

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
newsletter is for
Probus members only

Happy Mother's Day

On Sunday many Australians will spend the day celebrating their mothers and other special women in their lives. Some mums may be given cards, flowers and gifts, while others may enjoy breakfast in bed or a lunch out.

Mother's Day has long been a part of the Australian calendar, but where did the idea to dedicate the second Sunday in May to honouring motherhood come from? The modern Australian celebration of Mother's Day actually grew out of calls for peace and anti-war campaigns following the American Civil War (1861-65).

Anna Marie Jarvis spent her life campaigning for Mother's Day. In 1870, American writer and women's rights activist Julia Ward Howe, best known as the author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic", appealed to women to unite and bring peace throughout the world (later known as the Mother's Day Proclamation).

She proposed that a mother's day for peace be commemorated every year in June. But the idea of a mother's day did not gain traction until 1908, when West Virginia woman Anna Marie Jarvis held a church memorial to honour the legacy of her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis.

Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who nursed wounded soldiers during the Civil War and created mother's day work clubs to address public health issues.

Anna Jarvis wanted to continue her mother's work and pushed to have a day set aside to honour all mothers. In 1914 her campaigning paid off, when US president Woodrow Wilson officially declared the second Sunday in May to be Mother's Day.

"The impact of the Civil War was still there ... and there was also a rising concern that America might find itself involved in another war, particularly given what was happening in Europe," said Richard Waterhouse, emeritus professor of Australian history at Sydney University.

Mother's Day in Australia

But it was not until 1924, following the losses of World War I, that Mother's Day was first held in Australia.

Sydney woman Janet Heyden started the tradition after becoming concerned for the lonely, forgotten aged mothers at Newington State Hospital where she regularly visited a friend. She successfully campaigned for local schools and businesses to donate gifts to the ladies.

"There were so many mothers who were no longer mothers, so many wives who were now widowed because of WW1, and there were also so many women who never had the prospect of becoming mothers or wives because a whole generation had been wiped out in the trenches of the Western Front," Professor Waterhouse said.

Mothers everywhere: Enjoy the day however you can, given the Covid-19 restrictions.



50th Anniversary Celebrations

At the recent management committee meeting the decision was made to form a sub-committee to come up with suggestions as to how we celebrate this special landmark. A list of member names were compiled and each of the candidates were approached by Jim to gauge their acceptance of a role on team.

The event is not only significant for our club but for the Probus South Pacific group in that we were the first to be formed in Austral so doubtless it will grab some attention well beyond the reaches of Hunters Hill.

We're pleased to advise that the sub-committee will comprise:

- Mike Regnis - convenor
- Jill Regnis

50th Anniversary Celebrations (cont)

- Pat Cox
- Ross McBride
- Garth Juster.

As you can see there is a wealth of talent and vast Probus experience in the team.

The purpose and objective of the sub-committee is to research, discuss and present to the management committee by the end of this year, ideas in ways to celebrate this amazing milestone of our club being the foundation club of the Probus movement in Australia and reaching 50 years. Such presentation will include, in broad terms, what form the celebrations will take and what needs to take place to achieve the proposed outcome. This would identify broad budgetary needs, resources required, both internal and external to the club and a timetable to achieve the result. As you know a commitment has already been made to quarantine some funds on an annual basis toward the anniversary event.

I have no doubt Mike Regnis and his team will welcome your support and will be actively seeking input from the broader membership in due course.

Life Membership of Hunters Hill & District Probus Club

The By-Laws of 3rd February 1976 stated:

Article II (c)

"Life Membership" may be given to any member who has rendered outstanding service to the Club. Nominations shall be made in writing to the Management Committee for its approval. Persons elected to Life Membership shall not be required to pay annual subscriptions and shall not be required to meet attendance requirements. They shall enjoy all other privileges of membership. There shall not be more than three (3) Life Members at any one time.

The first three Life Members were Harry Germer (1986), Charles Baker (1993) and Ian Murray (1993). Later Life Members were Henry Handley 1994), Charles Murray (2000), Eric Hawcroft (2006), Hugh Millingen (2006), Gil Wahlquist (2007), Alan James (2010) and John Wills (2012). When a Life Member dies or retires, nominations are called for and the membership votes for a replacement.

The number of Life Members was increased to five as membership of the Club increased from 70 to 100.

The present Life Members (alphabetically) Ian Adair, Patricia Cox, Ross McBride, Les Osborne and Vincie Wahlquist.

Ian Adair 2019

President 2015/16 during the 40th Anniversary Celebrations, Secretary 2013/15, Probus Newsletter Editor 2012/16. Long serving Member of Management Committee.

Patricia Cox 2010

First woman Life Member and second woman to become President (1999/2001) and President again (2006/07). Member of the Management Committee for many years.

Ross McBride 2016

President (2001/02), member of Management Committee for many years, including seven years as Organiser of Activities for the Club.

Les Osborne 2013

Oldest living member of the Club (101 in April 2020) and member for longest period, that is, for a period of thirty years.

Vincie Wahlquist 2017

Second woman Life Member and President (2010/11) and member of Management Committee for many years, I/c of Charity Collection for Christmas giving.

Ross McBride

What Are We Doing in Isolation - 2

Reflection and Renewal

As a senior, I have been self-isolating at home for the past several weeks because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Perhaps, as an unintended consequence, it has resulted in reflection and renewal on my part.

I now look forward, as never before, to my daily exercise out of the house; my walk with the dog in the local neighbourhood. I realise, as if for the first time, how we are blessed in this historic Hunters Hill area of Sydney with some beautiful parks and pathways. I enjoy visiting Boronia Park and hearing the birds, or visiting Riverglade Reserve and spotting the many types of fish, ducks and turtles in the waterways, or visiting Clarkes Point and pausing to peer at the distant skyline of the city and wondering what is now happening there.

