



2014

Asquith Mixed Probus Club Inc

Annual Report

Presidents Report 2014/15

Annual General Meeting – 5 March 2015

Another year in the history of Asquith Mixed Probus Club has been written, and my hope is that all members have enjoyed their club year and that they have encountered real friendship, new acquaintances and have found the years activities to your liking.

Presidency of our club is indeed an honour, and I have been very privileged, firstly to have the opportunity to occupy this position, and secondly to have committee members who have been a pleasure to work with, and with whom we have managed to achieve real progress.

The club is now into its seventh year, and I had planned that several new initiatives could be put in place for the ongoing development and wellbeing of the club generally. During the year our 'Guest Observer' at committee meetings has proved useful as committee members have valued the views expressed by each months observer, and hopefully in turn took away a better understanding of the club's management. A 'Suggestion Box' has been introduced and is being used well with all comments discussed at committee meetings. Slight changes have also been made to 'Timing' of our monthly meeting, which has allowed members more time to find out about activities and then to enrol and pay for them.

Jeremy Steele, quoted me in the April 2014 Bulletin saying that – "I would like to have more of our members participate in the various and varied activities that we undertake". So, it is particularly pleasing to report that participation in our day activities, theatre groups, lunch outings and away trips for 2014 has increased over previous years.

The executive has planned and worked closely again this year and I do offer them all my thanks - to Mary Potter our erudite Vice President has presided admirably when I have been absent, to Laurie Keaton our other Vice President who ensures all our legal requirements are present and correct, and who does such a good job organising the walks program; to Barry Willick, our most capable and informed secretary, who doubles admirably as our membership officer; and to Vince Hughes who kindly accepted and has grown quickly in the treasurers role, the results of which can be seen in this Annual General Meeting Report.

Your committee has worked well together again this year, and my thanks go to Kerry Bower who accepted the activities position at short notice and who has laid out an interesting and varied program with her assistant Jane Platts ; to Jeremy Steele who has given us an absorbing and fun filled Bulletin; to Denise Mayhew who has shown such care and compassion for those who have been unwell; to Barbara Williamson providing welcoming hospitality at meetings and well planned, sumptuous annual lunches; to Sandra Death who has accommodated both the assistant secretary role as well as being our historian; to Richard Slater for locating and arranging a fine varied group of speakers for our entertainment and information; and once again, my thanks to Phyllis Davies our assistant treasurer whose accurate financial assistance at our meetings in receiving funds, with husband Bill, has proved invaluable.

I am sure the incoming President will receive the same wonderful level of support the committee and club members have shown me this year, and I wish the club all good fortune and success into the future.

Angus Dougall, President
2 February, 2015

Outings Report

Many thanks to all who organised the outings and trips in 2014.

Our Year started with a nice day for Fish and Chips at the Marina in Brooklyn and it was so popular we are going again in March.

The three coach trips in the first half of the year were very enjoyable. In February we went to The Norman Lindsay Gallery and the Mountains, April to Morpeth and in June to the Wivenhoe Historical house.

In between we did a tour of the Opera House in March and a big group went on the Reserve Bank Currency tour in May. Again we had our Christmas in July at the Waterview at Berowra, 50 people attended and a very merry day was had by all. Unfortunately our bus trip in August to The Fair Ground Follies was cancelled due to lack of numbers. This was disappointing for the 30 who had their names down to attend.

A big group went to Kimbriki Tip for a recycle tour in September.

Again we had our 6th Birthday Celebration on the 16th October. We all appreciate the work the volunteers did to make this a great day.

The bus trip in October had to be cancelled but, at short notice, 30 people had a lovely day out to Danger Island and lunch.

The Christmas party is our most popular event and again, thanks to Barbara and her helpers for making this event so successful.

Hope to see you all out and about at our trips and outings this year.

Kerry Bower

Dining Out Report

The purpose of the Dining Out group is to enjoy a reasonably priced meal along with good company. Efforts are made to have a mixture of Asian and European meals, and to include both lunches and dinners.

Restaurants visited this past year include The Emperor's Table at North Ryde RSL for yum cha, the Ambassador Restaurant at Ryde Tafe (always a success), Brewhaha in Hornsby, and the Apprentice Restaurant at Ultimo Tafe. The year concluded with a very satisfying banquet at The Sultan's Table, Enmore.

We are indebted to Stuart at Brewhaha for providing a great meal at a very reasonable price. Other highlights of that evening were illustrated talks given by Stuart on "Round the Bend on the Isle of Man" (motor cycle racing) and President Angus speaking on a "Tragic Italian Love Affair" (an excuse to talk about cars!).

Mary Potter

Club Speakers Report

Our guest speakers for the year were very interesting and entertaining. There were no issues and our members showed their appreciation after each speaker. Each speaker answered all questions from the floor to the satisfaction of our members. There were occasions when time was short, but speakers were still able to finish each talk to a successful conclusion.

Speaker's topics ranged from historical subjects such as Broken Hill and the Harbour Bridge, to cameras, WWI convoy, Dangar Island and of course Horrie the Wog Dog delivered by our own Laurie Keaton.

