



THE TIMES

Edition Number 208 February 2020

Hamilton Probud Club Inc. 56018 Accredited 14 December 1990

President: Mrs Margot Kirby Ph. 3262 6693 Email: nocturn@bigpond.com

Secretary: Dr. John Blackford Ph 0413 129 47 Email: johnblackford@optusnet.com.au

PO Box 2308 Ascot 4007 next meeting 9.30 am Tuesday 7th Feb 2020 Merriwee Crt.

'Private and Confidential for Probud use only and is not to be used for any other purpose'

President's report:

Our Probud Club 2019 was a master class in friendship. I am particularly reminded of this as I do the AGM Report for the March Times - we had a great year. Our Committee planned a very pleasing program. It is all volunteer work. They approach their plans with professionalism but they do not lose sight of the Fun, Friendship and Fellowship philosophy. It seems all Committee positions are filled for 2020 so members can look forward to another happy, well organised year. Plans are already underway. The friendship within the Committee is very special. We are always pleased when members offer to assist. The younger member coming on board must get involved to keep the Club young and vibrant and we always need extra hands. If anyone wants to be part of the Committee helpers, we would love to involve you.

Fun: No road is long with good company.

Friendship: Some people are so much sunshine to the square inch. Happiness is the friends we make along the way.

Fellowship: There are so many fascinating threads of friendship in this Hamilton group. Take time to laugh as laughter is music to the soul.

Our most senior member is Shirley Wright and in April celebrates 95 incredible years. Ken Drew, an Inactive member, will turn 98 and I proudly share his birthdate in August. Lex Lowien, an original member of this Hamilton Club's founding on 5 March 1991, is 93 this year. Peter Bekkers; Bill Finney; Elva Emmerson; Beth Finney have all celebrated that significant number and a bit more. Jim Ellison on 13 th February joins this magnificent decade. Other years that are interesting. John Ladbrook has been a member since 1996; Dudley Dick since 1999; Robin Edwards since 2000; Campbells, Comerfords, Finneys and Julia Fryer all joined in 2001 and all have contributed to the growth of the Club. A big thank you from the rest of us. A wise old saying - Drink wine and you will sleep well. Sleep and you will not sin. Avoid sin and you will be saved. Ergo, drink wine and you will be saved. As we grow older, we do find challenges but we also find the courage, hope and faith to overcome these hurdles. Growing older is not for the faint hearted, so drink wine and may you live as long as you want; and never want for as long as you live. 2020 has arrived and we plan more Fun, Friendship and Fellowship. I am looking forward to catching up with you all next week. And it is the last meeting before the AGM and Barry takes the reins. I believe you will all enjoy Barry's year. May the new year bless you with health, wealth and happiness. I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold .Margot

Secretary's Report:

So, we have all survived the Festive Season – largely unscathed I trust.

The Christmas Luncheon 2019, again held at Royal Queensland Golf Club, was an unqualified success. It is clearly evident that this continues to be a very important event in the Hamilton Probus Calendar if the noise of conversation and the exchange of big hugs and other enthusiastic demonstrations of affection are any indication. A big thank you to Robin Edwards and to her team is certainly in order, for their important contribution to the success of this function.

On a more personal note, for Janice and I the Festive Season really commenced in earnest with our attendance at the Concert Hall of the Performing Arts Centre for the annual performance of Handel's "Messiah" courtesy the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the selected Choir – in 2019 the Brisbane Chamber Choir, and this year held on Saturday, 7th. December.

This performance provoked a spontaneous unanimous standing ovation – not a common occurrence for Brisbane audiences - and the first in our many years of attendance at this event. The story told is one of high drama – there are elements of joy, sorrow, grief, persecution, public humiliation, torture, death, hope, love and triumph. The final notes of the final "Amen" chorus very simply said it all - "So Be It". The triple fortissimo of the Choir and final notes of the tutti of the Concert Hall Organ shook the house to its foundations. What an experience.

Whatever one's religious persuasions, I find it difficult to believe that anyone attending could not have been deeply moved by what we saw and heard - an event long to be remembered. For Christians the story is the most important story that has ever been told.

Enough of that!

