

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

Information in this
newsletter is for
Probus members only

From the President

Hello fellow Probians, we are into the 4th week of the social isolation restriction period and I hope you are all healthy and coping well with it all. From a personal perspective, it hasn't been too bad.

I never thought I would say this, especially after me telling you the changes that have taken place in our home with having my daughter's family living with us whilst they are renovating their home, but, thank God we do have the kids staying with us, it keeps us busy and for a lot of the time it has been fun and interesting.

Earlier this week my daughter and I decided to take the kids for a hike through one of the walking tracks at Field of Mars. What a great place this is to do this and although the kids exhausted me chasing them through the tracks, we had a lot of fun. We built a TP (see photo) and talked a lot, something that is getting less and less common these days especially when the kids are on their devices.



I guess this is one of the positives that one can say has come out of the restrictions currently in place. I think we are nearing the end now and some restrictions will be relaxed and before we know it, we will go back to life as we knew it not that long ago.

In respect of what we on the Committee have been doing, as advised in my previous message to you, we held a meeting, this being the first since 4th February. We did this by teleconferencing using the application called Zoom. To the credit of the Committee members they all managed to download the application successfully on their computer or home device.

The meeting took place last Wednesday 22 April with very little technical issues and I felt went well. There was a lot to discuss and much to my surprise, when I looked at the time it finished, we went for just over two hours.

The following are the major topics that we discussed and some of the decisions made.

Member Communication

Each person spoke about the calls made to members related to our "Stay in Contact" program. Feedback was all good and most members were ok. It was decided to continue with this program.

Birthday Cards

The decision was made to continue with the sending of birthday cards to members, but this will be done electronically with the exception of members that do not have an email address. For those members, we will continue the sending of a physical card.

Insurance

The cost of Insurance for protection against loss on some of the following items was \$330 in 2019 and expected to be higher in 2020.

Honour Boards	\$3,000
MP# Player	\$2,160
Lectern	\$ 700
Club banner and Cloth	\$ 500

It was decided that going forward, this Insurance policy will be cancelled, and the Club will self-insure.

50th Anniversary

It was decided that a subcommittee will be formed comprising of 2 Life members and 2 Long Term members of the club to decide and report on ideas that can be adopted for the celebration of the club's 50th Anniversary. The members to be invited to join this subcommittee were identified and will be approached shortly.

In doing so, it will assist the Committee in planning and estimating the cost to meet what is decided.

From the President

Appointment of Club Publicity Officer

It is my strong desire to lift the profile of our club in the local community and surrounding districts in order to attract members. One of the ways of doing this to appoint a person in this position who endeavours to write or obtain articles from other members and arrange to include in the local paper and magazines.

A job description appears below and I encourage anyone that has an interest in this area to apply.

Treasury

Cash book balance as at the end of March after allowance for Functions ,is \$11,892.

Cash available as at 31-3-20 after Reserves is \$8,828.

A Forecast for the Year ending 2020 was prepared showing a Cash balance of \$10,998 and after Reserves of \$7,684. This is an increase over 2019 of \$4,998.

A Forecast for 2021 was also prepared which took into account the increase in Rental from \$100/month to \$250 per/month and Capitation Fees etc.

Cash Balance as at 2021 is estimated to be \$9297

No increase in membership fee is anticipated 2021 .

Membership

This was a major area of discussion and a number of deficiencies in our processes were identified.

Kevin Manie our Membership Officer was asked to critically review the total area of membership and report to the committee at the next meeting with his recommendations.

Extended Newsletter

You would have heard from Mike about his intention to circulate a mid-monthly newsletter.

My apologies for the length of my article and my hope is that you don't mind too much.

Until the next time.

Jim

Publicity Officer

At our committee meeting held recently, it was decided that the club's profile should be lifted within the local community of Hunters Hill and surrounding areas by promoting awareness of our club as an organisation for retirees, fostering the true spirit of Probus, friendship, fellowship and fun.

To this end we are looking for someone to take on the role of the club's Publicity Officer.

Success in doing this will result in an increase of demand from new members to join the club and possible support from local business.

Although preferable, it is not mandatory that the member performing this role will join the Management Committee.

Main Tasks:

- Work with the President and Newsletter Editor to establish links with the local media and provide regular reports and press releases on club news and opportunities.
- Investigate and identify potential promotional opportunities for the club.
- Distributing flyers in doctor's surgeries, local clubs, shopping centres etc.

