



COMMUNICATOR

PROBUS CLUB OF GLENROY INC.

Normally meets at 9:45 am on the second Tuesday of each Month
at the Glenroy Uniting Church Hall, Wheatsheaf Road, Glenroy.

**CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS
MEETINGS NOW HELD BY ZOOM
Next Meeting Tuesday November 10 2020**

ELECTED COMMITTEE FOR 2019/20

President:- Barry O'Connor

Vice President:- Max Smedley

Treasurer:- Murray Gorham

Communicator

Editor:- John Elletson

Distributor:- Geoff Woods

Attendance Records & Nametags:-
Les Hooke

Speakers: Liliana Ward

Secretary & Public Officer -
Peter Dimsey Mail to
PO Box 604, Glenroy 3046

Past President: Noel Walsh

Functions Officer:- Bea Hammond

Stroll Co-ordinator:- Wal Jarvis

I.T. Consultant: Tony Bajaros

Catering Officer: Joe Milanese

Welfare Officer: Vacant

Probus is an association of active retirees who join together in clubs, to provide regular opportunities for them to keep their minds active, expand their interests and to enjoy the fellowship of new friends.

Email: glenroyprobus@gmail.com
Website: www.glenroyprobus.org.au

OCTOBER SPEAKERS

In place of a Speaker for our Birthday Meeting it was planned that some members would present short talks following the meeting with the subjects being "Something about you we don't know".

Peter Dimsey was the first storyteller describing his unusual honeymoon. She Marion was born in Germany and her family lived in Leipzig, East Germany. There came a time when her father was warned that they could be at risk and they relocated to Berlin becoming "Displaced Persons".

The mother came to Victoria and Marion joined her in 1960 becoming a Trainee Nurse at the Austin Hospital, where she was when she met Peter. When they married in 1967 they decided it would be good to have a honeymoon trip back to Leipzig to visit Marion's grandmother.

They travelled to England spending some time in London at Earls Court then to Paris and train to Germany, where they stayed in a convent. Peter noticed that ASIO took an interest in his Visa application for entry to East Germany, as he was working for the Defence Department. Meeting Marion's grandma was exciting and while they were in Leipzig they walked around the local sights and even chanced a day trip to Dresden. (Not really allowed). They flew back to Melbourne and rented an Army house in Bendigo where Peter worked. It was unfurnished and they spent some time with a mattress on the floor. After about two years they relocated to Melbourne, they have now been married 52 years.



Barry O'Connor told us about his time with the Department of Births, Deaths and Marriages with emphasis on the topic of marriages. Over the years Barry gained much knowledge on the legal requirements for weddings and eventually became a Marriage Celebrant.

Civil ceremonies are now becoming very popular. Ceremonies were once held in the old Mint, which is a beautiful building (with a magnificent safe), they are now held in the Treasury Building.

Couples must legally give one month and a day's notice before their wedding. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays are the most popular choice of days. Sometimes on Saturday a second room has to be opened and there could be 25 weddings on that day. On presenting on their wedding day the celebrant takes them aside before guests are ushered in. There is a requirement for two people to witness the signatures on the register and if there are no guests staff are called upon to assist with this.

Twice when the Wedding Celebrant talk took two 3 months Long Service Leave vacations Barry was called in to take on the duty as Wedding Celebrant. Over those periods Barry estimates he probably officiated at over 1000 weddings.



Our next speaker was Bea Hammond who gave a resume of the various movements in her working life. Bea married into a railway family that moved around every couple of years. She went to work for the Department of Community Health when the Shepparton office started a pilot program for children who were at risk of being removed from their families. She operated around the Seymour and Puckapunyal area until moving to Melbourne after a couple of years.



Bea continued

Luckily the city of Coburg was running a similar pilot program. She found the work very stressful and after experiencing a child being removed she resigned and took a job in Records Management with the AMA. She worked with them for 10 years seeing many changes and increasing her expertise. She then joined an agency where she worked as a "temp" with private companies assisting them with their records.

During the Kennett era she worked for the Victorian government which had an expansion of record-keeping associated with gun-control and ambulance records.

She then made her best move joining the Nurses and Midwifery Association. This had very good and stable staff which grew from 64 to 120 in the 15 years she was with them. Their membership also grew from 35,000 to 75,000.

She came to Glenroy three years ago, moving from Merlynston when the Moreland Council started to allow three-storey homes in her surrounds.

Ian Jackson then regaled us with the misfortunes that he and Donna experienced on their first overseas holiday in Europe in 2013. The number and complexity of misfortunes really defy recording, but it went something like this....

