



THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE Inc

'The Young, Friendly, Fun Club'

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

Club Website: www.valentineprobus.au2.com

The official publication of the Men's Probus Club of Valentine Inc.

Private and confidential for Probus use only and no other purpose

The Club meets in [The Tingira Community Church at 13 Neridah Road Belmont North](#)

4th Monday of each month at 10 am

NEXT MEETING - 28 JUNE -

APOLOGIES to Robert Rae

on 0411 141 823

and our **SPEAKER** is Alan McLean.

Alan is presenting -

40 Years in the Caravan Industry in the Hunter

If you missed the video shown prior to our last meeting and you would like to view it, then click on the picture (arrow) and listen. If the arrow does not appear go to Youtube and type in 'face on coffee foam'.

Un p'tit cafe au japon111.mp4



Our Guest Speakers in March were Eden MacNeil and Georgia Amess from Hunter Rehabilitation and Health presenting Falls Prevention, Osteoporosis, Arthritis and Joint Replacements in relation to exercise.

Robert Rae was kind enough to provide a snap shot of their presentation for those who could not attend and for those attending to have a refresher on what we should be doing.

Eden MacNeill and Georgia Amess Exercise Physiologists

Eden and Georgia are with **Hunter Rehabilitation and Health** who specialise in Injuries and Chronic Conditions. The company have offices in Waratah and Raymond Terrace.

They outlined their roles as Exercise Physiologists as: -

- Prescribing an exercise routine to prevent falls.
- Prescribing exercise as a form of medicine.
- Promoting exercise to help with Diabetes, Joint Problems, Chronic Pain, Cancer, Osteoporosis, Heart and Lung issues, and Strokes.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

WALKING GROUP -

Meets every Wednesday morning

GENTLEMEN'S LUNCH -

First Monday of every month

LIFE OF RILEY TOUR TO JINDABYNE -

From Sunday 24 October '21 to

Friday 29 October '21

CHRISTMAS LUNCH -

Booked for 14 December 2021

Continued

They gave the statistic one in three people over 65 can expect to have a fall. Several members mentioned they have had a fall. Eden spoke about the exercises they promote to improve your flexibility, hence your balance so reducing the occurrence of falls.

Dynamic balance exercises can reduce the possibility of a fall. To illustrate this, we were invited to participate in activities to improve our balance. We were asked to stand behind our chairs and lift our left leg then our right leg for 5 times each leg. We were also asked to stand behind our chairs and lift our heels up several times. These techniques improve balance. Members were also asked to sit on their chairs, then to stand up and sit down several times without holding onto the chair arms. These exercises help our balance when walking up and down steps on unfamiliar or uneven surfaces. These dynamic exercises improve our flexibility which helps our balance.

Eden and Georgia spoke about Osteoporosis, which is the result of thinning or weakening of the bone structure. Small bumps or knocks can lead to fractures. Unfortunately, 20% of seniors over 65 will develop Osteoporosis. Exercise encourages a load on the bones, thereby strengthening the bone structure. Exercise such as walking up and down stairs, sitting up and down on a chair, also push-ups on the kitchen bench or on the floor are load-bearing exercises. These exercises strengthen the muscles by loading the muscles and not the joints. Patients are encouraged to use these exercises before and after joint replacement therapy. This improves the outcome of the surgery and promotes a quicker recovery.

Continued

The presentation generated many questions from the Members.

Some photos of the presentation are below.



Presidents Message:

It is with great sadness that we have lost Alan Beard. An article on Alan's achievements appeared in the Newcastle Herald on 28 May, you can read the article later in this newsletter.

Alan was a foundation member of the club and contributed a great deal to the organisation and operation of the club. Not only was he involved in the committee, he organised with the assistance of Laurie, trips away, Melbourne Cup Days, our Gentlemen's Lunch and the Gentlemen's Jottings in the COVID lockdown.

In a conversation with Alan a couple of months ago he asked if he could read a

Continued

letter he received from the USA about COVID-19. More on this later in the newsletter.

