

# THE TIMES



**Edition Number 213 July 2020**

Hamilton Probus Club Inc. 56018 Accredited 14 December 1990

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## **President`s Report: July 2020**

As your president, I am sorry that I have not been able to chair a meeting. At this time, I cannot see that we will be able to meet until restrictions are eased. Even if we could have a meeting with 100 attending, we would still have to observe physical distancing of 4 square meters for each attendee.

We hope to organise coffee mornings for those who are comfortable to attend. Deep cleaning of the meeting room before and after the meeting. Books and equipment would have to be cleaned. Food handling is also a problem.

It is with great sadness to report the passing of two very respected members Elva Emmerson, and Bill Kirby. They will be sadly missed, and deepest sympathy goes out to their families.

Helen and I have enjoyed the lock-down to a degree. More books read, cupboards tidied, windows cleaned! Producing the weekly Bulletin has kept me occupied. I have learned skills I didn't know I had. I have enjoyed the task and hope that it has helped us to stay in contact. Thank you to all who have contributed. The personal reminiscences have been great to read. Cartoons and humour also fun.

I am sure life post-COVID will change, for the better, I hope. We are certainly enjoying a quieter life and the opportunity to better converse with friends and relatives. **Barry Henzell**

## Secretary's Report : July 2020

Greetings to all members. It is, long since, the time for some Secretarial brevity.

We are, maybe, just a little closer to being able to reconvene our monthly General Meetings. However, there are no concrete proposals in place for this long-expected event to occur just yet. Your Management Committee is meeting towards the middle of this month. I shall report back to all of you, any decisions taken at that Meeting which are of general interest.

Following my e-mail regarding the up-river cruise of the sail training schooner “**South Passage**” on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, our President, Barry, the Peldans, Ray and Jan, and John Ladbrook, appeared on the Brett's Wharf recreation boating pontoon as my beloved ship tied up. I boarded her and crewed as far as New Farm Park. What an enjoyable couple of hours I spent on board. It is almost two years since I sailed on her. Several of you have also contacted me since, some with attached photographs. She is a beautiful ship, and at the moment, she is in in very good shape. She is, in fact, one of the busiest, if not **the busiest** tall ship in the world. I have the impression that those of you who were in contact with me were very impressed. Thank you to all of you for expressing your interest.

I shall be in touch to inform you of the outcome of the upcoming Committee Meeting.

Signed:- *John Blackford* (Secretary)

Date:- 17<sup>th</sup>.June 2020

**Sadly general meetings are cancelled until further notice**

### **2020 Committee:**

President: Barry Henzell

Immediate Past President: Margot Kirby

Treasurer: Greg McGilvery

Secretary: John Blackford

Membership: Barbara Fitzell

Activities: Anne Gooley

DataAdmin:JohnWright

TimesEditor:DouglasFussell

GuestSpeakers: David McEvoy

### **2020 Members of the Lower House:**

Almoner: Leafy Fussell

10 Min Speaker: Barry Aubrey

Archivist: Anne Gooley

Humour: David McEvoy- temporary

### **General Meeting Workers: [currently unemployed]**

Hospitality/kitchen: Pam Cole

Audio Visual/ Room Setup: Brian Springthorpe, David McEvoy, George McKennarney, John

Comerford and advisor John Ladbrook.

### **July birthdays: Members and Non-Active Members\_**

Averil Ward[03] Beth Finney[08] Ray Peldan[10] David Duveck- Smith[13]  
Trish Hickey[19] Phyllis Ommensen [22] Trisha Anderson[25] Elizabeth-  
Anne Peters[30] Glen McDonald[31] Leon Papi[31]

### **Activities Report July 2020**

Dear Friends,

At last we are hearing the easing of lockdown, not quite the end of separation but a gradual movement away from it. If this time has shown anything, it has shown the value of community and people have come together despite the isolation supporting one other through different modes of communication.

It has been quite a journey but the future is looking brighter and as a club we are a caring community and many members have told me they are missing social

interaction and are longing for our first get together. I am hopeful that soon I can give you some good news regarding when we can celebrate by having Pizza in the Park.

The National Cabinet meeting recently confirmed stage 3 will proceed from July 10 which should enable us to meet outdoors, keeping the required distance.

### *Significant dates to ponder during Lockdown*

Who would have envisaged in February 1990 when the Rotary Club of Hamilton agreed to attempt to form a Probus Club and then on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1990 the club was formed, that in 2020- thirty years later almost to the month - that our lives would change and we would not be able to have our General meetings or Activities. It is quite incredible.

While pondering on the significance of these changes, for many of us who have not been members long, the following dates highlighting the formation of our special Hamilton Probus Club may be of interest to you.

