

Asquith Mixed Probus Club

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



The **Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc.** was formed by the Rotary Club of Berowra on 2 October 2008.

Club No: 9003799

District: 9680

Inc. No.: 9890687

This is its ninth annual report

NAME

[Constitution: 1]

The name of this club shall be The Asquith Mixed Probus Club Incorporated

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

[Constitution: 2]

(a) The purpose of this club shall be to advance intellectual and cultural interests among adult persons who have retired or are semi-retired from their former occupations.

(b) It will hold regular meetings and arrange activities to provide opportunities for fellowship, the development of acquaintance and social interaction.

(c) It shall strive to be seen as a worthwhile organisation by the local community.

MEMBERSHIP

[Constitution: 3]

(a) Membership of this club shall be open to retired and semi-retired professional and business people and others from any worthy vocation who appreciate and value opportunities for social contact with others in similar circumstances.

(b) Membership of this club shall be primarily for residents of Asquith & surrounding suburbs and districts.

The maximum membership of the club shall be 150 members. [Standing Resolutions: 6]

The Management Committee shall endeavour to maintain a gender balance of not more than 60% of any one gender. [Standing Resolutions: 7]

Membership 2017-18

As reported under Membership later, there were 146 members at the end of the 2017-18 year.

Annual Report 2017-18

Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc. (AMPC)

PO Box 3140, Asquith 2077

This *Annual Report* compiled by Jeremy Steele

All AMPC enquiries to President 2017-18: Jeremy Steele
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MANAGEMENT

[Constitution: 4]

The Club shall be managed by a Management Committee, comprising a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer (collectively "Committee Members"), and such number of other members of the Management Committee ("Officers") as provided in the By-laws or the club's Standing Resolutions.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

[Constitution: 5]

An annual general meeting for the election of Committee Members and Officers shall be held on or before March 31 of each year.

Meeting dates

The annual general meeting was held on Thursday 2 March 2017 and Thursday 1 March 2018.

COMMITTEE 2017-18

At the March 2017 Annual General Meeting the following were elected:

Officers

President	Jeremy Steele
Vice-President Elect	Sylvia Gratton
Vice-President	Robin Roberts
Secretary	Pam Slater
Treasurer	Yenda Holland

Committee

Bulletin	Nick Speyer
Hospitality	Evelyn Olney
Membership	Barry Willick
Programme	Mary Potter
Tours/Excursions	Barbara Williamson
Welfare	Denise Mayhew
Assistant Sec/Historian	Sandra Death
Assistant Treasurer	Kevin Brogan
Assistant Tours/Excursion	Pam Clarke
Past President	Barry Willick

During the year, Evelyn Olney went on extended leave and was not officially replaced.

The year 2017-18



"Well, that's over at last", muttered Rastus Braithwaite, putative member of the Asquith Mixed Probus Club, who had been keeping a

low profile of late. "Good riddance to that whatisname president."

"What are you talking about now", responded Ambrose Nuther, also a putative member.



"The last year of that public transport lobby group, or whatever it is, Pro-Bus."

"I keep telling you, they are nothing to do with buses. They're about giving people who have retired, like you, and me, a good time."

"Hmmp", grumbled Rastus. "So why are they called 'Pro-Bus' then? They keep going on bus trips, some go on cruises."

"Yes they do, and that **Barbara Williamstown** fixed up a few trips this year. Including some long ones. Even one to Townsville. Why don't you become a member? You could go on a trip too", said Ambrose.

"You can talk. Why don't you?" retorted Rastus.

"Well, I am thinking about it", said Ambrose. "They went on walks all over the place, organised by that **Laurie Buster**. He's good; makes sure people are safe and can manage OK."

"You are bad with names! You mean **Keaton**. Even I know that," quipped Rastus. "Bet they didn't do much else. This year was a joke!"

"Of course they did!" affirmed Ambrose. "That **Ginger Rhonda** had them at theatres and shows all over town. And **Angus McAberdeen** took them to see the historic air show at Temora near Wagga! And he's just a backbencher."

"Stone the crows! Who wants to see old planes?" exclaimed one-time brigadier Rastus. "And I expect the finances of those amateurs are a shambles."

"What's that got to do with the air show? In fact they've got more in their cash reserves than they want, and are going to have to splash out on something for members soon. The money's in the hands of that sharp **Yenda** from Uganda or Luxembourg or somewhere: she certainly knows how to add up."

"Still not convinced! What you need in real organisations is *organisation, record keeping, paperwork*", asserted Rastus. "I'll wager this bus brigade runs on scribbles on envelope backs", said the brigadier.

"Go along with you," Ambrose shot back. "They've got **Pam Shooter** the secretary: she does the minutes of meetings, typed with numbered paragraphs, before they're even over, she's that good."

"Impossible", said Rastus; "you're making this all it up."

"No I'm not", chipped back Ambrose. "And there's heaps more to this bus club of yours."

"Oh really? Such as?"

"They get absorbing speakers ... or rather **Hairy Potter** does. She's the one who does the trivia nights, and she also chooses a different 'observer' to sit in on each Committee meeting."

