



April 2021 Newsletter  
*Magazine Section*

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*Friendship, Fellowship and  
Fun*

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Welcome to a new Probus year.  
According to our club's constitution:

- *the purpose of this Club shall be to advance intellectual and cultural interests among adult persons who have retired or are semi retired*
- *and arrange activities to provide opportunities for fellowship, the development of acquaintance and social interaction.*

Hence the Probus motto "Friendship, Fellowship and Fun"

Thanks to everyone, past and present, who have made this club what it is today.

**CLUB CONTACTS**

President: Terry Stewart 0402 980 374  
Secretary: Geoff Jones 0412 420 213  
Treasurer  
Newsletter Editor: Jenny Jones 0405 310 537  
Club Website: <http://www.belroseprobus.org.au>

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*April Fool's Day - 1978*

*The Sydney Iceberg*

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On the morning of April 1, 1978, a barge appeared in Sydney Harbor towing a giant iceberg. Sydneysiders were expecting it. Dick Smith, a local adventurer and millionaire businessman had been loudly promoting his scheme to tow an iceberg from Antarctica for quite some time. Now he had apparently succeeded.



Smith said that he was going to moor the iceberg near the Sydney Opera House and then carve the berg into small ice cubes, which he would sell to the public for ten cents each. These well-travelled cubes, fresh from the pure waters of Antarctica, were promised to improve the flavour of any drink they cooled. The cubes would be marketed under the brand name 'Dicksicles'

As soon as the iceberg entered the harbor, phone calls started pouring into radio stations and newspapers, with people asking, "What's that in the harbor? It looks like an iceberg." Ferry skippers politely gave way for the slow-moving curiosity — christened the Dickenberg.

Excitedly the entire city waited to catch a glimpse of the floating mountain of ice. People gathered along the shore to see it. Boaters who travelled out to meet the berg were given complimentary cubes.

Then it began to rain.

The water washed away the firefighting foam and shaving cream that the iceberg was really made of, exposing the white plastic sheets beneath. In this degraded condition the Sydney Iceberg sailed proudly on, floating past the Opera House and city skyline. Boaters who now joined the procession were still given free cubes... though the cubes actually came from the onboard beer refrigerator.

### *Pulling off the Prank*

Dick Smith really did have a dream of towing an iceberg from Antarctica to Australia. He thought it would be a great way to provide fresh water for cities such as Adelaide. But most people told him it was a crazy idea. So, one of his staff members suggested, "Why not just a fake one for April Fool's Day?" Smith loved the idea.

In mid-March, he anchored a barge at Balmain wharf, outside Sydney Harbor. Then, on the morning of the 1st, at 3 am, Smith and his collaborators began transforming the barge into an iceberg. This involved plastic sheets, several dozen cans of shaving cream, and lots of fire-fighting foam. Two hours later, they began towing the berg toward the harbor.

As dawn broke, Smith seeded the excitement by having 300 of his employees call up radio stations and newspapers, claiming to have spotted the iceberg in the harbor.

Aiding the deception was the weather, which was grey and gloomy, so that from the shore the floating mound of foam really did look like an iceberg. Until it rained.



Smith estimated that the entire stunt cost him \$1450, which he felt was cheap for the amount of publicity it generated.



*A portrait of Margaret Olley  
by William Dobell*

This is one of William Dobell's finest and best-loved portraits, depicting his fellow artist and a beloved figure of Australian art, Margaret Olley. Echoing the spirit of Gainsborough and Renoir, this painting marked Dobell's return to portraiture, for which he was awarded his second Archibald Prize.

Olley modelled for Dobell's sketches in a plain dress with only a hat for ornament, but Dobell based his painting on the extravagant outfit the young artist had worn to an exhibition opening.

This painting won the Archibald Prize in 1948

William (Bill) Dobell was born in Cooks Hill, a working-class area in Newcastle, NSW, to Robert Dobell and Margaret Emma (née Wrightson). His father was a builder and there were six children.

