



Probus Club of Dawesville

Newsletter
October 2019

PO Box 5244 Falcon WA 6210

<http://probussouthpacific.org/microsites/dawesville>



President Helen's Hot Gossip

As President Helen has been extremely busy of late she has asked to be excused from her Hot Gossip this edition and has promised one for next month.

Look forward to hearing from you!

~~~~~  
**OktoberFest – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Even though the outing at the Oceanic Restaurant, celebrating the Oktoberfest had only a small number of us attending, we nevertheless had a great time. We met at 12 noon, giving us time to eat and indulge in a glass or 2 of beer in their specialized Steins.

Good value at \$10 for the beer including the stein. (have a look at Jim's expression when the beers were put in front of Jeff ☺) The pigs knuckles for \$18 were much bigger than we expected, but worth the calories, delicious.

The "Alpine Duo" band started at 1pm, getting everyone in the mood for some sing along music with dancing, lots of laughter, and of course the cow bells.

The fun atmosphere was helped along with the Oceanic staff dressed up in Bavarian national costumes, and blue and white balloons (Bavarian Colors) decorating the Restaurant.

We left at 3.30pm, with big smiles on our faces, happy after the great time and company we enjoyed

Cheers Susie



## *Probus meeting – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October*

A good turnout of around 50 members attended this month's meeting and a new method of setting out the tables was tried out which appeared to be a better option than the one previously used.

All the normal meeting pleasantries were discussed and just before tea (which as usual was excellent) Helen gave us a very good and very amusing talk on their early lives in the UK and also in Australia. Helen and Jim certainly had an early baptism of fire into life in outback Australia, one which they enjoyed thoroughly and has left them with lasting memories. This talk was the first of the series "Who am I".

Our guest speaker, Dr Barry Mendelawitz, AMR Aware Chairman, introduced by John Kevan, gave a most interesting, if not scary talk about antimicrobial forecasts and the challenges that lie ahead. An in depth document about this subject is attached at the end of this Newsletter as this is indeed an important and most interesting subject.



*John Kevin Introducing Speaker*



*Dr Barry Mendelawitz*



*Chairman Helen and Secretary Jeff Presiding.*



*Attending Members*





**ONE HEALTH**  
HUMAN ANIMAL ENVIRONMENT

**Connected**  
Human, animal and environmental health are strongly linked

**Collaborate**  
A multi-disciplinary approach can help identify, prevent and manage common issues

**Change**  
By working together across sectors and borders, the health of people, animals and the environment can be improved

**ONE WORLD, ONE HEALTH**



## **Book Club**

After having been in recess for the last few months we have decided to re-organise our book club.

Whereas previously it was a female only group we would now like it to be open to all Probus members. We wish to set up a different format so are open to all suggestions, especially to suggest the aims and objectives of the book group.

One thought that has been put forward is that one person per month chooses a book from our extensive Probus "book library" to discuss at our book group meeting. Another is just to discuss our favourite book or author, discussion led by one member.

We used to meet at one of our homes rotating each month. We did organise books from the library but a very limited choice. We could still do this if members so desire.

As you can see we are very keen to recommence our book group but would welcome ideas and thoughts for the future. Maybe we need to have our first meeting to sort out our requirements!

Please drop me a line if you are interested in becoming involved.

> Carolyn Brown. 042744517

> [pcbrown@inet.net.au](mailto:pcbrown@inet.net.au)

////////////////////////////////////

## **Joke Corner - Daily Chuckles**

*A sign in a Shoe Repair Store in Vancouver reads:*

We will heel you  
We will save your sole  
We will even dye for you.

*A sign on a Blinds and Curtain Truck:*

Blind man driving.

*Sign over a Gyneacologist's Office:*

Dr. Jones at your cervix.

*In a Podiatrist's office:*

Time wounds all heels.

*On a Septic Tank Truck*

Yesterday's Meals on Wheels.

*At an optometrist's office*

If you don't see what you're looking for,  
You've come to the right place.

*Plumber's Truck:*

We repair what your husband fixed.

*On another Plumber's Truck:*

Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.

*At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee:*

Invite us to your next blowout.

*On an Electrician's truck;*

Let us remove your shorts.

*On a Maternity Room door:*

Push, Push, Push.

*At a car Dealership:*

The best way to get back on your feet – miss a car payment.

*Outside a Muffler Shop:*

No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.

*In a veterinarian's waiting room:*

Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!

*In the front yard of a Funeral Home:*

Drive carefully. We'll wait.

*At a Propane Filling Station:*

Thank Heaven for little grills.

*In a Chicago Radiator Shop*