"Hairy? There you go again. **Harry** perhaps ... or **Mary**?", snapped Rastus. "And how dull. At least listening to speakers sounds better than listening to meetings going on."

"Someone said it's so the members can see how the organisers work, that they're not just a clique," asserted Ambrose. "There's still more: **Only Evelyn** — not sure her exact name — arranged the big celebratory shindigs, and dining out nights, until she got sick and had some really bad luck. And you know what else?"

"No, do say", said Rastus.

"**Only Pete** — that's **Only Evelyn's** husband — set up a website for the Club this year. I've seen it: it's how I found out about all this, mostly from the Bulletins. They're done by that **Nick Steeple**, and practically no flim-flam in them either! But you wouldn't know what a website is I don't suppose."

"Web sight, for spiders that need an eye for each leg? Yuk! Is this a joke?"

"Absolutely no joke! And talking of which, that **Bally Whatsit** tells the jokes at meetings, and has them in stitches. He's the membership officer, and knows who everyone is: all 150 of them. And **Denise Mayflower** rings people up on their birthdays, and checks if they are well. It goes on and on ... **Sir Galahad Williamstown** organises barbecues on a Thursday ... **Sunny McAberdeen** and **Monty McRobertson** (Bally Whatsit can tell you what their names really are) do an exchange table. Did I mention the woollen dolls for kids in hospital? That's **Barbara-Boss-of-the-Buses** and the women (no blokes) who do them. **Judy Lafrenais** does the films and cards, **Mary Glasby** does more on cards (500 of them), and **Sylvia** does the Mah-jong. She's going to be famous one day, they say. So what's *wrong* with this Club, Rastus?"

"Oh, I don't know. Probably just need a new president."

President's Report

After what has been said above there is little to add, except apologies, also to those they did not mention. It has been a privilege and pleasure being AMPC president. Best wishes to the next.



Jeremy Steele

Committee Reports

Secretary

The role of secretary is a standard one. The occupant, this year Pam Slater, is charged with looking after the administrative interests of the



organisation. This mostly means preparing the agendas for meetings, and writing up the minutes. Another function is to manage the correspondence of the organisation not directly handled by other officers. There is the occasional document to be submitted to Probus South Pacific, representing 'correspondence out', while various commercial interests send fliers and the like seeking business from the outings organiser, or the bank sends occasional statements.

Pam Slater reports as follows for the year 2017-18:

My year as Secretary hasn't been too arduous with the help of the President, who once held this role.

I endeavoured to get the Agenda and Minutes out in a reasonable time frame.

Thanks to Yenda Holland for collecting the mail from the Post Office Box along with the Retirees Magazines.

During the year there was a revisit of the Standing Resolutions, and amendments were made.

In April I attended an Information Day along with Jeremy Steele and Sylvia Gratton. This was arranged for Committee members by Probus South Pacific to give us an insight into how meetings should be run etc.

In June a Website Working Party was convened, of which I found myself Secretary. After a few meetings it was great to see that Peter Olney was able to make the website "live" in October, in time for the Club's ninth birthday. We hope members are making use of this facility: all the information one might need, including the Bulletins, is there to be accessed.

As the Club was formed in October 2008, we now have the 10 year Birthday Celebrations looming, and once again I find myself on the associated subcommittee as Secretary.

I would like to thank Sandra Death, Assistant Secretary, for stepping in when I was absent during the year, as well as the Committee and members for their help—and it is because of this assistance that I am able to look forward to a fresh new year as Secretary.



Prior to the Annual General Meeting in March 2017 nominations had been received for all positions—except Secretary. The AGM started, and the anxious moment arrived when the positions had to be filled. But no Secretary. The brand new president, in his first significant act, announced — only half jokingly — the imminent closure of the Club if someone did not there and then nominate. Instead of the expected awful minutes of silence and nothing, almost at once a hand was raised at the back. And so it was that Pam Slater, to thunderous applause, became unanimously endorsed as secretary.

Treasurer

Yenda Holland reported for the year as follows:



In 2017, the finances of the Club continued much as they have done in previous years.

Month by month the same revenues and expenditures recur with minor variations. In one month, say, there is significant income, as when annual dues are received from members. In another month there might be unusually large outgoings, as when a coach might be hired, or a motel bill paid, in connection with an outing of several days away affecting a significant proportion of Club members. However, over the course of the current year, it has been possible to report to the members at general meetings that the financial state of the Club looks much of a muchness month by month and year to year, which is as it should be, and is reassuring for them.

New measures that were introduced during 2017 for handing transactions were mainly to do with the GoPos machine. These procedures are still in a state of refinement. Nick Speyer has spent some time rewording the Payments process so it is more understandable, something I have been trying to achieve for two years. Thank you Nick.

In 2017 one of the Club's qualified members, John Cole,

acted as honorary auditor, and kindly agreed to act in this capacity again in 2018. Thank you John.

