



NEXT ACTUAL MEETING TO BE ADVISED

Newsletter

JULY, 2020

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	David Minshall	0418 966 944
Vice President	Peter Mear	0410 346 824
Jnr. V. President	Carol Greenan	0437 418 809
Secretary	Peter Park	0400 233 080
Treasurer	Ann Dillon	4368 2003
Social Convenor	Pam Spencer	0400 396 542
Speakers	Vice Presidents	
Membership	Carla Hurley	4323 9823
Editor	Annette Lutze	0414 731 653

LIFE MEMBERS

- Fred Leake
- John Orme
- Richard Collins
- John Rudd

Sub-Committee and Convenors

Assist Membership	Phyl Hill
Bushwalking	VACANT
Golf	Peter Mear
Historian	Diane Rudd
Assist Historian	Carla Hurley
Book Share	Jenny Baker
Photographers	Bill Clark & Diane Rudd
Debates	Peter Park
Theatre	Diane Rudd
Webmaster	David Casey
Venue Officer	Bill Clark
Catering Officers	Jan Gee
	Kay Cochrane
	Jan Costigan
	Yvonne Kelly
Auditor	Alan Hurley

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was with great hope at the beginning of the month I thought that we might have been able to hold a July meeting at our normal time. Probably I was being a little too optimistic! The way things are panning out it is very unlikely that we will be able to hold a meeting in August or even September.

Further on in the newsletter a page is devoted to the results of the survey that was conducted earlier this month under the heading "Your Voice Matters".

Both myself and your Management Committee wish to thank you for the wonderful response received to the survey which was close to 74%. In addition some very good comments were received. The overall feeling in the comments were that we all have to "stay safe". This is forcefully reflected in "Your Voice Matters" page.

Although COVID-19 is still very much in our minds I hope you are managing to get out for some exercise. At least being able to go for a walk.

A few days ago, I unexpectedly met John Sutton near Officeworks at West Gosford. He used the Nepalese greeting by a slight bow of the head and with hands together as in prayer and at the same time saying "Namaste" which when translated means "Peace be with you". I thought what a wonderful way to say "hello" without shaking hands which currently we are not meant to do.

Please stay safe and "Namaste"

David Minshall

All contributors please note that the deadline for the next Newsletter is **13th AUGUST 2020** but any articles sent earlier will be very welcome.

Please send to alutze@tpg.com.au





RESUMING MEETINGS? – YES, BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY

YOUR VOICE IS HEARD

Resuming meetings safely when conditions are right is the #1 goal of President David Minshall and your Management Committee.

We've heard You: Thanks to nearly 74% of Probus Club of Kincumber members responding to the 15 July survey. You've spoken, giving a clear picture of when, and how we reopen. You are interested in lunch, or an open-air picnic as it gets warmer; and you resoundingly want a Christmas luncheon.

When Should We Meet? You told us that you would generally not be comfortable with a meeting until at least September if not later – obviously dependent on COVID-19 infection rates.

How About a Luncheon with Social Distancing? There is substantial interest in an informal lunch with social distancing safety. We are looking at a lunch in the next couple of months at a large open venue like Davistown RSL, Ettalong Diggers, or similar. Several members suggested a "Bring Your Own Everything" picnic as the weather gets a bit warmer.

Looking forward to Seeing Santa! Overwhelmingly members said they would attend a Christmas lunch. Social Convenor Pam Spencer has secured Davistown RSL for Tuesday 8 December.

Why Explore Alternative Venues? Kincumber Uniting Church is a great venue value at a monthly cost of \$67 – it is not such a value with the new \$200 per meeting cleaning fee and can only hold 48 people with social distancing. Larger professional venues – unthinkable before – now become competitive and have advantages. We are doing the research and keeping options open.

A Caution in the Air? When the survey launched 15 July, the spike in cases in Victoria was just hitting the news and had not impacted NSW. With Victoria hitting its highest numbers since the pandemic began (this is written on 22 July), there is reason for caution. Similarly, in NSW numbers in double digits offer pause. We are a vulnerable group. Our health is a driver of any decision making.

Is Your Club Ready When Things Get Better? Yes. We have an NSW Health Safety Plan in place, and we know how to safely conduct meetings (e.g. Temperature taking, sanitiser, masks, recordkeeping, etc.), and we are seeking a grant to help manage costs. Watch this space.



