

The Times



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Hamilton Probus Club Inc. 56018 Accredited 14 December 1990

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Hamilton Probus President's report September 2020

At last we can meet. Everyone seemed keen to escape the confines of the lockdown. The coffee mornings are well attended and enjoyed by all. The Picnic in the Park was a great success with forty attending. These events enable us to meet together in a

limited way.

The committee met and have approved St. Colomb's Church Hall, Clayfield as our new meeting venue. Merriwee Court served us well for many years, but health restrictions for aged care homes made it impossible to meet there. Not only the COVID problem, but a new Federal Government rule requires us to show written proof of having had flu vaccinations at every meeting.

St. Colomb's Hall is a modern venue that can seat 120. Due to the COVID four square metre rule we are restricted to 35. It is hoped that the restrictions will ease and enable more to attend. The venue has good audio-visual equipment and a good kitchen. Food handling is a problem so we will be restricted to biscuits from the packet.

It is planned at this time to hold a meeting on 6th October. Thirty-five to attend, so pre-registration will be necessary. First in best dressed. We have several prospective new members and about ten vacancies to fill. We will look forward to welcoming new members soon.

Below is an extract from PSPL regarding 1st October being recognised as Probus Day:
"To celebrate Probus and in turn build awareness of the benefits of belonging to our Community, we are pleased to announce an annual Probus Day.

Raising awareness of Probus plays an important part of our overall marketing strategy. Our marketing plan, which includes Probus Day, was developed before

COVID-19, and while there are still challenging times ahead, we cannot lose sight of the value of the social connections that Probus provides.

This annual celebration will be held on 1 October 2020 – this date is known as the United Nations Day of Older Persons across the world. International days like this are used to raise awareness and for our Community in Australia and New Zealand, it will be known as Probus Day. A day where we will celebrate what is great about Probus and actively promote it in our part of the world.”

Keep safe and I look forward to meeting soon. *Barry Henzell*

Hamilton Probus Secretary`s Report– September 2020

Greetings all. Is there a light dawning at the end of the Covid tunnel? At our recent Management Committee Meeting the possibility of holding a General Meeting in October at our new venue, St. Colomb’s Anglican Church Hall, Victoria St., Clayfield (off Sandgate Road) was floated. You will hear more from our President, Barry Henzell.

With respect to our ‘friend’ the virus – one would hope that “die-out” will eventually occur due to organism mutation and loss of virulence. ‘Critical-mass’ immunity will maybe continue to occur, but slowly. I suspect a safe, readily available, and affordable vaccine is still a long way off. As Queenslanders we can be proud of what we have achieved – there are a few exceptions! I consider the behaviour of some of those members of the younger “ME” generations to be thoughtless, selfish, self-centred, unconscionable and appalling.

Club Choir – sadly this initial suggestion lost momentum due the terror of the health scare I encountered in the middle of last year, which was followed by a slower than expected recovery. Then our “friend” the virus appeared!

To renew interest in this project I should welcome a brief e-mail or other communication from any of you who may be interested, indicating, if you know, where your voice sits in the choral range – soprano, contralto, tenor, or bass (SATB) – solo recital standard is **DEFINITELY NOT** a requirement.

A total of 16 interested members would be an optimal minimal number; ideally spread fairly evenly across the choral register (some of you are going to say I am an optimist – **yes!**). I would explore the availability initially of simple 4-part scores both secular and sacred. I have two very dear friends, Emily Cox and Christopher Wrench both of whom are professional musicians, teachers of music, and music directors, with enviable reputations and prodigious experience of performance at international level. I would seek their guidance and advice as to how we could or should proceed. I await your responses with great interest. ‘Til next time.

John Blackford (Secretary) **Date :- 14th. August 2020**

Sadly general meetings are cancelled until October



John Blackford conducting the Hamilton Probus Choir

2020 Committee:

President: Barry Henzell
Immediate Past President: Margot Kirby
Secretary: John Blackford
Treasurer: Greg McGilvery
Membership: Barbara Fitzell
Activities: Anne Gooley
Data Admin.: John Wright
Times Editor: Douglas Fussell
Guest Speakers: David McEvoy

2020 Members of the Lower House:

Almoner: Leafy Fussell
10 Min talks : 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.

