



# THE TIMES

Edition Number 209 March 2020

Hamilton Probus Club Inc. 56018 Accredited 14 December 1990 President: Mrs Margot Kirby Ph. 3262 6693 Email: [nocturn@bigpond.com](mailto:nocturn@bigpond.com) Secretary: Dr. John Blackford Ph 0413 129 47 Email: [johnblackford@optusnet.com.au](mailto:johnblackford@optusnet.com.au) PO Box 2308 Ascot 4007 next meeting 9.30 am Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 Merriwee Crt. Private and Confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose'

## Part one of PRESIDENT`S REPORT- SUMMARY OF 2019 Year

### Committee Members for 2019

**Immediate Past President:** David McEvoy

**President:** Margot Kirby

**Vice President:** Barry Henzell

**Secretary:** John Blackford

**Treasurer:** Barry Henzell

**Membership:** Barbara Fitzell

**Activities:** Anne Gooley

**Data:** John Wright

**Times:** Douglas Fussell

**Guest Speakers:** David McEvoy

### Non-Committee Office Bearers 2019

**Almoner:** Leith Fussell

**10 Minute Speaker Convenor:** Barry Aubrey

**Archivist:** Anne Gooley

**Humour:** George McKennariery

**Hospitality/Kitchen:** Pam Cole

**Audio Visual and Room Setup:** Brian Springthorpe, David McEvoy, George McKennariery and advisor, John Ladbrook. Also John Comerford when required.

### Activities and Outings 2019:

River Bend **Book Chat**

**Picnic at Ti-Trees**

Met Operas "La Traviata" and "Carmen" films at the Dendy

**Lunch at Thyme 2, Restaurant**

Lunch at Gympie train Station before a scenic trip on the **Mary Valley Rattler**

**Club Annual Dinner at Royal Hotel, Nundah**

**PAQ Ecumenical Church Service** and morning tea at the Aspley Uniting Church to welcome northside Presidents and bless the Club collars

**Lunch - Mt Coot-tha Summit Restaurant**

**Trivia Quiz at Kedron-Wavell Services Club**

**Kookaburra Queen** lunch and cruise

**Pizza in Kalinga Park**

**Christmas in July** lunch at Secrets on The Lake Montville

**Bremer River** Cruise and Lunch

Tour and lunch - **Margaret Olley** and Ben Quilty Exhibitions at **GOMA**

**M. V. Neptune** morning tea and Brisbane's history

**Camel Farm** lunch and dairy tours Harrisville

**Christmas Luncheon** at Royal Queensland Golf Club

Ladies and gentlemen's **monthly coffee group**

## Guest Speakers:

**Clips of iconic radio programmes** from the 50s, George McKennariery (our own member)

**Orange Sky Australia** – operating vans to provide the homeless with free laundry, showers and conversation.

**Foodbank Queensland** – providing services to people who are experiencing financial difficulties, Greg Phillips

**Medical Research Scientist** – Training and role of the Medical Scientists in the delivery of Health Care, Robyn Wells.