1990 December 14<sup>th</sup> Club was accredited as a Men -Only club

2000 May: Changed from a Men -Only club to a mixed club

2000 June: First woman, Pat Lynch joined

2001 February: The first Newsletter was posted in time for the March 2001 meeting

2001 September 5<sup>th</sup>: The Club became an incorporated body with a membership target 60

2003 March: Membership ceiling raised to 80

2017 Membership ceiling raised to 86

### *Anne Gooley - Activities Coordinator*

### *A Trip Down Memory Lane – Margaret & John Campbell*

It is a pleasure to be able to publish Margaret and John Campbell's story as they have been much loved members of our Probus club for many years. John was President of the club in 2014 and was well known for his passion for his beloved books and enjoying the company of fellow members. He is sadly missed. Margaret is a very gracious lady and is known for her kindness to others. A quality that is much to be admired.

This is their interesting story:

John McNeill Campbell was born at home on Rossiter Parade Hamilton on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1930. His mother Beatrice was born on Markwell Street Hamilton in 1909 but spent her

adolescent years in Sydney. His father, also John Campbell grew up in Melbourne and fought at Gallipoli. John was at his mother's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party aged one, a fact he always found interesting.

John started his education at St Augustine's Private School in what is today the Columbarium of St Augustine's Church. He then went to Ascot State School being sent to Toowoomba Prep aged 10. These were formative years for John. He was introduced to books by the Head Master 'Boss' Connell who read to the boys on Sunday nights under the stars by lantern light. John finished his schooling as a boarder at Churchie despite his home being in Ascot.

After school it was assumed that John would go into Johnsons, the family's Tannery at Kelvin Grove, which by then was producing 5000 pairs of shoes a week. This he did and learnt every aspect of the Tannery from the ground up while at night studying Industrial Chemistry at the Central Technical College (now QUT).

In his early twenties John had an epiphany and left the family business to study Medicine. He spent the next six years at the University of Queensland where he graduated with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours.

I was the younger of two girls born on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1931 to Edna and William 'Bill' Provan of Esk and Cairns respectively. My heritage is Scots and German. My great great grandfather was Theophilus Wilhelm Hartenstein, a German missionary who arrived at Nundah (Zion's Hill) in 1838. He is buried in the Nundah Historical Cemetery and has a very interesting headstone.

I attended Woolloowin State School and then Brisbane Girls Grammar School. My father Bill was a master builder as was his father also William Provan. Dad and his father built our family home 'Westella' at Gordon Park before I was born. In the 1930's Dad built us a beach house at Scotts Point Redcliffe where we spent carefree holidays swimming, fishing, canoeing and making sandcastles.

When the Second World War broke out Dad enlisted and was sent to the Middle East where he was one of the 'Rats of Tobruk'. He returned from the war and continued to build. Cinemas were his speciality, he built the old Arcadia Picture Theatre on Racecourse Road Ascot. He often worked with the architect Arthur Bligh who was also a great friend.

John and I met in 1958, the year he graduated. (Although we had briefly met once years earlier when John, Miles Murphy and Hugh Fraser sailed the Murphy's schooner *Bluenose* over to Bribie Island and I happened to be on the beach sunbaking!)

The night we met again we were both at a party at the Royal Brisbane Hospital (RBH). John was a 6<sup>th</sup> year medical student and I was a nurse. The next day he dropped into my ward to continue the conversation of the night before! Six weeks later we announced our engagement and married at St John's Cathedral followed by a reception at Rowes Café. Unfortunately my nursing career ended there as in those days it was forbidden to be a student nurse and married. We bought an old colonial cottage on Batman Street Clayfield and began our lives together. John worked for the next four years at the R.B.H as a resident, then a registrar and then decided to specialize in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Our first child Janet was born in October 1959 followed 16 months later by Anne. In April 1963 John flew to London for six months to live at London House to study obstetrics which in the 1960's couldn't be done in Australia. I chose to stay back in Australia with the two little girls. John returned in September and in December our third child, another John McNeil arrived followed two years later by Helen in 1966.

John had a private practice on Wickham Terrace and brought many babies into the world. Those were busy years for us both. I was involved in Meals on Wheels, Red Cross and the Women's Hospital Auxiliary. In the 1970's we moved into the Campbell family home on Anthony Street Ascot. In hindsight it was a very big house to manage but those years were fun if exhausting.

John retired from medicine in 1990. By this stage the children had all finished school and had moved out of home to pursue their own interests. We now had time to ourselves and to this end enjoyed trips in Australia and overseas and weekends up at Mooloolaba. I sometimes suspected John would have been just as happy to have stayed at home in his study surrounded by his books! We entertained our friends and family at home and gardened. John continued to be involved in many organisations, masonic lodges and clubs. However one organization we both shared together and I continue to enjoy is Hamilton Probus.

It is impossible to do justice to 60 years of marriage but suffice to say, I look back on that time and our lives together and think, in the words of the writer Henry James, it felt like 'one long wonderful summer afternoon'.

**Margaret Campbell 8 May 2020**



Margaret and John Campbell, Mermaid Beach 1967.

*Anne Gooley Archivist.*

**VALE William George Kirby**

Bill was born in Nambour in 1938 and went to Churchie for secondary school. He began his Article Clerkship under his father and in 1966 Bill was admitted as a Solicitor and became a partner with his father. Not long after, he married Margot and they produced Charles and Anna.

