

THE TIMES

Hamilton Probus Club Inc. 56018



Accredited 14 December 1990

President: Peter Llewellyn

0418 535 851

ham.probus.president@gmail.com

Secretary: Kar-Tin Lee

0434 607 049 ham.probus.sec@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tricia Hanlon.

0407 291 146 tricia.hanlon@outlook.com

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: Alastair Ward.

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

AUGUST 2026



Hello and warm greetings fellow Probians,

I hope you are enjoying the beautiful crisp mornings and sunny skies where we live.

Importantly, this weather enables us to get going, keep moving and live an active life.

Following this theme you may wish to support the Hamilton Rotary Beer Festival being held locally at St Augustines on Saturday 22 August 2026 at 11am to 4.30pm as Hamilton Rotary has supported us. Tickets can be purchased at rotarycraftbeerfestival.eventbrite.com.au

Becoming a Hubber and joining the activities of the Hamilton Neighbourhood Hubb can be another reason to get out and about. It's free and simple to join.

We support our club outings and activities because as Probians we enjoy life, friends, fellowship and fun.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on Tuesday 4 August 2026.

Stay safe, stay well, smile and laugh often.

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.probus.sec@gmail.com

10-min Speaker for August:

Josh Pan, Kieser, Ascot

Guest Speaker for August:

Alana Sharp - Holzworth Partners

"Demystifying Aged Care - What every Australian should Know"

Outings & Activities coming up:

Thursday August 20 - Wellington Point Farm - Transport will be car-pool

Friday September 11 - Breakfast at New Farm Deli - 8.30am - Limited numbers this year so get bookings in early

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.
- Mahjong Group with Christina Llewellyn - Thursdays 8.30am - 11.00am. Contact Christina at 0418 188 802
- Bridge Group with Marea Reed. Contact Marea for details. Phone 0423 386 485 or email mareareed@outlook.com

10-min Speaker for August:

Mr Josh Pan, Senior Exercise Scientist & Community Partnerships Coordinator, Kieser Ascot

Josh will address some of the questions that arose following Keely Maclean's presentation to our club members in May.

Guest Speaker for August:

Ms Alana Sharp of Holzworth Partners who will present on making our way through complex aged care financial topics related to the Aged Care system.

She will outline the different care options and associated fees, use real-life examples to explain the financial impact of keeping or selling the family home, and explore strategies to maximise pension entitlements, reduce tax and contributions towards aged care fees and improve cash flow.

Alana is an accredited aged care financial specialist who supports individuals and families navigate care decisions with clarity, confidence and compassion.



These are the activities available at the Hamilton Neighbourhood Hub if you have an interest. More information can be found at

<https://hamiltonucaqld.org.au/building-community/>

10 minute speaker – **BELINDA HARVEY** – ‘THE VOICE CLINIC’



Belinda, daughter of our former member *Shirley Wright*, shared her experiences with The Voice Clinic of Brisbane. The Voice Clinic was established in 1993 by a group of ENT surgeons including John Quayle, Bill Earnshaw, Frank Anning and Don Jobbins, for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment of laryngeal disorders using the technology of video stroboscopy. It was the first private clinic of its kind in Australia.

Video stroboscopy is a diagnostic technique used to observe the vibratory function of the vocal folds. The principle of stroboscopy is to produce slow motion images so that the vibrational properties can be observed during the different phases of the vocal fold vibratory cycle. The fundamental frequency for females is 220s cycles per second, for males if it 110 cycles per second. The incidence of voice disorders is significantly higher in the female population.

Belinda joined the team as speech pathologist, and it proved to be the beginning of a challenging and exciting journey with the acquisition of new diagnostic skills and therapeutic techniques. Continuing education in a rapidly changing area of medicine involved attending the international voice symposium in Philadelphia, where the latest worldwide research and information was presented.

Video strobocopy revolutionised the diagnosis and treatment of laryngeal disorders. The clinic became busy soon after its inception with a steady input of clinical cases carrying from the more routine, e.g. muscle tension dysphonia related to heavy voice usage, to the more exotic conditions of vocal fold tumours to vocal fold palsy.

