

1. No one but its creator understands its internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for possible later retrieval.
4. And as soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay check on accessories for it.

This gets better:

However, the women's group concluded that computers should be masculine (el computadora), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves.
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they are the problem.
4. And as soon as you commit to one, you realise that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won.

SAY WHAAAT???

- The wife asked me if I'd seen the dog bowl. I said "To be perfectly honest, I didn't even know he played cricket".
- If you spin an oriental man in a circle three times, does he become disoriented?
- Can an Atheist get insurance against acts of God?
- Do Infants enjoy infancy as much as Adults enjoy adultery?
- The nice part about living in a small town is when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does.
- Middle Age: That time when you finally get your head together then your body starts falling apart!
- Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.
- Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren as perfect!!
- You forget names... but it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!
- The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts.
- My Boss asked me to start the presentation with a joke..... so, I put my payslip on the first slide.
- Marriage should be like a workshop where the husband works and the wife shops.

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Epping and District Probus Club Inc.



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Kokoda Day
3 November 1942



NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MISSIVE

As predicted the opening up of NSW is proceeding well and it looks like we will be back to normal Club social functions, outings, and other events soon. We will be having our monthly meeting in the Church Hall this coming Monday, 8 November at 10.00 a.m. and morning tea arrangements will be normal. Club members are encouraged to attend as we have an interesting speaker arranged and members will be updated on our plans for future activities. The only condition for admittance to the Church Hall is that every person attending must be double vaccinated against Covid 19. Please show your proof at the entrance desk.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter there is further information on some activities that will be implemented in November and December. I am pleased to confirm that our planned Christmas party will be held at the North Ryde Club on 7 December to round off what has been a difficult and frustrating year for all of us.

Your Committee has decided today to donate \$1,500 to the Presbyterian Church for their purchase of a Defibrillator to be mounted in the Church Hall. The donation will be made this month and arrangements will be made with the Church for the training of some of our club members in the Defibrillator operation.

At this time of year, the Committee commences planning for the next year and I would urge members to consider standing for a Committee position in 2022. Some members of our current Committee are considering retiring next year and the Club must replace them if we are to continue to be an

effective organisation. It is not hard work, but it is creative and satisfying and at times quite good fun. Think about it and let me know if you have questions or need further information on the various committee roles. Look after yourselves and as the Chinese say, “may good fortune be with you”.

MEETINGS

October

Noel Phelan was our guest speaker last month by zoom, when his topic was “*Costa Concordia*, the ship that rolled over off Isola del Giglio, Tuscany”. He gave a Power Point presentation covering the loss, salvage and scrapping of the ship.

The ship, owned by Carnival Cruise Lines, had a history of problems—among them was a fire in 2005 and another in 2008. It weighed 114,147 tonnes and was 290 metres long. It was built by Fincantieri at its Sestri Ponente shipyard in Genoa. At its launch on 2 September 2005, the champagne bottle failed to break when swung against the hull the first time—an inauspicious omen in maritime superstition. Its maiden voyage was on 14 July 2006. It and its sister ships were amongst the largest built in Italy.

On 13 January 2012, it struck an underwater rock. For some reason a decision was made to change course to be closer to the shore than the line normally sailed. The helm was on manual and the ship’s speed was increased to 16 knots. Suddenly the dreaded broken water was sighted and the ship was hard turned to starboard and then hard turned to port before finally hitting the rock. The reef of which the rock was a part is known as Le Scole. The point of initial impact was 8 metres below the water level at the Scola piccola (little rock), the most seaward exposed rock of Le Scole. The impact tore a 50-metre gash in the ship’s port side below the water line.

The ship lost power through the flooding of the engine and generators and began to drift. Its rudders were set and it moved via inertia northward until well past Giglio Porto. It then turned southward, by which time it was listing about 20° to starboard before it came to rest at Punta Gabbianara in about 20 metres of water at an angle of the heel of 70°.

Noel more fully covered the timeline of the accident to the resting point. Then he covered the reactions of the captain and crew step by step. The captain was Francesco Schettino, a 52 year-old, old fashioned sea captain. He was completely in denial to the passengers of there being any cause for concern, even though the ship was being flooded severely. There was mayhem on the bridge. The passengers had been given no emergency drill since they boarded. There was no communication. The ship’s navigational instruments lacked the technology.

For your information: a WebSearch for EDPCi should find the Club's Website (<http://www.rnbt.id.au/edpci>). The Home page is fairly up-to-date, and the other pages and calendar are being updated post-lockdown.

TOUR NEWS

Queensland Outback to Reef—15–28 May 2022

This tour is fully booked but a waiting list is in place if you want to add your name to it. Second instalments of \$3000 for those already booked are payable by 18 December 2021 and final payments by 15 March 2022.

