

THE TIMES

Hamilton Probus Club Inc. 56018



Accredited 14 December 1990

President: Robin McLeod
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Secretary: Janice Blackford
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janblackford@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer: Tricia Hanlon.
0407 291 146 tricia.hanlon@outlook.com

2025 COMMITTEE:

President: Robin McLeod
Secretary: Janice Blackford
Treasurer: Tricia Hanlon
Vice President: Peter Llewellyn
Immediate PP: Douglas Fussell
PAQ Rep ex officio: Anne Gooley
Outings Coord: Susan Wright
Speaker Coord: Judith Williamson
Membership: Barbara Fitzell
Records: Kar-Tin Lee.
Newsletter Editor: Jacqui Page
Committee member: Jane Kerr
Committee member: Frank Hill

Welfare: Greg McGilvery
Webmaster: Jane Kerr.
10-minute speaker Co-ord: Greg McGilvery

Hamilton Probus Club Incorporated
PO Box 2308, Ascot Qld. 4007



President's report

MARCH 2026



Dear Members,

We will be holding a Raffle at the March meeting, so please bring cash, and for \$2 a ticket you could win a prize and aid the Club.

Our last meeting was held at Royal Queensland Golf Club which has always been an interesting venue for social gatherings and meetings. At that February meeting Greg McGilvery gave us a wonderful insight into Greenland with all its features and attributes. It was so interesting it could easily have been extended to an hour talk.

Dr Jon Douglas followed with his presentation of Margaret Thatcher, the former UK Prime Minister, and how she was both loved and feared as the "Iron Lady".

Hamilton Probus membership list stands at 56, with 4 new members being happily welcomed during our Probus year: Kay Elliot, Jim McMillan, Phil Cheras and Keith Norman. Unfortunately, two valuable members have resigned; Brian Springthorpe (due to poor health) and Marie Gillett, who has taken on some additional volunteer work.

The Club is fortunate to have 3 new members listed to be inducted in April.

As much as I have enjoyed being your Chief, I am really looking forward to becoming a lowly Indian again.

My best wishes go to the new President and his Management Committee for the 2026-2027 Probus year. I hope the year turns out to be another successful one.

Robin

Club General Meeting

9.30am - 1st Tuesday of each month

Apologies and names of guests are important to assist with planning.

Advise Club Secretary at email - janblackford@optusnet.com.au

10-min Speaker for March:

Rama Naidoo - Aspects of neurological development in young children - from birth to 6 months.

Guest Speaker for March:

Speaker from Holocaust Museum

Outings & Activities coming up:

Thursday 26 March - Stradbroke Island Trip
Contact: Kar-Tin at ktleeg@gmail.com or Marea at mareareed@outlook.com

Thursday 16 April - Summit Restaurant, Mt Coot-tha
Contact: Susan at wright.se@bigpond.com

Interest Groups:

Walking group with John Wright
3rd Tuesday at time and location advised by email.

Men's Shed - 2nd Tuesday at Vito's Coffee Shop, Racecourse Village, Nudgee Rd, Hendra at 10am.

Women's Coffee - 4th Tuesday at Vito's Coffee Shop, Racecourse Village, Nudgee Rd, Hendra at 10am.

PLEASE REMEMBER.....

We will return to St Colombs for our March 3, 2026 meeting.

Meeting commences 9.30am. at

St Colombs Church Hall
23 Victoria Street, Clayfield

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HAMILTON PROBUS CLUB AGM

WILL BE HELD AT CLOSE OF

THE GENERAL MEETING ON

MARCH 3, 2026.

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ANNUAL FEES CAN BE PAID BY TYRO

AT MARCH CLUB MEETING OR

DIRECT DEPOSIT TO HAMILTON

PROBUS CLUB INC

BSB: 484-799 A/C 029832475

Fee: \$45

Due and payable by March 31st
2026

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## ANNUAL REPORT FROM PRESIDENT ROBIN MCLEOD

It gives me great pleasure as my term as President comes to an end to say how much I have enjoyed my interaction with all members.

