

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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April 2021 Issue No.152

The HP Source – It's a bottler!

Mary's Musings



While I am honoured to be your President, I admit to being a bit unhappy. It is not because we have a club that lacks excellent meetings or activities. Nor is it because of poor calibre speakers. With the exception of a very few, the 130-odd speakers we have had to date have been first class, and the topics covered have been

varied, stimulating and even challenging. Our morning teas

have been delicious and appetizing. We have weathered COVID well, except, regrettably, for the loss of a few members. We have aged, albeit graciously, but we are still a vibrant, active and interesting club.

So why am I unhappy?

Because the club has a re-cycled president - one who has had one and a half terms already under her belt. It is such a shame that we have amongst us such capable, presentable, committed, erudite members, yet the thought of using a mike, or taking on responsibility for a year, puts them off. Our committee members meet once a month, and undertake duties which probably don't add up to more than a day's "work" each month. So why the reluctance? With any luck, you will make me a happy re-cycled President by inundating me with a show of interest in taking office for next year, and easing our succession planning, or volunteering to help with some routine tasks. We are in a position to co-opt members to the committee now, and could do with a couple more. The only qualification you need is to have an email account. So come and talk to me and make me a happy President!!!!

I would like to reiterate what Jill said at the last meeting and give a huge "thank you" to those committee members who served so well but stood down this year. Thank you to George who filled the VP slot when needed, and to Rosemary who has served on the committee for some eight years, in various positions, including a year as President.



Meanwhile have a wonderful Easter break. I'll be back from visiting family in Victoria by then.

Take care,

Mary W



The first of a series of Covid testing kiosks at airports has been installed at Avalon airport. Designed and manufactured in Australia the fever-testing machine uses artificial intelligence to analyse and measure a person's face to see if they have a fever. The airport will install 18 kiosks in the terminal and will be part of check-in and bag-drop facilities and located at security screening checkpoints.



April Speaker: The April speaker will be **Chris Grice**, General Manager of National Seniors Australia. His talk will cover such topics as what is happening in the area of advocacy providing information in relation to the Aged Care Royal Commission and the roll-out of the recommendations, the Retirement Income Review, upcoming Federal Budget, and government entitlements. Also, he will address one of the most important matters impacting older Australians at the moment - COVID-19; the support that is available via our wellness checks and the roll-out of the vaccine.

ODD SPOT A team from the Russian Raptor Research and Conservation Network attached SMS text-based tracking devices to 13 steppe eagles. The hope was that the birds would send back valuable information about their behavior. Unfortunately, one bird flew all the way to Iran, where roaming rates are exorbitant. The eagle sent hundreds of text as he disappeared for five months. On its return, the phone bill was so costly that it ended up bankrupting the study.

Activities

April 2021

Sunday 4th NO COFFEE & CHAT (Easter) – postponed for a week, see below

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

*** **Wednesday 14th** 11.30 am, Coffee and/or lunch at Club Southside, Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd Upper Mt Gravatt

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

*** **Thursday 22nd** Pizza and Games in the Park from 10.30am Tillack Park, Blackberry Rd, Mansfield (enter via the Metropol end of Greenmeadow Rd). Join the fun of Quoits, Croquet, and other such strenuous Olympic sports designed for the young at heart. (The cost of the pizzas will be divided up when we eat). BYO drinks and a chair.

May 2021

***Sunday, 2nd 10.30am **Coffee & Chat** Pacific Golf Club.

***Wednesday 12th 11.30am **Coffee and/or lunch** at Club Southside, Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd Upper Mt Gravatt

***Sunday 16th 2pm **Concert**: Brisbane City Pops Orchestra, Schonell Theatre, UQ, St. Lucia \$26. **Payment at April meeting**

***Thursday 20th 9.30am **Monthly meeting** Newnham Hotel

More May activities to come: (New committee working on it)!

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



It is not Australian, but it is unique! The kangaroo mouse, named such because of its extraordinary jumping ability, lives in the Nevada desert (USA). And since it resides in such a very dry area, it's learned to adapt by getting all of the hydration it needs via the seeds it eats. This means that the kangaroo mouse never drinks water.