Dobell's artistic talents were evident early. In 1916, he was apprenticed to Newcastle architect, Wallace L. Porter, then in 1924 he moved to Sydney as a draftsman and enrolled in evening art classes at the Sydney Art School (which later became the Julian Ashton Art School). He was gay and never married.

In 1929, Dobell was awarded the Society of Artists' Travelling Scholarship and travelled to England to the Slade School of Fine Art. The following year he won first prize for figure painting at Slade and also travelled to Poland. In 1931 he moved on to Belgium and Paris, and after 10 years in Europe returned to Australia, bringing with him a new Expressionist style of painting as opposed to his earlier naturalistic approach.

In 1939 Dobell began as a part-time teacher at East Sydney Technical College. After the outbreak of war, he was drafted into the Civil Construction Corps of the Allied Works Council as a camouflage painter. He later became an unofficial war artist.

In 1944 he had his first solo exhibition including public collection loans at the inauguration of the David Jones Art Gallery, Sydney.

In 1949, Dobell visited New Guinea as a guest of Sir Edward Hallstrom. The trip inspired a new series of tiny, brilliantly coloured landscapes.



In 1960 *TIME* magazine commissioned Dobell to paint four portraits for covers of Sir Robert Menzies, South Vietnam's President Ngô Đình Diệm; the chairman of General Motors Frederick G. Donner and Tunku Abdul Rahman, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

In 1964, Dobell exhibited in a major retrospective at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

### *The Archibald Prize Controversy*

In 1943, Dobell's portrait of Joshua Smith, titled "Portrait of an artist", was awarded the Archibald Prize. This was contested in 1944 by two unsuccessful entrants (Mary Edwell-Burke and Joseph Wolinski) who brought a lawsuit against Dobell and the Gallery's Board of Trustees in the Supreme Court of New South Wales on the grounds that the painting was a caricature and therefore not eligible for the prize. Public opinion was sharply divided, with most viewers puzzled by the unexpected portrait.

One art critic was highly laudatory:

*Creating a man in the simplicity of everyday existence, Dobell reaches profundity by his understanding of this life which, at this instant, is realised and merged with his own nature.*

The claim was dismissed and the award was upheld, but the ordeal left Dobell emotionally disturbed and he retreated in 1945 to his sister's home on Lake Macquarie, where he began to paint landscapes.

The Supreme Court opinion by Mister Justice Roper said:

*The picture in question is characterized by some startling exaggeration and distortion, clearly intended by the artist, his technique being too brilliant to admit of any other conclusion. It bears, nevertheless, a strong degree of likeness to the subject and is, I think, undoubtedly a pictorial representation of him. I find it a fact that it is a portrait within the meaning of the words in the will, and consequently the trustees did not err in admitting it to the competition.*

### *Death and Legacy*



*Plaque at the site of Dobell's interment  
at Newcastle Memorial Park*

Dobell was a very private man, known almost always as "Bill". He died on 13 May 1970 at Lake Macquarie of hypertensive heart disease. The sole beneficiary of his estate was the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation, which was founded on 19 January 1971 and awards the Dobell Australian Drawing Biennial, which is named in his honour. He was cremated and his ashes interred at Newcastle Memorial Park.

## Analysis

Dobell's style is unique in being able to adapt to suit the character of his subject. This was best described by James Gleeson; *"One of the astonishing things about Dobell's portraiture is his ability to adjust his style to the nature of the personality he is portraying ... If the character of his sitter is broad and generous, he paints broadly and generously. If the character is contained and inward looking, he uses brushstrokes that convey this fact. In his later portraits one has only to look at a few square inches of a painted sleeve to know what sort of person is wearing it."*

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I went for a walk past a farm with my new girlfriend and we saw dogs mating.

She said: "How does the male know when the female is ready for sex?"  
I replied: "He can smell she is ready. That's how nature works."