Best place in town to take a leak.

*And, the best one for last:*

Sign on the back of another Septic Tank Truck.

Caution: This truck is full of political promises.

## **A few Pictures to fill in this space**



**Committee for 2019 / 2020**

|                     |                      |                                                                                |                     |                    |                    |                     |                       |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| President           | Helen Perkins        | <a href="mailto:jimandhelenperkins@gmail.com">jimandhelenperkins@gmail.com</a> | 0401 674 446        |                    |                    |                     |                       |
| Vice President      | Vacant at the Moment |                                                                                |                     |                    |                    |                     |                       |
| Treasurer           | David Baird          | <a href="mailto:davela@amnet.net.au">davela@amnet.net.au</a>                   | 0419 947 274        |                    |                    |                     |                       |
| Secretary           | Jeffery Wilkinson    | <a href="mailto:jwrenault@gmail.com">jwrenault@gmail.com</a>                   | 0423 180 397        |                    |                    |                     |                       |
| Outings Officer     | Iris Lee             | <a href="mailto:iris.lee@bigpond.com">iris.lee@bigpond.com</a>                 | 0400 579 653        |                    |                    |                     |                       |
| Speakers            | Russell Chivers      | <a href="mailto:rchivers@westnet.com.au">rchivers@westnet.com.au</a>           | 0438 777 266        |                    |                    |                     |                       |
| Hospitality/Welfare | Kerry Clemkey        | <a href="mailto:kclenkey@gmail.com">kclenkey@gmail.com</a>                     | 0407 778 676        |                    |                    |                     |                       |
| Membership          | Ian Thomas           | <a href="mailto:lanthom57@yahoo.com.au">lanthom57@yahoo.com.au</a>             | 0447 854 130        |                    |                    |                     |                       |
| Newsletter          | Otto Gilbert         | <a href="mailto:ottogilbert1@gmail.com">ottogilbert1@gmail.com</a>             | 0412 720 031        |                    |                    |                     |                       |
| Past President      | Jeffery Wilkinson    | <a href="mailto:jwrenault@gmail.com">jwrenault@gmail.com</a>                   | 0423 180 397        |                    |                    |                     |                       |
| <b><i>Helen</i></b> | <b><i>Ian</i></b>    | <b><i>Iris</i></b>                                                             | <b><i>David</i></b> | <b><i>Jeff</i></b> | <b><i>Otto</i></b> | <b><i>Kerry</i></b> | <b><i>Russell</i></b> |



**Articles Submitted by Members**

***An Interesting Snippet out of the Mining Career of Otto Gilbert***

In 1970 I was transferred to Rhodesia (as it was then), from the gold mines in South Africa to manage and kick off a new nickel mine belonging to the well-known Anglo - American corporation group, major players in the gold industry in South Africa and the world.

The nickel had been discovered by a large prospecting outfit and the most promising results had been located on a very large cattle ranch which was owned and operated by Anglo American whose chairman, Harry Oppenheimer, well known to many entrepreneurs of the time and owner of DeBeers Diamonds.

Whilst on site I received an email from Head Office to say the Chairman Harry Oppenheimer, (HFO), was visiting the ranch and would like to be shown around the settlement that we had built up at the mine site which by then had been given the go-ahead and a shaft sinking exercise was in progress to recover a sizeable sample of fresh rock from underground to establish the validity of the potential of the resource.

The visitors duly arrived by helicopters, landing at the neighbouring ranch's airstrip some few kilometers away and were welcomed by the expectant hosts.

A sizeable tent city for 50 workers and their families had been erected on the downwind side of the shaft site in order to avoid the blasting and explosives fumes emanating through the large ventilation fans at blasting time every day around 3pm. When I say tents I mean rough wooden frames made from local trees and then covered all around by rolls of hessian daubed with a lime wash and diluted cement for stiffening. This worked very well until proper permanent accommodation could be built. Cooking facilities were provided in primitive fashion on open fires and steel mesh and laundry was committed to galvanized zinc baths and a lot of running soap and water.

Mrs. Mary Oppenheimer, together with some other invitees asked to be shown around the workers' quarters which went off very well and she undoubtedly had a major influence on the design of the permanent housing for the mineworkers in the longer term. Shortly after the visit, a team of housing designers descended upon the property

