Probus Club of Templestowe Valley Inc.

Probus Reg.No. 58457 Inc Reg A0045497C Probus Accreditation 2219

Monthly Newsletter - Issue No 28 – October 2005

President's Report (Margaret Cornell)

The diversity of our activities is really amazing. Grand homes, cottages, city streets, antiques, museums all contributing to learning so much about our city. Recreationally, we have games and cards, scrap books and a book club. How relaxing to have these activities! For good measure we also have cruises, walks, B.B.Q's, short and long walks, golf, coach trips. and dining out with Probus friends. No need to queue for those theatre or concert tickets - how good is this to have tickets placed in your hand. Trips can have some surprises. This is a smorgasbord and we trust you can find something that interests you.

Just recently about 32 of our members went to Echuca. This group of golfers and walkers, had some very pleasant "Happy Hours" together, but also each group took time for their own activity. This has now created interest in coming together again so that we can enjoy a fun time of fellowship and friendship. We trust you have been able to participate in this part of our Club, and if you have any ideas – please use your Suggestion Box.

It will be our pleasure this month to welcome Mr. Wayne Eames, husband of member Laurine Eames, into our membership.

"*Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm*"
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Margaret.

Secretary's Report (Doug Hayne)

Risk management and filling in forms

Thanks to Ian Gault for taking on the Secretary's Assistant's job. Ian has taken on the investigation into "risk management" that our President instigated. Thinking about this important subject should remind us of the importance of obtaining committee approval of all our events and keeping track of attendees to make as any claims we may be unfortunate to have to make on our insurance or any outside bodies as simple and solid as possible. There are forms available for approval and attendance records. Let me know if you need any.

Avoiding date clashes

Another concern which John Mugridge as Activities Officer has highlighted with his pro forma and survey to Activity Group leaders, is the avoidance of date clashes for major events that the club organizes. It is a simple matter to refer to the chart at the back of the latest Newsletter before making any commitments or seeking approval from the committee.

Simple consultation with other event organisers, even those running regular monthly events, as a courtesy, may result in finding no problems for two events co-inciding, or easy rescheduling of either of the clashing events so members can take advantage of both events.

Doug

This month's meeting

This month's meeting, is on **Monday October10th**th 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 9.00 am for bookings for activities. The meeting will commence at 9.45.

Please tender the correct amount of $2.00 in cash for your monthly fee.

This month's speaker

Stephen Mayne from "Crikey.com"

This month's lunch

Lunch this month will be at the Manningham Club.

Newsletter deadline November issue

Please submit contributions for newsletters by

Midnight Monday 7th November.*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

Activities (John Mugridge)

Thank you to the Activity Group leaders in response to the pro forma review, which has outlined our very wide range of interests with more to come

The assessment of the returned pro forma sheets shows what a vibrant club we are so it becomes important to disseminate our information in the easiest way. The monthly bulletin appears to be the best method as each member receives a copy and can retain it as a reference. I propose to speak with the bulletin editor on this subject and in the meantime consult your activity leader for current events. A report will be tabled at the next committee meeting for their input.

John

Last Month's Events

Woop-Woop Trip – 16th. September. (Hugh Cornell)

A most entertaining day was spent when 26 members went by coach to Woop-Woop, a property near Harcourt. After a stop at Woodend for a cup of tea and shopping, we were taken to the "sculpture garden" and tea room of the property run by "dinkum aussies" Melva and Andy. After a lunch of "bangers and bunny grub", followed by apple pie and cream, we were shown around the property by Melva and treated to her very earthy humour.The number of contraptions used to demonstrate old sayings and able to be worked by her "volunteers" was truly amazing The group participated willingly in the merriment. We all came away with a smile knowing that some people will do anything for a laugh!!

Margaret took some liberties on the way home, and created a little laughter with this verse:

"We just met a lady called Melva
who thought she would do us a favour
the lunch she just served was divine
the china and glasses – so fine
a feast of paintings and little poems
and other things that were largely unknown**.**
We ventured down to the garden patch
most things there you couldn't match
Helga and Elsie doing as they were told
they pulled and pushed and became "quite bold.
We viewed tools and dogs, toilets and frogs- the only thing
missing was a machine that flogs
Explanations of mysteries and "A.P.C", left Noel, Adrian and
Hugh "all at sea"
So NEXT time to WOOP-WOOP Yes I know
YOU are the ones who will want to go!!"

