

The Probus Club of Holland Park Central



PO Box 5151 Mt Gravatt East 4122

Meetings: 9.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. every third Thursday of the month.
Venue: Newnham Hotel, Newnham Rd, Upper Mt Gravatt

<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/hollandparkcentral/Home>
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The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Jill's Jottings

It was wonderful to see so many at the October meeting and great to welcome back some more members for such an enjoyable meeting. Sandra, as MC, was bright and cheery as always, Richard spoke to us briefly about a trip through India that he and Felicity had done, Trish amused us with one or two jokes, we celebrated birthdays together (a special thanks to Lynne who is doing a great job as Welfare Officer), and Estelle shared with us a letter her grandmother had written home during the 1918-1919 Spanish Flu pandemic when she had travelled to nurse a family member who died from the flu despite all efforts. This was very moving and we all appreciated her sharing it with us. We also celebrated Probus Day in a small way with many members wearing blue and yellow and enjoying a reading of a Probus Day poem written by a fellow Probian from Hastings Point on the Tweed Coast.

Our guest speaker was Peter Ludlow who spoke to us about the Lazaret at Peel Island in Moreton Bay to isolate and treat those with Hansen's disease, or leprosy as it was known then. This was quite informative and more can be found at Peter's website <https://peterlud.wordpress.com>, or go to the one specific to Peel Island <https://www.secretbrisbane.com.au/home/2017/3/20/the-lazaret-at-peel-island>.

As I write this, it is just under 9 weeks until Christmas and Bill has been busy organising a few Christmas activities for us. More details are further on in the newsletter but please note in your diary that the Club's **Christmas lunch** is on **Thursday, 17th December** at the Newnham Hotel from 10.30 am with entertainment to start at 11.00 am. We look forward to seeing as many as possible on this day. Remember, if transport is an issue, please do not hesitate to call Lynne or myself for help.

Family is always important and most of us are lucky to have close and extended family members with whom we can share life and our memories. Yesterday was one such day for me as I went to the unveiling of my great-grandparent's restored grave at Lutwyche cemetery. Several descendants contributed to the cost of the restoration and it was a great opportunity to catch up with them and share memories and laughter over lunch afterwards. I did meet my great-grandmother when I was about six and I can remember my older sister and I having morning tea with her one particular day when we were allowed to use the good fine china cups, saucers and plates. The thing I remember most was I was so worried I would drop and break the special cup and saucer!

That's all folks.

Jill

Visit NT before April

Now is the time to visit the Northern Territory. NT Tourism has launched a \$5 million NT Summer Sale. Travellers can get \$200 off for every \$1000 spent on an NT booking made through campaign partners (many major travel agents) up to a maximum of \$1000 discount. The discounts apply to bookable flights, accommodation, tours and attractions or hire vehicle through campaign partners, and bookings must be made between October 2020 and 31 March 2021 for travel within these dates. The campaign is aimed at non-Covid hotspot people as an incentive to help alleviate some of the Covid pain experienced by the NT tourism industry.



Roma St Parklands outing

A group of us rather lucky Probianas were able to enjoy a glorious spring day at the Roma Street Parklands which must be one of Brisbane's real treasures. Massed displays of colourful spring annuals, vibrant geometric topiary and stunning waterfalls all arranged along gently curving paths. Plenty of shade and seating so that everyone had

opportunity to sit and meditate to take in the interplay between cooling water, dramatic stone sculptures and cascading flowering native shrubs. What used to be one of the less attractive areas of Brisbane where the old Roma Street Markets provided only busy confusion has become an inner-city oasis and a truly delightful one at that! A special treat was the Spectacle garden in honour of Brisbane gardening pioneers Harry Oakman



and Colin Campbell. There, is a wall of plaques honouring former Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson, among others, who were the drivers of the projects beautifying Brisbane after the closing of the old markets. Lush verdant lawns, towering rainforest gardens contrasted with Japanese and herb gardens. And it was wonderful to see the extent of kiddies' attractions provided; not only the extensive playground but the many ducks, birds, and



abundance of tame lizards everywhere capturing the attention. Just watching the youngsters marvelling at the topiary kangaroo and her two joeys was a pleasure. Grandparents note: the gardens really are an ideal place for family picnics. A great place to take grandkids. The morning concluded with a lovely lunch at the Garden Café. A fitting finish to a hassle free and most enjoyable outing.