Adelaide to Uluru—10–21 August 2022

Bookings are now open for this 12-day tour to the outback, Adelaide to Uluru via the Flinders Ranges. Among the many highlights are Burra, Hawker, Wilpena Pound, Pichi Richi Explorer (steam-train ride), Port Augusta, Woomera, Coober Pedy (Desert Cave Hotel with choice of underground or above ground accommodation), Alice Springs, MacDonnell Ranges and Uluru. There is a free day in Yulara for anyone interested in a number of optional tours available there. Return to Sydney from Yulara.

Travelling by luxury coach after the flight to Adelaide, the tour is priced at \$5798 per person twin share and a single supplement of \$1195.

Please contact Wal for a detailed itinerary and a booking form: email wwg@bigpond.com or phone 0429-484-639.

Yarrawonga—18–23 September 2022

New dates are now available for this tour, which was postponed from 2020 to 2021, then from 2021 to 2022. This time it stands a good chance of happening. Make a note of the dates in your diaries. More details will be provided later. Deposits already paid will be carried forward.

COMPUTERS: MASCULINE OR FEMININE?

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that, in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. House for instance, is feminine: la casa. However, pencil is masculine: el lapize. So, a student asked, “what gender is a computer?”

Instead of giving the answer the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether ‘computer’ should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men’s group decided that ‘computer’ should definitely be of the feminine gender (la computadora), because:

Please contact Steve Drury if you wish to participate or need more information. Contact details are: email sandbdrury@gmail.com or phone 9872-7447 or mobile 0487-785-444.

WELFARE REPORT

Contact was made with the following Non-Active members, or their family, and all say they are Ok at present: Ian Campbell, John Cox, Bruce Frost, Laurie Fuller, Owen Harrison, Brian Howard, Philip Jones, Ron Mackintosh, Tony Malin, Dick Nicholson, John Steele-Smith, Wal Williams and Paul Woodward.

Unfortunately, Alf McDermott received bad news—the cancer in his jaw has returned. Decisions have to be made re further ongoing care.

Four of our Non-Active members are celebrating important birthdays: Wal Williams turned 97 on the 31st October, Laurie Fuller turned 94 on the 1st November, John Steele-Smith turned 92 on the 2nd November and John Cox turned 93 on the 4th November. Our good wishes were sent to these members.

Now to our Active members: Keith Robinson is still having health problems, and Ray Finch is continuing with Radiation treatment for Prostate Cancer.

And now to celebrations: Hugh Knight turned 80 on the 3rd November—Happy Birthday Hugh!

SECRETARY'S GUFF

Welcome back! It will be heartening to see you at the General Meeting, in the Epping Presbyterian Church Hall, on Monday, 8 November. Though we had a massively good presentation from Noel Phelan (about the *Costa Concordia*) last month via ZOOM, an in-person presentation is hard to beat. We had “live” activities by the Wobblies, Ramblers, Dining Group and Coffee Morning groups last month, following earlier Coffee Mornings and Old Codgers Music Groups via ZOOM.

Remember that this is YOUR Club. Your Committee manages it on YOUR behalf and in YOUR interests. Please consider nominating for a Committee position next year. At present we have no Vice President or Past President and Michael Brinsden has served two consecutive years as President, the maximum allowed. We need a new President, and Vice President. Each of the other members of the current Management Committee has also served this year as a “roll-over” due to COVID: several of these need to step down. There are also support roles such as organising Morning Tea. Please consider the future and NOMINATE to help your Club. Many of you will have served previously: consider serving again.

Noel then took us through the steps of rescuing the passengers (there were 3,206 on board but unfortunately 27 died). There was a crew of 1,023 but five of those also died and a person was also killed during the salvage operation. There was a shortage of lifeboats because of fact that the starboard side was completely under water. And to make matters worse Francesco had abandoned ship in a lifeboat before the passengers. He was firmly told to go back to the ship.

Next Noel covered the salvaging of the ship and its scrapping before turning to the various inquiries. The report of the findings of the inquiry was released in mid 2013 and a criminal trial was held in July 2013. The consequence of the latter was Francesco and four members of the crew were found guilty of gross negligence and sentenced to 16 years in prison.

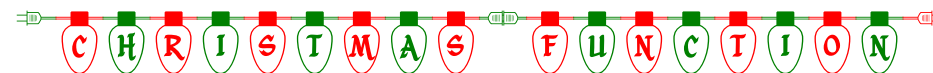
Finally Noel presented an epilogue outling the recommendations that had to be implemented to prevent such an accident ever happening again. We very sincerely thank Noel for his presentation and those fortunate to view it on zoom saw an incident completely researched in great detail.

