



President’s Report (Kerry McInerney)

With Christmas just around the corner, it’s time to look back upon another successful year’s achievements.

We have through the help of our generous volunteers and activity leaders, enjoyed many trips, outings, theatre nights, golf days, singing and card soirees, galleries and museum tours, tennis days, book club discussions, and a great hobby day. These proved to be a great way to get to know each other better, and they were a valuable adjunct to the monthly fellowship break.

On behalf of the committee we hope that everyone will enjoy a happy and safe Christmas, in the company of family and friends, with a prosperous New Year to follow.

As the Irish would say;

"May the roof above us never fall in, and may we friends gathered below never fall out."

Slainte Kerry.

Secretary’s Report (Doug Hayne)

Offices to be filled at the forthcoming AGM:

The following information relates to the Annual Election of Officers for the year 2005-2006 to be held on Friday, 11 March 2005 at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Club. The source of this information is the *Constitution and by-laws* of The Club.

The President retires on 31 March 2005, the last day of the Club year, and, as Immediate Past President, automatically becomes an ex-officio member of the Committee. (The number of people on the Committee - at present eight - then becomes nine.)

Vice President Margaret Cornell automatically becomes President (and Chair of the Committee) effective 1 April 2005.

Under our by-laws, the position of Vice President must alternate according to gender. The position must, therefore, be held next by a male. A male Vice President is, therefore, required to be elected to serve for the year 2005 -2006 and needs to be nominated.

This leaves six Ordinary Committee Member positions to be contested. However, it is not the responsibility of the AGM to vote on the actual positions: this is decided upon by the Committee itself. Nominations for the Committee are to be for *Ordinary Committee Member*.

However, it is helpful to know the present allocation of responsibilities of these Ordinary Committee Members. The names in brackets indicate the present incumbents of these positions but, although they are all eligible to stand for re-election and able to remain in these offices for the ensuing twelve months, no endorsement of them as candidates is implied or intended: any Club member may stand for membership of the Committee. The positions are:

- Secretary(Doug Hayne)
- Minute Secretary.....(Peter Fishley)
- Treasurer(Lorraine Cooper)
- Speaker Procurement Officer... (Gwen Young)
- Activities Officer.....(John Mugridge)
- Welfare Officer.....(Terry Pearlgood)

The position of Membership Officer is currently held by Margaret Cornell. When President, she will relinquish that role and the job will most likely pass to the Vice President and a person be co-opted by the Committee to keep the attendance role at Club Meetings.

At the AGM, once the election of the Committee is completed, the meeting will be asked to endorse nominations for the non-executive positions of Auditor (currently held by T Pearlgood) and Public Officer (currently held by D Hayne).

The nominations for committee need to be with the Secretary no later than 21st February 2005 but preferably by the February meeting on 14th. These forms will be available at the front desk at the December and January meetings. Please post them or hand them to the Secretary at the meeting.

This Month’s Meeting

This month’s meeting, is on December 13th at the Bulleen & Templestowe Community Centre, Ted Ajani Reserve 284 Thompsons Rd., Lower Templestowe (Opposite Sunhill Road. Melway 32 K7).The hall will open at 9.00am for bookings for activities. And the meeting will commence at 9.45.

Please tender the correct amount of \$2.00 in cash for your monthly fee. After a short fellowship meeting and Ellen’s talk (see below), we will adjourn for our Christmas lunch at Yarra ValleyClub.

Our sponsoring Rotary Club members will be at our meeting with the famous Rotary Christmas Puddings for sale at \$11.00.

Treasurer’s Report (Lorraine Cooper)

We would ask again that members keep all receipts for payment for club activities as there may be occasions where refunds need to be made and these can only be made on presentation of the original receipt.

The financial report will be delivered at the meeting. Should any member wish to sight the detailed report please advise the Treasurer at the meeting.

This Month’s Speaker

Ellen Boyd, one of our Foundation Members, will give a talk on “Grandparenting”. Through the position Ellen holds as State Commissioner of Guides Victoria, she has been involved in a major National project on Grandparenting.

