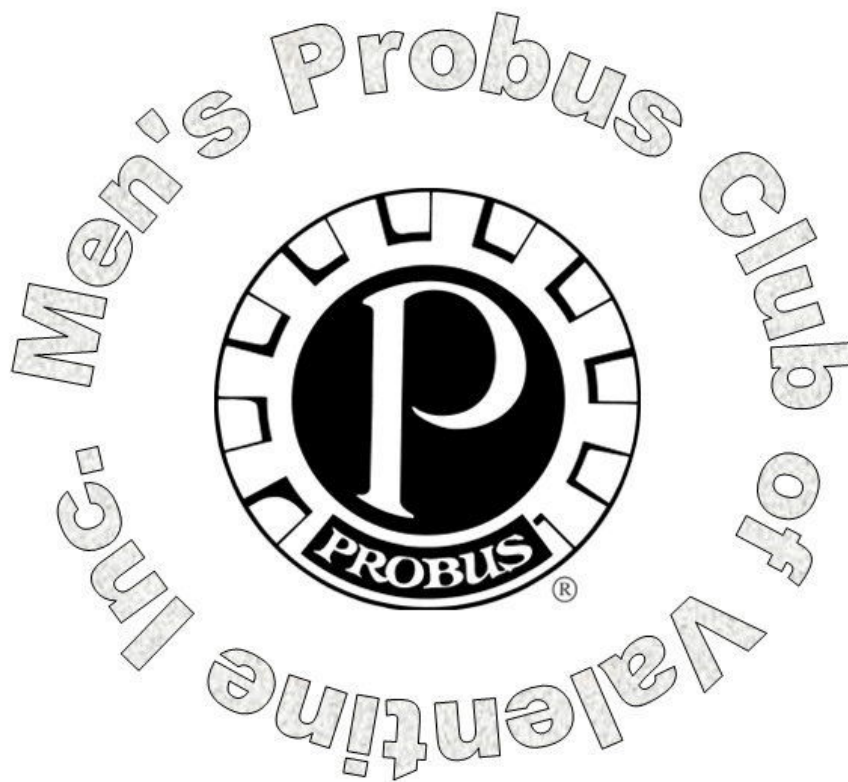


THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE INCORPORATED

A CONCISE HISTORY



This History Document was commenced in August 2006 by Ken Barbour (Historian) and presented to the Club in March 2007 covering formation 2002 to 2006 and will be updated on an annual basis.

FOREWORD

During the formation of the Ladies Probus Club of Valentine, Rotarian Gerry Wubbels was asked by a number of ladies if a men's club was to be formed, because they would like their husbands/partners to be involved in Probus.

Then the work commenced, involving discussions with the Men's Probus Club of Belmont and Rotarians from several Eastlakes Rotary Clubs. It is a requirement that a new Probus Club can be sponsored only by a Rotary Club. 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 men's 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. Finally in November 2002 a list of prospective members was drawn up and letters were sent inviting them to attend an inauguration meeting on the 2nd December 2002. On that day the Men's Probus Club of Valentine was born.

It is not possible to thank all the people who supported and assisted in the formation of this club. 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. 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.

Extract from an article by late foundation member Bob Stent.

FORMATION

The Men's Probus Club of Valentine was formed on Monday 2nd December 2002 at a meeting called by the Rotary Club of Belmont Inc. as sponsor. Eighteen (18) prospective members attended.

The meeting was held at the clubrooms of the Valentine Bowling Club Inc. (VBC) and opened at 10am with Gerry Wubbels presiding.

The motion “that the Men's Probus Club of Valentine be formed” (Geoff Booth/Bert Eagle) was formally carried leading to the election of the following Management Committee:

President	Geoff Booth
Vice President	Bert Eagle
Secretary	Bob Stent
Treasurer	John Gatt
Social Director	Canice Watt (Ken)
Program Director	David Braidwood
Bulletin Director	John Ward
Welfare Officer	Alan Bailey

Other Business

- 1) The standard Probus Club Constitution (incorporated model) was adopted.
- 2) The standard Probus By-Laws were adopted.
- 3) Members accepted up to and including the March 2003 monthly meeting will be classified as ‘Foundation Members’.
- 4) Fees, Venues and Meeting Dates were referred to the Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

Thus, The Men's Probus Club of Valentine was born.

During the following weeks the Committee arranged Accreditation (16/12/2002) by Probus Centre – South Pacific Inc. and Incorporation as an Association (14/1/2003) by Dept. of Fair Trading – NSW (Addendums 1 & 2) – quite a feat in such a short time.

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Members accepted up to and including the March 2003 monthly meeting are classified as 'Foundation Members'.

Roy Abbott	Alan Bailey	Alan Beard
Phil Bernasconi	Geoff Booth	David Braidwood
Kevin Carr	Alan Carter	Robert Cavanagh
Bill Cook	Trevor Dee	Bert Eagle
Norm Edgar	John Gatt	Carl Gesell
Peter Graham	Barry Graves	Peter Greenwood
Bernard Howells	Warren Hunter	Ray Keating
Roy McGregor	John Prudence	Bob Stent
Allan Stubbs	Robert Thurston	Brian Toohey
Ron Tooney	John Ward	Ken Watt

30 in all.

2003 January

The first monthly meeting of the Men's Probus Club of Valentine Inc. commenced at 10am on Tuesday 28th January 2003 at the Valentine Bowling Club with 19 members present and 4 apologies.

The meeting followed the normal Probus format – short business session, morning tea and then a speaker.

Business

- 1) Alan Carter & Peter Greenwood were elected as roving committeemen.
- 2) The resignation from Social Director by Ken Watt was accepted with regret and Trevor Dee was elected to the position.
- 3) Membership fees were set at \$50 per annum with a once only joining fee of \$10.
- 4) Prospective members will be limited to three visits without cost, including morning tea.
- 5) Visiting Probians will be supplied with free morning tea.
- 6) Membership will be primarily for residents of the City of Lake Macquarie.
- 7) Approval was given to open an account with the Greater Building Society.
- 8) Honorary and Life Memberships were set at two of each.

Speakers

Members Geoff Booth, Bert Eagle and John Gatt each gave a short talk on his background life.

Social

Nil

Close

2003 February

The 24th February 2003 meeting commenced at 10am at the Valentine Bowling Club with 24 members present and 4 apologies.

Business

- 1) Alan Bailey was elected Membership Officer to record the attendance of members, visitors and guests.
- 2) The Management Committee was authorised to conduct the day-to-day financial affairs of the Club on behalf of the members without specific reference to Club members on each occasion.
- 3) The financial and membership years were set from 1st January to 31st December. (subsequently this was changed and the Membership Year became 1st April to 31st March as per Probus South Pacific standard constitution)

Treasury

Balance \$1270.60

Speaker

Brian Relf – Dame Nellie Melba

Social

The first social outing of the Club was a BBQ at Lake Macquarie Yacht Club for members and partners.

Close

2003 AGM

The first Annual General Meeting of the Men's Probus Club of Valentine Inc. commenced at 10am on Monday 24th March 2003 at the Valentine Bowling Club with 23 members attending and 5 apologies.

Business

- 1) The current Committee was re-elected unopposed. It had been in operation for only three months and all committee members were willing to serve until the 2004 AGM.

President	Geoff Booth
Vice President	Bert Eagle
Secretary	Bob Stent
Treasurer	John Gatt
Social Director	Trevor Dee
Program Director	David Braidwood
Bulletin Director	John Ward
Welfare/Membership Officer	Alan Bailey
Roving Committeemen	Peter Greenwood and Alan Carter

- 2) Peter Greenwood was appointed Auditor.
- 3) The ceiling for membership was set at 50.
- 4) Fees were set at \$50 per year with a once only joining fee of \$10.

Close

10.10 am

2003 March

The 24th March 2003 monthly meeting commenced at 10.10am at the Valentine Bowling Club, following the AGM with 23 members present and 5 apologies.

Business

- 1) Approval was given for the Club to join the Hunter Region Probus Association and for the President, Vice President and Treasurer to attend the information and friendship day on 1st April 2003.
- 2) Bob Stent was appointed Public Officer.

Treasury

Balance \$1398.80

Speaker

Graham Burgess – His exciting adventures in parachuting.

Close

2003 Continued

With most formal requirements now in place, the remainder of 2003 saw the Club settle into a routine of meetings on the 4th Monday of each month at Valentine Bowling Club commencing at 10am with the agenda being a short business session, morning tea and a speaker.

Social activities were organised more often. A Bowls Group was formed with the help of member Peter Greenwood and this group became involved with the Probus Bowls days held at various bowls clubs in the area.

Unfortunately Alan Bailey resigned because he had moved to Port Stephens, but Kevin Carr accepted Alan's committee office of Welfare/Membership.

Speakers

January	Geoff Booth, Bert Eagle and John Gatt (members) – Background life.
February	Brian Relf – Dame Nellie Melba
March	Graham Burgess – Adventures in parachuting
April	Norm Burton – Australian Heritage and Culture
May	Sandra Hitchcock – Koolang Observatory
June	Michael Ulph – Newcastle Port Facilities
July	Lorraine Dunne – Fitness for Older People
August	Tom Braidwood – Volvo Around the World Yacht Race
September	Neil Colquhoun – Vietnam through the eyes of a conscript
October	Peter Lewis – The Life of a Cartoonist
November	Ern Alchin (member) – Early Detection of Alzheimer's Disease

Social Activities

BBQ at LMYC for members and partners
Visit to Fort Scratchley Museum
Coach trip to Gosford and Lady Kendall cruise
Tour of Morpeth
Coach trip to Pokolbin and lunch at Cessnock
Dirt Dick's Theatre Restaurant
Car drive to Tuggerah/Terrigal
Xmas lunch at Belmont 16' Sailing Club

Membership and Treasury

New Members after March: Ern Alchin; Terry Seery; Colin Shields

At the end of 2003 Membership stood at 33 and Treasury Balance \$879.40.

2004

The same Agenda that served so well in 2003 was used for meetings throughout 2004. Meetings were held on the 4th Monday of each month at the Valentine Bowling Club commencing at 10am.

The new office of Webmaster was created and Alan Carter was elected to the position.

Officers elected at the March 2004 AGM were:

President	Bill Cook
Vice President	Alan Beard
Secretary	Bob Stent
Treasurer	John Gatt
Social	Trevor Dee
Program	David Braidwood
Membership/Welfare	Kevin Carr
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Bulletin	John Ward
Roving Committeemen	Peter Greenwood

The Valentine Bowling Club introduced new safety regulations that forbade using the hot water urn. Members had to use a vending machine to get a cup of tea/coffee. Although the brew from the machine was drinkable, it was much slower and used up much of the morning tea recess just standing in line.

The Probus Centre- South Pacific Inc. (PCSP) produced a revised constitution that appeared to allow PCSP to impose fees and charges at will. Following loud protests from members, a survey of individual Probus Clubs led to a completely new Constitution that removed the offending section. Adoption by all Clubs soon followed.

A further complication arose when the Office of Fair Trading in some States required that By-Laws as well as the Constitution be lodged with the application for Incorporation. This would lead to extra cost whenever changes were made to By-Laws. The problem was neatly overcome thanks to the legal experience of Secretary Bob Stent by changing the terminology 'By-Laws' to 'Special Resolutions'. This action did not alter the intent of By-Laws but merely a change in name to save money and time.