**Professional Sport sponsorship**, marketing, copyright and trademarking. Richard Winten

**4MBS Classic FM** – Silver Memories and Music Therapy. Peter McCahon

**Australian Decorative & Fine Art Societies (ADFAS).** Fran Maitland,

**Estate Planning** Lawyer and Partner in CRH Law – Wills and Succession Planning, Brian Herd

**Poisons and Prescriptions.** Professor Andrew Petrie

**General Sir John Monash** – the Warrior and the Man, Denis Wayper

**Education for Queensland Hospital Schools.**

Executive Principal of the Queensland Children's Hospital School. Michelle Bond

## The Ten-Minute Speakers:

**Elizabeth Anne Peters** read Neil's published poems

**Anne Gooley** discussed the Probus Hamilton Archiving structure

**Bruce Kynaston**- "I am Racist" - origins of Homo Sapiens

**Muriel Mackenzie's** time when living in Quilpie

**Greg McGilvery** spoke about spare body parts

**Gaye White** - being a delegate to a USA Democratic Convention

**Janice Blackford** and her guiding at Queensland Art Gallery and GOMA

**Margaret Moore** spoke about her grandchild's dyslexia

**Elizabeth Kirby** gave us a guitar and vocal presentation

**Barry Henzell's** trip to Birdsville and beyond by car

**John Ladbrook** wrapped up 2019 with a very worthy slide presentation of the year's activities.

## Management Nominations for 2020:

**President:** Barry Henzell

**Immediate Past President:** Margot Kirby

**Treasurer:** Greg McGilvery

**Secretary:** John Blackford

**Membership:** Barbara Fitzell

**Activities:** Anne Gooley

**Data Administration:** John Wright

**Times Editor:** Douglas Fussell

**Guest Speakers:** David McEvoy

## Non-Committee Office Bearers 2020:

**Almoner:** Leith Fussell

**10 Minute Speaker Convenor:** Barry Aubrey

**Archivist:** Anne Gooley

**Humour:** David McEvoy till replacement

**Hospitality/Kitchen:** Pam Cole

**Audio Visual and Room Setup:** Brian

Springthorpe, David McEvoy, George

McKennariery and John Comerford. Advisor

John Ladbrook

**Humour** – George McKennariery has retired after a number of years and David McEvoy will fill in till we find someone to fill George's shoes. Anyone prepared to join this happy band of members?

## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT: 2019-2020**

**Looking back over my term as President** I have followed some very interesting people, David McEvoy and thank you for your support; Leafy and Douglas Fussell; Jill Pozzi and John Campbell (bless them). Over the six years of my membership, Hamilton Probus has moved into the digital age. From a monthly General meeting, phone calls and posted newsletters, we now receive emailed Times; emailed notices and reminders; payments are Direct Debit; we have a clear and concise web site, <https://hamiltonprobus.com.au>. Only 8 of our 86 members do not have email.

2019 has been a great year of fellowship within our meetings, activities and outings. David McEvoy's Guest Speakers have been excellent – impossible to decide which ones should receive special mention. Barry Aubrey's Ten-Minute speakers spanned a wide range of members' interests. Listening to these speakers and George McKennarney's jokes made the monthly meetings really worth attending. Pam Cole's delicious morning tea completed a good morning.

Every meeting involves committee, non-committee and helpers to ensure it runs smoothly. About twenty members are normally involved for every meeting.

Barry Henzell, Treasurer, kept an eagle-eye on the banking. All the outings and activities have been most interesting, well organised and enjoyable with Anne Gooley at the helm. The year's finale, Christmas lunch at the Royal Queensland Golf Club, welcomed 76 members to celebrate our excellent 2019. The laughter and chatter said it all. A very big thank you to everyone. It is not surprising that we are considered a leading Probus group.

Anne Gooley, a skilled librarian, has documented our Probus history into a professional archive with John Ladbrook as her club information expert. If you wish to access this information, talk to Anne.

John Wright keeps speakers, function details and current Times updated on the website. Photos are well worth a visit. The Meeting Minutes are entered into the Archives – everything is available for those researching. The Times newsletter includes all the monthly Club information, produced by Douglas Fussell.

The Management Committee is very proficient but none of the successes happen without a great deal of effort from every member and the assistant organisers. Most had L plates when they first joined the Committee.

Our Secretary, John Blackford, had a mid-year health emergency but he is back on top, ready for 2020 and beyond. Playing golf comes next.

Our Hamilton Ward office proves a very convenient and pleasant meeting place for Committee Meetings. They also do The Times printing for non-email members and are always ready to help. A big thank you to Councillor McLachlan and his right hand, Julie.

Sadly, we lost our gentle Neil Peters, midyear as well as two inactive members, Loretto McCafferty and Ngairretta Brennan AM. All three had celebrated many significant birthdays.

Our 2019 new members, Alf Cavallaro, Greg McGilvery, Di Nielsen, Peter Llewellyn, Marea Reed, John Walsh, John Quayle, Elizabeth Duguid and Rama Naidoo are warmly welcomed. Barbara Fitzell has more on the waiting list.

Committee, non-committee and members I thank you all for your support, your friendship and the fun. Our Fun, Friendship and Fellowship precepts are at their best on meeting days.

As I hand over to Barry Henzell, we can all look forward to a very engaging and active 2020-2021. You can be assured of a year of good fellowship.

The nearest star is 4.25 light-years from Earth which is why most wishes take at least 9 years to come true.

*Margot Kirby*

**PROBUS PRAYER:** *We are travellers - from birth to death we travel between the eternities, may these days be pleasant for you, profitable for society. Helpful for those you meet along the way and a joy to those who know and love you best and when you leave, may your journey be safe.*

### **Secretary's Report – Hamilton Probus – Newsletter – March 2020**

We have experienced a period of unusual but not entirely unexpected natural and seasonal events – drought, bushfires and floods. Climate change?

Nature has an inbuilt and remarkable ability to survive, adapt, repair, restore, rebuild and achieve balance.

The efforts of our service personnel – fire and rescue services, government services at all three levels of government, volunteer organisations and individuals - in providing tangible assistance to those in need has been quite remarkable and should not be under-estimated.

