



March 2022 Newsletter

Magazine Section

FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

Philanthropy

The word "philanthropy" derives from the Ancient Greek word *philanthropia*, meaning "to love people" or "love of humanity". Today, the concept of philanthropy means the act of voluntary giving by individuals or groups to promote the common good.

Philanthropy differs from charity. While charity is focused on providing immediate relief to people and is often driven by emotions, philanthropy is focused on getting to the root of the problem and improving people's lives in the long term.

George Peabody (1795–1869) is the acknowledged father of modern philanthropy. A financier based in Baltimore and London, in the 1860s he began to endow libraries and museums in the United States, and also funded housing for poor people in London. His activities became the model for Andrew Carnegie and many others.

The Green Revolution averted mass famine during the 20th century. The contraceptive pill gave women unprecedented freedom in planning their own lives. Both are widely recognised as scientific breakthroughs that transformed the world. But few know that those breakthroughs only happened when they did because philanthropists were willing to take risky bets on new ideas.

in the 1940s, poverty reduction overseas was not a big priority for many. But the Rockefeller Foundation decided to fund agricultural scientists to breed much better crops for the developing world – thereby massively increasing their food production.

Similarly in the 1950s, society was a long way from demanding effective birth control. Activist Margaret Sanger had the idea for the pill, and endocrinologist Gregory Pincus had the research team – but they couldn't proceed without a \$40,000 research cheque from biologist and women's rights activist Katherine McCormick.

In both cases, it was philanthropists rather than governments that led the way. The reason for this is that while governments have enormous resources, they're constrained by only being able to fund reasonably sure bets.

Philanthropists can transform the world by filling the gaps government leaves – but to seize that opportunity they have to hire the best researchers, think long-term and be willing to fail some of the time.

Over the years, philanthropy has evolved from donations to education institutions into magnates and businesses publicly committing to a cause. The sole purpose of such public commitment is to effectively move the needle on key issues. Some examples of causes include climate change, world hunger, and human rights. More and more, celebrities and business leaders publicly commit to charitable causes.

Top Philanthropists

- Warren Buffet – Buffet is an outspoken advocate of the super-rich becoming philanthropists and giving away their wealth. Between 2014 through 2018, Buffet gave away approximately 16.3% of his \$90 billion dollar net worth. This translates into \$14.7 billion fuelled by initiatives focusing on health and poverty alleviation. One of Buffet's largest gifts is a \$37 billion pledge to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2006.
- Bill and Melinda Gates – the Gates Foundation focuses on poverty alleviation through economic development, healthcare, and education. In March 2020, Bill made the full dive into his co-founded foundation by stepping down from his Board of Director roles at Microsoft and Berkshire Hathaway. Also, both Melinda and Bill committed \$100 million to fight the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

- Michael Bloomberg – having served as the mayor of New York City, Bloomberg made his wealth through his software, data and media company Bloomberg L.P. His charitable foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropy, was recently reported to have donated \$1.8 billion dollars to John Hopkins University.
- Walton Family – started by the founders of Walmart, Sam and Helen Walton, the Walton Family Foundation focuses on improving education and quality of life in America. The family is one of the richest families in the world, and the foundation is currently run by second-and third-generation family members. One of the largest gifts includes a \$197.4 million gift to the University of Arkansas for an interdisciplinary research institute.
- Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan – Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, have given away 99% of their wealth from Facebook shares over their lifetime. Their non-profit, The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, aims at advancing science education, immigration reform, and housing affordability.
- Hansjoerg Wyss – after building his wealth through Swiss medical devices, Wyss now focuses on saving the environment. His goal by 2030 is to protect 30% of the earth's surface by partnering with locals to buy land to prevent development.

