

The Times



Edition Number 218 December 2020

Hamilton Probus Club Inc. 56018 Accredited 14 December 1990

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The First 30 Years

14 Dec 1990 - 14 Dec 2020

Honour Board

First 30 Presidents

1991 Mike Tiffin
1992 Laurie Jones OAM
1993 Arunachalam Kandasany
1994 Lex Lowien
1995 Ron Close
1996 Peter Green
1997 Lester Padman CBE
1998 Ross Lovell
1999 John McGinley
2000 Dudley Dick
2001 John Ladbroke
2002 Alan Millard
2003 Ngairretta Brennan AM
2004 Dr John Comerford
2005 Margaret Moore
2006 Keith Andrews
2007 Beverley Andrews
2008 Gerry McCafferty
2009 Carmel Dinneen
2010 Blair Wilson
2011 Trish Hickey
2012 Dick Roberts
2013 Nicki Duveck-Smith
2014 Dr John Campbell
2015 Dr Jill Pozzi
2016 Douglas Fussell
2017 Leith Fussell
2018 Dr David McEvoy
2019 Margot Kirby
2020 Barry Henzell

President`s Report December 2020: Barry Henzell

2020 has certainly been a year to remember. The COVID pandemic has disrupted meetings and activities. To maintain contact with members I produced twenty-two Bulletins with articles from members. Stories, jokes, recipes, and cartoons provided from members were well received. At last we should be able to have a full house with seating restrictions reduced to two square meters, instead of four. We have a new meeting venue at St.Colomb`s Church Hall. Seating for one hundred plus in a modern hall. Good audio-visual equipment gave us some teething problems. I believe I have solved this, so fingers crossed we won`t have problems in the future.

Thanks to a great committee we have survived the year to remember and look forward to 2021 with new members joining the club.

Season`s greetings from myself and Helen. We hope all will have a happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Secretary`s Report December 2020: John Blackford

There are two items of particular note this month. Recent easing by the Queensland Government, of restrictions relating to the Covid pandemic suggests that by our next General Meeting on Tuesday 1st. December, we should be able to accommodate all Members and possibly several guests, in our new Meeting venue. Your Committee will be communicating (through our President), more accurate information closer to the date.

The success and sustainability of our Club is totally dependent on the unique contribution each member offers. At the Annual General Meeting and Election of the Management Committee, due on Tuesday 2nd. March 2021 for the 2021-22 Probus Year, [ALL Committee positions will be declared vacant](#). Please consider nominating. Taking on responsibility for a particular Office is not necessary. There are places for several non- Office Bearers on the Committee. The only pre-requisite is a desire to serve, in a spirit of cooperation the Membership of the Club.

Membership Report: Barbara Fitzell

At our General Meeting on November 10th at St Colomb's church we were delighted to induct Kasper Kuiper and Jaqui Page.

We look forward to their company at future meetings and morning coffees.

There are three potential members waiting in the wings whom we hope to induct in the New Year and many others on the waiting list awaiting committee approval.

We particularly welcome new members who are prepared to commit to a role on the committee.

Hopefully Covid restrictions will be eased in 2021 and all our members will be able to attend the general meetings.

2020 Committee:

President :Barry Henzell

Immediate Past President: Margot Kirby

Secretary: John Blackford

Treasurer: Greg McGilvery

10 Min talks: Barry Aubrey

Archivist : Anne Gooley

Humour: David McEvoy –

George McKennairey

Almoner: Leafy Fussell

Membership: Barbara Fitzell

Activities: Anne Gooley

Data Admin.: John Wright

Times Editor: Douglas Fussell

Guest Speakers: David McEvoy

General Meeting Workers:

Hospitality/kitchen: December Pam Cole-Julia Fryar

Audio Visual/ Room Setup: Brian Springthorpe, David McEvoy, George McKennairey, John Comerford and advisor John Ladbrook.

December birthdays-Members and Non Active Members:

[03] Bill Finney[12] Helen Gow[16] Peter Main[21] Laurie Richards
[24] Dick Roberts[27] Alastair Ward[30] Pat Gibbes

Dates to Remember:

Date	Activity	Cost
1 st December	9.30am General Meeting St Colombs' Church Hall Victoria St Clayfield	
14 th December	11:30am for 11:45am Annual Christmas Lunch Royal Queensland Golf Club 431 Curtin Avenue Eagle Farm	\$60

Anne Gooley – Outings Coordinator

Activities Report December 2020 :Anne gooley

Dear Friends,

As I pause at my computer to write this report, I wonder where the year has gone and there is a sense of sadness that we were not able to have the Activities that our leaders had planned for this year. However, I think we have done very well and out of adversity we have learnt to be content with what we have around us: family, good friends, a sense of wonder of the beauty of nature and appreciating more, loving acts of kindness. I hope that 2021 will see us fulfilling many of our plans for interesting outings.

On Sunday 25th October, 12 people went to the Dendy Theatre, Portside to watch the film *The Three Tenors: Voices for Eternity*. We all came away feeling uplifted listening to such beautiful music and learning the story of how the three tenors came together to bring concerts to the world. After the theatre we adjourned to Belvedere Bar and Grill to discuss the Film.

Friday 30th October provided an opportunity for 11 keen members to try their skills at barefoot bowling at the Northern Suburbs Bowls Club, Wavell Heights. We all thought it was lots of fun but most of all I enjoyed getting together afterwards for nibbles and drinks. It was a rare opportunity to just sit and talk. My thanks go to Alastair for organizing the game and in his usual style did it so well. Thanks to Barbara too for helping to organize the game.