During the year it was pointed out by a former Club treasurer, Angus Dougall, that the Club's reserves had accumulated substantially beyond the notional figure of an amount equal to one year's operating expenditure (\$9,000). Consideration was given by the Committee as to what should be done in relation to this excess. While no decision was formally taken to reduce the figure to around the target reserve, it was noted that the year ahead, 2018, was the Club's tenth year of operation, and that some unusual expenditures might be expected to arise in association with any celebration of that milestone in the way of special documents or mementos produced, or even a Club celebratory lunch or other event subsidised in part by the over-accumulated reserve.

I would especially like to thank the people who staff the Payments Desk, Kevin and Noeline Brogan in particular, who do a fantastic job collecting money, and nominating which activity it is to be allocated to. Without their input the Club activities would grind to a halt. Thanks to their assistants — Sandra Death and Sylvia Gratton on the GoPos machine and to Con Caratzas, and Phyllis and Bill Davies, who step in in their absence. I would also like to thank new members Lorice and Barry Gill who have kindly taken on the task of learning the ropes.

Program

One of the principal features of a Probus club is the address by a good speaker at the monthly

general meetings. The role of the organiser of the speaker program is to arrange a balanced collection of informed speakers for the year. In appreciation speakers receive a token payment to cover petrol money.



Mary Potter, the program organiser, reported for the year as follows: Our speakers throughout the year covered a

wide range of topics. Talks covered a wide range of subjects from ASIO to a Marriage Celebrant to Tea and Coffee. Members were kept amused, informed and entertained. Suggestions from members for suitable speakers were welcomed as always.

Mar	Jeremy Steele	Aust. Aboriginal languages
Apr	Tony Park	Author
May	Wendy Bull	Celebrant
Jun	John Donohoe	Ben Hall's legacy
Jul	Gerard Walsh	ASIO
Aug	Rachel Atkin	Bargainhunt Auctions
Sep	Clive Small	Milat family
Oct	Heather Bentley	Tea and Coffee
Nov	Fergus Hynes	Listening to Prisoners
Dec		Christmas lunch
Jan	Mark Buckle	Hornsby Hospital
Feb	Judy Horton	History of Aust. backyards

Trips and Tours

Barbara Williamson, Tours/Excursions organiser, reports for the year 2017-18 as follows.

During the year there were several day outings, and three trips away.

One of the day trips was to the Motorlife Museum in Wollongong,

which intrigued several of the car buffs present; and on the same day the Seacliff Bridge was traipsed over and admired.

Another occasion featured the camel races at the Bankstown Paceway, for the Club's annual Christmas-in-July celebration. Then in September there was a visit to the Tulip Farm in Hidden Valley near Bungendore in the ACT.

These were just three of the day excursions undertaken:

17 Feb	NSW Government House, The Domain
16 Mar	Palm Beach/ Ettalong (cancelled owing to rain)
20 Apr	Palm Beach/ Ettalong
18 May	Rose Seidler House, Wahroonga
15 Jun	Motorlife Museum in Kembla Grange, Wollongong & Seacliff Bridge
27 Jul	Christmas in July: Camel races & lunch, Bankstown Paceway
17 Aug	Waverley Cemetery
21 Sep	Tulip Top Gardens, Hidden Valley near Bungendore in the ACT.
19 Oct	AMPC 9th Birthday BBQ: Bobbin Head
16 Nov	Female Orphan School, Rydalmere
18 Jan	Sydney Rowing Club, Abbotsford: Luncheon
15 Feb	Bahai Temple, Ingleside & Palm Beach

The away trips, attended by around 10–25 members, went to the following destinations:



31 Mar-3 Apr	Temora [see separate account in this Report]
20-28 Jun	Townsville, Airlie Beach & Rockhampton
21-29 Aug	Broken Hill Outback Wanderer

Of these the Broken Hill trip perhaps exemplified what is special about extended travels away. They take members to a place that might be only little known about beforehand: then knowledge is increased through experiencing the main target destination, to be further enhanced by the several side-trip components. At the same time these ventures enable members to get to know one another better than through the brief encounters at monthly meetings.

While many provided help and encouragement in making the associated arrangements I would like to thank Laurie Keaton and Pam Clarke in particular for their assistance.

Bulletin

Nick Speyer, *Bulletin* editor, reported for the year 2017-18 as follows:

The *Bulletin* is a monthly magazine of between 10 and 12 pages sent to all members with an email address on about the 22nd of the month. The others pick up, or have posted to them, one of 40 copies printed by the Bendigo Bank at no charge.



The *Bulletin* informs members about upcoming events and outings, and includes notes on Committee meeting discussions,

reports on finances and welfare, as well as summaries and photos of club events, and other items of general interest.

Space is usually available for items submitted by members.

Gratitude is due to the event organisers and other regular contributors, to those who provide humorous and quirky items, to Doug Carley the Club's photographer, and to John Channon who took over while I was away during the year.



Being in possession of current Club information and necessary publications ability, the *Bulletin* editor is also charged with preparing each month the slides illustrating stages in the progress of the monthly general meeting. And an initiative undertaken independently this year was to devise an Information Sheet for New Members, giving basic details about the Club and advice on how to get involved in Club activities.

