



PROBUS NEWS FOR JANUARY 2015

**“For Probus Members Only”
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

President:	Bruce Windybank	4861 1284	brucewindybank@bigpond.com
Secretary:	Francis de Beaujeu	4862 3532	fdebeaujeu@bigpond.com
Treasurer:	Arthur Delbridge	4869 5453	arthurdelbridge@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster:	Brian Collath	4869 2140	collath@bigpond.com www.probusmossvale.org.au
Postal Address:	PO Box 456	MOSS VALE 2577	

The 2014 Moss Vale Men’s Probus Christmas Lunch was a great success and many thanks to Gordon Dummer for the great organisation.

Your President and Committee members would therefore like to announce that there are now 100 ordinary members (this includes this month’s induction), 6 Non-active members and 1 Life Member, hence there are 4 membership vacancies.

The President and Committee Members wish you a prosperous and healthy 2015

Members are asked to keep Membership Officer, Graham Balfe, up-to-date with any changes in their details they may have, see below, to assist him in keeping the club’s membership list valid.

- change of address?
- change of phone number or email address?
- other amendments or corrections to their entry?

You are requested to pay your monthly meeting fee of \$5.00, with an as crisp as possible **Five Dollar Note**. This greatly assists your Membership Officer to swiftly count the takings and pay the Golf Club Management for us.

January 2015 Birthdays

John BARROW, Keith HUXHAM, Warwick KENT, Martin LEMANN, Tim LUNHAM, Marcus MACLEAN, Brian MARSHALL, Noel SYMONDS and Alan WIGZELL

To be celebrated with the December 2014 Birthday Boys

Michael BURTON, John DASH, Mac ELLIOTT, Nick LOCKE, Tom MAY, Gerry POWER and Jim WARNER

Inductions for January 2015

Mr. Doug PRITCHARD, sponsored by Mr Vern Cottee, seconded by Mr. Frank Conroy.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Meeting		Guest Speaker	Topic	Background	Club Speaker	Topic
January	8	Lt Col Peter Sweeney RFD (Ret'd)	Gallipoli	Retired Army Officer with an interest in military history	Vern Cottee	Where is my NBN?
February	12	Prof. John Mattick,	TBA	Appointed Executive Director in 2012	John Deck	TBA

Members are asked to put on their thinking caps and see if they can come up with potential guest speakers and topics. Also, to consider themselves doing a long or small talk on their topic of choice to members. Our speakers program has been excellent in the past, and is a hallmark of our club's success. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated and worthwhile to the club. Just let **John te Wechel** (4861 7679 or jwechel@bigpond.net.au) or any other Committee Member know of your suggestion.

TOURS and FUNCTIONS

The tours and functions organisers, and your treasurer, now inform members that they are now able to pay online by direct debit to;

Probus Club of Moss Vale

Westpac Bowral BSB= 032723 Acc No.= 750434 **identifying themselves as the payee.**

Note: It is important for the Treasurer that members identify themselves when paying online.

Also, when paying for tours and functions please pay separately for each item as paying one lump sum is too difficult for the Treasurer to itemise or identify.

Contact for Tours and Functions is:-

Gordon Dummer 4862 4989 or email gordolyn@hinet.net.au

TOURS

None at present

COFFEE CLUB

Next meets at 10:00am on Wednesday 28th January at the Milk Factory Gallery,
Café des Artistes, 33 Station Street, Bowral.

Please consider a topic for discussion, and phone or email Gordon Dummer 4862 4989
or email gordolyn@hinet.net.au to book your attendance.

FUNCTIONS

None at present

Bowral Probus History Group

Future Meetings of this group will be combined with the Bowral Probus Club.
Meeting dates are the 2nd Thursday of each month at the (Same day as our Monthly Meeting):
Uniting Church Hall Bendooley St. Bowral 2.00 pm
An invitation is extended to our Probus members to attend meetings on either a regular or occasional basis.

The speaker programme is:-

There is no meeting of the History Group this month.
The next meeting of the group will be:-

in February 2015 – Peter Dewey talking about “The Story Of Islam”

Any enquiries to Keith Crittenden (of Bowral Probus) on 4861 7032.

A Trip Through History – Probus Visits Arthursleigh

Morning, Remembrance Day 2014 found a hardy group of forty Moss Vale members, partners and guests setting out for a journey through both the local countryside and our early history. Lest you think we were about to rough it like the pioneers of old, we climbed aboard a number of luxury SUVs, formed groups of four or so, and set off for what turned out to be a happy tour. Led by our intrepid guide Gordon (‘The Barista’) Dummer, we moved off in convoy for a destination mapped out and well described in route maps, which for most of the navigators at least, seemed adequate for the trek.

The plan was to visit Arthursleigh Farm of 7900 hectares at Marulan near Goulburn, now a unit of the University of Sydney. The property was bequeathed to the University in July 1979 from the estate of the late Eric Thomas Wallis Holt, AFC. The farm is operated commercially, and used for teaching and research in pasture agronomy and animal science. It is a valuable teaching resource for the University as it allows access to wildlife areas and provides an ideal venue for field trips.

Historically, the area was known as Big Hill, a bounded rural locality to the north of Marulan township in the Southern Tablelands where grazing was first introduced by Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur (nephew of John Macarthur), who established a 1000 acre farm, Arthursleigh, at Big Hill in 1819. By the start of the 20th century, Big Hill boasted a Methodist Chapel, School and a Post Office. Today, only the church remains.

Our first stop was on the Wollondilly River for morning tea, where our leader distinguished himself by producing a boiler, a gas ring and the makings of some splendid coffee. Despite desperate cries for Skinny Latte, Cappuccino and Vienna, Gordon produced good plain coffee and tea in the style of the Pioneers, and woe betide the critics. A highlight of this stop was the (almost) incineration of his pants, but he and we survived. Following a stroll down to the gully to see the river crossing (one of many we encountered) we set off for the farm.

The main attractions were a visit to the modern shearing shed where shearing was in full stride. Your correspondent, a recent convert to country life, was very impressed with the speed and efficiency of the shearers, all of whom completed the removal of the fleece inside three minutes. Changing places with the group ahead, we visited the historic shearing shed, a short stroll away and were entertained by a historical description of the exploration and settlement of the area. The old shed is in reasonable shape for its age (to the envy of some of the travelers) and magnificent in size and scale.

Back on the road, we found the Church at Big Hill and marveled at the inscriptions on the gravestones, harking back to the nineteenth century.

It was then the ‘wheels (so to speak) fell off’ with some of our convoy haring off, they thought, toward Taralga, where lunch awaited, missing a vital turn in the process. It would be presumptuous to apportion blame, and quite risky as well. However it is said some of our number mistook ‘convoy’ for ‘Conroy’ and disappeared. There is still some dispute about the cause, some swearing the navigator was at fault, some blaming the instructions. Your correspondent would like to think it was sheer enthusiasm.

However, the cheerful rendezvous at the Taralga pub and the comfort of an old fashioned hearty meal soon restored our spirits. The beauty of the countryside, the hills, ravines and water crossings added to the natural high of the day. We arrived back at the Moss Vale car park smiling and with many a friendship strengthened by the interest, the sights and the fun of the day.

Would we do it again? Absolutely! It was the best \$20's worth imaginable. The Club outings and tours are a very important element of the "Fun and Fellowship" for which Probus exists and this and other tours are a tribute to the hard work and organisation of our tours and functions manager – "Take a bow Mr. Dummer."

REMINDER

Membership Subscriptions are now due!

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS ON 12th FEBRUARY 2015