Our next special outing is the Christmas Party – Monday 14th December. Put it in your diary and give your booking to Robin Edwards.

Thought for the Day: Three strikes and you are out! There is always one more thing you can do to influence any situation in your favour. Lt. Gen. Hal Moore.

Guest Speakers:

December Dr. Peter Rothlisberg of the CSIRO and his topic is *Biology and Conservation of Moreton Bay Shorebirds*.

Vale Diana Neilson 4.2.33 - 30.10.20

Member of Hamilton Probus since 2013

Proposed and seconded by Margaret and John Campbell

A devoted Mother to Judy, James and Libby.

Wife of Dr Graeme Neilson (deceased).

Dee was originally from the Western Districts of Victoria where she spent a happy childhood, forever riding horses and being a country girl on her family property, Barunah Plains.

Mum, along with two girlfriends set off, aged 22 to travel to Europe. My Dad was also on that month-long boat trip to London. (To complete his college of physician's exam).

They met, and that was that!

Sixty years of marriage, three children, six grandchildren.

Family was everything to Mum. Pretty sure she never missed a sports day or a school event for her kids or her grandkids.

Mum and Dad travelled extensively, but her favourite destination was always to see her extended family in Victoria or Noosaville weekends with her kids and grandkids.

A truly beautiful soul and an inspiration to love unconditionally and always see the glass half full.

Libby Davidson

*Life is eternal, love is immortal, and death is only a horizon
A horizon is nothing more than the limit of our sight.*

Book Corner : Margot

I have been to Riverbend where Suzie Wilson gave us her report on the books she has recently read:

- **Trent Dalton's** new book, **All our Shimmering Skies** is the fastest selling book in Australia and everyone is enjoying it. It follows Boy Swallows Universe.
- **Hamnet** by **Maggie O'Farrell** is recommended as an excellent book. A fictional account of Shakespeare's son, Hamnet.
- **Stone Sky Gold Mountain** by **Mirandi Riwoe** (a Brisbane author). It unfurls slowly in the Palmer River goldfields in early colonial Australia. Her novella *The Fish Girl* was shortlisted for The Stella Prize.
- **Richard Flanagan's** **The Living Sea of Waking Dreams** All who have read it loved it. A besetting response to a devastated world.
- **The Vanishing Half** by **Brit Bennett**. Book Clubs have voted it the best book of their year. Told from the perspectives of twin sisters spanning over four decades – one lived a 'white' life, the other a 'black' one.
- **The Lying Life of Adults** by **Leona Ferrante** – is an ugly book. This is an open-armed compliment, not a backhanded one. Good book.
- **Mayflies** by **Andrew O'Hagan** is a beautiful piece of writing. A heartbreaking novel of an extraordinary lifelong friendship.
- **Mary's Last Dance** by **Mary Li**. Sequel to her husband Li Cunxin's memoir, *Mao's Last Dancer*

Guess how many books I came home with? **M**

New Members :

Kasper Kuiper



Jacqui Page



The Walkers: John Wright

With our second walk on 20 October it is pleasing to note our numbers have grown from 9 to 10.

The walk along the river from the Sydney Street Terminal to Riverside Eagle Street was very enjoyable with stops along the way to take in the views, atmosphere and look at points of interest. We passed the Moreton Club looking well-dressed framed by the Jacaranda tree and onto the Howard Smith Wharves under the Story Bridge where we roamed through areas of historical interest and the new developments including the Fantauzzo Brisbane Art Series Hotel with the photographic artwork in the foyer.

We ended the walk with a break at the Eagle Street Coffee Club where we were well looked after by the staff.

As always, the carefree time on the City Cats was enjoyed by all with time to view, and critique, the river frontage developments.

Our next walk is on 17 November, after the closing date of the Times Newsletter going to print.



Roma Street Parkland - Enchanted Gardens: From 4 December 2020 to 17 January 2021 Roma Street Parkland becomes illuminated with more than 40,000 fairy lights at The Enchanted Garden lighting display. Several premium food truck eats are available from 5 pm at Celebration Lawn as well as The Garden Room Café. The Enchanted Garden will operate in compliance with an approved COVID Safe Event Plan requiring a mandatory free pre-registration process. There will be no tickets available at the gate. To attend the event, you must pre-register in advance. NOTE: Booking out fast. To register, please follow the link to Eventbrite on [The Enchanted Garden web page](#) under 'Free Mandatory Pre-Registration'. **John Wright**

Treasurer`s year: Greg McGilvery After being inducted in to Hamilton Probus , March 2020, with the rest of the Committee with Barry as president, we were all alerted to the seriousness of the COVID 19 virus disease. (Name comes from COrona Virus Disease started in year 2019.)

The corona virus that causes this disease, (CoVid-19), is called SARS-CoV-2.. (name comes from, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Corona Virus number 2) It is related, but not the same, as the 2003 Corona Virus which was more potent, but less contagious.(Corona SARS virus number 1)

That spelled the end of social trips, and meetings at Merriwee Court, our Blue Care facility. due to danger of spreading or catching the virus.

Thanks to the work of Anne Gooley & Robin Edwards, and Barry, and John Wright, we are emerging from hibernation and enjoying outings again.

Morning teas at Ti-Trees and later at Shaw Park, luncheon at Portside, and the Pomona Theatre Trip and film visit at Portside, have all been successful and our bank balances are still in the black.