Sadly however, there has been extensive property loss and loss of life - human, fauna and flora. With the loss of human life in particular, there comes grief and sorrow. There has been much anger, criticism, blame, hate speech, and unreasonable heavily biased emotional extremism expressed in the mainstream and on social media. Much of this is unjustified, cruel, factually incorrect, destructive and divisive.

As individuals, as a community and as a nation, we have the opportunity to unite and support in a tangible as well as an intangible way, those who have suffered and who continue to suffer. There is an extra dimension out there, which few of us understand, which is of great comfort to those who are grieving and suffering. I became very much aware of this extra dimension during my recovery from fairly recent major surgery.

We are at the threshold of another Probus year, with our Annual General Meeting and Committee Elections to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup>. March 2020. I am looking forward to the year ahead, as I trust you all are. The interaction, and the sharing of opinions, ideas, and interests are just a few of the many aspects of our Club which contribute to the privileges of Membership.

Your Committee for 2020 will make every effort to ensure the established traditions of our Club are upheld, preserved and where possible, improved upon.

Signed:- .....*JJ Blackford* ..... (Secretary)

Date: - 14<sup>th</sup>. Feb.2020

### **Membership Report:**

We currently have 84 members and as our meeting room allows for 86 we will be looking to induct two more in the coming months. I am constantly getting enquires from people wanting to join Hamilton Probus Club which is fortunate as there are some clubs that are struggling to get members.

New members must have a proposer and a seconder in order to go on the waiting list and we encourage them to attend the morning teas at the Verandah Café and attend several General Meetings. **Barbara Fitzell Membership Officer.**

### **March birthdays: Members and Non Active Members.**

Muriel Mackenzie[16] Graham Clay[24] Elaine Jobbins[24] Bette-Anne Swanson[24]  
Carmel Dineen[25] George McKennarley[25] Brian Loel[27] Margaret Campbell[30]

### **March Ten Minute Speaker:**

John Walsh

### **Hamilton Club-General Meetings Roster March:**

#### **Door Roster**

**Convenor Barbara Fitzell**

Ph:0449 753 605

Barbara Fitzell

Marea Reed

#### **Hospitality Roster**

**Convenor Pam Cole**

Ph: 3630 2508

Lyn Bryant

Ann Clay

Phyllis Ommensen

### **Guest Speakers:**

March. Captain Cook in Queensland. Prof. John Pearn. [Return visit]

April. Biology and Conservation of Moreton Bay Shorebirds. Dr. Peter Rothilsberg.

May. The Queensland Ballet, the progressive leap forward. Mr. Paul Boyd.

June. Riverboat cruising on the Murray. Captain Lindsay Hutton.

Other speakers are under negotiation. [David McEvoy](#)

## *Probus Club Activities' Report – March*

Dear Members,

I hope you will enjoy the activities our team leaders have planned for you for 2020.

We want you to have a happy, relaxing time, while enjoying the company of fellow members.

We have designed the outings so that we will have two a month but also have less structured ones as well, which will include a game of bridge, cinema visits and the Dendy Opera. Small groups can easily be planned for these more informal outings.

### **March Activities:**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 11:30 am Picnic in the Park at Ti-Trees Swimming Club Brook Street Hendra. Pack a picnic basket to share with fellow members. This is always a very popular event so if you intend coming, please contact Robin Edwards. Ph: 3262 6237: Mobile: 0419 772 322 email: [robinehood4010@gmail.com](mailto:robinehood4010@gmail.com)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March Bus to depart Meriwee court at 9:00 am. Visit the World's Longest Running Silent Film Theatre – The Majestic at Pomona. The Theatre was built in 1921 and gained recognition as the world's only authentic silent picture house still in operation today. The Majestic Theatre combines the old – world charm of a Twenties theatre with modern-day sound and lighting. During the movie, Ron West will play the organ. Ron, who is 87 years young, has been playing the organ since 1974 and he loves doing it.

Ron usually picks the film at random but we can request a theme e.g. comedy, but we may also request a list of films and make our own choice. I hope to have the list on the table at the next general meeting.

The film commences around 11:30 am after an introductory talk given by Ron, and after the film, a light lunch will be served (quiche & salad – tea/coffee and cake.)

As we have paid a deposit and must guarantee 20 will attend, could you kindly let me know if you can come to the film. To date we have 12 on the list.

The cost to be decided dependant on numbers.

