

President's Report

The Club has completed another extensive and varied program of meetings, visits and social occasions since the last AGM. Our Bridge players are the most active group with over 30 sessions held in the salubrious clubrooms of the Victoria Golf Club. At the other end of the frequency scale, our Bowls experts participated in the annual Probus Association competition and facilitated a fun social evening for all abilities in early summer. Our other ten Activity Groups all held regular events throughout the year. Thank you to all Group Leaders for your enthusiasm and organizational abilities to make it happen.

Our major social functions were very well attended. The Club 30th Anniversary was celebrated at the midwinter Candlelight Dinner. Foundation members Alan Avery, John Brimage, Merv Davidson and Bob Matthews reminisced about the early days and an archived photos slide show followed. Our summer gourmet lunch outing this year was a ferry ride to the Bellarine Peninsula for lunch at Jack Rabbit restaurant after wine tasting at Scotchman's Hill. Regular Tastes dinners continued to be popular and our traditional Christmas lunch and Croquet competition plus spit roast BBQ dinner rounded out a full social program shared by partners and guests. Thank you retiring Functions Coordinator, John Beaty for being our chief mover and shaker of day visits, sporting and formal social events, ably assisted by John Green. Also thank you Alan Stevens for managing the Tastes events.

Probus' defining activity is the monthly meeting when we all come together for fellowship and to hear keynote and 10-minute speakers on a variety of topics. Including the World Economic Issues speakers, 9 of the 14 who addressed us are Bayside residents and all contributed to improving our understanding and knowledge of society. Our members' wide range of interests were ably demonstrated in their 10-minute talks.

A big thank you to Phil Stewart for his major monthly effort in assisting speakers to prepare their PowerPoint presentations, projecting them at meetings as well preparing excellent promos for forthcoming Club events. Thanks also to Geoff Wade and his team for facilitating our meetings and lunches, reporting and videoing the talks and liaising with venue management.

A significant change occurred in January this year when we moved our

meeting venue from the Sandringham Club to the just completed Beaumaris Sports Club at Banksia reserve. The first-floor rooms provide a tailor-made venue for our meetings with the additional benefit of being on home turf again in Beaumaris after five years exile in Hampton.

The Club is very fortunate to have second-to-none editors and tech-savvy communicators in Peter McGregor and Geoff Bransbury, responsible for the

monthly newsletter and website respectively. Our communications are fully digital, current and comprehensive. Members are now able to register on-line for visits and functions. Thank you, Peter and Geoff, for your major contributions.

During the year we welcomed seven new members: Ian Henderson, Gary Larkin, Andrew Mann, Kevin Reed, Chris Renwick, Stan Phillips and Bob Wigg. Three members: Geoff Goodwin, Andy Watson (Life member) and Alan Williams passed away. Taking into account resignations at the year-end, our membership is steady at around 125. Thanks to Peter Flude our Membership secretary for behind-the-scenes admin work. We need at least 10 new members each year to ensure our Club is sustainable. We rely on members for nominations.

A club health survey recommended by Probus South Pacific was conducted during the year. Overall, there was high satisfaction with our activities and governance. A detailed risk analysis of our various activities and responsibilities to mitigate potentially unsafe practices were developed following the survey. The Committee approved Criteria for Life Membership nomination late in the year leading to conferring this highest honour the club can award on Noel Ineson and Geoff Wade at our February meeting.

Finally, thank you to all Committee members for their support and dedication to their roles throughout the year, particularly to Geoff Carlson our Treasurer for his impeccable handling of our finances and John Smyth our Secretary, with assistance from Alan Stevens, for Club and Committee administration and liaison with Probus South Pacific. John Green retires from the Committee after four years service and John Beaty after one year. I hand over the chain of office to Roger Wilson and wish him a rewarding and successful year as President.

Ken Beadle March 2018