Our club has been welcomed to further our meetings at St Colomb`s Anglican Church, Clayfield, by the Rector, Iain Moore. Our capable members are acclimatising to the new venue, and coping with new controls over food and drinks at morning tea. Cost paid to the church is \$150 per monthly meeting. Barry & John Quayle have been organising sandwiches from Oriel Park.

John Wright`s monthly walking tours are free, pay for your own coffee etc. No work for the treasurer. For the City Cat, helpful to have the Translink Go Card, issued by Qld Govt.

And with coffee mornings for men and for the ladies, pay your own way, no banking required. The Christmas luncheon will be a great event, and when members, make payment, be sure that you are identified by name, with the payment, whether by bank transfer or on the envelope. \$60.00 per head

.(A reminder that Suncorp Bank, Racecourse Rd, Ascot, Branch, has closed!!)

Reproduction of booklet produced
by members of Hamilton Probus
Club inc. Brisbane -editor Mildred
Crombie

The First Twenty Years

1990- 2010

**Published by Hamilton Probus Club Inc.
14th Dec 2010
to celebrate the
20th Anniversary of Accreditation of the Club**

Honorary Life Members

Laurie Jones OAM (January 2004) d. Jul 2009
Sir Walter Campbell AC (January 2004) d. Sep 2004
Mike Tiffin (November 2004)
Lester Padman CBE (March 2005) d. Aug 2010
Alan Millard (September 2006) d. Feb 2010
Ngairetta Brennan AM (February 2010)
Lex Lowien (February 2010)

Editor: Mildred Crombie
Co-author: Lester Padman
Editorial Committee: Carmel Dinneen,
John Ladbrook, Lex Lowien
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HAMILTON PROBUS CLUB INC.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

1990-2010

The concept of a Probus Club at Hamilton was the initiative of the Hamilton Rotary Club whose members supported the idea of an on-going interest in fellowship when they retired from active membership in Rotary. Hamilton Rotary President, Gary Fenner, called a meeting on 13 March 1990 at the Hamilton Hotel to determine the interest. Alan Millard, a member of Hamilton Rotary and a Past District Governor of Rotary District 960, took a lead at this meeting. He gave a brief outline of the origin and aims of Probus and offered to take a personal part in the formation of a Probus Club if the Rotary members and friends were in favour.

Several meetings were held at the Hamilton Hotel and in April 1990 a resolution was passed "That the Probus Club of Hamilton be formed". At a meeting in June 1990, Mike Tiffin was asked to find a suitable location in the Hamilton district which would provide better conditions than those at the Hamilton Hotel. It was discussed whether the Club should be open to women members, but for now members should settle down as a group until the Club was better established and women would be admitted at a later date.

Mike Tiffin went on a trip to India to attend a religious occasion, and on return to Brisbane looked at a new hall recently constructed by the church community on the corner of Oxford Street and Hudson Street, Hamilton. The gentleman administrator of the premises was interested in Mike's experience in India, and it quickly followed that a mutually acceptable agreement of tenancy and usage of the hall was arranged. The meeting hall had good security, accommodation for at least 100 seated, and it was air conditioned with excellent facilities, and refreshments could be provided by the cooks at the attached nursing home.

It became fondly known as "Merriwee Court" in keeping with the name of the Blue Care facility to which it is closely associated.

At a later meeting at Merriwee Court it was agreed that all the members then present would be listed as "Foundation Members". They were Professor Kandasany Arunchalam (Aru), Ron Close, Gary Fenner, Jim Gayton, Arthur Graham, Peter Green, Dennis Hoey, Laurie Jones, Clarrie Kelly, Lex Lowien, John McKenna, Vince Schmidt, Mike Tiffin, Harold Wearing and Ron Wright.

Mike Tiffin was elected as "interim president" and gave the Club one year of good leadership. All the Foundation Members gave introductory talks, led by Aru who spoke about his life in Sri Lanka as a Doctor of Medicine, tea planter and fruit grower. John McKenna gave us an idea of his hobby of wood turning and carving.

Norman Wilson of Hamilton Rotary attended most of our early meetings at the Hamilton Hotel. He acted as temporary secretary of the new Club and was consistently very helpful in setting it up.

A remaining formality was that we should apply for accreditation, and this was granted on 14 December 1990. The meeting on 5 March 1991 was selected for a celebration. This was a wonderful meeting with Rotary District Governor Harold Stephenson and Cliff Allnut, President of Hamilton Rotary, presenting the Certificate of Accreditation to our new Probus Club President, Mike Tiffin, who enthusiastically accepted it and this was acknowledged by members. The cooks at Merriwee Court made a special iced cake for the occasion.

Over the next few years new members were Bill Barlow, Ron Birchall, Pat Cranitch, Dudley Dick, Bob Goakes, Mark Hancock, Kevin King, John Ladbrook, Tom Lavery, Ross Lovell, John McGinley, Lester Padman, Jeff Temby and John Zimmerman.

Laurie Jones (President 1992) came to the job with some good ideas and enthusiasm, and for several years organized our outings and lined up most of our guest speakers. Robert (Bob) Goakes, a town planner and engineer by profession, was also an artist of some renown. He was Secretary of the Club from 1998 to 2000 and devoted two meetings to developing the members' skills with perspective and portraiture.

As an example of our activities while still a very small club we organised tours over one to three days with members, accompanied by their wives, using their own cars and taking other members as passengers. Such a trip was to the Lions Road between Beaudesert and Kyogle with members bringing their own food to barbeque and wood for the fire. Our visit was timed to watch the Sydney-Brisbane freight train climb the big loop before tackling the tunnel through the Border Range to Beaudesert. This was a great bonding experience!