When I joined the club Alan always was one of the members who welcomed me and engaged me in conversation.

It was a pleasure to induct John Adlington and Trevor Platts into our club. I'm sure you both will enjoy the fellowship and friendship of our members.

One of our founding members, Alan Carter, was awarded an OAM on The Queen's Birthday weekend, congratulations and well deserved.

Our gentlemen's lunch this month at Jewells Tavern was a great success with 19 members attending. The meals at the Tavern are value for money.

Our monthly coffee walk was enjoyed by all strolling along the foreshore and surrounding area of Murray's Beach. The tranquil water of the lake and the tall gums with the underlining greenery of the grass and shrubbery were very pleasant, combined with good company and coffee, who could ask for more! Yes, we sampled coffee and cake at Murray's Restaurant and Cafe and as Robert Rae was in our company we wished him a happy birthday.

Once again thank you to those who have contributed to our newsletter.

Don't forget we are commencing our sausage sizzle this coming meeting.

Take care and be safe until next time.

Trevor

GREATER BANK. *Payments to the Club*
Details for making payment either on-line or at a branch.

BSB 637-000 and

Account no. 780356294 and

(record your 'surname' + one word as a brief reference covering the purpose) e.g. "FEES"

Readers Corner

No requests for books this month at the time of collating the newsletter and no takers on managing our book collection.

Have a look on our website (located under the tab 'Special Interest Groups') and choose one and let 'Trevor Brown' know and it will be available to you next meeting.

A couple you might be interested in are:

1. Six Years by Harlan Coben
A life built on lies. A truth that could kill.
A number 1 best seller
2. The Race by Clive Cussler and Justin Scott.
An Isaac Bell Adventure.

Feel free to bring along your books. They will be quarantined for a fortnight before being available.

Share with a Friend

Don't forget to send our newsletter on to a friend or direct them to our website :

<http://www.valentineprobus.au2.com/>

Encourage your friends to come to our meetings. We have great Guest Speakers.

This is the newspaper article mentioned in the Presidents Message.

I'd like to thank Bill Davidson for providing the article.



LOOP THE LAKE: Alan Beard was instrumental in starting the popular Lake Macquarie cycling event.

Alan Beard: a teacher and a leader

OBITUARY

BY VIC LEVI

ALAN Beard OAM, who overcame polio to become one of the Hunter Region's top educators, died on Monday aged 88.

Mr Beard contracted the disease at the age of 14, missed a year of high school and was left with a severely affected right leg. Despite his disability, he became a prefect at Fort St Boys High School and won a teaching scholarship and University Exhibition to Sydney University where he graduated with a BSc and diploma of education.

After 10 years teaching high school maths and science, he began a leading role in educational management, becoming Assistant Director of Education in the Hunter Region. In 1981, he became the Director of the Hunter

Region, moving later to the position of NSW Assistant Director-General of Education.

He became widely recognized for his role in the development of the Marching Koala marching band and the performing arts in Hunter schools. He also introduced the Japanese language as a subject in NSW and set up the "sister schools" system.

But he was probably best known for his role in the development of social cycling and his work in Rotary and Probus. After years of being involved in the RTA's Big Ride cycling event, he was instrumental in starting the popular "Loop the Lake" cycling classic in Lake Macquarie which attracts thousands of participants each year.

A former President of Warners Bay Rotary Club and club member for more than 20 years, he was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship,

the highest Rotary award at club level. Ironically, it was the Rotary movement which played a major role in eliminating polio world-wide.

During his teaching days, Mr Beard was posted to Kempsey where he was also involved in staging and singing in musicals. By another quirk of fate, his son David is now teaching maths at the same Kempsey school and was given the same desk as the one used by his father 53 years ago.

Mr Beard was a keen sailor on Lake Macquarie and, in later years, was a marriage celebrant.

He is survived by his wife Laurie, his four children Greg, Deborah, David and James, eight grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

The funeral will be held on Friday at 2pm at Lake Macquarie Memorial Park, Ryhope.

