

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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February 2021 Issue No.150

The HP Source – It's a

Jill's Jottings

Hello to you all,

The Christmas/New Year break was very welcome in many ways. I spent the time generally relaxing, catching up with close friends, and immersing myself in my reading. Two of the books I read were beautifully written and quite moving. The first was 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by Amor Towels, set in the Metropol Hotel in Moscow after the Revolution in 1917, and tells the story of a gentleman, Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, who was sentenced to house arrest in the hotel for the rest of his life, with the condition he would be shot if he ever stepped outside again. The second was 'So much life left over' by Louis de Bernieres (the author of 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin'). This is set in (then) Ceylon and England between the two world wars. I found both books delightful to read and was captivated with the characters' stories.

In spite of our strong hopes for a better year than last, we once again entered lockdown in the Greater Brisbane area with the requirement to wear masks, which was a new necessity for many of us. Still, we were extremely fortunate that the lockdown was only 3 days thanks to the efforts of the contact tracers, and many other front-line people. The mask issue did play a part in reducing the numbers for our monthly meeting, with 30 attending plus one visitor. Graeme spoke to us, aided by photos, about the wonder of the Montgomery Reefs off the Kimberley coast of Western Australia, while George and Margaret spoke about their life in many different locations and countries since their marriage. Many thanks to them for their interesting talk interspersed with entertaining anecdotes.

Bill and Lynne have planned some very interesting activities for the coming months with visits to the Lockyer Valley, a River Cat cruise, and a Trivia and Games day in a local park. Thanks to Brian's keeping tabs on the Brisbane City Pops Orchestra, there is a visit planned to the Schonell Theatre on 14th March for its first concert this year. January has almost passed which means we have one more meeting before the AGM in March. **I urge you to think carefully about how you can do your bit to ensure we have a working committee.** We urgently need nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Activities Officer, Guest Speaker co-ordinator, and general committee members to keep the club functioning.

Jill

Cashback: Have you heard of cashback apps that give you a kick-back if you spend through their portal? Yup, it is fast growing and legitimate. Instead of buying directly from a shop or an online store, you access the same store that you want to buy from through a cashback app. You still receive the product directly from the seller but the cashback app deposits a percentage of your total spending into an account set up on the app. Retailers pay these apps a commission to get people to purchase from their site and part of the commission is passed back to you in the form of a delayed rebate. While the rebate percentages vary and take time to come through (sometimes months), it is still nice to be rewarded for spending money you've already decided to spend. Just be aware that you may be able to get a better "special" at a bricks and mortar store, and do your research before choosing an app, ascertaining the number and type of suppliers it services, and making sure of its security protocols. More than 800,000 Australians have signed up to cashback apps to date.

Saving toner: Did you know that when printing from your printer it is possible to get 27 per cent more ink from cartridges when using Times New Roman typeface rather than Arial? Calibri and Century Gothic both outperform Arial as well.



Public Toilets: When we were stuck at home, a toilet was never far away, but now we're out and about and on the move again, it can be handy to know the location of the nearest toilet. With information on more than 19,000 toilets, users can search for a public toilet based on location or map out toilets along a journey with the trip planner. Log on to <https://toiletmap.gov.au/>

Activities

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

***Tuesday 2nd to 6th March **5 day tour Heron Island**- as per brochure. Expressions of interest needed and **payment 1st February**.

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

***Sunday 14th **Concert** - Brisbane City Pops Orchestra.

Schonell Theatre, UQ St Lucia -\$26. **Pay by February meeting**.

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

***Thursday 25th 10am(?) **River Cruise on M/V Neptune**. From Southbank to Breakfast Creek and return. Morning Tea included. \$24pp. Lunch at own cost at one of the restaurants at GOMA, or State Library. Venue to be advised. **Pay by February meeting**.

April 2021

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)

Date claimer: Wednesday 15th September - Redlands Performing Arts Centre - A morning with Gilbert and Sullivan. \$22pp only 10 tickets available.

Destinationless flying: They say that life is about the journey, rather than the destination. Leading Japanese airline, All Nippon Airways, has repurposed one of its flagship planes - a double-decker A380 painted to look like a sea turtle - into so-called 'sightseeing flights' above Tokyo. COVID-related regulations saw the plane take off at only 64 per cent capacity, and passengers were chosen by lottery. Those that did make the cut enjoyed 90 minutes in the air on the airline's first full flight since June. It may sound unorthodox, but it's not the first initiative to feature destination-less planes during Covid. In October, Qantas offered its first "flight to nowhere". The seven hour flight at \$787 to \$3,787 was probably the fastest selling flight in Qantas history. Sold out in 10 minutes, the scenic flight flew a giant loop taking in Queensland and the Gold Coast, New South Wales and the country's remote outback heartlands. It included a pre-flight breakfast, gourmet meals, in-flight celebrity entertainment, and gifts among other features.