- Pierre Omidyar – The founder of eBay started Omidyar Group in order to address poverty, human rights, and education. Over the course of five years, he has given \$1.4 billion to these causes in countries like Africa and India.
- Rockefeller – one of the most famous philanthropist American families in modern history, the Rockefeller family has a track record for donating to many institutions and imposing little restrictions. Instead of identifying key issues to tackle, the donation philosophy was to hire good people and allow them free rein to pursue research and projects that would benefit the world. Benefactors of the Rockefellers include The University of Chicago and Yale Medical School.

Australian Philanthropists

- **Andrew Forrest**

Second wealthiest individual in Australia after Gina Rinehart. With his wife Nicola, Twiggy is committed to ending slavery and cancer, funding Indigenous programs, cutting plastic in the ocean and fighting the rise of artificial intelligence and its threat to democracy via their Minderoo Foundation. And of course they gave a massive amount to bushfire relief in January 2020.

- **Atlassian founder Mike Cannon-Brookes**

This tech billionaire aims to help save the planet by pledging

over \$350 million in personal funds to fight climate change and investing several billion more into sustainable companies and green technologies.

- **Anthony Pratt**

The Pratt Foundation recently underwent a generational shift after more than 40 years and \$300 million in donations.

- **Frank Lowy**

This long-time philanthropist has the philosophy, “When you have a little, give a little. When you have a lot, give a lot.”

- **Gina Rinehart**

Wealthiest individual in Australia. Gina donates \$10 million-a-year, ranking 12th among Australia's philanthropists. She has donated to many philanthropic ventures with a strong focus on health and helping young people. She also has backed Australian swimming for almost 30 years.

- **13. James Packer**

James Packer is the founder of both the Packer Family Foundation and Crown Resorts Foundation.

In July 2014, the two foundations launched their A\$200 million National Philanthropic Fund. According to the two foundations, they are working together to promote Indigenous education opportunities, the arts and culture, and partnerships with organisations that encourage and foster social cohesion.

What a crazy world we live in.....

It snowed last night. We received about 2 inches of snow and:

8:00 am: I made a snowman.

8:10 - A feminist passed by and asked me why I didn't make a snow woman.

8:15 - So, I made a snow woman.

8:17 - My feminist neighbour complained about the snow woman's voluptuous chest saying it objectified women everywhere.

8:20 - The gay couple living nearby threw a hissy fit and moaned it could have been two snowmen instead.

8:22 - The transgender man.. women...person asked why I didn't just make one snow person with detachable parts.

8:25 - The vegans at the end of the lane complained about the carrot nose, as veggies are food and are not used to decorate snow figures.

8:28 - I was being called a racist because the snow couple is white.

8:30 - I used food colouring to make one of the snow couple a different colour and be more racially inclusive.

8:37 - Then accused of using a black face on the snowperson.

8:39 - The middle eastern gent across the road demanded the snow woman be completely covered.

8:40 - The police arrived saying someone had been offended.

8:42 - The feminist neighbour complained again that the broomstick of the snow woman needed to be removed because it depicted women in a domestic role.

8:43 - The 'council on equality' officer arrived and threatened me with eviction.

8:45 - A TV news crew from showed up. I was asked if I know the difference between snowmen and snow-women? I replied "Snowballs" and am now a sexist.

9:00 - I was on the news as a suspected terrorist, racist, homophobe, and sensibility offender, bent on stirring up trouble during difficult weather

9:10 - I was asked if I have any accomplices. My children were taken by social services.

9:29 - Far left protesters offended by everything marched down the street demanding that I be arrested.

9:45 - The boss called and fired me because of the negative association with work that had been all over social media.

10:00 - I cry into my drink because all I wanted to do was build a snowman...

Moral: There's no moral to this story. It is what this world has become because of a bunch of snowflakes.

Happiness

American psychologist Dr Edward Diener brought legitimacy and scientific rigor to the study of happiness.

Sustainable happiness, he wrote, is what you get from your family and friends and having goals and purpose and values. Happiness is much, much more than having fun

Money can bring happiness but only up to a certain income level. Having a few strong intimate social relationships is critical to happiness.