Last month it was mentioned that I should be more 'cryptic'. So try this one:

Cryptic Crossword - Thursday, May 27 - Printable

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	1	2		3		4		5		6	
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8						9					
10								11			
12				13			14			15	
						16					
17		18				19		20			
21								22			
		23									

Across

- 1 It's one live form of broadcasting (10)
- 8 Put up with the Italian in bar (5)
- 9 A lot more complicated musical effect (7)
- 10 A fisherman's actual profit? (3,4)
- 11 Factor eliminated by direct dealing (5)
- 12 Strip - of sheepskin (6)
- 14 Here indeed is one man of genius (6)
- 17 Old woman is little credit to one (5)
- 19 One bill inside another one gets bacteria (7)
- 21 A short month on a Roman road for Antony's wife (7)
- 22 Stick in a sculptor as the answer (5)
- 23 Together they may make a catch (3,3,4)

Down

- 2 Unusual spite shown to the French in a letter (7)
- 3 What's more, he gets no credit (5)
- 4 Feel at home with nurse so propose (6)
- 5 I'd learn about part of the British Isles (7)
- 6 A ring in the nose for a halter (5)
- 7 Satisfied I raise no argument (10)
- 8 He does well with his money (10)
- 13 United yet divided (7)
- 15 A land is devastated by a Moslem warrior (7)
- 16 Get on a bit perhaps (6)
- 18 External route maybe (5)
- 20 Strain of the present day (5)

Last months crossword answers:



Energy and Seniors Card

An email was received from Seniors Card explaining a partnership with Energy Australia. You may like to investigate whether it would be beneficial for you to take action.

In my case the benefits were:

- three tier rate that I am paying all reduced
- Daily Service Charge reduced
- \$50 credit to my account
- 27% discount guaranteed for 12 months
- No increases for 12 months
- No lock in contract.

Log into energyaustralia.com.au/nsw-seniors and follow instructions or ring the number listed and talk to an operator.

As mentioned in the President's Message Alan asked if he could read a letter received from the USA. As the newsletters are on our website they can be viewed by the 'world' and in this regard I have replaced the names. Laurie has provided some background:

The Youth Exchange Program brought students to Australia for twelve months, staying with four different Warners Bay Rotary Club families for three months each. They participated in family life, attended Warners Bay High School with our children, and schooled us on their life in their home country. In return, a local student was sponsored each year to travel to a country, decided by the Youth Exchange central committee.

Over eleven years, Alan and I hosted students from USA, Canada, Japan, England, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Belgium and Germany. It was a great learning time for our children, in their teens, as well as ourselves, and we were privileged to meet and have a homestay with many of them when we travelled. We also hosted them in our home.

The students parents visited us while she was in our care during winter 1991. We were able to visit them at home in Pennsylvania when we travelled abroad in 1993. The student is now married and has two darling boys. We saw them in Newcastle about two years ago.

As I was talking to Alan about COVID-19 I have only included that content from the letter and it read as follows:

HELLO

Happy 2021! As I write this letter today - 6 January 2021 - *continued on next page*

Continued

What a year to reflect on ... We started 2020 with plans to meet our friends from Australia and Colorado in Mexico in the middle of July. On March 3 we booked our tickets out of Philly. Ten quick days later, the U.S. had basically shut down. My husband and I were both told to work from home indefinitely, and the school buildings were closed (we found out about school 15 minutes before we were leaving to drop the kids off on March 13!).

We quickly adjusted to working from home - which usually features video meetings for 4 -5+hours a day, longer hours than usual, and doing it all while two kids are “sort of” doing school work (in kindergarten and third grade, we don’t expect much!). Although we are working in the same house, some days we don’t see each other until dinner. But we are grateful that we both have jobs at organisations that are led by capable people who have managed to keep things going in these “unprecedented” times.

