

THE TIMES

Hamilton Probus Club Inc. 56018



Accredited 14 December 1990

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2026 COMMITTEE:

President: Peter Llewellyn
Secretary: Kar-Tin Lee
Treasurer: Tricia Hanlon
Vice President: Jane Kerr
Immediate PP: Robin McLeod
Outings Coord: Susan Wright
Membership: Barbara Fitzell
Records: Kar-Tin Lee
Newsletter Editor: Jacqui Page

Speaker Coord: Phil Cheras
10-minute speaker Co-ord: Greg McGilvery
Welfare: Greg McGilvery
Webmaster: Jane Kerr.

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



President's report

JUNE 2026



As indicated in the May meeting I wanted to expand a little more on the importance of introducing the concept of a buddy system. So, you may ask what are the benefits of being a Hamilton Probus Club buddy. To begin with a buddy system will make us feel welcome and valued. You will not, as a buddy, be left on your own. This is a fundamental tenet as in my view no Hamilton Club member gets to be left behind.

I believe the answer lies in being able to consolidate a friendship, new or old, by working closely together to establish a smooth pathway to an interesting, important and rewarding role in the club.

Approaching a club role by learning from the incumbent club member gradually over an agreed buddy up period I believe will foster both confidence and a sense of belonging which our club should embrace as above all else we are an active community of friends.

Our club exists because of the roles members willingly undertake for the fun of giving and betterment of the club, without this generosity and the club would have no future.

Volunteering is the mortar which makes us strong as a club and the buddy system underpins the concept of reciprocity, in other words it provides an opportunity for mutual exchange of benefits as being a buddy means you are both a receiver and a provider of member benefits.

I hope during the year you will give some early thought to reaching out and buddying up in a role which interests you and so doing enjoy the rewards of being a buddy.

At the end of the day staying involved and participating in our club is all about FUN FRIENDSHIP & FELLOWSHIP.

Stay SAFE, Stay WELL and SMILE & LAUGH A LOT! **Peter**

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 - ham.prob.sec@gmail.com

10-min Speaker for June:

Rhondda Todd.

Guest Speaker for June:

Keely Maclean, Exercise Physiologist from Kieser Australia health clinic.

Outings & Activities coming up:

Monday 1 June: Trivia (we have booked 2 teams. Alastair Ward in charge.

Thursday June 11: Movie at The Dendy "The Christophers" followed by lunch at FOSH-tails.

Friday June 26: Visit to the Brisbane Motor Museum, Nudgee Road, Banyo.

Look for flyers on each of these outings.

Interest Groups:

Walking group with John Wright
3rd Tuesday at time and location advised by email. Contact John at jm.wright@hotmail.com

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.

10-MINUTE SPEAKER SPOT:

Club member, Rhondda Todd, will provide a very condensed history of The Knights of St John & Malta, a lay organisation which was started by a monk in or about 1099 in Jerusalem and known, initially, as Knights Hospitaller. The Knights Hospitaller were a powerful medieval Catholic military order founded to care for pilgrims in the Holy Land.



GUEST SPEAKER FOR JUNE MEETING:

Keely Maclean, an Exercise Physiologist with Kieser Australia and Clinic Leader for the Ascot clinic. Kieser is a global, Swiss-founded strength training and physiotherapy company with over 30 clinics across Australia.

Keely's talk is titled **"Longevity by Design: lifestyle choices that shape how long - and how well - we live"**.

She poses the question: ***What if ageing itself IS NOT the biggest determinant of your future health and capability, but RATHER, the daily habits that you undertake, starting now?***

This talk provides a rationale for lifestyle choices that we can all implement NOW to deliver optimal health outcomes as we age.



10 MINUTE SPEAKER FOR MAY MEETING WAS KAR-TIN LEE AND SUBJECT OF HER PRESENTATION WAS 'ENHANCING TEACHER TRAINING IN REMOTE INDIA' IN 2008-2012.

Kar-Tin opened her presentation by commenting that she is not an IT technical expert but does use a lot of digital technology for education.

