



# PROBUS Global Newsletter



DECEMBER 2022



## From the President



Welcome to the December 2022 PROBUS GLOBAL Newsletter  
 PROBUS Global continues to grow as we add and modify programs. PROBUS Global was started in 2019 with 35 members, mostly former members of the International PROBUS Network, (IPN) and in December we will welcome our 1,000<sup>th</sup> member. As we go to press our membership stands at 997 from 14 countries.

Recently we have added a video on the history of PROBUS Global and two awards for our membership.

Thanks to **Barrie Morgan**, the President and Webmaster of Guildwood PROBUS club which is located close to Toronto, Canada, the history of PROBUS Global was recorded and is available at <https://youtu.be/HQhiF9esm1M> Thank you, Barrie.

We also created two awards for our membership. The SHIRLEY ROBERTS MEMORIAL AWARD and the PROBUS Global ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. Both awards are recommended to the management team for their approval. Both awards were presented in the fourth Quarter of this year.

**Dr.R.H.G. Rau**, from India, was awarded the SHIRLEY ROBERTS MEMORIAL Award and **Marlene Pearce**, from Canada, received the ACHEIVEMENT AWARD. On the same day, Marlene, at her Moncton club in Canada, also received the JOHN R Morris award from PROBUS Canada. We look forward to receiving nominations for these awards from our membership. The criteria are available from your management team. Below are notes to both award winners from from the president of PROBUS Global:

### THE SHIRLEY ROBERTS MEMORIAL AWARD

*Congratulations to Dr. RHG Rau on being the recipient of the PROBUS Global Shirley Roberts Memorial Award for his dedication to PROBUS, both Globally and within India. Dr. Rau has had numerous achievements since becoming a PROBUS member, after first hearing about PROBUS during a business trip to the United Kingdom and being introduced to PROBUS by Shirley Roberts. He bolstered the expansion of PROBUS throughout India, helping with the formation of new clubs. He retained contact with Shirley through the International PROBUS Network and became an active member of PROBUS Global when it was formed in 2019. He has taken the PROBUS Global message to many clubs in India as the Indian Coordinator for PROBUS Global. He has also been an active participant in PROBUS Global general meetings and delivered an illuminating talk on the Rise of India during a recent general meeting.*

As our Coordinator in India, he continues to promote the fellowship that PROBUS offers and the opportunity for members in India to connect with members around the world.

On behalf of the management team of PROBUS Global, I would like to congratulate Dr. Rau on being the first recipient of the Shirley Roberts Memorial Award and on his continuing efforts informing India to the world of PROBUS.

Contact PG [here](#)

## In this issue

President's Comment.....	1
Editorial .....	2
Christmas in a Mug.....	2
PG Achievement award .....	3
Speakers' Corner.....	3
Privacy and Airbnb .....	3
Emergency contacts .....	3
Eco-information tour .....	4
Succession planning .....	4
PG Meeting snippets.....	5
Help with web site.....	5
What is age?.....	5
Updated date .....	6
Looking for a speaker? .....	6
Celebrating International Day of the Elderly .....	6
PG Guest speaker.....	6
Twinning.....	7
PROBUS Day in Wellington ...	7
New PG award .....	8
Facebook or Instagram .....	8
Electronic Christmas gifts.....	9
Advantages of Age.....	9
Armchair travel.....	9
Holiday Season .....	10
What is Rotary up To? .....	11
Letters.....	11
Humour .....	13

Contributions welcome (200-500 words) for March issue: deadline

February 12, 2023.

[newsletter@probusglobal.org](mailto:newsletter@probusglobal.org)

## THE PROBUS Global ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Marlene, congratulations on becoming the 11<sup>th</sup> recipient of the John R Morris Award. We know of your dedication to PROBUS in Canada which has now been extended to PROBUS around the world. After many years of service to your club in the Moncton area, you spread your wings by becoming part of the Management Board of PROBUS Canada. You had large shoes to fill as you were replacing Stephen Campbell, prior Maritime Rep and President of PROBUS Canada. Steve's vision and management skill made the Board more responsive to clubs and members' requirements apparent, and he recommended her as the new Maritime Rep for PROBUS Canada. Marlene filled many positions on the Board, especially noted were her role in PROBUS Month, liaison for PROBUS Global and President. (She made those shoes even larger for those who follow). Marlene joined PROBUS Global, still following Steve's footprints who had been one of the founders of PG. Marlene joined the management team of PG and became Canadian Coordinator, promoting PG across Canada and working with other Coordinators worldwide. To today's significant award from PROBUS Canada we would like to add from PROBUS Global our Achievement Award, making Marlene a true Global PROBIAN.