Duty Roster for April

Chair: **Sandra** Five Min Spot: **Andy** Fellowship 1: **Barry**
Fellowship 2: **Stephanie** Door: **Carmel and Ron**

Addictive travel game: It is not just for those who have travelled extensively, but also for people wanting to travel. The game is called [City Guesser](#) and, as the name suggests, it challenges you to guess the city from a virtual walk around the streets. The geography-based browser game provides an exceptional travel and guessing experience and some tips will help while you are playing, including looking at licence plates, road signs and markings, business names and flags. The game also offers the option of trying to guess from any city anywhere in the world, or narrowing it down to individual countries or continents. If you are well travelled and are finding the game too easy, you can further challenge yourself with a 'no moving' or 'time limit' restriction. Also, playing the game is sure to help with one's hunger for travel. People can also contribute to the game by filming their own virtual walk around their home city and sending the video via YouTube.

Travel Insurance: Probus will no longer be offering travel insurance through Chubb insurance Australia Limited. However, PSPL is committed to supporting Probus Club members when travelling and hope to make an announcement on an alternative insurer as soon as possible.

Repairs: If Apple and other tech companies have their way, it will become more difficult to have our phones and other devices repaired by third-party businesses. Devices are increasingly being designed in ways that make it challenging to repair or replace individual components. Historically, third-party repairers have been a cheaper option. The fight to remove barriers to repair is gaining momentum, but to date, it has been unsuccessful. A “right to repair” legislation is needed.



Outing to Laidley. We car pooled for this trip, and a number of us heading for Laidley experienced a downpour as we left Brisbane. Fortunately this cleared before arrival and the drive into the Laidley township showed some very green pastures and new housing developments. The early birds had tea and/or coffee at the delightful Laidley Florist and Tea room. Some meandered along the main street, past Hotel

Laidley that had seen better days and found the town “mall” (just a lane really) where there were a few pieces of sculpture one of which was a large flower blossom titled “Lily of the Lockyer Valley” (pictured above). This was an impressive piece (about 800mm x 800mm), constructed of Granite, Chillagoe marble and Helidon freestone. There were the Exchange Hotel, a shoe shop, a real estate office and two dogs in a ute patiently awaiting their owners’ return outside the Op-shop with specials at 50 cents per garment. That’s my kind of shop!!

On the other side of the road were various other shops that populated the main street including the Laidley Post Office, a fairly large Mitre 10 store, the only bank in town and a solicitors’ office. The Queensland National Hotel was near a children’s playground and also the Das Neumann Haus built in 1893, which sported a large statue of a horse outside. After wandering the town, we headed to the well maintained Laidley Pioneer Village which had old to ancient displays. Of particular interest were a corrugated iron-making machine, a horse drawn “seed potato sower”, a corn thresher and the hospital with a birthing “table”, dentist’s chair, various mobility aids and even circumcision instruments. There was a jail, butcher shop, a replica school room, a house with an “ant bed oven”, built in 1931 used to bake bread until 1945, a spinning wheel and many more interesting items. We were also shown how they used a lathe which was “powered” by foot pedal almost like a sewing machine but much more primitive.

Driving through the Lockyer Valley we saw crops of sorghum, potatoes and wheat. In Forest Hill at the Lokyer Valley Hotel, we had a pleasant lunch with typical country hospitality. At about 2pm some of the group

drove to Gatton to visit the Queensland Transport Museum (QTM) while others called it a day and went home.

The QTM housed old and reconditioned modes of transport ranging from a BCC bus built in 1948, tractors, a fire engine, convertible cars, a Cessna single seater aeroplane, trucks of all sorts and ages including a Canadian built Chevrolet used by the allies in the desert during WWII. The latter sported three mounted machine guns, two additional ones for hand use, a .303 rifle and all the aids to dig oneself out of a wadi if the vehicle became bogged. A very interesting place to visit. Thanks go to Bill and Lynne for organizing a successful and enjoyable day.

Richard M.