We then walked past a sheep field and the ram was mating with the ewe.  
Again, my girlfriend asked: "How does the ram know when the ewe is ready for sex?"

I replied: "It's nature. He can smell she is ready."

We then went past another pasture and the bull was mating with the cow.

My girlfriend said: "This is odd. They are really going at it. Surely the bull can't smell when she is ready?"

I said: "Oh, yes; it's nature. All creatures can smell when the female is ready for sex."

Anyway, after the walk, I dropped her at home and kissed her goodbye.

She said: "Take care and get yourself tested for Covid-19."

Surprised, "Why do you say that?" I asked her.

She replied: "You seem to have lost your sense of smell."

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## *Jindabyne*

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The original town of Jindabyne was settled in the 1840's. It was a picturesque village on the banks of the Snowy River established because of its location as the main river crossing for cattle travelling between the Monaro and Gippsland.

Here the Snowy River flowed through a broad grassy valley, its banks lined with poplars and willows. In 1860 a gold rush at Crackenback brought prosperity to the small settlement and the Jindabyne Hotel was built. After construction of a bridge over the river in 1893 the village thrived and by the 1950's there were three churches, several stores, the old Jindabyne Hotel, a public school, a post office and even a Mobil petrol station.

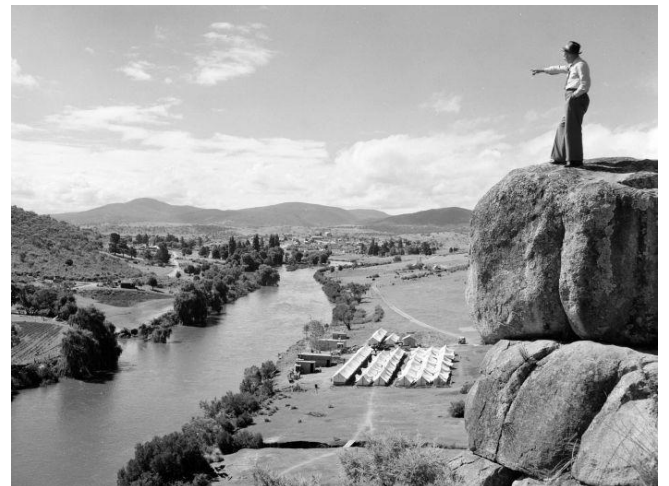
In 1959 the 250 residents started preparing for the relocation of their town to allow the filling of Lake Jindabyne, an important part of the great Snowy Scheme. Eight years later the waters started to rise by which time everyone had been moved out of the original village and into modern houses in the new town.

A few houses were relocated to the new site while all other buildings were demolished leaving only the foundation stones and some steps, such as those at the old Roman Catholic Church which appear when the lake drops to a low level. As well as some houses, the headstones in the cemetery, the memorial gates and all recoverable human remains were relocated.

### *Old Jindabyne Snowy River Punt Crossing*



### *Snowy Hydro Camp*



### *Old Jindabyne Hotel*





As a symbolic farewell to the old town a pageant was organised on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1964 and the town's people ceremoniously crossed the old bridge for the last time and travelled up the hill to their new homes. In 1967 an army demolition team then blew up the bridge with gelignite and many people cried to see the link with pioneering heritage blown to pieces. In spite of this the move was taken in a positive spirit and most people were happy to have new houses with electricity, sewerage and modern kitchens and bathrooms. Within three years the new town's population had doubled and land sales surged due to the fledging skiing industry's demand for accommodation.

Since the relocation and the great growth in the snow industry, Jindabyne is now one of the most popular hubs for the snowfields during winter and offers guests a variety of accommodation, restaurants, nightlife and easy access to the snow. Jindabyne continues to thrive and is one of the few rural towns in NSW which experiences annual growth. With the outdoors activities becoming more popular every year Jindabyne is now a very popular year-round destination.