**We look forward to the 1,000th member as we move toward our 2,000<sup>th</sup>.**

**On behalf of the management team. I would like to wish you a Happy Festive Season and a Great New Year**

*Richard Furlong*



## *Editorial*

Just a thought. The White House has announced all taxpayer-funded research in America must be made freely accessible by the end of 2025. What a boon to the world that will be! Especially if it becomes a catalyst for policy changes globally and other countries follow suit. It is a step forward to open access to research, most of which is available only through pay walls for published studies. Last year, estimates suggest some two million research articles were published. Most people outside a university have to pay for access, and even universities sometimes need to pay to subscribe to published research.

A small number of highly profitable and powerful publishers control the dissemination of world knowledge. It was unprecedented that most (but not all) publishers acceded to the call that led to one of the biggest databases of openly available papers ever assembled – the [CORD-19 database](#) (about COVID 19). However, some publishers still put conditions on their accessibility. In my opinion, the paywall system is not only entrenching inequality and discrimination in the scientific community, but it can lead to public mistrust in research and hold back advancement in all aspects of life, especially in third world countries.

*Mary Wilson*

## *Christmas in a Mug*



Whether for festivity or fortification, mulled wine has been around for at least 2,000 years. While it has almost developed to be a Christmas staple in Europe, in the Southern hemisphere, where it is hot at Christmas and a cold beer is more appropriate, it is a mid-year winter favourite. Its long history incorporates both pagan and Christian lore, traverses old and new worlds and can be a winter beverage, a travellers' tippie of choice and a tonic of sorts in times of convalescence. Served hot, key components are red wine blended with sugar and ground spices – usually ginger, cinnamon and pepper and sometimes nutmeg and cloves.

Honey and pepper were added by the ancient Greeks as a preservative, allowing the alcohol to accompany travellers on long journeys. It was used in Roman winter solstice celebrations and by the end of the 4th century, this pagan solstice celebration became interwoven with Christianity and the festivity of Christmas Day. By the middle ages, mulled wine had become entrenched as part of the celebrations throughout Europe. With nobody under any illusions nowadays that mixing up a large amount of sugar in a hefty pot of red wine is good for anyone's health, we still find absurd excuses to partake. Such as "Christmas in July" celebrations Down Under. Well, it is winter there, so that's the excuse! But whatever the excuse, it is well liked!

## *PG Achievement Award*



In October, PPROBUS Global presented an Achievement Award to its Canadian co-ordinator **Marlene Pearce**. The presentation was made at her club, the Southeast New Brunswick club, and background notes were read out to put her award in perspective. The award was made in tandem with PROBUS Canada's **John R Morris Founders Award**. PROBUS CANADA's President, **Brenda Andrews**, was on hand to the present this prestigious award. It is the highest honour available to a PROBUS Club member in Canada. It is awarded in recognition of outstanding service to PROBUS in that country. PG's award extends this to recognise Marlene's achievements on the world PROBUS stage. She became a liaison officer between PG and Probus Canada, and later she joined the management committee of PG. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to promote PG and contributes to PG's management in no small way.



We, at PG, congratulate you, Marlene! You are most deserving.

Pictured is Marlene (left) being presented with the awards by Brenda Andrews, and below is the PG award.

## *Speakers' Corner*

PG would like to thank **Stan Thomson** of the PROBUS club of Banchory (Scotland) who compiles the Speakers' Corner, with the assistance of PG's Webmaster **Peter Jennings**. The task is time consuming and complex because once good speakers are recommended to Stan, he needs to follow them up, to ascertain if they are willing to be listed on the PG web site. If they are, there are several more follow-up email communications required to ensure the details are correct. It takes time, often with reminders, and sometimes the lack or the tardiness of the response is frustrating. Before Peter lists them "live" the speakers themselves have to approve the listing. Have you had a speaker who was not only good but has a subject of global interest? Contact Stan at [speakers@probusglobal.org](mailto:speakers@probusglobal.org)

## *Privacy and Airbnb*



Now that the pandemic has eased somewhat and we are again able to travel, give a thought to privacy. 2000 Americans were recently surveyed regarding stays in Airbnb.