Did you know that tree ferns are older than dinosaurs? They were a significant element of the earth's flora during the [Carboniferous](#) period 300-360 million years ago, when conditions for plant growth were near ideal. This explains why ferns don't reproduce by flowers, fruits or cones, but by more primitive spores.



Did you know that any overseas business that sells products to people in Australia is bound by **our** consumer law and must help you if the item is faulty or not as advertised?

Frogs: There are more than 240 species of frogs native to Australia, almost all of which are not found anywhere else on Earth. 30 are endangered (due to habitat destruction, climate change and a fungal disease) and we have lost four to extinction. Victorian and Tasmanian frogs mostly emerge in spring and summer. In tropical Australia, most frog species emerge from their hiding places in the wet season, and yes, there are desert frogs also. The latter spend much of their lives underground. These frogs are protected from dehydration by a "cocoon" of their own skin and skin secretions. They only pop above the surface when it's wet enough for them to breed in the flood waters. Frogs are major consumers of invertebrates, and are also eaten by a wide array of predators including fish, birds and mammals. Tadpoles may also be the dominant grazers in aquatic systems. When frogs disappear, other animals follow, and ecosystems are forever altered.



Trust in science: Is it any wonder some populations don't trust science? They follow examples set by governments. Scientists around the world frequently feel governments do not pay enough attention to scientific advice. That was the view of some half of the 25,307 researchers recently surveyed by Frontiers, a Swiss publisher of scientific journals. In New Zealand, almost 80% were happy with the attention their government paid to scientific advice. In the United States, fewer than 20% of the scientists thought the same about their government. Of the 35 countries surveyed, Australia came in 11th at 59% of satisfaction. One finding was that the major reason for lack of trust was inequality within populations. The less equal people saw themselves the less trust in

science. The sentiments of the scientists is reflected in the severity of Covid experienced by countries. World-wide, efforts to tackle the coronavirus have been hampered by communities disputing the severity – or even the existence – of the virus. Australia still has a fair measure of trust but trust is a fragile commodity and inequality can be corrosive.

Passwords: Few of us stop to consider how our new devices may impact our digital footprint, or whether they could build new channels between ourselves and cyber criminals. Any device connected to the internet can give our data away, and smartphones, wearable tech, tablets, laptops and digital assistants were Christmas gifts for many. Give each device a unique password, so that if one is hacked, the others are still “safe”. A computer can guess more than 100,000,000,000 passwords per second. Still think yours is secure? And biometrics can be bypassed with weak passwords. Keep in mind that the old devices you are discarding are also open to hackers, unless you re-set them to factory settings.

Coffee and chat: And some of us thought that there would be a very small turn-out for our first coffee and chat morning for the year, because it was just a couple of days after New Year. We were wrong. Yes, December’s attendance at coffee was less than anticipated, but in January we had 16 attend. Here are some facts about coffee:

- Coffee has a huge carbon footprint – half as much as beef, but could be reduced by 70% if grown sustainably
- Adding milk? The carbon footprint is even greater. The process that brought you your morning latte could have produced half a kilogram of CO₂.
- Europe accounts for almost 30% of coffee consumed worldwide, but China has doubled its consumption in just the last five years.
- Coffee is among the most traded commodities in the world after oil.
- Coffee beans are grown in more than 60 countries and allow 25 million families worldwide to make a living.
- Millions of these families are at risk because climate change will make the land where coffee is currently grown unsuitable for its production.
- The coffee industry is plagued by human rights abuses and other environmental issues, such as water pollution and habitat destruction.
- Sorry, but instant coffee has less of a carbon footprint than barrista made coffee, as long as you minimise the water you boil for it.



Air travel safety: These are some of the Covid safe ideas being mooted: No in-flight entertainment screens on the back of seats under the assumption that most passengers have devices of their own. Meals would be served on clip-on trays doled out directly from the trolley. Airline

literature will be binned and instead of a pocket filled with pamphlets, passengers will be presented with a removable bag in which to store their belongings. Perspex shielding to be installed between rows, and staggered seating could be covered with antimicrobial material. Airflow direction would be controlled, and first class would have separate compartments prioritising personal space and possibly screened off with curtains.

The speaker for February will be Anna Meredith, the Brisbane City Council's Seniors' Program Officer. She will give an overview of the BBC's community programs with a focus on those for seniors.



End of the cinema? In Australia in the 90s, the window for cinemas for new releases was nine months, before the movies were streamed. Now it is 90 days, and Netflix has changed the narrative, releasing its own major productions direct to its streaming service. Warner Bros has announced it will be releasing all of its major 2021 movies direct to its streaming service HBO Max on the same day as in theatres. Without the exclusivity window, cinemas won't survive. The cinema industry has already been decimated by social distancing due to the pandemic and this further threatens the industry and the 15,000+ jobs attached to it.