The Management Committee has been my “rock” this past year, always ready to advise me about what to do next. I could not have done this job without their support. My special thanks go to Jan Blackford, who kept me on the “straight and narrow”; Anne Gooley, for all her advice concerning Probus matters; Jacqui Page, for her excellent Newsletter always, and keeping me up to the mark; Kar-Tin Lee, as Records officer and keeping us all up to date with the Membership lists; Barbara Fitzell as our Membership Officer who also coordinates our membership roster; Tricia Hanlon, our Treasurer, who handles the finances so efficiently, and Susan Wright, the Activities Coordinator, who has arranged some wonderful outings with more to come.

As the saying goes “it is amazing how time flies when you are having fun!”.

The Probus motto of Fun, Friendship and Fellowship certainly applied over the last year with:

- March....Tour of Newstead House followed by lunch at Breakfast Creek Pub.
- May....A visit to Osprey House, viewing those magnificent birds and hearing about the three types of Mangroves growing there.
- May.....Our annual Pizza in the Park and Boules.
- June....Trivia morning with PAQ - with thanks to Alastair Ward’s organisation.
- June....Two day trip to O’Reilly’s Rainforest Retreat. A wonderful outing starting with lunch, and conversation with the Alpacas, in Canungra Valley, before heading up to Lamington National Park.
- July....Michelangelo documentary at the Dendy Theatre followed by drinks at Byblos.
- July....Writers Revealed - HOTA Gallery , Gold Coast followed by lunch at HOTA
- August....Mediterranean High Tea at Ovolo in The Valley.
- August.... Visit to Mathema Gallery at Mt Mee, followed by lunch.
- September...Breakfast at New Farm Deli. Always a great start to the day!
- October....Annual dinner at Fosh Portside, ably arranged by Marie Gillett
- November....Visit to Riverbend bookshop
- December.....Christmas lunch at Royal Queensland Golf Club, coinciding with 35th anniversary of formation of Hamilton Probus Club Inc.
- February... GOMA exhibition - Olafur Eliasson Exhibition - “Presence”

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Members needing special mention for their contribution to the fun, friendship and fellowship, are:

- ◆ John Wright for his Walking Group organisation skills
- ◆ Jane Kerr, our excellent Audio Visual guru, helped by Megan duPlessis
- ◆ Peter Llewellyn, noted for his ability to make us laugh and as an MC
- ◆ Margot Kirby, our caretaker for books to be swapped.

Our Coffee mornings at Vito’s Café have become a regular way for happy get-togethers.

Unfortunately the Bridge and Mahjong sessions at Northern Suburbs Bridge Club had to be cancelled for various reasons.

The 10-minute speakers and Guest speakers who presented throughout the year will be tabled below. Thank you Greg McGilvery and Judith Williamson for managing to arrange the most interesting speakers over the past year.

And finally, a thank you to Laurie Richards and Susan Wright for their management of our refreshments and to all members who assisted Laurie and Susan in providing these services.



| Month     | 10-minute Speakers                                        | Guest Speakers                                                |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| March     | Dr Patrick Mahoney - recitation of Banjo Paterson’s poems | Richard Kinnon - Outback Pioneers                             |
| April     | Jane Kerr - describing our Club’s website                 | Dr Jim Butler - Brisbane birds                                |
| May       | Douglas Fussell - Bushranger raid by Clark Gang           | Dr John Earwaker - Eucalyptus Forests                         |
| June      | Rhonda Todd - Wirraway aircraft in WWII                   | Bridget & John Noble - Living with Aphasia                    |
| July      | Peter Llewellyn - The Cutting Horse                       | Dr Gary Clark - Drawing Cartoons                              |
| August    | Julie Peake - “Do you remember?”                          | Dr Ian Jobling - Olympic History                              |
| September | Greg McGilvery - Travel in Pakistan in 1970s              | Peter Dornan - Sculpture & Painting                           |
| October   | Barbershop Quartet “Mates Rates”                          | Bruce Collins - Heart Fit                                     |
| November  | Phil Carney - Nash Theatre Productions                    | Peter Dunn OAM - Military History WWII                        |
| December  | Dr John Blackford - Deep Vein Thrombosis                  |                                                               |
| February  | Greg McGilvery - Greenland                                | Dr Jon Douglas - Margaret Thatcher - Former UK Prime Minister |