There were no difficulties in obtaining new speakers. Speakers who had attended on previous occasions had no problems on other subjects, or variations on their previous subjects. The aim is always to strike a balance on subject matter, which at times can be difficult.

Regarding 2015, the only vacant months at this stage are October and November, but there are speaker options available.

Richard Slater

Theatre Party Report

Theatre Parties have had quite an active couple of years.

On an average, we have attended 1 Theatre Party per 2 months. Unfortunately having no control over dates some have been almost back – to back, whilst a small gap between others.

The Russian Ballet, Don Quixote proved quite popular as was the Glen Miller Orchestra, King & I, South Pacific and Wicked. Grease and Strictly Ballroom had our members toe tapping along with the music.

Snow White Winter Family Musical was a fantastic surprise package and was a show for young and old. I have booked another show on a similar line, Aladdin And His Wondrous Lamp which may be cancelled due to lack of numbers.

The rain did not dampen the enthusiasm and enjoyment of our members who saw the Messiah at Waitara prior to Christmas.

Coming up this year is Les Miserables, Anything Goes, whilst Matilda is booked for January 2016 allowing us to take our little ones along. As well as price increases and seat allocations, the main difficulty in taking bookings is that our members do not remember if they have put their name down, or put their name down twice and members putting someone else's name down. Members should be encouraged to always have a diary when at any of our booking desks.

Looking forward to another successful year,

Rhonda Wilson

Treasurers Report

Our honorary auditor – The Abby Practice have provided Audit Certification for The Asquith Mixed Probus Club accounts for the year ended 31st December 2014 as well as final audited financial report.

This certification and the financial figures are included in this Treasurers Report.

As a recently appointed Treasurer, I would like to express my appreciation to those who before me have managed the Club's finances in such a way that we currently meet the financial guidelines recommended by Probus South Pacific.

I would, in particular, like to record my appreciation of the support and guidance given to me by Angus Dougall who in addition to his duties as Club President has been always available to introduce me into the mysteries of MYOB and the reconciliation of bank accounts.

I will certainly miss the services of Assistant Treasurer Phyllis Davies who has so efficiently looked after the payments desk for many years. In the last few months I have truly appreciated the accurate and concise reports of monthly receipts she has provided. Thank you Phyllis.

Vince Hughes

Interest Groups

BBQ Lunches: This new initiative suggested by Kerry Bower has been taken up by Barry Rooke and will commence in April this year. Watch the bulletin for details.

Contact Barry Rooke 9489 8630

Craft: A small group of card makers meet at Judy's home on the 2nd Friday at 7.30pm, learning the art of card making over a cuppa, or just come along to socialise.

Contact Judy on 9987 4090

Dining: There are a group of members that meet every couple of months in a variety of restaurants, to experience different food choices and enjoy the company of the other diners. See Mary's Report. All members are welcome just watch the news sheet for details.

Contact - We are looking for someone to take this on.

Movies: Movie enthusiasts meet on the Monday following our club meeting, to see a selected movie. We have also attended senior's morning tea and movie when Greater Union have held them.

Contact Judy on 9987 4090

Pot-Luck Dining Groups: This year we have been able to add an extra group and it is hoped to have more members join in this coming year. We have had 4 groups of 8 people and 1 group of 7 meeting 4 times a year in various homes. Each person contributes to the food and drink for the lunch or evening meal, with the hosts providing the main course. This is another good way to get to know your other members better.

Contact Barry 9653 2285 or Sandra on 0403 073 667

Snooker: Is held in John Channon's home on the 3rd Tuesday each month when a small number join together for a fun evening. He is always looking for more players or spectators.

Contact John on 9489 6269

Theatre: Rhonda has arranged tickets for a number of varied shows this year including the Premiers Gala Concerts in March. See Rhonda's report for further details.

Contact Rhonda on 9482 5727

Walking Group: The monthly walks have been well attended this year thanks to some interesting walks. We have had a number of members who cannot walk far and they have been able to join the walkers for lunch at a number of venues.

Contact Laurie on 9457 7061

Welfare: Is a very important activity in our club, and has been looked after by Denise Mayhew in an extremely caring way. Denise is very faithful in her follow up of our sick members. Another aspect that she has started is ringing members on their birthday. Many thanks Denise for all you do.

Contact Denise Mayhew 9477 2779

The committee is very grateful to those who have given of their time to arrange each of these interest groups and to all those who have active roles in the club. Keep up the good work as it makes this club one that people are keen to join. If you are not involved in any of these groups, why not give some thought to joining in with your fellow members.

I would like to thank our President Angus for the very active role he played this last year. He has had to look for a couple of replacements for two positions on the committee this year. Our activity groups have had a couple of changes and with Jan and then Anne stepping down from their roles our thanks go to Kerry and Jane for stepping up to fill this important position. Vince kindly offered to take over the treasurer's role and seems to have got a handle on the job in quick time.

I would like to thank all who have served on the committee this last year. It has been a very active committee.

The President has covered the thanks to other's on the committee.

Barry Willick
Secretary

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