#### Lake Jindabyne



A young man decided to write a book about famous churches around the world. He was visiting the United States, so he bought a plane ticket and travelled to Orlando, thinking that he would start by working his way across the US from south to north.

On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs, when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read '\$10,000 per call'.

Intrigued, he asked a priest who was strolling by, what the telephone was used for.

The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God.

The young man thanked the priest and went on his way.

Next stop was in Atlanta. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same looking golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Orlando and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was.

She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God. "Okay, thank you," he said.

He travelled all across America, then on to Europe, England, Japan, and New Zealand. In every church he saw the same looking golden telephone, with the same 'US\$10,000 per call' sign under it.

The young man decided to travel to Australia to see if Australians had the same phone.

He arrived in Sydney and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same looking golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read, '40 cents per call'.

The man was surprised, so he asked the priest about the sign. "Father, I've travelled all over the world and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to heaven, but in all of them, the price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?"

The priest smiled and answered, "You're in Australia now, son. This is heaven so it's a local call'.

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## *Paraprosdokians*

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Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (*Sir Winston Churchill loved them*).

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ... but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.

6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.

7. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

8. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

9. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of an emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor."

10. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

11. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and then call whatever you hit on the target.

12. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

13. You're never too old to learn something stupid.

14. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find someone older than me.

Sadly, this is true!!!



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## Daylight Saving Reminder

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Spring Forward – Fall (Autumn) Back

Our clocks go **back** one hour at 3am on Sunday 4 April.

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## Daylight Saving Time

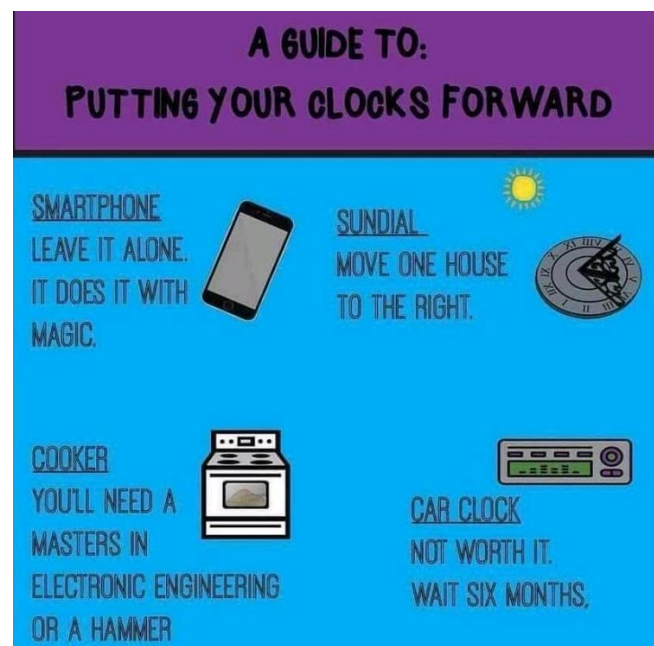
About 40% of countries worldwide use Daylight Saving Time (DST) to make better use of daylight and to conserve energy.

it is a little-known fact that a few hundred Canadians were the first to use DST. On July 1, 1908, the residents of Port Arthur, Ontario, today's Thunder Bay, turned their clocks forward by one hour to start the world's first DST period.

However, the idea did not catch on globally until Germany introduced DST in 1916. Clocks in the German Empire, and its ally Austria, were turned ahead by one hour on April 30, 1916—2 years into World War I. The rationale was to minimize the use of artificial lighting to save fuel for the war effort.

Within a few weeks, the idea was followed by the UK, France, and many other countries. Most of them reverted to standard time after World War I, and it wasn't until the next World War that DST made its return in most of Europe.

Although modern DST has only been used for just over 100 years, ancient civilizations are known to have engaged in comparable practices; For example, the Roman water clocks used different scales for different months of the year to adjust the daily schedules to the solar time.