Barbara



Knowing that the genetic signature of SARS-CoV-2 – the virus that causes COVID-19 – can be detected in sewage samples enables scientists to analyse the sewage and detect the virus' presence in a population days before positive cases or clusters show up in results of public screening programs. This is because people start shedding the virus in their faeces about two to three days after first being infected, well before they show symptoms - if they notice any symptoms at all. It's not feasible for everyone in a community to be tested individually. Wastewater sampling is like an early warning system that covers an entire community. CSIRO recently demonstrated the effectiveness of on-board testing of wastewater on cruise ships for detecting the virus before passengers disembark. This could play an important role in the resumption of cruises in future. Similar testing can be done on effluent from aged care homes and other small communities.

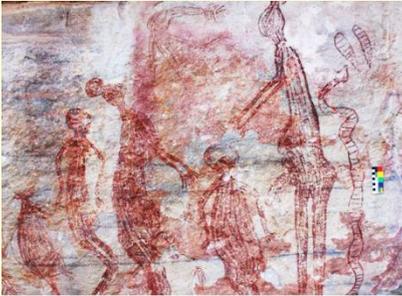
Most Probus clubs, as we do, have meeting times from 9.30 or 10 a.m. and break up at 11.30-12. There is a club in Townsville which is a bit different. The club committee meets at 9.45, and members gather for morning tea at 10.30. Formal proceedings start at 11a.m., for an hour. It certainly is an incentive to keep committee meetings short, but while our committee doesn't spend too much time on waffle, we do need at least an hour and a half to keep our club ticking smoothly. How do they manage with a 45 minute committee meeting and just one hour for a general meeting?



Upcoming 5G wireless networks that will provide faster mobile phone services may lead to inaccurate weather forecasts, according to a recent study. It has created anxiety among meteorologists. The signals from the 5G frequency bands potentially could leak into the band used by weather sensors on satellites that measure the amount of water vapour in the atmosphere, causing inaccurate readings and consequently affect accurate forecasting.



We are spoiled with rock art — paintings, drawings, stencils, prints, petroglyphs (engravings) and even designs made from native beeswax in rock shelters and small caves, on boulders and rock platforms. Often in spectacular and spiritually significant landscapes, rock art remains very important to First



Nation communities as a part of living culture. In all, there are as many as 100,000 sites dotted around Australia, representing tens of thousands of years of artistic activity. Various lines of evidence suggest that some date to between 6,000 to 9,400 years of age. Indeed, there are several depictions of animals long extinct in the Arnhem Land region, consisting of thylacines and bilby-like creatures. At one Arnhem Land site there is a rare depiction of a dugong. But even in 2020, new styles are being identified for the first time, some of them documented this year in the Northern Territory.



Bridge is back! 9.30-noon on Fridays, social bridge and chatter, hosted by Margaret and George is back. Beginners welcome. Want to know more? Call them for details.

Three decades ago, just seven percent of working-age Australians had a degree. Today over 33% have one. More people than ever have a stake in what happens to our universities which are going through a state of upheaval. This is partly because of Covid, partly because of reduced funding, and in part because so many academics have been lost to universities and many more are now being employed on a casual basis. As a result, not only the standard of education is suffering, but research as well.



Researchers mapped 30 years of satellite images of tree cover in Australia and found a surprising result. It turns out that since 1990 we've been gaining trees faster than we are losing them. On average, we've been gaining eight "standard trees" per year for every Australian. In total, there is currently the

equivalent of 1,000 standard trees for every Australian. They defined a "standard tree" as one with a trunk about 30 centimetres in diameter,

standing about 15 metres tall – not too big and not too small. They also differentiated between woodland and forests by the thickness of the canopy. So findings are that our forests have significantly increased, principally because existing small trees have grown to be standard trees over the years. But this doesn't mean all our forests are doing well. By international standards our emissions are massive, equivalent to the carbon stored in 24 standard trees per person per year. Even so, those eight new trees do us a big favour. Also, while the total area and biomass of forests has been rising, quality can be more important than quantity when it comes to our ecosystems. For example, old growth forests hold far more carbon than a new forest. But old or rare forests are difficult or impossible to replace once lost, so creating new forests should never be seen as an alternative for protecting our existing ones. In any case, every tree we plant is a plus for our environment.



Movies

Covid-19 has done something that two world wars were not able to achieve. It closed cinemas. But to borrow from Mark Twain, reports of the death of cinema have always been greatly exaggerated. First it was television, then home video, then computer games, interactive movies, downloading and virtual reality that spelled the end of the big screen. Then there was the different financial model (subscriptions) of Netflix. There will always be people who want to get out of the house (a desire made keener by Covid lockdowns), buy popcorn and experience the communal magic of the picture palace. Still, that doesn't mean the new normal will look like the old one. Cinemas will survive, but it will be interesting to see what form that survival will take.