A further development in the history of Club outings came in those early years when Lex Lowien found a bus company with a 28-passenger touring coach and arranged some short trips.

On one occasion the Brisbane Probus Club, being short of numbers, invited Hamilton members to join them on an interesting trip to the Army Aviation Centre at Oakey where a Singapore helicopter flight was stationed. Members enjoyed a three-hour inspection of the base and the huge helicopters.

To reciprocate we invited members of Brisbane Probus Club to join us on a coach tour to Margaret Hockey's homestead "Nindooibah" near Beaudesert. We had an interesting tour of the homestead and property and all enjoyed lunch in the gracious dining room, prepared by our hostess and her friends.

Bob Rogers, of Probus Association of Queensland (PAQ), asked us if we could do something for "Seniors Week" in September 1999. Keeping in mind that we don't "do" fund-raising, Bob Goakes and Lester Padman hit on the idea of running an Art Exhibition from which profits, if any, would go to Seniors' Week. The "do-ers" of the Club, to mention a few — Bob Goakes, Jim Gayton, John McGinley, Dudley Dick and Geoff Temby (who very successfully ran the promotion campaign) — got going to seek out sponsors, print a catalogue and persuade the English Speaking Union to allow space at Palma Rosa for the exhibition. That done, they commenced promotion and the 300 paintings received far exceeded the 150 in their original budget. It was necessary then to erect a huge marquee on the back lawn.

The art show was opened by retired Queensland Governor Sir Walter Campbell and judged by Raoul Mellish, the then director of the Queensland Art Gallery. Before we knew it there was a profit of more than \$1,000. The major share of this bounty went to the Seniors Week, \$300 to the Hamilton Rotary, and Hamilton Probus received a great write-up in the Queensland Probus Association magazine.

The development of the Club had been noted by Probus South Pacific, and Chairman Bob Gillespie called upon us to host the next Past Presidents Luncheon in 2000. This needed a lot of organising so John McGinley, Lois Kenny and Pat Cranitch, with President John Ladbroke, did all the bookings and arrangements for a luncheon at Doomben Racecourse. Glen Kinross, the International President of Rotary, graced us with his presence and gave an address which highlighted the belief that a good Rotarian and a good Probian are never "PAST", as their principles of service and fellowship just carry on! More than 200 people were seated in the very large marquee and the event went off with great fellowship.

We still needed more members to be able to attract speakers with reputations and to make bus tours and other trips more viable. In the interim we invited guest speakers like TV weatherman Ray Wilkie and John Schluter of Channel 7. Both commented ours was the smallest club they had visited.

These comments also helped bring about a decision that to attract new members we should experiment with programs and look for local venues for interesting tours. Lester Padman (President 1997) was also President of the Brisbane Probus Club, and he felt certain that the two Clubs could combine for outings and inject some life into our new members and make them "do-ers". Ross Lovell, the next President (1998), suggested that we introduce some variety into our meetings.

An appeal was made to all members to each get a new member; if this did not bear fruit we should make it a 'mixed' membership club by including women members. Several members of the committee had attended a "Probus Rendez-Vous" meeting on the Gold Coast in 1999 which included Probus members from all states of Australia and New Zealand. They came back impressed with the contribution being made by the women members. There were some protests from the "Old Boys", but it had to be, and after a secret ballot, women were invited to join.

The winds of change blew strongly at the start of the second decade of the Hamilton Probus Club's existence. The first era often years had been one of birth and establishing a presence while the second era has seen consolidation and the giving of form to the original concepts, and much growth.

John McGinley holds the distinction of having served as President (1999- 2000) in two centuries, a unique title for quite a long time!

With all-male membership, usual attendance at meetings had been less than twenty. A new-look mixed Club needed some specific guidelines. It was decided to aim for a membership goal of 60, with a gender balance of 55:45. (Clubs have shrunk and folded when they have not maintained a gender balance.)

Pat Lynch (and others) had been patiently waiting for the Club to open its doors to women, and she as the first female member was welcomed at the July 2000 meeting.

She broke new ground (rather nervously) in the previously all-male atmosphere with a short speech outlining her life and her career as a physiotherapist. By early 2001 formal membership totalled 33, including the first women members - Pat Lynch, Robin Edwards, Mildred Crombie, Lois Kenny and Judy Prentice.

A rather cosy atmosphere prevailed at meetings. They were held then, as now, at Merriwee Court, with everyone sitting at tables arranged in a U-formation, with the "heavies" seated at the cross table. With the growing numbers of members this arrangement became somewhat crowded, and in September 2002 a change was made to sitting in rows, cinema-style.

For the year 2000 Christmas party the then President Dudley Dick chose Tattersalls Club and made the booking. Forty or more members turned up and waited in Tatt's Arcade only to hear that the booking had been made for the wrong day! Tattersalls staff quickly re-arranged their dining rooms, and President Dudley 'shouted' the champagne as penance. Our special guest, Jim Iliffe, entertained us from his repertoire of humorous stories and we purchased copies of his book.

In 2001 John Ladbroke, as President in this year of change, introduced several new procedures for the monthly meetings.

It was confirmed that meetings were to be held on the first Tuesday of each month, however starting time was brought forward by half an hour to 9.30am providing more time for an expanded agenda. Morning teas were moved from the middle to the end of meetings to allow more relaxed time for fellowship and to enable members to talk to the guest speakers who often stayed on after their talk. The Ten Minute Spot was introduced to the meeting agenda.