September birthdays: Members and Non-Active Members.

Gaye White[01] John Gooch[05] Brian Nelson[09] Judith Williamson[10] Colin Miller[18] Syd Roberts[19] Jan Herron[22] Jan Peldon[23] Marea Reed [25] Julia Fryar [29]



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It was with great pleasure that some of our Lady Members were able to get together on July 30th for morning tea at Cruisers Café.

Having not had the opportunity to meet for almost six months there was a great deal of chatter. It reminded me of birds gathering in the spring. How wonderful that we are able to now get together in small groups.

We were joined on this day by a lovely lady from Sydney's Balmain Probus. Several people have contacted me enquiring about joining our club and asking when we will be meeting. Hopefully we will have answers to these questions soon.

We now have 76 members and the opportunity to induct more as and when we are able to hold a General Meeting.

Barbara Fitzell

Activities Report September 2020

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to report that we have been able to have our first outing since March when Covid-19 interrupted our lives. It was held at Kalinga Park on Thursday 13th August and Robin Edwards has written a report below about this most enjoyable day. Barry Henzell and Barbara Fitzell took photos and you will see some of them in this edition of the Newsletter.

I think that the picnic in the park highlights that we are a Probus family who care for one another and it is important for us to be able to come together. We will have another Picnic – perhaps in a different park - in October. Watch this space!!

The other good News is that we will be having our Christmas Lunch at Royal Queensland Golf Club on Monday 14th December. This will be a special event because we will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary of Accreditation of the Club. It is a fortuitous coincidence that we can celebrate this important day on 14th December as it is 30 years to the very day that the club was granted accreditation. This will be a wonderful celebration with a special iced cake to mark the occasion. There will be more information on this event in coming months.

Anne Gooley – Activities Coordinator.

The Annual Pizza in the Park was held at Kalinga Park with 37 attending. Three potential members also came. It was a beautiful day and the park looked lovely. There was a change in pizzas, we had to go to Dominos as the other pizza shop has changed hands and doesn't open until 4pm. Everyone seemed to be happy with the change. Hope to see everyone next year. *Robin Edwards*

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 8 th Sept	10: 00 am Men's Coffee Morning. Café 63 Portside	
Wednesday 23 rd Sept	10: 00 am Ladies' Coffee Morning Cruisers Alfresco Portside	
Tuesday 6 th Oct	9:30 am General Meeting St Colomb's Anglican Church Hall Liverpool St Clayfield. (Bookings required)	

Anne Gooley

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.

DON'T FORGET THAT "THE TIMES" WELCOMES ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS

The Comerford Files

HMS SIRIUS, First Fleet.

HMS “Sirius” was the flagship of the First Fleet.

The ship was built for the East India Company in 1780, and was known as the “Berwick”. She was gutted by fire in 1781. She was rebuilt and taken over by the Royal Navy as a Store ship and sent to America during the War of Independence. After the war she returned to Deptford in the River Thames and was laid up, before being refitted, and prepared for the First Fleet and renamed “HMS Sirius”.

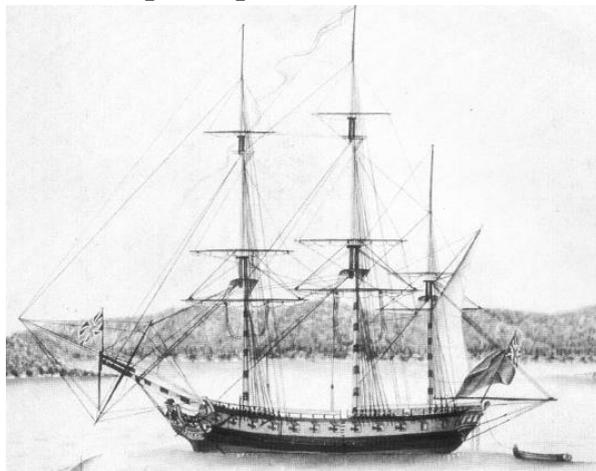
The ship was of 540 tons, was fully rigged, had 26 guns, was 110 feet(33.7m) by 89.9 feet (27.3m), and had a hold 13’4”(4m) deep. She had a crew of 160.