November

Tom Ware is our guest speaker today, when his topic will be “Two Short Stories”. Tom is a Public Speaker, trainer, storyteller, and writer. Known as the “Prince of Storytellers,” one Probus Club has invited him back no fewer than 15 times in 20 years. His audiences have included Master Mariners, Australian Navigators Association, the Merchant Navy Association, and all manner of Service Clubs. With nearly a thousand presentations since 1982, he is a proven performer.

Tom was born in London, UK, in 1936 and migrated to Australia with his family in 1951. Tom has been a sailor, an air ground aviation radio operator, and a police radio operator. He has also been a foundry labourer, truck driver, Laboratory Assistant, Clerk and even an Antarctic Expeditioner.

He was grand finalist in both Rostrum in 1980 and The Festival of Sydney in 1982. Since that time he has given hundreds of speeches and presented scores of seminars. During the last 39 years he has given over 900 presentations and addressed over 48,000 people and the invitations continue to roll in.



Our Christmas Function this year will be held on Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at The Grand Pittwater: North Ryde Community Club. Our function is timed to commence at 11.15 a.m. Drinks will be served at the lunchroom entrance from approximately 11.20 a.m. and lunch will commence at 12 noon.

The Menu will consist of three courses with an entrée, a main course and dessert. There will be two dishes per course and they will be served alternately to each person at each table. Gluten-free meals can be requested. Self-serve coffee and tea will be available after dessert. Drinks ordered during lunch will be at individual cost and can be obtained from the Bar.

Seating is at round tables seating ten. Guests are encouraged to circulate between tables during the meal. There will be a short address from our President after the main course. A public address system will be in operation during the day.

The cost is \$60 per person (which does not include any additional drinks ordered at the Bar). Members must register and pay before Monday, 15 November. If not paying cash, please make a direct deposit to Probus Account BSB 633 000 A/C 182681668 stating YOUR NAME and reason for payment and advise the Outings Organiser (by e-mail to: Russell.Gough51@gmail.com or by phone on 9869 2365).

This is our premier outing of the year and members are encouraged to participate—especially as 2021 has been a particularly difficult year for some members.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

More ‘other activities’ are planned for this month. It goes without saying that all activities are conditional on compliance with any Covid-19 restrictions.

Old Codgers Music Group

Last month 16 members and visitors participated in a Zoom meeting. This month’s OCMG meeting will be held, ‘face to face’, at the home of Andrew and Gillian Davidson at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 8 November. A programme of fine music has been selected for your enjoyment and appreciation. Please let Andrew know if you intend to be there.

Coffee Club

Last month 18 Members and visitors participated in a Zoom coffee meeting on 1 October with a further Zoom meeting on 15 October with 11 members. With changing Covid restrictions a “face to face” meeting was held at Carlingford Court on the 29th with 17 attendees. You can again meet ‘face to face’, and chat over coffee, etc, at the Coffee Club, Carlingford Court, at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 12 November.

Dining

Ray Palmer arranged a successful lunch on Wednesday, 20 October at West Pennant Hills Sports Club with 25 attendees. Greg Stone has arranged a lunch at noon on Wednesday, 17 November at Eastwood Rugby Club. Please book with Greg by email wafilil6666@gmail.com or sms 0437-030-337.

Movie Group

At time of going to press, there is no plan for a ‘visit to the flics’ in November. This may change when details of a suitable movie are known in which case members will be notified by email.

The Ramblers

The Ramblers held a successful walk along Terrys Creek followed by lunch on Thursday, 28 October, with 10 members and 4 visitors. Rick Collins will lead a walk on Thursday, 25 November. Meet at 10.00 a.m. at the car park on the south side of the bridge over the Lane Cove River on Delhi Road, North Ryde (i.e., next to the Lane Cove River Steak House, now closed). The walk will be along the Lane Cove River on the Lane Cove River Track in Mowbray Park to Epping Road and then back to Delhi Road along a section of the Great North Walk on the other side of the River. Lunch after the ramble will be at the Lane Cove National Park Café. Please call or text Rick Collins on 0411-611-338 if you have any queries re the meeting point or the ramble. It would be great if you would text Rick if you plan to come for lunch, so as to clarify numbers for the café.

Cycle Group

There were seven cyclists on Friday, 22 October 2021 for the “Freedom Ride”. Meeting at Mill Park Street, Rhodes for a 10.00 a.m. start, the route was via the wetlands on to the Parramatta River cycle way, over Silverwater Bridge and into Parramatta Park where we had our first coffee. The return journey was via Meadowbank, across the railway bridge and back to Mill Park Street café where we were joined by Col and Jane Jones for lunch. The ride was approximately 30 km.

The next cycle ride will be Friday, 19 November 2021 at Narrabeen Lagoon. We will meet at 10.00 a.m. at Billarong Playground car park on Wakehurst Parkway for two laps of the Lagoon, anti-clockwise, a distance of 18 km. Lunch/coffee will be at the lakeside café on the Lagoon fore shore.