**Robin**

**GREG MCGILVERY** was our 10 minute speaker for February with his presentation on **GREENLAND.**



The island of Greenland is located to the north-east of Canada, the majority of it within the Arctic circle. It is home to around 57,000 people most of whom are Inuit or indigenous. Greenland's capital, Nuuk, is a small city on the country's southwest coast. The waterfront of Nuuk is dotted with brightly coloured houses, against the backdrop of the Sermitsiaq Mountain.

The area of the total landmass is 2.166 million square kms with approximately 80% of the island covered with an ice sheet which dominates the landscape. This ice sheet covers 1.71 million square kms. Greenland has had major glaciers and ice caps for at least 18 million years, but a single ice sheet first covered most of the island some 2.6 million years ago. The ice sheet is now the warmest it has been in the past 1,000 years and is losing ice at the fastest rate in the past 12,000 years. If the ice sheet were to totally melt it would increase global sea levels by 7 metres.

The human population of the island live mainly on the west coast in the remaining 20% of the landmass. The government is the largest employer and the public sector dominates.

Looking at its economy, GDP is US\$3.3 billion. Fishing accounts for over 90% of exports and significant annual Block Grants from Denmark support the various public services. There is a shift towards tourism with a growing interest in Arctic tourism. There is also a developing interest in exploring the vast untapped mineral and rare earth resources. There are known deposits which include rare earth elements, uranium, diamonds and iron ore, though large-scale mining is currently limited. The extreme climate and a small, scattered population make infrastructure development costly but development of infrastructure such as new airports underway to meet the needs of increased tourism.

The melting ice is opening up access to potential, significant mineral mining, which could transform the economy, although this faces regulatory, environmental and financial hurdles.

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The energy system is supplied by 86% Hydropower but remote settlements, transportation and heating rely on imported diesel fuel. The government is actively transitioning to more sustainable energy, including wind and solar.

The US wants Greenland for its rare earth elements and critical minerals; its uranium, iron ore and copper deposits. Under a 1951 defence agreement with Denmark, the US currently has the Pituffik Space Base in the northwest, a vital installation for missile warning, space surveillance and Arctic defence. Pituffik also remains strategically crucial for homeland defence within NATO supporting missile defence and satellite operations. And, of course, the US is expressing interest to limit rivals, like China and Russia, from acquiring a foothold.

Greg went on to speak of the extensive nuclear testing that Russia had done based around Novaya Zemlya islands which are east of Greenland and close to northern Norway and Finland in the Barents Sea. The Russians detonated 224 nuclear explosions up to 1990; the most destructive was a H2 bomb of 50 megatons TNT in 1961.

To put this into perspective, the total bombs of WWII dropped by Germany and by the Allies, including the Atomic Bomb on Japan, was 2.8 megatons. But, out of sight, out of mind, until Glasnost and Gorbachev in 1990.

Mikhail Gorbachev and his policy of glasnost (openness) transformed the Soviet nuclear program from a secretive, ever-expanding arms race into a partnership focused on dismantling and controlling nuclear arsenals. By fostering transparency and reversing the confrontational “new cold war” stance of the early 1980s, Gorbachev’s policies led to the elimination of entire classes of nuclear weapons, improved verification measures and laid the groundwork for massive reduction in strategic stockpiles.



Our Probus men recently gathered to put to right all the ills of the world.

Left to right: Patrick, Alf, Phil, John, Frank, John, Jim, Peter, Barry and Rama.

An excellent morning



OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING WAS DR JON DOUGLAS, A RETIRED PHYSICIAN WHO HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST IN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL PRIME MINISTER.