Please contact me if you are able to join us: Email: [annegooley@bigpond.com](mailto:annegooley@bigpond.com) Ph: 3868 2949 Mob: 047598 1003

### **Planned activities over the next few months:**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 10:00 am - Guided Tour of The Racing Precinct Eagle Farm & Doomben. Eagle Farm is home to the Old Tote Racing Museum whilst Doomben is home to The Heritage Unit comprising the Archives of The Brisbane Racing Club. Members have a choice of going to both or just one. Lunch will be at Gallopers after the visit to the museum at Eagle Farm.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 10: 00 am Quiz Kedron Wavell Chermside.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 9: 00 am. Trade Central Heritage Park and Brisbane Airport Outing

Meet at the Trade Central Heritage Park Schneider Road Eagle Farm for coffee and walk around site of the Convict Women's Prison. Learn of the history of the old Brisbane Airport and its involvement in World War 2. Lunch at Hanger 7 Café. Then board the coach for a guided tour of Brisbane Airport

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 11: 30 am Picnic at Kalinga Park 31 Kalinga Street Kalinga

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July Lunch at Sandstone Point Hotel Bribie Island Road Sandstone Point and visit to Bribie Island

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 7: 00 pm Annual Dinner

Date	Activity
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	General Meeting 9.30 am
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Men's Shed Coffee Morning Verandah Café Racecourse Road 10:00 am
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Picnic Ti Trees Swimming Club Brook St. Hendra 11:30 am
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Ladies' Coffee Morning Verandah Café Racecourse Road 10:00 am
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Silent Movie - Majestic Theatre Pomona followed by Lunch Bus departs Merriwee Court 9: 00 am

We are also planning a few days away during the year as we did not manage this last year. There will be more information at the next meeting.

*Anne Gooley – Activities Coordinator*

## Lex's story continued:

NOTE: -Until now, what I have written is freely based on what was told to me by mum, dad, grandparents, uncles and aunts but in many cases verified by my later experiences. From now on it is from my own memory about these early times which was and still is very good.

Unfortunately, the house where mum and dad had planted the fruit trees some four years earlier was occupied. However, the then occupier Mr. Harry Bawler a bachelor, readily agreed to an exchange. My brother Arnold was born in the Charleville hospital on 22nd March 1931. (mum must not have wanted to lose any of her three boys). She gave each of us three Christian names--me Allan William Lex, nickname Manny, Colin Claude Frederick, nickname Tiny. and my other brother Malvern Arnold Russell nickname Bub. And as he is still called Bub at 87, he must be one of the oldest bubs in the country. The fruit trees which were planted on our first visit were now bearing fruit. Mum produced a lot of dried fruit by exposing them to the sun on top of the tank. They were always very tasty. Dad was a keen fisherman and on many Fridays during summer months, Mum would have our car (a 1927 Willys Overland) packed up ready to go and we would travel to many of the Western rivers up to 100 miles away. Names like the 12mile, the 24mile, Paroo, Bulloo and the Warrego come to mind. When we arrived, Dad would cut down a gumtree or some large branches and Mum and we children would strip off the smaller branches and throw them in a heap in a square. Dad would throw a Tarpaulin over them to make a country version of a "spring mattress". A fire to boil the billy was made and later some animal dung would be thrown on providing smoke to keep mosquitos and sand flies at bay. We would arrive home on Sunday afternoon usually with a good haul of fish – yellow belly, jewfish and sometimes a Murray cod or two. Dad's mother and father and my grandparents came to visit on a few occasions. They would sleep on the double bed in the smaller bedroom that Colin, Bub and I normally slept on. Mum and Dad were great ones for having a cup of tea at all hours.

At two or three o'clock in the morning he would lean out the window over my bed saying "Lex, Lex" waking me up, and ask me to make them a cup of tea. I would light the fire, boil the kettle, make the tea and hand the cups through the window. I was only four at the time. On one of these visits, during the preceding six months or so, dad had shot a wild pig and they brought home one of her small piglets which mum fed on goats' milk and vegetable scraps to eliminate the wild taste. The idea was to make the German Metwurst sausages which were a staple diet for German families. When someone shot the pig in the forehead, the slug bounced off,

however a man named Norm Schnitzerling quickly came to the rescue. by smashing its forehead with a claw hammer. They made a lot of sausages which Granddad took home to Geham, near Toowoomba where he had a smokehouse to cure them. They were very tasty and equal to or better than any I have tasted since. Kangaroos were very plentiful and on weekends Dad and a mate, Norm Webster, would go out shooting them. They would have about twenty or thirty skins each which I would help peg out on the ground to dry using "nails" made by curing number 8 fencing wire cut into 2inch lengths. They were sent to a company in Charleville and receive about one shilling each. Considering the basic wage was about 3 pounds per week the returns represented a significant input to the family income. Our time there was in the depression years and dole money was paid by police stations and one of the requirements that the claimant had to fulfill was that he was 30 miles from his last payment to indicate that he was genuinely looking for work. A free ride on the railway was a means of doing this but railway workers were supposed to evict them. They never did. I remember on numerous occasions a swagman as they were called, would say to mum "cut a bit of wood for you Missus" for a cup of tea and a sandwich in return. I also remember the toilet was a small outhouse some distance up the back with a small seat and a tarred drum underneath and a small door at the back for its removal.