Hospitality

The role of the hospitality officer is to promote the social character of the Club. He or she is always on the lookout for any activity that might be arranged that will encourage greater participation by members of the Club.

Hospitality Officer Evelyn Olney reported for the year as follows:

The year started with Breakfast at Bobbin Head on 15 February, technically at the end of my first year as hospitality officer. It coincided with a decline in my



health: shingles took over my life for the next the 12 months.

As a consequence, the next Dining Out experience was not until 9 August, at the Javan Persian Restaurant, Hornsby, enjoyed by nearly 40 members. Most had never tried Persian food before, and all left with full take away boxes as reminders of it.

The AMPC 9th Birthday BBQ was held on Thu. 19 October, attended by over 80 members and friends, its success attested to by photos in the following Bulletin issue. Planning went so smoothly, and special thanks are due to the untiring chefs Peter Olney and Ron Platts, to the ladies who made salads the day before, others who helped on the day, and especially to Sylvia Dawes who again made the cake — but was too ill to enjoy the day. Major raffle prizes were won by Sandra Death and Bob Burrowes, while 12 others went home with prizes. Everyone made the day so good.

The Christmas Lunch 7 December was next. I had managed to get most of the organising done — before circumstances obliged me to hand over the reins to other committee members. I believe that Barbara Williamson, Denise Mayhew and Sandra Death stepped in and did a great job of the food and entertainment, raffles, and the company, and that the occasion was enjoyed by all.

I hope your next Hospitality Officer enjoys the position as much as I have done.

Welfare

Denise Mayhew reported for the year as follows:

WELFARE: *The health, happiness and well-being of a person or group.*
WELL-BEING: *the state of being comfort-able, healthy and/or happy.*

The above two words with almost the same meaning: all of which I try to incorporate into the position I hold as Welfare Officer.



At the Club's monthly meetings I try to make contact with as many members as I can, to check on their welfare and well-being. If while doing so I feel all is not well, I will make regular phone calls to the member concerned until I'm sure no further contact is needed.

If I hear of a member not being well through illness, injury or surgery, I make contact via phone calls, cards and where possible by visits, either in hospital or during rehabilitation. I welcome members letting me know when somebody is not feeling 100 per cent.

I send out cards on behalf of the members and Committee when warranted. Cards expressing condolences are the hardest to send.

At the monthly meetings I provide member welfare information, always and only with the concerned member's permission. I also submit a more detailed written report to the Committee at its monthly meeting.

Having a list of every member's birthday, I try to telephone each one on his or her special day, to wish them all the very best. It is not always possible to reach people on the actual date, but I usually either leave a message, or catch up with them as soon as I can.

Membership

The role of the membership officer is to keep a watch over the membership, seeking to achieve a full enrolment of 150 while maintaining a gender balance within the limits of 60:40. He receives applications for admission, refers them to the committee for considering, procures membership badges, manages awards for those reaching 80 and 90 years of age, keeps a record of attendance at meetings. No-one in the Club can match Barry's ability immediately to recognise and provide a name for the other members.

Barry Willick reported for the year 2017-18 as follows:

At the time of writing this report we have 146 members, and quite a few of those have not as yet paid for 2018.

During the year we have welcomed 14 new members. 10 have resigned owing to moving, or health reasons. In December our oldest member Neville Thornton passed away. We continue to seek couples or male members to correct the gender balance suggested by Probus South Pacific Ltd.



Public Officer

Sandra Death has occupied the position of public officer since June 2015.

The Public Officer is the liaison person between the Club and the State government Department of Fair



Trading. The Public Officer is responsible for ensuring that the Club operates within its Constitution and within the requirements of the State Model Rules.

Often there is little to do, but occasionally a matter of importance arises. It is the Public Officer who makes sure that it is handled correctly.

Historian

The AMPC was formed on 2 October 2008 yet who can remember everything about it? The minimum role of the historian (or archivist) is to maintain the records of the Club. These include:

- secretarial (meeting papers: agendas, minutes, associated documents)
- secretarial (correspondence)
- financial (budgets, balance sheets, financial reports, etc.)
- newsletter (back issues)
- other: reports, proposals etc.

In 2017-18 Sandra Death combined the role of Historian with that of Assistant Secretary.

Principal Activities

Walks

AMPC is a club based on Thursdays. There are four or five Thursdays in a month, the first being allocated to the monthly general meeting and the second to the Committee meeting. Other Thursdays are for the Club's flagship activities. The fourth Thursday is one such, and that is filled by the monthly Walk. Usually about 25-40 go on the scheduled excursion. Often the strolls are not strenuous, but at other times it is tramping along bush tracks,

frequently with outstanding views along the way. All walks offer the chance to join fellow members for a while, and find out what their interests are. Walks are one of the best ways for fulfilling the social side of the Club's objectives, which is why they are as popular as they are. The Club is indebted to Laurie Keaton for his oversight of the walks over a number of years.

Laurie Keaton reported for the year as follows:



The walks activity provides a varied programme ranging from easy social walks to medium walks up to 8 km in distance. Where possible an easier option is provided for members who wish to enjoy the fellowship without undue effort. Members are advised of the distance and grading (where available) to ensure that only walks appropriate to physical capabilities are undertaken.