HIS TOPIC FOR OUR MEETING WAS MARGARET THATCHER, BRITAIN'S FIRST FEMALE PRIME MINISTER.

Jon's presentation addressed the attributes that made Margaret Thatcher so successful as a Prime Minister and leader of her party and, then, what caused her fall from grace.

Margaret Thatcher, was a British stateswoman who served as Prime Minister of the UK from 1979 to 1990 and was Leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990. She was the longest-serving British prime minister of the 20th century and the first woman to hold the position. As she stood outside No. 10 Downing Street on the eve of her election win in May 1979, she spoke the following words to lay out the aims of her prime ministership:

*Where there is discord, may we bring harmony;  
Where there is error, may we bring truth;  
Where there is doubt, may we bring faith;  
And where there is despair, may we bring hope.*

When she died on 8th April 2013 at the age of 87 there was an outpouring of tributes and praise for her contributions to British society. Barack Obama, US President, in paying tribute, stated the following:

*"The world has lost one of the great champions of freedom and liberty, and America has lost a true friend. As a grocer's daughter who rose to become Britain's first female Prime Minister, she stands as an example to our daughters that there is no glass ceiling that can't be shattered. As Prime Minister, she helped restore the confidence and pride that has always been the hallmark of Britain at its best. And, as an unapologetic supporter of our transatlantic alliance, she knew, that with strength and resolve we could win the Cold War and extend freedom's promise".*

Barack Obama.

But... not everyone loved her. Sinn Fein politician, Danny Morrison, said:

*"She's the biggest bastard we have ever known".*

One of the songs sung around the time of her death was from the Wizard of Oz - 'Ding Dong the Witch is Dead'.

The question is... how did she have the capacity to evoke such different opinions?

She believed absolutely in her own integrity and habitually disparaged the motives of those who disagreed with her. This rare moral certainty and an unreflective self-righteousness was her greatest political strength in the muddy world of political expediency and compromise; it was also in the end her greatest weakness.

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Mrs Thatcher stated that she started out in life with two great advantages: no money and good parents.

She had strong views on Socialism:

*“The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people’s money.”*

*“Socialists cry power to the people and raise the clenched fist as they say it. We all know what they really mean — power over people, power to the state”.*

*“We want a society where people are free to make choices, to make mistakes, to be generous and compassionate. This is what we mean by a moral society; not a society where the state is responsible for everything, and no one is responsible for the state”.*

And, strong views on Government and Freedom:

*“Let us never forget this fundamental truth: the state has no source of money other than money which people earn themselves. If the state wishes to spend more, it can do so only by borrowing your savings or by taxing you more. It is no good thinking that someone else will pay — that someone else is you. There is no such thing as public money; there is only taxpayer’s money.”*

*“A man’s right to work as he will, to spend what he earns, to own property, to have the state as servant and not as master — these are the British inheritance. They are the essence of a free country and on that freedom all our other freedoms depend”.*

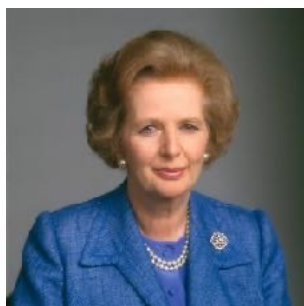
There is a great deal to Margaret Thatcher’s story and not all of it can be shared in this short space. She was known as the “Iron Lady” for her uncompromising leadership and policies, known as “Thatcherism”, which focused on free-market capitalism, privatisation of state-owned industries, weakening trade unions, and a strong stance against communism.

She led Britain to war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands, and won that conflict. She was married to Denis Thatcher for over 50 years and had two children; twins, a girl and a boy. She sold off many state-owned companies such as British Telecom to private investors. She implemented significant Trade Union reform and reduced the power of powerful unions — notably the miners strike of 1984-85. And, most notably, allied very closely with US President Ronald Reagan against the Soviet Union.

