



PROBUS CLUB OF MOUNT ELIZA *INC*

Po Box 667 Mt Eliza 3930
Founded 1985 Registration No. A0011403Y

Meetings commence 9.45am second Monday of the month. If Public Holiday, then third Monday



Bulletin No. 380

12th December 2016

Committee Members 2016 - 17	
President: John Chambers 9775 4498	V/President: Carol Spencer 9787 5825
Secretary: Catherine Anstis 9775 4504	Treasurer: Lindsay Gordon 9787 5132
Tours/Ent: Estelle Gold 9787 3682	Speakers: Neil Gold 9787 3682
Membership: John Roberts 9787 1322	House: Sylvia Chambers 9775 4498
Bulletin: Deborah Fleiner 9775 2535	Welfare: Maxine Coughlan 9775 3361

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our annual Christmas Luncheon took place on Friday the 2nd of December at the Mornington Golf Club. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed what was a very successful lunch. As we approach Christmas, we contemplate a world full of uncertainty with millions of people displaced from their homes as a result of violent conflict. We must try and look to 2017 with optimism in the hope that nations beset by conflict will eventually find a way of peacefully settling their differences. My wife Sylvia joins with me in wishing all members and their families a joyous Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Today's meeting is the last for the calendar year and I look forward to joining you all again at our general meeting on Monday January 9th 2017.



John Chambers

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

Attendance: 54 present, 20 apologies, 5 non-responses, plus 2 visitors.

President: **John Chambers** opened the meeting, and a minute's silence was observed in respect to Len Binks, who had recently passed away. He then recognised the members who celebrated birthdays in November and wished them well.

Induction:



Jenifer Wrigley, introduced by **Wendy and Steve Griffiths**, was then inducted into the club by President John. Jenifer responded by thanking her sponsors and for the warm welcome. She had been director of a plastic injection moulding business with her husband, manufacturing a variety of products from polypropylene, polyethylene, styrene and PVC. She also spoke of her interest in ballet, which went back to the Victorian College of the Arts, and mentioned her favourite dancers and choreographers.

Vice President: **Carol Spencer** announced that everyone was welcome to join her and Keith for lunch at the Canadian Bay Hotel after the meeting.

Secretary: **Catherine Anstis** requested that the minutes of the previous meeting be moved and seconded, and discussed the coming years programme for Frankston Symphony Orchestra.

Treasurer: **Lindsay Gordon** presented his monthly report, which included future expense commitments.

Welfare: **Maxine Coughlan** reported that **Jack Andrews** in Peninsula Private Hospital having had a fall. **Alan Moore** is no longer in remission, however is in good spirits.

Tours and Outings: **Estelle Gold** reminded members of the trip to the **Cranbourne Botanic Gardens** on **November 16th**. Also the Christmas lunch at 12 midday on **Friday 2nd December**, at The Mornington **Golf Club** and to bring a Kris Kringle gift.

Bulletin: **President John** mentioned new digital version, and wanted to know how well it has been received. **Barry Rawlings** reminded club members that we have two bound sets of every bulletin since commencement. Whatever we do we should ensure future copies can be similarly bound.

Investment Club: **Max Batchelor** thanked Lindsay for running the group in his absence. Markets are capricious and will probably continue to be volatile. Secretary **Catherine** leading with 21.3% up, **David Woodlock** 17.5% up, and **Diane Griffith** 14.8% up. The group as a whole is 1.95% up.

Book Club: The book for October was **Eyrie** by **Tim Winton**. Not everyone in the group enjoyed this novel, as it deals with personal failure, depression and drug addiction. However, it did provoke lively discussion before a sumptuous lunch. (This comment added in by the editor and also member of the book club).

Speakers: **Henry Hammond** gave his short talk, entitled "A Trip Across the Nullarbor". In fact it involved a 35 day and 15,000 km tour recently undertaken by him and a friend on the Ghan and Indian Pacific trains, as well as interstate flights and a car trip from Darwin to Perth. After an uneventful flight from Melbourne to Adelaide they boarded the Ghan, which departed from Adelaide at midday. After a stop at Marla to see the sunrise, they arrived at Alice Springs, then on to Katherine with a visit to Katherine Gorge, and eventually to Darwin, where they hired a car. Retracing their steps to Katherine they proceeded to Broome, and enjoyed a stay at the excellent Ningaloo Resort. They spent a week in Perth, where they found the Western Australians very welcoming, then back via Kalgoorlie to Broken Hill and Sydney via the Indian Pacific, which they consider not as good as the Ghan.



Our Main speaker was **Roger James**, former trade commissioner, who was introduced by **Neil Gold**. He commenced by stating that he is a member of Balnarring Probus Club and a colleague of our **Mike Newman**. He proceeded with an interesting biography, which was illustrated with slides.

Roger had been working with H.C.Sleigh Ltd in Melbourne in the 1970s concerned with export markets in Brazil, Mexico and other countries. His work involved interaction with the Australian Trade Commission and he became interested in joining its service. After a twelve month wait he was appointed for a three year term and moved to Canberra in 1980. At that stage the Commission was not part of the Federal Public Service.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s he was posted to Chicago where he had an interesting time, as his territory included the Midwest of the USA. There was a lot of interest in Australia, with our winning the America's Cup, but ignorance as well, as Australia was often confused with Austria. Chicago had a very cold climate with winter temperatures falling to -63 degrees centigrade. Roger's Chicago posting ended on 4th July, 1984.