Management Committee meetings in the first years were held at the home of the President, and while Laurie Jones was President (1992) his wife Tess treated members to tasty afternoon teas on their cool veranda. Time brought change, and during Alan Millard's presidency (2002) committee meetings were held in his office at Millard Tyre & Rubber Co. in Kingsford Smith Drive - with iced water freely available! Through the years, Committee meetings tended to move around to the homes of successive presidents, until in Ngairretta Brennan's year as President (2003) they moved to the gazebo at Bayview Mansions, Clayfield and have continued there. The position of President would be filled alternatively by men and women, with two vice presidents.

To add interest to meetings the Apollo Male Choir was invited by Ross Lovell to put on a performance in October 2001, and the hall was filled! Our members Ross Lovell and Laurie Prentice were singers in the choir, and Ross gave the commentary. We heard another performance by the choir in August 2002, this time at Alan Millard's suggestion at the more spacious Senior Citizens' Centre in Kingsford Smith Drive.

In October 2001, and for a year or two after, several members recruited by Alan Millard and Bob Goakes assisted at the Rotary Art Exhibition held at what was then Forest Place (now Aveo), Albion.

In the Club 's very early years Merriwee Court undertook to provide morning teas at \$3 a head. When the nursing home was no longer able to continue this arrangement, Laurie Jones and Mike Tiffin collected quite lavish morning teas from the Mercy Centre,

Woolloowin - and they washed up the china cups and saucers - until October 2002. After that John and Sonja Comerford, to everyone's relief, took on themselves the responsible job of pouring the tea and coffee. Early in 2003 Beth Finney, with the support of Helen Gow, Judith Henderson, Shirley White and Pat Gibbes, instituted a tea roster of volunteers which she herself organised for the next two years. Each of them by now has led the group for approximately two years. Their efficient work behind the scenes never fails to produce our much looked-forward to morning teas. Nearly every member of the Club has had a turn at serving behind the counter, in groups of three. The china cups have given way to disposables, and very sensibly a local firm recommended by Alan Millard is contracted to provide sandwiches

— but goodbye to the cakes and chocolate biscuits!

The provision of sandwiches by contract necessitated raising the charge from \$3.00 for morning teas. The Management Committee seriously debated dollars and cents, until "NO," cried Dudley Dick, "make it \$5 00", which is where it remains to this day.

When John Ladbrook put forward the idea of starting a Club Newsletter, principally to circulate details about prospective trips, some members were concerned about additional costs. However, Bob Goakes strongly supported the idea and in February 2001 he and John produced and distributed the first issue of The Times. Bob continued as editor until he left Brisbane in October 2001 to live at the Gold Coast.

Mildred Crombie took over as editor for two years, followed for the next two years by Laurie Prentice, and then John Ladbrook again stepped in and continued there for three years. The present editor, Mike Powell, accepted the job (with some encouragement!) on the day of his induction to the Club and produces a very lively paper. The Times has grown over the years into such an important source of information it is hard to imagine just how we could manage without it.

Lois Kenny was appointed as Membership Officer in 2000, the moment she joined the Club, and was kept very busy for the next three years in a rapidly expanding job as word got around about admission of female members. Despite some resignations, membership grew to 50 (28M/22F) by early 2002. The maximum ceiling of 60 members set earlier was reached in March 2003, a number of applications still outstanding. Raising the membership ceiling had been discussed at several meetings and at the meeting in March 2003 a by-law raising membership to 80 was readily accepted. The meeting in November 2003 again agreed that 80 was the right number for the conveniently-located Merriwee Court meeting hall to accommodate and the right number for a cohesive club.

Once more, in July 2004, another proposal was made to increase membership to 100. This was soundly rejected, and time has shown this was the right decision. The gender balance of 55:45 remains unchanged, with an average of 3-4 new members each year.

Despite earlier decisions on the membership ceiling, a growing number of applicants on the waiting list forced the debate to continue. A suggested alternative came forward,

to request Hamilton Rotary Club to establish another Probus Club in this area.

This led to the Ascot Probus Club being formed in April 2005, with four of our members serving on the committee of the new club to get it up and running.

Back in April 2001 the Management Committee decided the Club should seek incorporation. This led the Club's new member and new Secretary Maurie Carlson to examine the necessary steps towards incorporation, and he began an intense program of negotiation with the Department of Fair Trading on top of his normal secretarial work. In September 2001, at a Special General Meeting, there was a motion calling for approval of application for incorporation of "Hamilton Probus Club Inc." and adoption of the "Standard Constitution and By Laws as tabled", and that the present office bearers and committee members be nominated formally by application. After discussion this was carried unanimously, and President Ladbrook congratulated Maurie on the results of his hard work. But that wasn't yet the happy ending, because due to incorrect information received from the Department in November 2001 no audit had been conducted for that part-year. An auditor had to be found quickly to carry out our Club's first audit and Athol McLennan came to the rescue. The appointment of a Club auditor was ratified at another Special Meeting in April 2002.

Maurie Carlson resigned as secretary later that year due to ill-health and died in October 2003. He had seen the incorporation issue through in his quiet, methodical way, and it is really sad that having achieved this significant milestone during his short time with Hamilton Probus he wasn't allowed to ease back and just enjoy being a Probian.

Laurie Prentice, another quiet achiever, stepped into the breach to act as secretary - with Judy's help - for the remainder of the Club year.

Athol McLennan very generously continued in the role of honorary auditor until his death in October 2005. The Club has been quite fortunate that our member Ray Peldan has taken on and performed this task since February 2006. Thank you, Ray!