In 2008, as head of the School of Teacher Education & Leadership at QUT, she was tasked with a project in Northern India, in Patna, capital of the state of Bihar in India. Bihar sits on the border of Nepal. It was a 4-year project and even though it took place quite a long time ago, it is still very relevant today. The project's goal was to convert the very traditional paper-based system being used for teaching training and to drag it across into an on-line interactive system that more closely resembles how most universities offer teacher training today.

The paper-based system being used in Patna consisted of rooms and rooms stacked with books that would be packaged up and posted off to students to complete. This was inefficient for both student and teacher and the costs were prohibitively high.

The on-line interactive process places the 'learner' in the centre of the process with an ability to receive the curriculum on-line and be able to communicate with the teacher, with peers and the experts in the community.

The project was a collaboration between IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) and QUT (Queensland University of Technology). IGNOU has 400 million+ students and is the largest provider of distance-education in India. To understand the dimensions of this student population it is useful to know that Monash University has 84,000 students.

An additional aspect of the project was to train 30,000 teachers a year as part of the project goals.

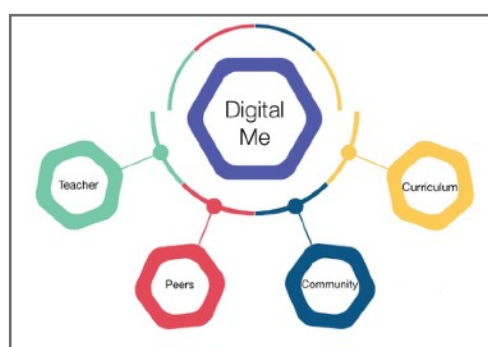
At the end of the project in 2012 statistics showed there were still 770,000 teachers who were unqualified.



From this



To this



In remote areas, with no-one to check, teachers would arrive and record their name in the register and then leave to go to another job. They would return in the afternoon to sign out having left students to their own devices throughout the day. They were so poorly paid they needed to keep up this subterfuge in order to have sufficient means to survive. The digital environment would overcome these problems.

To have some understanding of what a mammoth task this was, the first major step was to convert all of the text books IGNOU were using into on-line content. Kar-Tin had a team of researchers at QUT who re-typed two year’s worth of course material because IGNOU couldn’t provide soft copy of the documents.

Step two, Kar-Tin’s team travelled to IGNOU headquarters in New Delhi where they completed several work-shops with the lecturers so they understood how the new system worked. The lecturers were quite reluctant to change the way they were doing things so it took quite some time.

Step three was to travel (in a very small plane) across to Patna where the group landed in a very different world with cows wandering and muddy tracks rather than paved roads. They travelled out to distance education units to visit what was IGNOU’s operational arm. From these centres students would come in to collect their parcel of booklets each month and return with the booklets when they were completed.

Just further information, there are 2,000+ Learning Support Centres across India. There are 30 in Patna and there are 53,000 schools in Bihar, so training teachers to cover this many schools was no small task.

In 2012, at the end of the conversions and with the project ready to go, Julia Gillard who was Australian Prime Minister at that time, launched the project. It was the PM’s first visit to India and she was able to launch Kar-Tin’s project during her visit.

Following are some photographs that Kar-Tin took during her visit to Patna.

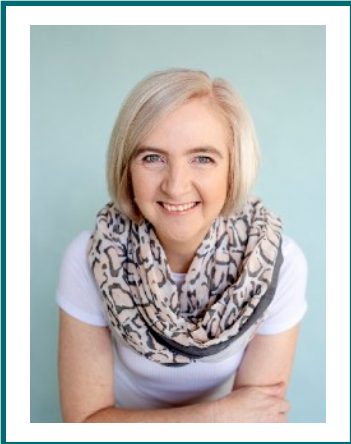
Photo below is map of India. The red arrow to the left shows the location of New Delhi and the arrow to the right shows Patna.



Above: The Holy River Ganges where religious men bathe.

Below: The Ganges where they burn the bodies and then float what is left down river.