Hugh (Verse by Margaret)

Golf – John Mugridge

An exciting time was had by all on our visit to the Rich River Golf Resort, which included two days of golf, happy hours and walking.
Results.
Monday winner Leon Magree 38 pts
Best nine holes John Reid 20 pts
Tuesday winner Mike Bindon 37 pts Best nine holes John Mugridge 20 pts
Best 36 holes and winner of the Spring Trophy with 71 pts was John Mugridge on a count back from Jenny Kerseboom
Tuesday nine holers comp. Winner Beryl Glover from Adrian Eltringham.
The skill golf, such as nearest the pin, longest drive and straightest drive was shared amongst the competitors.
Much thanks goes to Lyn and Jeff Crosbie for their administration of the events, to the walkers for their participation and to our President Margaret for presenting the prizes in a very presidential way.We now look forward to the pics

.John

Upcoming Trips and Events

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

Suitable for all fitness levels, generally flat terrain.
October 12th is our day out Walking in Healesville.Meet in the car park of Maroondah Reservoir Park, at 10.00.AM
The entry gate is 3km east of Healesville.Mel.270.K10.
B.Y.O.Lunch & Drink in your Backpack.
October 26th.Fairfield Boathouse off Heidelberg rd.Mel.30.H12.
Pass the Boathouse, Turn left at Yarra Bend rd. Park in first football ground on your left. 9.30.AM Cafe' Available
Christmas Break up Wed 7th Dec. Details on a separate handout. See Lyn or Margaret at our Meeting or the walks.

Two Day Stayover

The walking group are planning a stayover 22nd – 23rd Feb 2006
All members werlcomed. 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
It is essential that expressions of interest are noted on the board , so a firm booking can be made .
More information of program and details of payments will be available at the October meeting. For information contact Margaret or Lyn**.**

Bike Riding - John Hudgson 98440662.

The first bikeride will be on Monday17th October 9.00.AM
Meet at Porter st entrance car park Westerfolds Mel.33.E3
HELMETS must be worn please.

John Hudgson

Marybrinong River Cruise Friday 11th November 10.30am - $30.00 per person

This interesting and smooth cruise is run by the Tramboat company people and goes for nearly 4 hours. Includes morning tea and lunch at The Anglers Tavern (Pokies available).
Those who have made a commitment to attend please pay at the October meeting. Filling rapidly..

Boneo Maze & Wetlands Centre – October 19th - $8.50 pp- Car Pool from hall 9.00

Two hour tour – includes butterfly walk, hedged maze, gardens and outdoor games. Stroll along a boardwalk through ancient swamp tea tree and marvel at the extensive wildlife.
BYO Picnic Lunch – Tea Coffee supplied
Please confirm with events folks at the October meeting.
Be there well before 9am – Cars will leave at 9 am sharp.

BBQ in the park Birrarrung - Sunday 30th October 1pm

This is the start of daylight saving so let's get together and have fun. BYO Food and Drinks - BBQ Provided

Exhibitions – Wendy Fishley

The Johnston Collection Thursday November 24th 10.00am
Please pay your $16.50 to Wendy at the next meeting. The list is now full.
Any queries about these events contact Wendy. on 98483749

Theatre – Lois Mason and June Duncan

Thursday November 17th 8pm"Music Hall" The Gypsy's Revenge. $16.00 - BYO supper, drinks, glasses, plates, cutlery.
Please pay at the meeting this month

Wednesday December 14th "The Lion King" Regent Theatre.
Matinee . 1pm $60. Bookings must be paid at August meeting.Please check if your name on first list.
Lion King 1st. February 2006, - money to be paid by November meeting. Please have correct money when paying 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 October meeting to secure this price.

Games group - Marion Cummins

Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month
Templestowe Uniting Church Hall - Enter from Wood St.
$3.00 per person Tea and Coffee provided
Bring own drink glasses and nibbles
Tea and Coffee provided. Prizes to be won- Cost - $3.00
See Marion or ring 98505852 or place your name on the notice board at the fellowship meeting. *Marion*

Verity Moore's Scrapbook Group

Any members who can provide copies of photos from the Echuca. Trip ,in particular the walking events and winery visits, please contact Verity.
Scrapbooking dates 24th Ocyober and 28th November
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)

A good number of people have now dined out with friends,and good meals and fellowship have been enjoyed by all reports. It is up to your group whether you have lunch or dinner, when and where you go. Just enjoy!!
Hugh would appreciate feedback on restaurants, in order to pass on to others.
If you are interested in dining out with other members of our Probus Club please add your name to the list .