One of the questions was about privacy and hidden cameras. 58% of those surveyed said they worried about it and a massive 11% said they [discovered hidden cameras](#) in their Airbnb. It was unclear how many of these cameras were located in lounges and kitchens, or whether they were in more private areas such as bedrooms or bathrooms. It is probably the tip of the iceberg because how many of us actually think of searching for hidden cameras?

## *Emergency contacts*

Every club needs an emergency contact list for their members. However, to overcome the need to have these lists available at every outing or meeting, members could be encouraged to carry a blank business card in their wallets with information about emergency contacts and chronic medical conditions (such as diabetes) written on it. This information can't be electronic, such as in a phone, because of passwords and access difficulties.

## *ECO-information tour among the Mangroves*



Fifty four PROBUS members and partners from four different clubs around the Kwa Zulu, Natal South Africa areas were hosted by the **Probus Club of North Durban**, at an eco-information function to celebrate PROBUS Day. **Bevan Calvert**, the club's treasurer, said that the outing to the Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve was an interesting way to mix with other clubs and also promote membership. One of the committee members of the club is a voluntary ranger with the local wild life organisation and



assisted in explaining the fall-out from recent adverse weather events in the area. Rangers also pointed out opportunities to observe the natural flora and fauna found in this wetland wonderland. There were several walking tours after which there was a braai lunch. A special prayer was recited which dealt with issues associated with this years' two floods, and a tidal surge which forced the beach shore-line back over the dunes and into this Mangrove Estuary.

An added bonus to the outing was the running of a photo competition for all nature photographers who attended. At the time of writing, the winning photos were being judged, and, hopefully, they will be uploaded on to the PG Web site in due course. There were many creatures being photographed, such as interesting fish, crabs, birds, chameleons, and the plant and insect life all around. Feedback from the event was very positive, and the clubs hope it will encourage more interclub events.



## *Succession Planning*

PROBUS clubs in various countries hold their AGMs at different times. Some use the calendar year, some, the financial year, while some AGMs are at other times. For example, in Australia and New Zealand the PROBUS AGM is usually in March because the PROBUS year starts on April 1st. Succession planning is important not only because the various positions on the Committee need to be filled, but because members who fill them have to be the best and most capable, of those available. The secret is that these people need to be asked **in person** by the President or another committee member. A generic plea for support at a meeting or in a newsletter rarely brings volunteers forward. And then, the personal approach has to be positive as in "...we feel you are the best person ..." etc., and not "we are desperate for someone to help, so please ...". Therefore, plan not just the who, but the way the person is approached. Also ensure that the committee is not so big that it is unwieldy. In a large club, a small committee and several sub-committees are far more manageable and efficient than having more than 10 or so on the management team. Smaller clubs can "farm out" jobs (such as buying door prizes or looking after name tag orders, or drawing up rosters) to individuals. These people don't need to be on the committee but can be valued and involved.



## PG Meeting - Snippets

The PROBUS Global management team, along with country and program co-ordinators plus a few invited guests, met on Zoom late in September. There were 28 on line at one time, most in very different time zones. Members from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, several countries in Europe, India, South Africa and Japan attended. Some of the items on the agenda were to do with PG marketing, regional updates, the newsletter, funding of PG, and the

PG Web site. Below are snippets from the meeting:

- Since the last newsletter was released less than a month before the meeting, PG membership had increased from 908 to 953.
- Members are referring to the PG web site to communicate with overseas clubs and individual Probians. Indeed, several who travel have already organised visits with clubs and/or other overseas Probians.
- The PG web site has around 4900 visits per month.
- Many clubs need assistance with developing web sites. Some guidance is available on the PG site (see below).
- PG's demographics do not favour the use of Facebook as a platform for marketing and communication.
- PG's estimate of global figures for PROBUS are 4074 clubs, 268,900 members with an average of 66/club.
- It is not envisaged that PG will charge membership fees in future, but there is a cost associated with the running of PG which needs funding. Care to make a donation? <https://probusglobal.org/FAQ.html>
- Making PG a registered entity is being explored, and that too, may need funding.
- Too many South African clubs ceased operations due to COVID which is still rampant there.