The walks group members are noted for their friendship and inclusivity of new members. Luncheon venues are chosen to minimise costs and allow further interaction between participants.

A feature in 2017 was the introduction of the historical walk of Hunters Hill. In 2018 a similar walk will take place from Rushcutters Bay to Centennial Park.

Noteworthy was one member, John Britten, who organised two walks – to Davistown and Tascott–Woy Woy. Sandy Potter, Paul Sorrell, Robert Montgomery and *Bulletin* editor Nick Speyer provided logistical support.

The President's occasional input on Aboriginal history was helpful, while wife, Margaret Steele, with

Robert Montgomery, assisted with information at the Olympic Archery Centre.

Monthly walks, and attendance

Mar	Watsons Bay–South Head	19
Apr	Hunters Hill	32
May	Tom Uren Walk Balmain	27
Jun	Woy Woy–Davistown	24
Jul	Zoo Wharf–Chowder Bay	19
Aug	Tascott –Woy Woy	24
Sep	Manly Hospital–North Hd	19
Oct	Meadowbank–Olympic Pk	18
Nov	Xmas BBQ Mt Kuring-Gai	34
Dec	No Activity	
Jan	McMahon's Pt– Lvndr Bay	16
Feb	Waverton–Ball's Head	19

AMPC Website

Many Probus clubs have websites, but so far not AMPC. When the question of a website had been mentioned in conversation at the start of the current Probus year, member since October 2016 Peter Olney expressed interest. A working party to look into the question was formed in June 2017, with Peter Olney (PO) taking a leading role.



PO set about researching existing sites, then developed a template/draft outline for the working party to consider.

Suggestions were made, but the concept was essentially his.

The website went 'live' in October 2017 in time for the Club's ninth birthday. It can be found from <<http://asquithmixedprobus.org.au>>, but typing 'Asquith Mixed Probus Club' into a search engine such as Google will bring it up.

The purpose of the website is to present all information about the Club in one place. So, on the website can be found the names of the Club's management team (the 'Committee'), the Club's Constitution, Standing Resolutions and Club Policies; an Events Calendar, Activities, practically all Club Bulletins issued, a Photo Gallery, and Probus South Pacific information ... and more.

The principal purpose of the website is to enable members to have everything about their club at their fingertips rather than hunting for information in unfindable emails, lost copies of the *Bulletin* and the like.

There are some privacy issues. Many Probus websites enable access to be gained to items including people's images or contact details only by using a password to provide access to a restricted area, a solution that may be implemented for the AMPC website.

The website is updated as new material comes to hand.

Finally, as a consequence of launching the website, there have been a few responses from people wishing to join this club.

Potluck Dinners

Potluck Dinners are a cordial way for members to get to know one another better. They are smaller group settings, with no agenda to follow. At the end of the year the groups are re-formed differently by the organisers, and it all begins again, with new opportunities of getting to know others. Sandra Death reported for the year as follows:

Four groups of eight people have met four times this year in various homes. Each person contributes

to the menu for the lunch or



evening meal, with the hosts providing the main course. The choice of courses is not known until the dinner commences, hence 'Pot Luck

Dinners'. The "dinner" can be any day or night of the week. Lots of laughter and excellent discussions take place around the table.

This is an excellent way to get to know your other members with wonderful friendships being formed through the year. Members bring their own drinks to the function.

Theatre

Rhonda Wilson reported for the year 2017-18 as follows:

It was another year of successful Theatre Parties offering a variety of shows catering for member's tastes and preference. I included shows which had appeal to those who wanted to take little ones along; *The Wizard of Oz* was an amazing production



It was also a busy Theatre Party year with numerous musical shows offered: *Bodyguard*, *Kinky Boots*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Mamma Mia*, *Muriel's Wedding*, *Beautiful*, *The Carole King Musical*. A group of members thoroughly enjoyed lunch prior to seeing a great production of *Shirley Valentine*, which played at the Laycock Theatre, Gosford.

A small group are having dinner and seeing *ABBA-solutely Fabulous* with Rhonda Birchmore at Hornsby RSL in March.

I have secured group bookings for performances later in 2018: *Evita*, *Book of Mormons* and *La Boheme Opera* on Sydney Harbour.

Throughout the year Probus members have been happy with productions, pricing and seating of all shows.

Snooker

John Channon reports on snooker sessions that have been held at his home over a number of years:

Since 2013, snooker evenings have been regularly held on the third Tuesday of the month starting at 7:30 pm at the Channon home at 143 King Road, Wahroonga. Generally, up to six people attended: Rhonda Wilson, Mary Potter, Sandra Death, Robert Montgomery, Indra Patel, Lance Williamson, Laurie Keaton and myself. There were no outstanding players but we had a lot of fun.



Owing to downsizing to a new home in June, it proved not possible to retain the full-size tournament table that had been in our family for over 80 years, and it had to be sold along with the

house. The last Snooker group meet occurred on 18 April 2017.