The idea that one should strive for happiness in life needs to be qualified. The focus should not be on getting married, making money, being good at work in order to become happy. Rather, the focus should be on becoming happy in order to have a better marriage, career, and purpose-filled life.

Happiness is ultimately not about being happy. It's about being happy in order to live a rich, varied, and meaningful human existence.



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One of the first steps to happiness is deciding that you want to be happy and knowing what that means. I have had many full-on conversations about what that looks like for me. To be happy is a choice you make every day, every hour. And refining and renewing that state is a constant pursuit.

JULIA ROBERTS

Smile

Smiling causes the brain to release dopamine, which makes us happier.

Do exercise that you like

Exercise reduces stress and feelings of anxiety while boosting self-esteem and happiness.

Get plenty of sleep

Adequate sleep is vital to good health, brain function, and emotional well-being.

Drink more water

Even when we're mildly dehydrated, it not only leads to headaches, fatigue and difficulty concentrating, it affects mood as well.

Eat nourishing food

Carbohydrates release the “feel good” hormone serotonin. Foods high in protein release dopamine and norepinephrine, which boost energy and concentration. Highly processed or deep-fried foods tend to leave you feeling down. So will skipping meals.

Be grateful

Simply being grateful can give your mood a big boost. Start each day by acknowledging one thing you're grateful for.

Give a compliment

Giving a sincere compliment is a quick, easy way to brighten someone's day while giving your own happiness a boost.

World Happiness Report

Since 2002, the World Happiness Report has used statistical analysis to determine the world's happiest countries. In its 2021 update, the report concluded that Finland is the happiest country in the world.

To determine the world's happiest country, researchers analysed comprehensive Gallup polling data from 149 countries for the past three years, specifically monitoring performance in six particular categories: gross domestic product per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make your own life choices, generosity of the general population, and perceptions of internal and external corruption levels.

Interestingly enough, the top seven happiest countries in the world for 2021 were all Northern European countries. Finland took top honours—for the fourth year in a row—with an overall score of 7.842, followed (in order) by Denmark (7.620), Switzerland (7.571), Iceland (7.554), the Netherlands (7.464), Norway (7.392), and Sweden (7.363).

The least happy country in the world for 2021 was Afghanistan, whose 149th-place ranking of 2.523 can be attributed in part to a low life expectancy rate and low gross domestic product rates per capita. It's worthwhile to note that the report was released before the recent Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, which will undoubtedly impact future scores. Rounding out the bottom five are Zimbabwe (3.145), Rwanda (3.415), Botswana (3.467), and Lesotho (3.512).

The Top 7 Happiest Countries in the World (plus an inspiring honourable mention) for 2021:

Finland ranks as the world's happiest country based on the 2021 report, with a score of 7.842 out of a total possible score of 10. The report writers credited the citizens of Finland's strong feelings of communal support and mutual trust with not only helping secure the #1 ranking, but (more importantly) helping the country as a whole navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Finlanders felt strongly that they were free to make their own choices and showed minimal suspicion of government corruption. Both of these factors are strong contributors to overall happiness.

The second-happiest country in the world is **Denmark**, which scores 7.620. Denmark's values for each of the six variables are quite comparable to those of Finland. In fact, Denmark even outscored the leader in multiple categories, including GDP per capita, generosity, and perceived lack of corruption, demonstrating that it may claim the top spot sometime in the near future.

As the third-happiest country in the world, **Switzerland** scored a total of 7.571 out of 10. In general, the Swiss are very healthy, with one of the world's lowest obesity rates and a long life expectancy. The Swiss also have a very high median salary, about 75% higher than that of the United States, and the highest GDP per capita in the top seven. Additionally, there is a strong sense of community in Switzerland and a firm belief that it is a safe and clean country—which is statistically true. Along with Iceland and Denmark, Switzerland is one of the world's safest countries.