## **Need help with the development of a web site for your club?**

Check out <https://probusglobal.org/ClubManagement.html#website> As a result of PG's team meeting in September, it was discovered that a significant proportion of PROBUS clubs do not have a web site. PG's webmaster, Peter Jennings, has added some helpful hints about web sites to the club administration pages, together with several contacts who can give guidance and help solve problems.

## *What is Age?*

Ageing is inevitable. But what is age? Chronological age reflects how long you've been alive, whereas biological age is a measure of how well your body functions compared with your chronological age. What separates chronological from biological age? People often think that the two are intrinsically linked; that is, as we age, we become frailer. This may be true, but the **rate** of change and function differs between individuals,

and it is this rate that measures the success of ageing. The lower the rate of change, the better health, independence and longevity. While scientists claim that those who regularly exercise have a slower rate of change, the big question still remains: Is the slower rate of change because of regular exercise, or can one regularly exercise because of a predisposition to a slower rate of change? Lazy people be heartened! The jury is still out on that one.



## LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER?

Have you checked the Speakers' Corner on the PG web site? There are over 30 speakers listed, from various countries, and most have several subjects they can talk about. Some charge, some don't. Many are available on Zoom and therefore accessible worldwide.

<https://probusglobal.org/Speakers/>

(See article on Page 9)

## "Updated date"

If your club has a web site, (which it should), is it up to date? Does it have, on its home page, an "updated" date? Many clubs have a web site that hasn't been touched for years. The information in them is probably no longer accurate. Also in existence are many web sites for PROBUS clubs that no longer operate but have not been removed from the web. Some sites have current activities listed, with dates attached on inside pages, while some have these hidden behind member-only passwords. Without an "updated" date on the home page, how does one know at a glance, when searching for a suitable club to join, whether a particular web site is current? The date demonstrates that the club is active and current. It may make the difference for someone wishing to find a club, whether to join yours or move on to a nearby one which is seemingly more on the ball.

## Celebrating International Day of the Elderly

From Namasivayam RT, PROBUS Club of Chennai, India



The Probus Club of Chennai celebrated the "International Day of the Elderly" on 10th October 2022. This senior citizens Organization is affiliated to the Federation of senior citizens organisations' of Tamil Nadu. Our club has completed 30 years and released a souvenir "Thirty years of fruitful service to community". The Principal Guest was Sri T.S.Tirumurti, an Indian representative to the UN. He released the souvenir, and the first copy

was received by Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar, President of Rotary Club of Madras who sponsored our Probus Club in 1992.

Probus Award of Excellence was given to Sri Muralidharan, Managing Trustee of the NGO, Sevalaya, who is doing yeomen service to destitute senior citizens and needy students free of cost.

Probus Awards of Recognition were given to Probians Ramanathan and Damodaran.

A few competitions were conducted for senior citizens and the prizes for the winners were distributed. Probians who have reached 75, 80 and 90 years of age and had 50 years of marriage were honoured with mementos.

Probian B. Ranganathan gave the welcoming address and presided over the function and Secretary Probian M. Annadhurai made all the arrangements and delivered the Vote of Thanks.

## PG Guest Speaker

The Guest Speaker at the January meeting of the **PROBUS Club of Prince Edward County** in Canada, will be **PG's President Richard Furlong**. He will be talking about the history of PROBUS Global. Speakers about PROBUS Global and its various programs are available in person if there is a representative in the local area of a club requesting such, or by Zoom if not. - Webmaster Peter Jennings will be visiting New Zealand and eastern Australia in December and January. Want to meet him? See if it is possible – email: [webmaster@probusglobal.org](mailto:webmaster@probusglobal.org)

## Twining

Earlier this year, the Probus club of the Kapiti Coast, the first club in the Southern Hemisphere, twinned with the South Coast Probus club, located in Port Dover, on the north shore of Lake Erie, Canada. Our Club exchanges newsletters and a monthly letter with our Canadian twin. Each month, at our meeting, we have the latest South Coast Probus Newsletter on view, so that the members can read it during the morning-tea recess. Apart from learning about that area in Ontario, and the many activities their Club have, we have also taken on board some of their adjunct group ideas for our Club.