Over the years minor amendments have been made to the Club's Constitution and By-laws, mostly in line with changes adopted by Probus Centre South Pacific. They include the appointment of two vice-presidents, alternating the presidency male/female (if possible), length of tenure of office-bearers, and importantly the decision to widen the scope of people eligible to join Probus, from professionals and managers to include anyone who has "worked in a worthy vocation".

Lex Lowien as "tour director" had organised all the Club outings solo for six years and decided to quit at the end of 2001. An already demanding job was all the harder then because, without a Club newsletter, every bit of information had to be advised and all bookings effected by Lex himself, on the telephone or in person.

Then in November 2001 John Ladbroke offered to convene an activities committee, and a number of volunteers responded to his call. He headed the group for three years, succeeded by Syd Roberts (also three years). Our much-travelled Robin Edwards, who was one of the original activities committee members and is always on the go, is now in her third year as leader. Other members, to name some who have been or still are active in the group, include Norma McTaggart, Roy and Margaret Moore, John and Sonja Comerford, Carmel Dinneen, Peter Bekkers, Trish Hickey, Beth and Bill Finney, Mary Rose Fraser and Peter Main. Every one of them has done great things to add interest to our lives.

Even with 80 members to draw from, outings leaders frequently had insufficient numbers to permit the hire of a comfortable large 45 passenger bus, and a 20-passenger Toyota bus was too cramped. The

bus problem was solved when a local bus company was found that had medium-sized buses, ideally suited to the Club.

Through our hard-working Activities group we have had an opportunity nearly every month to visit one of a really surprising number of interesting places within range of a day trip, either in Brisbane or to surrounding country towns. Some of these have taken us by coach (or city transport) to the Police HQ, the Queensland Art Gallery; to Gympie to ride on the Mary Valley Rattler to Imbil; the Australia Zoo; tours of Ipswich and its famous Incinerator Theatre and Toowoomba's Flower Festival: a day at lovely Tamborine Mountain, and a look around Bribie Island and the Abbey Museum. We have seen computerised baggage handling at the Brisbane Airport, the sorting of reusables at the Visy waste collection depot, bulk loading and remote-control handling of containers at the Port Authority complex and how Driza-bone clothing is made

At the Regatta Hotel we were given some information about making beer: one rather special visit was with Kev Franzi at his little antique theatre at Kenilworth with his store of old comedy films and restored projectors. In 1994 a very special event was watching the Hamilton Probus Club Handicap at Doomben!

There have been some memorable boat tours as well, down river via Tangalooma to join whale watching cruises; up river to the junction of the Bremer River; by bus for a tour on the scenic Tweed River and again by bus to Noosa to cruise up the Noosa River through the Everglades to Harry's Hut, and the Rum Runner cruise to Sanctuary Cove.

We relax and enjoy an annual BBQ lunch at Ti-Trees swimming club, and dine out once or twice a year at local restaurants.

The unexpected can happen at any time, and at a Turkish dinner one night Trevor Gibson got the call from the beautiful belly dancer to assist with her act and, brave soldier that he is, he complied — with flair!

Every year there have been longer tours lasting anything from 2 to 7 nights away. They have included travel to Stanthorpe for the "Spring Fling"; a glimpse of the vast Outback by train and bus visiting Charleville, Birdsville and Innamincka: another to Bourke and the opal fields at Lightning Ridge; to Coonabarabran and the nearby Warrumbungles and Siding Springs observatory; to the Carnarvon Gorge, Emerald and Barcaldine by bus; to the Town of 1770 where we piled on to a pink amphibian vehicle (LARC) for an exciting and rather rough ride over beaches and bays to Bustard Head lighthouse and back, then overnight in Bundaberg with a visit next day to the Bundaberg Rum distillery. Later on we relaxed for a few days in Yamba with a bus ride up the beautiful and flood-prone Clarence River valley to Grafton; travel overnight in the Spirit of the Outback train to see historic and pre-historic sites in Longreach and Winton, and by air for a few days to enjoy the beauties of the Canberra Floriade. In September 2010 Ascot Probus invited us to join them on a visit to Scone NSW. As though all those activities were not enough, we also participate in events organised by PAQ, such as the annual Ecumenical Service, and quite a few members try their skills in the annual Bowls Carnival and the Interclub Golf Day. In the Friendly Quiz Contest against other Probus Clubs our 8-member teams always have a good time, and even tied for first prize in 2004!

For several years a few intrepid souls led by John McGinley and Lester Padman went to the VIP Shooting Club, Virginia to compete in pistol shooting.

At meetings in our early years, one member would be nominated as speaker for the day and we found that some of our own members had speaking potential. The Committee approved a program of guest speakers which would inform and entertain. Lester Padman had done this job since he joined in 1997, calling on friends and associates from the business world. When Lester decided it was time to quit Jess Gibson and Ngairretta Brennan took on this important task and have kept up the flow of good speakers.

Over the past ten years we estimate we have been privileged to hear from about 100 different speakers, talking about vastly wide-ranging things such as the diverse duties of the pilot for His Highness the Sultan of Brunei (his tasks mainly were flying the Sultan as required, looking after his fleets of aircraft and luxury cars, and flying the Sultana to Singapore for shopping). Among other ways of earning a living there were forest farming, the practice of forensic osteology, or growing pigs in Africa and Australia. We have heard of the fascinating lives and work in Australia and overseas experienced by both a journalist and a QANTAS staff member. We also learned some inner facts about pawnbroking, which range from paying out cash for new items just purchased across the road to becoming confidant and adviser in monetary and other problems being faced by customers. Coverage of topical matters included the care and protection of our resources and current development projects; weather patterns; recycling water; transport technology, electricity generation, oil production on the North West Shelf and worldwide, and advances in digital photography and digital radio. We have heard some facts about dingoes, and one talk described the interesting progression of gardening from basic food production to developing "minimal gardens" and landscapes to adorn the inside of large buildings. A sergeant from the Police Fraud Squad put us all on edge with advice on how to prevent crime, especially theft of identity.