Fifth Thu. BBQs

AMPC is a club based primarily on recurring activities on Thursdays. For months in which five Thursdays occurred, in 2015 'Fifth Thursday Barbecues' were introduced. In 2016 and 2017 they were superintended by Lance Williamson. He reported:



There were four outings to the preferred location at Galston Park in March, June, August and November.

Galston offers a big weatherproof shed which, although draughty, is next to the parking area and toilets, and can take many more than the average attendance of 36 AMPC members.

Barbara W. usually baked cakes, and provided mulled wine, sangria, punch—and hot water for tea and coffee. Members bring their own food and drinks, plates, cutlery, cups, and afterwards the electric BBQs are always left clean.



Meeting members and enjoying each other's company is the purpose of the exercise, and a good time is had by all.

This friendly, social activity of the Club was initiated by members Barry and Heather Rooke.

Observers

Past-President Mary Potter reported on 'Observers at Committee Meetings':

For several years it has been the custom to invite a club member to attend the monthly committee as an observer. They do not have voting rights but are strongly encouraged to contribute to discussions. Attendance by a guest observer achieves a number of purposes:

- **Transparency:** it is important for the effective running of the club that all decisions are, and can be seen, as transparent, and in the best interests of members.
- **Fresh eyes:** someone unfamiliar with certain deliberations frequently brings a new perspective to discussions.
- **Fresh ears:** despite the availability of the suggestion box, some issues do not reach the members of the committee. Frequently the observer is able to communicate issues from the membership.
- **Demonstrates the committee** is not a clique but open to ideas and people.
- **Also provides the opportunity** for members who are possibly considering committee membership to gain some ideas of what is involved.

Invitations are extended by the Immediate Past President, frequently on the basis of who can be contacted. Members have freedom to indicate they would like to attend.

Observers during the year included Judy Paton, Sandy Potter, Ann Heaney, Elva Wagschall, Kaye Hatch and Lorice and Barry Gill.

Cluster 12

'Ambassador' John Channon reported as follows for 2017-18:

An initiative of the Probus governing body, Probus South Pacific Ltd, has been to form 'clusters' of Probus clubs in different areas. So it was that Probus Sydney North (District 9685) formed Cluster 12

comprising the following clubs:

Asquith & District Probus Inc. (M)
Asquith Mixed Probus Inc. (C)
 Barra Bruit Probus Inc. (M)
 Berowra District Mixed Probus Inc.
 Berowra Probus Inc. (C)
 Bobbin Head Probus Inc. (C)
 Hornsby Ladies Probus Inc.
 Hornsby Probus Inc. (C)
 Kissing Point Ladies Probus Inc.
 Ku-ring-gai Chase (Mixed) Probus Inc.
 Ku-ring-gai Ladies Probus Inc.
 Mount Colah Mixed Probus Inc.
 Mount Colah Probus Inc. (M)
 St Ives Ladies Probus Inc.
 St Ives Probus Inc. (C)
 Turramurra Probus Inc. (M)
 Wahroonga East Probus Inc. (M)
 Wahroonga Probus Inc. (M)
 Warrawee Probus Inc. (M).

The purpose of such clusters is 'to promote communication and



exchange of ideas, in the best interests of the Probus clubs in the Cluster, and Probus generally',

doing this by regular meetings of representatives, or 'ambassadors' of each participating club.

John Channon, as the AMPC ambassador, attended Cluster meetings, and became the link with PSPL and other clubs.

Other reports

Exchange table

Sunny Dougall reported for the year as follows:

After operating for a number of years, the book exchange table seems to be achieving what the original intention was – to provide books for members to read, and then return for others to read. It's pleasing too, that we have not experienced any shortage of books as the club members are keeping the table well stocked, with a good range and diversity of 'reads', which seem to turn over quite regularly.



I am impressed by the quality of authors that are available, and this was highlighted in notes in the February Bulletin. When you have

authors of the quality and diverse styles of Patricia Cornwall, Bryce Courtenay, Karen Slaughter, Jeffrey Archer, Di Morrissey, Michael Connolly and Danielle Steel – all of whom have at least one book presently on the table, then clearly these authors really do provide genuine quality reading. It also indicates the generosity of contributors within the club, for bringing quality books along to the table. For this I thank you.

There is also the opportunity for book readers to talk together around the table about new authors they have discovered – what they thought of a particular book – may I read that after you? –

what's this book like? – do you know this author's style of writing? – and so on.

My partner in this activity, Robert Montgomery, is also providing a range of jigsaw puzzles for both the beginner, and larger ones for the experienced 'puzzler'. Robert's selection can include the works of Charles Wysocki with his wonderful turn-of-the-century Americana scenes – the hilarious and confusing 'Wasgij' puzzles – and puzzles from the fine 'Ravensberg' collection. Certainly something for anyone who enjoys jigsaw puzzles.



Browsing the book exchange table

So thank you very much to the book and jigsaw contributors, clearly the table could not function without the books you have given. And, if you have not visited the book exchange table, then please do, and have a browse over the coming year.