Back home, I am reminded of how important are family and friends and maintaining contact with them wherever they are in the world. I do this through electronic communication, which has come into its own with such assets as WhatsApp, Facetime, Skype and email. Somehow we now seem to have more time to talk, to laugh and to share ideas and information. I have also participated in Zoom conferences with organisations that I am associated with – local council committees, Radio for the Print Handicap, where I am a volunteer broadcaster, and my book club.

On a practical front, I have spring-cleaned drawers and cupboards, jettisoning unwanted or unused items which have accumulated as clutter over the years. Rearranging my possessions has given me a new sense of purpose and order.

As for my mental wellbeing, I have relished accessing education and entertainment through the medium of the internet coupled to my television. I am undertaking a course of study through university-style lectures on philosophy, religion and history; all absorbing subjects which are enhancing my knowledge, underscoring the old maxim that 'you are never too old to learn'. New found police and detective programs on SBS iView, ABC iView and Pay TV have also added to my enjoyment, as well as watching theatre plays and concerts which have been newly made available on YouTube.

As an active member of Hunters Hill Historical Society, I have found more time to research and write articles for our society newsletter. As a parishioner of All Saints Anglican Church at Hunters Hill I have appreciated the e-services every Sunday, which, because no other members of the congregation are present, create a distinctly different and personal connection with worship.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes which will no doubt continue after the current crisis is over is the greater reliance on shopping on line. I now let my fingers do the walking on the computer keyboard to order my groceries and domestic essentials as well as my supplies of cocktail hour refreshments. I even get a slight frisson of excitement when I hear the deliveries arrive at my front door!

Chris Schofield

What Are We Doing in Isolation - 3

What have I been doing with my time stuck at home????

Back in August 1977 Pat said, after her Aunt's funeral, that she could count her relatives on the fingers of her hands.

I said this was not right, so we bought a book on *How to Trace Your Ancestors* by Errol Lea-Scarlett and followed his directions. When I was reading the appendix it said some families have their own groups e.g. The Granny Smith Family and the Gosper's have over 1000 members.

That week I received back from Births, Deaths and Marriages a marriage certificate with a Gosper on it, so the next day a couple of local phone calls had us members of the Gosper's group and this brought with it a lot of family history.

Work continued and family trees were completed for the Australian part of the family tree.

Fast forward to more recent times. We did our DNA through Ancestry.com and that has given me a lot of work. The information is amazing and it has not only authenticated the physical research but has added to the records back to our English, Irish and Scottish heritage, and this has proved to be a wonderful occupier of time when you cannot go anywhere.

Gordon Sanson.

Quote of the Lockdown So Far

I cleaned out my handbag shelf this morning, it was so exciting – I think that's enough work for today!

Lockdown Lingo

This article is brought to you as a public service to ensure you are fully conversant with the new terminology and are not left behind in this “new age”.

Coronacoaster	The ups and downs of your mood during the pandemic. You're loving lockdown one minute but suddenly weepy with anxiety the next. It truly is “an emotional coronacoaster”.
Quarantinis	Experimental cocktails mixed from whatever random ingredients you have left in the house. The boozy equivalent of a store cupboard supper. Southern Comfort and Ribena quarantini with a glacé cherry garnish, anyone? These are sipped at “locktail hour”, i.e. wine o'clock during lockdown, which seems to be creeping earlier with each passing week.
Blue Skype thinking	A work brainstorming session which takes place over a videoconferencing app. Such meetings might also be termed a “Zoomposium”. Naturally, they are to be avoided if at all possible.
Le Creuset wrist	It's the new “avocado hand” - an aching arm after taking one's best saucepan outside to bang during the weekly 'Clap For Carers.' It might be heavy but you're keen to impress the neighbours with your high-quality kitchenware.
Coronials	As opposed to millennials, this refers to the future generation of babies conceived or born during coronavirus quarantine. They might also become known as “Generation C” or, more spookily, “Children of the Quarn”.
Furlough Merlot	Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working. Also known as “bored-eaux” or “cabernet tedium”.
Coronadose	An overdose of bad news from consuming too much media during a time of crisis. Can result in a panicemic.
Elephant in the Zoom	The glaring issue during a videoconferencing call that nobody feels able to mention. E.g. one participant has dramatically put on weight, suddenly sprouted terrible facial hair or has a worryingly messy house visible in the background.
Quentin Quarantino	An attention-seeker using their time in lockdown to make amateur films which they're convinced are funnier and cleverer than they actually are.
Covidiot or Lockclown	One who ignores public health advice or behaves with reckless disregard for the safety of others can be said to display “covidioty” or be “covidiotic”. Also called a “lockclown”.
Goutbreak	The sudden fear that you've consumed so much wine, cheese, home-made cake and Easter chocolate in lockdown that your ankles are swelling up like a medieval king's.
Antisocial distancing	Using health precautions as an excuse for snubbing neighbours and generally ignoring people you find irritating.
Coughin' dodger	Someone so alarmed by an innocuous splutter or throat-clear that they back away in terror.
Mask-ara	Extra make-up applied to “make one's eyes pop” before venturing out in public wearing a face mask.
Covid-10	The 10lbs in weight that we're all gaining from comfort-eating and comfort-drinking. Also known as “fattening the curve”.

...and finally:

One sentence to sum up 2020, so far:

At one point the other week , one loo roll was worth more than a barrel of crude oil!

Ed.