with instructions to have the housing built with indoor toilets and shower facilities – facilities which had never before considered in the industry at that time.

Mr Oppenheimer was driven around the property and was particularly interested in the shaft sinking aspects of the operation. He was taken into the make-shift office block for a look at the plans and drawings indicating where the possible best occurrences of nickel ore were located and the means of accessing the path to gain entrance.

The tunnels and drives were all small – usually about 6ft by 3ft! to allow human access and the passage of wheel barrows to remove broken ore to the shaft where the material was hoisted to the surface in small buckets for onward processing at nearby laboratories.

After some considerable time of plan gazing I somewhat tongue-in-cheek suggested to the Chairman the possibility of a quick trip underground!! To our astonishment he agreed enthusiastically to this suggestion so we headed off to a rondavel (donga) to change into overalls, boots and hardhats. We then moved to the shaft bank where a kibble (a bucket like contraption) was waiting to transport the intrepid travellers down the mine. I said to Bob Nicholson, our Mine Captain, “who is the hoist driver on duty today” he replied “Its Sibanda - he’s the best we’ve got” – so that was that!!

4 of us climbed into the kibble (only room for 4) for the short ride down to the first level only 100 metres below. To this day I always wondered what HFO was thinking climbing into a bucket when he had already been down many of his own company’s mines on the Witwatersrand to 5000 meters in far more sophisticated methods of transport!!

Suffice it to say the visit was uneventful if not momentous for us mortals. A quick shower and the party were whisked off to their chopper for an aerial view of ranch.

A week later a fax from my boss in Johannesburg, Sir Albert Robinson, voiced his displeasure about the un-announced intention of taking the chairman underground in such an primitive kibble/bucket and asked what were the credentials of the hoist driver and did he have the license to do this and how long had he been in that position??

Perhaps I should have known to import a freshly trained hoist driver for the day!! It was an awkward situation but all went off well in the end.

At the end of another message the next day the boss telexed (remember this mode of communication?) to say “Well done Gilbert, HFO really enjoyed the visit. *Can you imagine this happening in this day and age!!*”



Left to right - Harry Oppenheimer, young protégé Hank Slack, married to Oppenheimer’s daughter and Otto Gilbert about to get into the sinking kibble at Shangani mine - 1972.

Hank Slack had a huge head of hair at that time. Having found this photo about 10 years ago I was able to track Hank down in the United States where he was a well-known business man. He thanked me profusely and was delighted to be able to show his wife that he did once have some hair on his head!!!

*Eastern Wheat Belt - Spring 2019 kindly submitted by Russell and Marg*

Marg and I recently spent a few days out in the wheat belt. The crops of canola, wheat, barley and lupins were a sight to behold. We travelled to Kulin via Dwellingup, Quindanning, Williams and Narrogin. Kulin boasts the Tin Horse Highway and along the 15km stretch of highway to the bush race track, many locals have built various tin ornaments mostly depicting some form of horse



We stayed in the town caravan park then enjoyed the Eagles last win of the year at the local pub. A great night had by all.

From Kulin we travelled to Aldersyde, near Brookton a siding with only silos a community hall and a couple of very old houses.

Many of the local caravan clubs were invited to attend a Meet and Greet at the siding. The fund-raising weekend to raise some \$\$\$ to upgrade the kitchen in the hall, which was built in 1918, was attended by some 100 or so caravanners who enjoyed a great weekend with beautiful weather, although we did find ice on the van on Saturday morning..... BRRRR

The locals were very friendly, as country people generally are and they put on a very informative weekend. On Saturday morning we were treated to lovely freshly cooked scones with jam and cream. We then visited a local farm which had the biggest shed in the area. The machinery that is used for farming today is incredible and this farmer had all the latest equipment. He explained how farming has changed over the years and is much more scientific today.



After lunch we visited another farm that had a very interesting museum which included many old motor cycles, cars, tractors and even some very old tanks. The highlight was the ride in an Armored Personnel Carrier. Quite an experience for many of the ladies.



We then went in search of wildflowers. Although scarce we did find some orchids. Most of the vehicles were 4X4 which was required a couple of times to negotiate the terrain.

Our hosts then put on a fantastic roast dinner with all the trimmings followed by delicious sweets. After dinner most people opted to sit and enjoy the roaring fires, a wine or three and the company of other likeminded caravanners.