The role of grandparents has changed over the years and many are faced with the prospect of financially supporting their grandchildren through early childhood development and education. Ellen has requested that each member of Probus donate a book, for the age group of a child up to 12 years. These will be distributed to the Smith Family for their Christmas appeal to needy Children and should be brought along on the day of the meeting *Unwrapped*."

Activity Groups

Contacts for Activities Bookings		
Theatre	Joan Planck	9846 4995
Tennis	Irene Baird	9850 4125
Major Activities	Elaine Hayne	9841 8645
Day Trips	Helen Armstrong	9816 4643
Day Walks	Margaret Campbell Lyn Hudgson	9431 1958 9844 0662
Golf	Leon Magree Lyn Crosbie	98503769 98501801
Exhibitions	Wendy Fishley	9848 3749
Games Group	Marion Cummins	98505852
Book Group-	Helga Braun -	98502144

Last Month's Events

Trip to Walhalla Wednesday Nov. 24 – Norm Edwards

At 9am just over 40 intrepid travelers set out for the heritage gold town of Walhalla. We were ably driven and guided by Ray the driver for Mee's Bus Lines, on to the Monash freeway, then the Princes highway through Pakenham, Warragul, and on to Yarragon where we had morning tea. The countryside along the way was looking great as we passed through orchard country and the rich grazing lands of Gippsland. After morning tea, was ably served by Ray, we headed on to Moe. The scenery changed somewhat on this part of the journey as we now had on our left, the mountains behind the rich green paddocks which were very stunning in the beautiful sunshine.

We turned left at Moe and headed towards the mountains and Erica. The road started to become steeper and more windy. Erica is still a logging town with an active sawmill which Ray pointed out. However it is now more a tourist town to serve the many people who visit the nearby snow country, in the winter months.

From Erica we proceeded through the forests where we saw the tall timber that was the source of the timber for the sawmill. The road here was very steep and windy with many valleys covered in a wide variety of plants forming the ground cover under the tall straight gums. I was very taken with the contrast between the tall gums and the green ferns. Ray told us that there were many rare plants in the forest which makes the area very special. We then traveled on to Rawson, which was established as the main accommodation center for the large team of workers who built the Thomson dam. This is the main water storage for Melbourne. The workmen's huts are now used by tourists. We then went on to the Thomson river bridge. It is here that the tourist railway to Walhalla starts. We had previously been told that we would come back later and experience the ride along the valley to Walhalla. Our final section of the trip was even more windy and steep before we finally arrived at the valley on Stringers creek which is the heritage town of Walhalla. We had a very nice lunch at the only hotel left in the town where most people seemed to enjoy a glass or two of beer or wine and the company judging by the chatter and laughter that filled the room.

After lunch almost everyone went on bus tour with one of the locals who is living in the district telling them about the history of Walhalla and possible future developments. Due to a misunderstanding on my part I missed this but my wife Pat has told me about it and she said it was very interesting. Because my father, grandfather, and grandmother were all born in Walhalla and lived there in the late 1800's I will combine my memories of what my grandfather in particular told me and what the tour guide told Pat.

Walhalla was started when Edward Stringer discovered gold in what was named Stringers creek in 1868. This led to a rush of prospectors and the discovery of Cohen's Reef. Walhalla boomed when the famous Long Tunnel mine opened and the town rapidly expanded to 40 shop fronts, four banks, several hotels, and many other features such as the band rotunda, and the cricket ground on top of the high hill behind the existing pub. A smattering of many of these features remain including the post office, fire station, rotunda, bakery and corner store. The remains of the vault has a sign on it which stated the millions of dollars worth of gold stored there in the mining years.

The corner store has a fascinating advertisement in the window which states :-

"Wanted - for a family in the country. A sensible, well educated, steady woman of strict morals, healthy and good humored, but above corruption. Qualified to superintend a family.

Apply to the Corner Store Walhalla, Victoria." Anyone looking for a job?