Patients included professional voice users such as teachers, opera and contemporary singers, auctioneers, call centre workers and actors. A close association between the voice clinic and the Queensland Conservatorium developed, with students experiencing vocal problems receiving early diagnosis and treatment. Over the years some of Australia's most prominent opera singers were seen at the clinic. Punishing performance schedules and upper respiratory tract infections often caused actors and professional vocalists on tour to experience voice problems. Many a career was saved by this intervention.

Other groups included patients with neurological conditions, respiratory disorders, Laryngopharyngeal Reflux Disorder, and psychogenic disorders. Patients with vocal fold lesions were assessed and treated surgically when indicated. Postoperatively, these patients were referred back for management and therapy.

Over time the technology changed with videotapes eventually being replaced by digital recording. The Voice Clinic of Brisbane was eventually replaced with ENT practices purchasing their own stroboscopy units. Belinda's ongoing role then was to visit these clinics individually which she did until her retirement in 2023.

(Continued next page)

Belinda went on to share a couple of case studies to illustrate the technology.

The first concerned the vocalist, Julie Andrews. Julie was on tour in the USA with the musical production 'Victor Victoria'. She was singing the male role of Victor at a much lower frequency than her normal fundamental frequency which we know from The Sound of Music. She developed dysphonia, a rough husky vocal quality with reduced vocal range and endurance. She was seen by a prominent New York ENT. Vocal nodules were diagnosed and the surgeon recommended surgical excision of the nodules. Typically, a period of vocal rest postoperatively is recommended. Because of contractual constraints and other pressures, she went back to performing too early. The result was catastrophic, and her singing career came to an abrupt end. The surgeon concerned was sued and has never worked again.

The second case study concerned a female Grade One teacher referred to the clinic with dysphonia. Stroboscopy demonstrated bilateral nodules at the junction of the anterior and middle third of the vocal folds, the point of greatest impact. Phonation gradually deteriorated to the point where the teacher was taking time off for vocal recovery at the end of each week. One month out of the classroom with vocal rest, receiving intensive voice therapy with vocal hygiene issues being addressed made for great improvement.

A further review demonstrated the nodules were significantly reduced and subsequent changes were made to the work area with provision of a microphone to assist in vocal projection.

An interesting fact, 20% of all teachers suffer voice disorders.

