

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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January 2021 Issue No.149

The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Jill's Jottings

It's three days before Christmas and I still have two gifts to buy and another two to post to America which, of course, will not arrive in time. Fortunately, my daughter is understanding of the time delay.

Our Christmas celebrations were very much enjoyed by all who attended. Many thanks to Bill and Lynne for their organisation. Our thanks to the Newnham hotel whose staff did an outstanding job of decorating the room which set the mood as soon as we entered. The meal lived up to our expectations and the entertainment was very good.

What a difficult year it has been for people around the world. This nasty virus has caused grief and loss for so many families around the world. We are truly blessed here in Australia. If we put it in perspective, approximately one-third of the world's population was infected with the Spanish flu in 1918. That equated to about 500 million people infected, and it is estimated between 20-50 million people died world-wide.

Did you know the Spanish flu probably did not originate in Spain? It has been suggested that France, Britain, and China were the source of the infection, and also the USA, as the first documented case was reported at a military base in Kansas in early 1918. Spain was a neutral country during World War I and so their press was free to report any story in detail. Their first documented case was in May 1918, quickly followed by news that the Spanish king was infected, and so that led to the name. The Spanish believed it came from France and they called it the French flu. The influenza was spread rapidly throughout the world with the massive movement of troops in the last half of 1918. Our thoughts go out to those of us who are not able to celebrate with family this Festive Season. I wish you all a joyful day and a happy and bright 2021.

Jill



The committee wishes all members and their families a very happy 2021!



Women and swearing!

Long regarded as guardians of morality and respectability, women's use of swear words has been policed and punished in various ways. In colonial days, convict women were likely to be labelled as "whores" and "strumpets", and their use of insulting language was taken as confirmation of immorality yet all they were doing was challenging oppression. They used such language to mock and defy authority. An 1850 commentary, published in the Moreton Bay Courier, called on husbands to exercise their authority and prevent wives from publicly using "obscene and filthy language". Women charged with these kinds of offences were predominantly working class and middle-class women's speech was not publicly policed. In 1885 Australian etiquette manual instructed women to avoid "vulgar exclamations". If the first wave of Australian feminists sought to operate from a position of respectability, second wave feminists embraced the possibilities offered by flouting such respectability. Women such as journalist and activist Wendy Bacon and feminist author and academic Germaine Greer became known for their bad language. At one time both were jailed for a few days for their language, but it was all part of a feminist reclamation as women claimed control over their bodies and their sexuality. Women comedians, writers, and activists have all played a role in claiming a right to use bad language. Swearing by women has been increasingly normalised, but today, still, women are disproportionately the targets of bad language, slurs, insults, and threats on social media.

Activities

January 2021

*** Sunday 3rd 10.30am **Coffee and Chat**, Pacific Golf Club.

*** Thursday 21st Monthly meeting, 9.30am Newnham Hotel

*** Thursday 28th **Fish and chip Dinner**, 5.30 pm Pelican's nest, Wynnum

February 2021

*** Sunday 7th 10.30am **Coffee & Chat**, Pacific Golf Club

*** Thursday 18th 9.30am **Monthly meeting**, Newnham Hotel

*** Thursday 25th **Visit to Lockyer Valley Laidley, Forest Hill, Gatton**. This excursion is dependent on the availability of volunteer drivers. We may need 5 or 6. For those who arrange their transport prior to the day, we'll meet in Laidley. There is a car park, with toilets, in William St (off Patrick St). For the other participants, we'll arrange a meeting point and time.

Brisbane to Laidley is approx. one and a quarter hours' driving time. We shall have morning tea at Laidley Florist and Tea Rooms in Patrick St from 10 to 10.30. This will necessitate a Brisbane departure at 8.45am at the latest. 10-30 to 11-30 - explore Laidley in own time. There are several Antique Shops, an Historical Village along with several commercial premises dating back to late 1800's. 12.00 to 1.00pm - Lunch in Historic Lockyer Hotel in Forest Hill (approx. 10km from Laidley. Own Cost. Then we'll move to Gatton which is 11km away. 1-15 to 2.30 - Gatton Tourist Info Centre - visit the **Queensland Transport Museum**. There is a large array of transport through the ages. 2.30 - Home

March 2021

***Sunday 7th **Coffee & Chat** 10.30 am Pacific Golf Club

***Thursday 18th 9.30am **Monthly meeting** Newnham Hotel

***Thursday 25th 10am **City Cat excursion** Southbank, New Farm, City

April

Sunday 4th NO COFFEE & CHAT (Easter)