My grandfather told me when he was a boy he used to deliver the meat on horse back and it was very interesting to see a photo in the hotel at lunchtime of a boy on horseback leading a packhorse with saddle bags just as he described. There were many other photographs from the early days showing the extent of the development at the time. I really needed more time to investigate my own history in the town but I did spend some time with the local historian who was able to tell me that my grandmother's father was mine manager of the Long Tunnel mine South in 1892 and that he died in 1895 and was buried in the cemetery above the town. It was interesting to hear that the tour guide mentioned that investigations were going on currently to see if it was economic to reopen gold mining in the town as assays had indicated that with current mining methods it could become viable. In 1950 my grandfather told me that he believed there was still a lot of gold there to mine and that one day it would be restarted. My grandfather's brother took a mining lease in the area in 1920 because of that belief. I did not have any success in identifying my grandfather in any of the photographs of the football teams or the fire brigade although I know he was involved with both. I did obtain references to other records which will be very interesting to follow up.

Following the tour we went back to Thomson to catch the Walhalla Goldfields Railway which runs along the side of Stringers Creek all the way back to Walhalla on a very narrow ledge. You could reach out and touch the rock wall adjacent to the carriages. It was a very spectacular ride over many trestle bridges with quite a different view of the journey compared to the road. This train originally went all the way back to Moe and this section has been entirely rebuilt by volunteers. Ray told us there were a few remnants of the original track between Erica and Thomson but we did not see any.

When we arrived back at Walhalla we re-boarded the bus and made our way back along the same route we came and were safely delivered back in Lower Templestowe at about 6.30pm. Our thanks to Elaine Jan and Helen for organising the trip, and Ray our guide/driver, as well as our Walhalla guide for a very informative and pleasant outing.

Tramboat Cruise 2nd December. Ian Gault

On Thursday 2nd December forty nine lucky members met at Central Pier, Victoria Harbour and embarked on a very enjoyable excursion.

The weather smiled as what had been an average day turned out to be a delightful evening.

We were welcomed aboard the purpose built Tram boat by our friendly and charming hosts – Anthony, Lisa and Julia.

The cruise departed on time and after a demonstration of how to don a lifebelt the boat proceeded out of the dock and into the Yarra and subsequently into Hobson's Bay and Williamstown.

Throughout the cruise there was a very informative and interesting commentary on the history, past and present, of the various docks, the container terminals, tugboats, bridges etc given by Captain Anthony and at times ably assisted by his partner Lisa.

The Bar opened as we left the Pier and a line quickly formed for pre dinner drinks.

The Tramboat arrived at Williamstown just before dusk and our Fish and Chip Meal " was delivered from "Top of the Bay" Restaurant to the boat. A top class meal by any account was followed by coffee served at the bar.

After casting off from Williamstown the Tramboat slowly cruised around the smooth waterways of Hobson's Bay before commencing the return journey to Victoria Harbour.

On the way home we enjoyed the sight of a lovely sunset and many enjoyed the "air" on the top deck.

Anthony received permission to enter Swanston Dock where we were able to view the container ships close up. Lisa also gave an interesting account of how they decided on the concept of the Tramboat and where and how it was built.

Finally dancing, singing and rocking and rolling to "Rock around the Clock" before docking right on time to the dulcet tones of Bing Crosby singing "It's looking a lot like Christmas".

We were a noisy and happy group and I'm sure the crew of the Tramboat would award 10 out of 10 for us being a group who knows how to have a good time.

To the "Events Organisers" thank you for this great evening and to the lucky group who are to join the February Cruise be prepared for a memorable evening.

Jan Gault.

Musical Appreciation

A number of us attended the Melba Hall on Friday 3rd December to listen to The Melbourne Sinfonia, an auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital, supporting music therapy, at the invitation of our own John Wilson who is a member of the first violins.

With a programme including Beethoven, Vaughan Williams and Tschaiowsky, we were treated to a magnificent evening of entertainment and look forward to encouraging others to join us at their next concert in March and support a very worthy enterprise.

John Muiridge

Club Events and Trips(Elaine &Helen)

Upcoming Trips and Events

See the notice board for more information on all events- Any suggestions for outings and trips would be appreciated.