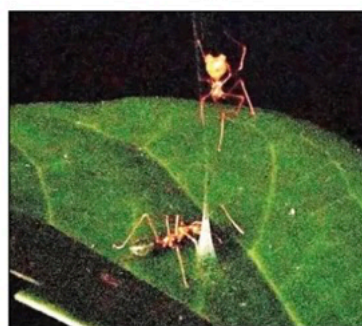
~~~~~

## A VERY CLEVER QUEENSLAND SPIDER

### A spider's spring-loaded trap

A newly discovered species of spider has been observed weaving a spring-loaded snare, which it uses to catch an ant that is usually too aggressive for arachnids to prey on. The ballista spider spends its days lurking in webs on the undersides of leaves in the rainforests of north Queensland, Australia. When night falls, it lowers itself from its web and fixes a tight line of silk to a leaf below, to act as an anchor. Then it returns to its web, leaving a tension line behind it, repeating the process until it has built a cone-shaped scaffold. Finally, it wraps the cone in a thinner silk and returns to its web. Soon the ants arrive, in attack mode. One bites into the cone, which is sticky. Its jaws become glued to it, and as it wriggles, the cone detaches, catapulting the whole thing – ant and all – into the spider's web at force, and the spider can then safely eat it.

As the trap only targets these ants, the researchers, from Macquarie University, suspect that the spiders lace the silk with a particular pheromone that both attracts and angers exclusively this species. They also suspect that the spiders pick off the green tree ants quietly, one by one, to avoid triggering an alarm that might cause thousands of aggressive ants to descend on the scene.



*Will you spring into my parlour?*





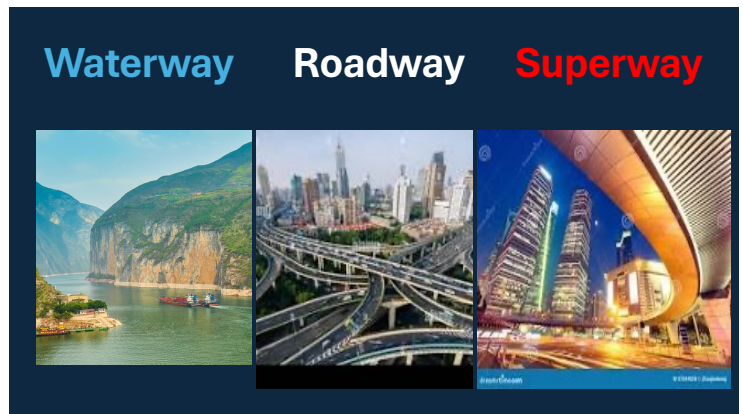
## BILL SILVEY WAS OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR JULY "CHINA – FRIEND, ACQUAINTANCE OR FOE"

Bill's background story showed he was eminently suited to have an opinion on this subject as he was born in Shanghai to a Chinese mother and an Irish father. He joked that the top part of him is Chinese but the lower half is more Irish and a bit hairy... so he calls himself a hybrid. His early years were spent in China during not only the Japanese occupation, but also during Mao's revolution. His family moved to Hong Kong where Bill did his schooling.

University studies were completed overseas culminating in an impressive range of jobs until ultimately he was offered a job at CSIRO in Brisbane. His initial plan was to spend just four years here and to then move on to the next challenge... but having come to the 'land of milk and honey' he questioned why he would ever want to leave; and so has been here ever since.

He was offered Australia citizenship following a personal invitation from a Senator and the process took place with very little fuss. He assured us this was in what he referred to as 'the old days'. And now, as a Justice of the Peace, he has to be witness for people who have to divulge all of their life history in order to just get residency, let alone citizenship.

With that background in place Bill went on to talk about China, pointing out the location of Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong on the map. China is a huge country with an area of 9 million square kms, population of around 1.3 billion people; five timezones, 22 provinces, five autonomous regions, four municipalities, two administrative regions and then, Taiwan on their doorstep, which is another story.



*China has developed impressive infrastructure in a very short period time. They build things very quickly.*

If we look back through Chinese history we see invasions of their land from the British, the French, the Americans and then the Russians. The Chinese call it 100 years of humiliation. They place great importance on what they call 'face', to be respected, and all of these invasions where they lost territory and space has created a desire to regain face and respect from the world. And this drives much of what we see of China today.

Bill went on to give a shortened version of Chinese history over the last 100 years and closed that part of his presentation with some thoughts on Xi Jinping, China's current leader, and where China is today and their aims and objectives.

*Continued next page.....*

## The Evolution of the Chinese State

- China stands up
  - Founding of CCP (1921)
  - Like KMT, it drew inspiration from Bolshevik revolution
  - Tensions between KMT and CCP as Communist popularity grew
  - KMT attacked CCP in Shanghai (1927)
  - Mao Zedong argued that CCP must mobilize peasants and conduct a guerrilla war (1927)
  - Long March: CCP retreat and success
  - Japanese invasion (1931)