2004 continued

The Bowls Group continued to flourish but some game days clashed with Club meetings. Unfortunately there was no obvious solution to the problem. A resolution was passed that when a Probus Bowls Day falls on the same day as a Club meeting, only one team will be nominated.

A Membership Booklet was produced by Alan Carter, giving contact details of Members and is reissued each time that there is a change to Membership Details. Alan also took over the role of Bulletin Officer following resignation of this role by John Ward.

Social Functions were proving popular with Members. However a \$5 deposit and full prepayment policy was introduced for functions that could put the Club at financial risk.

Speakers

January	Peter Kilpatrick – Solicitor – P of Attorney, Wills, Guardianship
February	Ken White (member) – Background talk
March	Clare Hunter – Tomago House
April	Alan Carter, Peter Greenwood and David Braidwood (members) Background talks
May	Glenn Betz – Aged Care Facilities
June	John Prudence, Bob Stent and Alan Beard (members) Background talks
July	Les Chanter – NRMA – Road Safety for Seniors
August	Carol Frazer – Convict Newcastle
September	Suzanne Dean – Office of Fair Trading
October	Barry Graves, Bill Cook (members) Background talks
November	David Braidwood (member) – Postie Bike Ride
December	No speaker – Xmas Lunch

Social Activities

BBQ at LMYC with Ladies Probus Club of Valentine
Tomago House and Newcastle Botanic Gardens
Trudgalong Farm
Boys Day Out – Fighter World and Wine Tasting
Lake Macquarie Gallery
Cooranbong, Elephant Shop and Museum
Yarramalong Valley with Ladies Probus Club of Valentine
Dinner and Film Night
The year closed with a Xmas Luncheon at Belmont 16' Sailing Club

2004 continued

Membership and Treasury

New Members: Phil Aubin; Ken Barbour; Bill Davidson;
Colin Hargreaves; Geoff Walsh; Ken White and
Wal Williams

Resignations: Bernard Howells; Alan Bailey

Deaths: Geoff Booth; Bert Eagle

At the end of 2004 Membership was 36 and Treasury Balance \$1779.

2005

Because the normal meeting date in January would have been very close to Australia Day, the year's first meeting was held in February. An informal BBQ was organised at Valentine Bowling Club for those members and partners available on the January date.

Thanks to member Alan Carter, a new website, containing more information about the Club and its activities, was established.

Website address: www.valentineprobus.0kn.com

At the March AGM the new Probus Constitution (Addendum 3) was adopted with Special Resolutions (Addendum 4) and the following Officers elected:

President	Alan Beard
Vice President	Ern Alchin
Secretary	Alan Carter
Treasurer	David Braidwood
Program	Barry Graves
Social	Trevor Dee
Welfare/Membership	Ron Tooney
Bulletin	Roy McGregor
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Roving Committeemen	Ken Barbour

The Probus Centre – South Pacific Inc. advised that for Accident Insurance Cover an attendance recorded by a tick against a member's name was satisfactory for all meetings and functions.

More emphasis was placed on Risk Management and as a result an Incident Register for accidents and injuries was established.

A decision was made to seek more members but care was taken not to imply that membership was automatic but contingent upon approval by the members. Handbills and notices were distributed, as well as Members being encouraged to invite a friend to give the Club a trial.

The Bowls Group continued to prosper with entry into the Probus Shield Day held at Maitland where 110 bowlers enjoyed a great day. Unfortunately the Club's Team was unsuccessful.

2005 continued

Two representatives from Hunter New England Health surveyed the members regarding cooking classes for older men. Most members were enthusiastic about the idea and indicated a willingness to attend. No follow-up has occurred.

Speakers

January	No meeting
February	Colin Hargreaves (member) - 50 Centuries of Building
March	Geoff Walsh (member) – Me and My High Voltage Life
April	Graham Burgess – Running the Bulls
May	Geoff Jansson (LMCC) – Lake Macquarie and its future
June	Robyn Clarke – Services provided by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children
July	Barry Graves (member) – Lightning Ridge in the 60's.
August	Jan Suttie – The Royal Volunteer Coast Guard – Swansea
September	Elaine Taylor – Simpson Desert Walk
October	Wing Commander Scott Winchester – Life in the RAAF
November	Colin Hargreaves (member) Stonehenge
December	No meeting

Social Activities

Informal BBQ at VBC for Members and Partners
Total Homestead Tour and Lunch
Hunter Wetlands Centre Tour and Lunch
Alan Bailey's (ex member) Shoal Bay Function Room
Boys Day Out – Singleton Army Museum and Lunch
'Wacky Wednesday' – Nelson Bay RSL Club
Social Golf Day – Muree Golf Club
Car Drive – Strawberry Farm – Lambs Valley

There was no December meeting. However the year ended with a Xmas luncheon at the Belmont 16' Sailing Club at \$20 for members and \$30 for others, the remainder of the cost being met by the Club as a means of returning some funds to Members.

Membership and Treasury

New Members: George Boulton; Bob Edwards; Terry Rankin and Brian Watson
Resignation: John Ward

At the end of 2005 Membership was 42 and Treasury Balance \$2445.
Constitution as approved March 2005

2006

As usual, meetings were held on the 4th Monday of each month during 2006. There was no meeting in January or December.

When Valentine Bowling Club decided to renovate, the Probus Club was forced to find temporary accommodation. Thanks to member Alan Carter, excellent premises were found in the Cedar Room at the Tingira Centre of the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and in March the first meeting was held there with great success. The biggest advantage was the hot water urn rather than the vending machine that members had endured for so long in order to get a morning cuppa. The biscuits baked by Margaret Abbott were as delicious as ever and very much appreciated by all.

The enthusiasm for the Cedar Room grew to a point where it was decided to seek a permanent booking and again thanks to Alan Carter, agreement was reached with Centre Management. At the August meeting the members formally accepted the proposal and approved an annual donation for presentation in December of each year. An amount of \$500 was set for 2006.

The AGM was held in March and the following Committee elected for 2006/2007.

President	Ern Alchin
Vice President	Trevor Dee
Secretary	Alan Carter
Treasurer	Peter Greenwood
Bulletin	Geoff Walsh
Social	David Braidwood
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Welfare/Membership	Ron Tooney
Program	Allan Stubbs
Roving Committeemen	George Boulton

Fees were set at \$30 for renewing members and \$50 plus \$10 joining fee for new members. Renewing members received a reduction as a way of returning surplus funds to members who had contributed to the surplus.

John Gatt was appointed Public Officer and Ken Barbour was elected to the new office of Historian.

2006 continued

In an attempt to keep the Probus News relevant to members needs, the Probus Centre carried out a reader survey recording the interest in the published articles. The magazine is the official source of Probus information for members and as such requires regular review.

The Club was able to trial a sound system belonging to member Warren Hunter for use at meetings. It worked well and the Club decided to investigate further with a view to purchasing the Club's own unit.

A filing cabinet was purchased and placed in member Trevor Dee's home to better store the Club records and equipment.

It was agreed that the Secretary would send a monthly electronic backup of Probus data to a nominated Committee Member for safe keeping.

In the middle of a talk by member Colin Hargreaves about the heavens, members were jolted back to Earth when the fire alarm sounded. Fortunately it was only a drill but members evacuated the room and gathered at the assembly point. Shortly afterwards all members returned and Colin continued. A valuable evacuation lesson had been learned by all.

Following the talk on Lightning Ridge by member Barry Graves, about 20 members/partners showed interest in a 4 day trip in March/April 2007.

The Bowls Group continued to represent the Club at Probus Bowls Days but clashes between meeting dates and bowls date caused some difficulties. During the year the Club team played at Alder Park, Lowlands, Charlestown, Lambton Park and Swansea Bowling Clubs.

Speakers

January	No meeting
February	Prof. Colin Keay – The Energy Crisis
March	Nancy Buckler – My Affair with James Cook
April	Kevin McFadden – About the Prostate
May	Brian Jacks (member) – Ups and downs in the Lift Industry
June	Robyn Cotterill – Victim of Crimes Assistance League
July	Hazel & Alan Budd – Mercy Ships – Aid Overseas
August	Colin Hargreaves (member) – Startrek
September	Tom Braidwood – Volvo Around the World Yacht Race
October	Barry Graves (member) – Lightning Ridge
November	David Coltheart – Archeological Digging in the Middle East
December	No meeting

2006 continued

Social Activities

BBQ with Valentine Ladies Probus Club at LMYC
Newcastle Harbour Cruise
Taronga Zoo Senior's Promotion
Hunter Valley Gardens Car Trip
Newcastle Foreshore History Walk and Lunch at
Harry's Café de Wheels
Port Stephens Car Drive
Glenrock Lagoon Walk and BBQ at Scout Camp
Boys Day Out – RAN Heritage Centre, Garden Island
Blackbutt Reserve BYO Picnic
4th Birthday BBQ Lunch and Sailing Cruise at LMYC
Mufti Bowls Day and BBQ Lunch at Belmont Sporties Men's
Bowling Club – a fundraiser for the Royal Institute for Deaf and
Blind Children – Tingira Centre
The year concluded with a Xmas luncheon at Belmont Golf
Club. \$20 for members and \$30 for others. Warren Hunter
(member) provided entertainment on the keyboard during the
lunch which was much appreciated.

Membership and Treasury

New Members: Geoff Black; Les Crowe; Austin Greener; John Harborne;
Brian Jacks; Andrew Penman; John Skehan and
John Whitehead
Resignations: Mel Llewelyn; Geoff Taylor
Deaths: Phil Bernasconi; Brian Toohey; Bob Stent

At the end of 2006 membership was 44 and Treasury Balance \$1362.75

2007

There was no meeting in January 2007, but the Valentine Ladies Probus Club invited members and partners to a BBQ at Lake Macquarie Yacht Club to give the year a relaxed and enjoyable start.

Later in the year the Club decided to hold a meeting in January 2008.

The first monthly meeting for 2007 was held on 26th February at the Tingira Centre of the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children at the usual time of 10am. The meeting followed the normal format.

At the 26th March AGM, the following Management Committee was elected:

President	Trevor Dee
Vice President	Alan Carter
Secretary	John Gatt
Treasurer	Peter Greenwood
Social Director	Alan Beard
Program Director	Allan Stubbs
Bulletin	Geoff Walsh
Membership/Welfare	Ron Tooney
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Historian	Ken Barbour
Roving Committeemen	George Boulton
	Andrew Penman

Membership maximum was set at 60 and the subscription for the 2007-8 year levied at \$50 with a rebate of \$15 for renewing members. The Joining Fee remained at \$10.

A changeover dinner was held at Windale Bowling Club to thank the old Committee and to welcome the new.

A Constitution Review Committee was formed (Alan Beard, Alan Carter and John Gatt) to review changes proposed by Probus South Pacific. Following the sub-committee's report, the Club agreed to support the recommendations made by Probus South Pacific. Now awaiting advice from Probus South Pacific as to whether the recommendations are ratified to cause to Constitution change.

A recommendation that the term 'Special Resolutions' be changed to 'Standing Resolutions' was adopted in July. (Addendum 4a)

2007 continued

The minutes of monthly meetings were emailed to members with access and made available at the 'sign in' table for those with email. Minutes were accepted as 'read', thus saving considerable time at meetings.

Member Warren Hunter was thanked for again making available his PA System for Club meetings. However, the Club obtained a grant for a PA System thanks to the foresight of member Alan Carter and at the October meeting the new equipment was used for the first time. The quote of \$400 to insure the equipment was declined by the members. It is stored at the Tingira Centre and is available for use by the Centre.

