

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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March 2021 Issue No.151

The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Jill's Jottings



Hello to you all,
We were delighted to welcome 40 members to our February meeting – our highest number since the start of Covid. Also we had four visitors. Elwyn's five-minute spot was about the Coopers Gap windfarm situated between Dalby and Kingaroy. He recently visited the site, was able to do a tour of the farm, and collected quite a bit of information, complete with photos. Our guest speaker was Anna Meredith, the Brisbane City Council Seniors' Project Officer, who spoke to us about the numerous services the Council offers, many of which are free of charge or have a very nominal fee. Her talk sparked much interest and was followed by numerous questions from the floor.

We are still experiencing delays with the activation of the Tyro service. Amazingly, our replacement machine was given to me at the meeting as it had been posted to the Newnham Hotel. Hopefully, Ron will have this operational by the March meeting.



WE NEED YOU!

Our AGM is on Thursday March 18th. This will only take a short time and the elections will take the place of our normal five-minute spot. At the time of going to press we do not have any nominations for President, Activities Officer, and a couple of general Committee members.

March 17th is St Patrick's Day
Can you wear some wear **GREEN**
to our Club meeting?

WILL YOU HELP?

Dance then wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance said he
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be

Jill

Let's Celebrate!

Although our March meeting is the day after St. Patrick's Day, let's celebrate by wearing green!



Twenty years ago, Aldi, a virtually unknown German grocery chain, opened two stores in Sydney. They carried just 900 products each, mostly of unknown brands. Shoppers had to bring and pack their own bags themselves. To use a trolley required a “gold coin”. They didn’t seek to entice customers with “loyalty” rewards or other gimmicks. Few Australian supermarket executives at the time would have considered them models for success. They couldn’t imagine the impact Aldi would have on Australia’s retail sector and shopping habits. Aldi now has more than 10,000 stores in 20 countries, including China. It has more than 500 stores in Australia and a 12.4% share of our \$110 billion food and grocery sector. While its competitors have emulated Aldi in many ways (some covert, some overt), the German chain remains a very different no-frills operation. It has not introduced self-serve checkouts or on-line deliveries and its quirky, seasonal, limited-stock non-grocery items still draw customers and create excitement.



Sign language: As government COVID updates have become a daily part of our lives over the past 12 months, so too has the sight of sign language interpreters on our screens. This has understandably had

a huge impact on the lives of Deaf Australians — it means they have access to critical health and safety information in their first language, Australian Sign Language, or Auslan. The Deaf Society and Deaf Services reports enrolments in Auslan courses have risen by more than 400% since the pandemic began. In an effort to capitalise on this, there is a push to see Auslan recognised as an official language. About 30,000 people use Auslan in Australia.

Remember: Being a Club that is more about fun than “business”, our AGM takes all of about eight minutes. It replaces the five minute talk by a member. So, don’t let it put you off from attending.

E-babies: Within 18 years, babies born to parents who met online will be more common than babies born to couples who met via traditional means, according to a new report by Monash University. Projections from current trends in online dating pinpoint 2038 as the year when more than half of the babies born will be born to online couples. Furthermore, by 2030, over a third of babies will be e-babies, which is huge leap forward considering just two decades ago online dating was very much in its

infancy. In fact, even just a decade ago, few couples openly admitted they met online. Interestingly, the report also finds that couples who met online in more recent years (2014-2020), on average have marginally more babies than those who met face-to-which suggests a key group of singles use technology to seek family-inclined commitments.

Activities

March 2021

Heron Island trip has been cancelled.

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

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

Schonell Theatre, UQ St Lucia -\$26. Bookings closed, but see Brian if you still wish to attend.

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

*****Thursday 25th (River Cruise cancelled because cruise organisers won't take advance bookings). Replaced with Lunch (12.30) at Southside Sports Club – Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd Upper Mt Gravatt**

April 2021

Sunday 4th NO COFFEE & CHAT (Easter) – See below

***** 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 limited tickets available



Wetlands need protecting over the past 300 years, 85% of the world's wetland areas have been destroyed, reclaimed, or built on. Yet they store carbon, regulate our climate and control flooding, absorb waste including pollutants and carbon,

provide animal habitat and provide places for human recreation – all at minimal cost. A study, currently under peer review, established that Australia, if not for coastal wetlands, would have spent 90% more on flood and storm mitigation over the past 50 years. This is especially true because cyclone damage has cost us \$3 billion but could easily have cost \$30+ billion without the coastal wetlands. Wetlands are an incredibly important resource, and it is critical we protect them from development and keep them healthy.