*** Sunday 11th 10.30am **Coffee & Chat** Pacific Golf Club.

*** Thursday 15th 9.30am **Monthly meeting** Newnham Hotel

*** Thursday 22nd **Pizza and Games in Park** Venue and time TBA (Maybe Tillick Park)



Did you know Qantas celebrated its 100th birthday last November? In 1920, a humble air mail operation in outback Queensland was born. It is now a national carrier flying over 50 million passengers a year. In 1935, a Qantas DH-86 aircraft took three-and-a-half days to fly between Brisbane and Singapore, and by 1938 flying boats connected Sydney and Singapore, with full cabin service. It got itself involved in WWII and two of its flying boats, used to evacuate servicemen and civilians from the Dutch East Indies, were shot down by Japanese aircraft. Qantas continued to evacuate people from across Southeast Asia and deliver urgent supplies to civilians and troops alike, and currently it is bringing stranded Aussies home from Covid impacted countries.



Branding

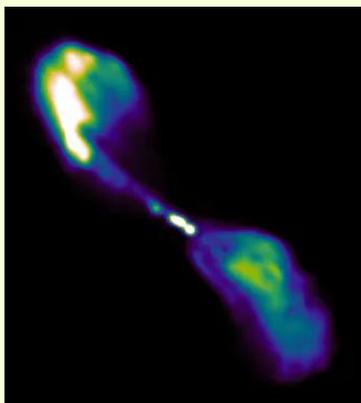
In 1926, Edward William Coon, patented his method for making a hard Cheddar cheese and called it "Coon" cheese. In 2015 it was bought by a Canadian company and has 9% of the Australian Cheddar market. The company is rebranding it in the wake of social media activism and the internationalisation of the Black Lives Matter movement

which has changed the landscape - putting pressure on companies to retire all brand names associated with historic racial stereotypes. Coon is rebranding under some duress. But the road to rebranding is difficult. A well-known brand identity is hugely valuable in the food market. It's how shoppers find and choose things in supermarkets that stock as many as 40,000 more products than they did 50 years ago. Re-establishing a brand, with a new identity, is expensive and risks losing market share. Indeed, recently, several popular American items forced to rebrand had to stop production soon after, because of lack of brand recognition and consequent fall in sales. In the case of Red Skins which changed to Red Ripper, customer confusion was minimised, especially as it is in the same supermarket position as before. Coon has been deliberating for a year now.



Seven of us Probians had a Jitsi (like Zoom) meeting last month. One of the group was from Victoria, four from the UK, one from Wales and your Editor. It was fun. We compared notes about the effects of Covid on Probus in general and on our lives in specific. Two in the UK told of their experiences at the dentist – one dentist refused to use the drill or anything electric and cleaned her teeth with hand-held instruments. Another had to take her own cup, and personal protective gear. Some British clubs are struggling to keep members enthusiastic because of the restrictions. Then the member in Victoria was talking about the clubs in Phillip Island and I learned that the fairy penguins there are no longer allowed to be referred to as “fairy” but “little”, due to political correctness [!]. Most of those participating in the link-up were from clubs of around 40 members.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, public health initiatives have continued to raise questions regarding the appropriate balance between community interests and individual rights. Should governments be able to mandate vaccination in the interests of public health? “No Jab No Pay” policies already exist for childcare, aged care, among others and is to be introduced by Qantas for overseas travel. While governments cannot force vaccination on those who chose to refuse it, they can punish them. They could also offer payment for compliance. Some employers (such as healthcare) may insist as part of their employment policies. Australia is under-resourced in legal terms, to debate where balances can be struck between individual freedoms and the collective interest in public health and what happens if something goes wrong.



Astronomers have mapped about a million previously undiscovered galaxies beyond the Milky Way, in the most detailed survey of the southern sky ever carried out using radio waves. The Rapid ASKAP Continuum Survey which became fully operational just eight months ago, has placed the CSIRO's Australian SKA Pathfinder radio telescope firmly on the international astronomy map. While past surveys have taken years to complete, the latest survey was conducted in less than two weeks — smashing previous records for speed. It mapped three million galaxies in 300 hours. Data gathered have produced images five times more sensitive, and twice as detailed, than previous ones. Pictured above is the Centaurus A radio galaxy which is closest to Earth, more than ten million light years away. Scientists expect to find tens of millions of new galaxies in future surveys.