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## *Storms and Heavy Rain are not new to Sydney*

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Cool, wet weather 1788–1790 (La Niña) – rain, storms, floods

First recorded Australian drought 1790–1794 (El Niño) – dry, hot, windy

The Cadigal people tell stories about violent storms playing a part in the formation of the landscape. The word Tamarama is a Cadigal word for thunderclap, most likely a reference to stormy weather, in sea and sky.

Soon after arrival in 1788, the fleet was threatened by wild winds that nearly drove them on to rocks. Several officers also noted the terrible thunderstorms that struck the Harbour settlement. In February 1788, Lt Ralph Clark wrote in his journal that *above all the Places in the world this is the most terrible for thunder and lightning - there has not a day gone over our heads but there has been Seveer (sic) thunder and Lightning.*

Records of the first settlers have revealed that the first years of European settlement were wetter than usual. Scientists have discovered that 1788 was a La Nina year, when the east coast of Australia experienced unusually higher rainfall.

Officers of the First Fleet, 1st Lt William Bradley and Marine 2nd Lt William Dawes, recorded that temperatures were cool throughout 1788. Rain and storms made the establishment of the camp very difficult. Lt Clark noted: “Thursday 31 January—what a terrible night it was ... thunder, lightning and rain.” Further storms disrupted the disembarkation of the convict women on February 6, who were landed during an intense summer storm: “They had not been landed more than an hour ... but there came on the most violent storm of lightening and rain I ever saw. The lightening was incessant during the whole night and I never heard it rain faster.”

March of 1788 was very wet; July experienced a 40-hour-long gale that produced huge seas and the bad weather continued battering the settlement until August. Marine officer Watkin Tench recorded that in July and August the settlement experienced *more inclement tempestuous weather than had been observed of any former period of equal duration*. Lt Collins wrote: *During the beginning of August much heavy rain fell, and not only prevented the carrying on of labour, but rendered the work of much time fruitless by its effects ... It was not until the 14th of the month, when the weather cleared up, that the people were again able to work*. The persistent inclement weather made life unpleasant and caused frustrating delays to the development of the settlement.

The summer of 1789 brought the first onset of really hot weather; the hottest day (41.4°C) was recorded on December 25, 1789, heralding a short period of intense heat. During 1791 the weather moved into an El Niño phase, hot, dry weather bringing on water shortages and crop failure which stymied the development of the settlement after the arrival of the Second Fleet.

In April 1793, it was reported that: "the rain ... came too late to save the Indian corn of the season ..." By August 1793: "much apprehension was entertained for the wheat, which began to look yellow and parched for want of rain." However, from August 1794 conditions in the settlement gradually improved, and there were signs that the drought was beginning to break. Agriculture was beginning to thrive as heavy rains soaked the floodplains of the Hawkesbury River.

The first major drought experienced from 1790 by the early settlers finally come to an end in 1794, a forewarning of the aridity of the continent and the environmental challenges that have been an integral part of colonial settlement and the economy of Australia.

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If you have an advert or personal notice for the newsletter, please send it to the newsletter editor, Jenny Jones: [Jennifer\\_mary\\_jones@hotmail.com](mailto:Jennifer_mary_jones@hotmail.com)  
Mobile 0405 310 537