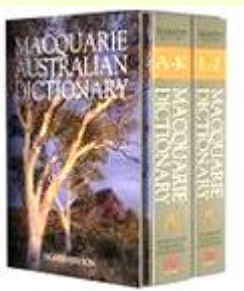


Australian consumers are early adopters of new technology and on average update their phones every 2.5 years. It is estimated that there are 24 million old mobiles in Australia. About five million of them are

broken and others are kept because owners know they shouldn't bin them and also because many don't know how to get rid of the data on them. Inside them are valuable components including metals such as gold, copper, silver and palladium and across the world we go to extraordinary lengths to mine these precious resources. 95% of the phone components can be recycled, but not through your recycling bin, because there, the batteries in them are fire hazards. There are half a dozen mobilemuster drop-off points in each suburb so drop them off or get a free mailing satchel. <https://www.mobilemuster.com.au/recycle-a-mobile/>

Did you know that research shows that those who drive smaller vehicles and get better deals on insurance premiums spend around \$3413 on average a year on car related costs, while those with vehicles such as SUVs, spend more than twice that – \$7963 per year on average?

It is not often mentioned, but thank you to **George and Margaret** for hosting the bridge games for Probianas (and other friends) on Fridays. If anyone is interested in bridge, contact them.



It took nearly 11 years to compile. In 1962 Macquarie University published a paper about the need for a dictionary of Australian English. The Macquarie lexicographers started work in 1970; the first edition was published in 1981. Eleven years is not bad, given that it took 70 years for the first Oxford dictionary to take shape. It is no surprise there were controversies to contend with in

the years it took to compile the first edition. Some were overcome with the included descriptions. For example: "*English you does not distinguish singular from plural. The form youse does provide a plural, contrasting with singular you, but there is strong resistance to it, in spoken as well as written language, and it remains non-standard*". When launched, the reviews were glowing, except for one condescending and scathing review by the editor of the second edition of the Oxford English Dictionary. Robert Burchfield, a New Zealander, accused the committee of a "charming unawareness of the standards of reputable lexicography outside Australia". 50 years on, the dictionary is in its 8th edition and has also embraced Indigenous Australian issues with *Macquarie Aboriginal Words* in 1994 and the *Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia* in 2005. As Ernie Dingo put it at the time: "This book is a White step in the Black direction".



In the mid-1900's there were giant underwater kelp forests along Tasmania's south-east coast. It was an extraordinary submarine landscape. From blue depths of up to 40 metres, strands of seaweed stretched to the surface. There, they spread out to form a canopy, greedily soaking up sunshine. Each individual strand of giant kelp swayed and danced with the swell and hosted masses of young fish. Before the 1960s, small amounts of kelp were harvested in Tasmania, but alginate production was far from being a major industry. In 1963, Alginates Australia started harvesting the kelp and 10 years on they had decimated the forest - and walked away. The less than five per cent of eastern Tasmania's kelp forests that remain is susceptible to climate change. The spectacular, iconic marine habitat that was so dominant and prominent down the east Tasmanian coast is now gone and not coming back.





Australia's consumer watchdog (ACCC) expects that travel issues will dominate its work this year. In a recent speech the ACCC Chairman said that they would be paying close attention to how international holidays were marketed, and will be actively monitoring forward sales practices by

travel businesses due to concerns about misrepresentations in advertising and marketing material. While the aviation sector in domestic travel has received some attention this year and will continue to do so, there has been a surge of complaints by local "grey nomads" among others. The campers and caravan sector has experienced failures by caravan manufacturers and dealers to comply with their consumer guarantee obligations.

Ida (I'd a done it this way) is our suggestion box available at all meetings. It is rarely used, and the committee would really like members to make more use of it. Suggestions about our meetings, possible outings, speakers, our membership drive etc., are all welcome. Brick bats and roses too. If you put your name to it, you'll get feedback. If they are anonymous, please don't think they are ignored, we just can't give you feedback. They WILL be discussed by the committee. If sometimes they are not implemented, it usually is because of practicality or because they have been tried before. But please, feel free to make suggestions.



Gender bias in medicine and medical research is still putting women's health at risk. Mentally, physically and biologically, men and women are simply not built the same way. For example, autoimmune diseases affect approximately 8% of the global population, but 78% of those affected are women. Women make up two-thirds of people with Alzheimer's disease, and are three times more likely to have a heart attack than men. Women are at least twice as likely to suffer chronic pain conditions such as fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome and chronic Lyme disease. Because the diagnosis method still favours male biology, many women experience a delayed diagnosis or a misdiagnosis of numerous conditions. Historically, medical research has often excluded women. Male-only studies were justified by a belief that what would work for men would also work for women. This erroneous assumption has had catastrophic results. Eight out of ten of the drugs removed from the US market between 1997 and 2000 were withdrawn because of side effects that occurred mainly or exclusively in women. While this issue is now being addressed, and scientists are now required to account for the possible role of gender as a biological variable

in human studies, there is a long way to go. Only 2.5% of the annual medical research budget of Australia and NZ is dedicated to women's health including reproductive or gynaecological health.



