



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. 383

20th March 2017

Committee Members 2016 - 17	
President: John Chambers 9775 4498	V/President: Carol Spencer 9787 5825
Secretary: Catherine Johnson 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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016/17

To be tabled at the Annual General Meeting on the 20th of March 2017.

First, may I thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to be your President and especially for your support throughout the year. The warm and friendly atmosphere that has existed at meetings and functions has made my task so much easier.

Our membership numbers were depleted by an unusually large number of resignations together with the passing of some old and dear friends, in particular, Hugh Trewartha, Len Binks, John Thomas and David Stuart. On the good news side, nine new members were inducted during the past year, four of whom have nominated for positions on the Committee of 2017/18. Their future contribution will be of benefit to the continued development of the Club over the next 12 months.



My thanks go to Vice President Carol Spencer – particularly for organising a very successful membership drive last June. Carol has given me her strong support throughout the year, particularly when, on one occasion, for health reasons, I was unable to “front up”. Thanks go to our Secretary Catherine Johnson for her valuable assistance and to our trustworthy Treasurer Lindsay Gordon for keeping track of finances. Other members of the Committee – Estelle & Neil Gold (Outings & Speakers), my wife Sylvia (House), Debbie Fleiner (Bulletin), Maxine Coughlan (Welfare) and John Roberts (Membership) – are to be congratulated for their efforts on behalf of the Club.

For many years, our Club has experienced difficulty in finding members willing to act as Secretary. Such was the case at the Annual General Meeting in March 2016, when in

the absence of any nomination for the position at that time, Past President Carl Fitchett, agreed at the AGM to fill the role of Secretary for six months to provide the Club with time to resolve the problem. In August 2016, after several months of “standing in”, Carl resigned both as Secretary and as a Club member for family reasons. It was both a sudden and substantial loss and I want to record our deep appreciation of Carl’s very professional contribution during his time as Secretary. Following a strong and urgent appeal to the members for a replacement, our own Catherine Johnson courageously volunteered to take on the responsibilities of Secretary for the remainder of the Probus year. In doing so, Catherine was venturing in to what was for her, largely unfamiliar territory and she is to be commended for her efforts over the last seven months.

You will have noticed the changes that have occurred in the format of the Club Bulletin. It is now available in both “booklet” and “A4” format as well as in colour and the additional space afforded by the A4 format has enabled the inclusion of photographs. The use of larger print makes it easier for those with sight limitations to read it. Our Bulletin has undergone a complete transformation, making it more accessible and entertaining. All thanks go to Debbie Fleiner for doing such a great job.

In December last year, the Book Exchange table – overseen by Bob Stephen – was extended to include a DVD exchange service. Members were able to borrow a DVD or two for return at the next meeting and were encouraged to donate their pre-loved DVD’s for loan to other members. The new service was an instant success and I urge members to help by continuing to donate more DVD’s so that interest can be maintained.

Our activity groups have continued to provide opportunities for members to extend their interests. The Investment Group led by Max Batchelor, the Book Club by Wendy Griffiths and the Golf Group led by David Woodlock have all been well supported. After many years of good guidance, David Woodlock, our Golf Convenor is passing the baton to Graeme Buckley. Thank you David and best wishes to Graeme in the future. David has also generously continued to act as the Club’s Auditor.

However, the support doesn’t end there. Max Moloney, Brian Coughlan and Peter Long willingly helped out at each meeting setting up tables, chairs and “props” and helping pour the tea and coffee, whilst Peter Edkins and Mike Newman provided valuable assistance with the audio/visual facilities. Thanks also to Barry Rawlings and Michael Leyden for assisting with meeting notes and minutes. Bev Moloney and Pat Mattingley helped out in the kitchen. A number of members have given interesting 10 minute talks throughout the year. This is an important segment of each meeting as it helps members to get to know each other better and to find and share common interests.

Looking back over the last year, we have indeed been fortunate to have such a large team of members who, each in their own way, has contributed to the smooth running of the Club. My sincere thanks to you all.

In conclusion, my congratulations and best wishes go to incoming President Carol Spencer, Vice President Brian Mellady, Secretary Brian Coughlan, Treasurer Andy Troy and all of the new Committee. May you all have a rewarding and fulfilling year.

