



President's Report

2005 is fast coming to a close; it has certainly been an enjoyable year for our club. Speakers, activities, outings and meetings have been of such variety. I am sure you would agree that we each participated in something we may never had done if we had not been in this Probud Club. There have been many opportunities for us to have friendship, fellowship and fun together. Again, thanks to our leaders and volunteers who give of their time and energy so freely. The theme we have for our final meeting of this year is "United in Friendship" Our Spit Roast luncheon and celebrations will have many members participating in this function. (If you have not been given a task – *Watch Out* – you are on the list for next time). We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 12th December, 10am for morning tea and the meeting before the luncheon.

The committee and I would like to join with Probud Centre – South Pacific in wishing all our members and their families a safe and happy Christmas and may the New Year of 2006 bring much joy to all.

Margaret

"You are not fully clothed if you don't wear a smile"
(Elsie Branchflower)

Secretary's Report (Doug Hayne)

2006 Election

Nomination forms for election of office bearers for 2006 will be available at the front door at the December meeting. These need to be forwarded to The Secretary by the end of the February Club Fellowship Meeting. Elections will be held at the March meeting.

Training in CPR and Risk Management

A team of experienced members under the leadership of Ian Gault, will conduct a training session during our February meeting on CPR and other emergency procedures. A Video on CPR procedures will be presented.

Ian is also leading a sub committee to look at our risks and to formulate a strategy to manage them.

Our Web Site

I have set up a sample web site for the club. This has great potential for communicating to all members whether they are personally on the internet or not.

Have a look at the site at:

http://www.users.bigpond.com/doug_hayne/index.htm

This is a sample site that points you to several pages which show some examples of the information that can be made available to members 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

You will need to know the month and year of our inauguration (3 letters and 4 numbers) to obtain access.

If you are not on the internet relatives or friend may be able to print any article, joke or photos that you may wish to keep. Only one active site is available at present and this provides

access to all of our newsletters from day one. This site will also provide access to the latest newsletter as an alternative to email or post. Those members who have provided their email address will be notified when the latest newsletter is available to download.

Other suggested sites that can be made available.:

- scrapbook photos – available on demand
- detailed information on trips we have planned and those we have participated in.
- member reports on trips they have done and in particular recommended sights to see and places to stay
- information about Probud outside our club environment – South Pacific – world wide
- jokes – Probudians having a laugh at themselves and others.

There are many more possible uses for this facility only bounded by your imagination and willingness to feed back your ideas. Please note that this web site will NOT replace the newsletter in any way but will provide extra information and entertainment that you can choose to enjoy.

The website is also protected from outside access by a password.

Doug

This month's meeting (Baubles ,glitter and Christmas music with our traditional Christmas dinner)

This month's meeting, is on **Monday December 12th** at the Bulleen & Templestowe Community Centre, Ted Ajani Reserve 284 Thompsons Rd., Lower Templestowe (Opposite Sunhill Road. Melway 32 K7). We will start at 10am with morning tea and business meeting, followed by our Spit Roast Luncheon.

Thank you to the 117 members who have booked for this and for the quick response to paying your \$13.00. The club is subsidizing the function and there will be complimentary drinks; wine, beer and soft drink on the tables. B.Y.O. glasses. We are encouraging adornment with baubles and tinsel to suit the occasion.

This month's speaker

No Speaker this month though a lot of talking is expected at our Christmas Lunch

Newsletter deadline January issue

Please submit contributions for newsletters before midnight Sunday 5th January .

Doug.

Treasurer's Report (Lorraine Cooper)

The financial report will be presented at the meeting.

If you have any questions about our finances, please feel free to talk with me at the meeting-

Lorraine

Last Month's Events

A Gong for the Maribynong

'Don't be late, the boat won't wait,' stated the injunction in the *Newsletter* item advertising the departure time of our trip up the Maribynong River on Remembrance Day, Friday, 11 November. But the boat turned out to be a floating 'tram' complete with bell, driver (captain) and conductor (first mate).