Dolls for the Hospital

Sandra Death contributed the following account of AMPC's 'dolls for the hospital' project:

This activity was begun by Barbara Williamson on her own over seven years ago, when a conversation with a few ladies started what is now known at the 'dolls group'. They meet at Barbara's home on the second Wednesday of each month to socialise and to produce a remarkable item: the knitted doll. Among the volunteers are those who knit, members who fill the

dolls and sew the parts together, and others who make the faces and so complete the gift. During this period over 2000 of these knitted dolls have been donated to Westmead Children's Hospital for distribution to the children, who are very excited to receive one.



Thanks are due to these volunteers for their assistance and contributions that allow our Probus Club to maintain this enjoyable and worthy activity. One doll has a label to say where it came from.

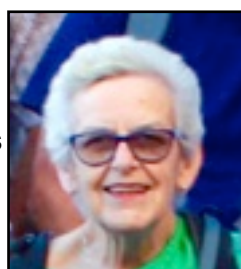


Movies & Craft

Judy Lafrenais provides benefits to AMPC members in two quite different ways, and has done since 2008:

arranging visits to the cinema, and cardmaking. Robin Roberts reports on these on behalf of Judy:

Movie mornings are held on the Monday after the general meeting. A selection of movies is suggested at the meeting, and members advise Judy if they are attending.



Members are not obliged all to see the same movie as other attendees, and can see one of their own choosing that is on offer at around the same time.

Cardmaking is held on the second Friday after the general meeting, at Judy's place. Judy has a notebook at the meeting in which members sign if they wish to attend; she also has a sample of the card that will be made on the evening. This enables Judy to organise all the materials needed for this fun social event. Cards will vary from birthday cards to Easter cards, as well as Christmas, Father's/Mother's Day and many other types of greetings. There is a small charge for the evening to cover the cost of the materials and a light supper.

No previous experience is required as Judy shows all the steps in producing a great card – all of which differ from each other. The reason for this depends entirely on how much laughter and joke-telling happens throughout the evening . . . people have been known to have some elements placed upside down on the card, but the result still looked good. And there is always the potential for members to start a hobby of their own.

Both the cardmaking and movies offer members additional opportunities to socialise at low cost.

Temora trip

Over 30 AMPC members went on a four-day trip, 31 March–3 April, an initiative of Angus Dougall, that focussed on the Temora Aviation Museum's flying day, staying at the Australian Homestead Motor Lodge at Gumly Gumly, just outside Wagga Wagga.

Highlights included the Temora Rural Museum, a showcase of the changing lifestyle of country Australia, and the actual flying display at the Temora Aviation Museum, featuring flights and planes, and volunteers to explain them. Also visited on the first day were the heritage village of Ariah Park, and Ardlethan.

The next morning included visits to Wollundry Grove Olives and a Licorice & Chocolate Factory in Junee. After lunch there was a tour of the Monte Cristo Homestead, said to be the most haunted house in Australia, and to the Junee Roundhouse Railway Museum.

In Jubilee Park in Cootamundra on the final day there was a 'Captains Walk', featuring 43 bronze sculptures of Australian test cricket captains, and afterwards a visit to Sir Donald Bradman's birthplace, now a museum.

This Riverina ramble had something of interest for all. The capable and friendly organising enterprise KTG Tours ensured everyone had a really good time away.



Don Bradman, legendary right-hand batsman, 52 tests 1929-48

Trivia

Club members attended two Trivia nights a month under the team name 'The AMPCs'. Attendance is open to all members but usually seven or eight members attend. Venues were Asquith Bowling Club on the second Wednesday of the month and Asquith Golf Club on the first Friday night of the month.

There has been much hilarity and enjoyment, particularly when

the team wins the evening, or a member wins the 'heads or tails' cash jackpot.

500 Card Game

The organiser of the 500 card game group, Mary Glasby, reports as follows for 2017-18:

This is the second year of our 500 club. We are a very friendly and casual group and would welcome any new members, whom I would be happy to teach. No experience is necessary.

It is held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Asquith Bowling Club at 10 am to around noon, and it is free.

Mahjong

Mah-jong was tentatively initiated in 2015-15 led by Anne Heaton and Sylvia Gratton. The current organiser, Yenda Holland, reports as follows for 2017-18:

Mah-jong can be played with either three or four players and, although luck is involved, it can become quite a strategic game. The mah-jong group, which has been playing for just over a year, includes five

stalwart players although on occasions eight or more people have turned up. We meet at 1.30 pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the Asquith Bowling Club.

We are discovering the rewards of playing 'special' hands, and are considering meeting every week to hone our skills. But do not let this put you off if you would like to join us. We are still in our infancy and analyse each other's hands when the game is over, to discuss strategy and suggest different options for play.

If anyone would care to join us they would be very welcome.

Philately

Although Richard Slater proposed a group for those interested in collecting, identifying or disposing of stamps, first day covers or other philatelic material, he has had no luck in forming such a group. But over the past couple of years he has had quite a few enquiries from members who have asked him to view their ancestors' stamps, to which he has happily responded.