Social Director Alan Beard introduced details of a 3 day/2 night coach tour of the Mudgee district – the first extended tour for the Club. The tour proved to be a great success with 34 members, partners and friends enjoying the 'getaway'. Many thanks Alan and Laurie.

Ten members (the Ten Tenors) sang as a choir at the House With No Steps using a songbook produced by member Geoff Walsh. The recital was so enjoyed by all that bi-monthly visits have continued the success of this volunteer community project. Mrs. Gwen Vale has provided organ accompaniment on each visit.

The Concise Men's Probus Club of Valentine Inc History Document from formation in 2002 up to the end of 2006 was presented by Historian Ken Barbour. Three copies were provided for circulation within the membership and two for Club records.

The Bowls Group under the guidance of Terry Seery, continued to flourish with a team lead by member Allan Stubbs at Alder Park BC registering the Club's first major victory. Other venues included: Teralba BC, Hamilton BC and Dungog BC. Two other days were rained out. Some difficulties arose fielding two teams at each venue, mainly because the Club's membership does not include many bowlers and some events clashed with Club meetings. A request to lower the dress rules was unsuccessful.

Regretfully, Margaret Abbott announced her retirement from biscuit making, forcing members to eat inferior commercial products at morning tea. Thank you Margaret for all those tasty morsels.

A donation of \$500 was made to the Tingira Centre for use of the Cedar Room at our monthly meetings.

2007 continued

Speakers

January	No meeting
February	Ern Alchin (member) – Probus Rendezvous and Rotary Bowl Scan program
March	Libby Levey – Recovering from a 'Stroke'
April	Captain Monty Hughes – Tugboats and Coal Ships
May	Tony Ross – Pre-DNA World of Forensic Investigations
June	Colin Hargreaves (member) – Global Warming – Fact or Fiction
July	John F Miner – What you don't know about Rugby Union
August	Barry Wheatley – History of Arnott's Biscuits (ladies and friends invited)
September	Rodney & Marianne Bull – Honey Bees and their ways
October	Mick Henry – The Burnt Children of Chile Project
November	Helen Delaney – The Heart has a Memory
December	No meeting

During the year, members Geoff Walsh, John Gatt, Austin Greener, Kevin Carr, Geoff Black, Warren Hunter, Bill Davidson and Wal Williams each gave a 10 minute talk on their work background.

Social Activities

- BBQ at LMYC with Valentine Ladies Probus Club
- Powerhouse Museum Highlights Tour
- Changeover Dinner at Windale Bowling Club
- Maitland Gaol Tour
- Sydney Harbour by Ferry and Manly – Shelly Beach Walk
- Mudgee 3d/2n Extended Coach Tour
- Wacky Wednesday – Nelson Bay RSL Club by coach

There was no December meeting but the year ended on high note with a Xmas Luncheon and entertainment at Belmont Golf Club ably supported by member Warren Hunter and his fine music, the Ten Tenors and singer Jenny Barnes.

Membership & Treasury

New Members:	Nil
Resignations:	Brian Watson, Brian Jacks and Ken White
Deaths:	Nil

At the end of 2007 membership stood at 41 & Treasury Balance of \$1569.81.

2008

The 2008 year will be remembered as the year of the Special Interest Groups. Following an initiative of President Alan Carter and a survey of members, 3 new groups were formed:

Valentine Men's Probus Computer Group;

Valentine Men's Probus Cycling Group;

Valentine Men's Probus Walking Group;

Valentine Men's Probus Photography Group. (still under consideration)

From the early days of the club a Valentine Men's Probus Bowls Group has been operating successfully and for the last 2 years the Valentine Men's Probus Singers (now 16 members strong) accompanied by Mrs Gwen Vale has entertained at the House With No Steps, Croudace Bay.

The current group co-ordinators are:

Computer: Alan Carter with tutors Geoff Walsh and Phil Aubin.

Cycling: Alan Beard

Walking: Ern Alchin

Bowls: Roy Abbott

Singers: Trevor Dee

The first meeting of the 2008 year was held at the RIDBC Hunter Tingira Centre on the 21st January following the normal agenda. It was the first time that the club had met formally in January as it was thought few members would be available. However as 28 members attended, a January meeting was made a permanent fixture.

At the 6th AGM held on 31st March 2008 the following Committee was elected to serve 1st April 2008 - 31st March 2009:

President	Alan Carter
Vice President	David Braidwood
Secretary	John Harborne
Treasurer	Peter Greenwood
Social Director	Ern Alchin
Program Director	Allan Stubbs
Bulletin	Geoff Walsh
Membership/Welfare	Bill Cook
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Historian	Ken Barbour
Roving Committeemen	Alan Beard and Phil Aubin

The Subscription for the 2008-9 year was retained at \$50 with a rebate of \$15 for renewing members. The Joining Fee remained at \$10.

Members can now transfer money electronically to the Club. Go to the Club's new website www.valentineprobus.au2.com for details.

2008 continued

The new website, designed by Webmaster Alan Carter, shows more details of the Club and its activities in a professional layout.

John Gatt was appointed Public Officer.

A new Constitution dated Feb 2008 (Addendum 5) was formally adopted in June. It is the result of a long and extensive revue, but thankfully, the Probus Centre - South Pacific Inc. has extended the revue period from 3 to 5 years.

An "Outing/Function Reserve" of \$500 was established to provide for unforeseen and unrecoverable expenses relating to Club outings / functions.

Two Probus Banners were purchased for use at Club outings and functions.

The new category of "Attending Probus Activity" was added to the record of attendance as it was deemed unfair to record "Absent" or "Apology" for those members away at a Probus function.

A donation of \$500 was made to the RIDBC Hunter as a gesture of appreciation for the use of the Cedar room and other facilities during the year.

A Club promotion table, at a local shopping centre, manned by members Trevor Dee, Ron Dillow and Ray Grainger resulted in general interest and prospective new members. A number of new members joined as result of media publicity by Trevor Dee and Alan Carter.

Speakers

January	John Harborne (member) - Gold and Silver.
February	Kevin McDonald - Observing Nature.
March	Ken Watt - Short Talk.
April	Shirley Chadban - Meditation Made Easy.
May	Darryl Kent - My Adventures in Mongolia.
June	Phil Collins - Hunter Lifestyle Magazine.
July	Beverly Watson - Mind Your Mind.
August	Ron Ramsey - Director of Newcastle Art Gallery.
September	Neil Younger - Confessions of a Pest Exterminator.
October	Peter Lewis - Life as a Newcastle Herald Cartoonist.
November	Reg Roberts - Divining for Water and other Things.
December	No Meeting.
Short Talks	Roy Abbott, Ken Watt and Ken Barbour (members)

2008 continued

Social Activities

- BBQ at LMYC.
- Boys Day Out - Rivercat and Lunch at Parramatta Leagues Club.
- Sobels Winery - Winery Tour and BBQ.
- Auntie Molly's - Xmas in July Lunch and Show with Valentine Ladies
Probus Club.
- Davistown RSL Club - Train - Ferry - Lunch.
- Probus Friendship Day - Newcastle Foreshore.
- Afternoon Tea to celebrate the Marriage of Heather and Ern Alchin.
- Dinner and Movie Night at Edgeworth - "Keeping Mum".

Under the guidance of member Barry Graves 6 members and 2 partners took part in a 5day/4 night trip to Lightning Ridge. Barry used his extensive local knowledge to add extra spice to the event. Many thanks to Barry and member/driver Roy McGregor.

Committeeman Alan Beard and wife Laurie organised a 3 day/2night "Blue Mountains in Spring" coach tour staying at the Gardener's Inn, Blackheath. Extensive touring was packed into 3 days that included rain, wind and even snow; but there was no problem as the weather cleared whenever needed and all outings went ahead uninterrupted. The beds were soft, the meals were a treat and the company stimulating. Well done Alan and Laurie.

The Bowls Group continued to play in the Probus Bowls Days throughout the Hunter. Additional team members are always welcome. At one event our team skippered by Terry Seery and including Austin Greener and Geoff Black was declared the winner; but the trophy could not be found, so our team went unrewarded - tough luck team but we know that you won!

No meeting in December but instead a Xmas Luncheon at Belmont Golf Club with fine music from member Warren Hunter, songs from the Men's Probus Singers and even a visit from the "Man in Red".

So ended another successful Club year.

2008 continued

Membership

New Members (11): Tony Bromage, Ron Dillow, Ray Grainger, Kevin Hepplewhite, John Beeton, Ray Crocker, Des McClatchey, Don Jones, Jim Saultry, Jack Torrance and Kevin Wilkinson.

Resignations (2): Norm Edgar and Colin Hargreaves.

Deaths (1): Bob Cavanagh.

At the conclusion of 2008 membership stood at 49 with attendance at monthly meetings falling between 26 and 40.

Treasury

As at 31st December 2008: Balance - \$2663.00

Postscript from President Alan Carter

Our Club has been lucky to have Ken Barbour fulfilling the role of Historian and covering the history from commencement up to the end of 2008. Ken has given us a document which is succinct and accurate in detail for which our Club is most grateful.

2009

The first meeting for the year was held on January 19th owing to our normal meeting date falling on Australia Day.

Similarly no meeting was held in April as the meeting date coincided with the Anzac Day holiday.

Our April meeting was then held on May 5th.

At the 7th AGM held in March the following committee was elected to serve until 2010.

President	David Braidwood
Vice President	John Harborne *
Secretary	Phil Aubin *
Treasurer	Geoff Black
Social Director	Ern Alchin / Jack Torrance **
Program Officer	Tony Bromage
Bulletin Officer	Alan Carter
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Welfare Officer	Ken Watt
Historian	Wal Williams
Roving Committee Officer	Alan Beard
Immediate Past President	Alan Carter

* John Harborne & Phil Aubin switched roles in November 2009.

** Ern Alchin relinquished the position in June due to an increase in other commitments.

The subscription for 2009-2010 was retained at \$50 with a rebate of \$20 for renewing members. The joining fee remained at \$10.

Incoming President, David Braidwood, in his opening remarks, advised that he would like to set two objectives for the year. Firstly, that we should continue outgoing President, Alan Carter's theme of ensuring our meetings are friendly and humorous, with a theme of, "laugh more live longer". And secondly, we should tap into our enormous member skill set and experience to endeavour to further help each other either, in the case of new members to

2009 continued

settle in to the area, or existing members with activities for which they could do with a helping hand.

The Club resolved to provide a new category for absent members called "Leave of Absence" to cover those members for whom circumstances dictated a long absence or members who were absent on official duties/club events such as bowls days.

During the year Alan Carter initiated an application to the Federal Government for a grant to acquire further audio/visual equipment. This application was successful and resulted in our Club being awarded \$3400. Equipment has been acquired and was successfully trialled at our February meeting. The Club resolved to let out this equipment to members and associated clubs for a small fee.

President David initiated a bi-monthly free 'Sausage Sizzle' after the meeting which proved to be very popular to members and furthered our promotion of the goal of facilitating fellowship. Special thanks to the chefs, Les Crowe, Austin Greener, John Skehan & Ron Tooney.
A special thanks also goes to our Hospitality Team headed by Ron Tooney.

Our website continues to flourish under our Webmaster Alan Carter and now provides the newsletter and information on special interest groups etc. to all members connected to the internet. However hard copies of the newsletter are available to non e-mail members at every meeting. Arrangements have been made for certain members to contact non e-mail members when important information is required to be passed on. The website now includes a 'for sale' segment and details of merchants offering discounts or special services to members.