Thank you all for your support over the last 12 months and for allowing me to preside at the many meetings during 2016/17.

John Chambers 20th March 2017.

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Attendance: 59 present, 14 apologies, 5 non-responses, plus 2 visitors.

President: **John Chambers** opened the meeting by welcoming all members and visitors, and by acknowledging all those who had birthdays in February. He spoke of Hal Breidahl, who has moved into the Andrew Kerr Centre because of health difficulties, and therefore has resigned from the club. Hal was a valuable member who gave many interesting ten minute talks about his life and career. It was suggested at the last committee meeting, to continue to email the bulletin to him so that he can keep in touch and all were in agreement. He will be greatly missed.

John noted all the suitcases in the foyer, and wished “Bon Voyage” to those members who were about to embark on a five day Cruise around Tasmania.

Vice President: **Carol Spencer** had nothing to report but extended an invitation to lunch at the Canadian Bay Hotel after the meeting.

Secretary: **Michael Leydon** deputizing for **Catherine Johnson** requested that the minutes of the previous meeting be passed and accepted. Various pieces of correspondence were discussed.

Treasurer: **Lindsay Gordon** advised the members of the current financial position of the club.

Tours and Outings: **Estelle Gold** spoke of the next concert at **Frankston Arts Centre** on March 3rd and of the **Changeover Lunch on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at Norwood House at \$49 per head**. She also mentioned the visit to **Panorama Gardens** in Browns Road, Rosebud on **Wednesday 19th April at 11am. \$25 per head**.

Then lunch afterwards for those who would like to go at **Montalto** 33 Red Hill Shoreham Road, Redhill South.

Speakers: **Neil Gold** advised that there will be no main speaker in March due to the AGM and that **Peter Long** would introduce today’s speaker, as Neil would be leaving to go on the cruise.

Welfare: **Maxine Coughlan** announced that **Barry Wyatt’s** wife **Judy** had passed away peacefully last week.

Dine Outs: **Bette Wilson** announced that she is suspending the Dine Outs for a while due to low numbers attending.



Investment Club: **Max Batchelor** started his report by presenting **David Woodlock** with his prize of a bottle of wine, for winning last year’s competition. David’s sage advice was to “watch the Girls!”

Max then spoke of the stock market which he felt was behaving strangely because of the Trump influence, and that it was in the laps of the gods as to what will happen. The group is up by 2.6% so far this year. **Graeme Buckley** is up 13.8%, **Diane Griffiths** up 12.1% and **Pat Anthony** 9.7%. Overall there is no real disaster and there is still room for a couple more investors.

Golf: **David Woodlock** said that there will be a different format this year due to **Mount Martha** retiring and **Melbourne** taking over. There will be two competitions on **3rd April** and **26th September**. Mount Eliza has been successful in retaining the **Zwar Trophy** but that has come to an end. It may be revisited at a later date if mount Martha can put together another team. There has been two wins by Mount Eliza for the **Ken McArthur Trophy** and four for Melbourne.



Graeme Buckley has taken over as Golf Coordinator as David has decided to retire.

Book Club: **Wendy Griffiths** reported that the group had its first meeting for 2017 on Monday 6th February at the home of **Wendy and Stephen Griffiths**. As there was no book to read in January, there was general discussion on books that had been read and movies that had been seen over the break. Lunch is a very important component of the meetings and **Brian Mellady** has nicknamed the group as “**The Gourmet Book Club**”. The first book for the year is “**The Grapes of Wrath**” by **John Steinbeck**.



Inductions: **John Chambers** welcomed three new members into the club.



Bill Lumley is our oldest inductee! He was born just after WW1 and joined the armed services in WW2 as soon as he could. He became a pharmacist after the war, opening a shop in Chelsea which he ran for sixteen years. He served on the board of the Chelsea Hospital, and of the Ambulance Service, and was Mayor of the local council. He was also heavily involved in the Chelsea Life Saving Club where his name sits proudly on the Honour Board.

Ann Stone was born in the Dandenong area, but family outings always involved the Mornington Peninsula. She is thrilled to be living here now.