Sunday December 19th Carols at Crown \$22.00

Departs the hall at 4pm, To run 2 buses we need 80 people, for 1 bus we are restricted to 55 people. We will make the final decision on this after numbers are available at the December meeting. Receipts are required for refunds. **Please bring your receipts if you have already paid for this trip.**

Monday December 13th - Christmas Lunch \$12.00

Yarra Valley Country Club after the December meeting..

Please pay by cheque at the meeting if you have booked and not paid.

Next year

Thursday 20th January Picnic at Heidi

Templestowe Road Bulleen 5pm BYO Food & Drinks
No entry fee, just meet there.

Wednesday 2nd February 7pm

Tramboat Cruise some seats still available - \$26.00 by cheque please. We had so much fun on the December trip that many of us are going again on this one.

Pay this meeting to ensure your seat.

Wednesday 23rd February - Churchill Island \$34.00

Includes morning tea, lunch, admission to the homestead tour and bus. Book and pay by cheque this month.

Wednesday 16th March -Valley View Vineyard \$33.00

Includes morning tea, lunch and bus. Our previous visit was very well received by our attendees. Please book and pay by cheque at the November meeting to secure your place.

Tuesday 19th April -Rescheduled

Geelong - Ford Factory and Wool Museum \$35.00in.

Includes Bus, Morning Tea and Lunch

Please put your name down if interested.

Fitness Walking (Lyn Hudgson & Margaret Campbell)

December Walks 8th and 22nd

Start and finish BANKSIA PARK Picnic Shelter

Melway Ref: 32 D5 (not Heide Gate)

Brunch Break-up after our walk on 22nd.

Anyone thinking of walking in 2005 would be most welcome to join us. See Lyn or Margaret at December meeting."

Exhibitions (Wendy Fishley)

The last of this years visits has been completed with great success. Our visit to the Johnston Collection Christmas display was most enjoyable and showed a different side of decorative art and also different to last year.

More exhibitions next year. Watch next year's newsletters for information.

Theatre (Joan Planck)

Joan will have more exciting theatre outings for us next year.

Games Group - Marion Cummins

Bridge lessons will be held either on a Thursday morning OR afternoon at end of Feb and all of March. Ian Smith has let us know that this is the only time he has available.

Please nominate session on list on notice board at next meeting if you are still interested. Sorry for the change of day but we will run more lessons later in the year.

More news about our regular games night in next edition re times and venues - Good Gaming

Marion

Golf - Lyn Crosbie

The golfing group is going from strength to strength. 14 players teed up on the 1st hole at Camberwell on 12th November for a stableford competition. The results were very good, but our two regular visitors walked away winners on this particular day. With a score of 40 points and a break of handicap was Peter McQuie and runner up with a score of 39 points and a break of handicap was Jim Allen. The course was in wonderful condition and everyone enjoyed the day.

November 26th saw Camberwell closed due to a Pro/Am being held there, so off to Morack went our dedicated golfers. It was a day where the temperature reached 37 degrees but nothing was going to stop John Muiridge from breaking his handicap with a 40 point score. Our runner up on this very hot day was John Wilson with a score of 34 stableford points.

♦ **A game will be held at Camberwell on Friday 10th December.** This will be an 18 hole Ambrose competition starting 8.30am.

♦ **The next regular game will be held at Camberwell on January 7th 2005 at 8.30am.**

A special clinic will be held at Eastern Golf Club on Monday 17th January 2005 at 9am. Instead of a regular lesson Scott has agreed to let everyone play 11 holes of golf and he will coach as we play. As he will only take 16 people in 4 groups of 4, please put your name on the list at the December meeting if you would like to participate.-I wish you all a very merry Christmas and good golfing.

See below about a great golfing trip

Lyn Crosbie

Autumn Golf Trip to Horsham – April 2005

Horsham has one of the best inland courses in Australia. An autumn golf trip has been planned with arrival in Horsham on Sunday 17th April 2005 with two nights accommodation and playing golf on Monday and Tuesday for the Autumn Golf Cup.