However, I do commend this event to you.

To matters more secular, I ask an important question. What are we going to bring to, and where are we going to take our Club in 2020? Under the leadership of our President Margot, our Club has remained in very good shape. I thank Margot and all other Members of the Management Committee for the support I have received in my first term in Office.

I would remind members of the Annual General Meeting to be held on 3rd. March 2020 at the conclusion of the General Meeting for that month. I have said it elsewhere, but I shall say it again. The Committee encourages all members to consider making a positive contribution to our Club, and if you feel moved to consider becoming a Committee Member, please nominate. Nominations for election to the Management Committee and for other non- Committee positions close on 11th. February 2020.

The strength of our Club lies in the diversity of its membership and a willingness to participate. I look forward to seeing you all again at our first General Meeting for 2020 to be held on Tuesday, 4th. February 2020.

Signed :- *John Blackford*

Activities' Report:

Christmas Lunch at Royal Queensland Golf Club

Our Christmas lunch was a wonderful way to celebrate a very successful Hamilton Probus year. With festive table decorations, wonderful food, much laughter and great conversation, everyone commented that it was an appropriate ending to our 2019 year. We are indeed blessed to have such wonderful Probus friends who enrich our lives. Thank you, Margot for your warm Christmas wishes and the delightful little angels that you made for all the guests.

Outings for the month of February

Wednesday 19th February 8: 30am.

The Annual Breakfast will be held at Cruisers Alfresco, Portside. This restaurant is at the entrance to Portside and is on the left -hand side. There is plenty of public car parking underneath Portside complex and the restaurant will validate your parking ticket. Cost for the breakfast is \$25. Payment can be made at our first general meeting for the year or you can direct debit:

Bank: Suncorp: BSB: 484 799: A/C No: 029832475 Ref: Your name and Breakfast

Outing Leader: Anne Gooley Ph: 3868 2949 Mob: 0475981003 email: annegooley@bigpond.com

Friday 28th February 11: 00 am

We will once again visit Riverbend Bookstore and Teahouse, 193 Oxford Street Bulimba (Cnr Oxford & Cambridge St). Club members will arrive at Riverbend using their own transport. There is parking in the street.

We will have the opportunity to peruse the bookshelves before we gather at the back of the store. Susie Wilson will give book recommendations and discuss the favourite books bought during the year. As usual we will share with the group our favourite books. Then we will enjoy a light lunch plus coffee or a glass of wine. So that Riverbend can cater for numbers, we will take names at the General Meeting 4th February. Outing Leader Anne Gooley

Put this date in your Diary

Tuesday 17th March 11: 30 am

Our popular Annual Picnic will be held at Ti Trees Swimming Club, Brook St. Hendra.

Please bring a picnic basket to share with members. Coffee and tea is available – no charge.

Outing Leader: Robin Edwards Ph: 32626237 Mob: 0419772 322 Email: robinehood4010@gmail.com

Please give your name to Robin at the General Meeting.

Anne Gooley – Outings' Coordinator

Date	Activity	Cost
Tue 4 th Feb	9:30am General Meeting	
Tue 11 th Feb	10:00 am Men's Coffee Morning Verandah Café Racecourse Road	
Wed 19 th Feb	8:30 am Annual Breakfast Cruisers Alfresco Restaurant Portside	\$25
Tue 25 th Feb	10:00 am Ladies' Coffee Morning Verandah Cafe Racecourse Road	
Fri 28 th Feb	11:00 am Riverbend Books and Café 193 Oxford St Bulimba (lunch and book recommendations given by Suzie Wilson)	

Anne Gooley : Outings' Coordinator

Notice – Annual General Meeting – Hamilton Probus – 2020-21

Notice is hereby given of the holding of the Annual General Meeting of Hamilton Probus

Club Inc. 56018.

Venue – Merriwee Court, 31 Jackson St. Hamilton

Date - 3 rd March 2020

Agenda

- Confirmation Minutes AGM 2019
- President's Annual Report – presentation and adoption
- Treasurer's Annual Report (audited) – presentation and adoption
- Confirmation of Fee Increase 2020 (Special Resolution published in February Newsletter and tabled at General Meeting February 2020)
- Elections and Declaration – Officers of Management Committee 2020-21
- Induction – incoming President
- Other Business – that which may be raised and able to be dealt with within the

Terms of the Constitution

Note :- Any Notices of Motion or Proposed Resolutions must be received by the Secretary on or before 11 th . February, i.e. 21 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting (3 rd .