Duty Roster for March

Chair: Richard; **5 Minute Spot:** AGM **Fellowship:** Rosslyn and Marilyn **Door:** (with Ron) Lyn

Corruption: The latest global Corruption Perception Index rankings places Australia at 11 out of 180 countries, behind New Zealand, Denmark, Germany and others. Not bad, but in 2012, Australia ranked 7th. Australians can go about their daily lives without having to worry they will have to pay a bribe to receive basic services, or that money will find its way into the pockets of politicians. However, our decline since 2012 matters because trust in our institutions is fundamental to our functioning as a society and for attracting foreign investment. While the measure is of perception, not actual corruption, it is globally used and respected and uses a rigorous methodology. The drop probably took into consideration examples such as the A\$100 million federal sports grants program, the A\$30 million Leppington Triangle land purchase, the doctored document the federal Energy Minister used to pursue the Sydney City Council, the Robodebt debacle and irregularities into water allocations among several other incidents. We should have a national integrity agency that is bold, but above all, we must have a demonstrated commitment to raising the bar for higher standards.

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

It is not too late to nominate for the committee from the floor at the AGM.



Google has about a 90-95 per cent share of the search engine market in Australia and it is threatening to withdraw it in retaliation to our looming charges for news content. It did so from China 10 years ago, (and later tried to re-establish without winning back its market share) allowing other search engines to take up the slack in short order. We have several other powerful search engines available to us if Google was to quit Australia. We could utilise alternatives such as Microsoft's Bing, Yahoo and privacy-focused, excellent site DuckDuckGo, as well as virtual private networks (VPNs). Some tech-savvy people already use VPNs to stream geo-blocked content, and if necessary, we could even access Google in this way. So we have solutions and if the threat eventuates, while inconvenient, at the start, it should not cause anxiety.

According to travel gurus, even with the vaccine and its rollout, Australia's health experts have already suggested overseas travel may not be on the agenda for all of this year.



It has become traditional that every January or February, because of the heat, we have a twilight dinner by the sea. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by 16 members last month, at the Pelican's Nest fish and chip café in Wynnum. The setting, overlooking Moreton Bay, is very conducive to dining at dusk. The trees in the park opposite were festooned with

fairy lights adding to the ambience. After dinner, several members "walked off" their dinner along the waterfront. The venue was not crowded, hence waiting time for the meal order was short. We had our own area of the café so we could all easily mingle and converse. Favourable comments were received (again) and it was agreed that this activity will continue.

Bill



Hydrogen: Australia is looking to hydrogen as a new fuel source. It's a clean energy source that can help us reach a net-zero emission future. Hydrogen can be used as a fuel source in cars, trucks, ships, and even aircraft, and is the most common gas on earth. [Is that why the Government is not pushing electric cars?] There are already two hydrogen cars available in Australia, (Toyota Mirai – pictured - and the Hyundai Nexo SUV) but not yet for private purchase. Clean hydrogen is already considered to be cost-competitive as a fuel for road transport and the main barriers to market uptake is the lack of infrastructure supporting its use. However, Victorian scientists, with the help of a \$10 million government grant, are currently working on the development of a hydrogen refuelling system. Initially, a fleet of hydrogen vehicles will be available to CSIRO and its partners as a trial, and an example of 'real world' use. A hydrogen refueller station looks a lot like a petrol station. In Germany, America and other countries, hydrogen refuelling pumps are located at conventional petrol stations. A hydrogen bowser has a pump with nozzle that clamps onto to the car. Once the seal has been made, the hydrogen gas starts filling the tank. The emissions from the car are water and warm air. It augurs well for a net zero emission future.

Psychology and other "helping professions" such as counselling and social work are often regarded as quintessentially human domains. In 2013 a survey about it becoming automated in the near future came up

with a probability of 0.43%. Psychology academics' research now shows that the idea psychology cannot be automated is well out of date. Psychology already makes use of many automated tools such as apps which help with relaxation, sleep, and obsessive behaviours. Basically, psychology entails assessment, diagnosis, intervention and evaluation (which is really re-assessment). While Artificial Intelligence (AI) is still a long way from empathy and intuitive skills, a range of AI-driven mental health apps are already available. For example, [Cogniant](#) and [Woebot](#) and other such products adopt cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) procedures, widely considered the "gold standard" of intervention for many psychological conditions. Mindfulness apps are also readily available. Psychologists are generally in denial that they will not be replaced by AI. Probably not completely, but indications are there that AI will be capable of doing much of their work in the not too distant future.