Iceland ranks as 2021's fourth-happiest country in the entire world, with a total score of 7.554. Of the top seven happiest countries around the globe, Iceland has the highest feeling of social support (higher even than Finland, Norway, and Denmark, which all tied for second place). Iceland also had the second-highest generosity score in the top seven, though it's worth noting that it ranked only 11th worldwide.

Edging out Norway for the honour of fifth-happiest country in the world is the **Netherlands** (also known as Holland to many tulip lovers), with a score of 7.464.

The Netherlands scored higher in the generosity category than any other top-seven country and also displayed an impressive lack of perceived corruption.

The citizens of sixth-place **Norway** (7.392) feel they are being well cared for by their government thanks to universal healthcare and free college tuition. Norwegians also enjoy a healthy work-life balance, working an average of 38 hours per week vs. 41.5 hours per week in the United States. Additionally, Norway has a low crime rate and a strong sense of community among its citizens—a quality it shares with many of the top seven.

Seventh-place **Sweden** (7.363) ranks high, if not quite highest, in virtually every category measured. For example: Sweden has a higher lack of corruption score than all but four countries worldwide (two of which are Finland and Denmark), the fourteenth-highest GDP per capita of all 149 countries measured, and the fourth-highest life expectancy in the top seven.

Honourable Mention: **Bhutan**

Bhutan was excluded from the 2021 report due to a technicality: Each country's scores are based upon detailed Gallup polls, but Gallup did not conduct polling in Bhutan during the required timeframe. However, the report's writers made a special effort to pay tribute to Bhutan, saying it "once again provided an inspiring example for the world about how to combine health and happiness. They made explicit use of the principles of Gross National Happiness in mobilizing the

whole population in collaborative efforts to avoid even a single COVID-19 death in 2020, despite having strong international travel links." Impressive indeed. If Gallup begins polling in Bhutan, Northern Europe's hold on happiness may soon have competition.



Forgotten Words

'Forgotten' words which should be brought back. Try flinging a couple of these into your everyday conversations and see how people respond to your awe-inspiring intelligence.

1. Scurrilous - adjective

Something said or done unfairly to give people a bad opinion of someone.

"Marjorie had been spreading scurrilous gossip about Amanda in the office."

2. Thrice - adverb

Three times.

"She went, not twice but thrice to check whether he was awake yet."

3. Blithering - adjective

Talking utterly and completely foolishly, OR used to describe a foolish person.

"Nervous during her interview, the girl was blithering on about her experience with poodle grooming."

4. Pluviophile - noun

A person who takes great joy and comfort in rainy days.

"Penelope was a classic pluviophile; curling up with a blanket, herbal tea and a good book whenever it poured rain outside, delighting in the cosiness."

5. Libroclubularist - noun

One who reads in bed.

"George was a devoted libroclubularist. He always felt that books were best read in the comfort of his bed, by torchlight if possible."

6. Sophronise - verb

To imbue with sound moral principles or self-control.

"Is it the job of parents or teachers to sophronise children these days?"

7. Uglyography - noun

Poor handwriting, and bad spelling.

"Uglyography must be a course in medical degrees. Why else would doctors have such bad handwriting?"

8. Namelings - plural noun

Those bearing the same name.

"Not only were the three girls best friends, they were all named Cath. People often got the namelings mixed up."

9. Ultracrepidarianism - noun

The habit of giving opinions and advice on matters outside of one's knowledge.

"Ultracrepidarianism is rife among those who have never had children, yet still try to give parental advice."

10. Guttle - verb

To gobble greedily; to cram food into one's gut.

"The school boys ran out of the lolly shop, guttling the candy before the owner could catch them."

11. Snollyguster - noun

A person, especially a politician, who is guided by personal advantage rather than by consistent, respectable principles.

"The man running for mayor was a definite snollyguster; only seeking his own fame and fortune."

12. Welkin - noun

The upper sky; "vault" of heaven.

"Icarus would have passed through the welkin on his legendary flight."

13. Barbigerous - adjective

Characterised by having a beard.

"He was tall, solid and barbigerous, and wore clothing that was dusty and frayed."