GUEST SPEAKER FOR OUR MAY MEETING WAS AUTHOR JANE SMITH

Jane was doing research into a ship called 'The Emigrant' in preparation for writing the story of the ship and the people who travelled on it. The Emigrant departed Plymouth in April 1850 and was carrying 276 assisted emigrants from Ireland and England to Moreton Bay. Typhus broke out during the voyage and, by the time it reached Moreton Bay 20 of the passengers and crew had died. The ship was diverted to the newly-proclaimed quarantine station at Dunwich on Stradbroke Island.

While looking into this 'ship of death' Jane came across the name of one of the female prisoners, Hannah Rigby. Dr Ballow, a Brisbane doctor who had gone to assist at the quarantine hospital had been assigned Hannah Rigby as one of his servants. This was not an unusual occurrence but what was unusual was the letter he wrote to the authorities asking that one of his servants, a convict named Hannah Rigby, be shown clemency and released from her period of detention. He noted that she had never given him any cause for complaint and had been an exemplary servant. This intrigued Jane and so she set out to further investigate Hannah Rigby and to reveal some of her story.

Hannah was born in Liverpool around 1794, was a seamstress and embroiderer, and had been convicted of larceny in 1821 and sentenced to 7 years transportation, arriving in Sydney in February 1823. No further details were available to describe her crime. At the end of her period of detention she committed larceny again and was transported to Moreton Bay and when that sentence expired she was sent back to Sydney where she immediately re-offended and was sent back to Moreton Bay.

She was the only female convict to remain there once they closed the prison and sent all other prisoners away. She had three sons in the colony, all by different men, and none of them was her husband. It wasn't unusual for the lower classes to have children when they weren't married. She did marry but he was not the father of any of the sons born to her.

What intrigued Jane was the high regard Dr Ballow had for her. Dr Ballow was a man of integrity, and self sacrifice and he was also a man with the conventional morality of the time. Author Jane concluded that Hannah must really have had something going for her, so intrigued, she delved further into what was available in the historical records.

The questions Jane chose to pursue were: 1) What were the details of her crimes, 2) Who were the men in her life and what became of them and then, what became of her sons. Some answers were found but historical details don't answer the thoughts or motivations of a person. We can draw some conclusions based on social structures and laws of the time.

At the time of Hannah's birth slavery was ending and the flow-on effect of this was the wealthy had moved away. Those left in Liverpool were left in poverty without means of support. A seamstress was very poorly paid and worked very hard.

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Hannah was first before the courts in 1818 when she was sentenced to 3 months detention for larceny. She committed a few more crimes before she was sentenced to transportation. All records indicate the stolen merchandise of ribbons or other haberdashery items. There was even one instance of the stealing of an ornamental feather. It was really tough times. She was back before the courts for stealing 28 yards of cotton print and ultimately given a sentence of transportation for 7 years.

The ship's surgeon kept a log of the journey. There is no mention of Hannah in the records so conclusion is that she must have kept her head down. When the vessel arrived the women prisoners were taken straight up the river to the Parramatta Female Factory. It was usual at that time to assign female prisoners as servants. We don't know who Hannah was assigned to but very soon after arrival she had a son and named him Robert Frederick Rigby and named the father as Robert Crawford. Robert Crawford was a principal clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office. He was a very high ranking public servant. He was a young Scottish man who wrote a number of very interesting letters home which are part of public record. He was a very strong vigorous man in his early 20's. When she was due to give birth she was sent back to the Female Factory for her confinement. It was the only lying-in hospital in the colony.

When the baby was about 6 months old she applied to marry. She was still under sentence but was married through the marriage market that operated in the Factory. She married George Page who had just received his ticket of leave. He had been transported for robbery. Shortly after receiving his ticket of freedom, sadly he went and stole again. So he was arrested again and that meant Hannah would be back in custody as well with the chance of losing her son.

George's crime was stealing fabric belonging to a captain of one of the ships. Nobody thought anything of seeing George around the docks but the captain saw someone walking around the docks with a dress made from the same material. When the person was questioned she identified George as having sold her the material. More of the material was found at his home where some had been made into curtains. So George was sentenced to a further term of punishment; and this meant Hannah was returned to Parramatta despite it being unlikely that George had taken up dressmaking.

