



# PROBUS NEWSLETTER

## July 2020

Website: [www.mossvaleprobus.org.au](http://www.mossvaleprobus.org.au)

**PRESIDENT**  
Malcolm Stephens CB

**SECRETARY**  
Jim McGrath

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*Well, I may be a bit late this week, but I do have a reasonable excuse.*

*Life goes on in our Covid World and I have no doubt that you are all as sick of it as I am particularly as there is no real end in sight. But, counting our blessings, we are fortunate to live in the in the area of the country we do and even more fortunate that none of our members has contracted the virus so far.*

*Thank you for the many compliments received about the June edition. I was particularly grateful to the excellent contributions from Chris Young, Frank Conroy, Ross Nacey and Barry Todd.*

*I wish you all well and hope you enjoy our latest edition.*

*Editor*

### COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

The committee met again via video link again this month and it was basically a repeat of last month's with little to add. One item though. A Covid-19 Safe sub-committee has been formed to monitor meeting and procedures for the safety of all members. We have also been in touch with the Mittagong RSL regarding the resumption of meetings and are studying the options and specific requirements that will enable meetings to recommence. No matter when they recommence, they will have a very different look to the gatherings to which we had become accustomed.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

These members are having another happy birthday and I hope you enjoy your day!

John Brereton	Frank Conroy
Arthur Delbridge	Peter Middlebrook
Barry Parsons	Bruce Pearson
David Raines	Malcolm Stephens
Don Willis	

The lucky winner this month is David Raines. Congratulations David! It is getting to the stage that we are going to need a trailer to bring in all the bottles of wine that have not been presented so far when we have our next meeting.

### NEW MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET

By now you will have received your 2020-21 Club Membership Booklet so please treat it as confidential information and please dispose of the last edition in a way that personal information cannot fall into the hands of unscrupulous people.

### COFFEE CLUB

Why wait? A number of us, six in fact, got together unofficially at the café at the Bradman Oval for a cup of coffee and a chat last week. It was really good to be able to converse face to face rather than on the phone or on Zoom as we have had to do for months.

So, using your new membership booklet, how about organising your own little group for a coffee and chat at your local favourite coffee shop. I would suggest that you book ahead and that you limit the number to about six as the cafes seem willing to accept this number as a group.

### THE FRANK CONROY CONVERSATIONS



This month in the Conroy Conversations we listen to an amusing interview recorded back in 2008 with the musical maestro and man of mirth, Geoff Harvey. You will remember Geoff from the Mike Walsh Show and the Midday Show that featured on the Nine Network but his career was far more extensive than that.

Known as a practical joker and for making wild bets, he grew a beard as a result of losing a 1965 bet to Don Lane on a football match.

Geoff retired to the Southern Highlands and passed away last year aged 83.

[CLICK HERE](#) and take a little time and listen to this interview with this remarkably talented personality.

A recent scientific study showed that out of 2,293,618,367 people, 97% are too lazy to actually read that number.

## THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

Jim McGrath recently drew my attention to several unusual cars. The first is the Amphicar and as you will have deduced from the name, it was designed as a road vehicle that would also double as a boat! It was launched at the 1961 New York Auto Show, manufactured in West Germany and marketed from 1961 to 1968. A total of 3,878 were produced.



Have a look at this video [CLICK HERE](#) of the Amphicar and note that the woman puts on goggles before entering the water. A lack of confidence perhaps?

The other car Jim liked and perhaps you might like to put it on your shopping list, particularly if you find tight parking spots a bit of problem is the Nissan Pivo 2. As well as easy parking you would certainly stand out in the main street of Bowral but don't plan on big shopping trips as the storage space is somewhat limited.



This concept car was initially shown in 2005. It has a 360 degree rotating three-seater cabin and eliminates the need for reversing and so makes parking a breeze. Powered by a lithium-ion battery makes it economical to run. The design includes a large door for easy access and huge windscreens and windows for increased visibility.

I wonder would it pass the crash test rating we now have in place?

[CLICK HERE](#) to see this little car in action.

## STAYING CONNECTED

The new edition Staying Connected from Probus South Pacific is available [CLICK HERE](#). This month there is a focus on creative writing for all those who want to jot down their memoirs with style.

You will notice at the bottom of the page you may select to subscribe or simply read back issues of this informative web magazine.

## THE SICK NOTE

You may have heard this before but if you haven't it's quite amusing. I love the Irish accent and the Irish sense of humour. As they say, "the old ones are the good ones".

Turn on your speakers and enjoy this excuse from Paddy as to why he was not at work. [CLICK HERE](#)

## REMARKABLE RETIREMENT STORY

This article is from a English newspaper published on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 under the headline "A Well-Planned Retirement".

Outside England's Bristol Zoo there is a parking lot for 150 cars and 8 buses. For 25 years, its parking fees were managed by a very pleasant attendant. The fees for cars (\$1.40), for buses (about \$7).



Then, one day, after 25 solid years of never missing a day of work, he just didn't show up and there was chaos in the carpark. So the zoo management called the city council and asked it to send them another parking agent.

The council did some research and replied that the parking lot was the zoo's own responsibility. The zoo advised the council that the attendant was a city employee.

The city council responded that the lot attendant had never been on the city payroll.

Meanwhile, sitting in his villa somewhere on the coast of Spain or France or Italy is a man who'd apparently had a ticket machine installed completely on his own and then had simply begun to show up every day, commencing to collect and keep the parking fees, estimated at about \$560 per day — for 25 years.

Assuming 7 days a week, this amounts to just over \$7 million dollars ... and no one even knows his name.