Her policies dramatically reshaped Britain but also caused widespread social and economic upheaval, leading to high unemployment and increased inequality in some areas.

Her downfall came when she attempted to impose a local poll tax. As her support ebbed away, she was challenged for her leadership in 1990 and was persuaded by her Cabinet to withdraw from the second round of voting, ending her eleven-year premiership.

She was credited with reviving Britain’s economy but was blamed for spurring a doubling of the relative poverty rate. In 1997 Britain’s childhood-poverty rate was the highest in Europe.



TIME FOR A CHUCKLE OR TWO

ALL MY  
PASSWORDS ARE  
PROTECTED BY  
AMNESIA

Did you know that  
14 muscles are  
activated when  
opening a bottle  
of wine? Fitness  
is my passion 😎

I'M AT THAT AGE WHERE  
MY MIND STILL THINKS  
I'M 29, MY HUMOR  
SUGGESTS I'M 12 WHILE  
MY BODY MOSTLY KEEPS  
ASKING IF I'M SURE I'M  
NOT DEAD YET.

When older  
people say,  
"Enjoy them  
while they are  
young." They are  
talking about  
your knees and  
hips not your  
kids.

Brain cells die, skin  
cells die, even hair  
cells die.  
  
But FAT CELLS...  
must have  
accepted Jesus  
Christ as their Lord  
and Savior because  
they seem to have  
eternal life.

Do y'all remember,  
before the internet,  
that people thought  
the cause of stupidity  
was the lack of access  
to information? Yeah.  
It wasn't that.

I've found marriage to  
be very educational.  
For example, I had no  
idea there was a wrong  
way to put milk in the  
fridge.

I WAS ASKED WHAT I LOOK  
FOR IN A RELATIONSHIP...  
APPARENTLY "A WAY OUT"  
WASN'T THE RIGHT  
ANSWER.

I discovered that  
answering the door  
naked helps deter  
trick-or-treaters.  
Oh, here we go  
again, here's two  
dressed as  
policemen...

LOSING WEIGHT DOESN'T  
SEEM TO BE WORKING  
FOR ME, SO FROM NOW ON  
I'M GOING TO CONCENTRATE  
ON GETTING TALLER.



I'M NOT  
MUCH ON  
SEIZING  
THE DAY. I  
JUST KINDA  
POKE IT  
WITH A STICK.

# A 'BIG' DOG STORY FOR THOSE WHO LOVE DOGS



*To the shock of his owners, a puppy has grown to the size of a Shetland pony. Mal, an Alaskan Malamute, was diagnosed with a form of canine gigantism after hitting 13st and reaching 6ft in height when standing on his back legs. The breed, once used to haul sleds in the Arctic, typically weigh about six stone when fully grown. Owner Amy Sharp said the five-year-old pet costs £1,000 a year to feed, and is often mistaken for a wolf when taken out for a walk. "It's Mal's world," she said, "and we're all just living in it."*

Published in 'The Week' - British News Magazine - November 2025



"The object of life is not to be on the side of the majority, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane."  
*Marcus Aurelius*



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| Date | Member             |
|------|--------------------|
| [06] | Megan Du Plessis   |
| [16] | Muriel Mackenzie   |
| [16] | James McMillan     |
| [24] | Graham Clay        |
| [24] | Bette-Anne Swanson |
| [27] | Frank Hill         |
|      |                    |

The best thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been



### Walking Group – 17 February 2026

We set off on our February 2026 Walk from the Northshore Hamilton Ferry Terminal via CityCat to Teneriffe. Here a TransLink Blue CityGlider, route #60 bus, was duly waiting for us. We headed into the Brisbane CBD disembarking at Anzac Square and then a short walk to King George Square.

We started our walk into Roma Street Parklands on Albert Street and onto the boardwalk entering the Parklands. It was a beautiful day, ideal for walking, the temperature ranging between 24°C and 28°C with blue skies early on and a light cloud cover later in the morning.