Although we still live in Philadelphia, we have enjoyed spending time at the holiday house on the Chesapeake Bay, about 90 minutes away, once a month or so. The house is secluded, and there is space to roam in the woods, hang out on the beach and enjoy a change of scenery. In May we finally got WiFi there, enabling us to work; and over the summer my father-in-law finished the patio that he’d been planning for a year, offering us extra space for relaxing. We spent Thanksgiving there and put up a Christmas tree, both for the first time.

In May my parents moved to Kutztown, where I went to college, just about 30 minutes from where we lived when I was in high school. My brother and his wife put an apartment into the basement of their beautiful home, and mum & dad moved in over Mother’s Day weekend. It has been a great relief to know they are with family during these days of separation.

In August we knew the kids were not heading back to in-person school, we formed a learning pod with two other families. We have 6 kids among us - 3 first graders, 1 third grader and 2 fourth graders - and we hired a teacher who ensures they are all signed on to their virtual classes and get their work done. We feel so blessed to have her and this new “extended family” in our lives.

Despite the hard times, we had many bright lights this past year. In early 2020 I was wondering how I could have more time at home and with my kids. I achieved that goal! It has been a relief to skip the daily commute, and good to spend time finding fun things to do at home and in the neighbourhood with the boys. Our youngest learnt to ride a bike in the first 2 weeks of lockdown and at age 6 has become a very strong reader. Our 9 year olds love of books skyrocketed thanks to the Hunger Games trilogy, which he devoured in just a couple of weeks! He is a budding chef and he played in a soccer travel league which we could not have managed if we were working away from home.

Probus Insurance Update

A partnership with Allianz has recently been agreed. Over the coming months a comprehensive website will be developed for insurance options. Further developments will be advised as they become available.

Laurie sent me a note on hosting their first exchange student and how the student fitted into their family while staying. I have changed the girls name to 'Student'.

I know some of our members have hosted exchange students and no doubt Laurie's experience expressed below will bring back some memories and hopefully happy ones, enjoy:

STUDENT

"I will call you Mamasan" said Student, on our first meeting. This delightful 18 year old Japanese girl had come to stay with us as part of Youth Exchange and my boys, 14 and 17 and were very impressed. "But I'd like to have a nickname," she said, "can you think of one for me?" The family settled on Tommy, since Student was a bit fancy they said, and she was really pleased with that.

The Rotary program allowed for the student to be shared between four families over a whole year, the premise being that we should treat her as one of our own children. My eldest son was working in WA at the time, my daughter, 20 was at Uni, the two boys at High School, which Student also attended while she was here. We were Student's second Australian family, and during the three months she lived with us, we came to love her as our own.

Student came from a high class family. It was not so easy at the beginning, since her first host parents, who had not hosted students before, had treated her as an important visitor, giving up their own bedroom for her, thinking it appropriate. When she came to our household Student soon learned what it was like to live with a busy family. Our children were committed to their three different sports, training on different afternoons. On Saturdays it was a juggling game for us to drive in different directions between Swansea, Toronto and Newcastle to deliver them in time for a match.

This Japanese girl settled easily into our household, but on her first Saturday morning with us, while I was rushing about the kitchen, she emerged from her room and announced she was ready for me to drive her to Kotara. I quickly explained about our sporting Saturdays, while watching the clock and finding the schedule had us at Swansea and Belmont first thing. I replied that I couldn't do that this morning, but would really like her to come and watch the games with us, as part of our family. It was a new experience for her and Student gradually learned the rules of hockey, soccer and Aussie Rules, cheering them on each week. She really became another daughter in our house.

As we soaked up some of the Japanese culture, almost without knowing it, I could see how fortunate we were to have Student as part of our family, if only briefly. When I think of the things that impressed *her* during her stay, She loved her day at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney. The horse events in the ring were her favourite, confiding that horses were not seen in her part of Japan **. One thing of significance to her was our Anzac Day commemoration, since Japanese were forbidden to raise army after WW2. We had long discussions about the war .