Our Club actively supported the Hunter Region Probus Association with the attendance of two members to the quarterly meetings.

At the Changeover Lunch Meeting the outgoing President reported to the members on the activities and performance of the Club over the past year with some appropriate pictures and introduced the incoming President who in turn introduced his new team.

2009 continued

Our Program Officer has provided an excellent array of speakers as follows:

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 19	Tony Bromage	Young Business Advice
February 23	David Braidwood	Canal Cruising in Holland
March 23	Elaine Taylor	Crossing the Gibson Desert
May 4	Garry Herrett	Men's Health
May 25	Anthony Cox	Global Warming
June 22	David Nye	Newcastle Airport
July 27	Vera Deacon	Newcastle in the Depression
August 24	John McGregor	Ret. Detective - Murder investigations
September 28	Assoc.Prof.Stewart Franks	Natural Climate Variables
October 26	Capt.David Prigg	Prison Chaplain
November 23	Liz Shaw	Country Link Rail Services
January 18 (2010)	David Braidwood	Sailing Fremantle to Adelaide
January 18 (2010)	Kevin Hepplewhite	Work Career & Dubbo Video
January 18 (2010)	Norm Bilton	Work Career as a Builder
February 22 (2010)	Kylie Jacques	Vintage Care

Social Activities

Date	Activity
March 23	Changeover Lunch
April 21	Twilight Picnic Dinner
May 13	Dinner and Show
June 22	Luncheon Sausage Sizzle with Partners
July 23	Stockton History Tour
August 10	Fort Scratchley
September 16	Dinner and Film Night
October 21-22-23	The Golden West Trip
November 19	Boys' Day Out
December 8	Christmas Party Lunch
January 18 (2010)	Luncheon Sausage Sizzle with Partners
February 18 (2010)	Tahlee House

2009 continued

Special thanks to Alan Beard and his wife Laurie for such an outstanding trip to Dubbo. The 'Golden West Tour' as it became known as, was enjoyed by all who attended due to the excellent planning of Laurie & Alan.

Special Interest Groups

The special interest groups continue to function and are a source of pleasure to those that participate. A number of members graduated to using a computer with the help of our Computer Group. Thank you to Alan Carter & Phil Aubin.

The Valentine Men's Probus Singers, ably led by Trevor Dee and manned by up to 15 members, continues to entertain and delight the staff and clients of the House With No Steps. They also entertained us again at our Christmas function, very professionally accompanied by Warren Hunter.

Membership

New Members: (5): Brian Turner
 Jack Jones
 Brian Jacks
 Peter Roxby
 Norm Bilton

Resignations: (3): Des McClatchey
 Terry Seery
 Geoff Walsh

Vale: (1): Terry Rankin

At the conclusion of 2009 membership stood at 50 with attendance at monthly meetings falling between 27 and 40.

Treasury

As at 31st December 2009: Balance - \$341.47 + \$2054.23 = \$2395.70
which includes any unresented cheques.

Conclusion

At the AGM, the outgoing President presented a report of the year under review.

2010

The first meeting for the year was held on January 18th due to our normal meeting coinciding with the Australia Day week-end.

Similarly our April meeting was held on April 19th due to Anzac Day falling on our normal meeting date.

At the 8th Annual General Meeting held on March 23rd 2010 at the Belmont Golf Club the following committee was elected to serve until 2011:

President	Phil Aubin
Vice President	Peter Greenwood
Secretary	John Harborne
Treasurer	Kevin Hepplewhite
Social Director	Alan Beard
Program Officer	Jack Torrance
Bulletin Officer	Alan Carter
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Welfare Officer	Ken Watt
Historian	Wal Williams
Roving Committee Officer	Allan Stubbs
Immediate Past President	David Braidwood

The subscription for 2010-2011 was retained at \$50 with a rebate of \$50 for renewing members. The joining fee remained at \$10.

Incoming President, Phil Aubin, advised in his opening remarks that we would continue the theme set by previous presidents by ensuring our meetings continue to be friendly and humorous and continuing to tap into the enormous experience and skills of our members.

The bi-monthly "sausage sizzle" after the club meetings again proved popular with members and furthered the promotion of fellowship. A special thanks is extended to our chefs under the guidance of Les Crowe.

2010 continued

Once again the newsletter, information on special groups and other club outings was always kept up to date on our website. A special thanks to Alan Carter for providing us with these details. Hard copies of the newsletter continue to be provided at every meeting for non E-Mail members.

Our club continued to support the Hunter Region Probus Association with the attendance of two members at the quarterly meetings.

Programs

Our Program Officer provided us with an excellent array of speakers:

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 18	Kevin Hepplewhite Norm Bilton, David Braidwood	Career & Travel Experiences
February 22	Kylie Jacques	Vintage Care
March 22	John McNaughton	Newcastle Earthquake
April 19	Les Chanter	Road Safety
May 24	Niagara	The River of Life
June 28	Don King	Power of Bees
July 26	Mike Danks	New Barber Shop Harmony
August 23	Wing Cmdr Peter Davis	RAAF in the Middle East
September 20	Gionni Di Gravio	Newcastle & Hunter History
October 25	Vincent Smith	Thoughts on WW1
November 22	Rachel Channels	Healthy Life
January 28 ⁽²⁰¹¹⁾	John McGahen	Radio 2NUR FM
February 28 ⁽²⁰¹¹⁾	Ray Horsburgh	TARS

Social Activities

Date	Activity
January 18	Brief Meeting followed by "Sausage Sizzle" members/guests
February 18	Trip to Tahlee Historic House
March 22	AGM/Changeover Lunch at Belmont Golf Club
April 21	Cruise around Lake Macquarie
May 10	Walking tour of Dungog
May 29	Carmen Performance
June 7	Mystery Tour Drive around Lake Macquarie
July 12	Christmas in July held at Club Macquarie

2010 continued

August 9	Boys Day Out to visit the Wood Turners workshop
September 6	Tour of Christ Church Cathedral
September 27-30	Canberra Tour
November 8	Sculptures by the Sea at Bondi
December 7	Christmas Lunch at Belmont Golf Club
January 17 (2011)	Meeting at RIDBC followed by lunch at Jessie's
February 17 (2011)	Coal Loader visit

Canberra Spring Tour

Once again a special thanks from the Club to Alan and Laurie Beard for the outstanding organisation of the Canberra trip. Thirty-eight members, partners and guests participated which took in the usual sights but the highlight was the 2 hour escorted visit through Government House.

Special Interest Groups

The singing group led by Trevor Dee and assisted by Gwen Vale continued to entertain and delight the clients and staff of The House With No Steps.

The bowls group continued to represent the club.

The cycling group continued their activities exploring the various cycleways.

The walking group exercised weekly along the Warners Bay foreshore but occasionally tried out walks such as the Fernleigh track. An added interest was the "warm-up" before the walk with a session of Tai Chi.

A new interest group was formed by David Braidwood 'PLOT' or "Probus Lovers of Theatre" and will have bi-monthly outings to various shows, theatre/dinner shows or revues.

Membership

At the conclusion of 2010 the membership stood at 49 with the average attendance at meetings being 35.

New Member	Brian Sullivan
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Resignations	Don Jones Bill Davidson
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2010 continued

Treasury

As at 31st December 2010: Balance - \$1011.48 + \$2116.72 = \$3128.20
which includes any unpresented cheques.

Conclusion

At the AGM the outgoing President gave a report of the year under review.

2011

The first meeting of the year was held on January 17 due to our normal meeting falling near the Australia Day week-end.

Similarly no meeting was held in April due to the Anzac Day public holiday but was held on May 2.

The 9th Annual General Meeting was held on March 28 at Belmont Golf Club and the following committee was elected to serve until 2012:

President	Peter Greenwood
Vice President	Roy Abbott
Secretary	John Harborne
Treasurer	Kevin Hepplewhite
Newsletter	Alan Carter
Social Director	David Braidwood
Program Officer	Brian Sullivan
Welfare Officer	Jack Torrance
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Roving Committee Officers	Alan Beard & Allan Stubbs
Historian	Wal Williams
Past President	Phil Aubin
HRPA Representative	Trevor Dee

There were 31 members present at the Annual General Meeting with 14 apologies and 5 absentees.

The subscription for 2011-2012 was retained at \$50 with a rebate of \$5 for renewing members. The Joining Fee remained at \$10.

The incoming President, Peter Greenwood advised in his opening remarks that he wished all members a happy and enjoyable Probus year and he

2011 continued

sincerely hoped that they would enjoy the social outings as well as the monthly meetings.

The bi-monthly sausage sizzle after the club meetings furthered the promotion of fellowship and proved popular with the members. Thanks to the organising committee and David Braidwood for his introduction of the idea.

Special thanks goes to our Secretary John Harborne who has guided the club through a difficult 'secretarial year' and not forgetting Kevin Hepplewhite who kept our finances afloat.

A special thanks is extended to Alan Carter for the production of the newsletter and website with information on club meetings, social outings, guest speakers and special interest groups. Hard copies of the Newsletter continue to be provided at each meeting for non-email members.

Our club continued to support the Hunter Region Probus Association with the attendance of two members at the quarterly meetings. Trevor Dee was appointed as our HRP representative.

Programs

Our program officer, Brian Sullivan, provided us with an excellent array of speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 17	John McGahen	2NUR-FM
Feb 28	Ray Horsburgh	Aged Right Services TARS
Mar 28	Margaret McNaughton	'My Ship'
May 2	Brenda Bryant	South Africa
May 30	Errol Hutchinson	Author
Jun 27	David Sullivan	Ballooning in Antarctica
Jul 25	Club Members	Brian Sullivan, Ray Grainger
Aug 22	Jeff Hughes/Vaughan Marten	Hunter Prostate Cancer Alliance
Sep 26	Brian Sullivan	Communication and Goals
Oct 25	Bill Cook	Travel talk
Nov 28	Ed Tonks	Local War Memorials
Jan 30(2012)	David Boertje	Solar Options
Feb 27 (2012)	Gary Blackler	Probus Centre

2011 continued

Social Activities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
Jan 17	First Meeting for 2011	Lunch at VBC
Feb 17	Visit to Coal Loader	Newcastle Coal Loader
Mar 14	Visit to Newcastle Herald	Beresfield Printing Plant
Apr 11	Luskintyre Aviation Museum	Inspection & BBQ Lunch
May 23	BBQ at LMYC	Cancelled — insufficient members
Jun 16	Car Drive — Clarence Historical Society	Cancelled — inclement weather
Jun 27	Meeting at RIDBC	Lunch at VBC
Jul 20	Yuletide in July	Lunch at Club Macquarie
Aug 6	PLOT Show	'Spamalot' Gosford Musical Soc.
Sep 13	Newcastle Museum	Visit and tour of museum
Oct 17	Car Drive — Clarence Historical Society	Tour of museum & lunch
Nov 7	Sculpture by the Sea	Tour followed by lunch
Nov 12	PLOT Show	'Fiddler on the Roof' GMS
Dec 13	Christmas Lunch	Belmont Golf Club
Feb 20 (2012)	Rathmines Seaplane Base	Tour of former seaplane base
Mar10 (2012)	PLOT Show	'A Chorus Line' GMS

Treetops Resort Trip

Following the successful and very enjoyable holiday to Treetops Resort at Avoca in October, another trip has been planned to the same venue in May 2012. Once again special thanks to Alan and Laurie Beard for their outstanding organisation.