A group from our club (15) attended a most enjoyable Christmas concert hosted by Brisbane City Council in City Hall. Our afternoon commenced with refreshments consisting of sweet and savory items along with a cuppa. We then moved to the balcony where we were socially distanced, to view the concert. (Pictured left). The MC, Rachael Tiernan kept a fast and



energetic pace. Entertainment commenced with a visit from HRH Queen Elizabeth alias Gerry Connolly. This year marked the 20th anniversary of this popular annual social event and word of its exceptional standard saw the Queen performing the official opening. We were much impressed with her speech in which she shared some Royal gossip and showed she was fully conversant with all aspects of the event, confiding that the Tiramisu slice contained Viagra. This resulted in the male Probus members inquiring if anyone had some wrapped up in their handbags. It was a great opener for the day. Another performer was Simon Gallaher, who announced that he was a senior himself, but his voice was as good as ever. The Kitty Kats, Boysie Power, a couple of young dancers along with the Christmas Party Singers also featured. A beautiful young violinist played exquisitely but they were all somewhat overshadowed by the

Choir whose rendition of traditional carols was enthusiastic and tuneful, well, mostly, and we all joined in singing several of the Carols. It was an afternoon of fun and fellowship and thoroughly delightful. *Bill and Lowleen.*



It has been rightly described as a humanitarian crisis and a modern form of forced labour. There are more than 50,000 cargo ships, with about 1.6 million crew, and an estimated 400,000 of them stranded at sea. Before the coronavirus crisis, about 100,000 of these crew changed over each

month, typically after serving contracts capped at 11 months under the United Nations Maritime Labour Convention. But since March, border closures have prevented many seafarers leaving their ships, forcing some crew into indefinite service, unable to even take shore leave. Some of them have been on board for 18 months and the work on these ships is three gruelling shifts of eight hour days. With seafarers effectively trapped on their vessels, the safety issues that arise from requiring overly fatigued and mentally exhausted staff to continue operating vessels are a matter of great concern. On December 1, the United Nations General Assembly called on all governments to promptly take steps to facilitate crew changes, including by expediting travel and repatriation efforts and ensuring access to medical care.

We know that clubs cannot exist without a committee. A number of clubs are closing, not through lack of members but because the clubs can't find members for the committee. Don't let our club be one of them. To date, we have just five nominations for committee members and would like at least three more. Nomination forms for committee membership should be handed to Jill by the end of February.



January Roster: Chair: **Estelle**; 5 Min. Spot: TBA; Fellowship: **Dale and Maggie**; Door: **Leo and Ron**

Did you know that the word 'testify' derived from a time when men were required to swear on their testicles?

At the time of writing, we had received our EFTPOS machine but it needed installation. Hopefully by our meeting this month, it will be operational.

CHRISTMAS – WE HAD A WOW OF A TIME!





Did you know that ten years ago, it was feared that Tasmanian devils would be wiped out by a bizarre infectious facial cancer transmitted by biting? The cancer which ravaged them has decreased their population by 80 per cent, rapidly driving them towards extinction. Now however, new genetic analysis shows they are evolving to live with the disease. Some sort of steady state has been reached, and the disease and devils are now

coexisting. The devil population seem to be evolving and adapting to the threat by developing genes which fight the cancer, giving them a degree of control, if not yet immunity. Also, the fact that the disease has culled their numbers so severely has slowed the spread, so the future is looking a lot rosier for their survival.

The January speaker will be our very own **George** who will talk to us about life in the British Army.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and its machine learning tools and decision-making algorithms are all around us. AI determines what news you get served up on the internet, and it plays a key role in online matchmaking, among other life effecting decisions such as the recent Centrelink's robodebt scandal. It is neither neutral nor benign. For a start, AI learns from and adopts human biases. For many workers, such as delivery drivers, AI has replaced human managers. Algorithms tell them what to do, evaluate their performance and decide whether to fire them. One of the most familiar forms of AI is the Google algorithm, and the order in which it presents search results. How it determines its search results is hugely influential but completely opaque to users. Often there is a lack of a right of appeal, or even a pathway to appeal with AI decisions because people in authority may not even know how the AI arrived at its conclusions. We need better regulatory frameworks for the use if AI.