Group 1	Group 2
Bob & Dawn Anderson (Leaders)	George & Andrea Thomas (Leaders)
Len & Faye Williams	J im & Claire Douglas
Ray & Esme Lawley	Doug & Elaine Hayne

Your leader will be in touch.
. *Hugh*

Golf John Mugridge - Mike Bindon

The next golf clinic will be on Monday 14th November at Eastern G C.At (Note 8am)
We will be playing 9 holes,so bring all your clubs.Names on the notice board or contact Mike Bindon.
Corowa Golf Club can offer a similar arrangement for our Autumn trophy 30th April to 2nd May 2006, so following club protocol, this should be confirmed for payment of deposits in December *JM*

Member welfare reports (Val Reid)

Thank you to all the knitters. We delivered 2 rugs and 12 jumpers to Guardian Chemists for their World Vision collection. Keep knitting for next year's collection.

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.

Fellowship Tea Roster (Alan and Judy Baker)

The tea roster 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 around 9.30 to set up and help serve at fellowship then clean up afterwards. Call the Bakers if you are not available on roster.(98505641)

Tea Roster

October	Esma & Ray Lawley
November	Jenny & Jacob Kerseboom
December	Enjoy your lunch

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		
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** **jvreid@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

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

Video Projector needed for our meetings

There is a need for a Video projector (or sometimes called a data projector) for our February meeting and perhaps other meetings during the next year If you know of anyone who has a projector they would be willing to loan us for these events please let me know. *Doug*

Christmas Appeal.

We are again requesting a donation of books (unwrapped) for a children up to12 years. These will be distributed by the Smith Family for the Christmas Appeal to needy children. These books will be needed by the NOVEMBER meeting, to be in time to be packed for distribution.
Ellen Boyd is happy to again handle the books donated. Ellen expressed her appreciation of the generosity and the selection of books that were given by members last year.

Member's car for sale

Spotless, sporty (December) 2001 Peugeot 206 XT. 5 Speed manual 5 Door Hatchback
Great performer - 7 L/100k (40 mpg) fuel economy around town 37000 Kms - full service history - always garaged.
Passenger and driver air bags, power steering, remote locking , electric mirrors, power windows, metallic paint,
5 Alloy Wheels - special exterior trim option, velour upholstery, interior mats, CD Player - fold down rear seats for extra load capacity. - fog lights - auto sense wipers, good tyres, 3months rego one owner. Selling to buy 4WD. **$16900.ONO**
See Doug or Elaine Hayne – Phone 0407778634 – 98418645

China then and now - Doug Hayne

As mentioned in my report last month Elaine and I had 18 days in China during September. I thought you may be interested in a brief story about the changes and unchanges we observed that had happened in the intervening years between 1981 when we did a similar tour and today.

I will discuss mainly the traffic and people here but this by no means dominated the experience we had.

People and traffic

Shanghai and other cities we visited were filled with people walking or on bicycles, all over the streets in 1981 with very few motor vehicles. Now the cities are filled with cars, motor scooters, motor bikes and still millions of cyclists. None of these give an inch when meeting at controlled intersections, every one including bikes nudge their way through the intersections with scant regard for traffic lights or pedestrian crossings. Cyclists evidently do not have any rules to keep to or much common sense. They even ride on the wrong side of the road if this is convenient for them.
We still saw the three wheeler cycles with enormous badly balanced loads wobbling from side to side, being helped along at times by other cyclists or motor scooter riders by pushing them along from the rear. This was no different from 1981 except there are now fewer non motorised tricycles and there were certainly no motor scooters in 1981.

Another change we observed this trip, was that the people now wear the same styles of clothing that you would see on people in any western city. This was not the case in 1981. The traditional "Mao" suits were very common for both men and women, and people who weren't conforming to this dress style were frowned upon visibly by others. I relate this as on our 1981 trip a very unusual thing for that time and place happened when a young student dressed in typical western clothes, gently walked by us and started to speak to us in very good English. He asked where we were from and so then was asking all about Australia and confessed that he didn't know much about it and had never left China.