Skills Required

- Enthusiastic and well organised
- Confident and imaginative
- Good communication skills and ability to write press articles

If you have an interested in this role contact Jim on **0412 090 400**

Garth's Travel - Gun Barrel Highway

The Gun Barrel Highway (it's not much more than a rough dirt track) was built, just clearing the trees, for the British when they were developing their atomic bomb. It runs from Woomera in South Australia to deep into the desert of central Australia. The name comes because it is as straight as a gun barrel for about 1800 K's.



I was fortunate to have 4 brothers and I was the youngest. Friends would ask what was it like to have 4 older brothers and I would say I don't know, I just thought I had 5 fathers. Over the years we had become scattered widely around Australia and New Zealand to the extent we had not been together in one spot for more than 23 years. So one brother decided that we should mount an expedition to travel the Gun Barrel Highway. No wives just the 5 brothers. We did make one exception. One brother's daughter was severely handicapped and knowing she could not come anyway we appointed her to be The Entertainment officer. However she instructed that each brother had to learn to do something they had never done before and then use this to entertain the others each night. The result was, one brother wrote & read poetry, another learnt to yodel, another to play the mouth organ, another to play the ockerina, and I undertook to make a vid-

eo of the journey. This led to many hilarious evenings.

The expedition took 2 years to organise. Because much of the Gun barrel goes through Aboriginal land and we had to get permits to go into some locations. We had to organise the vehicles. We planned to take sufficient supplies, water & fuel to last up to 3 weeks. We did take a case of rum but that only lasted a few days! We travelled with two 4 wheel drives & pulled a small popup caravan for sleeping.

We met in Alice Springs. 3 Brothers drove from Brisbane & 2 from Adelaide. Our first stop was Ayres Rock and then on to the Olgas. Here we joined The Gun Barrel. The road was much rougher than we anticipated, in fact one day we could only manage 100K's. We would stop about 4 pm each day, set up camp, light a large bonfire, cook tea (we ate well, one brother a pastry cook and another a butcher) and then the entertainment started. As we rose usually at daylight we were into bed quite early each night.

Some of the highlights of the trip were: Visiting Giles weather station reported to be the geographical centre of Australia, meeting a rather hostile group of aboriginals at the Warburton Mission, marvelling at the huge array of wild bush flowers, visiting Lake Carnegie a large dried out salt lake, coming across a billabong surrounded by dead cattle caused by drought, arriving at the Aboriginal township of Wiluna on the day they received their government cheques and the pub was open, visiting Port Hedland where the whole town is red from the iron ore dust, coming upon a mob of a 1000 or more kangaroos, phoning home to Mum and being told to behave. And much, much more.

From Port Hedland we headed up the coast to Broom, Derby and then on to Darwin to visit a nephew. From Darwin we then drove back to Alice Springs where our odyssey finished. Over the three weeks on the trip we travelled just over 14000K's and had experiences truly Australian. It also certainly reinforced the brotherly connection that, to a degree, had been lost over the years.



One last comment, I was scheduled to fly home to Sydney but the Ansett pilot strike was on so one brother drove me from Alice Springs to Sydney & then drove back to Brisbane.

What a experience, definitely one to remember!

Garth

Member Landmarks

On March 1st Lydia Bayer reached 15 years of membership. Likewise Judith Dewsnap reaches the same milestone on May 3rd.

I'm sure public recognition of the two events will be recognised when next we hold a General Meeting. Hopefully, before too long.

Also, on April 16th Les Osborne celebrated his 101st birthday.

Ed

What We Are Doing in Isolation - 1

There is real pleasure in reading the Probus Newsletter and in response to our editor, Mike's email, I offer the following: -

We have virtually no activities outside our home so I can now spend much of my days polishing an old car.

Twenty five years ago I bought a Rolls Royce. Now that's not as smart a move as you may imagine. Firstly it was the cheap model introduced during economic stringencies around 1923. But I thought it would be a great project for retirement.

Let me explain. 83K5 (the chassis number) was built in 1923 and exported to Australia as a "rolling chassis" meaning there was no body! If you wanted to drive her you had to perch on a soapbox. On arrival an open body with soft top was made by Smith and Waddington on the corner of Missenden and Parramatta roads Camperdown.