Continued

But the funniest incident in our eyes happened near the end of her stay with us. Student was chummy with the girls at school and impressed with their curly hair, compared to her own, beautiful shiny long, straight black hair. She talked to me about having her hair permed : what was it like? How did they do it? How long did it take? I discouraged her thoughts about having curly hair herself, as she was a very attractive girl and I couldn't imagine anything but her natural look. But she was determined, knowing it would grow out before it was time to go home to Japan. Her friends at school told her about a favourite hairdresser in town that I didn't know at all. They gave her a lift after sport one afternoon, arranging for me to collect her late in the day when she was ready.

The traffic was heavy that afternoon as I drove down Hunter Street, but soon found the corner where Student stood waiting. I tried not to show my complete shock as she climbed into the car. All I could see was this great frizzy mop standing out from her head and the most anxious look on her face, almost in tears. She pulled the door closed and spoke as I drove away:

"I don't want to go home," she said in a regretful voice. "I know what your son will say!" I could only watch the road ahead and kept repeating "Student . . Student," and finally " It'll be alright. We'll make it so." And we found ourselves laughing before we reached home. For school we tied this great mass of crinkly hair into two bunches, which didn't look quite so bad; but the boys did tease.

Married now with three sons of her own, I was privileged to attend Student's wedding in Japan. But that's another story.

BEST LAWYER STORY OF THE YEAR

A lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against, among other things, Fire.

Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost 'in a series of small fires.'

The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion.

The lawyer sued and WON!

Delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable 'fire' and was

Continued

obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars that perished in the 'fires'.

NOW FOR THE BEST PART...

After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of ARSON! With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

ONLY IN AMERICA

Travel Time - Trip organised by your President's wife, Eliza

Thinking of a few days away? Well three couples travelled to Mudgee to enjoy the country landscape, history of the region, good food, wine and company. We all drove separately, no back seat drivers!

Eliza and I travelled to Denman and strolled the quaint street and enjoyed coffee and cake at a little cafe. Our journey to Mudgee took us through Kerrabee, Bylong and down through some picturesque scenery towards Rylstone before taking a right to Mudgee.

Staying at Peppertree Terraces Mudgee provided comfortable self contained accommodation and an easy walk to the town centre (walked out of the accommodation and two shops up was a cafe with some enjoyable treats).

The brochure for our accommodation stated 'well appointed with some extra surprises'. One couple over the stay had three extra surprises (ie mice) and we had one. In saying that there were complimentary chips, nuts and chocolates.

We visited the historic town of Gulgong. The Holtermann Museum established in 2019 is very worthwhile. It is all digitised and you can view numerous photos taken on glass plates back in the 1800's. Some of these photos have been increased in size without any distortion. We were hoping to look through the Henry Lawson Museum but it closed at 1pm and we missed out. The township of Gulgong is rich in history.

Whilst in Mudgee we did look through their museum which is also steeped in history. The township itself has a good feel. Of course there was some retail shopping by our wives.

Continued

During our stay the weather was not kind as the maximum was 5 degrees and raining. On the Thursday there was snow some 30 kilometres from Mudgee.

The weather did not deter us and when it became too uncomfortable we found an establishment with an open fire and sampled some of the local cuisine and grape juice.

At 5 o'clock we gathered in one of the units for 'happy hour' and a chat about our various activities for that day, then later venturing out to some local eateries. We found the Oriental Hotel the best value for money and the menu extensive and of good quality. An Italian meal at Isabella's was also enjoyed.

As all good things come to an end we headed off home. We drove a different route home and headed north through Ulan, Cassilis and on to Merriwa. The cafe we stopped at had full tables and a long queue waiting to be served. After taking in the sights of Merriwa we decided to drive onto Denman through Gungal. Again enjoying some lunch at Denman we headed home via Mortels at Thornton (more retail shopping!!).

If you have any stories to tell please email - probusnews2280@gmail.com

Vacancies on the Committee

The year of vacancies!!!

Firstly I would like to thank:

- Roger for taking over the Programs Role,
- John Benson stepping up to Events Coordinator and
- John McGrath taking on Assistant Events Coordinator

Vacances have been reduced to:

- Welfare/Attendance
- Newsletter
- Roving
- Book Exchange as a Support Officer (non committee member)

Nobody has as yet volunteered for the Book Exchange.