PROBUS CLUB OF KINCUMBER INC
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR June 2020

ST GEORGE BUSINESS ACCESS ACCOUNT

Balance at 31 May 2020 \$1711.33
Balance at 30 June 2020 \$1711.40

ST GEORGE BUSINESS CHEQUE ACCOUNT –
PLUS

Balance at 31 May 2020 \$1708.26
Credits
\$ 188.00
Debit
\$ 29.00
Bank Balance at 30 June 2020 \$1867.26
Less Outstanding Cheques \$ 32.20
Funds Available at 30 June 2020 \$1835.06

Many thanks to all those members who have paid their membership fees by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). If you have not yet paid your fees the details are on your plastic card, or as shown below:

PROBUS Club of Kincumber
St George Bank
BSB 112-879
Account # 039558351
PROBUS Dues
Your Name/s
\$47 or \$94

I urgently encourage all members who can pay by EFT to do so, as we are required to limit personal contact as much as possible by the NSW Government, due to COVID-19.

Of course, if you are unable to pay by EFT, I am happy to receive your fees by Cash or Cheque upon our return at our first meeting back in an envelope marked with your name/s but I would appreciate keeping these to a minimum.

Ann Dillon, Treasurer

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For the time being, all activities for our Probus Club are cancelled or postponed. We have to play the waiting game and follow the directions received from the Health authorities.



Best wishes to our members who celebrate their birthdays in AUGUST

Kevin Southgate
Yvonne Chandler
Eric Caelli
Pamela Spencer
Carol Greenan



A FEW TRAVEL QUESTIONS
FROM OUR PROBUS MEMBERS

ANN & IAIN McCLOUD

1. The town of Jeparit located in the Woomera Mallee district of western Victoria is famous for what?

A: It is the birth place of Sir Robert Menzies. Liberal Prime minister

2. How long did he serve?

A: The longest serving PM17 years

3. Churches in the Clare Valley are mostly Anglican. What are they in the Barossa area?

A: Lutheran

4. In western Victoria there is a tourist attraction known as The Art Trail. What is it?

A: Magnificent street art paintings on grain silos, some are 30 metres high



JULY'S CORONA VIRUS RAFFLE WINNER

This month's worthy winner of our **COVID LOCKDOWN RAFFLE** is Mr Ted Castle.

Unfortunately, when his prize was delivered, he had grandchildren visiting so it looks like they will have to share his prize.

(I'll have to organize the delivery better).

This month's raffle was drawn by Kay Cochrane.



Peter Mear



GOLF REPORT

Still, as of this week we are only allowed to play in a group of 4 players 10 minutes apart and observing social distancing, which is not hard to do with our group. Therefore, at this time we are unable to welcome any new players as just about all time spots are taken and it has proven impractical to play as a group with time frames sometimes over 1 hr apart. So, until restrictions are relaxed these are the conditions we play under. Last Friday 4 golfers were spotted trying to fish 3 balls out of the creek, are they just having a bad day, or starting a fishing club??

Peter Mear, Golf Co-ordinator 0410 346 824

LOOKING AHEAD: TRIP TO TASMANIA SET FOR MARCH 2021

WE WILL ALL NEED A HOLIDAY AFTER WE GET THROUGH THE VIRUS AND WINTER!

Many people thought Tasmania sounded like a good holiday. Aurora tours, whom we travelled with last year have new owners and will be doing the Tassie holidays in March next year. I have approached them, and they have reserved their coach for us leaving on the 18TH March 2021 for approximately 13 days returning on 30th March.

Their itinerary from this year is close to what will be planned for March 2021.

The cost is \$3890 pp with \$790 single supplement. Members who travelled with Aurora know that everything is included in this cost and is organised extremely well. To reserve your seat on the coach a deposit of \$200 pp is required ASAP. First in best dressed!

Our new hosts will be Scott and Holly

A deposit of \$200 pp should be paid to Scolly Trading Pty Ltd (Aurora Coach Tours)

BSB: 062 827

Account: 1033 8725

Reference your Surname and Tas 2

This is their new bank account details from 1st June 2020

Contact *Diane Rudd*- Phone 4326 1326 or Mobile 0438 464 616

email: djrudd@optusnet.com.au



PROBUS AND THE “NOT SO HONOURABLE PROPOSAL – Peter Park

Last month I wrote how I learned about Probus in 2010 while hosting Probus Club of Peterborough, at RAF Molesworth, an American base in the UK where I worked. I spoke to the visitors about famous people at the base in World War II including then-[Captain Clark Gable](#), famed for the 1939 film “Gone with the Wind.” At question time, a Probus member said, “There is a lady in my village who Clark Gable proposed to ... would you like to meet her.” Intrigued, I accepted his offer.