FINANCIAL REPORTS

1 January – 31 December 2017

The Probus year runs from April one year to the end of March in the following year. AMPC follows this formula, running from a March AGM until the next March AGM. Because accounts have to be finalised before an AGM, the AMPC financial year has been decreed to be the

same as the calendar year. Consequently for this AMPC Annual Report 2017-18, the following AMPC Financial Report is for the year 1 January to 31 December 2017.

The Auditors have reported as follows:

Asquith Mixed Probus Club				
Inc No: 9890687				
P O Box 3140, Asquith, NSW 2077				
Balance Sheet				
As of December 2017				
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash On Hand				
Cheque Account	\$10,546.53			
Petty Cash	\$200.00			
Total Cash On Hand		\$10,746.53		
Investments				
Fixed Interest Investments	\$5,060.27			
Total Investments		\$5,060.27		
Total Current Assets			\$15,806.80	
Total Assets				\$15,806.80
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Guest Speakers Advance		\$100.00		
2017 Act Income in Advance				
Christmas lunch 2017	\$121.98			
Total 2017 Act Income in Advance		\$121.98		
Mamma Mia		\$560.00		
Mormons the Musical		\$120.00		
Warbirds Downunder		\$2,500.00		
Total Current Liabilities			\$3,401.98	
Total Liabilities				\$3,401.98
Net Assets				\$12,404.82
Equity				
Surplus/Deficit B/Fwd			\$10,528.48	
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)			\$1,876.34	
Total Equity				\$12,404.82

Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc No: 9890687 P O Box 3140, Asquith, NSW 2077 Profit & Loss Statement January 2017 To December 2017		
Income		
Membership Fees	\$7,902.00	
Visitors Fees	\$169.80	
Membership Fees in Advance	\$1,330.00	
New Member Fees	\$220.00	
Interest Received	\$116.09	
Total Income		\$9,737.89
Total		\$0.00
Gross Profit		\$9,737.89
General Expenses		
Bank Charges	\$170.76	
Office Expenses	(\$1,150)	
Filing and Incorporation Fees	\$44.00	
Guest Speaker Fees	\$225.00	
Other Expenses	\$300.95	
Pins, Badges, etc.	\$111.68	
Postage	\$246.90	
Printing and Stationery	\$209.11	
Probus Administration Fees	\$1,823.25	
Subscriptions	\$400.00	
Venue & Morning Tea costs.	\$5,140.00	
Telephone and Internet	\$45.00	
Website	\$144.90	
Welfare	\$150.00	
Total General Expenses		\$7,861.55
Operating Profit		\$1,876.34
Net Profit/(Loss)		\$1,876.34

ASQUITH MIXED PROBUS CLUB
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			CLUB FINANCIAL POSITION		
	2017	2016		2017	2016
	\$	\$		\$	\$
Income			Current Assets		
Membership fees	7,902	7,844	Cash at bank	10,547	6,723
Visitor and new member fees	390	145	Petty cash	200	200
Membership fees in advance	1,330	585			
Interest received	116	466	Total Cash	10,747	6,923
Total Income	9,738	9,040			
			Fixed Interest Investment	5,060	5,000
Less Expenditure			Total Investment	5,060	5,000
Bank charges	171	106.21	Total Current Assets	15,807	11,923
Office expenses	-1,150	1,319			
Filing and Incorporation fees	44	49			
Guest speakers expenses	225	125	Total Assets	15,807	11,923
Other expenses	301	275			
Pins, badges, etc	112	220			
Postage	247	262	Current Liabilities		
Printing and stationery	209	216	Unknown deposit		212
Probus annual admin fees	1,823	1,829	Excursion income in advance	3,302	1,951
Probus magazine	400	360	Guest speakers advance	100	
Venue and morning tea	5,140	2,586	Total Current Liabilities	3,402	2,163
Telephone and internet	45	0			
Website	145				
Welfare	150		Total Liabilities	3,402	2,163
Total Expenditure	7,862	7,345			
			Net Assets	12,405	9,760
Operating Deficit/Surplus					
for Year	1,876	1,695	Retained Earnings	12,405	9,760

Audit Verification of Asquith Mixed Probus Club.

I have examined the reports of AMPC as at 31/12/2017.

I found all reports true and correct representing the picture of where AMPC now stands financially.

I have viewed the Balance Sheet and it shows the Bank Account balance being \$10,546.53, Petty cash as \$200.00 and a term deposit of \$5,060.27 all totaling \$15,806.80 which is very healthy for AMPC. There are also retained earnings of \$12,404.82 All the above figures are as at 31/12/2017.

The Profit and Loss for December reflects all December transactions.

The bank reconciliation agrees with the above figure of \$10546.53.

I can find no errors in Yenda's figures and I note the sale of our PA system to Asquith Bowling Club has been correctly accounted for.

John Cole MIAA.



Legendary cricketer Victor Trumper, Waverley Cemetery



Visit to Female Orphan School, Rydalmere: Lance & Barbara Williamson. Margaret Steele

Delivering fables and foibles: serious business: Barry Willick



The Bendigo Bank, Berowra, printed this report, and has printed the *Bulletin* as a free community service since April 2009.