Forty-nine of us were aboard the saucy ship 'Tramboat' as she glided down river through docklands, under the Bolte Bridge, past gantry cranes hovering over tiers of colourful containers and on to the entrance to the Maribynong River at Coode Island. As the boat turned starboard (right) to navigate the Maribynong's entrance, most of us became aware that we had never before been so close to the infamous chemical storage tanks which endangered so many lives when they blew their tops in a great fire here a few years ago.

As the clock ticked over to 11.00 am the captain shut off the engines and we observed a minute's silence in honour of those who had died in war on our behalf.

Flemington Racecourse came abeam on the starboard side, looking strangely forlorn and tranquil after a frantic Tuesday ten days ago when Makybe Diva, against all odds, stopped the hearts of a few bookies by winning, for the third time, 'the race that stops the nation'.

As we traversed the fringes of Footscray, former houseboats including a Chinese junk and what was once a Sydney ferry, bobbed in our wake as we passed, their owners no longer permitted to live on this stretch of estuarine water.

With the boat now in open country, exclusive riverfront residences appeared sporadically, alternating on either side of the river, as well as a man-made lake in what used to be flood plain. The higher parts of this land is now eagerly sought-after residential land, since the Government Ordnance and Munitions factory, an old pipe works and other sundry noxious industries have ceased to exist there.

From our eel's-eye view of the world, Ascot Vale was a bevy of bridges forming a bower to welcome us further on at our landfall at the Anglers Tavern in Maribynong. True to form, half a dozen youthful anglers occupied the tavern's small jetty in an attempt to coax small fish to savour the delights of a warm frying pan. Rather than being stampeded by 49 hungry maritime adventurers coming ashore, the anglers reluctantly departed as we docked. We were shown into the tavern's high-perched dining room, designed to thwart the floods that regularly sweep across the tavern's beer garden and ground floors and, once there, some of us did indeed, have fish with our chips.

For the return journey we were in luck. The daily fall in the tide of the river is about one metre and today it had coincided with the start of down-stream run. This gave Captain Anthony and first mate Louise scope to create an upper deck with just enough headroom to pass beneath the half-dozen bridges we were to encounter on our way back to the Yarra. This upper deck provided a better vantage to see the sights on view.

Party mood gripped our company on the way home. Abba music at full volume got the boatload dancing below deck until we once again slid into the tranquil waters of Victoria Harbour, where the captain gave us a rundown on this newest of residential complexes, before tying up at No.9 Central Pier.

We enjoyed such a great day out with our old favourite the Tramboat Company, that before we left, a twilight trip up the Yarra to Herring Island in this vessel had been arranged for Monday, 27 February next year. This trip, now approved by the Committee, is filling rapidly. If you wish to book, please pay at the December Club meeting. **Peter Fishley**

Upcoming Trips and Events

Barbies at Birrarung Thursday 19th Jan and 16th Feb

Meet there around 5pm BYO everything. Lots of members and lots of fun at the last BBQ. Be there.

Day trip to Mont Delancey Wandin - \$16.50 Tour/ Lunch Friday 10th February

Heritage tourist attraction. Historic homestead and museum, gardens and StMary's chapel. Car pool from the hall at 10am

Twilight Tramboat Yarra cruise Monday 27th February \$29.00 Includes Fish & Chips served on boat.

Popular trip. More than 50 indicate an interest so book and pay at the December meeting to make sure of your seat. Limit is 49. Leaves 7pm sharp from No 9 wharf Victoria Harbour.

TV World and The Briars Monday 27th March \$41.00

Morning tea, bus, lunch and entrance fees included.

Meet at the hall at 9.00am sharp. See the notice board for details.

Fitness walking 2nd/4th Wednesdays (Margaret Campbell)

Two Day Stayover

The walking group are planning a stayover 22nd - 23rd Feb 2006 All members welcomed. walkers, golfers and anyone interested are invited to join us to stay at the historic Grand Hotel in Port Arlington. Which is about 40 kilometres from Geelong.

