturer in Xian, the former capital of the Chinese Empire until 1880. Since decades the worldwide Vitamin industry concentrated its manufacturing activities in Central China, supported by bulk pharma skills (in antibiotics) and labour economics.

Vitamin and mineral supplements are manufactured at Good Manufacturing Practice (GPM) monitored by international health inspections. Since China has become a dominating worldwide supply factor these health standards are carefully monitored and maintained at Western standards but occasional checks are mandatory. My visit to Xian showed no exception to these rules.

Subsequently I made a visit to the State Export Agency Sinochem in Qingdao responsible for these products, to discuss commercial and logistic issues. These officials attend trade events abroad and are excellent expert partners to follow the international market needs. Complaint handling remains a weak issue, so these encounters are an essential complementary tool in foreign trade.

In Xian I also visited the middle age capital fortresses and the famous army of thousand buried ceramic soldiers discovered in the fifties by local farmers. The logistics of a million visitors per year are impressive, mostly from the West.

Qingdao on the subtropical coastline is the major navy port for the nation and the focus of the nautical Olympics in 1996. The architectural impact is very clear, supported by multi-story hotels and cultural activities. Most remarkable were the scallop seekers at low tide that flock the rocky shores for their meals.

My local guide experts were a welcome addition to my limited local knowledge. The impression of maintaining international pharma standards was very good and the living conditions of the local population were remarkably well. The curiosity in Qingdao is the structure of hundreds of residences in German style as a result of the German occupation/colony in the early 20th century. . . . Kees Nederveen

YIPPEE! I WOKE UP!



Why retirees are always so happy

One thing us Probians have in common is advancing years – am I right? After all the criterion for membership is **Retired** Professional Business Men and Women. The advanced average age of this group is definitely going mean some of us are walking around with replacement parts. I'm not sure we have anyone who owns a heart of a strapping young chap who met an untimely end, but we must have an assortment of artificial ankles, knees, hips, elbows and shoulders and maybe even a kidney or two. Some years ago, I had my back opened up and, whilst there were no replacements made, a complete overhaul was required to get it back into pristine condition.

At a follow-up meeting with the doctor who did the deed, he quickly trumped my imminent query on the quality on my newly overhauled back by asking me whether I owned an old banger as a first car. At this my mind hurtled back a full 60 years to the days of a Morris Minor with the headlights in the grill which, at night, threw a wobbly beam a full 5 metres and had a terminally dodgy braking system. Choking back an imminent tear, I related the story of that old banger. "Well then," he replied, "I'll bet you spent hours overhauling that car to try and make its next trip mechanically uneventful especially if it involved a young lady in the passenger seat with whom you were planning to do unspeakable things." This explanation was to help me understand the not so lasting quality of my newly restored back, for he added, "Your overhauled back is not unlike that old Morris after you had spent hours on a Saturday getting it ready for the evening's entertainment. It, your back not the car, will work well, but remember it will never be as good as the original that lasted you 66 years".

A few days ago, my back suddenly went AWOL and I staggered around in sciatic-inspired pain until James the Osteopath cobbled it back into service with a regime of pushing, twisting, jerking and pulling.

That old Morris Minor? It finally met its maker when a lady who would have qualified to be a member of an early Probus club, shot a stop street in her huge all steel Humber (I believe the model was a Super Snipe V8) and my dodgy braking system decided this was a bridge too far, so I ran the Morris into her back door. As I recall the Humber back door had a smallish dent, but the poor old Morris gave one or two brave coughs and expired. It never ran again unless you count sitting on the back of a breakdown truck heading for the scrap yard.

Where is all this going you may ask? Forgive the verbosity, hang in there with a dash of patience, and I am about to wrap it all up.

So, all you members who think that your plastic and titanium hips and knees are as good as the real thing remember that as we creak into our late 70s and early 80s, most of us who still have original parts that, whilst we were still in the womb, were being built to last, will be operating like well-oiled machines long after those with plastic jobs have had to go back to the workshop. Apart from my back, I can boast a pair ankles, knees and hips that have been carrying me around for all of 79 years. Sixty-two years ago, they carried me to the school record for the 100 yards (long before metres were invented). As a yardstick (or should that be metrestick?), my overhauled back lasted 13 years, a tad longer than the old Morris.

Pay attention ! this is very interesting . . .

Oh, Dem Bones!

The adult human skeleton is made up of 213 bones that give structure and protection to the body. University of Sydney Professor Hala Zreiqat is intimately acquainted with them all. Professor Zreiqat and her team, along with other biomedical scientists and engineers, have created a synthetic ceramic substitute to repair large challenging bone defects. The ceramic rebuilds new bones and when the job is done it dissipates. By using futuristic technology each replica bone can be printed using 3D printers.

The first step was to develop a porous ceramic material infused with trace elements important in bone formation, such as calcium, silicon, strontium and zinc. The material is structured to form a scaffold similar to real bone with sponge-like pores that allow blood and nutrients to penetrate.

The plan is that within about a year, sufficient bone will have grown through the inserted scaffold to replace the defect. With its job is done, the synthetic material degrades and is then excreted. It is ongoing research, but so far it is proving remarkable what happens to this material.

Professor Zreiqat has recently commenced the first pre-clinical trial in sheep for one of the materials she has developed for intervertebral spinal fusion. What is already known from the research is that the material being synthetic, can rebuild critical-size defects, which are defects that normally would not heal on their own.