Unfortunately software problems with Tyro EFTPOS machines have not been resolved, so we shall still be collecting cash at meetings. (Note that last year, members approved for meeting fees to increase to \$10 in 2021).

Join the Committee

SATISFACTION 

Be part of the Next Generation of Probus Leaders



Did you know that almost one in four Australian houses now have rooftop solar panels? But the number of solar panel incidents reported by fire and emergency services has increased markedly. Weak regulations, some shonky installers and a lack of mandatory inspections have been compromising safety. Regulations are in place, but not followed up enough.

While membership of Probus in Australia fell by 7% during 2020, that of Queensland fell by only 2.6%. This is, in part, because Queensland controlled Covid better than other states and we were able to resume meetings a lot sooner, and in part because of the efforts and support of the Probus Association of Queensland (PAQ).



Australians placed 27 million online food orders in 2018. By 2024, this number is projected to increase to 65 million. Take-away food packaging associated with online meal deliveries is making the food sector's already massive carbon footprint even larger. Last year, lockdowns related to COVID-19 led to a 20% increase in household solid wastes, due in part to increased food deliveries. In most cases, online food deliveries require single-use packaging. Producing, transporting and disposing of this packaging requires large quantities of energy and raw materials. The climate crisis and problems facing Australia's waste management sector mean we must urgently reduce waste from meals ordered online.

Google: The sad news is that Google has decided to hide some Australian news sites from its search results, in a move that is being interpreted as a response to the Australian Government attempting to make the tech giant pay for original news content. Experts say the tech giant is "throwing its weight around" while under pressure to pay for local news content, but Google is trying to downplay the significance of the move by saying it is just an experiment and doesn't affect many people. Yeah! Right!

Duty Roster for February

Chair: Barbara; **Minute Spot:** Elwyn; **Fellowship:** Dale and Bev
Door: (with Ron) Trish



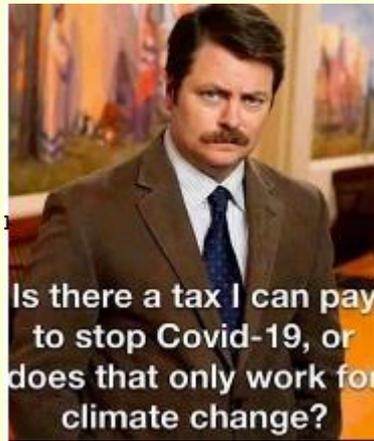
Left is a Probus Global sticker. Why not join other overseas (and local) Probians and chat on line, share your news and views and see what other clubs are doing? It is free.

Major online retailer Kogan has copped a \$310,800 fine for bombarding customers with spam. An Australian Communications and Media Authority investigation found Kogan sent more than 42 million marketing emails to consumers from which they could not easily unsubscribe.

If you enjoy our club, please consider joining the management committee.

We need you! We have just one 1.5 hour meeting a month and many hands make light work. Attached are three documents associated with the AGM.

Just bought a log cabin home from Ikea



Is there a tax I can pay to stop Covid-19, or does that only work for climate change?

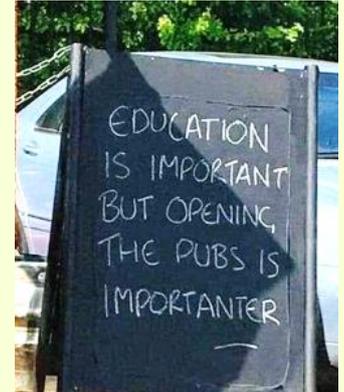
Guess I've had too much caffeine...I thought this lady was a Muppet.



I just finished the deck to my new pool... What do y'all think?



I POOP IN THE HOUSE AND HE LOSES HIS MIND.
I POOP OUTSIDE AND HE CHEERS ME ON, BAGS IT, AND BRINGS IT HOME. WTF?



STARTED GROWING MY OWN POT

Last month, (January 2021) Sir Tom Jones celebrated his 80th birthday. The following joke went viral:



The awkward moment when you thought they tested with a nasal swab.

A Man goes to the Doctor and lays out his problems. He says whenever he sees a cat he yells "What's New, Pussycat?" If he sees a woman while on the street, he exclaims "She's A Lady!" which is really driving his wife crazy. And speaking of his wife he keeps calling her Delilah, when her name is Susan! The doctor says "Considering your symptoms, it sounds like you have Tom Jones' Disease". "Tom Jones' Disease? I've never heard of that! Is it rare?" "It's not unusual"

Diet tip: If you think you're hungry, you might just be thirsty. Have a bottle of wine first and then see how you feel.



To be honest, I'm surprised they can drive at all.