  - KMT-CCP united front (1937-1945)
  - Communist army and popularity grew during WWII
  - CCP routed KMT in civil war that resumed after WWII

He spoke of the difficulties of Xi Jinping's childhood and youth and how he overcame the horrors of Chinese life and civil wars at that time and not only survived but went on to gain a B.Sc in Chemical Engineering and a Doctorate of Law (LL.D.) degree in Marxist Theory and Ideological Education. As paramount leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Xi holds three of the most powerful positions in the country's political structure: General Secretary of the CCP, President of the People's Republic of China and Chairman of the Central Military Commission.

His leadership oversees a Politburo Standing Committee of 7 members, a Politburo of 25 members, a Central Committee of 205 members and 171 alternates, a Party Congress of 2354 Delegates over a Community Party of China with 102 million members. He took office in 2012 and with an amendment to the constitution to remove presidential term limits which allows him to serve indefinitely.

### CCP - GOALS

- **Cultural Esteem & Respect**
- **Wipe Poverty**
- **Global Power**
  - Economic
  - Military
  - Technology
  - Political
  - Athleticism
  - Intellect
- **World Best Infrastructure**
- **Loyalty**
  - Local Control
  - Expats +Taiwan

The Party takes a long term view and plans for multiple overlapping timelines ranging from immediate short-term adjustments to grand, multi-decade national visions. Their overarching roadmap extends to the year 2049 with three primary tiers of strategic planning.

The eradication of extreme poverty is just one of those goals. And we see a display of other elements of their goals; i.e. military and sport.

Bill's presentation was simply too immense to do full justice to it here. He went on to describe their Strengths and Weaknesses, followed by the Opportunities and the Threats they face (SWOT analysis) in great detail. For those with an interest in what is happening in China today and the plans in place to help the country achieve its aims it makes for fascinating reading.

It was left for the audience to decide if China is 'Friend, Acquaintance or Foe'.



## ANNUAL DINNER on Tuesday July 14 — great fun and wonderful food



Our Outings Coordinator, Susan Wright, did a superb job of getting 24 people seated and served with the most sensational Greek food which was enjoyed by everyone. The friends we shared this meal with were of the highest order and I can safely say a wonderful evening was had by all. Most of us had travelled by CityCat to the Riverside location and it made for a pleasant start and a very pleasant closing sequence to a great event. Thank you to everyone who participated.



*What a wonderful way to spend a winter's evening*

*With thanks to Susan & John Wright for photographs.*





*Above: President Peter and Secretary Kar-Tin welcoming Hamilton Rotary member, Stefan Boni, District Governor Elect for D9620 for the 2027/2028 year.*



*Above: Rhondda Todd and Patty Burrows learning the formula for successful front door administration.*



*Peter congratulating Alastair Ward who is excited at the idea of taking on the role of Speaker Coordinator.*

*Right: John Blackford just happy to be at our Probus meeting.*



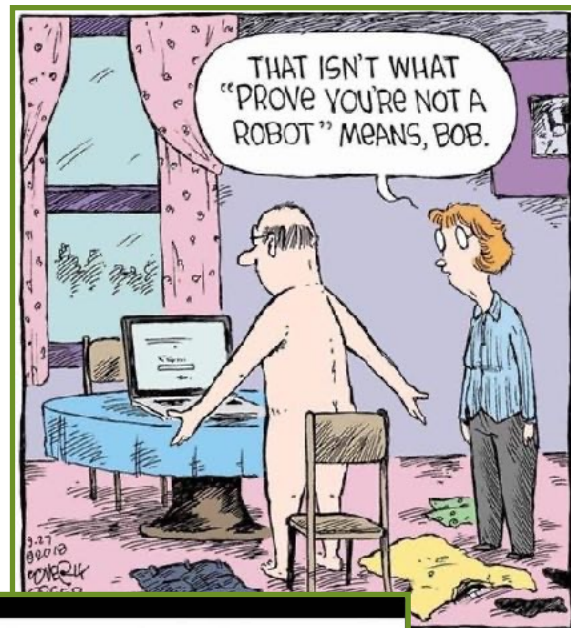
*An excellent shot of our 10-minute speaker coordinator - Greg McGilvery*



*Peter working his way through all the safety announcements.*



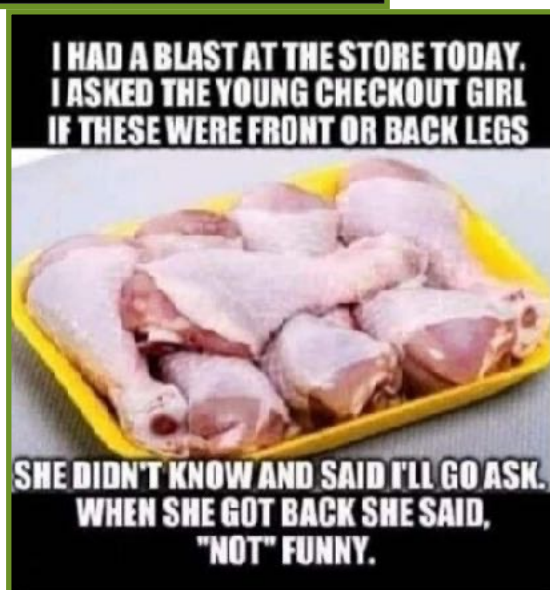
# LAUGHING IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL



Be careful where you shop online. We ordered a german shepherd and now this guy lives with us.



A police officer came to my house and asked me where I was between 5 & 6. He seemed irritated when I answered: "Kindergarten"





### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

| Date | Member          |
|------|-----------------|
| [01] | Barbara Fitzell |
| [04] | Robin McLeod    |
| [07] | Keith Norman    |
| [14] | Barry Aubrey    |
| [22] | Margot Kirby    |
| [29] | Michael Powell  |
|      |                 |

"Age is no barrier. It's a limitation you put on your mind."

Jackie Joyner-Kersey





### Walking Group – 21 July 2026

The main body of the group commenced the day on the CityCat from Hamilton Northshore to Teneriffe where they were joined by the remainder of the group before continuing on the CityCat to the Bulimba Ferry Terminal where we planned to commence the first section of our walk to the Hawthorne Ferry Terminal.