Since then, two other Probus Clubs in the outer Wellington region have also twinned with clubs in Canada, as has the Wellington city based Karori Probus Club. Networking is such a powerful tool. It is hoped we will get the chance to meet some of their members who may be visiting New Zealand. This of course works both ways, and as Kiwis are great travellers - who knows New Zealand Probus club members may soon be sitting enjoying a cup of coffee, or a glass of wine, with their counterparts in Canada? Twining, with its exchange of ideas, and new friendships off-shore, has much to offer those clubs who become a part of it.

*Liz Smith* NZ Coordinator



NZ Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Grant Robertson

## Probus Day in Wellington (NZ)

This year PROBUS in New Zealand celebrated PROBUS Day with the lighting up, in blue and gold, 28 buildings or landmarks around the country. Some were only on October 1, whilst others were bathed in colour for a few days. Individual clubs had celebrations planned during the month of October, often with a cake and a special morning tea. Other clubs showcased in shopping centres all the unlimited possibilities and benefits PROBUS offers to its members in their retirement. With 140 clubs in NZ, there were many unique ways that PROBUS Day was celebrated. One club, Wellington Central Probus Club, arranged a very special event at Parliament on October 5, for clubs in the Wellington region. The Parliamentary reception was hosted by the **Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Grant Robertson**, and is the first time such an event for any Probus Club has been held in either New Zealand, or Australia. Around 324 Probus members, representing 22 clubs from around Wellington attended the event which was held in the Banquet Hall

the city travelled quite some distance to be part of it. The keynote speakers were the Deputy Prime Minister; Tony Blaber, the NZ representative on the Probus South Pacific board; Gillian Jones a past Rotary District Governor; Diane Turner, director of the Office for Seniors, and Nicola Willis, Deputy leader of the National Party. All recognised and acknowledged the importance of PROBUS in enriching the lives of retirees and the semi-retired. PROBUS is very much instrumental in keeping members socially connected and mentally and physically active through the clubs' various special interest groups. This connection was never more important than during Covid lockdowns.

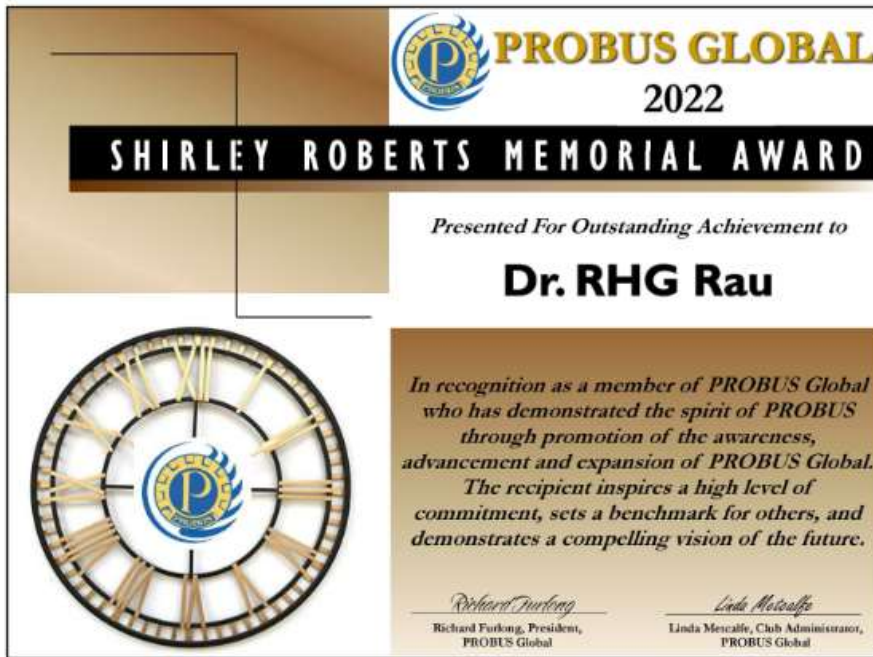
Although two years away, 2024 will be a milestone year for PROBUS in New Zealand and indeed for all PROBUS clubs in the Southern Hemisphere. It was, on November 4, 1974, that the first Probus Club in the Southern Hemisphere was founded, in the small beachside township of Paraparaumu, on the Kapiti Coast, north of Wellington - The Probus club of the Kapiti Coast. The club already has plans well underway to mark this momentous occasion.

