

PROBUS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

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WHAT'S ON

14 th December	Annual Christmas Luncheon
December	No Coffee Club this month
4 th January	Committee Meeting
11 th January	General Meeting
31 st January	Coffee Club
23 February	Bowls Fun Day

As 2017 closes I wish you all a merry and peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. I have enjoyed bringing you the news from your Probus Club this year and look forward to greeting you all in 2018. Very best wishes to you all!

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Active Members	98
Non- Active Members	6
Life Members	1
Attendance Last Meeting	70
Visitors	2

What a great attendance at the November meeting. I am told it is a record for recent years!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



We start the December birthdays with a special birthday wish for Tom May, who is celebrating his 90th year this month. Tom is a long-time and valued member of our club having joined in June 1985. Well done Tom! And the Birthday Boys are

John Dash David Simmonds
Nick Locke Tom May
John McCullagh

VALE JOHN WILLIAMS / DAVID RICKARDS

Members were saddened by the news of the passing of John Williams in early November. John had been a member of the club since joining in March 2009. Our sympathy is extended to his family and friends.

It was also very sad to hear of the recent death of another long-time member, David Rickards. David has tallied up over 28 years membership, having joined our club in June 1989. Our thoughts are with his family.

SPEAKERS

As is usual the December speakers are replaced by the Annual Christmas Luncheon but we will be returning to a great line-up of speakers next year.

Our first club speaker for the year is Barry Todd on 'The Royal Navy's Part in Rhodesia's UDI' and he will be followed by Michael Yabsley, on a subject yet to be determined.

Christmas Cracker

My wife said she would like nothing better than a diamond necklace for Christmas, so I got her nothing!

COFFEE CLUB

Next Coffee Club Meeting will be held in the new year on Wednesday, 31st January. We look forward to seeing you then.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Bookings have closed for the annual Christmas Luncheon and this year it has been very strongly supported with over ninety bookings. We are looking forward to a special and enjoyable luncheon again this year.

- Fitzroy Inn (1 Ferguson Crescent, Mittagong).
- Thursday 12 for 12:30
- Dress is casual.
- Bar available at own expense.

BATHURST TRIP - THE EPIC CONTINUES



Day 3. We are off at 9 am to Hill End, 70 k away to the north. What a contrast with yesterday. From luscious green, impressive properties to arid, rocky, poor-looking farms with very little grass and water for their sheep.

And Hill End itself. What an eye opener! Only one business in town open...the shop, but with few potential customers in sight. A Post Office (closed), A Police Station (no one there), one Pub (but not open until noon) and a Motel (well, really a series of huts.)

The History Museum was in sharp contrast. It had survived, financially. Morning tea, a welcome from owner, Malcolm Drinkwater (came to live there when 11 years old and never left), a 15 minute documentary, a quick look around and then lunch. What a Museum or series of museums put together by Malcolm over 23 years. Malcolm turns out to be a collector of memorabilia extraordinaire, an author of two published books and above all a seriously hard worker. For example, five of us went into a 130 metres long, horizontal mine shaft and out via staircase he built by using dynamite, a pneumatic drill, lots of timber for support and his wife Daphne (filling the mine truck with mullock). It took 3 years. His



talk was riveting from how big Hill End became in the early 1870s (51 pubs), the many jobs for those who failed as miners (e.g. timber supplier and undertaker!) and what happened when it was clear the amount of gold was significantly less than earlier hoped.

A really interesting trip for all of us. The afternoon was left free and the dinner at an American TGIF Restaurant in one of Bathurst's older buildings. Some of us visited the 1874 pub's brick cellar.

Day 4. After breakfast, some of our group drove to Prime Minister (1945-1979) Ben Chifley's home in Bathurst. Another surprise and possibly the highlight of the four days.

A tiny, 5 room terrace house built in the 1889s which took us almost an hour to inspect! That probably sounds ridiculous, but it was that interesting. The Chifleys really had an austere life...bathroom/laundry separate from the house, linoleum floor, cement wash tubs, manual clothes wringer, "Metters" gas heated boiler.



Then home. This time, for many of us the shorter route via Oberon and Taralga. It is such a lovely drive.

The only way to ensure a travel tour for a large group is successful is to have a professional organising committee. And that's what we got from Gordon and Lyn. Not prepared to plan via maps and reading material, they undertook the whole trip a couple of months ago. To select acceptable accommodation, eating venues and attractions to make sure everything worked smoothly. It did.

Thanks from all of us.

Max

(And thanks once again to Max Powditch for supplying the entertaining report and to Frank Conroy and John te Wechel for the photographs Any time you get a good photograph of club members please send it to me. Ed.)

BOWLS FUN DAY

It is exciting to announce a new addition to our activities coming in the New Year. It has something for players and spectators and is sure to be a great day out.

Richard Miall has organized a day at the Bowral Bowling Club. For those who would like to have a try at bowls, members and partners, there will be bowling beginning at 10:00 am. Bowls will be supplied for those who don't have them and there will be tutors to show you how and what to do. It will be all social, but I am told there is a "mystery prize" and a winner. You don't have to be good or have previous experience, just willing to have a go and have a bit of fun.



The only things you need are a pair of flat soled shoes and to come along prepared to give it a go, enjoy yourself and have some fun.

Spectators will be welcome all day and to join the luncheon and even give advice to the champions on the green (whether they know what they are talking about or not) but you are encouraged to participate in the bowls if you can. There will also be a luncheon at the club for everyone to join in and enjoy.

The date is Friday, 23rd February and full details will be published in the new year. Until then, please put the date in your diary. Any enquiries or bookings please contact Richard Miall (richardinfiji@hotmail.com) or telephone him on 0414345401

YOUR HELP NEEDED?

Have you been some place and thought "This would be a great day out or overnighter for our Probus Club?" Well, here's a chance to let our tour organiser in on your idea!

Every year our tour organizer, Gordon, comes up with great ideas and organization for tours for members and their partners and as great as Gordon is, there comes a time when he starts running out of new places to go and would like some fresh input. He'll organise but we really require some feedback on your experiences and ideas.

All you have to do is speak to Gordon at a meeting or email him at gordon_dummer@bigpond.com (Simply click on the email address to send your idea.) All ideas are welcome although we can't use all of them of course.

Here's an idea A gourmet two-and-a-half-hour lunch time cruise of Port Hacking, starting from Cronulla with a glass of champagne on arrival Bruschetta and garlic bread then your Choice of prosciutto wrapped chicken, or specially seasoned scotch fillet steak, or grilled barramundi and yes there's a choice of sweets too! All while cruising scenic Port Hacking and the surrounding National Park.

Interested? Contact Gordon and let him know you would like to be on this cruise and he may just organise it! gordon_dummer@bigpond.com

Any other ideas???? Not all ideas can be used but we would like to consider them so let's hear from you!