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## *Buy/Swap/Sell/Share*

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### **FOR SALE**

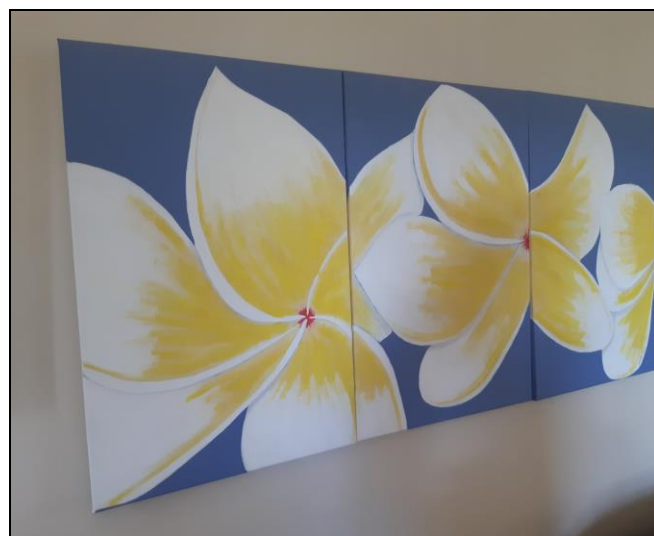
Abstract frangipani painting

Triptych 3 piece canvas painting, acrylic medium, 1500cm long, \$250.

Contact Judee Radford

Email: [Jarcards@hotmail.com](mailto:Jarcards@hotmail.com)

Mobile: 0416 211 902



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Man with lovely wife of 87 willing to trade for 3 twenty nine year old ladies.... But don't give my name or my wife will kill me!

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## **ROTARY CLUB OF BELROSE – GARAGE SALE**

Belrose Rotary Club will be holding a  
Charity Garage Sale on **Saturday 22  
May and Sunday 23 May 2021 at**

**11 Morgan Road, Belrose 2085  
opening 8 am**

Any queries please contact our  
Secretary, Chris Wood (0424 243 457)  
or [chriswood4@hotmail.com](mailto:chriswood4@hotmail.com)

All proceeds will be donated to Bear  
Cottage, Manly. This is a very special  
place that is dedicated to caring for  
children with life-limiting conditions and  
their families.

**Proudly supporting**  
Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation



## **President Terry Stewart with Certificate of Appreciation Recipients Liz Pawsey and Cherry Robinson**



## **March Guest Speaker Malcolm McLean**



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*Combined Probus Club of Belrose*

*2021 Annual General Meeting*

*Thursday 11 March 2021*

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## A Year in Review 2020

Here we are  
12 months on  
One to remember  
And reflect on

Covid19 it started  
December One  
For our Japanese tour  
The day we came home

March 11 in Oz announced  
A terrible germ  
From China had come  
And a Pandemic, declared number one

From a Nursing Home Ryde way  
Then on to another it did sway  
The Ruby Princess lets never forget  
That poor cruise, oh to reflect

Our meetings delayed  
And then constrained  
Too many of us  
What's, this Covid fuss

We have washed our hand  
Worn our masks  
Kept our distance  
Been tested with such tasks

It has taught us all  
To stay indoors  
Because you never know  
If you will be exposed

Now we wear those masks  
It's a thing to do  
But it covers that smile  
And makes it hard to hear you

Our trips have been few  
The theatre was out  
Now it's time  
To get out and about

To those on the frontline  
Let's give all a shout  
Applaud them all  
For their endless call

Friends we have lost  
In this a terrible year  
Let's think of them all  
And send up a cheer

Funny thing is  
The kids of today  
Now know a virus  
Can put you in a very bad way

Covid came to the Beaches  
December 16, Avalon way  
It created much panic  
And forced us to stay

It divided the Beaches  
From North to South  
North was red  
No one allowed in or out

Xmas was out  
Much upset it did cause  
Poor old Santa  
Of Covid rules he was not sure

Our borders have closed  
Yes, in Oz that's a bit queer  
Now they are open  
Let's give them a cheer

Way to go, north south or west  
Even the east, New Zealand way  
Cause, we have this bubble  
Over the Ditch, to this day

Overseas Travel  
No, we can't do that yet  
But our Aussie backyard  
It's time to check

Our life has now changed  
For the next few years or so  
Don't forget masks, sanitizers to go  
And keep your distance to

NSW have worked hard  
And now it's contained  
Lessons have been learnt  
To keep this at bay

Us Probians  
Are a remarkable bunch  
Let's remember to meet, greet  
And certainly have lunch

Now I have tried to do this  
The Japanese way  
Sorry I can't  
Cause, I have too much to say

Anne Hutchinson February 2021

2020