Accommodation will be at Horsham Mid City Court Motel owned by John Priestley, the Vice President of the golf club. The cost is \$160.00 per room/couple which includes bed, cooked breakfast and golf. We look forward to encourage non golfers to come and this cost would be \$20.00 less per person.

A deposit of \$50.00 per room will be payable following our December meeting so please confirm attendance as soon as possible with Leon.

John Mugridge

Tennis – Irene Baird

Contact **Irene** if you wish to participate in our tennis group.

Member Welfare Reports (Terry Pearlgood)

If you are aware of any members who are unwell or require any assistance, please obtain permission from the member involved, and contact Terry Pearlgood with the details.

We would very much like to share good news as well, so if you have any special celebrations, such as anniversaries and birthdays, or new additions to families, please let Terry know.

Apologies: If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact Marg Cornell or have someone pass your apologies to Marg or call her directly on 9846 2395.

Transport to meetings: If you have transport difficulties getting to the meetings please contact Terry Pearlgood who may be able to arrange a lift. Terry can be contacted on 98417168

How you can help your Probus friends

A suggestion arose last month that we gather a list of volunteers who have knowledge or skills that would enable them to help other members who are not able to carry out some of the tasks needed to maintain a household. There have been some verbal responses from members to volunteer themselves but there have been no responses by mail or email. This initiative is a very well worthwhile one and could save some members substantial costs and worry with little effort or inconvenience to the volunteers.

If you have appropriate skills and resources would like to volunteer to be on a contact list, please reply to the Secretary in writing, including those who approached the Secretary last month and we will publish the list in the January Newsletter

Lost Property

A black cardigan was left at the hall after the October meeting. If this belongs to you, please see Elaine Hayne at the meeting

Fellowship Tea Roster

Please advise Ema if you are unable to take part in the roster. This does not obligate anyone; it is just a guide to help spread the load. Supplies are all arranged. You just need to be at the hall at 9.00 to set up and help serve at fellowship then clean up afterwards. Thanks to the members who have willingly taken on the job over the past months.

Tea Roster

January	Laurine Eames and Jennifer Eaton
February	Norman and Patricia Edwards
March	Mary & Ian Gault

Your Committee

President Kerry McInerney Phone: 9850 4998 kmcinerney@vtown.com.au	Welfare Officer Terry Pearlgood Phone : 98417168 tpearlgo@bigpond.net.au
Vice President - Margaret Cornell Phone: 9846 2395 margcorn@hotmail.com	Secretary / Newsletter Doug Hayne Phone: 9841 8645 Mob: 04 07778635 dhayne@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer - Lorraine Cooper Phone 9850 4483 raylorr@bigpond.com	Assistant Secretary -Minutes Peter Fishley Phone: 9848 3749
Speaker Organiser Gwen Young Phone 9848 6523 gwen@bigpond.net.au	Hospitality Officer John Mugridge Phone: 9841 9005 weldmate@ozemail.com.au

Suggestions

Please use the suggestion box at the hall entrance for any suggestions you would like the committee or events organisers to consider putting in place.

For Sale

Computer Monitor /Display Screen

Terry Peargood has a computer monitor for sale at a giveaway price. Contact Terry if you are interested on 98417168.

Editor's Notes

Profile

We did not receive a profile for the newsletter this month. If you think you know of a member whose life story would be interesting to the members, please ask them to contribute, or contribute your own profile if you wish. Writing your own profile does not mean you are immodest or boastful, it is showing that you feel your life background would be interesting to others. I am sure you will agree that all of the stories seen with past profiles are interesting so why wouldn't your be so.

Newsletter Deadline

Please be sure to email or mail contributions for newsletters at least one week prior to the meetings. The deadline for the January newsletter is midday Monday 3rd January.

Doug Hayne - Editor

Probus Club of Templestowe Valley Inc.

Reg No. A0045497C

Probus Registration No. 58457 -

Accreditation No. 2219

Monthly Newsletter - Issue No 18 – Decem,ber 2004

TO

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VIC 3105