Graham Pearson left school and became a surveyor with the Board of Works. He has also been a fire fighter, a coach and umpire for netball, and president of a soccer club.

Speakers: There was no 10 minute speaker today due to inductions.

Our main speaker today, **Ross Baker**, who has the self-appointed title of **Traditional Golf Club Maker**, started playing golf as a young boy. He was not very good at school work, but was good with his hands and he initially wanted to be a geologist. However he failed dismally at form 5, and so sat an aptitude test to be a motor mechanic, which he passed with flying colours. Ultimately, the lure of golf was too hard to resist, and he decided to be a professional golfer.



During the 1970's the golfing industry was a thriving business, and Ross found work running the pro shops at several prestigious Golf Clubs. He became interested in all facets of the game and it soon developed into a passion. His research has resulted in several different theories of the origins of golf, from bored shepherds hitting stones into holes with a crook, to the Dutch playing a game called Kolf in the 1400's.

Ross became interested in the original golf clubs that were made with fruit tree timber, mainly hawthorn, apple and pear. Persimmon wood was used from the 1850's to the 1960's. The original balls were made from rosewood or boxwood. Leather stuffed with feathers was used from the 1500's to the 1870's. Three pieces of bull hide were soaked in alum to soften the leather, then sown inside out and turned, then stuffed with the feathers. The standard measurement was an overfull gentleman's hat. In Scotland the price of the ball was one shilling and six pence, the club – two shillings and six pence.

By the 1850's, golfers learned that if a ball was marked then it would fly straighter than a smooth ball. The introduction of the "Gutte Perche" ball or the "Guttie", and the expansion of the railways, directly contributed to the expansion of golf. The rubber like sap from the Gutte tree in the tropics, was easy to mould and cheap. However these balls were hard on the wooden clubs, so modifications to the shape of the heads along with soles of brass began to appear. Previously rams horn was used.

Back in 1973, many people were employed in the golfing industry, and golf shafts were made here in Australia, as were the first titanium heads. Today all this is done in China. Grips are made in the Philippines. Cheap labour overseas has cut out the worker in this country. The skill required has been superseded by mass production. People purchase a "name" rather than a quality handmade product.

Ross is probably the only person in Australia that still makes golf clubs out of wood, and grips from leather, by hand. He brought along several of his pieces to demonstrate his skills. He is trying to keep another lost trade alive. However, unless someone is as enthusiastic as he is, this skill will die forever. Ross was thanked by **Peter Long** who presented him with a bottle of wine.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

Today: Short Talk: **Margaret McArthur** "My Connection with Brazil"
Main Talk: No speaker due to Annual General Meeting

April: Short Talk: To be advised.
Main Talk: **Wendy Johnston** from **Freedom Aged Care**



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

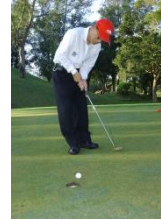
3 James Malone 5 Keith Spencer 12 Norma Binks
12 Lindsay Gordon 25 Jan Marshall

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 **0407328597**

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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Tours and Outings: Estelle Gold 9787 3682

March 2017 Wednesday 22nd at 12 pm. \$49 per head
Changeover Lunch at Norwood House

April 2017 Wednesday 19th at 11am \$25 pp Car Pooling.
Panorama Gardens Browns Road Boneo
20 places available

May 2017 Friday 5th at 10 am Car Pooling **15 places available**
Dandenong Market Tour

Friday 26th **Frankston Arts Centre - Big, Blonde & Beautiful**
Celebrate the music of history's favourite iconic blonde songs

June 2017 Friday 16th **Frankston Arts Centre - Rachael Beck and Michael Cormick.** *A magical theatrical experience of musicals such as Chess, Les Miserables and Chicago.*

Golf: Mt Eliza will be playing **Melbourne Probus** on **Monday April 3rd** at **Frankston Golf Club**. We will be playing for the **Ken McArthur Trophy**, (presently held by Melbourne Probus) named after our Golf Coordinator for many years, a respected and missed member of Mt Eliza Probus.