After an exchange of banter about our respective countries and lifestyles, he asked if we had any trouble understanding his English. We said we hadn't and in fact his command of our language was very good. He was ecstatictic about this and said that he was so happy because we were the first people he had ever spoken with who had English as their first language. He was even more pleased when we explained that it wasn't our first language, it was **our only** language.

This is where we noticed back in 1981, the dark looks this gentleman was getting from some of the passing people. Apparently he was seen as "a rebel".

This trip, we were often accosted in a similar way by people all in western style clothing (I only saw one elderly gentleman in the whole trip, dressed in a "Mao" suit.) but in the end they were only trying to get us to go to a shop or sale of paintings, or antiques or whatever. We had to be rude sometimes to get them away from us. There were also very aggressive street vendors selling post cards or other local souvenirs. You HAD to be rude to these people, one hint of kindness and you were a strong target. Of course if you do buy something from one vendor, the others swarm like flies around you – you are a soft touch.

In 1981 we found the people to be very friendly towards us but we got the feeling that they were often wary of being seen to be associating with us. Once we got talking (or merely communicating with their smattering of English words) they were not threatening in any way as we had been expecting. Certainly no "aggressive vendors" then.

Generally though, the people we came across on this trip in the streets and our hotels, and in the shops, all appear to be very busy, smiling and associating freely with western visitors which of course today are prolific and no novelty to the locals as they were in 1981.

One thing we did notice though with the people in the streets and in the shops was that because of the crowded atmosphere, apologising when you bump into someone or need to push past, would evidently be a constant time wasting activity. No "beg your pardons" on the crowded streets of Shanghai. If one looks around outside ones own space you notice this behaviour is not directed just to westerners, it did not appear to me to be purposeful but apologies to strangers seem unnecessary in the culture there.

In the traffic it is the same, no giving an inch, no road courtesy, no letting others in whether they be a bus, bike or pedestrian. And it works the other way too, pedestrians have no qualms about stepping out in front of a car at a pedestrian crossing as they know this is the only way they can get the car to stop. But, it works, the traffic though dense is moving slowly but surely with lane changing and cutting in being constant, but it's moving. Although at times it is jammed up and stationary for a long time. We didn't get any statistics on the road toll there but, we only saw a few minor accidents over some time in several big cities. The speeds are much lower than on our roads because of the heavy traffic and the way it juggles around. Perhaps this helps avoid some bad accidents.

Interesting to see well dressed ladies complete with hat brightly coloured scarves and umbrella – extended – talking on the mobile and at the same riding their tiny motor scooter in the traffic situation just described. Others – mothers or fathers with one or sometimes two two small children aboard a motor scooter or bicycle. Seemed very dangerous but they were obviously quite skilled.

This trip we slept under the stars in China, five of them in the hotels we stayed at. A contrast to 1981 when there was very little choice for foreigners in hotels designated for them. We experienced narrow single beds in twin rooms with cold linoleum on the floor between the beds. Hot water? a thermos delivered to the room. An occasional scuffling heard around the room at night in one hotel then.– mice or perhaps a rat or two.

A disco 1981 style on the top floor of the Beijing Hotel where a supply of cold "Fosters" (That was when Fosters was an Australian beer) was especially made available at half the price of the local strange tasting Coca Cola.

The Beijing Hotel by the way is now at least a kilometer long making up three separate hotels interconnected on the 1st floor by a long corridor.

Prices for the mini bar and in house meals by the way are in A$ terms just as expensive as in any hotel in Australia or USA. Example – a 335 ml can of local beer A$4.00 to A$5.00 from the mini bar but A$1.00 for the same can off the street. (Exciting sneaking these up to the hotel and replacing those taken from the mini bar). You could pay up to $A50 or more for a special main course in a restuarant. A self serve meal from the buffet at the hotel was $A40.00. Room rates were from $A200 to $A450.(Room costs were Included in our tour cost so one nighters obviously subsidized us)

We found that the people we observed in China to be much less inhibited and happy than they were in 1981. There is lots of happy banter among the hard working staff at the hotel desk and in the restaurants. Couples in the streets walking hand in hand happily chatting as you would see here in the city streets. During a walk along the riverside in Guilin early one morning I came across some older citizens dancing with their partners to quite loud dance music and very much enjoying themselves. Some of the single and married people evidently meet here and have their exercise and socialization this way. I didn't ask if they were Probarians but could well have been in a similar type of club. I don't recall any public display of happiness or affection in the streets in 1981 and I doubt it would have been encouraged in public then.