Our guest speaker, Jane, with club members Patrick Mahoney to the left & Phil Cheras to the right.



There is a deal more to Hannah's story but we have insufficient room to account for it here. Her youngest son she had named James. She didn't name the father but this was discovered subsequently by a historian and his name was James Hexton, a free man who was a boat pilot at Moreton Bay.

James Hexton, the son, lived a very long life and at his death an obituary detailed much of the life he had lived at the penal settlement at Moreton Bay. He knew his father and he had some fanciful ideas of what his father had done during his lifetime.

Jane had brought copies of several of her books and a number were sold to enthusiastic readers.

A LAUGH EACH DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY



Finally settling down to my vegan, gluten free, soy free, antibiotics free, raw, non GMO, organic, fat free, low carb meal!



Today I'm making fish tacos for the person who keeps stealing my lunch from the refrigerator at work.



INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS KAY AND JOHN BUCKWELL



KAY: I was born at Kangaroo Point, Brisbane and I am the eldest of 8 children. I went to Holland Park State School, Somerville House and Cavendish Road High School. I was a Southside until my marriage and since 1972 have lived on the Northside. We have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. I worked as a secretary for Nylex and Rheem until we decided to retire and travel and have enjoyed seeing the world and experiencing new cultures and meeting new people. I really enjoy photography.

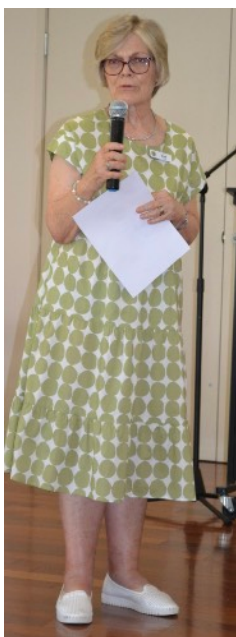
JOHN: I was born in the UK at a village called Meriden, halfway between Birmingham and Coventry on June 4, 1944. I was educated and lived in the UK until I migrated to Australia in 1968. I spent the first year or so in Sydney before moving to Townsville where I worked for the Northern Electric Authority of Qld as an Electrical Engineer.

Returned to the UK in 1973 and worked at several Nuclear Power Station construction sites. Migrated to NZ in 1976 and worked on the Huntley Power Project until the opportunity arose to move back to Australia in 1981 to work on the construction of Gladstone Power Project. Have worked at Swanbank, Collinsville and Tarong Power Stations before moving to Head Office in Brisbane.

Took an early retirement package in 1997 and together with my wife, Kay, started our travels around parts of the world. Highlights include owning more homes and travelling in the UK/Europe, USA/ Canada and Australia.



AND INTRODUCING 'SUE COX' from last month's inductions:



SUE: I was born and raised in Tully, a sugar and banana growing town in North Queensland.

I left home when I was 14 to go to boarding school in Toowoomba for four years. I then started a nursing career in Brisbane and Sydney. After moving to work in the Ingham hospital I met my husband John and we married in 1972.

One year later John was appointed by a Queensland company to set up a cattle ranch in Ghana, West Africa. We had nothing to hold us back so off we went for six years. We lived in Accra for the first two years, then out on the ranch where a new house was built for us. We were the only Australians there. Two of my three sons were born in Ghana.

We returned to Brisbane in 1979 and I have lived here ever since.

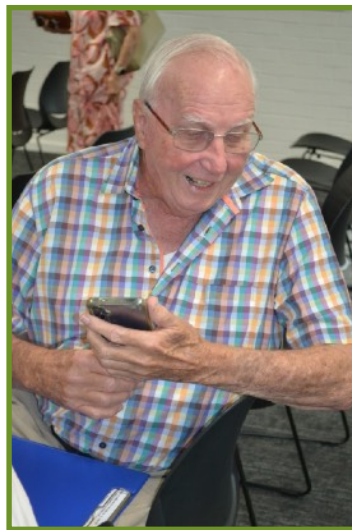
Today I am involved with my family who live in the country and my interests are bridge, golf and travel.

Thank you Kay for sponsoring me and I look forward to participating in the club's activities.