His second posting was to China, which at that stage was emerging from the Mau era. He arrived in Beijing in November 1985. His first impressions included long straight avenues of trees and myriads of bicycles. He bought a tandem bicycle, which attracted a lot of attention. Beijing was cold in the winter but hot in the summer. Roger showed a picture of cricket being played on the ice, with Kevin Rudd as a participant. Our major exports were wheat, wool, and coal and iron ore, and there were major difficulties in communication with the Chinese at the time. Roger left Beijing after three and a half years, and spent the next two years on secondment to the South Australia government.

His next appointment was to the Soviet Union, which became the Russian Federation, and his territory extended as far east as Vladivostok. Memories included the magnificence of the Metro, with train punctuality; the Bolshoi and New Year's Eve in Red Square, with temperatures of -30 degrees. In Moscow one could always buy caviar and vodka but never bread or milk. His 15 minutes of fame occurred when he went to the Kremlin with the presentation of credentials of the Australian Ambassador.

Roger's final posting was to the embassy in Paris, close to the Eiffel Tower. His territory extended to North Africa.

He returned to Australia in 1999 where he worked prior to his retirement. Roger also contributed a chapter to the volume "The AUSTRADE Story".

Neil Gold gave a vote of thanks for a most interesting address.

Thanks to Barry Rawlings for these most comprehensive and interesting reports.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

Today: Short Talk: **Postponed due to Christmas Morning Tea**
Main Talk: **Dr John Beaney** "Living to a Ripe Old Age"

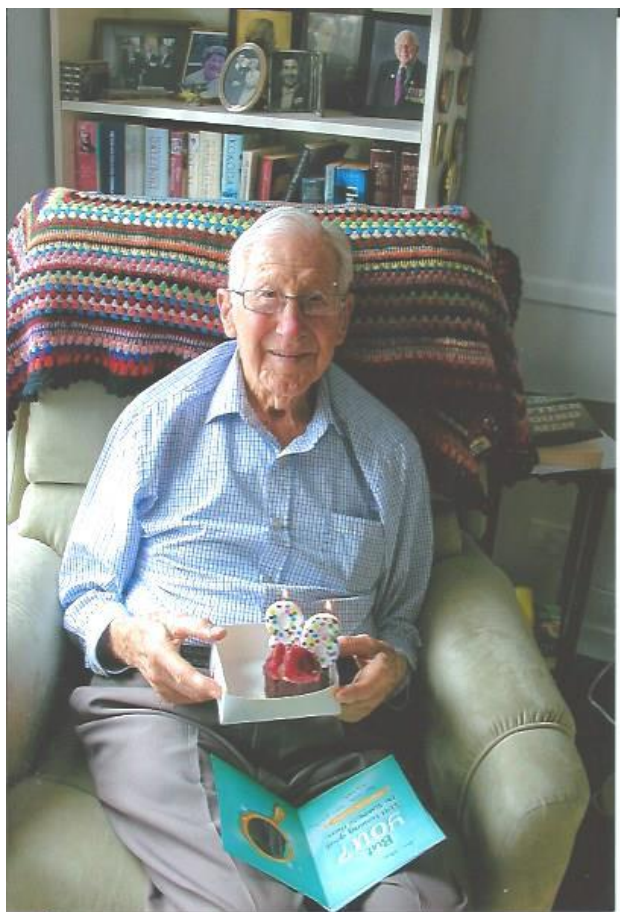
Jan: Short Talk: **Deb Fleiner** "The Battle of Hastings"
Main Talk: **Estelle Gold** "The First Heart Transplant"

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



8th Beryl Vogwell 10th Joan Baillie 12th Joyce Pollock
14th Carol Spencer

14th John Roberts 17th Pat Mattingley
18th Henry Hammond 21st Sylvia Chambers
22nd Hal Breidahl



Alan Moore recently celebrated his **96th** birthday with friends and family. We wish Alan many happy returns of the Day.



OTHER NEWS AND BITS AND PIECES

Bob and Kay Stephen enjoying their day at **Cranbourne Botanical Gardens** on November 16th.



Proposed Three Day Trip to RACV Creswick (Goldfields)

May 3rd – 5th 2017 inclusive

\$194.00 per night incl Breakfast and Golf.

\$184.00 per night incl Breakfast no Golf.

Should you be interested in joining as either a non-golfer or golfer please let Jane know on janelongy@bigpond.com or **040732857**



DVD Exchange

Bob Stephen has generously agreed to run a **DVD exchange facility** which would be operated alongside the Book Table. Members are encouraged to donate any DVD movies (in good condition) that they are not likely to play again, and will be able to borrow ones they have not seen. More details will be available at the December meeting.



Some well known **Probus Members** enjoying our **Christmas Lunch at the Mornington Golf Club** on **Friday December 2nd**.





FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Tours and Outings: Estelle Gold 9787 3682

February 2017 Friday 10th at 10.30am Frankston Arts Centre
Mario Lanza Sings Again

Monday 13th
Cruise to Tasmania

March 2017 Friday 3rd at 10.30am Frankston Arts Centre
Donald Cant in Concert



Dine-Out: Bette Wilson's next dine out will be January 2017.
Location and date to be advised.



Coffee & Chat @ Degani's Tuesday January 17th 2017 at 10.30 am.

Meet up with friends at Degani's for half an hour (or more) & enjoy a relaxing tea or coffee and a chat. No need to book – just come along.

Sylvia Chambers 9775 4498

Would any member who is unable to attend a general meeting please send their apologies to Membership Officer John Roberts - Phone: 9787 1322 or email: j_roberts@hotmail.com.

Next General Meeting: 9.45am on Monday 9th January 2017 at the Uniting Church, Canadian Bay Rd. Mount Eliza.

Next Committee Meeting: 9.30am on Monday 23rd January 2017 at the home of John Roberts.

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