Last month's coffee and chat went ahead as usual and was enjoyed by about a dozen of us. It was nice to meet Judith again. She came to the final meeting before Covid forced us to abandon meetings for the duration. Now she is ready to join the club. Coffee mornings give potential new members an opportunity to meet just a few of us at a time and get to know us better.



It seems the Christmas shopping spree has begun and a survey of retailers has found that some of the top selling items will be tech-based. They include smart home products, phones and tablets, televisions,

gaming consoles and drones. Other items on top of the anticipated popularity list will be outdoor products such as furniture and bar-b-ques.

Why don't kleptomaniacs understand sarcasm? They always take things literally.



Here are 12 plexers from PAQ. They encourage you to think logically and decisively. What do they mean?

Answers:

1. fill in the blanks
 2. a stitch in time
 3. Thunderstorm
 4. I'm in trouble
 5. reading between the lines
 6. Hand it over now!
 7. He's larger than life.
 8. flat tyre
 9. Little did I know.
 10. black eye
 11. seeing eye dog
 12. coffee break

November speaker

David Nicholl was sworn into the Queensland Police service in June 1990. His interest in photography drew him to his first posting at the Photographic Section based at police headquarters. His role there included photographing crime scenes. David stayed there for a little under three years before transferring to a General Duties Position at Capalaba Police Station. David enjoyed general duties but soon realised he wanted to be a detective. In mid-1996 he obtained a transfer to the Townsville Criminal Investigation Branch where his plain clothes investigative career began. At the start of the year 2000 he transferred to the Upper Mount Gravatt Criminal Investigation Branch. State Crime

Command consists of a number of investigative units specialising in the state-wide investigation of serious and organised crime. In 2003 David commenced a six month secondment into the State Homicide Investigation Unit - a unit within State Crime Command. He stayed six years and during that time was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant. He then worked within a number of other units at State Crime Command before an 18 month secondment to the Australian Crime Commission investigating transnational drug trafficking. In 2013 David was transferred back to the Homicide Investigation Unit and continues to work there now. In 2016 he was promoted to the rank of Detective Senior Sergeant where his role is Operations Leader for homicide investigations.



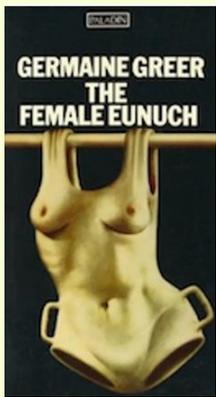
New research by nine collaborating scientists (from CSIRO and world universities) reveals that nitrous oxide emissions, 300 times more powerful than CO₂, are jeopardising Earth's future. Nitrous oxide from agriculture and other sources is accumulating in the atmosphere so quickly it puts Earth on track for a dangerous 3°C warming this century. Each year, more than 100 million tonnes of nitrogen are spread on crops in the form of synthetic fertiliser. The same amount again is put onto pastures and crops in manure from livestock. This colossal amount of nitrogen makes crops and pastures grow more abundantly. But it also releases nitrous oxide (N₂O), a greenhouse gas. N₂O is destroyed in the upper atmosphere, primarily by solar radiation. But humans are emitting N₂O faster than it is being destroyed, so it's accumulating. N₂O both depletes the ozone layer and contributes to global warming. New technologies will be required so that farmers can not only increase farm profitability by stopping the overuse of nitrogen fertilisers but also reduce the water pollution it creates.

It will be some time yet before we go cashless. We now have an ABN, but there seems to be a huge demand for eft machines with a significant backlog in supply. We just need to be patient.

Price comparisons

The record \$8.5 million fine was imposed on iSelect in Australia, for false and misleading conduct, confirms the appalling state of the commercial price-comparison market. Comparison companies promise to help consumers save money by cutting through the confusing pricing structures in energy, home insurance, credit cards and phone plans, among other markets. Failures in the price-comparison market, mostly because they make their money from commissions, have been clear for

years, yet there are no regulations. The publicly funded Government price comparison website doesn't have this problem.



Did you know that *The Female Eunuch*, Germaine Greer's fearless, feminist masterpiece is now 50 and has never been out of print? The book — like the author — is dazzling, erudite, anti-authoritarian, reliably contrarian, recklessly courageous, full of wit and great encouragement for unconventional ideas, tactics and behaviours, and utterly fearless in her search for social justice. This is why "Germaine" has always existed for her readers on first name terms.