Sunday morning saw a cooked breakfast, once again enjoyed by most before slowly departing for other destinations.



A wonderful, relaxing few days that makes one realize how important our farming communities are in today's world.

## *One Health Initiative – a challenge for us all*

*Article written by John Kevan*

### *Antimicrobial Resistance - What is it?*

**Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**, is a widely accepted label for an ever-expanding global health problem. A better term is drug-resistant infections, otherwise known colloquially as “superbugs”.

*It means that certain microbes develop protection from chemical agents such as antibiotics, allowing infection in humans and animals to establish and flourish. We are well into a disturbing era, where antibiotics are losing their effectiveness because of rapid superbug microbial resistance.*

*In approaching the problem of AMR appreciate that there is free movement of microbes between humans, animals and the environment. Thus, a One Health approach is essential at both the personal and community level.*

It's a significant cause for concern when many contemporary medical treatments, such as antibiotics are no longer effective and additionally have unfortunate side effects. We have entered an era where common infections pose major threats to global health.

Successful routine medical practices, especially invasive surgery, chemotherapy for cancer patients, and procedures for safer childbirth, for example, have been facilitated by this group of drugs.

**However, without effective antibiotics these everyday practices may become high risk or avoided altogether.**

Dr Barry Mendelawitz recently updated members on the club's *One Health Initiative*. “Microbes are everywhere, in all humans, animals and the environment. The vast majority actually contribute to our health, and it's only a small number that are potentially harmful. The microbes living in the gut, the ‘*microbiome*’, are in fact essential to our health and play a major role in establishing the immune system.

“Antibiotics have been used for more than seventy years. As each new antibiotic has been introduced microbes, especially bacteria, have developed resistance to the antibiotic, i.e. within a few years the antibiotic no longer kills previously susceptible bacteria. **And remember, antibiotics do not kill viruses.**”

Some Rotary Clubs have adopted the theme of “*One Health Initiative*” with the aim of influencing other Rotary clubs and the community to become **alerted, informed and act** to intercede in the relentless march of superbugs. Antibiotics and resistant organisms can now be found throughout the environment.

In numerous reports and strategies produced world-wide, the overwhelming recommendation is to raise community awareness with information to minimise acquiring infection and to use antibiotics wisely. **The simple messages are the advocacy of effective handwashing, promotion of vaccination and education regarding antibiotic use. These are messages that everyone can publicise.**

Governments and non-governmental organisations worldwide have been active in promoting research and documenting AMR but have definitely not matched this activity in actively promoting awareness and effectively disseminating information.

Rotarians have shown they are a powerful and effective agent in so many areas of community need. **The problem of antimicrobial resistance is enormous and frightening and shows no signs of being reduced.**

With such an immediate threat to general community health, the group is preparing to launch a *One Health Initiative - Rotary Action Group (OHI RAG)*, to enable Rotarians around the world to become part of this life saving and medical awareness program.

*One Health Initiative* will unite the implementation of programs on human medicine, veterinary medicine and environmental science, to enhance all aspects of disease prevention and treatment.

Our group includes doctors, veterinarians, microbiologists, environmental scientists and many more. We are supported by Dr Mark Schipp, Chief Veterinary Officer of Australia, and currently the International President of OIE, the leading global animal health organisation.

As with other Rotary Action Groups, Rotarians and others have demonstrated that **there are causes that must be fought to enhance and sustain mankind.**

Rotary Clubs are in a unique position to apply a *One Health Initiative* and perspective to projects world-wide promoting the delicate interface between people, animals and the environment. When considering a project, whether large or small, local or international, Rotarians can easily peer through the *One Health Initiative* lens and bring the mindset of interconnectivity into everyday focus and consciousness.

For more information contact Dr Barry Mendelawitz  
bmendelawitz@westnet.com.au 0419 969 551

#### **ONE HEALTH INITIATIVE**

*The concept of "One Health" promotes a way of considering health problems in a holistic manner, appreciating the interconnectivity of human, animal, and the environment (plant, earth, and water health).*

*Many of the very serious infectious diseases of humans have either originated in animals or have been transferred from them by way of insects, e.g. malaria and mosquitos, whose successful breeding depends on the local environment.*