It was nice to meet Robyn at February's Coffee and Chat. Also, joining us were Barrie, who attended our last meeting, and his wife Una who was unable to visit us that day. For people intending to join us, the popular coffee and chat mornings are a great way to get to know our members, because the group is much smaller and more intimate than at our meetings. Your committee has been discussing the idea of a second coffee and chat activity each month, given its popularity. It won't be on a Sunday, giving those who can't make it then an opportunity to join in. **Note that the usual coffee and Chat in April will be on the SECOND Sunday because of Easter.**



Warning: Did you know that the new magnetic charging technology which is a feature of Apple's iPhone 12 could wreak havoc with implantable cardiac devices? If you have a pacemaker or defibrillator, and a new iPhone 12, don't keep the phone in your shirt pocket.



COVID in Antarctica: In December, Antarctica lost its status as the last continent free of COVID-19 when 36 people at a Chilean research station tested positive. While we don't yet know from which animal it originated, the potential to spread coronavirus to penguins, whales and other wildlife is enormous and scientists are extremely concerned. We don't know how it could affect them or the continent's ecosystem stability. While mink, dogs or cats are not in Antarctica, more than 100 million flying seabirds, 45% of the world's penguin species,

50% of the world's seal populations and 17% of the world's whale and dolphin species inhabit the continent and 73,991 tourists travelled to the continent between October 2019 and April 2020. Until the true risk of cross-species transmission is known, precautions must be taken to reduce the risk of spread to all wildlife; close human contact with wildlife should be restricted to essential scientific purposes only.

Update on our Tyro machine for EFTPOS payments: It has received new software and has been reset. Hopefully, Ron will have it up and running by the next meeting.



Would you believe it? When the delayed Olympic Games in Tokyo begin in July – assuming they *will* begin in July – there will be no socialising, no handshakes and definitely no hugs among athletes.

Despite these strict rules imposed on them, organisers will provide them with 150,000 condoms, according to *This Week in Asia*. 😊

Be careful when you follow the masses. Sometimes the "m" is missing.

Noise pollution is penetrating further into our oceans, endangering marine animals. Most marine animals rely on sound for survival, and scientists found "strong evidence" for the negative impact of increasing noise pollution on marine mammals. They also found evidence of similar negative effects on invertebrates, fish, marine birds and reptiles. Researchers are calling for noise pollution to be included in environmental assessments of human impacts on marine ecosystems, alongside physical stressors like chemical pollution and climate change.

Duty Roster: If you have volunteered for a task on the meeting duty roster, and you can't make it, could you please try to find a replacement before you notify a committee member? Our committee is small, and that will make its job just a bit easier.



Changing education: The Australasian Council on Open, Distance and e-Learning recently published a white paper on lectures, based on survey responses from 43 member universities (91% response rate). About two-thirds indicated they would not be conducting on-campus lectures this year. In many, however, on-campus tutorials, lab work and small-group seminars will continue. By 2013, more than 700 studies had all found lectures are an ineffective teaching approach and some universities started "killing off" lectures long before the

pandemic. Non-traditional teaching and learning spaces are being created and a suite of alternative teaching approaches - most available online - such as panel discussions, animated explanations, online experimentation, problem-solving demonstration videos and website hunts are being introduced. While mostly brought on by the pandemic, it is said that these changes are long overdue in the higher education sector.

Please remember to wear your name badges to meetings and outings. While most of us know each other's names, as we age, we can get "mental blocks" which makes it embarrassing when we can't remember a fellow Probian's name; not to mention that it helps visitors and newer members to feel comfortable.

Laws and the Vaccine: Australians will be able to provide proof of vaccination through an app on their phone. Businesses can generally set out the terms and conditions that apply to the provision of their services, but they can't discriminate if you are not vaccinated. However, generally, it will be considered as a "reasonable demand" on the basis of health and safety, and mandated for certain jobs. Despite the complex legal questions associated with mandating vaccinations, there will be also disincentives for non-compliance, such as having to purchase seats on either side of you on airlines or theatres, or preferential sales of tickets to events, with just the "left-overs" going to unvaccinated people, or refusal of service altogether. One would have to have obtained an exemption or have a very strong case to sue for discrimination.