What's on?

November

****Sunday 1st Coffee and chat**, 10.30am Pacific Golf Club.

****Thursday 12th Lunch** 12.30pm Easts Leagues Club (Numbers should have been registered at October meeting)

****Thursday 19th Monthly meeting**, 9.30am Newnham Hotel



****Wednesday 25th High Tea** at Sunnybank Community & Sports Club McCullough St Sunnybank 10.15am.

About 12 members attended a similar High Tea in July and all were impressed with the quality and quantity of food supplied. It was decided because of the enthusiasm for this earlier Tea we'd do it again. So

here is your big chance to indulge yourself. Cost is \$25 (Should have been paid at the October meeting).

December

****Thursday 3rd Lord Mayor's Seniors Christmas Party**. City Hall 12-15pm until 2.45pm. This annual event gives seniors the chance to be entertained with high quality Brisbane artists along with a cuppa, yummy sandwiches and cakes etc. It's extremely popular hence we have to book early. Cost is \$5 and needed to be paid at October meeting.

**** Sunday 6th 10.30am Coffee and Chat**, Pacific Golf Club.



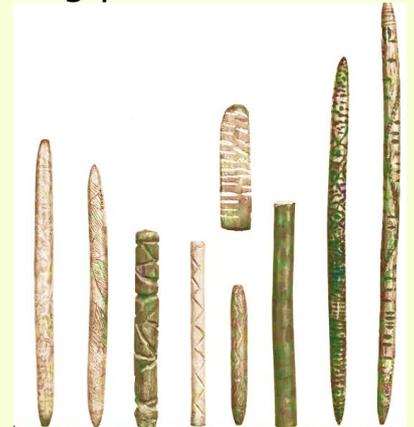
****Thursday 17th Club's Christmas Party** Newnham Hotel 10.30 for 10.45am We're looking for a good attendance to celebrate Christmas and bid farewell to 2020 – a year to remember for all the wrong reasons. We have entertainment commencing at 11.00am with Christmas lunch served at 12.15pm. Lunch will be roast chicken, baked ham and roast pork with vegetables, gravy etc.

Dessert will be alternate servings of Pavlova and Christmas pudding. Also

a complimentary drink of wine/beer or soft drink will be provided. Cost will be \$45 to be paid by November meeting.

Message sticks

Did you know our indigenous people used message sticks across the land? Message sticks could be on any topic, but what they always had in common was the fact they demanded acknowledgement and mutual respect. They were often announcements about ceremonies, such as initiations or funerals. They could also be for establishing political partnerships, requesting emergency assistance, declaring war, organising hunting, or trading vital resources. Messengers would set out on foot, sometimes journeying for days or weeks on end. The mission was dangerous. There were over 500 First Nations within Australia and crossing into a foreign territory without permission could be punishable by death. But envoys had diplomatic immunity and their message stick was a bit like a passport in the modern sense. Shared understandings helped ensure a message could be correctly interpreted, even when a messenger was not available to explain it.



Given that our Treasurer (Ron) has decided to sit at the door for all meetings, we shall need only one person on door duty for the time being. However, some of the committee wished to see two people welcoming guests and visitors, so the number of people on duty will remain the same. People on Fellowship duty (now two) are asked to ensure visitors have a visitor name badge and that they are introduced to members and settled at a table. Another duty is to remind members of social distancing and stop them congregating at the door on arrival.



Did you know that more than 8,500 Australians are hospitalised and about 550 die annually from causes linked to cat-dependent diseases each year? Toxoplasmosis (*T. gondii*), cat roundworm and cat scratch disease are caused by pathogens that depend on cats and the economic cost of these pathogens in Australia is more than \$6 billion per year. The *T. gondii* parasite (from cat poo) stays with us for life, encased in a cyst, often in the brain effecting routine mental functions. There is no cure. Roundworm infections cause mild symptoms, but can cause tissue damage, which can be serious if it occurs in a place like the eye or heart. Cat scratch disease

is a bacterial infection with typical symptoms of sores, fevers, aches and swollen glands. But more serious symptoms, such as inflammation of heart tissue, cysts in the organs and loss of vision can also occur. So cat owners should take care. Wash your hands when handling them, avoid scratches and contact with cat litter (when gardening too) and isolate your cat when outdoors. Do not feed them raw meat as that can be a source of *T. gondii*.



Pictured left is a bumper sticker distributed by PAQ as a form of "silent" marketing and promotion.