Our member John Campbell, a natural entertainer, can always be relied upon even at short notice to talk about something interesting, sometimes quite outrageous, or recite a poem.

Local items have described the beginning of Queensland horse-racing, the development of the Botanic Gardens, the history of the now-closed Toombul Music Shop, the local Aviation High School, the bronze memorials in Brisbane, why the Story Bridge is where it is, and building the second Gateway Bridge.

Varied miscellaneous subjects covered were the Honours system; the work performed by the Public Trustee; McGonagall's comic bush verse and original bush poetry by our own poet Neil Peters; the importance of language; a search for the true story behind

9/11 ; why we need houses, and the sensitive subject of gardeners' attitudes towards scrub turkeys and other wildlife.

Talks about the delights and pitfalls of travel have taken us by road to Cape York and by various means to the Centre and other far-flung parts of Australia; to Antarctica and Papua New Guinea and the Kokoda Track; to observe radiography in East Timor, to hear about work with *Medicins sans Frontieres* in Nepal; life in Botswana in the 1980s; and

the sources of a considerable portion of Australia's plant imports from Thailand's plant nurseries (some owned by Thai royal connections).

In 2004 Graham Clay told us about the 4x4 safari which he and Ann did to cross Australia from East Coast to West Coast,

an exploratory journey of 15,000km from Byron Bay in northern New South Wales, through flood waters and dusty deserts for 21 days to the most western land point at Cuvier, north-west of Carnarvon, and returning via Alice Springs.

We have heard from our train enthusiasts about their memorable travels in India and Europe, South Africa and North America, and the quality of facilities and uncertainties of times - plus the joys - of train travel in China.

A number of talks related to wide-ranging health matters including the amazing help given by Rotary Oceanic Medical Aid; the history of the Royal Flying Doctor Service; sports physiotherapy; gastroenterology at the Princess Alexandra Hospital; the Hear and Say Centre, and the help given to recovering drug addicts.

Another category — history — has extended from the story of the First Fleet's arrival in Port Jackson to the death of Princess Diana; the bombing of Darwin and Broome in 1942 and the Cowra break-out; the history of St John Ambulance; the explorer Ludwig Leichhardt and his botanical observations, and author Rosamund Siemon's talk about 'The Mayne Inheritance'.

The "10-Minute Spot" introduced by John Ladbroke has become a significant item on our meetings agenda. Its aim is to allow any member to speak about themselves or any subject of special interest to them. Through this we have learnt a lot more about our fellow members, including some real surprises and hidden talents! There's mystery too - a packet of diamonds was handed to a Dutch pilot for delivery to an Australian address, but the plane crashed - and where are the diamonds?

A favourite part of our meetings is John McGinley's regular session of funny stories. His time spent searching his "sources" (and very careful selection of suitable material) is always rewarded with fits of laughter from his audience.

Among several innovations introduced during the presidency (2003) of our first female President Ngairretta Brennan was the appointment of Margaret Campbell as our Club's first Almoner. Margaret reminded us (was it really necessary?) that we as a group are "not in the first flush of youth" and inevitably therefore we develop illnesses from time to time, and sadly some are fatal. The almoner keeps in touch with members who are ill or sends our condolences to the relatives of those who have died.

Ngairretta herself became our first Publicity Officer, her aims being to interest members in the contents of *Probus* and *The Probian*, and the exchange of information between all Probus Clubs. To further this aim several other items about our Club activities have been published in the Probus magazines.

In April 2006 Carmel Dinneen was elected unopposed to represent our Club on the PAQ Committee.

From 1991 to 1999 the Club secretaries were also the Club treasurers. However, in 2000 Pat Cranitch became the first to be appointed specifically as Treasurer; he held this position for three years, a period of great expansion of the Club 's activities as well as more than doubling the number of members.

Past Treasurer Brian Springthorpe observes that while the basic responsibilities of the Treasurer do not actually change they have over the years expanded with the Club's increased membership; the operating bank balance, for instance, has grown from a few hundred dollars to more than \$5,000. 27

The Treasurer receives help from members who can be called upon to assist in the busy period at the start of each meeting. A special mention here of Leon Papi, who served as Treasurer for three years (2003 to 2005) and again in 2008. Since then he often helps out at meetings or stands in for an absent treasurer.

For many years forms and records were either typed or handwritten. Later, regular documentation such as the monthly financial summary, lists of names for monthly meetings, trip summaries and yearly subscriptions records have been on computer, thus saving time as well as improving accuracy and consistency. Through 2009 further consolidation was achieved by using the accounting program Quicken to record all financial transactions, and internet banking was introduced to facilitate payments and bank transfers and gain access to high interest internet accounts.

Despite the increase in member numbers and activities over time, meeting costs and subscriptions have not increased for many years. Indeed, as more members obtained their own computers, the use of email has saved printing and postage costs (and labour), and thus allowed a small reduction in subscriptions.

