



The PROBIAN ~ March 2012 Edition

~ Editor: Dennis Dwyer ~



**THE PROBUS CLUB
OF PERTH**
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Probus meets the first
Wednesday of each month, Sept.
to June.

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Apropos.... One of the main reasons our members turn out for our meetings is to learn more about our community and the world beyond. Next month our guest will be Nancy Wildgoose, Executive Director of the Perth & District Food Bank. As is often the history of social movements in Canada, food banks began in church basements a generation ago to meet what was thought to be a short-term need. Unfortunately, food banks are still with us. They are needed even more today and have grown far beyond church basements. The world-wide financial correction is still going on, so too the fall-out for many people who have either lost their jobs or cannot find full-time employment. Once again, our community has responded at many levels to produce a remarkably innovative food bank that not only is able to help out, but also teach families about healthy eating, how to effectively garden together, and prepare meals at a reasonable cost.

Probus is not a service club and so does not normally engage in money-raising for charities. On occasion, we do however, try to raise awareness for needs in our area and the world. Next month's guest will help us understand how our food bank is responding to day's challenges. Oh, and by the way, donations payable to the Perth and District Food Bank will be accepted at the April meeting.

Dr. David Turner on the Aborigines of Australia



Your editor took copious notes during David's fascinating presentation — like those attending, I was overwhelmed by how much he packed into just 70 minutes of words and pictures, thus, I can only describe the highlights. He began by explaining to us, that the idea of "private property", a cornerstone of our Common Law, is not present in the group of aboriginals he lived with and studied. They believe that no one "owns" anything. The role of people in the community was to act as conduits for what others needed. By following

this principle to its logical conclusions there was no want. The 1st Century Christian communities reported in Acts 2: 42-47 come to mind. The tribe insisted that in their culture there was no sharing, but rather, "you have nothing, so everything we have is yours". Hearing this was a startling beginning for us to learn some amazing things.

These people came to these lands over 100,000 years ago, and of course the coming of the "white man" pushed them back from coastal areas into desert and tropical places. The often extreme climate from very wet to very dry created the need for special housing and the ability to provide food throughout the year. Within their spiritual belief system of "The Dream Times" they are able to connect to all living things through an eternal and invisible spiritual substance.

....continued Page 2...

Aborigines continued...

Music, played by special members of the community on the Yiraga (or didgeridoo) connects them to another dimension and is central to a number of tribal ceremonies. David shared a personal experience with one of these moments where he had what we call an "out- of- body" experience. An outstanding portion of David's talk took us, with words and pictures, through the ceremony of circumcision of the young men of the tribe.

The entire presentation was as much an emotional as educational experience. David was superb, he honoured us with good scholarship, humour, clarity, and courageous honesty.

The pictures below show David explaining how to understand a Bark Painting produced by one of his aboriginal friends and playing a Yiraga.



Playing a Yiraga or didgeridoo needs special breathing, somewhat like what's needed for playing the bagpipes.



Speakers' Corner



April 4 – Nancy Wildgoose on the Renaissance of the Perth & District Food Bank.

May 2 – Ron Alquist, Assistant Chief Economic Analysis at the Bank of Canada, on economic research and the determinants of oil prices.

June 6 – John McKenty on his soon to be released book on Christie Lake.

Special Future Events

May 15 – Spring Fling ~ Details can be found on our [Spring Fling website](#).



May 30 – [Nonsense II at the Gananoque Playhouse](#) --- cost \$25 per person for the play. A group reservation for lunch at the Gananoque Inn will be made.

June 6 – lunch will be served at the Legion after the meeting, followed by golfing for those interested.

Note: The dinner and theatre event at the Full Circle Theatre, originally scheduled for May, will be rescheduled for the fall.

Management Team Notes

The main item dealt with was to examine, then agree to participate in, a Probus Canada-wide officers and directors public liability insurance for an annual cost of \$300.



Lunch after the April 4th meeting will be @ **THE RED FOX** – Wilson & Foster

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

“We must make our homes centres of compassion and forgive endlessly.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

IN MEMORIAM

TREVOR CLIST, a long-time member of Probus Perth passed away on February 18, 2012. Our members extend to all his family and friends our sympathy. A card was sent to his family.