For the first time a new mobile has been released without a charger (iPhone 12). While it is a way for Apple to save money on both packaging and manufacturing, the action could have a significant, positive impact on the environment because mobile phone chargers in Australia alone, generate

more than 51,000 tonnes of e-waste per year. Of course, if the European Parliament's push to have universal standardised plug-in chargers across all makes and models of small electronic devices were adopted, it would solve the problem. Ironically though, the wireless charger in the new phone uses 47% more power than a regular cable, but on balance, the phone's carbon footprint is significantly reduced.



November duty roster

Chair: TBA, **5 minute spot:** Mary B, **Fellowship:** Marilyn and Lowleen, **Door:** Lyn G (and Ron).



Well, the October meeting attracted all but seven members, and it was nice to see the good turn-out. Pictured left are some of the female members who wore blue and/or yellow (Probus colours) to commemorate Probus Day early in October.

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I have a pen that can write underwater. It can also write other words



Strange volcano

The ice-covered Grímsvötn volcano on Iceland produced an unusually large and powerful eruption in 2011, sending ash 20km into the atmosphere, causing the cancellation of about 900 passenger flights. It is a peculiar volcano because it lies almost wholly beneath the ice and because the heat output from the volcano is extraordinarily high (2000-4000MW). Grímsvötn is Iceland's most frequently erupting volcano, and over the past 800 years some 65 eruptions are known with some certainty. The air travel industry, which is currently reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, is concerned that there are clear signs that the Grímsvötn volcano is getting ready to erupt again. As a result, the authorities have recently raised the threat level for this volcano. Seismologists believe it will not be a large eruption, but it still poses a significant disruption to air travel in the vicinity.

The urge to sing "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" is just ...A whim away, a whim away, a whim away



Outing to Museum of Brisbane

Late in October, a small number members visited the Museum of Brisbane at City Hall where we were all fascinated by The Story Tellers Exhibition. The Story Tellers uncovers Brisbane's histories, myths and tales as told by six well know local artists – including Hugh Lunn, Kate Moreton, Trent Dalton and Nick Earls. We spent an hour wandering through the exhibition and found it quite engrossing. I particularly enjoyed a lot of the old black and white photos of the city as it used to

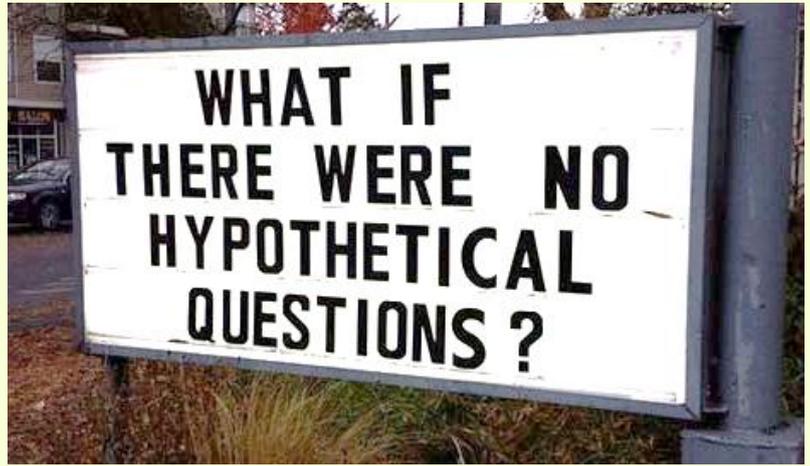
be. I recommend this to any of you with an interest in the history of Brisbane.

Afterwards, six of us enjoyed a tasty lunch at the Pig and Whistle to cap off a very pleasant morning.

Mary B.

Judges

When the High Court was created in 1903, it comprised three judges. Since then, the size of the bench has expanded to seven, and following a referendum in 1977, a mandatory retirement age of 70 was introduced. However, the Constitution and subsequent legislation are conspicuously silent on the process to be followed in appointing judges. Unlike in America, our choice of the two new high court judges to be made next week is opaque, secretive and archaic. It needs to be more transparent.



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The Probus Club of Holland Park Central was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Carindale

2020/21 Committee
President: Jill
Vice President: George
Secretary: Margaret O'D
Treasurer: Ron
Activities: Lyn and Bill
Newsletter: Mary W
Committee: Rosemary
+++++++
Welfare: Lyn



Quiz: Q: You're riding a horse full speed, there's a giraffe right beside you, and a lion nipping at your heels. *What do you do?*
A: Get off the carousel and sober up.
Q: Where do horses go when they're sick?
A: The horsepital.