The HMS “Sirius” departed Portsmouth, with the rest of the Fleet on 13th May, 1787, and sailed via Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town. The Fleet consisted of 6 convict ships and 3 store ships, plus HMS “Sirius” and HMS “Supply”. The Fleet carried a total of 1,480 men (including 750 convicts), women and children. There were 104 deaths and 20 births during the voyage. The Fleet travelled 24,000 kilometres.

The Fleet arrived in Botany Bay on 24th January, 1788, but as the locale was found unsuitable for a settlement, the decision was soon made to move into Port Jackson to Sydney Cove, and the move was made on 25th January, 1788.

HMS “Sirius” was finally lost when she struck a coral reef off Slaughter Bay, Norfolk Island, and sank at Norfolk Island on 19th March, 1790. This was the most devastating loss of a vessel in Australian Naval history.

It is not often realised that the First Fleet was made up mainly of commercial vessels whose owners were offered inducements to participate.





Pizza in the Park



Hamilton Probus Book Corner:

ON THE SHELF

On the kitchen shelf a huntsman spider has left
its skin, which looks so much like itself

I thought twice before touching it. It was still.

The body left and left behind the soul,

Feather-light and eight-legged, able to frighten

Even when all it wanted was new life.

Perhaps you'll come upon my own shed skins

In houses where my name has been removed,

The habitations I once thought were home,

or find some words of mine in an old book.

I meant them. The words. Every one of them,

But left them on the shelf to go on living.

David Mason

The Pull of the Stars by [Emma Donoghue](#) [Author of *Room*] In an Ireland ravaged by war and disease expectant mothers have come down with an unfamiliar flu and are quarantined together. Patients are lost to this baffling pandemic, as they also shepherd new life into a fearful world. With tenderness and humanity, carers and mothers alike somehow do their impossible work. Doctor Kathleen is on the run from the police and with a young volunteer helper, in the darkness and intensity of this tiny ward, over three days, these women change each other's lives in unexpected ways.

The 2020 Booker Prize Long list

- *The New Wilderness* by Diane Cook
- *This Mournable Body* by Tsitsi Dangarembga
- *Burnt Sugar* by Avni Doshi
- *Who They Was* by Gabriel Krauze
- *The Mirror & The Light* by Hilary Mantel
- *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann
- *The Shadow King* by Maaza Mengiste
- *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid
- *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart
- *Real Life* by Brandon Taylor
- *Redhead by The Side of The Road* by Anne Tyler
- *Love and Other Thought Experiments* by Sophie Ward
- *How Much of These Hills is Gold* by C Pam Zhang

Thankyou to Margot.

Sheilas at Coffee



Fear

It was 1962 I was a 2nd Lieutenant, the lowest of the low, in charge of a platoon of thirty Australian soldiers on a mission seeking out any Communist Terrorists[CTs`] along the Thai/Malay border. It was known they were active in the area. I was twenty, the youngest in the platoon I was commanding.

Travelling by train to north Malaya my thoughts turned to the preparations a Platoon Commander should have carried out by now. Had we trained sufficiently for this? We were about to find out. Did all soldiers have their identity discs? Were they stamped with the correct blood group? Had they all completed a Will? Did they have enough ammunition? Had rifles been cleaned and checked? Did I have the correct code to use on the wireless? Did all the soldiers have a wound aid pack? This had been rehearsed many times.

We left the train and moved silently through a rubber plantation. Thick jungle awaited us two kilometres on. Visibility extremely limited. We moved through cautiously following a set compass bearing.

I called a halt at about 1600 hrs. and we set an ambush close to a creek and track crossing. All soldiers filled their water bottles. Sentries were posted. Fires were out of the question so we ate cold rations. There had been sightings of CTs in this area. None of us slept. I was hoping I had placed the sentries well in the event of attack.

I was terrified but knew the soldiers would perform to their best. "Everything okay Sergeant?" "Seems okay Sir". Thank God for my Sergeant who had seen active service in the Korean War and in Malaya on an earlier tour.

Months later I was to learn that my Company Commander had spoken to him and told him "to look after the kid"

Douglas Fussell