*Liz Smith* NZ Coordinator



**Calling for reports of unusual outings or activities of your club, which would be of interest to the Global readership of our newsletter! 200-500 words and you don't need to be a scribe because we'll edit it to suit our space and style. [newsletter@probusglobal.org](mailto:newsletter@probusglobal.org)**

## New PG Award in Memory of Shirley Roberts

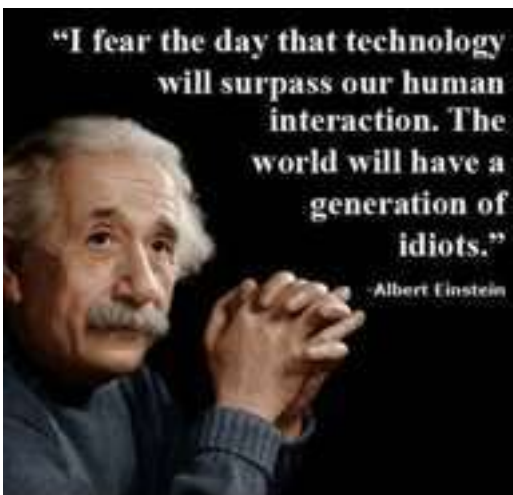


The inaugural Shirley Roberts Memorial Award presented by PROBUS Global, was made to **Dr. RHG Rau** of the PROBUS Club of Hyderabad (PCH) in India. He was nominated by PG member Ram Mukherjee, 1st President PCH and also by PG member RK Bajaj, PCH's current President. The nomination cited the various positions Dr Rau has held in his club since he joined in 2013. It listed some of his work outside the club to promote PROBUS, as well as his academic and work achievements, and his various charity interests. He introduced PROBUS to India and been actively, and successfully promoting and supporting PROBUS Global.

The Award was created in memory of Shirley Roberts, the first President of PROBUS Global. Shirley, who died in 2021, was the shining light of the organisation - initially in the fledgling International PROBUS Network launched in 1996, which later became PROBUS Global. Members of PG are encouraged to nominate other PG members whom they feel are worthy of the award\*. The principal criteria are listed on the award (pictured above). [Also see letter page 11]

\*(Current management team members are not eligible for nomination).

## Are you a Facebook or Instagram user?



Not content with following every move you make on its apps, Meta has reportedly devised a way to also know everything you do in external websites accessed through its apps. It has a custom in-app browser that operates on Facebook, Instagram and any website you might click on from both these apps. This "code injection" enables user tracking and overrides tracking restrictions that browsers such as Chrome and Safari have in place. It allows Meta to collect sensitive user information, including "every button and link tapped, text selections, screenshots, as well as any form inputs, like passwords, addresses and credit card numbers" These findings were published in August. Meta claims it informed users of its intention to collect [an expanded range](#) of data. However, it stopped short of making clear what the full implications of doing

so would be. So yes, it has consent from the user, but is it ethical? The solution? Open your browser direct, and not through social media such as Facebook or Instagram.

### Did you know?

Former members of disbanded clubs are welcome to join PROBUS Global.





## Thinking of Electronic Christmas gifts?

Planning to buy someone an electronic item for Christmas? Make sure the charger of any device you buy has a universal USB-C charging port, otherwise it will be out of date in a year. A practice known as 'planned obsolescence' has become ubiquitous in the past decade, especially for electronics. [The Washington Post](#) recently analysed 14 popular consumer gadgets, some costing upwards of US\$2000, and found that most would be dead within three to four years. Companies limit the life of their products primarily through the item's non-removable, rechargeable batteries. Smaller countries don't have enough power to compel the international tech giants to change their manufacturing practices. So it is up to the EU to implement regulations regarding "right to repair" and battery accessibility. Currently the EU is enforcing all electronics to have compatible, standard USB-C charging cables by 2024.

## Advantages of Age

An extensive study in the USA found that:

The most productive age in human life is between 60-70 years of age.

The second most productive stage of the human being is from 70 to 80 years of age.

The third most productive stage is from 50 to 60 years of age.

The average age of NOBEL PRIZE winners is 62 years old.