The ceramic materials developed in Professor Zreiqat's laboratory can now be made by a custom-designed 3D printer. While many of the printed scaffolds at present are limited to those that can fit in the palm of your hand, the team is trying to see if they can print a whole mandible.

If successful, patients could soon have bespoke replacement bones printed future
... Extract from 'Engineers Australia'



THE GREAT SOUTHERN LAND OF AUSTRALIA



Live the dream on any beach in Australia

The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place – George Bernard Shaw

“You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you” ~ dale carnegie . . .

so let's try it... make your Global Probian contacts



Australia has many lovely harbours and river estuaries not part of the popular image

An Australia Tale... LENNIE GWYTHON AND GINGER MICK

It's 1932 and Australia is in the grip of the Great Depression. One in three workers are unemployed. Decrepit shanty towns hug the outskirts of the big cities. A scrawny rabbit caught in a trap will feed a family for a week. Country roads are filled with broken men walking from one farmhouse to another seeking menial jobs and food. On the outskirts of the South Gippsland town of Leongatha, an injured farmer lies in bed unable to walk – or work. World War I hero Captain Leo Tennyson Gwyther is in hospital with a broken leg and the family farm is in danger of falling into ruins. Up steps his son, nine-year-old Lennie. With the help of his pony Ginger Mick, Lennie ploughs the farm's 24 paddocks and keeps the place running until his father can get back on his feet. How to reward him? Lennie has been obsessively following one of the biggest engineering feats of the era – the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. He wants to attend its opening. With great reluctance, his parents agree he can go. So Lennie saddles up Ginger Mick, packs spare clothes and a water bottle into a sack, and begins the 600 miles trek to Svdnev. Alone. That's right.



A nine year old boy riding a pony from the deep south of Victoria to the biggest and roughest city in the nation. Told you it was a different era. No social media. No mobile phones. But even then, it doesn't take long before word begins to spread about a boy, his horse and their epic trek. The entire populations of small country towns gather on their outskirts to welcome his arrival. He survives bushfires, is attacked by a "vagabond" and endures rain and cold, biting winds. When he reaches Canberra, he is welcomed by Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, who invites him into Parliament House for tea.

When he finally arrives in Sydney, more than 10,000 people line the streets to greet him. He is besieged by autograph hunters. He becomes a key part of the official parade at the bridge's opening. He and Ginger Mick are invited to make a starring appearance at the Royal Show. Even Donald Bradman, the biggest celebrity of the Depression era, requests a meeting and gives him a signed cricket bat. A letter writer to The Sydney Morning Herald at the time gushes that "just such an example as provided by a child of nine summers, Lennie Gwyther was, and is, needed to raise the spirit of our people and to fire our youth and others to do things – not to talk only. "The sturdy pioneer spirit is not dead ... let it be remembered that this little lad, when his father was in hospital, cultivated the farm – a mere child." When Lennie leaves Sydney for home a month later, he has become one of the most famous figures in a country craving uplifting news. Large crowds wave handkerchiefs. Women weep and shout "goodbye". According to The Sun newspaper, "Lennie, being a casual Australian, swung into the saddle and called 'Toodleloo!'". He finally arrives home to a tumultuous reaction in Leongatha. He returns to school and soon life for Lennie – and the country – returns to normal. These days you can find a bronze statue in Leongatha commemorating Lennie and Ginger Mick.

But Australia has largely forgotten his remarkable feat – and how he inspired a struggling nation. Never taught about him in school? Never heard of him before? Spread the word. We need to remember – and celebrate – Lennie Gwyther and his courageous journey. It's a great story. God knows we need these stories now, more than ever.

Engagement over Contact – Emails over Facebook

In these trying times of Covid restrictions when contact with fellow citizens and club members is severely restricted – how do we keep in touch ? It is worth thinking about.

As a bit of a Facebook sceptic one might have the opinion that having friends, or “likes”, can be pleasant but superficial and anyway is just “contact”. The same goes for most, if not all, social media vehicles. There is often no engagement in this “pseudo” friendship.

Contrast this to communication by letter, phone, emails, video and the like. These methods involve engagement on a one to one basis, even real friendships and real interaction. In Probus we are reliant on getting involvement of members, commitment, action. We use emails, and attachments, these days as the primary means of communication. At the end of the day, the email (the written word) is the most reliable method of keeping in touch. With this emailed Newsletter we may well achieve better engagement with members and encourage members to contact other members. That is the stuff of **Probus in action**.

Here's the action ... You can see and use the 240 contacts via the website or contact Howard at hafmassey@gmail.com for help, chat, discussion and even more contacts, particularly in Australia and even the UK.

Your feedback would be appreciated . . . and addressed

Could you please respond to any of the prompts below that resonate with you. Or contribute what's on your mind. Respond to hafmassey@gmail.com

- Do you think that encouraging Probus members to make contacts around the globe is a worthwhile activity ? Do you see benefits from forging international friends ?
- Do you receive the "Probus" Magazine published in the UK ? or would you like to receive a copy of the quarterly "Probus" Magazine from the UK ?
- Are you aware of the "PROBUSGlobal" website and have you made any personal contacts directly from the website ?
- What do you think about the website ?

Please help us to choose which of these logos is the most appropriate for Probus Globally . . .



PROBUS Global is an activity of Probus Clubs. Register with <https://probusglobal.org>

Due to current economic conditions the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off.