Special Interest Groups

The Singing Group led by Trevor Dee and accompanied by Gwen Vale continued to entertain the clients and staff of the 'House With No Steps'.

The Walking Group continued to meet weekly and began their outing with a session of Tai Chi prior to the walk along the Warners Bay foreshore. The monthly coffee walk continued to explore different areas under the guidance of Ron Tooney.

The PLOT Group (Probus Lovers of Theatre) initiated by David Braidwood continued to have bi-monthly outings to revues and theatre/dinner shows.

2011 continued

Membership

New Members: (6) Graham Higgs
 Noel Rutherford
 Bruce Molloy
 Don Cameron
 John Foster
 Bill Davidson (rejoined)

Resignations: (3) Roy McGregor
 Kevin Wilkinson
 Brian Jacks

Death: (1) Ken Barbour
 It is with great regret that we record the death of
 Ken on 24th December 2011. Ken was the Club's
 first Historian.

At the end of January 2012, membership stood at 50 with an average monthly attendance of 37.

Treasury

As at 31st December 2011: Balance - \$1999.82 + \$2214.09 = \$4213.91

Conclusion

At the AGM the outgoing President gave a report of the year under review.

2012

The first meeting for the year was held on the 30th January due to our normal meeting coinciding with the Australia Day week-end.

The 10th Annual Meeting was held on March 26th at the Valentine Bowling Club. This meeting elected the following committee to serve until 2013.

President	Kevin Hepplewhite
Vice President	Brian Sullivan
Secretary	John Harborne
Treasurer	Brian Sullivan
Newsletter	Alan Carter
Social Director	David Braidwood
Program Officer	Ray Grainger
Welfare Officer	Peter Graham
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Roving Committee	Alan Beard & Phil Aubin
Historian	Peter Greenwood
Past President	Peter Greenwood
HRPA Representative	Trevor Dee
Public Officer	Ern Alchin
Social Sub Committee*	Brian Turner & Don Cameron

*The Social Sub Committee was to support the Social Director.

There were 32 members present at the Annual General Meeting with 12 apologies and 5 absentees.

The subscription for 2012-2013 was retained at \$50 with a rebate of \$5 for renewing members. The Joining Fee remained at \$10.

2012 continued

The incoming President Kevin Hepplewhite thanked the members for their confidence in trusting him with the Presidency and sincerely hoped all members would thoroughly enjoy the forthcoming Probus year.

The bi-monthly sausage sizzle after the club meeting continued to be a time of fellowship over a meal. Our thanks go to the organising committee of Les Crowe, Austin Greener and team who slave over a hot barbeque to ensure we all enjoy the food.

Our Secretary John Harborne has had a particularly arduous year; however he has carried on regardless serving the club and its members in a most professional manner. Thanks John for your splendid contribution.

The Vice President and incoming President for year 2013 Brian Sullivan was also the custodian of our finances. We appreciate your huge effort Brian.

Our newsletter and website is in the capable hands of Alan Carter. We are very fortunate to have a very knowledgeable person who looks after all associated IT.

Membership of Hunter Region Probus Association continued this year with two members attending the quarterly meetings one being our club's HRP A representative Trevor Dee. The club resigned from this organisation after poor treatment of our representatives at its December meeting which was attended by the PSPL to answer important changes to the constitution.

Programs

Our Program Officer Ray Grainger provided an array of interesting and informative guest speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 30	David Boertje	Solar Options
Feb 27	Gary Blackler	Probus South Pacific
Mar 26	Dr. Jeanette Rothaphel	Space Science
Apr 23	Bob Busch	Bush Poet
May 28	Ron Bender	Police Commander
Jun 25	Leigh Maughan	Knights, TV Media
Jul 23	Robin Cotterell –Jones	Victims of Crime
Aug 27	Elizabeth Donaldson	Dobell House
Sept 24	Dr Jeanette Dixon (Rothaphel)	Destination Mars
Oct 22	Alan Richards	History of Movies

2012 continued

Nov 26	Greg & Sylvia Ray	Newcastle Photos early
Dec 17	Christmas Luncheon	No Speaker
Jan 17 2013	Dr. Robyn Fried	East Timor Health Fac.
Feb 25 2013	Bill Cook	Travel
Mar 25 2013	Bob Busch	Bush Poet (at Change over)

Social Activities

For the second consecutive year David Braidwood has provided us with an interesting and entertaining program. Thanks David for all the hard work.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
Jan 30	First Meeting 2012	Lunch at VBC
Feb 20	Rathmines Sea Plane Base	Tour of Base
Mar 10	PLOT Show	"Chorus Line" ^(GMS)
Apr 11	RIDBC	"Stars before their eyes"
Jun 11	Drovers Camp Lunch	Restaurant at Branxton
Jul 09	Yuletide in July	Lunch at Aunt Molly's
Jul 17	Coffee & Cake Morning Tea	Caves Beachside Hotel
Sept 11	Coffee & Cake Morning Tea	Caves Beachside Hotel
Sept 24	Lunch after Meeting	At Valentine BC
Oct 06	Hunter Botanical Gardens	Guided Tour & M/Tea
Nov 06	Melbourne Cup Luncheon	RIDBC
Dec 17	Christmas Luncheon	At Belmont Golf Club
Jan 21 2013	Lunch after Meeting	At Valentine BC
Feb 24 2013	Secrets of Sydney Harbour	Cruise on a steam tug
Mar 25 2013	Change over Lunch	Belmont Golf Club

Treetops Resort Sojourn

A four day three night trip to Treetops Avoca was enjoyed by all. Travelling in our own vehicles this sojourn was another successful short holiday which included a visit to Ken Duncan's Gallery, the Hawkesbury River Postman's Cruise, and a visit to a sheep station at Wisemans Ferry. Our special thanks go to Alan and Laurie for their excellent planning.

Special Interest Groups

The Singing Group led by Trevor Dee and accompanied by Gwen Vale continued to entertain clients and staff of the House With No Steps.

2012 continued

The Walking Group assembled each at week at Warners Bay foreshore. A Tai Chi session commenced prior to each walk. Once a month a longer walk at various locations concluded with a coffee at a nearby café. We thank Ron Tooney for organising this group ably assisted by Brian Turner and Tai Chi leader Jim Saultry.

The PLOT Group (Probus Lovers of Theatre) attended three shows, Chorus Line, Dr Jekell & Mr Hyde both held at the Gosford Musical Society Theatre and the Tom Burlinson Show at the Belmont 16 foot Club. We thank David Braidwood who looks after all booking arrangements.

A Coffee and Cake Morning Tea Group initiated by Trevor Dee met at Caves Beachside Hotel for morning Tea in July and September.

The Computer Group has been re-activated under the guidance of Alan Carter and Phil Aubin. The first meeting on 11th February was a presentation by a representative from NBNCo explaining the potential benefits of the National Broadband Network and fibre optic cabling.

Our Special Thanks

Since our Probus Club commenced in December 2002 Warren Hunter has played the piano at Christmas luncheons and other special occasions such as Yuletide.

Warren always has his place at the meal table and eats between musical items. We are very fortunate to have a member so willing to play for us over the last ten years. I remember Warren's fingers itching to play the grand piano at the Governor General's Canberra residence in 2010. When permitted to do so he certainly did enjoy tinkling those "ivories". Thank you Warren, your music is certainly appreciated.

Membership

New Members (1) Bruce Helman

Resignations (5) John Foster
 William Cook
 Ray Crocker
 Norman Bilton
 Don Cameron

Deaths (1) Peter Roxby

2012 continued

As at 13th January 2013 membership stood at 45 with an average monthly attendance of 34.

Treasury

As at 31 December 2012 total Cash at Bank was \$4254.70 represented by

Working Account	\$1942.92
Term Deposit	\$2311.78

Conclusion

The year came to an end at the Annual General Meeting with the outgoing President Kevin giving a report of the year under review.

So we close a very successful 2012 and thank Kevin for his excellent leadership. We wish all members a happy new 2013 Probus year.

2013

The first meeting for the year was held on the 21st January due to our normal meeting coinciding with the Australia Day week-end.

The 11th Annual Meeting was held on March 25th at the Belmont Golf Club. This meeting elected the following committee to serve until 2014.

President	Brian Sullivan
Vice President	Geoff Black
Secretary	Bruce Helman
Treasurer	Peter Greenwood
Newsletter	Kevin Hepplewhite
Social Director	Alan Beard
Program Officer	Ray Grainger
Welfare Officer	Bill Davidson
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Publicity	Alan Beard
Roving Committee	Bob Edwards
Historian	Alan Carter
Past President	Kevin Hepplewhite
Public Officer	John Harborne

There were 28 members present at the Annual General Meeting with 8 apologies and 8 absentees.

The subscription for 2013-2014 was retained at \$50 with a rebate of \$5 for renewing members. The Joining Fee remained at \$10.

2013 continued

Outgoing President Kevin, said “that a successful year depends on many people and events. There are areas that make a successful club, these being the board of management; the activities coordinators; the volunteers; and the club members – without all of these, the club would not survive.

The board of management has been a great support, by attending to business and planning the events each month. Board members' efforts have made my job a lot easier, and I thank each and every one of them.”

Special thanks for 2012 helpers went to:

John Harborne for what was a difficult year as Secretary;

Brian Sullivan for maintaining the books as Treasurer and Vice Presidency;

David Braidwood for providing interesting excursions as Social Director;

Alan Carter for his informative newsletter and website updates;

Ray Grainger for his interesting speakers;

Peter Graham for keeping us up to date with welfare and attendance;

Alan Beard and Phil Aubin for their Roving activities;

Peter Greenwood for keeping the history up to date;

Ern Alchin for being Public Officer;

Trevor Dee for his representation at HRPAs meetings;

Laurie Beard for her assistance with activities;

Ron Tooney for coordinating the Walking Group & Jim Saultry for Tai Chi;

Les Crowe for organising the BBQ with chefs Austin Greener & John Skehan;

Trevor Dee for organising the Probus Singers;

Alan Carter for organising the Computer Group with Phil Aubin;

Warren Hunter for his musical talents.

2013 continued

Programs

Our Program Officer Ray Grainger provided an array of interesting and informative guest speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 21	Dr Robyn Fried	East Timor
Feb 25	Bill Cook	Australian Travelogue
Mar 25	Bob Bush	Bush Poet
Apr 22	Alan Beard	Marching Koalas
May 27	Ben Wilkins	Pharmacist
Jun 24	Bruce Helman	Valuations in NSW
Jul 22	Dave Cooper	Body Circulation
Aug 26	Laurie Beard	The Road to Coorain
Sep 23	Alan Carter	Paris to Vienna
Oct 28	Joanne McCarthy	Newcastle Herald
Nov 25	Adam Tyrrell	Westpac Rescue Helicopter
Dec 10	Christmas Luncheon	No guest speaker
Jan 20, 2014,	John Harborne	China
Feb 24, 2014,	New Members Talk	
Mar 24, 2014,	John Prudence	My Adventures

Social Activities

Alan Beard stepped up to the plate and provided us with an interesting and entertaining program. Thanks, Alan, David, Trevor & Laurie, all of whom were involved in the hard work.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
Jan 21	First Meeting 2013	Lunch at VBC
Feb 24	Sydney Harbour Secrets	Cruise on historic tugboat
Mar 25	AGM Lunch	Belmont Golf Club
Apr 9	Friendship & Morning Tea	Caves Beach Hotel
Apr 18	Australian Infantry Museum	Singleton Military Base
May 6-9	Highland Fling	4 day Southern Highlands
Jun 18	Friendship & Morning Tea	Caves Beach Hotel
Jul 10	Awaba House Morning Teac	Tour of Art Gallery
Aug 5	Lake Macquarie Light Rail	Toronto
Sep 15	Russian Ballet	Civic Theatre

2013 continued

Sep 15	Garden Island Visit	Sydney
Oct 22	Friendship & Morning Tea	Caves Beach Hotel
Nov 5	Melbourne Cup Day	RIDBC Hunter
Dec 10	Christmas Luncheon	Belmont Golf Club
Jan 20 (2014)	Lunch after Meeting	Valentine Bowling Club
Feb 22 (2014)	Friendship & Morning Tea	Caves Beach Hotel
Mar 10 (2014)	Visit Fighter world	Williamtown

Computer Interest Group

Alan Carter & Phil Aubin ran computer help sessions at RIDBC.