The township of Cheepie consisted of the six railway fettlers, one for the stationmaster, the hotel and a small general store. At the beginning of 1931 a school had been established but there was no schoolhouse so the hotel storehouse was used. I was four at the time and I would stroll down and walk in the door. The teacher, Mr. Victor Grulke would give me a pencil and slate to scribble on. Over the 1931 Xmas holidays a schoolhouse from Adavale was relocated to a site near the General store and I started school there in 1932. Many years later, about 1953, I was in a hardware store in the valley - Dinmore Pottery – a gentleman ahead of me wanted something not available and gave his name Grulke for them to call him when it came in. I asked him was he a teacher and he said no, but why do you ask. I told him I started school at Cheepie and the Teacher's name was Grulke. He said "Oh yes and you would be Lex Lowien and your father worked on the railway". A very good memory some 23 years later. He said he was then Secretary of the Teacher's Union. On 12<sup>th</sup> August 1932, we moved to Mulu near Jondaryan, Wumalgi, north of Rockhampton, back to Mulu for the second time then to Tara near Dalby on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1934 where I was put in second grade. There was no school at either Mulu or Wumalgi. I did not have correspondence or any other schooling while we were there, so apart from the 7 months in Grade 1 at Cheepe, I had no school till then. I remember on one occasion when we were out on the verandah with a monitor (either Joan Turner or Edna Dunning– teacher's pets), procedure was to start reading a particular story. She would say next and so on or your name if she thought you were not looking at your book. On one occasion she called out my name for this reason. At this time I had a very good memory and as we had read the lesson once or twice before I was able go on without missing a beat. Unfortunately, Mr. Cafficky, the headmaster came out and said what is the matter? The monitor said Lex Lowien wasn't looking at his book Sir. Result, no questions or anything else inside two cane cuts|. One student George Clark was in grade 5 so he would have been about 10 years old. His parents won first prize in the casket and bought a brand, new Hudson Terraplane and gave George their 1932 Ford Tourer. George used to drive it to school each day and park it in front of the school. The police never did anything about it. Another example how understanding country police were, came when dad decided that we would drive to Toowoomba for our holidays instead of by train. He thought that to drive in Toowoomba he should have a license. I was with him when he said to Sgt. Keith Macdonald "I have come for a license". The Sgt said well I suppose Bill you can drive, as I have seen you drive past here pretty much each day for the last year or so.

We moved to Nutgrove 50 miles north of Toowoomba and I was in 4th grade, however when the Inspector (Baldy, he was bald) examined the school he put me up to 7<sup>th</sup> grade - there was no 5th or 6<sup>th</sup>. The teacher there then, Doreen J Foster, was very good and gave me some extra tuition to catch up. Unfortunately, she left for an overseas holiday and the new teacher would not nominate students for scholarship. As I was only 11, it looked like I would have four more years in Grade 7 as school leaving age was 15. However, when my Uncle and Aunt heard about this at a Christmas gathering, they volunteered that they had a very good teacher, Mr. Wally Dunne at Murphy's Creek and that I could live with them and attend that school. I did and got a very good pass – the highest boy at Toowoomba High School. A girl Vivienne Bryant beat me.

After the two years for Junior, I moved to Brisbane where my family had moved a year or more before. I ceased to be a country boy and will end my story here. [Anne Gooley Archivist](#)

# The Comerford Files

## PORTSIDE CRUISE TERMINAL.



The Portside Cruise terminal was opened on 29<sup>TH</sup> August, 2006. It is the home port for the P & O ships: the Pacific Dawn and Pacific Sun, each of which are approx. 70,000 tons, and carry about 2,000 passengers. It can accommodate ships up to 270 metre in length. In its first year 55 cruise ships were tied up at Portside, making it the second largest cruise ship port in Australia. The terminal is approx. 7 km from the central city, which can be reached by City Cat ferries, or by the BCC buses, or by Taxi. Portside is an upscale residential and retail precinct, with many restaurants, shops, supermarkets, a cinema complex, and a public plaza.

Probus breakfast held at Cruiser`s Alfresco, Portside on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> was a great success and most enjoyable. Well done yet again Anne Gooley. Ed.