Maybe someone is looking to be more

Continued

involved. A good way to meet everyone is taking on the role of Welfare/Attendance.

A description of the Welfare role as outlined in the Probus Club Handbook is below.

There is plenty of support from committee members in this role.

Welfare Officer

The role of the Welfare Officer is to keep in touch with sick or bereaved members or those members feeling isolated or lonely or who may be in need of moral support or physical help.

The Officer should:

1. Send cards with appropriate messages to sick or bereaved members.
2. Advise the Committee if support is needed, either by member visits or transport to meetings.
3. Consider non-active membership for those with long term illnesses.
4. Ensure that the member is kept up-to-date on Club matters.

Movie Time

Are you looking for inspiration and determination, then look no further than the movie '7 Yards'.

This movie is based on a true story/documentary of Chris Norton who against incredible odds strives to take his life back. It was made in 2021.

Chris Norton and his wife Emily and Chris' parents Mike and Deb are in the cast.

The movie is on Netflix or DVD can be purchased .

Committee Members 2021

President:	Trevor Brown	4946 9119
Vice President:	Geoff Black	4972 2143
General Secretary:	Robert Rae	4946 8792
Membership Secretary:	Alan Carter	0411 425 668
Assistant Secretary:	Bruce Helman	4946 7974
Treasurer:	Brian Sullivan	4946 1153
Events Coordinator:	John Benson	4948 1339
Asst. Events Coord:	John McGrath	4946 7460
Program Officer:	Roger Wakefield	4954 4373
Newsletter:	Vacant	
Webmaster:	Alan Carter	0411 425 668
Welfare/Attendance	Vacant	
Historian:	Kevin Hepplewhite	4946 7775
Roving:	Kevin Hepplewhite	4946 7775
Roving:	Vacant	
Support Officers - appointed by the Committee		
Public Officer:	Brian Sullivan	4946 1153
Book Exchange:	Vacant	
Morning Tea Coord:	Ron Tooney	4958 7910
Walking Group Coord:	Ron Tooney	4958 7910
Computer Support:	Alan Carter	0411 425 668
BBQ Coord:	Austin Greener	4946 9192

A Touch of Nostalgia

On our Wednesday walks a lot of topics are discussed and include but not limited to travel, COVID-19, current affairs, activities and the list goes on.

I was walking with Ken Watt and the conversation came around to the newsletter. Ken mentioned to me he had the first newsletter issued by the club. I asked if I could have a copy and include it in our next newsletter.

For our founding members I would imagine it will bring back a lot of good memories and the efforts by those who established the club.

For our later members it will provide an insight of how the club was formed and the organisation and people involved in the establishment of the club.

DON'T STOP READING

TURN TO THE NEXT

TWO PAGES AND

READ THE CLUB'S

FIRST NEWSLETTER

**Hope you have
enjoyed this edition.**

The Men's Probus Club of Valentine NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the Men's Probus Club of Valentine Inc.

VOLUME 1

January 2003

NUMBER 1

The Club meets at the Valentine Bowling Club on the last Monday of each month at 10 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S BIT

My warmest welcome to you all, on this our first Club meeting in the Valentine Bowling Club. It is my wish over the next few meetings to become acquainted with each of you personally, and for all to get to know each other, so that we can start our first club year off on a familiar and friendly note.

Along with our very talented and able committee, we will endeavour to run all our Club meetings with a view to:

- (a) conducting the necessary business side with a minimum of fuss and formality, keeping in mind the need to follow correct procedures in accordance with our constitution and by-laws.
- (b) in a relaxed atmosphere sharing in the fellowship, friendship and enjoying the interesting and informative programs of guest speakers and the outings arranged for us.

I look forward in anticipation to a busy and interesting year ahead, with great shared experiences and plenty of laughs together.