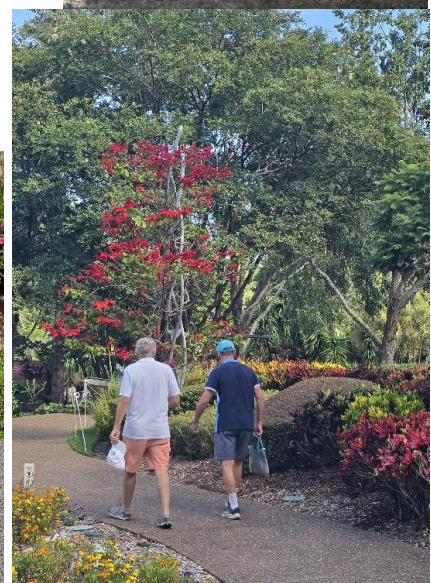
Our first stop was on the elevated walkway on which was the Confluenza, a marble monument in the shape of a dining table which commemorates the contribution of Italian migrants to the state of Queensland. The Confluenza is constructed from Italian Carrara marble, etched with



circular plate motifs, each based on plans of significant and historical Italian



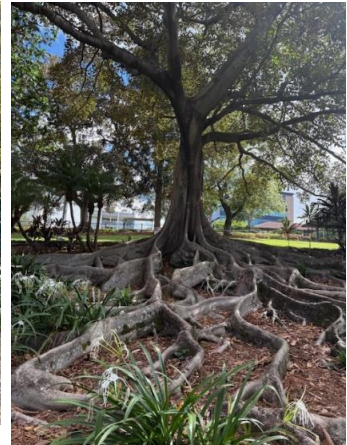
buildings, such as the Pantheon. With the lagoon and fountain on our left we moved onto the Hub overlooking the Spectacle Gardens in Colin Campbell Place, named after the man whose vision for the area became a reality in 2001. The Spectacle Gardens are aptly named with plantings turned over on a regular basis to make every walk through a slightly different experience.





Leaving the Spectacle Gardens, we made our way up to the top of the Parklands to see the Memorial Corner. Within the Memorial Corner are numerous commemorations of the various conflicts recognising the many forces, Australian and International, who saw action in the recent wars. The most recent addition is the Pakistani War Memorial monument which was unveiled in January 2024 to honor the service and sacrifice of soldiers from the Pakistani Army during World War I, specifically the Gallipoli campaign.

Walking on we came across several Morton Bay Fig trees which are considered mature, long-standing, and "historic" specimens. We then came to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the most influential figures in history. The final part of our walk was into Fern Gulley, a shaded sub-tropical rainforest area featuring towering ferns, weeping figs, and a misting system designed to simulate a rainforest environment. A beautifully cool area on a warm day. On the way to our refreshment destination we stopped at the plaque commemorating those Queenslanders who lost their lives in the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami. Our walk ended at the Garden Roma Café for resuscitation and a chat. **John**



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OLAFUR ELIASSON EXHIBITION AT GOMA

Seven of our lucky members toured the current exhibition at GOMA by Danish-Icelandic artist, 'Olafur Eliasson'. With Victoria as our tour guide, we launched into a stunning journey through this multi-sensory adventure from the stark landscape of Iceland through to the manipulation of light, water and air temperature on various materials to produce stunning images.

There are really insufficient words that will describe this experience but you will not leave without having your sense of what you see, challenged, with how the image was formed and the effect that can be achieved by employing these elemental materials.

I encourage all members to take the time to see this superb exhibition.



'Firefly City' is a globe inside which light is refracted and multiplied through mirrors and glass



The brilliant orange orb that leached all other colours from those viewing



MEETING ROSTERS

MARCH 2026

KITCHEN

Laurie Richards - Convenor - 0403 514 932

Susan Wright

SANDWICHES

Kay Elliott & Greg McGilvery

FRONT DOOR

Tricia Hanlon & Anne Gooley

GREETERS

John Ladbrook & Jacky Norman

ROOM SETUP

John Wright & John Blackford