Dalgetys in Melbourne used the car as a demonstrator, then had a fire which necessitated loaning the car to the service manager to take home (I have a 100 year old photo).

Then amazingly the car came to a Mr Charlton of Hunters Hill. 83K5 then passed to various owners about whom I have a dossier, until in 1960 Peter Bennett bought the car and drove to Cooktown, North Queensland and back without breaking down!



A few restorations later and we bought her "as is" and she returned to Hunters Hill.

Well the only thing she did reliably was "fail to proceed". She served as a wedding car and a source of much fun, principally to the tow truck operators—but she was always pristine, paint sparkling and brass shining.

Recently we drove 3000 km to Clare South Australia and back (ticked that one off, never again!). Getting down Victoria Pass was a challenge. Someone suggested attaching a log to the rear, like they did with the bullock wagons. However, after engaging second gear (crash gearbox), applying the handbrake and the footbrake (she only has 2 wheel brakes) we arrived relaxed in Hartley, which was more than could be said of the queue of cars behind us.

Poor "Lolly" (little old lady) is doubly incontinent. She leaks oil everywhere and sips petrol like a dipsomaniac. I have to put a mat under her at motels otherwise there is severe embarrassment.

But wherever she goes, people adore her and it is a labour of love to polish all her special parts.

For now, I have plenty of time to indulge her.



Richard Jones

Probus Club of Hunters Hill

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May Birthdays

Kay Holt	8
Nina Stockreiter	11
John Saalfeld	15
Ross Dive	19
Chris Coulter	21
Jim Judge	26
Judith Butt	27

Some Isolation Feedback

I think you'll be inspired by this one.....

This is a story about an amazing lady who is 98 years of age, soon to turn 99. She decided to become tech savvy a few years ago, so she learnt how to "text message" birthday wishes to her grandchildren and great grandchildren on her mobile phone.

Then along came coronavirus into her life which meant she had to go into lockdown in her aged care facility. No more outings and no more visits from family members. So, thinking outside the square, she cajoled an Ipad from her son and set about "playing" with it and, with a little assistance, has learnt how to receive face time calls from family members. She's chuffed that she no longer feels isolated and can see people.

Last Sunday, she achieved the *piece de resistance*, and with some coaching from a very patient grandson she joined a Zoom conference with a number of her family, including her youngest sister. A great achievement!

This lady is my darling mother, Gwen.

Margaret Timbs

The one thing that has helped our quarantine has been that we have set up Zoom, so that every few days my daughter and family, my son and family, my grandson and his partner and Betty and I have a four party get together.

I recommend Zoom to our members.

Jim Judge

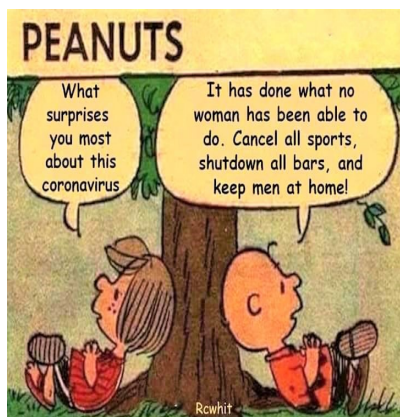
I am in splendid isolation here at Numeralla which is 22 kms north east of Cooma and very much part of Monaro country. I came here just over 5 weeks ago for a short stay with son Richard and family who have made a recent move to this delightful bushland setting. This was just before it became a no-no to trespass on regional areas and facilities so how lucky am I to have some company and 25 acres of space to roam free in.....and they won't let me go!

Cooma in autumn is green and lush, trying to be positive but with a touch of great sadness as it seems there will be no tourist snow season this year.

Richard of course was our speaker at the December meeting and joins me in sending warmest regards to all .

Cheers.....

Norbert



Barbara's Thought for the Month

'If we discovered that we had only five minutes left to say all that we wanted to say, every telephone booth would be occupied by people calling other people to stammer that they loved them.'"

Author: Christopher Morley

Editor's Musings

Women should not have children after 35. Really 35 children are enough

Get a new car for your spouse; it'll be a great trade!

If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhea... does that mean that one enjoys it?

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Vice President	-	Dean Letcher	9816 5357
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Activities Convenor	-	Barbara Banner	9427 0102
Speakers	-	Carol Pelham	9808 5020
Welfare Officer	-	Ashlyn Allum	9816 3269
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