14. Eventide - noun

The end of the day, just as evening approaches.

"The most perfect part of a day is eventide, as the sun sinks sleepily below a heavy horizon."

Art Appreciation

John Robinson

For some years I have held the position of "Art Appreciation" coordinator for our Probus Club and Jenny recently asked me to contribute an article for our magazine.

Some background may be useful. Cherry and I always had an interest in art which was possibly demonstrated in the first month of our marriage when we purchased a Pro Hart from Barry Stern in Paddington. We offered to leave a holding deposit but Barry said, "just take it home and if you like it come and pay me."

My interest grew from my early photographic days when at about the age of 10 I was immersed in home black and white developing and printing.

Cherry's interest no doubt stems from her great grandfather George Folingsby and great grandmother Clara Wagner Folingsby. I hope their story will be of interest.

The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is the oldest and most visited gallery in Australia. George Folingsby's appointment as the first director of the gallery had a huge influence on the early days of art in Australia.

George Frederick Folingsby (1828-1891), artist and art teacher, was born on 23 August 1828 in County Wicklow, Ireland. At 18 he travelled to New York, attended the National Academy of Design and was illustrator for Harper's Magazine and the Illustrated Magazine

of Art. After wide travel he studied drawing at the Munich Academy in 1852-54 and was briefly a pupil of Thomas Couture in Paris.



*Cherry's Great Grandfather
George Frederick Folingsby*

Returning to Munich he spent five years under Karl von Piloty (1826-1886) who had a major influence on his style and technique. Folingsby stayed in Munich, established himself as a history and portrait painter and exhibited in London, Belfast and elsewhere. In Vienna in 1873 and Philadelphia in 1876 he won first-class medals for history painting. Among his major works are 'The First Lesson', exhibited at the Royal Academy in London. The painting depicts his wife (Cherry's great-grandmother) Clara

and daughter Nell (Cherry's grandmother) at the piano and now hangs in the Queensland art gallery.



The First Lesson

In 1878 Folingsby decided to leave Europe. He was already known in Victoria for his painting 'Bunyan in Prison', acquired in 1864, and the trustees commissioned another work for £500.

Folingsby's name first appears in the Melbourne Directory of 1880. He promptly established himself as a portrait painter and became an examiner of art teachers. He was offered the position of 'Master in the

School of Painting' at the gallery and was appointed on 1 June 1882 at a salary of £600. In September he became the first director of the National Gallery and master in the School of Art. Among his students were Tom Roberts, Fredrick McCubbin, John Longstaff, Rupert Bunny, Phillips Fox, and Aby Altson. McCubbin later wrote: 'The influence of Folingsby was a great stimulus to us all'.

Folingsby's wife Clara, then a recognised landscapist, is represented by paintings in the impressionist style in the National Gallery of Victoria.



Folingsby's painting of daughter Nell (above) aged four has pride of place in our home.

In the photo below five generations span the time between "The First Lesson" and this more recent family photo.



As conditions return to 'normal' I would hope to arrange an art/museum outing for club members once every three months. They have been very popular in past. When I have something in mind for a visit I will give timely advice.

John Robinson.



Swim at your own risk!!

Way up in north Queensland there was a sugar cane farmer who had owned his large property for over 50 years.

He had a dam in one of the lower paddocks where he had planted mango and avocado trees. The dam had been fixed up for swimming when it was built and he also had some picnic tables placed there in the shade of the fruit trees.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the dam to look it over, as he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a ten-litre bucket to bring back some fruit.

As he neared the dam, he heard voices shouting and laughing. As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his dam.

He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end.

One of the women shouted to him, 'We're not coming out until you leave!'

The old man frowned, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the dam.'

Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm here to feed the crocodile.'

A graphic artist works from home. His wife leaves their baby girl with him each day as she goes off to work. A few months ago, he got tired of her texting to check on how he was doing with the baby. So, he started photoshopping responses to text back to her.