Yours in Probus
President Geoff

Club Fees: The Committee has recommended that there be an initial Joining Fee of \$10 and an Annual Member's Fee of \$50. The annual fee will include the cost of the morning tea provided at each meeting. These Fees are due and can now be paid to our Treasurer, John Gatt.



COMING EVENTS:

- **SOCIAL B.B.Q.** 11th February at The Lake Macquarie Yacht Club
Starting at 11 a.m. till 3pm
Cost: \$12.50 per person which includes B.B.Q. and salad.
DRINKS available at the Bar. **No BYO alcohol is to be take into the club**
BRING your own plates, cup and knife and fork.

Today's Program:

- General Business
- Welcoming and inducting new members.
- Committee Member background talks.

From the Newsletter Editor: If you have something that you consider may be of interest to members and it is appropriate for publishing in this Newsletter please see me to arrange its inclusion.



THE BIRTH OF A CLUB

The need to charter a Probus Club in the Valentine area had been in Gerry Wubbels' mind for a number of years. The desirability of forming another club was due to the number of members in the Men's Probus Club of Belmont, their waiting list and the increasing popularity of probus clubs generally, both men and women, throughout the whole Eastlakes area. The initial steps were taken when the Ladies' Probus Club of Valentine was formed with tremendous support from the late Carl Mison, a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Adamstown who was also on the executive board of the Valentine Bowling Club and offered great support for the formation of this ladies club. Gerry, a member of the Rotary Club of Belmont, has been directly involved with the formation of six probus clubs during recent years and well versed in the work involved in forming a new club.

During the formation of the Ladies Probus Club of Valentine, Gerry was asked by a number of the ladies if a men's club was to be formed, as they would like their husbands/partners to be involved in probus. Then the work commenced involving discussions with members of the Men's Probus Club of Belmont and Rotarians from several Eastlakes Rotary Clubs. It is a requirement that a new Probus Club can only be sponsored by a Rotary Club, so it was necessary to involve a number of Rotarians in the initial stages. Prospective members were the first consideration for the new club and the services of Rotarian Peter Towner and John James, a non-Rotarian, were used to establish a core of members. Both men were very keen that a probus club start in the Valentine area and the number of men who expressed an interest in joining was sufficient to cause Gerry to put the proposal to the members of the Rotary Club of Belmont to sponsor such a club. This initial planning took place in January 2002 with Rotarians Gerry Wubbels, Peter Towner and Bruce Molloy doing the bulk of the work involved.

Over the ensuing months a lot of people were contacted – those who may be prospective members, those who may know of some person who would like to be a member and those who were in a position to offer assistance. In return a lot of people contacted members of the working committee – those who would like to become members of the fledgling club and those seeking further information. Finally in November 2002 a list of prospective members was drawn up and letters and invitations sent to them, inviting them to attend an inauguration meeting on 2 December 2002.

On that day, at the Valentine Bowling Club the Men's Probus Club of Valentine was born with eighteen members and a promise from another ten, (who were unable to attend), to join. Motions were put and carried unanimously that the club be formed, that the club adopt the model constitution and bylaws and for the election of a committee. The Foundation President, Geoff Booth was elected and quickly commenced work with the club's committee to put things in order. By the time of the club's first ordinary meeting, our first social outing has been organised, the club has been incorporated and all financial arrangements are in hand. Every member is confident that this club will go from strength to strength and that all members will enjoy a rewarding and interesting social existence as a member of the Men's Probus Club of Valentine Inc.

It is not possible to personally thank all the people who supported and assisted in the formation of this club. But it would be a missed opportunity if it were not recorded that the club owes a great debt of gratitude to the members of the Rotary Club of Belmont for their sponsorship, support and assistance and particularly Gerry Wubbels, Peter Towner, Bruce Molloy and District 9670 Chairman, Ern Alchin. Similarly the support, advice and assistance given by members of the Men's Probus Club of Belmont, the Mixed Probus Club of Eastlakes and the Ladies Probus Club of Valentine is very much appreciated. To all people who have assisted in one way or another the members of the Men's Probus Club of Valentine Inc express their sincere thanks.