Although they still need to work long hours, people certainly show much more happiness now.

What hasn't changed? Well the food was great in 1981 and still great in 2005. Sometimes our lunch and dinner were both the same as a huge banquet we might have here for a special occasion.

We saw some spectacular acrobatic and operatic shows on both trips. Perhaps a bit more spectacular this time but that would be the case in any country I guess. We were just as enthralled by the costuming, lighting and incredible ability of the performers who greeted their audience on the way out with a genuine friendliness and warmth.

Tourists are still inundated with Chinese history and the bad ways of the Emperors of the various dynasties. We were given lots of positive facts about China today. (But don't we do that too?)

Many people still have to eke out an existence on miniscule pay for hard labour – 10 hours a day for 6 days is evidently still a common weeks work. And no dole.

The apartments the general population live in are still small by our standards (40-60 sq metres) but now have split system airconditioners hanging from all parts of the outside walls of the buildings.

I plan to re do my 1981 audio visual you may have seen last year, but with a then and now theme but don't expect this for some time as we have Vietnam coming up fast.

If asked, I will do another piece later about the scenics, the Yangtze and other places we visited and sights we saw..

We went on one of Helen Wong's tours, arranged by our very friendly and competent travel agent with Harvey World Dianna Thomas who has been an excellent agent for this trip and the Probus trip to Vietnam next year.

Editor's Note

Thanks to Noel Hatton for doing the leg work for me to get your newsletter out last month as we prepared for our travel the next day.. Noel has been available with his help for several months now and this has been greatly appreciated.

No profile received this month so I took the opportunity of doing a brief piece on the people of China as observed during our trips.

Doug

Probus Club of Templestowe Valley - Events List - 2005

Date	Event	Time	Leader
OCTOBER			
Tue Oct 11th	Games Night	7.30pm	Marion Cummins
Wed Oct 12th	Walking Group	TBA	Lyn Hudgson Marg Campbell
Tue Oct 25th	Games Night	7.30pm	Marion Cummins
Wed Oct 26th	Walking Group	TBA	Lyn Hudgson Marg Campbell
Sun Oct 30th	Evening BBQ BYO at Birrarrung Park Templestowe Rd.	1.00pm	Elaine Hayne
NOVEMBER			
Wed Nov 9th	Walking Group	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson Marg Campbell
Fri Nov 11th	Marybrynong River Cruise 4 Hrs – Lunch – Meet at wharf	10.30am	Elaine/Helen
Thu Nov 17th	Theatre - "Music Hall -The Gypsy's Revenge" Eltham Theatre, BYO	8 pm	June Duncan
Wed Nov 23th	Walking Group	9.00 am	Lyn Hudgson Marg Campbell
Thu Nov 24th	Johnson Collection (Booked Out)	10.00am	Wendy Fishley
DECEMBER			
Mon Dec 12th	Fellowship Meeting and Spit Roast Lunch at the Hall	9.45am	The President
Wed Dec 14th	Theatre "The Lion King" – RegentT heatre	1 pm	June Duncan
JANUARY			
Thu Jan 19th	Evening BBQ BYO at Birrarrung Park Templestowe Rd.	4 pm	Helen Armstrong
FEBRUARY			
Wed Feb 1st	Theatre: Lion King Matinee		June Duncan
Fri Feb 10th	Mt Delancey – Historic Home – Garden _Museum & Chapel- Wandin		Helen Armstrong
MARCH			
Wed Mar 1st	Theatre - Dusty The Musical Arts Centre- Matinee		June Duncan
Wed/Thu 22/23	Walking Group "Stay over" at Port Arlington		Lyn Hudgson/Marg Campbell
Mon Mar 27th	TV World Mt Arthur – "The Briars" Historic Farm		Elaine Hayne
APRIL			
Sat Apr 8rd	Saturday Dance		
Sat Apr 29th	Vietnam Trip		
Sun Apr 30th to Tue May 2nd	Corowa Golf Trip		

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TO