March 2020).

Signed :-FJBlackford.....F.J.Blackford (Secretary)

Date :- 4 th . January 2020



PROBUS CLUB OF HAMILTON, BRISBANE

The Members

Hamilton Probus Club 56018

Brisbane

NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that at the General Meeting of Hamilton Probus Club 56018 to be held at Merriwee Court on 3 March 2020 commencing at 9:30 am the following Special Resolution will be put, considered and if thought fit, passed by the members present and entitled to vote.

That the relevant By Laws be amended by:

[a] The subscriptions payable by members being increased to \$30.00 per annum per members; as and from 2020.

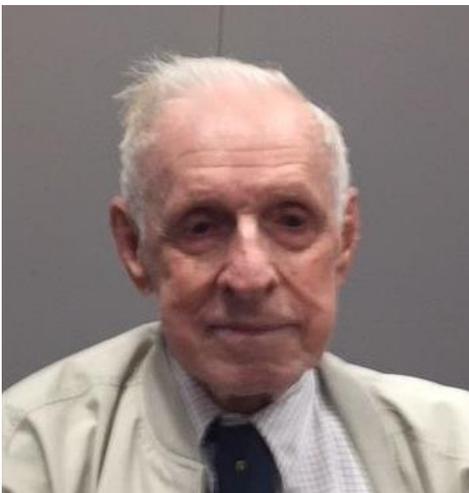
Please note that in order for the Special Resolution to be passed, 75% of the members present and entitled to vote at the meeting must be in favour and further, these proposed increases were considered and approved by the Management Committee at its meeting on 26 November 2019 for submission to the members.

Dated this4th..... day of ...January.....2020.

FJ Blackford

Secretary

For Hamilton Probus Club 56018



A Trip Down Memory Lane

Lex Lowien is a Life Member of Hamilton Probus Club and has given many years of dedicated service to helping shape the successful club it is today. 28 Years ago, when it was a “Men’s Only” Club and Lex was Tour Director, he recognized that more members were needed for successful activities. Visiting speakers were also disappointed with the small audiences. The only way he could fill the Twenty-eight seater bus was when wives joined their husbands on the outings. By the year 2000 Lex was one of the “Yes” votes for women to join the Club and membership quickly grew to 60 and then on to 80 members. This is Lex Lowien’s Story:

Memories of early days in the life of a boy born in western Queensland in the 1925

This is not a heavyweight story but rather light-hearted as seen through the eyes of a very young boy.

My mum Violet Myrtle Denzin and dad William Frederick Lowien were married in Toowoomba on 17 February 1926. She was not quite 18 (born March 1908) and he not quite 21 (born 5th March 1905.) They were married just over 70 years when mum died on 14th August 1996 and he died just under a year later, on 1st August 1997.

They moved to No.3 gang Western line about 50 miles west of Charleville where he had a job as a fettler (rail track maintenance). In those days most railway people gave their address as that of the name of the relevant rail maintenance gang. They lived in single men's quarters which consisted of a wooden box about 10 ft. square on timber stumps about 2ft 6 inches above ground with a tapered wooden ceiling and a galvanized iron roof two feet above. This air gap made the most of any prevailing breeze for cooling in the very hot summers. Cooking was done on an open fireplace which consisted of 2 iron rods driven into the ground with an iron bar between them. Wire hooks made from no. 8 fencing wire were hooked on this bar and from these, billycans were suspended for cooking purposes. Two rods on stones lower down closer to the fire were used to support saucepans, frying pans and the very versatile camp oven. This was a cast iron round vessel about 12 inches in diameter with three short legs for stability on uneven surfaces and a cast iron lid. It was used for stews, frying and cooking damper which was the country substitute for bread. It always tasted good.