All members who wish to play in this match are welcome to register with **Graeme Buckley** phone **9787 9616** or email **gibuckle@bigpond.net.au**.



Coffee & Chat @ Degani's Please note that due to the later date of the general meeting in March, the "Coffee & Chat @ Degani's" will be **Tuesday, 28th March, 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**

Lunch at Canadian Bay Hotel: All members are invited to join **Keith and Carol Spencer** for lunch at the **Canadian Bay Hotel** after the Monthly General Meetings. There is a specials menu that includes a glass of wine for \$22. Please let Carol know if you would like to attend by Morning Tea, so that she can make the booking.

Our Six Day Cruise to Tasmania by **Barry Rawlings**

Some fourteen of our members went on a six day cruise on the **Golden Princess** to Tasmania, leaving on the same day as our Club meeting on Monday 13th February, returning on the following Sunday. Fortunately our Tours and Entertainment Co-ordinator,



Estelle Gold, had organised a bus to transport us from the Uniting Church to Station Pier, so we were able to enjoy the first part of our regular meeting, together with a cup of tea prior to our departure.

And, what a wonderful time we all have enjoyed! Good weather, calm waters, a really top-class ship, and, of course, wonderful fellowship. Embarkation was slow and very congested. Station Pier also housed the **Norwegian Star**, which had broken down and had to be towed into port. No dramas with Golden Princess, however!

Estelle was able to arrange for our group to sit at two adjacent tables in the large **Canaletto Dining Room**, where we were able to relate our activities and enjoy excellent fare and wines. Just as well, since the ship is so enormous, with the capacity to take 3100 passengers and over 1000 crew! It was possible to lose others in our group during the day but to reunite at dinner.



The scenic cruise of **Wineglass Bay** and **Oyster Bay**, in **Freycinet National Park**, was quite breathtaking, and the subsequent visit to **Port Arthur** brought back many memories to those of us who had visited there previously.

Many of us took the ferry trip from **Constitution Dock** in **Hobart**, up to **MONA**, the **Museum of Old and New Art** - a most unusual place with a large variety of exhibits, and far too many to enjoy a comprehensive study, in the time available. One of our members, **Margaret McArthur**, went on an evening ghost walk in Hobart. She can best tell us about it!

*"The ghost walk was a 2.5 hr trek up around **Battery Point**, with many scary stories of people seeing or feeling a ghostly presence when staying in the homes of the early*

Settlers of the violent convict days. As we listened to gruesome stories, the tension mounted, and we were encouraged to photograph certain places or windows, as photos when developed often showed an image which hadn't been seen at the time – so the shutterbugs were busy - and suddenly an apprehensive shiver swept over us, when an Iphone image showed a green light in a window which wasn't apparent when photographed –Ooooooh! We all crowded round to see Then a young lass discovered that the green light was actually a reflection of her camera light in the window! Much laughter and relief, although the guide and many others were very convinced of supernatural experiences.

However the history and the stories were fascinating and the views over Hobart were spectacular."

Back to **Phillip Island**, where we dropped anchor between **Rhyll** and **French Island**, in the only rainy weather on our cruise. Most of us chose to stay on board - we had already "done" Phillip Island and the penguin parade. Finally an early morning conclusion to our cruise and disembarkation and bus ride back to **Mount Eliza**.

What a wonderful, if short, excursion, which was enjoyed by all. Thank you Estelle, for all of your planning and attention to our group.

Cruise Snippet from Margaret McArthur

A member of our Tassie cruise group, (who shall be nameless!) - embarrassed his wife **KAY**, by performing the **Chicken Dance** before hundreds!
It was the penalty he had to pay because a member of his team shouted "Bingo" too early - BUT he was Brilliant!



VALE - Lucille Reubens

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of **Lucille Reubens**. Lucille joined the Ladies Club of Mount Eliza Village in 1991 and her membership continued on after the "merger" with the Men's Club until the present day. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to her family.

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

Next General Meeting: 9.45am on Monday 10th April 2017 at the Uniting Church, Canadian Bay Rd. Mount Eliza.

Next Committee Meeting: 9.30am on Monday 27th March 2017 at the home of Keith and Carol Spencer.