MEMBERS ENJOYING OUR MAY MEETING



President Peter chatting with mentor, John Ladbrook



Alastair Ward in fine form



Jack and Denise Larkin enjoying the new venue.



Leafy & Douglas also enjoying the new venue



Treasurer Tricia getting into the paperwork



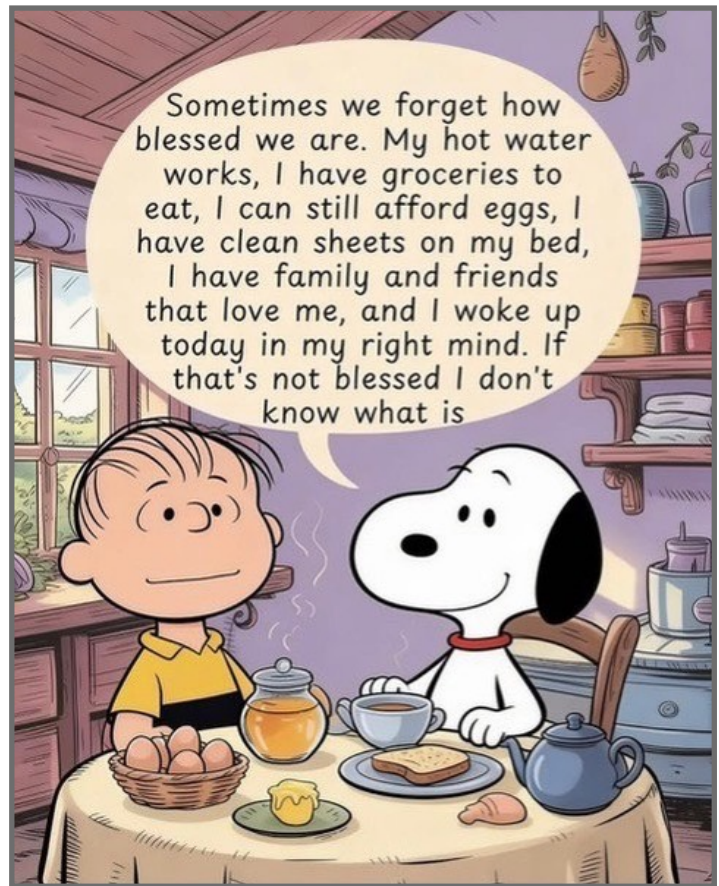
Members enjoying morning tea in the annexe adjoining the kitchen

Our very own Trisha Anderson, 'Media Star'

Helping to advertise the benefits of gym membership



Supporting your health at every stage.



MAHJONG

There are currently seven active members who meet weekly on a Thursday to play Mahjong. We are exploring if it is possible to relocate this group of players to commence playing weekly at our new meeting room (St Luke's Activity Centre).

IF YOU ARE WANTING TO LEARN MAHJONG OR WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THIS GROUP LET THE COORDINATOR OF THE GROUP CHRISTINA LLEWELLYN know you are interested.