I was born on 7th November 1926 in Charleville hospital and my parents were given a transfer to Cheepie 50 miles further west where married quarters were available. These consisted of a bigger box 30ft. long and 10 ft wide, again with the galvanized iron roof, tapered wooden ceiling and 2ft 6 inches above ground. There was one bedroom 8 ft by 10 ft. another, the main bedroom 10 ft. square and a "front room" taking up the remaining 12 ft. About 10 ft. behind the house was a galvanized iron shed about 8 ft. square containing a cast iron wood stove (probably a crown or AJR, as these were very popular in those days). There was also a thousand gallon galvanized iron water tank to catch rainwater off the roof for cooking and drinking. There was no point in providing larger tanks as with the low rainfall (average about 10 inches per year) it never overflowed. Whilst the front and back doors had locks, the only reason people even shut the doors was because there might be a whirlwind which would deposit quite a bit of sandy grit inside. Additional to the camp oven mentioned above a couple of other useful articles come to mind. First the water bag which was made from canvas through which some water would leak and with the always low humidity the evaporative cooling was very effective so that the water in the bag was always very cold. One version was rather small, holding about a gallon of water for drinking when away from the house. another one was larger holding several gallons with a tap to let the water out and a section at the bottom where milk and butter were stored. Refrigeration was largely unheard of. Foodstuffs were kept in a safe which was a box made of perforated metal hung from say a rafter by a wire passing through a cork in the neck of a broken bottle to which kerosene was added from time to time to prevent ants getting into the safe. In later years an item called a Coolgardie safe became available. This was a safe as above, but with a water tank at the top from which toweling was hung down the sides. The water soaked into the toweling and the evaporative effect as above kept the items inside quite cold.

Because of difficulty in keeping food from spoiling, corned beef featured quite a lot on the menu. However, on Friday nights the train from Charleville brought us steak which was good for that night and the next two or three nights. When they heard the train whistle to indicate its arrival, dad would head for the station to pick up any items for us and mom would light the fire, remove the top plates and replace them with wire netting so that the steaks could be grilled. Sometimes the cook at the Bierbank shearing shed about a mile down the line towards Charleville on the other side of Bechel creek would kill a few sheep and we were given the tongues, heart liver etc. Another food which we regarded as a delicacy was Edgells tinned asparagus and tinned crab from Kamchatka in Eastern Russia. The steam locomotives worked on the total loss system for water and the tender which carried coal and water had only enough water for about 60 miles so that watering tanks at creeks or rivers about every 50 or 60 miles. Cheepie was one of these where water was pumped from Bechel creek by a steam driven pump about a mile up a gentle slope to a big red tank. Water was supplied to the houses of the six railway fettlers and the stationmaster, for gardening etc. The big tank was mounted on big timber stumps 20ft above the ground. In one corner under the tank there was a shower cubicle with a pipe from the tank above with a tap and showerhead. I frequently showered there. There was no hot water system and the water was always very cold, even in hot summer.

I have made three nostalgic visits to Charleville, Cheepie and Quilpie and on one of them was puzzled by the fact that the tank at Cheepie was a round one 20 ft. diameter and 20ft above ground whereas those at other places were square and only 10ft and 20ft above ground. I asked my father about this and he explained that when the engineer was planning the layout of the station yard he had the tank built on the high stumps so that water could be reticulated under gravity to a fettlers' camp a mile up a gentle slope on the Quilpie side. This was very considerate of him.

Both mum and dad's parents had been farmers and very soon they had a very good vegetable garden going (cabbages, cauliflowers, carrots, radish, beetroot etc) and they knew orange trees would grow well because a man named Castles grew a lot on the flood plain of Bechel creek.

In addition to the railway houses mentioned above, there was a general store owned by George Castles (brother of the gent on the creek) and his wife. A hotel owned by Walter Redman and his wife and across Bevel creek on the Charleville side was the Bierbank sheep station shearing shed. The owner or most likely the manager, as this was in the great depression, lived in the home which was about 12 miles out of "town". With regard to the hotel, I think Walter drank a lot of the profit but his wife was a "smart " operator. Dad told me that on a Friday afternoon, shearers and other workers at Bierbank station would have a few beers whilst waiting for the train to take them to Charleville for the weekend. When the engine driver blew the whistle to indicate the train was about to leave, Mrs. Redman would say "have a drink on me boys" with the result that some would miss the train and spend a lot of money at her hotel instead of in Charleville.