As well as the Treasurer's dedicated helpers there are many other unofficial and unobtrusive helpers who, out of the public eye, do a lot of vital work to keep things going. Among these are "the silent removalists", that is those gentlemen who move the chairs and anything else around as necessary before and after meetings; John Brennan who carefully vetted documents relating to changes in the Club constitution, and John Comerford who checked out insurance coverage for members at meetings and on outings. Marc Podoski regularly helped in putting out the tables for morning teas and in setting up the PA system before meetings.

John Ladbrook valiantly tries to keep us all up to date with computer and other electronic matters and helps out when such things go wrong. He is a tower of strength in other ways and many of his ideas have been incorporated in Club procedures. The meticulous tables of membership as circulated periodically to all members, and the record of official positions which is included with this history, are all his work.

Jess Gibson, her humour enjoyed by all, was a very efficient Club Secretary for four years (2003-2006). Peter Bekkers too is now in his fourth year as Secretary, with his finger on the pulse of all administrative things — another really impressive accomplishment.

Keith and Bev Andrews joined Hamilton Probus during 2005 and they were elected respectively as President and Vice-President in 2006. With Keith's enthusiasm and business-management skills his was a very active and all-embracing presidency, although he had to endure bouts of medical therapy from time to time. He was unable to attend the February 2007 meeting and died on 1 March 2007. As Vice- President, Bev presided at the February meeting in Keith's place. She was duly sworn in as President at the beginning of the Club year in March, only a few days after Keith's funeral. Throughout the year Bev too proved to be a really involved and effective President. In all, a very proud achievement by both the Andrews.

The Club has applied for and received annual grants from the Brisbane City Council since 2002. The first grant was \$300; over time they have reduced to \$230 and are still welcome.

By the early 2000s digital Power Point presentations were starting to replace the Kodachrome colour slide and the Carousel projector.

John Ladbrook on behalf of the Club successfully applied to the Hamilton Ward of the Brisbane City Council in 2006 for a special grant to purchase a quality digital projector and matching laptop computer to use for showing digital slides at meetings. Such is the demand for this equipment that now it is used at almost every general meeting by 10-Minute Spot presenters and guest speakers. In 2008 our Management Committee made an application to the North Shore Development Group on behalf of Merriwee Court, and the resulting cheque for \$5,000 was very happily received by the Manager and the Nurse Manager. In June 2010 the Management Committee timed its meeting in order to be on site for the presentation of our donated garden seat to Merriwee Court. Sister Trudy Chester-Freeman of Blue Care accepted the gift, which is placed in the garden for the use of dementia patients. The Committee thanked John Ladbrook for his efforts in making this happen.

In many cases new members have been "made to feel very welcome" to the Club by almost immediately being given official duties - anything from the President down! As well, a number of long-time members have over the years moved from one official position to another. This "system" has proved very beneficial to the Hamilton Probus Club, which has been blessed for all of its twenty years by the quality of its office bearers, who put so much time and effort - and their hearts - into doing really top-class jobs. This and the wonderful congeniality and variety of our Club members have made it a very happy and interesting group, and it is great to be a member of Hamilton Probus!

**The Hamilton Probus Club Inc. was officially granted accreditation
on 14 December 1990**

In December 2010 the club celebrated its first 20 years!

My thanks to John Ladbroke, a member of the Editorial Committee of the “ First Twenty Years History: providing the foregoing document on pages 10- 30

Just In:

Good Afternoon Dr Blackford

I am writing to advise you that David John McGinley of 94 Spence Road Wavell Heights - has been moved into care. He resides at Room 218 Tri Care Stafford Lakes 680 Rode Road Chermside West. Please forward your newsletter to this address.

Dad enjoys receiving the newsletter from the Club. It keeps him connected and talks about how great it is to have been associated with it over the years.

Wishing you and the Probus organisation all the best for the festive season and coming year.

Kind regards

Lauri Meiklejohn (Daughter of John and Bettie McGinley)

A Trip Down Memory Lane - The First Thirty Years 1990 - 2020

As we look forward to our special Christmas Lunch on Monday 14th December which marks the 30th Anniversary of Accreditation of the Hamilton Probus Club, I am sure many of you, particularly members who have been in the club for many years, will have fond memories of our Annual Christmas Lunches. It is a time when members come together to celebrate the end of another year and to join friends in fellowship, fun and friendship and enjoy a lunch provided by the venue chosen for that year.

It has been an interesting exercise listing all the venues used over the past 30 years for the Archives, and I thought I would share this information with you. There are some gaps – and perhaps some of you can give me the information that is missing from all the records that I have to date.

The first Christmas Lunch was held at Merriwee Court, they did the catering and we stayed there for the following two years. There are a few gaps in the later 1990's but I believe that we did have some of our Christmas lunches at a restaurant which later became El and Dora and we also went to the Kedron Wavell Club.

2000 marked a Christmas celebration at The Tattersalls Club followed by Hendra Bowls Club and the Clayfield Bowls Club. The Alan Border Pavillion venue was popular and we went there four times according to the records.

However, The Royal Queensland Golf Club was always a venue that was enjoyed and this year marks the 14th time that we will step through their doors. 32

I hope this information brings back happy memories for you and at this year's Christmas Party you may be reminiscing and sharing stories with others. I look forward to hearing some of these tales.



The way
we were -
Christmas
2011
Borders
Cricket
Club

Bette McCafferty, Bev Andrews, Lex Lowein, Shirley White

Thankyou to Anne Gooley for producing Christmas Memories from our Past p 32-33 as well as providing interesting archival material throughout the year.

Douglas Fussell