Proposal is for a walk, golf, bowls, dine out together.

Cost is 2 nights @ \$25.00 pp per night incl. bed & continental breakfast Own transport. Car pool can be arranged if necessary

For information contact Margaret or Lyn.

Theatre - Lois Mason and June Duncan

Lion King 1st. February 2006, See June or Lois for tickets.

Dusty The Musical

We have booked seats for Dusty The Musical, Tamsin Carroll starring as Dusty Springfield. 1st March 2006 Wednesday Matinee at the Arts Centre, State Theatre \$49.95 money must be paid by the next meeting to secure this price.

Games group - Marion Cummins

Last meeting for 2005 is on the 13th December

Games Club will resume on Tuesday 21st February and then on 2nd and 4th Tuesday in each month

At Templestowe Uniting Church Hall - Enter from Wood St. \$3.00 per person Tea and Coffee provided

Bring own drink glasses and nibbles **Marion**

Book Reading Group (Helga Braun)

During 2005 we have read some very interesting and enjoyable books, resulting in lively discussions. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm (except in January)

During the dark winter months we will do a trial of daytime meetings so keep watching the book club. We can accommodate 2 more members, so if you are interested in joining our group please call me on 98502144. **Helga Braun**

Verity Moore’s Scrapbook Group

See the Events List for dates. Contact Verity on 98416373 if you would like to participate in the scrapbook group. Fourth Monday of the month

Book Exchange.

Please bring a book along this month and take a book home. We are looking forward to some interesting titles appearing on the table. Pat Edwards will stamp your book when adding to the exchange, so the lender will return the book back to our ‘book table’ for further use.

Fine Dining (Hugh Cornell)

No fine dining schedule this month. We will start again in January

Golf (John Mugridge)

Christmas Break Up

Thursday 8th December at Urban Retreat Doncaster Rd, same venue as last year. \$25.00 per head entree and main Course BYO wine only. Contact Lyn Crosbie to confirm your booking. Corowa Trip 30th April to 2nd May Deposit required at the December meeting \$55.00 for Golfers \$25.00 non golfers. Watch the events list for 2006 golf dates.

Member Welfare Reports (Val Reid)

Looking forward to seeing at our Christmas party, all those who have been ill during the year. It will be a good opportunity to celebrate another successful Probus year.

Transport to meetings: If you have transport difficulties getting to the meetings please contact our new welfare officer Val who may be able to arrange a lift. Val can be contacted on 98503161

Apologies: If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact Peter Fishley or have someone pass your apologies to Peter or call him directly on 9848 3749. *Val*

Tea Roster

Alan and Judy Baker have taken over the management of our fellowship tea roster. Please see Alan or Judy for any queries or suggestion concerning our fellowship tea..

Christmas Appeal for Kid’s Books

There is still time to contribute. If you missed giving Ellen your donation of books for up to 12 YO kids, they will still get to their destination at the Smith Family in time for Christmas if you pass them to Ellen at this months meeting.

A Note of Thanks From Beryl Jones of The Smith Family

A note to thank you sincerely for your warm welcome yesterday, and for your support of The Smith Family ‘s children’s Christmas gifts by the donation of books. They were very well selected and will bring much joy to many children. When I delivered the boxes of books to The Smith Family at Collingwood yesterday, they were MOST GRATEFULLY received. *Beryl Jones*

Activity Groups

Contacts for Activities		
Leader	JohnMugridge	9841 9005
Theatre	June Duncan	9848 3329
Tennis	Irene Baird	9850 4125
Trips & Events	Elaine Hayne	9841 8645
Day Trips	Helen Armstrong	9816 4643
Day Walks	Margaret Campbell Lyn Hudgson	9431 1958 9844 0662
Golf	John Mugridge Lyn Crosbie	98503769 98501801
Exhibitions	Wendy Fishley	9848 3749
Games Group	Marion Cummins	98505852
Dine Out	Hugh Cornell	9846 2395
Book Swap	Pat Edwards	
Scrapbook Group	Verity Moore	98416373
Book Group	Helga Braun	98502144