TO BE CONTINUED-[Anne Gooley](#) Archivist

Members with January and February birthdays

Birthdays in January: Ann Gooley [10] Paula Chandler[15] Gerry McCafferty[19]Pamela Cole[21] Jess Gibson[22] Peter Llewellyn[23] Margaret Moore[24]Don Jobbins [28]

Birthdays in February :Diana Neilson[04] James Ellison[13]Jan Blackford[14] Jack Larkin[15]]Margaret Drewe [19]Peter Nicholls[21]

Office Bearers 2019-2020

President: Margot Kirby

Secretary: John Blackford

Treasurer: Barry Henzell

Senior Vice President: Barry Henzell

Immediate Past President: David McEvoy

Outings Committee: Anne Gooley

Speaker Programme: David McEvoy

Membership Officer: Barbara Fizzell

Newsletter: Douglas Fussell

Records Officer: John Wright

Outer Ministry:

Almoner: Leafy Fussell

10 Minute Talks: Barry Aubrey

Jokes: George McKennarney

Hospitality: Pam Cole

[2019]

Hamilton Club-General Meetings Roster February

Door Roster

CONVENOR BARBARA FITZELL

Ph: 0449 753 605

David -Duveck Smith

Gaye White

Hospitality Roster

CONVENOR PAM COLE

Ph: 3630 2508

Laurie Richards

Pat Gibbes

Jan Blackford

Please arrange a swap if you are unable to attend on your rostered day

Ten Minute Speaker:

4th Feb: Rama Naidoo

3rd March John Walsh

Guest Speakers:

Our guest speaker in February will be Hugh Lunn. As you all know Hugh is a well known journalist, author and now the writer of a Musical based on the State of Origin.

Our March guest speaker will be Professor John Pearn a well known author , speaking on- "Captain Cook in Queensland"

Membership Officer Report:

It has been a very busy year for the membership and the Membership Officer. It was a huge learning curve for me but I hope that I have done all that was required to keep membership up to date. This year we inducted ten new members, six male and four female. This brings our membership to 84- almost a full house. We still have room for two more members, so I shall look forward to implementing that. Thankyou to committee and members for all your support in 2019 **Barbara : Membership Officer**

New Members-December 2019



Rama Naidoo and Elizabeth Duguid

Our Little Probus Book Club

Women Who Run with The Wolves written by Clarissa Pinkola Estes isn't just another book. 'It is a gift of profound insight, wisdom and love. An oracle from one who knows"-Alice Walke Estes reveals that the 'wild woman' in us is innately healthy, passionate and wise. Thoughtfully written and compelling in its arguments.

Cilka's Journey. Her beauty saved her life- and condemned her. This highly anticipated sequel to Heather Morris's novel, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, is a story full of beauty and hope, and based on years of interviews Heather Morris conducted with real-life Holocaust survivor and Auschwitz-Birkenau tattooist- Lale- Sokolov. It is heart-wrenching, illuminating, and unforgettable.

www.bookbrouse.com is a good book site and even better if you become a member.

The Comerford Files

AUSTRALIA DAY



The First Fleet arrived and anchored in Botany Bay between 18th and 22nd January, 1788. As Botany Bay was found to be unsuitable, and following an inspection of Sydney Harbour, a decision was made to move the fleet into Sydney Cove, and the entire Fleet was duly moved into the Harbour on 26th January, 1788. This day subsequently became known as Australia Day (aka Foundation Day), and has been subsequently celebrated as the day of first settlement in Australia. The formal proclamation of that event, and possession of the land taken in the name of King George Third, was read on 7th February, 1789. The French scientific exploration ships (“Astrolabe” and “Boussole”) arrived Botany Bay on 24th January, 1788, and stayed until 10th March, 1789. They disappeared after departing Botany Bay.

Happy New Year to all members from the Comerfords.

“Of droughts and flooding rains” _There`s always been climate change Ed.

Christmas Lunch 2019

How come Leafy gets in?