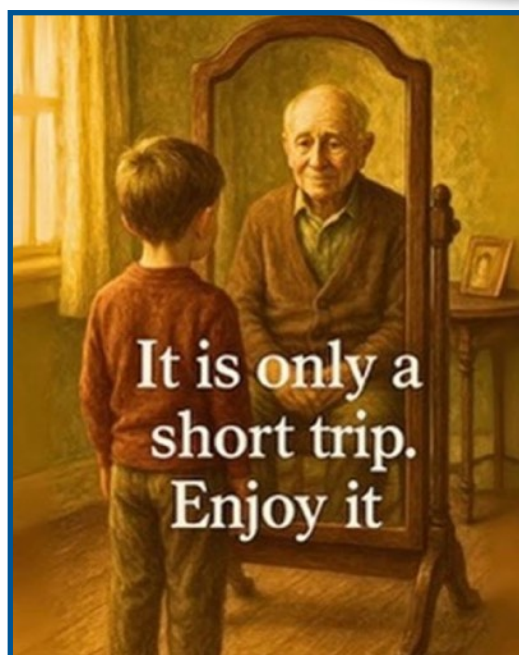
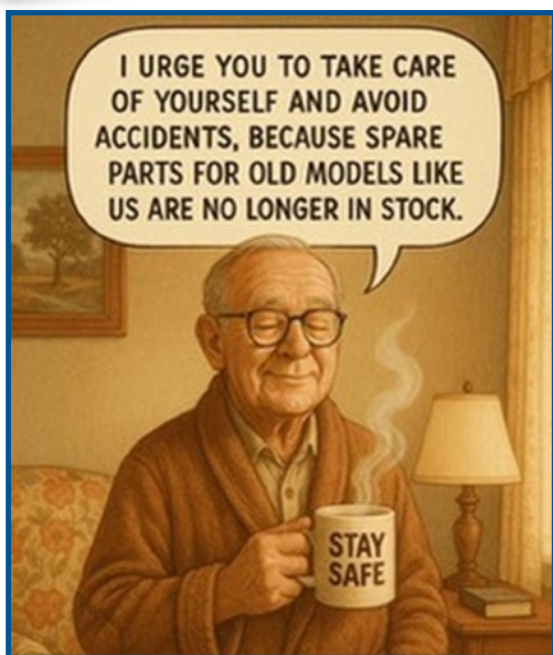
MOBILE: 0418 188 802



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Date	Member
[04]	John Buckwell
[06]	Julie Peake
[14]	John Blackord
[21]	Dee Gaudern
[23]	Pam Naylor
[29]	Kasper Kuiper

“Old age is an excellent time for outrage. My goal is to say, or do, at least one outrageous thing every week.” ~Maggie Kuhn~



Walking Group – 19 May 2026

A walk that almost did not happen. That is the story of our May Walk. On Monday 18 May and Tuesday 19 May, up to the start of our walk, Brisbane experienced an inordinate amount of rain, 80 mm in 24 hours. Historically Brisbane sees between 60 mm and 70 mm in the month of May. Cancellation of the walk was considered, but at Hamilton Probus, we don't give in lightly.



Enough of all that, we walked and enjoyed the morning with minimal rain and no disruption to our intended plans. Our destination was Rocks Riverside Park in the suburb of Seventeen Mile Rocks. With seven walkers we started from close by the Jindalee Direct Factory Outlet (DFO) for a 2 km walk to The Rocks Riverside Park, along the edge of the Brisbane River through well-mown picnic areas.

The Rocks Riverside Park is the historical site of operations of the Queensland Cement & Lime (QCL) Company, which acted as a key transport and processing hub rather than a raw material extraction site. From the 1930s to the 1960s, QCL

dredged coral from Moreton Bay and transported it by barge to the Seventeen Mile Rocks site to be crushed before being transported by truck to the Darra Cement Plant. Once the raw coral reached the Darra plant, it was processed into cement. The facility transitioned from trucks to a 3.5 kilometre conveyor belt between Darra and the Eighteen Mile Rocks site over its operating life (1930s-1997). By the 1990s, this coral dredging ceased as the company was unable to renew its coral dredging licences leading to the closure of the Seven Mile Rocks facility and the Darra plant in 1998.

The Darra cement plant officially commenced production and became fully operational in 1917. By the early 1920s the quality of the cement produced at the Darra plant was some of the highest in Australia.

The site has been repurposed into The Rocks Riverside Park which spans an area of approximately 26 hectares. As Brisbane's largest riverfront park, it features 800 metres of river frontage, expansive green lawns, an extensive water-play area, and various industrial artefacts relating to the site's industrial history.

(Historical information and extracts have been sourced from Brisbane City Council website).



After an enjoyable walk around the park, we retraced our steps back to our cars and then on to Café 63 on Seventeen Mile Rocks Road.

John

MEETING ROSTERS

JUNE 2026

KITCHEN

Laurie Richards - Convenor - 0403 514 932

Susan Wright

SANDWICHES

Jacky Norman & Megan DuPlessis

FRONT DOOR

Tricia Hanlon & Anne Gooley

GREETERS

Jim McMillan & John Blackford

ROOM SETUP

Frank Hill & Phil Cheras

