

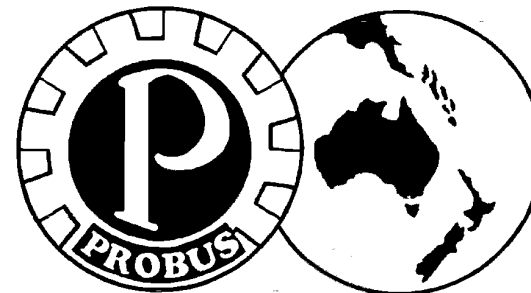
JANUARY SPEAKER

(John Swift)

Ben Moore, of “Ben’s Bee’s” presented a very interesting talk on both bee keeping and control of related pest insects, in particular European wasps. He has spent 31 years from 14 years of age as a first-generation bee keeper, and combines this with pest control. He provided the following points of interest:

- Bees and honey production combine in an \$8b per year industry in Australia.
- NZ recently lost a court case against Australia concerning the use of the name. “manuka honey”. Both Australia and New Zealand are homes to the manuka plant, which bees collect pollen from, and Australian manuka produces a higher-grade honey. The court decision was that both countries were entitled to the use of the name, but neither exclusively.
- Manuka honey has healing powers as well as a special taste and is effectively used against several bacteria as well as the notorious Golden Staff.
- Furthermore, bee venom has been able to reverse some cancers.
- Bees wax candles are very popular, and exude a nice perfume, paraffin candles on the other hand exude toxic fumes.
- Hay fever is countered in many cases by locally harvested honey (collected within 24km of the patient).
- An agent called propolis is the item from the honey which is used medically and has a value of \$900 kg.
- Honey is the only natural product produced in excess of requirement.
- There are three types of bees: female; queen, which lays eggs over a three-year life span; and drones which mate with the queen and then die, having only 14 days of life.
- When a queen dies a new queen hatches in 16 days, kills her rivals, then mates with as many drones as possible.
- A bee ‘swarm’ is created when an old queen leaves the hive with half the drones.
- Ben has 300 hives and drives all over Victoria to place them appropriately in flowering plants, particularly gums. That the tree varieties blossom at different times, allows the harvesting and naming of different flavour honey. He travels about 100 hours a week, placing hives in blossom time and finding some relief during Winter which is his slack time.
- Australia is acknowledged to have the best honey in the world because of the greatest variety of flowering trees.
- Banksia honey has a unique flavour like toffee, and a dark colour.
- Bees die after stinging, but European wasps do not, and can sting many times making them very dangerous, and their sting is 20 times more venomous.
- European wasps make huge nests and are becoming more common. Ben is a licenced wasp and bee handler.
- Mosquitoes cause more deaths than any other insect world-wide.
- Tasmania is the only State where bumble bees are found, having been accidentally imported. This bee vibrates when pollinating.
- Bees throughout Australia are not in decline, despite rumours that pollination is threatened. There are over 2000 species of native bees in Australia.
- Statistics show that beekeepers have very long lives.

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COMMUNICATOR

PROBUS CLUB OF GLENROY INC.

Meets at 9:45 am on the second Tuesday of each Month
at the Glenroy RSL, 186 Glenroy Road, Glenroy.

Next Meeting Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 9:45am.

Elected Committee 2023/24 :-

President:-	Ken Pryor 9338 4394	Secretary & Public Officer:- Noel Walsh 0400 566 944
Vice President:-	Liliana Ward 9306 8153	Mail to PO Box 2083, Oak Park 3046
Treasurer:-	Barry O'Connor 0425 867 948	Past President:- Liliana Ward 9306 8153
Communicator Editor:-	John Elletson 9306 7492	Inter-club Liaison Officer:- Bea Hammond 0419 581 463
Distributor:-	Geoff Woods 9306 9108	Stroll Co-ord:- Wal Jarvis 0438 057 194
Attendance, Records & Nametags:- Les Hooke 9309 3212		IT Consultant Tony Bajoras 0431 249 087
Welfare Officer:- Vacant		Catering Officer:- Joe Milanese 9306 6820
Speakers:- Max Smedley 9306 7987		

Website:- www.glenroyprobus.org.au

Email:- glenroyprobus@gmail.com

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 6th - Book Club.

