

JANUARY SPEAKER

Max Smedley introduced Phil Golotta who was the lead singer of The Blue Echoes, from 1962 to 1983, whose albums *Dancing In The Streets* and *Clap Your Hands* achieved Gold and Platinum status. The Truganina resident says he penned his autobiography, *My Life in Music*, to chronicle his career in show business for his seven children and family.

However, the book has proved popular with Blue Echoes fans who watched the band perform at Melbourne's hotels across the sixties, seventies and eighties. Golotta, 82, who previously lived in Altona North and moved to Hoppers Crossing in 1981, recalls The Blue Echoes appearing at Tottenham Hotel's opening night.

He remembers playing to crowds of 600 people at venues such as The Tarmac (now The Westside Hotel) in Laverton and Altona Sports Club.

"The queue to get in would be right around the entire hotel," Golotta says.

Golotta may also be familiar to television viewers, after auditioning for *The X Factor* and appearing as a judge on Channel 7's *All Together Now*. A song written by Golotta won the Australian Popular Song Festival, run by Yamaha, in 1973.

"I wrote the song in 10 minutes after an Essendon-Carlton game, which Essendon won," Sung by Jamie Redfern, it went on to become a number one hit.

Golotta and Redfern also travelled to Japan to represent Australia in The World Popular Song Festival. While at the event, Golotta says he met a "big guy with a beard and flowing robes", not realising at first that it was Greek singer Demis Roussos who has sold more than 60 million albums worldwide.

Golotta says that Roussos was a "lovely guy" who took him and Redfern out for dinner. His book *My Life in Music* includes recollections of Golotta's involvement with other celebrities, including John Farnham, Johnny O'Keefe Jimmy Barnes, Col Joye, Marcia Hines, Denise Drysdale, Ernie Sigley, Tom Hafey, Doug Hawkins, Denis Walter, Phil Emanuel, Bert and Pattie Newton.

In 2018, Golotta experienced heart failure while on a cruise to Puerto Rico.

He was brought back to life with a defibrillator and spent 21 days in intensive care.

But Golotta has not let this stop him, adopting a regime of cycling, running and lifting weights every day.

Unfortunately, despite being in top shape, the pandemic forced Golotta to cancel 130 gigs. COVID also means Golotta has been unable to do his regular volunteer work at the Penrose Promenade Community Centre in Tarneit, at Wyndham's two Visitor Information Centres, and driving a bus to take elderly residents shopping and to medical appointments.

However, he has just released a solo album titled "This is the Moment".

In July, Golotta went on a cruise from Canada to Alaska, where he decided to enter karaoke competitions along the way. "I was pretty bored, I thought: 'I'll go in every contest'," he says.

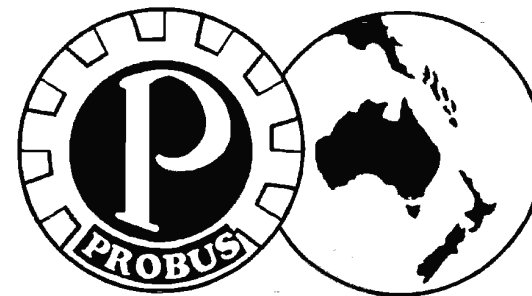
Golotta said that he was worried younger members of the audience would not like his singing. Instead, he achieved standing ovations for songs like *My Way* and *New York, New York*, winning every contest and being inundated with offers to join people for a drink.

"That tour of Canada was unbelievable, I didn't have to buy a drink for 21 days," Golotta says.

Phil finished his presentation with his song "This is the Moment". Max thanked Phil then asked him to draw three door prize tickets.



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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 11th February 2025 at 9:45am.

Elected Committee 2024/25 :-

President:- Liliana Ward

9306 8153

Vice President:- Ken Pryor

9338 4394

Treasurer:- Barry O'Connor

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Past President:- Ken Pryor

9338 4394

Inter-club Liaison Officer:-

Bea Hammond

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Stroll Coordinator :-

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IT Consultant Tony Bajoras

0431 249 087

Catering Officer:-

Joe Milanese

9306 6820

Website:- www.glenroyprobuss.org.au

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FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Monday 3rd - Book Club.
 Tuesday 11th - Monthly Meeting - Glenroy RSL at 9:45am.
 Tuesday 18th Sip n'chat - "Twenty One Days" café in Post Office Place, at 10:30am.
 Monday 24th - Stroll - Stroll at Jack Roper Reserve and B-B-Q. At 10am
 Tuesday 25th - **Committee Meeting** - Glenroy RSL at 10:30am.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

Monday 3rd - Book Club.
 Tuesday 11th - **AGM and Monthly Meeting** - Glenroy RSL at 9:45am.
 Tuesday 18th Sip n'chat - Glenroy RSL at 10:30am.
 Monday 24th Stroll -

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Bea Hammond, Nancy Mooney, & Lyn Shields.

BOOK CLUB First Monday in the Month

The book that we read last month was a psychological thriller "Dark Mode" by Ashley Kalagian Blunt. There was a mixed reaction from the group on the book, some found it engrossing and wanting to find out what was going to happen, others not so and one member realised that a psychological thriller like this was not their cup of tea. It did provoke a lively discussion which is the aim of the books that are read.

The book for February is "The Angry Women's Choir" by Meg Bignell. The Choir is made up of nine women of different ages and stages of life. They are well known for their traditional repertoire performed at various events in Tasmania, but in private the women transform into The Angry Women's Choir, belting out their large, and small, frustrations and 'furies' in song.

SIP N'CHAT Third Tuesday in the Month

Rather than always meeting at RSL for the Sip 'N Chat, we floated the idea at the last gathering that we could go to different cafes in Glenroy. For the next meeting we could meet at "Twenty One Days" cafe in Post Office Place. Will confirm this at the General meeting on Tuesday 11th.

STROLLERS Fourth Monday in the Month 24th February 2025

Monday 27th January - Stroll to Glenroy Lookout

Eight strollers arrived for the walk to Glenroy Lookout but as the weather was going to be in the high 30's for safety reasons the walk was cancelled. For anyone wanting to see the view to the south and west it can be found between 81 and 83 Loongana Avenue Glenroy.

Monday 24th February - Stroll at Jack Roper Reserve and B.B.Q.

Stroll at Jack Roper Reserve for a stroll at 10am followed by a BBQ lunch, meat and bread provided. Please bring your own cutlery, plate and thermos, etc.. Please bring either a salad or a sweet to share. All members are welcome.

At our March meeting we will be holding our AGM with the election of Committee Members for the 2025-2026 year. New members are needed so please give this matter due consideration and utilize the Nomination Form below. Lodge them with the Secretary or President before the Committee Meeting on 25th February 2025. Thank you.

PROBUS CLUB of GLENROY INC.

Nomination Form for the election of Office Bearers
 Year 2025- 2026

Election of Office Bearers

Position

.....

Name of Nominee (please print name)

.....

Signature of Nominee

.....

Proposed by (please print name)

.....

Signature

.....

Seconded by (please print name)

.....

Signature

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