Want a holiday with a difference? How about a tiny house getaway? While the tiny house movement started off in America, it has become somewhat of an international trend and there are options for tiny house holidays across Australia. In fact, there are hills along Victoria's scenic Great Ocean Road, incorporating the world's first master-planned, ecological, off-grid, tiny home subdivision, that offer some of the best tiny holiday houses available. The tiny house

movement, is an architectural and social philosophy that advocates living or holidaying simply in small, affordable and eco-friendly homes. There are tiny houses in some amazing destinations around Australia and the prices are from as low as \$159 per night. There is a website – devoted to this fledgling movement in Australia – that deals exclusively in tiny house holidays, called tinyaway.com, which features houses in New South Wales and Victoria, where the majority of these options are available.



Did you know that the electoral district of Cooper (spreading through Ashgrove, Paddington and Milton) created in the 2017 Queensland state electoral redistribution was named after Dr Lilian Cooper? Dr Cooper, who completed her medical degree in 1890, migrated to Brisbane the following year from the UK, with her partner Josephine Bedford. She was the first female doctor registered in Queensland. She was associated with what is now the Children’s Hospital and the Mater. Later she travelled overseas to the Mao Clinic, and the John Hopkins Hospital in the US, because here, surgical experience for women was a “no go” area. As a surgeon, she became a foundation fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1928. She was turned down by the Australian Army, so she joined the Scottish Women’s Hospital Service and worked in France and in a hospital tent in Serbia during WWI, and was awarded a medal by Serbia’s king for her services. Cooper defied convention and stereotypes, was prone to bad language, and was one of the first female motorists (albeit deemed a terrible driver). She was a founding member of the RACQ in 1905. She and Josephine Bedford, started the first kindergarten in Brisbane and the first park for children. She died at the age of 86, leaving her estate to her family and partner. The latter donated a property left to her to the Sisters of Charity which later became Mount Olivet Hospital and then St Vincent’s.



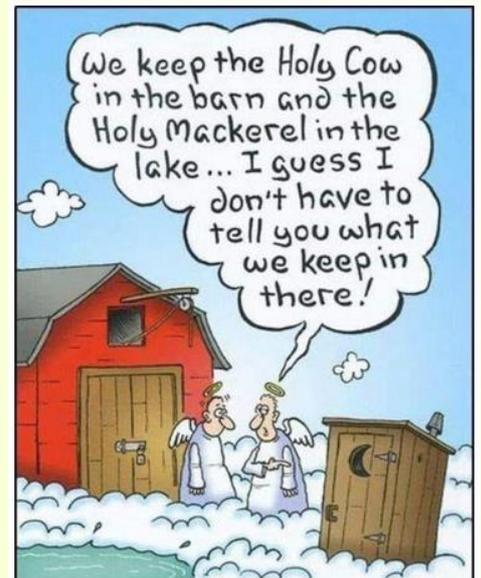
The urgent need for environmental action is generating new forms of human interaction with nature, among Caucasian communities. There is a growing awareness that First Nation people have developed, over millennia, sophisticated mechanisms of ‘give-and-take’ with lakes, plants, landscapes, and other natural phenomena. They have an holistic vision of nature, whereby nature isn’t a resource to be extracted, but a living entity to engage with in a relationship. At least as complex as any human being or sentient entity, nature is not considered a ‘what’ but a ‘who’. This concept inspired Melbourne University’s interactive film you can view [here](#).



While shopping for holiday clothes, a husband and wife passed a display of bathing suits. It had been at least ten years and nine kilos since she had even considered buying bathers, so she sought her husband's advice. 'What do you think?' she asked. 'Should I get a bikini or an all-in-one?' 'Better get a bikini,' he replied. 'You'd never get it all in one.' He's still in intensive care.

A wife sent her husband a romantic text message. She wrote, "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you." Her husband texted back, "I'm on the loo, please advise."

Two drunks were at the bar and one asked, "Hey, what's worse, ignorance or indifference?" The other replied, "I don't know, and I don't care."



The owner of a business who moved it to a bigger, better premises received some flowers on the opening day, but the card read: 'Rest in Peace'. He telephoned the florist and the woman in the shop

said, 'I am sorry about the mix-up but I think the person at the other end got the worst end of it. Somewhere there is a funeral and there is a note saying. 'Congratulations on your new location.'

I didn't think the chiropractor would improve my posture. But I stand corrected.

I told my carpenter I didn't want carpeted steps. He gave me a blank stair.