On the left is an umbrella, but not just any umbrella. It has a story that is well worth relating. This treasured umbrella was inadvertently left alone at the Teneriffe Ferry Terminal, with the Owner only realising it as being missing on arrival at the Bulimba Ferry Terminal. By chance, a passenger on a KittyCat departing for Teneriffe overheard the Owner explaining the dilemma to a crew member. The passenger, the story's White Knight, found the umbrella and waited at the Teneriffe Ferry Terminal until our Owner, dear Susan, followed over on the next CityCat. After expressions of gratitude to our White Knight Susan took the next CityCat on to the Hawthorne Ferry Terminal to catch up, and continue on, with the group.

It's story that shows great kindness and thoughtfulness. **To Susan's White Knight, whoever you are, thank you.**

From the Bulimba Ferry terminal we set off along the River Walk until it ended at Waterline Crescent, after which we meandered as close to the river as possible until we reached Elliot Street. Here we headed down to number 94 "The Riverbank", a beautiful 1850 home originally built on a 94-acre market garden in Bulimba (*this was in the day when Bulimba's boundaries extended out as far as across the Brisbane River to New Farm and Teneriffe*). The Riverbank was reputedly built by a one-legged slave trader named William Henry Barlow who brought in slaves from the islands. It has a history as colourful as the house is beautiful. The house now stands on a more modest landscaped 810 sq m. block whilst retaining its coveted position atop the same beautiful crest of the hill. **(source Domain website, Home of the Week by Ellen Lutton, June 15, 2018)**



*The name "Bulimba" comes from a Yuggera word meaning "place of the magpie lark" (known locally as the peewee).*

Continuing until we reached Hawthorne Ferry Terminal, we finally picked up our umbrella lady before taking the CityCat across, and upriver, to Howard Smith Wharves (*HSW or The Wharves*). It was a beautiful day, and with the warmth from the sun and a blue sky, our 14 walkers set off from The Wharves along the riverbank to New Farm Park stopping to look at this and that, chatting and taking photographs.





There was considerable interest in the Graya building site pictured on the right. Information on such a photograph can easily be obtained by copying the photograph, pasting it into a google search and typing in a question such as “**what is this?**”. The answer was “*this is a premium riverfront development site located at 17 Julius Street in New Farm .....*”

Then by searching the address on google the following information comes up: *The property at 17 Julius Street in New Farm, Brisbane, is a record-breaking 688-square-meter riverfront site featuring 32 metres of frontage.*



- **Record Sale:** Sold for \$25 million in late 2025, setting a new benchmark for Brisbane residential sales after being purchased for \$8.5 million in 2022.
- **Previous Plans:** Initially, developer Graya planned a boutique multi-level apartment project named Ivory New Farm, though city council applications faced rejections or pivots.
- **Current Status:** Recent Brisbane City Council development applications (such as application A007044166 lodged in June 2026) outline new proposals for a luxury dwelling house on the site, with projected post-rebuild values estimated near \$45 million.

### Try your own searches

We had several sightings of White-faced Heron, photograph below, which can be identified with more information by using “Google Lens”, which you can download free at <https://lens.google> where clear instructions are provided on its use.



Finally, after a very pleasant walk we made our way to Bobby's Wine Bar & Espresso, previously named Joedy's Café, address 2/938 Brunswick Street, New Farm. A great place to have a coffee and a bite to eat with a pleasant and relaxed feeling to chat about this and that and everything in between.

**John**



# *MEETING ROSTERS*

**AUGUST 2026**

## **KITCHEN**

Laurie Richards - Convenor - 0403 514 932

Susan Wright

## **SANDWICHES**

Lynn Strange & Phyllis Ommensen

## **FRONT DOOR**

Tricia Hanlon & Anne Gooley

## **GREETERS**

John Peake & Alastair Ward

## **ROOM SETUP**

Frank Hill & Jim McMillan