Donna and Ian flew into Amsterdam in adequate time to join a river cruise to Budapest and Prague. They received a message that the cruise has been cancelled, due to floods in Germany. They checked with their Melbourne agent who informed them there was a meeting the next day in the Amsterdam Novotel. Here they were offered flights home, go to Prague for their flight home or travel overland by train to Budapest and Prague. The latter was arranged but they had to travel to Cologne to book their onward train journeys.

At Cologne Station while Ian was booking the onward journey and Donna minding their luggage one of their carry on cases was stolen. This contained their passports, medications,

about \$1000 AUD and personal possessions. Not a good situation for your first trip overseas. Nearest office to renew their passports was at Frankfurt so train to Frankfurt and all day on paperwork. Back to Cologne where a friendly chemist rang Australia and sorted out their medications. Back to Frankfurt where their room key would not work, only seem to open a store room. Another day at the Consulate, pickup passports and off to Salzburg. Everything fine from thereon. Travelling onwards they met up with other "cruise refugees", Especially two ladies that they still meet up with.

For his story Max Smedley went back to his childhood. At age 8 or 10 he was living with his family on a 1000 acre farm along with millions of rabbits. There was an annual ritual to attempt to eradicate the rabbits. The operation commenced with borrowing a neighbour's single furrow plough which was towed behind their tractor to produce a single furrow all over the paddocks. Apples were plentiful and they had a small machine to cut them into small pieces.

These small pieces would then be trickled into the furrow. The next morning most of these bits of apple had been eaten by the rabbits so another batch of apple pieces was trickled into the furrow. By this time the rabbits have got the clue that apples are there for the taking. The next day more apple pieces were produced and laced with poison, and these were placed in the furrow overnight. Max said the next morning there were hundreds of dead rabbits within a metre of the furrow. Rabbits were skinned and their bodies thrown into the back of his father's Ute and transported to a disused mine shaft.

A rather unique annual festival that Max remembers to this day.



John Elletson had a PowerPoint presentation with photographs of an expedition he and Lynette took up Mount Sinai in 1998. You will remember from Sunday school that Mount Sinai was where Moses got the Ten Commandments. Starting from Cairo the Red Sea was not crossed but rather it was under the Suez Canal.



Then down the western side of the Sinai Peninsula and inland to the township of Saint Catherine (1586m) with a population of around 4500. Behind the township is Mount Sinai at 2285m and adjacent to it is Mount Saint Catherine at 2629m being the highest mountain in Egypt, compare this with Kosciusko at 2228m.

Woken up at 1:30am and off to catch a camel at 2am, for a slow climb in the dark for a couple of hours, which was as far up as the camels could go.

Then an even slower climb on foot over rocky ground and through crevices up to the peak and settling in to wait for Sunrise at 5:20am. As the sun rose the tops of the surrounding mountains took shape. On top there is a small church and an even smaller mosque but these were given a miss as there were long queues. There were people crowded together or perching on outcrops, afterwards it was reported that there were possibly 600 people up there that morning. It was easier coming down but it still took 2 1/2 hours to reach St Catherine's monastery built around Moses' burning bush.

Breakfast at 8:30am then off to travel east to the Gulf of Aqaba and follow it north to Eilat and on to the Dead Sea for a float.

We thank these members for their contribution in making our 32nd Birthday Meeting different and something special.



Update on our recent Saturday Lotto winners.

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|--------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Oct 3 | 36 Tony Bajoras | 40 Les Hooke |
| Oct 10 | 3 Arthur Jarvis | 2 Peter Pendlebury |
| Oct 17 | 3 Arthur Jarvis | 17 Murray Gorman |
| Oct 24 | 19 Noel Walsh | 40 Les Hooke |
| Oct 31 | 15 Barry O'Connor | 6 Peter Dimsey |

WHAT'S COMING UP?

In the next month it is planned to hold the following Zoom meetings, please join us.

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|---------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, 3 November 2020 | Sip n'chat Meeting at 10:30 AM |
| Tuesday, 10 November 2020 | General Meeting at 10:00 AM |
| Tuesday 17 November 2020 | Sip n'chat Meeting at 10:30 AM |
| Tuesday 24 November 2020 | Information Technology Meeting at 10:30 AM |
| Monday 30 November 2020 | Committee Meeting at 10:00 AM |

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to our Special Birthday member, Alan Evans (90) and Ruth Fyfe, Merva Gorham, Donna Jackson, Lyn O'Conner, Liniana Ward & Barry O'Conner.

PSPL PUBLICATIONS

Probus South Pacific Ltd (PSPL) have continued to keep us up to date with their weekly publication, "Staying Connected with Probus", These have been forwarded to all members with Internet access.