Your committee

President - Margaret Cornell Phone: 9846 2395 margcorn@hotmail.com	
Vice President/Membership Peter Fishley Phone: 9848 3749 fishley@mel.quik.com.au	Secretary / Newsletter Doug Hayne Phone: 9841 8645 Mob: 04 07778635 dhayne@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer - Lorraine Cooper Phone 9850 4483 raylorr@bigpond.com	Past President Kerry McInerney Phone: 9850 4998 kmcinerney@vtown.com.au
Welfare Officer Val Reid Phone : 98503161 jv Reid@melbpc.org.au	Speaker Officer Gwen Young Phone 9848 6523 gwen@bigpond.net.au
Activities Officer John Mugridge Phone: 9841 9005 weldmate@ozemail.com.au	Asst. Secretary Ian Gault 98507881 tluag@optusnet.com.au

Suggestion Box

Two suggestions from the box were presented to the committee.

- Excursion to Tesselar Bulbs – forwarded to activities leaders
- Question as to whether travelogues are necessary in the Newsletter – committee has agreed that these are welcome provided space is available.

Please put your thoughts into the box so they may be addressed as soon as possible and tabled at the next committee meeting

Events List

The Events List has been moved to the next page. Please check and advise me of any changes required.

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Probus Club of Templestowe Valley - Events List - 2005			
Date	Event	Time	Leader
DECEMBER			
Mon Dec 12 th	Fellowship Meeting and Spit Roast Lunch at the Hall	9.45 am	The President
Wed Dec 14 th	Theatre "The Lion King" – Regent Theatre	1 00 pm	June Duncan
JANUARY			
Fri Jan 6 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	John Mugridge
Wed Jan 11 th	Walking Group Westerfolds Park	10.00 am	Lyn Hudgson Marg Campbell
Thu Jan 19 th	Evening BBQ BYO at Birrarrung Park (Note time change)	5 00 pm	Helen Armstrong
Fri Jan 20 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	John Mugridge
Wed Jan 25 th	Walking Group Westerfolds (Note Time Change)	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson Marg Campbell
FEBRUARY			
Wed Feb 1 st	Theatre: Lion King Matinee	1 00 pm	June Duncan
Fri Feb 3 rd	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	John Mugridge
Wed Feb 8 th	Walking Group Koonung Freeway Circuit	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson Marg Campbell
Fri Feb 10 th	Mt Delancey – Historic Home – Car pool from hall	10.00 am	Helen Armstrong
Fri Feb 17 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	John Mugridge
Tue Feb 21 st	Book Club	7.30 pm	Helga Braun
Wed Feb 22/3	Walking Group Overnight stay over at Port Arlington	TBA	Lyn Hudgson Marg Campbell
Mon Feb 27 th	Tramboat upstream on The Yarra. Meet at the harbour 6.30	7 00 pm	Elaine Hayne
MARCH			
Wed Mar 1 st	Theatre - Dusty The Musical Arts Centre- Matinee	TBA	June Duncan
Fri Mar 3 rd	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	John Mugridge
Wed Mar 6 th	Walking Group Yarra Flats	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Fri Mar 17 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	John Mugridge
Tue Mar 21 st	Book Club	7.30 pm	Helga Braun
Wed Mar 22 nd	Walking Group Yarra Flats	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Mon Mar 27 th	TV World – "The Briars" Historic Farm	9.00 am	Elaine Hayne
Fri Mar 31 st	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	John Mugridge
APRIL			
Wed Apr 12 th	Walking Group Finns to Ruffey Lake	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Fri Apr 14 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	John Mugridge
Tue Apr 18 th	Book Club	7.30 pm	Helga Braun
Wed Apr 26 th	Walking Group Day out Albert Park	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Fri Apr 28 th	Golf at Freeway	8.30-am	John Mugridge
Sat Apr 29 th - Sat 13 th May	Vietnam Trip		Deana at Harvey World Travel
Sun Apr 30 th to Tue May 2 nd	Corowa Golf Trip		John Mugridge
MAY			
Wed May 10 th	Walking Group Warrandyte Circuit	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Tue May 16 th	Book Club	7.30 pm	Helga Braun
Wed May 24 th	Walking Group Warrandyte Circuit	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Sat May 27 th	Saturday Dance. Note change of date..Hall Booked	7.30 pm	Elaine Hayne
JUNE			
Wed Jun 14 th	Walking Group Beasleys to Tindlas (Note Time Change)	10.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Tue Jun 20 th	Book Club	7.30 pm	Helga Braun
Wed Jun 28 th	Walking Group Beasleys to Tindlas (Note Time Change)	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell

To The Land of Our Fathers

(Pauline and John Mugridge visit the UK)

Arriving at Tullamarine is still an exciting moment, and contemplating the seven hours to Singapore, then the seven hours to Dubia, then the seven hours to London H R increases the desire to get on with it,

London is just one big car park, so following the family birthday party we were pleased to head for Scotland to meet Sylvia who many of you would had met two years ago. Our outings north of the border included lunch at St Andrews, a visit to The Falkirk Wheel, (the worlds first and only rotating boat lift), mellow at Scotland's first distillery, The Famous Grouse and a drive along the River Tweed in the Scottish borders to the Tevoit smokery at Kelso.

We left Scotland on the Virgin Voyager train for the nine hour trip to Cornwall via, Newcastle, Derby, Birmingham, Bristol, Plymouth and Penzance enjoying the very beautiful English countryside in Autumn. The four days in Cornwall were spent walking and visiting such quaint towns as Porthleven close to where the film The Lavender Ladies was produced. John also visited Bodmin the home of the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry and made a copy of the original attestation of his maternal grandfather joining the Army in 1907. On then to Plymouth visiting relations with trips to the Moors and the Barbican and Pauline being driven around the countryside in a cousins Morgan sports car.

Portsmouth (Johns home town) was celebrating the bicentinery of the Battle of Trafalgar and here we started the Nelson trail, we also took in many of our old haunts like eating houses and country pubs, Pompey also lost another soccer match, meanwhile the weather was glorious, in fact we only had three wet days in the whole of the trip.

Following Nelson we headed for Norfolk and Burnham Thorpe where he was born and stayed with friends from Brunei, we visited the castle and cathedral in Norwich and joined in Guy Fawkes bonfire night which the brits still observe. A good drink in the area is a real ale called Nelsons revenge.

Back to London and walks along the Thames tow path with planes passing overhead every minute making their way to Heathrow and rowing fours in the annual head of the river race taking the reverse course to the famous boat race on their way to Putney while we sat in the Dove on the river at Hammersmith without a care in the world.

We also slipped in a visit to Oxford with its architecture and history.

Finally we left for Dubia and the City of Merchants where we probably had the best organised tour of the whole trip including a Dhow on the river, well worth a few days stay.

Isn't it lovely to get back home.

John & Pauline

China – The Yangzte

(Doug Hayne continues his China story)

This month I thought I would tell about the Yangtze River and our experience on a three day cruise along the 600Km's of the river behind the now famous (engineering) or infamous (environmentally).Three Gorges Dam.

The Three Gorges Dam

The dam is located near the city of YiChang at Sandouping across the Xiling (*Shilling*) Gorge which is the first of the famous Three Gorges. The dam is 2.3Km long, 180m high, 18m wide at the top and 130m wide at the bottom.