Tuesday 13th - Monthly Meeting - Glenroy RSL at 9:45am.

Tuesday 20th - Sip N'Chat - Glenroy RSL at 10:30am.

Monday 26th - Stroll & BBQ at Coulson Gardens, Maribyrnong at 10am.

Tuesday 27th - **Committee Meeting** - Glenroy RSL at 10:30am.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 5th - Book Club.

Tuesday 12th - **AGM and Monthly Meeting** - Glenroy RSL at 9:45am.

Tuesday 19th - Sip n'chat - Glenroy RSL at 10:30am

Monday 25th - Stroll .

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Our Congratulations and Best Wishes go to:-

Bea Hammond, Nancy Mooney, Marie Pryor & Lyn Shields.

Nancy's is Extra Special, she turned 95 on Thursday 1st February.

CLUB NEWS

Sadly at the January Meeting John Swift tendered Resignations for himself and Phyllis from the Club citing poor health as being the reason. We thank you for your contributions for the "Communicator" which were always excellent.

You leave with our best wishes and we hope your medical treatments will bring improvements in your health.

Next month we will have our Annual General Meeting where we elect new Committee Members for the 2024-2025 year. Can you assist? Look at the front page of this newsletter to see the positions we need to fill to operate the Club and consider nominating. Talk to an existing Committee Member, or better still, come along to the Committee Meeting later this month to see if it's your cup of tea. Tuesday 27th at the Glenroy RSL at 10:30 am. Nomination Forms are available.

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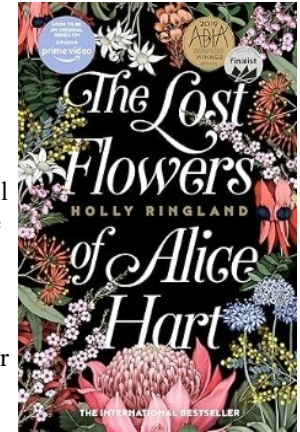
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BOOK CLUB First Tuesday in the Month

The book for this month is "The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart" by Holly Ringland. Winner of the 2019 ABIA General Fiction Book of the Year Award.

It is a story about stories: those we inherit, those we select to define us, and those we decide to hide. It is a novel about the secrets we keep and how they haunt us, and the stories we tell ourselves in order to survive.

It is an enchanting and compelling story of a young girl, daughter of an abusive father, who has to learn the hard way that she can break the patterns of the past, live on her own terms and find her own strength.



If you would like to join the Book Club, call Bea 0419 581 463 or Tony 0431 249 087.

SIP N'CHAT Third Tuesday in the Month

This takes place at 10:30am at Glenroy RSL. What gets discussed is up to you.

STROLLERS Fourth Monday in the Month

There was no stroll in January but there is one on Monday 26th February - Stroll from Coulson Gardens, Maribyrnong, with BBQ lunch.

Monday 23rd May - Stroll - Coulson Gardens, Maribyrnong.

Meet at 10am, Coulson Gardens are along side the Maribyrnong River on the opposite side to Poynton's Nursery. Melway Map 28 C7. 10 am,

Travel through Moonee Ponds and take Maribyrnong Road over the bridge to the third street on the right, Newstead Street, just before the traffic lights at Van Ness Avenue. Coulson Gardens are on the right-hand corner of Newstead Street and Chifley Drive at the river. Turn right to the off-street car park, toilets and shelter.

Please bring your cup/glass, thermos, plate and cutlery for a BBQ lunch. Meat and bread will be supplied, please bring a salad or sweet to share. All Club Members are welcome, but let Wal know so he can purchase enough meat.

Note to Committee Members:

Committee Meeting on Tuesday 27th at the Glenroy RSL at 10:30 am.