Date

Details

Feb 11	Talk on the NBN Co and its development
Mar 11	General discussion on Email and Internet usage
May 13	Managing files
Sep 9	Storage in 'the cloud'
Nov 11	Understanding Spreadsheets
Feb 21	Internet Security

Walking Group

Ron Tooney guided the walking group with regular Wednesday walks plus the monthly coffee walk held at various locations.

Singing Group

Trevor Dee and his group of volunteers attended the House With No Steps five times during the year.

PLOT Group

David Braidwood organised theatre events during the year for members and friends.

Snooker Group

Alan Beard organised a fortnightly get-together at Valentine Bowling Club for the purpose of a fun morning of snooker and friendship.

Coffee & Friendship Group

Trevor Dee organised three morning tea activities at Caves Beach Hotel.

Book Library

Alan Beard, Ron Dillow & Bill Davidson looked after the book library.

2013 continued

Membership

New Members	(6)	Barry Laybutt John Bear John Trenholme Roger Wakefield Gerry Wild Robert Rae
Resignations	(3)	Robert Thurston John Beeton Peter Graham
Non- Active	(1)	Andrew Penman
Deaths	(0)	

As at 24th March 2014 membership stood at 48.

Treasury

As at 31 December 2013 total Cash at Bank was \$5,079 represented by

Working Account	\$2,695.00
Term Deposit	\$2,384.00

Conclusion

The year came to an end at the Annual General Meeting with the outgoing President Brian giving a report of the year under review.

So we close a very successful 2013 and thank Brian for his excellent leadership. We wish all members a happy new 2014 Probus year.

2014

The first meeting for the year was held on the 20th January due to our normal meeting coinciding with the Australia Day week-end.

The 12th Annual Meeting was held on March 24th 2014 at RIDBC Floraville. This meeting elected the following committee to serve until 2015.

President	Geoff Black
Vice President	Bruce Helman
Secretary	Bruce Helman
Treasurer	Peter Greenwood
Newsletter	John Harborne
Social Director	David Braidwood
Program Officer	Graham Higgs
Welfare Officer	Jack Jones
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Publicity/Membership	Alan Beard
Roving Committee	Barry Laybutt
Historian	Alan Carter
Past President	Brian Sullivan
Public Officer	John Harborne

There were 37 members present at the Annual General Meeting with 7 apologies and 4 absentees.

The subscription for 2014-2015 was retained at \$50 with no rebate for renewing members as result of increased Capitation Fees. The Joining Fee was increased to \$15.

2014 continued

Outgoing President Brian Sullivan said that during his term his goal was to foster fellowship and friendship in a happy manner within our Club with an emphasis on reducing formal meeting times. This has been achieved with no loss of communication to the members and certainly the shorter business sessions have been welcomed by all.

Special thanks were given to:

- Trevor Dee for the Coffee, Cake and Friendship mornings and for leading the Probus Singers at the House with No Steps.
- Ron Tooney, Brian Turner, Kevin Carr and Jim Saultry for the weekly walks and Tai Chi.
- Les Crowe, John Skehan and Austin Greener for looking after the BBQ.
- Ron Dillow and Bill Davidson for looking after the Book Exchange/Library.
- Alan Carter and Phil Aubin for the Computer Group.
- David Braidwood for our Probus Lovers of Theatre (PLOT Group).
- Snooker group organisers Alan Stubbs and Alan Beard.
- The unsung legends in the kitchen; are Ron Tooney, Brian Turner, Barry Graves, Kevin Carr and many others that I cannot recall offhand.
- John Gatt as our Honorary Auditor.
- John Harborne as our Public Officer.
- Ever reliable Webmaster Alan Carter.
- Bulletin Editor Kevin Hepplewhite for informative and fun Newsletters.
- Bill Davidson for Welfare/Attendance and as the jovial Santa.
- Warren Hunter for the Christmas Music and being assistant leader of the Carols.
- And the remaining hard-working members of our Management Committee Secretary Bruce Helman, Treasurer Peter Greenwood, Programs Director Ray Grainger, Vice President Geoff Black, Roving Director (and Stand In Secretary) Bob Edwards and the perennial worker Alan Beard as our Social Director.

2014 continued

Programs

Our Program Officer Graham Higgs provided an array of interesting and informative guest speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 20	John Harborne	China
Feb 24	The Five New Members	Brief History
Mar 24	John Prudence	My Life with Aust. Post
Apr 28	John Craig	Inland Tours in a 4WD
May 26	Ed Tonks	Coal Mining in Newcastle
Jun 23	Tony Bromage	My Fortunate Life
Jul 28	Lt. Col. Peter Sweeney (Ret'd)	The Gallipoli Campaign
Aug 25	Stephen Cassettari	Chinese Art/Calligraphy
Sep 22	Video introduced by G Higgs	History of Newcastle
Oct 27	Bruce Helman	Interesting Signs
Nov 24	Annette Parkes	Diabetes Educator
Dec 1	Christmas Luncheon	No guest speaker
Jan 19 2015	Member Contributions	Poetry and Singalong
Feb 23 2015	Bill Cook	South Africa Travelogue
Mar 23 2015	Peter Perkins	Financial Adviser

Social Activities

David Braidwood came back to the committee as Social Director and provided us with a varied and interesting program. Thanks also to Alan & Laurie Beard and to Trevor Dee for organising the Coffee Cake & Friendship mornings.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
Jan 20	First Meeting 2014	Lunch at VBC
Feb 18	Coffee Cake & Friendship	Caves Beach Hotel
Mar 10	Fighter World	Williamtown
Apr 15	Westpac Helicopter Base	Base Tour then lunch
Apr 28	Jessie's at VBC	Lunch for partners/friends
May 20	Coffee Cake & Friendship	Caves Beach Hotel
Jun 10	Bus Trip to Nelson Bay	Scenic Trip & Lunch
Aug 11	Muster Point Sculpture Tour	Mayfield following lunch
Aug 19	Coffee Cake & Friendship	Caves Beach Hotel
Oct 13	Gentlemen's Lunch	Belmont 16's
Nov 4	Melbourne Cup Lunch	RIDBC

2014 continued

Nov 6	Sculpture By The Sea	Sydney Trip
Nov 11	Coffee Cake & Friendship	Caves Beach Hotel
Nov 17	Gentlemen's Lunch	Belmont 16's
Dec 1	Christmas Lunch	Belmont Golf Club
Jan 5	Gentlemen's Lunch	Belmont 16's
Feb 2	Gentlemen's Lunch	Belmont 16's
Feb 10	Coffee Cake & Friendship	Caves Beach Hotel
Mar 2	Gentlemen's Lunch	Belmont 16's

Computer Interest Group

Alan Carter & Phil Aubin ran computer help sessions at RIDBC and also offered to provide a personalised home service when needed.

Walking Group

Ron Tooney guided the walking group with regular Wednesday walks plus the monthly coffee walk held at various locations. Jim Saultry leads Tai Chi sessions for the walking group.

Singing Group

Trevor Dee and his group of volunteers had to cancel meetings at the House With No Steps due to changes within that organisation.

PLOT Group

David Braidwood organised three theatre events during the year for members and friends.

Snooker Group

Alan Beard organised a fortnightly get-together at Valentine Bowling Club for the purpose of a fun morning of snooker and friendship. Was put on hold later in the year.

Book Library

Bill Davidson continued to look after the book library.

2014 continued

Membership

New Members	(0)	
Resignations	(1)	Jack Torrance
Non- Active	(2)	Andrew Penman Ray Keating
Deaths	(2)	Roy Abbott Ray Keating

As of 23rd March, 2015 membership stood at 45.

Treasury

As at 31 December 2014 total Cash at Bank was \$5,529.58 represented by

Working Account	\$2,492.67
Term Deposit	\$3,036.91

Conclusion

The year came to an end at the Annual General Meeting with the outgoing President Geoff giving a report of the year under review.

2015

The first meeting for the year was held on the 19th of January due to our normal meeting coinciding with the Australia Day weekend.

The 13th Annual Meeting was held on March 23rd, 2015, at RIDBC Floraville. This meeting elected the following committee to serve until 2016.

President	Bruce Helman
Vice President	Barry Laybutt
Secretary	Robert Rae
Treasurer	Peter Greenwood and later Brian Sullivan
Newsletter	John Harborne and later Kevin Hepplewhite
Social Director	Trevor Dee
Program Officer	Graham Higgs
Welfare Officer	Jack Jones
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Publicity/Membership	Alan Beard
Roving Committee	Brian Sullivan
Historian	Alan Carter
Past President	Brian Sullivan
Public Officer	John Harborne and later Brian Sullivan

There were 37 members present at the Annual General Meeting with 7 apologies and 1 absentee.

The subscription for 2015-2016 was retained at \$50 with a \$15 rebate for renewing members. The Joining Fee was retained at \$15.

2015 continued

Outgoing President Geoff Black for 2014 said the following in his summary:

"My main privilege has been to witness and enjoy the consideration, care and concern we show for each other as we face off with the problems of old age: sickness, loneliness, bereavement and death. In a sea of society's indifference and even hostility towards us, Probus provides an island of concern and friendship."

"In that vein, with the cooperation of Bruce and Peter, we tried to shorten and lighten up the formal part of our monthly meetings by reducing the amount of guff: only important mail to be mentioned, the rest, including junk mail, to be tabled. Treasurer's report was brief, and questions were answered if they were raised. This would leave more time to enjoy each other's company at the morning tea break."

Special mention was given to the committee and support persons.

Outgoing President Bruce Helman for 2015 said the following in his summary:

It has been a great honour to serve as the President of the Club. I have endeavoured to keep the meetings as informal as possible while ensuring that the correct procedures are still met. It is my view that members come for the fellowship not for a lesson in meeting procedure. There have been many moments of fun, and I believe that the designation of me by another club as the "shorts and sandals" president was an honour, as it demonstrated the informal and friendly nature of our club, thereby establishing a point of difference. We are the "young at heart" club and should be proud of that difference.

During my year, there have been two long term illnesses in the committee, Barry Laybutt, Vice President was unable to assume the role and sadly passed away only one week before the end of the Probus year. Peter Greenwood the Treasurer was unable to continue and was ably replaced by Brian Sullivan. Foundation member John Harborne passed away, he had served in many roles in the club and was Public Officer at the time of his death, and his contribution to the life of the club is sadly missed. Sadly, another of our members, Gerry Wild, passed away in March after a prolonged illness. Also, during the year, Kevin Carr, moved away to be closer to family. As an active member and the club's photographer and recorder of events, he had made a special contribution to the club.