The average age of the presidents of prominent companies in the world is 63 years.

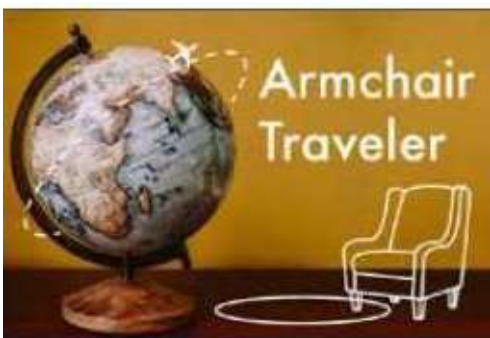
The average age of the pastors of the 100 largest churches in the U.S.A. is 71.

The average age of the Popes is 76 years.

This tells us, in a way, that it has been determined that the best years of your life are between 60 and 80 years. A study published in NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE found that at age 60, you reach the TOP of your potential, and this continues into your 80s.

Therefore, between 60 -70 or 70-80 you are at the two topmost productive levels of your life.

From **Linda Metcalfe**, PG Administrator.



## Travels of a Donkey

Part Le Three



By **Graham McCombie**

**PG's UK  
Coordinator**

*From the pen of the NEWBURGH (incorporating International) Correspondent of the PG Newsletter (Reuters Syndicated)*

Once again Greetings Earthlings and Fan

I started writing this quarter's entry during an amazing thunder storm while holidaying in the Hotel Korkyra Vela Luka on the idyllic island of Korcula Croatia my chez soi loin de chez loin – I can see that not only are you impressed with my linguistic skills but that I'm also fulfilling my stressful role as International Jetsetter, Correspondent blah blah blah.

Back to this deluge which blacked out the whole town; the disaster was saved by the timely intervention of Elena, aka Big Mama, hostess with the mostest at the Hotel Korkyra who arrived timeously bearing a tray

full of local cheer. Under cover and replete with Karlovacko a very palatable Croatian beer, Plavac a wine made locally around Blato, a small town about 6 km from Vela Luka, and copious quantities of Flying Cat – Croatia’s First Handcrafted Gin (taken with Cinnamon Sticks and Tonic) the storm took on a surreal dimension- how spectacularly beautiful nature can be; before you knew it the storm had abated (about ten hours) and surprisingly, with it, a glow came over yours truly.

Mary W our Ed par excellence (crawler I hear you say)) hinted that I might like to do a serious article on Croatia. I’ve been coming to Vela Luka and the Hotel Korkyra every year for the past 13 years and would love to share my experiences with you so perhaps Mary and her team can allocate a spot in the next Newsletter for me to do just that.

I’m also painfully aware that I’m way behind in relating my adventures and travels over the past year, so where to start?

Folk say travel broadens the mind but what they should say is that travel broadens your waistband, destroys your liver and diminishes your bank balance but it’s a hell of an adventure doing it.

I don’t know about you but I always feel terribly deflated returning from holiday – the party’s over syndrome - exacerbated by coming back to the lousy weather we have in the UK.

Some things don’t change while you’re away (UK only) and one of my favourite grouses – Road Works or more accurately Road don’t Works.

Five weeks away and the same sign posts and closures still in place. I think this has now become a National Institution and fabric of our Society; we’d be absolutely snookered if we had full uninhibited access devoid of workers admiring the scenery, pretty dancing lane lights and the inevitable road rage, free parking space for low loaders, diggers, asphalt layers, surface layers and other fiendish devices too numerous to mention. I wonder what withdrawal/ stress epithet that would engender– something like AFORD – Acute Fear of Roadworks Disappearing? – Suggestions please!

I guess it’s better than going by rail or rather not going by rail – we seem to have a penchant for rail strikes and disruptions in the UK. Stevenson and Watt will be turning in their graves which is more than can be said about the British Rail Network.

Hey ho and never mind I suppose it cuts down on gas emissions and improves our carbon footprint.

Once again I’m over my “Words” allotment, as per the Ed’s instruction, and once again I haven’t yet told you about my travels.

Any comments – I’d love to hear from you – [graham@mmsgam.co.uk](mailto:graham@mmsgam.co.uk).