Ties do many things. Neckties made global news last month when Maori MP, Rawiri Waititi, was ejected from the debating chamber of the NZ Parliament. He refused to wear a tie, evocatively describing it as a "colonial noose". In Australia, Members of Parliament were allowed to ditch the necktie in 1977 when safari suits were officially considered business attire. Since then, however, Parliament House dress standards have informally shifted, with our male politicians uniformly donning ties in the chamber. This narrow strip of fabric has many meanings for its wearers. Originally cloths were worn in the 17th century to protect men's necks from the sword. Later, cravats were made from lace, linen, silk and muslin often depicting the wealth of the wearer. The bow tie and the necktie — in a form recognisable today — were increasingly visible in the 19th century. Skinny ties, wide ties, "loud" ties have all been in and out of fashion. Ties can signify allegiance to football teams, the armed forces,

political parties, heratige and more. Though they express identity, they can just as readily act as a 'uniform' for their wearers.

When Anna Meredith talked to us last month, a question was asked about Women's Sheds. She advises that while not yet established, Tabatha Pashen, the City Council's Community Development Coordinator, is currently trying to gauge interest in Ladies' Sheds. She can be contacted on tabatha.pashen@brisbane.qld.gov.au for more information or if you are interested in supporting the idea.



Well, at the time of writing, Facebook has taken down its Australian news service. The appalling decision to take down government health information sites, even temporarily, almost on the eve of the vaccine roll-out demonstrates how callously indifferent this American corporation can be to the well-being of its audiences. The thing to remember is that there was life before Facebook and if this rupture won't heal, life will still continue, just with a little wrinkle for a short time. It could even be, that Facebook has shot itself in the foot. There are plenty of other ways to find the news. Facebook already faces a long-term problem of an ageing user demographic, as under-30s turn to Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

March Speaker: The speaker at our March meeting will be **Adele Hamilton**, Ageless Grace Trainer & Educator. She will be introducing the Ageless Grace® program, an organic rather than choreographed, movement practice to maintain and stimulate cognitive function and physical function simultaneously. She will focus on the importance of brain health including discussing neuroplasticity and how using the movement tools in the Ageless Grace® program, benefits the five major areas of the brain and improves overall body functions which are vital to aging and youthful function.

The MacGregor Club has issued an invitation to Probianas to join them on a 12 day trip to Tasmania in September. The trip will be organised by Trade Travel and will cost \$4698 pp twin share. Further details are available from John Perry at bigster99@yahoo.com or Brian Gilmore at briangilmore@optusnet.com.au. Have fun with fellow Probianas.



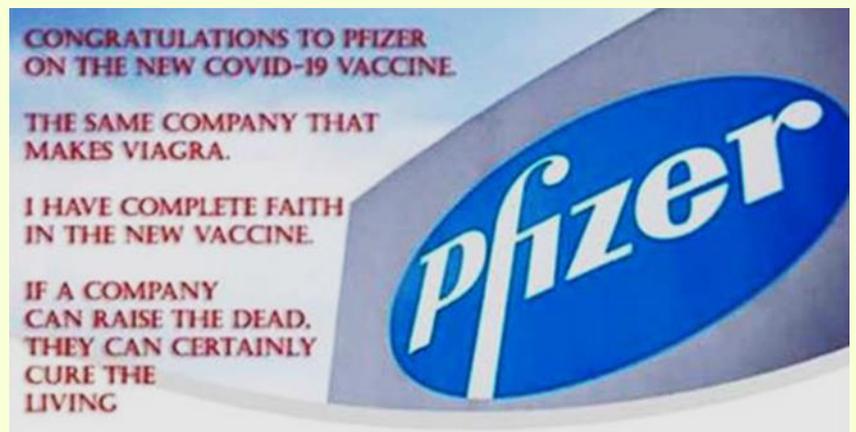
AMISH STOP SIGN



"Fights have been down 68 percent since we've had them do an hour of river dancing every morning."



Trump: "I want to see Biden in prison". Biden: "Why does Trump think I would visit him in prison?"



Notice outside a church: It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the Call of God. However, it is not likely that he will contact you by phone. Thank you for turning off your phone. If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, and talk to him. If you would like to see him, send him a text while driving.

Don't give the Melbourne weather a hard time. If it didn't change six times a day, most Melburnians couldn't start a conversation.