I would like to give special thanks to the committee members and others who have provided great wisdom and assistance to me or have helped make the club great:

Robert Rae, who assumed the Secretary role and has been a tower of strength and great encouragement.

Brian Sullivan, who took over the role of Treasurer and has ably managed the finances of the club, also took over as Public Officer.

2015 continued

Trevor Dee as Outings Officer, who organised many wonderful and imaginative outings that went off like clockwork. Also, for his contribution to the Coffee, Cake and Friendship functions.

Ron Tooney, Brian Turner, Kevin Carr for the walking group and Jim Saultry for Tai Chi.

Alan Carter for the computer help desk and for being the Club Historian, with special thanks for his work as the club webmaster providing us with a special portal to the outside world. Alan Beard for his men's lunches, his tireless promotion efforts and along with Laurie for the wonderful Bathurst Bash tour, as well as the Melbourne Cup luncheon.

Les Crowe, Austin Greener, Gerry Wild and others who helped as required to provide the barbeques after our meetings.

Graham Higgs for organising speakers, Geoff Black for wisdom as Immediate Past President, Kevin Hepplewhite for stepping in as Bulletin Editor and Jack Jones for policing the members as Welfare Officer.

The kitchen staff, who deliver us morning tea. Ron Tooney, Brian Turner, Kevin Carr, and to many others who do things when the need arises, Warren Hunter for his Christmas music, Bill Davidson for books and being the front man at the Melbourne Cup and Christmas lunches, and Peter Greenwood as Honorary Auditor.

To you all, those mentioned and to all the members, you have made my time as President special, and I thank you.

The year started with a presentation on Fort Scratchley, at an emergency venue due to the temporary effects of the April storm on our normal venue, the walkers did the new Anzac Walk and the May at Trevor's CCF we were treated to a free car from the Department of Fair Trading. May gave us Bill Davidson describing a unique tour of the pubs of Wales and England, and then our outing to Croudace Park for a barbeque and coffee morning on a sunny but bracing June day.

Kim Cherie Davidson from The Star recounted her mountain climbing experiences in South America in June and Kelly from Urban Hum gave a special insight into urban beehives and honey production, including sales of her special honey. Also, in July the plonk explorer steered us on a successful trip to Singleton and the vineyards.

Some members, including the President, went to the August Toronto Men's Shed outing to Lake Macquarie Light Rail to see Jack the restored steam engine, while Kim Cherie entertained the CCF group with her travels. In September the CCF featured a didgeridoo player plus a presentation from Destiny Haven.

October was well filled out by the Bathurst Bash to celebrate 200 years of the founding of Bathurst and included interesting visits to villages and places of interest. Another very successful trip enjoyed by all.

2015 continued

Austin Greener gave us a very interesting two-part talk on his life in mining, in England, South Africa and Australia, with the wealth of knowledge and the breadth of the experience shining through his talk, while our social calendar for the year was rounded off by successful Melbourne Cup and Christmas functions.

January was Brian Sullivan's turn to give us a brief review of life in the bank and his involvement in baseball. Our members certainly have many experiences to share. Stanley Park house at Fullerton Cove was our final outing destination, a hidden gem on the shores of the Hunter.

Also, through the year, men's lunches have continued to provide social engagement and convivial company for the many who attend and the walkers who continue to pound the pavement in their new red colour scheme, and the bi-monthly barbeques after the meetings that generate talk and fellowship. So again, a busy year but above all, lots of fun and companionship.

Programs

Our Program Officer Graham Higgs provided an array of interesting and informative guest speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 19	Member Contributions	Poetry and Singalong
Feb 23	Bill Cook	South Africa Travelogue
Mar 23	Peter Perkins	Financial Adviser
Apr 27	Jim Raine	Fort Scratchley
May 25	Bill Davidson	My Trip to Wales
Jun 22	Kim-Cherie Davidson	Editor of 'The Star'
Jul 27	Kelly Lees	All About Bees
Aug 24	Judy Forty & Barbara Yates	State Emergency Services
Sep 28	Austin Greener	South Africa
Oct 26	Ros Dollisson	Proactive Planning
Nov 23	Austin Greener	Return to UK
Dec 15	Christmas Luncheon	No guest speaker
Jan 18 2016	Brian Sullivan	Life Story
Feb 22 2016	Ian Steverson	World Shipping
Mar 21 2016	Col Maybury	Hunter Astronomical Society

2015 continued

Social Activities

Trevor Dee came back to the committee as Social Director and provided us with a varied and interesting program including the regular Coffee Cake and Friendship mornings. Thanks also to Alan & Laurie Beard for the October Bathurst Trip and the Melbourne Cup Lunch. A number of Gentlemen's Lunches were organised at various venues.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
Jan 19	First Meeting 2015	Followed by Sausage Sizzle
Feb 10	Caves Beach Hotel	Coffee, Cake & Friendship
Apr 16	Fish & Chips Night	Bennett Park, Valentine
May 12	Caves Beach Hotel	Coffee, Cake & Friendship
Jun 02	BBQ Lunch & Visit	Croudace Bay & Concert
Jul 21	Singleton Trip	Lunch & Winery
Aug 11	Caves Beach Hotel	Coffee, Cake & Friendship
Sep 08	Caves Beach Hotel	Social Event & Speaker
Oct 13-16	Bathurst Trip	Bi-Centennial Event
Nov 03	Melbourne Cup Lunch	RIDBC
Nov 10	Caves Beach Hotel	Coffee, Cake & Friendship
Dec 15	Belmont Golf Club	Christmas Lunch
Jan 18	Valentine Bowling Club	Get together Lunch
Feb 16	Stanley Park Homestead	Lunch & Tour

Computer Interest Group

Alan Carter & Phil Aubin ran computer help sessions at RIDBC and also offered to provide a personalised home service when needed.

Walking Group

Ron Tooney guided the walking group with regular Wednesday walks plus the monthly coffee walk held at various locations.

Book Library

Bill Davidson continued to look after the book library.

2015 continued

Membership

New Members (1) Ian Wilkinson

Resignations (1) Kevin Carr

Non- Active (0)

Deaths (3) John Harborne; Gerry Wild & Barry Laybutt

As of 21st March 2016 membership stood at 42.

Treasury

As at 31 December 2015 total Cash at Bank was \$5,505.70 represented by:

Working Account \$2,392.40

Term Deposit \$3,113.30

Conclusion

The year came to an end at the Annual General Meeting with the outgoing President Bruce giving a report of the year under review.

2016

The first meeting for the year was held on the 18th January due to our normal meeting coinciding with the Australia Day weekend.

The 14th Annual Meeting was held on March 28th 2016 at RIDBC Floraville. This meeting elected the following committee to serve until 2017.

President	Bruce Helman
Vice President	Jack Jones
Secretary	Robert Rae
Treasurer	Brian Sullivan
Newsletter	Kevin Hepplewhite
Events Coordinator	Roger Wakefield
Program Officer	Graham Higgs
Welfare/Attendance Officer	Bill Davidson
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Roving Committee	John Bear
Historian	Alan Carter
Past President	Bruce Helman

Support Officers for 2016 appointed by committee:

Public Officer	Brian Sullivan
Asst. Events Coordinator	Alan Beard
Book Exchange Coordinator	Bill Davidson
Morning Tea Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Walking Group Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Computer Support	Alan Carter & Phil Aubin
BBQ Coordinator	Les Crowe

There were 33 members present at the Annual General Meeting with 8 apologies and 1 absentee.

The subscription for 2016-2017 was retained at \$50 with a \$15 rebate for renewing members. The Joining Fee was retained at \$15.

2016 continued

Outgoing President Bruce Helman said the following in his summary:

I have had the honour to complete another year as your President. It has been a first for this club for a President to serve a second-year consecutive year but the sad death of our Vice President close to the changeover period led to my continuing for a second year. It certainly has not been a chore and I have enjoyed the two years immensely and have been pleased to learn more about the richly talented and highly interesting lives of our members.

This year I have endeavoured to provide some fun by posing questions of interest, although they are probably too obscure for many, I hope they have led to a challenging and wider range of topics and information than normal. Thank you for appearing interested and indulging in my little moments.

The most significant achievement of the year is the increase in membership, we have added ten new members. The new members have added richly to the life of the club and provided welcome new thinking and a wide range of life experiences that are shared amongst the members.

During this year, there have been some illnesses in the club, three members, Carl Gessell, a Foundation Member, Noel Rutherford, and Colin Shields had to ask for Non-active Membership which was granted. We were subsequently saddened in March this year with the death of member Noel Rutherford. A number of our members struggle with ongoing health issues, and we wish them the best in their recovery. During the year five members received the OBE Award (Over Blooming Eighty) and were recognised with a certificate. One member Ken Watt received a NON-Award (Now Over Ninety) a special and significant occasion celebrated by a certificate and a cake. My congratulations go to all those recognised for these special milestones.

I would like again to give special thanks to the committee members and others who have provided great wisdom and assistance to me or have helped make the club great:

To Jack Jones who has backed me up as Vice President, stepped into the role whenever necessary and enabled me to be absent from the club because of holidays or on short notice family issues.

Robert Rae, our Secretary who has brought great diligence, new technology with SMS alerts and has been a tower of organisational strength and great encouragement to us all.

2016 continued

Brian Sullivan, as Treasurer who has managed the finances of the club and also oversees the club's compliance with relevant laws in his role as Public Officer.

Roger Wakefield as Outings Officer, who had the difficult job of organising outings to new places while trying to keep fresh ideas going for a club that has been most places or indeed “everywhere”. But he organised some wonderful and imaginative outings and functions that went off like clockwork.

Ron Tooney, Brian Turner, for the “Red Ones” walking group that meanders all over the walking paths of the region and who are occasionally harassed by presidential cyclists.

Graham Higgs for organising and making sure interesting and informative speakers entertain our group and add knowledge. Many thanks to Graham for this work.

Alan Carter for the computer help desk and for being the Club Historian, with special thanks for his work as the club webmaster providing us with a special portal to the outside world.

Alan Beard for the men's lunches, his tireless promotion efforts and along with Laurie for the wonderful Batemans Bay tour, as well as the Melbourne Cup luncheon.

Les Crowe, Austin Greener, and the others who pitched in as required to provide the barbeques after our meetings.

During this year Kevin Hepplewhite has had to constantly remind of my failure to provide my presidential contribution for the Bulletin and I thank him for his patience and also for his work as Bulletin Editor.

Bill Davidson has done a sterling job as Attendance and Welfare Officer. He has a great heart for the welfare, for the need of the club members to support each other and has worked hard to improve the openness of the members to share their struggles. John Bear as Roving Director filled in at important times and added to our committee meetings with judgement and insight.

The kitchen staff, who deliver us morning tea. Ron Tooney, Brian Turner, and to the many others help when the need arises, Warren Hunter for his Christmas music, Bill Davidson for books and being the front man at the

2016 continued

Melbourne Cup and Christmas lunches. To all those unnamed and unsung members who get things out before meetings, clean up afterwards and make things happen that are not seen, be aware they are greatly appreciated, so thank you.

To you all, those mentioned and to all the members, you have made my time as President special, and I thank you.