From the very early 70's, Bill sailed in the Flying Dutchmen class at RQYS and was still great friends with many from this time.

He had a heart attack when only 38 and new modern medical skills put him back on his feet but he had to slow down!! Bill had just bought 60-foot boat so he, Margot and the children sailed to the Whitsundays. These eight months of each year for the next three years were magic. We were cruising, but Bill knew every public phone box reachable by dinghy between Brisbane and Bowen - these became branch offices of GH Kirby & Co! Then came the first mobile phones and the boat was fitted with long range aerials and boosters so he could contact the office at sea.

Marinas and infrastructure were popping up along the coast and he had become very successfully involved in many of these developments. Bill had continued to participate at RQYS, so when the idea of a marina was mooted, he went back into the city office, in full Marina and Foreshore Development mode.

1992 saw another bypass operation and the idea of a new boat was floated past him... the construction of the perfect boat began. Margot always knew that Bill had another woman, she was trim and sleek, her name was Nocturn!!

From the early 2000s, Bill no longer practised mainstream law, but remained involved with his specialised areas. He moved to his new Craven St Office – his Secretary could not type, and worse, she didn't know how to file!! Margot did learn to type but never learnt to file.

In 2004, Bill stepped into the role of Commodore of RQYS, after a 28 year hiatus following his first heart attack, an honour he was delighted to carry.

Margot always said she prayed for a good husband and got one. Bill's reply was what chance did he have against the Lord above! He was her north and south and her east and west. He was the compass for all the family. On a rising tide and as the huge full moon set, Bill sailed his final journey.

We can hear him saying, "It is OK to miss me but tomorrow is time to get back to work".

*Death is not extinguishing the Light but putting out the Lamp because the Dawn has come. Margot*

The Times will recall Elva Emmerson`s life in the August edition.

### **Our Little Book Corner:**

#### **Ruth Clark`s musings about the books she has read:**

Current reading: One of the books I hold dear is "Books That Saved My Life" by Michael McGirr. Here is a book exploring the forty texts that can enrich us all in all manner of ways. Such as Harry Potter; some ancient, such as Lao Tzu and Homer. Memoirs of Nelson Mandela, poetry Les Murray, any of the world`s great Novels from George Eliot's Middlemarch to Toni Morrison's Beloved.

McGirr is a school teacher and former priest, reviewer of hundreds of novels and lifelong lover of literature. His humour and insight shine through in stories that connect the texts he has selected with each other, and connect us to them. A wonderful list of books to read. and his insights are uplifting.

Two books by a Brisbane Solicitor Simon Cleary "The War Artist" and "The Comfort of Figs". Light, well written, different, I enjoyed both.

Another I want to read again, "The Feather Thief" by Kirk Wallace Johnson, Very different read, nonfiction, a classic thriller, one of the most unusual crime books. I will read this one again (I don't do that often).

Clive James' "Unreliable Memories" is on a new Kindle I decided to buy. I am enjoying it from time to time, he was born in 1939 so I can relate to everything he talks about so far. Thinking about the next six - twelve months, the Library downloads aren't all that interesting, ordering books from overseas via the book stores seemed to be a bit unreliable, so I succumbed to a Kindle again. Not the same as a 'real' book though

*Ruth gives me names of very interesting books. She is a great reader .Margot*

**Guest Speakers – Dates to be confirmed:**

- . Biology and Conservation of Moreton Bay Seabirds. Dr. Peter Rothilsberg.
- . The Queensland Ballet, the progressive leap forward. Mr. Paul Boyd.
- . Riverboat cruising on the Murray. Captain Lindsay Hutton.

**Please Note:** Do you have an interesting story that you would like us to know? Now is your chance. Perhaps talking to an audience is not your thing but telling it through The Times or The Bulletin might be. We would be interested to hear from you. Copy needs to be received by 15<sup>th</sup> of any month for The Times, Douglas Fussell, Editor [dandl.fussell@gmail.com](mailto:dandl.fussell@gmail.com) or contact [bmhenzell@gmail.com](mailto:bmhenzell@gmail.com) for The Bulletin.

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Can **we** celebrate soon?

# The Comerford Files

## Major-General Sir Thomas MacDougall Brisbane



Major-General Sir Thomas MacDougall Brisbane was born in Scotland on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1773. He was a British Army officer, Administrator, and Astronomer. He was appointed Governor of NSW, and served from 1821 to 1824, on the recommendation of the Duke of Wellington, under whom he served. He was a keen astronomer, and built the 2<sup>nd</sup> observatory in NSW. He encouraged scientific and agricultural training. Prior to joining the British Army, he attended the University of Edinburgh, and studied Astronomy and Mathematics. He joined the British Army in 1789, and served with distinction, in the West Indies, Spain, North America, and saw action in the Peninsular War. He worked to improve the land grants system, and reformed the currency.

John Oxley, the explorer, recommended that the Brisbane River and the newly established convict settlement be named Brisbane.

Sir Thomas Brisbane was recalled at the end of 1824. He died on 27<sup>TH</sup> January 1860, and was buried in the family vault at Largs, Ayrshire in Scotland.