## Holiday Season

Whether the holiday season means a religious celebration or a more secular occasion, rituals abound all over the world. For example, in the Philippines, there is the lantern festival which

attracts vast crowds and participants. In the past, lanterns lit with candles were made of paper. Now, all sorts of materials are used, and lanterns can be up to six metres wide powered by battery or electricity. Other places? While Christmas has never been a big deal in Japan, a new, quirky “tradition” has emerged in recent years – a Christmas Day feast of the Colonel’s very own Kentucky Fried Chicken. In Iceland, the 13 days leading up to Christmas, 13 tricky troll-like



characters come out to play, visiting children all over the land (see picture left) leaving gifts. Perhaps one of the most unorthodox Christmas Eve traditions can be found in Norway, where people hide their brooms. It’s a tradition that dates back

centuries to when people believed that witches and evil spirits came out on Christmas Eve looking for brooms to ride on. And then, for some reason, it is traditional for Venezuelans to go to church at Christmas on roller blades. In Colombia, people place candles and paper lanterns in their windows, balconies and front yards. Entire towns and cities across the country are lit up with elaborate displays. The world takes on a magic glow during the Festive Season.

## What is Rotary up to these days?

Did you know that PROBUS is a community service initiative started by Rotary?

From Merv Richens, PG's Australian Coordinator

As many Probians know, Rotary International has "service" as its goal and that means local and global. Rotary remains one of the strongest driving forces across the world with its voluntary service. Within Rotary worldwide, it has about 30 Rotary Action Groups covering health, water, literacy and much more. One Rotary Action Group is called, "**Food Plant Solutions**" and below the Chair of that group, **Una Hobday** from Hobart, in Australia shares her thoughts in some news.



This year is going fast as we "Imagine a better World." So many people around the world are needing our help and it is hard for

Rotary Clubs to decide where support from their fundraising would best be used. There are floods in Australia, hunger in the Sudan, as well as war in Ukraine, amongst other challenges, which all call us to help. Most clubs have prepared a strategic plan, and so that is where they go to make a decision. But I know some clubs have a little to spare and WE can offer long-term solution to malnutrition. We are excited to say that we are, and have been, working closely with a group in Ethiopia to develop a Global Grant, called "Nutrition, Early Childhood Development and Women

Empowerment through integrated Children's Centre for Marginalised Families." I know they would love your support for this very exciting project. We can share the details with you. [info@foodplantsolutions.org](mailto:info@foodplantsolutions.org). We are also excited that we have just approved our first Chapter of Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group, in India. Thank you to all who have been involved. You can read about it further in our newsletter. It can be accessed at: Food Plant Solutions – [Newsletter for November, 2022](#) Some wonderful work is being done by **Food Plant Solutions** locally in Australia and in other countries by encouraging the traditional kitchen garden that many of us grew up with. Locally grown vegetables and fruit greatly supports good nutrition wherever children are growing up.

Members of PROBUS may be interested to know that a current member of PROBUS Global, **John Thorne**, was the Foundation Chair of the global **Food Plant Solutions** and after a number of years passed the responsibility to the current Chair, **Una Hobday**, pictured above.

## Letters

This from **Dr RHG Rau**, first recipient of PG's Shirley Roberts Memorial Award (see page 7)

Dear Richard,

*Ram conveyed to me this morning that the Management Team of Probus Global has approved the selection of my name as the first recipient of Shirley Roberts memorial award, and the award will be presented to me at the Nov 2022 meeting of Probus Club of Hyderabad. It's a great honour and privilege. I feel humbled by this selection.*

*It is indeed most satisfying since I will be completing 83 years in December, and it reconfirms my conviction that age is only a number and we can continue to perform to provide greater comfort and satisfaction to ourselves and to everyone around us till the end.*

*With this award, I am aware that I have increasing responsibilities towards Senior Citizen cause. I promise that myself and my family will continue being in service to this cause to the best of our ability.*

*Thanking you and with Best Regards,*



**PROBUS GLOBAL**

**Wishes all members and their families a happy and healthy Festive Season**

*A bit of humour*

Planning New Year's Eve Celebrations? Pictures below are after the last NYE party at the Zoo



What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!



Christmas/New Year jokes to share with your great-grandchildren

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? The Christmas alphabet has No-els.

What did Adam say on the night before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!

Why should you put your new calendar in the freezer? To start off the new year in a cool way.