What a surprise! Those who have been members of the club for a long time, welcomed Patricia Zandler and Graham to our coffee morning. Patricia who was a member during the club's younger years, moved to Warwick eight years ago. She requested, at the time, to remain on the mailing list for the newsletter and therefore knew where and when to find us. Now that they have returned to Brisbane it is hoped she will re-join the club and that Graham will join also. It was also good to see them at our last meeting.

Moderating views: YouTube has gained a reputation for facilitating far-right radicalisation and spreading antisocial ideas. However, in an interesting twist, the same subversive, comedic, satiric and ironic tactics used by far-right internet figures are now being countered by a group of left-wing YouTubers known as "BreadTube". By making videos on the same topics as the far-right, BreadTube videos essentially hijack YouTube's algorithms by getting recommended to viewers who consume far-right content. BreadTubers want to pop YouTube's political bubbles to create space for deradicalisation. Essentially, left-wingers mimic right-winger's keywords and let the site's algorithms do the rest by delivering their message. The creators infuse politics with their other interests such as films, video games, popular culture, histories and philosophy and seem to be gaining some traction in moderating extreme right wing views.



Your Editor picked up a brochure offering \$1000 grants to community groups for programs which foster education, well-being, biodiversity, improved environment, among other benefits in local communities. The committee has run with this and applied for a grant for membership promotion on the basis that we could offer a richer variety of activities given more members. The grant application was based on the fostering of well-being and education of seniors through social contact and friendship. It remains to be seen if it will be successful, because in the past such grants were given for more tangible items than marketing and promotion. We went for it on the basis that we met all the other criteria and if you don't ask, you don't get.



Short-lived as it was, Facebook's removal of Australian news raised interesting questions about our dependence on social media and whether we can do without it. A recent survey – of a randomised, nationally representative sample of the Australian population - has shown Australians are willing and able to pull the plug on social media. But it turns out the generation you were born in, as well as your level of education, will likely have a bearing on whether you do. Tertiary-educated people disengage with social media more often than others. Of the Silent Generation (currently 76-93 years old), 40% had never used social media. Gen X (41-56 years old) led the way in social media reduction and disconnection. Millennials (25-40 years old) were the least likely to reduce their social media use while Gen Z (24 and under) were a bit more willing to try. Tech giants are taking note.

Coffee No2 At the last meeting, due to the popularity of the Coffee and Chat morning, a show of hands indicated that a second such event would work if we introduced it. As a result, quite a number turned up following George's email advice, at 11.30am on a Wednesday at Club Southside – some had coffee and cake, some had lunch and the chatter continued until after 1.30pm. Before we left, it was decided to make this a monthly gathering every second Wednesday of the month; same place, same time. George offered to book the table each month.



The idea of "fake news" is being used to save endangered shorebirds from extinction. Scientists have devised a way of creating nest smells which attract predators. There are various reasons why it is not advisable to eradicate the predators, most of which are introduced species such as cats. So nest-like smelling chemicals were mixed with Vaseline and smeared on rocks in two 1,000-hectare study sites, around where shorebirds nest. They did this several times, a few weeks before nesting. After a while, the predators lost interest and when nesting actually occurred, the number of nests destroyed by predators almost halved. As a result, chick production was 1.7 times higher at treated sites compared to control sites over the 25-35 days of the nesting season.

What a pity! PAQ had a vibrant, active Probus Choir which performed at clubs all over Brisbane. It is currently winding up as a result of COVID.



Pictured left is the immediate Past President Jill handing over the chain of office to the incoming President Mary W. The AGM took a little longer than usual and two resolutions were passed. One was to raise membership fees to \$40p.a. and the other to insert a word into the by-laws to allow for the 70/30 membership gender balance to be of the maximum membership cap of the club rather than set in concrete at 70/30.