A week later he called to say that Miriam would be pleased to meet me. He added: “But, Mr. Park you need to know something ... Mr. Gable’s proposal to Miriam was not an honourable one.” Now I really wanted to meet Miriam! He cautioned that Miriam may not want to talk about Gable.

Wrong he was! Miriam has ‘dined off the story’ for over 70 of her now 89 years, and she most certainly talked about the American actor. “Gone with the Wind” was popular in England and Gable was, in the eyes of young ladies, the 1943 equivalent of today’s rock stars.

Gable’s wife, actress [Carole Lombard](#) died in a January 1942 plane crash near Las Vegas, Nevada. He was despondent and drank heavily according to Lombard’s biographer. “It was obvious that Gable had no more use for living after she died. He said he wanted to die in a plane like she did.” In August the actor enlisted in the Army to fight Germans. The Army had a better idea, making him an officer and ordering him to England to fly in bombers and make [Combat America](#) – a training film.

Fate brought actor and English farm girl together at a base in East Anglia. Miriam Upex clerked for a company building runways. She often chatted with American airmen including Gable. What Gable said to Miriam by way of a ‘proposition’ is not recorded, but the intent was apparently quite clear.

Miriam soon left the base and joined the 80,000 strong Women’s Land Army replacing men in agriculture. She tended beef cattle - ‘beasts’ she called them. With a twinkle in her eye, Miriam told me that her girlfriend, also a ‘Land Girl,’ was a rat catcher on a farm. Married after the war, the friend’s husband boasted that her wartime skill was how she got him!

In the 1943 photo Miriam looks proud in her stylish women’s Land Army Uniform of brown woollen breeches, green jumper and shirt and tie. Sixty-Seven years later she beams as she shows me the medal HRH Queen Elizabeth presented in 2008 to some 20,000 surviving Women’s Land Army veterans.



Miriam in her Land Army Uniform



Miriam with her medal presented by the Queen



Editor's Note: Attached to this newsletter are the final 8 amazing early photos from 2011 and 2012 concluding the collection of early photos selected from hundreds by Life Member Fred Leake and converted from prints to digital format for future access by David Butler as part of the ongoing Probus History Project

Narelle Mayes is one of several members transforming our Club's 36 years of paper records – some handwritten - into an accessible digital form as part of our History Project. Be amazed and laugh with Narelle as she takes us in the article below through fascinating details and humour in the writings of Kincumber 'Probians' from years gone by.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM KINCUMBER PROBUS MINUTES 1984 - 1985

- Members referred to each other quite formally as Probian Jim Price or Probian Alf. It will be interesting to see how long this lasted as we progress through the Minutes.
- The first membership limit for the Club was set at 40. With overwhelming applications this was increased quite early to 50. Prospective members kept applying and the Club introduced a category of Honorary Members for those who had applied for membership and were on a waiting list.
- Proposed at a Committee Meeting in July 1984 and first implemented in September 1985 was the 5 Minute Talk by Members who were asked to give a summary of their vocation – Vice President Tom Burnett gave the first talk on his career in State Parliament.
- With wives attending some functions & meetings, it was proposed to purchase name badges for them 'at a cost not to exceed \$2.00 each'. However, on reflection a few months later it was agreed that as many of them already had name badges from elsewhere this was not necessary – no doubt a cost saving exercise.
- Members and visitors were carefully counted and recorded – well mostly. In April 1985 the count for the General Meeting was as follows – '37 Members, 6 Probus Visitors, 11 Probus Ladies from the East Gosford Ladies Club; there were also approximately 35-40 Probus wives present'. Amusing that the wives were not counted exactly, and also interesting to note the size of that meeting.
- First Club Secretary Probian Ken Secker had some interesting turns of phrase – in one meeting mid 1985 he reported that Probian Bruce Dunlop, the guest speaker, 'gave a racy account of life in the Real Estate business' which raised an eyebrow of the transcriber; however when the following meeting The Rev Alan Brand 'gave a racy account of the work of Amnesty International' the transcriber reflected that perhaps 'lively' or 'entertaining' might be used today ... or is she underestimating both speakers' experiences???
- Our current and recent Social Convenors will be comforted to know that some outings in the early days were very well attended – a coach trip and cruise to the Nepean River attracted 47 members and wives. However early picnics were poorly attended although still declared 'a great success' by the enthusiastic and hard-working Social Organiser of the day, Probian Alf Billett

Narelle Mayes

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