The water level at the foot of the dam is 60m above sea level, and the water behind the dam is at present at 140m above sea level backing up for 600kms. This will be it's highest at 175m in 2009 . There are 27 hydro-electric generators located inside the dam and these will produce 18 gigawatts of electricity, more than three times the power required for our us in Victoria. It takes about 4 hours in 5 locks to move a ship up to the high level of the dam. As many as 10 ships can occupy these locks at a time. There is also a single "Fast Lock" which will lift a 3000 tonne vessel up the dam in about 30 minutes. Of course this is hydraulically operated using water and what must be huge pumps. Two earlier attempts at building this single lock were failures. Don't know if any 3000 tonne ships fell during tests.

The Gorges

The Three Gorges located behind the dam have always been a famous spectacular sight when viewed from the river. This has not changed with the filling of the dam. The gorges still tower above you even though the water level is now 80 meters higher than before the dam was built. Magnificent views are seen from the vessel for most of three days of the trip.

People Along the River

Along the 600 kms we traveled over the three days, I never noticed one part of the river that didn't have at least a scattering of buildings along the banks. And usually people there as well. There are many new apartments being built higher up in the cities alongside the river, but the story is different in the rural areas. You see many abandoned homes where residents (sometimes after several generations of occupation and farming) were forced to move either higher up the river bank or away from their home forever. Often apparently, with little or no recompense.

The Cruise Ship

The ship we went on, the Victoria Prince, had the capacity for around 200 passengers on five decks, with 160 staff. All cabins are spacious with en suite and have access to their own deck balcony for drinking and viewing the scenery. There is a large restaurant and on a higher deck a large entertainment room where we were entertained by the crew with fashion parades, cabarets and worst of all some Karioke from the passengers. A group of us sang "I still call Australia home" live, without accompaniment apparently very badly. (The song was not a Karioke selection).

There were many shore visits to villages and a pagoda, as well as a transfer to smaller boats for an excursion up the “Little Gorges” and “Lesser Gorges” on the Danning River and Shennong Stream. All very safe, interesting, and spectacular. Our cruise ended at the City of Chongqing, which we all should have heard of because it supports a population of over 30 million people.

The Environmental Impact of the Dam

China burns 50 million tons of coal a year. One of their objectives is to reduce emissions by reducing their coal usage. The 18 gigawatts generated from the dam will supposedly help with this reduction in emissions, or will it? Are they going to shut down the equivalent in coal fired power stations as China expands? Also, apparently, the millions of acres of vegetation destroyed during the project produces carbon dioxide as it decays. And the vegetation “drowned” in the river releases methane gas from the decaying under water. “Experts” indicate that this will amount to more greenhouse gas emission than that saved by the hydro electricity. Also, the amount of emissions produced by diesel and petrol power of machinery used to manufacture the cement and construct the dam, amount to the equivalent of many years of emissions “saved” by using hydro-electricity. One thing is certain, the pollution along this part of the Yangtze river is very apparent, but the hazy light can be great for photography. *Doug*

Editor’s Notes

Accuracy of information

This month I spent a full day preparing and writing the newsletter. to make sure all information is accurate and correct. Hopefully all dates and details of important events are accurate. I need your co operation in making sure the material you send is accurate and gets to me well before the first Sunday of the month which is normally the closing date for contributions. Even if your event is booked out I need to know this so we can note it in the newsletter and also to provide information and reminders to those who have booked or have tickets.. I should, receive updates for all contributors who have regular events published. even if there are no changes from last month.

Gaining publishing space

By using what was the blank area on the address page we have gained a half page more. The Events List has been moved to page 4. To keep this on a single page and in a more prominent position in the Newsletter. I hope you agree with these changes.

Newsletter or Bulletin?

I have heard some people refer to this document as a “Bulletin” and so thought perhaps this may be a better name than “Newsletter” I looked up the definitions in Oxford and found that a Bulletin is referred to as a “Short official statement of public event or news” whereas a “Newsletter” is described as: “Periodical sent out to subscribers or members of a group” I think we have the appropriate name for our Newsletter. *Doug*

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Monthly Newsletter - Issue No 30 December 2005

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