Built to rent is coming: Historically, small-portfolio “mum and dad” landlords have owned and managed our rental stock. It integrated well with owner-occupied accommodation. Now, disruption is occurring with huge institutional investors developing purpose-built rental apartments to retain and operate under single ownership. With 40 projects under way, an estimated 15,000 units worth more than \$10 billion are in the pipeline. Many have 300 or more units to be owned and operated by one corporation. On the plus side, many will have flexible long-term tenancies, client-centric onsite management, hotel-style amenities and services, and allowances for pets and personalisation, such as painting and decorating. They may even have reasonable rent, given government “bulk” subsidies. However, the worry is that some build-to-rent developers may circumvent design standards such as storage space and design variety and residents could be priced out of neighbourhoods they could once afford.



Concert - The silver screen: It was with some trepidation that a group of members attended the first concert, staged by the

Brisbane City Pops Orchestra (BCPO), since the Covid restrictions. The pizza kiosk nor the wine bar were open; so no pre-concert snack – shame! It was, however, a surprise to find a full auditorium upon our entry. There was obviously a pent-up demand for good music. Off to a rousing start with a buoyant and cheery rendition of the Dambusters March well suited to a sunny Queensland Sunday afternoon. It was a delight to see that Martin Daubney, he of the sonorous but mellifluous voice, was to be our compare. After a lively Pirates of Penzance medley we had an arrangement of the Cavatina from The Deer Hunter but, unfortunately the lovely guitar line was largely lost. Vocalist Susanna

O'Leary lifted our spirits with her clear voice singing Cucurrucucu and Blue Moon. A selection from Annie Get Your Gun followed, not a favourite musical of mine back in the day nor now, but quickly erased by conductor Chen Yang's sensitive violin solo of the theme from Schindlers List. I cannot recall the music from Forrest Gump but it was surprisingly tuneful and well scored. The wonderful melody Born Free by John Barry followed a couple more songs from Susanne. Music from The great Showman rather missed the mark but not the toe tapping energetic rendition of that from Grease! The BCPO played with precision and verve and was obviously well rehearsed. My somewhat lukewarm reaction to a couple of items is more to do with personal taste than performance. So do please go along to the next show, my companions enjoyed it all; there is something for everyone.

Andy

Use your smile to change the World. Don't let the World change your smile.



Tuvalu: Did you know that Tuvalu is the third-smallest sovereign state in the world – behind only the Vatican and fellow South Pacific minnow Nauru? It has a population of 11,600 and has a high point of just 4.57m, ranking it alongside the

Maldives as one of the nations most threatened by climate change. The island is so small, and flights so irregular, that the runway is used as a football pitch and play area by local children. Tuvalu is located midway between Hawaii and Australia in the South Pacific Ocean and its population is involved in subsistence fishing and agriculture. The Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the UK have made major contributions to aid the tiny nation where the Queen is the Head of State, represented by a Governor-General. Curiously, its coinage is Tuvaluan, but having no bank notes of its own, it uses the Australian Dollar for notes.

Membership Fees

These are due by the end of April. So please pay the \$40 at the next meeting, or deposit the amount into the club's account noting your name. BSB 064 122 a/c 10186858: Probus Club of Holland Park Central. No invoices will be issued, but if you require a receipt, please ask Treasurer Ron.



Fact: Viagra may typically be prescribed to humans, but it also gives plants a boost, helping them stand up more erect and last longer. According to Israeli scientist Ya'acov Leshem, from Bar-Ilan University, flowers that had been given Viagra "looked much fresher and their colour remained longer."

Two men broke into a chemist and stole all the Viagra. The police report read, "Be on alert for two hardened criminals."



- 2021-22 Committee**
President: Mary W
Vice President: Margaret O'D
Immediate Past President: Jill
Secretary: Barbara
Treasurer: Ron
Activities: Jill and Brenda
Membership: Bill
Welfare: Lynne
-
- Speaker organiser:** David (not on the committee)



My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and found they were \$70!!! Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.



Him: "If I say I'll do it, I'll DO it. No need to remind me every six months!"

Just got back from my mate's funeral. He died after being hit on the head with a tennis ball. It was a lovely service.