Our year started with a tour of the restoration project of a Catalina aircraft, a wonderful; project by local volunteers to bring an aircraft back to static display condition. This was followed by a tour of the Singleton Army Base museum with a comprehensive and informative overview of the Gallipoli campaign and then the museum exhibits, followed by lunch at the Royal Hotel Singleton. Our morning tea function featured information from Lake Macquarie Council about natural events and emergency preparations, always a timely reminder of being aware of what nature might throw at us. A visit to the HiVis Signs factory showcased the abilities of local businesses to compete in a difficult world and provide innovative and creative solutions to problems.

Many members and guests enjoyed the well organised and varied tour to the Batemans Bay region, allowing time for history, nature and of course shopping. A trip enjoyed by all.

Finally, a visit to the Car Museum at West Gosford reminded all the old guys about glories past and brought back many memories of wonderful old vehicles. Interspersed with these outings were our traditional Melbourne Cup and Christmas functions, the Christmas function being the best attended for many years.

Our monthly meetings were entertained and educated by a fine and interesting array of speakers, starting in March with a highly entertaining and varied talk from Col Maybury about his involvement in astronomy and space. Then in April we had a practical CPR demonstration presented by the SES and followed in May by archaeology and dinosaurs in Australia. In June Greg Powell gave a presentation on bushrangers and your President secretly enjoying being dressed as a bushranger complete with Crimea shirt, sash, cabbage tree hat and fake guns (a real flash cove). Eileen Taylor's experiences in the Simpson Desert and on a trek across Mongolia provided adventure and hardship in July. August saw a return of one of our regulars, Lt Colonel Peter Sweeney (Retd) giving his usual comprehensive and detailed overview, this time of the Australian participation in the battle of Fromelles. In August Rod Allen demonstrated many old and familiar objects, tools and

2016 continued

household items from the past that have now slipped from common use into collection status. The nods of recognition and information provided from the floor showed the extent of the groups experience and collective life skills. In October Graham Higgs spoke of Dr Barnados and the influence that had on his family and life story and in November Roger Wakefield also shared his family's history within the Hunter Valley, both personal stories of great interest.

The new year started with a local identity, Bernie Costello, sharing some of his many interesting stories about some of the more unusual and shady aspects of life in racing and gambling circles. February was a complete contrast with a talk on the charitable work undertaken by the Mission for Seamen working among the thousands of foreign sailors who briefly touch our port each year.

Sometimes there appeared to be a poor turnout to some outings, but your committee is aware of the demands of busy lives and the issues of health and mobility of some members, so we are attempting to meet all needs, and the fact that over 1250 members and guests in total attended all our functions during the year is a great result.

One of the resounding successes of the year has been the year men's lunches. These have continued to grow and now regularly around 20 attendees. It is good to be able to sit and talk to different members in a relaxed atmosphere. It has certainly improved my knowledge of many more members and has been greatly enjoyed by those who attend. Thank you, Alan, for the idea and the continuing organisation.

So again, a busy year but above all, lots of fun and companionship.

2016 continued

Programs

Our Program Officer Graham Higgs provided an array of interesting and informative guest speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 18	Brian Sullivan	My Life
Feb 22	Ian Steverson	World Shipping
Mar 28	Col Maybury	Astronomy
Apr 18	Diane Skaines	CPR Demonstration
May 23	Bill Hanley	Archeologist - Dinosaurs
Jun 27	Greg Powell	Bushrangers - Thunderbolt
Jul 25	Elaine Taylor	Walking in Mongolia
Aug 22	Peter Sweeney	Battle of Fromelles talk
Sep 26	Rod Allan	Old items and tools
Oct 24	Graham Higgs	Higgs Family history
Nov 28	Roger Wakefield	Henry Hewitt history
Dec 13	Christmas Luncheon	No guest speaker
Jan 23 2017	Bernie Costello	Horse Racing Career
Feb 27 2017	Andrew Lund	Mission to Seafarers
Mar 27 2017	David Braidwood	Tasmania Small Boats

Social Activities

Roger Wakefield took on the role of Events Coordinator and provided us with a varied and interesting program. Thanks also to Alan & Laurie Beard for coordinating the September Batemans Bay Trip and the Melbourne Cup Lunch. A number of Gentlemen's Lunches were organised at various venues.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
May 9	Boys Day Out	Catalina Inspection
Jun 23	Singleton Military Museum	Lunch at Royal Hotel
Aug 13	Hunter Valley Electric Vehicle	Solar Powered Cars
Aug 16	Valentine Bowling Club	Coffee & Cake Morning
Oct 11	Hi-Vis Signs	Tour of Factory
Oct 29	Model Aircraft Display	Luskintyre Aerodrome
Nov 01	Melbourne Cup Lunch	RIDBC
Dec 13	Belmont Golf Club	Christmas Lunch

2016 continued

Membership

New Members (10) Garry Brown; Paul Montgomerie; Cliff Relf,
Trevor Brown; David Davidge; Mac Johnson,
Don Sutton; Rob Webb; Howard Edmonds;
Clayton Vernal.

Resignations (0)

Non- Active (2) Carl Gesell; Colin Shields

Deaths (2) Bruce Molloy; Noel Rutherford

As of 27th March 2017 membership stood at 48 Active Members and
2 Non-Active Members.

Treasury

As at 31 December 2016 total Cash at Bank was \$4588 represented by:
Working Account \$1412
Term Deposit \$3176

2017

The first meeting for the year was held on the 23rd January 2017.

The 15th Annual Meeting was held on March 27th 2017 at RIDBC Floraville. This meeting elected the following committee to serve until 2018.

President	Alan Carter
Vice President	Robert Rae
Secretary	Robert Rae
Treasurer	Brian Sullivan
Newsletter	Kevin Hepplewhite
Events Coordinator	Roger Wakefield
Asst. Events Coordinator	Alan Beard
Program Officer	Graham Higgs
Welfare/Attendance Officer	Garry Brown
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Roving Committee	Cliff Relf
Historian	David Braidwood
Past President	Bruce Helman

Support Officers for 2017 appointed by committee:

Public Officer	Brian Sullivan
Book Exchange Coordinator	Garry Brown
Morning Tea Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Walking Group Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Computer Support	Alan Carter & Phil Aubin
BBQ Coordinator	Les Crowe/Austin Greener

There were 36 members present at the Annual General Meeting with 8 apologies and 4 absentee.

The subscription for 2017-2018 was retained at \$50 with a \$10 rebate for renewing members. The Joining Fee was retained at \$15.

2017 continued

Outgoing President Alan Carter said the following in his summary:

At my first term as President in 2008/9 we had 49 members. We currently have 49 members (4 Non-Active) so if nothing else, we are consistent. We certainly live up to our motto of 'The Young Friendly Fun Club'. Guest speakers have said to me "what a happy club you have here." This is what Probus is all about.

To the members I thank you for your participation in the events organised by the committee and for the friendship within the membership. To the committee I am grateful for the huge effort given by all committee members that has resulted in the smooth running of our Club.

My role as President was helped by the ever diligent and efficient Secretary Robert Rae who kept the communications line open in many ways. Our dedicated Treasurer, Brian Sullivan among other things has produced a budget which will see the club comfortably through the next financial year at the same member fees as last year. Roger Wakefield and Alan Beard kept us active with interesting trips and outings that led to good fellowship and friendship. Our Program Director, Graham Higgs maintained the high standard of speakers covering a variety of topics. Kevin Hepplewhite gave us our monthly Newsletter, always with a bit of humour included. David Braidwood has kept our 'History Document' up to date and Cliff Relf helped with his role as a Roving Committee Person. Garry Brown was active as our Welfare Officer until his death in January. Our Public Officer, Brian Sullivan has ensured that all our incorporation documents are compliant and up to date. Thank you to our Past President Bruce Helman who filled in for me while I was on holidays. Thanks also to the Webmaster – I'm sure you know who he is!

There are many auxiliary groups to be thanked in our Club which include the Morning Tea Group, The BBQ Group, The Walking Group, The Computer Support Group, The Book Exchange Group. Thank you to all these groups that help in the happy running of our Club.

Sadly, three of our members passed away in this Probus Year, Carl Gesell, Allan Stubbs and Garry Brown.

Our Vice President Robert Rae has been sitting in the wings preparing for his role in the chair, so good luck Robert.

2017 continued

Finally, I thank you for allowing me to be your President during the last year and for laughing at any jokes I thought were funny even if you did not agree and for allowing me and my trusty camera to snap away often while unaware that you were about to become a face on the website.

'Keep Smiling'

Alan Carter

President – 26th March 2018

Programs

Our Program Officer Graham Higgs provided an array of interesting and informative guest speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 23	Bernie Costello	My Time as a Penciller
Feb 27	Andrew Lund	Mission to Seafarers
Mar 27	David Braidwood	Tasmania Small Boats
Apr 24	Warren Cook RFD OAM	Judicial System
May 22	John Dixon	Retired Chemist
Jun 26	John Lambkin	Coin Collector
Jul 24	Jack Torrance	My Pastoral Life
Aug 28	Greg & Sylvia Ray	Newcastle History
Sep 25	Matt Kent	Physiologist
Oct 23	Kevin Maley	Retired Police Officer
Nov 27	Stuart Carter	Final Considerations
Dec 12	Christmas Luncheon	No guest speaker
Jan 22 2018	Stuart Torrance	Explaining Dementia
Feb 26 2018	Adrian Watson	Organ & Tissue Donors
Mar 26 2018	George Boulton & John Trenholme	Life Stories

Social Activities

Roger Wakefield continued in the role of Events Coordinator and provided us with a varied and interesting program. Many thanks also to Alan & Laurie Beard for again organizing a trip away in the form of the September Hopalong the Gong Trip and our Melbourne Cup Lunch. A number of Gentlemen's Lunches were again held as they have proved very popular regularly attracting in excess of 15 members.

2017 continued

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
Mar 23	Gosford Car Museum	Museum Inspection
Apr 20	Woodturners of the Hunter	Visit and Lunch at Wests
May 18	Coffee & Cake Morning	Valentine Bowling Club
Jul 17	Christmas in July	Mulla Villa Wollombi
Aug 25	Movies at Edgeworth	Lunch at Edgeworth Tav
Sep 11-14	Hopalong The Gong	Bus Trip to Wollongong
Oct 09	Newcastle Coal Loader	Lunch at Mayfield Wests
Nov 07	Melbourne Cup Lunch	RIDBC
Dec 12	Belmont Golf Club	Christmas Lunch
Feb 05	Fort Scratchley	Lunch at Wests

Membership

New Members	(3)	Bernie Costello; Peter Steel; John Wiltshire
Resignations	(1)	Rob Webb
Non-Active	(4)	Colin Shields; Les Crowe; John Whitehead. Paul Montgomerie
Deaths	(3)	Carl Gesell; Allan Stubbs; Garry Brown

As of 26th March, 2018 membership stood at 45 Active Members and 4 Non-Active Members.

Treasury

As at 31 December 2017 total Cash at Bank was \$4975.41 represented by:

Working Account	\$1743.53
Term Deposit	\$3231.88

2018

The first meeting for the year was held on the 22nd January 2018.

The 16th Annual Meeting was held on March 26th, 2018, at RIDBC Floraville. This meeting elected the following committee to serve until 2019.

President	Robert Rae
Vice President	Bernie Costello
Secretary	Alan Carter
Treasurer	Brian Sullivan
Newsletter	Kevin Hepplewhite
Events Coordinator	Roger Wakefield
Asst. Events Coordinator	Alan Beard
Program Officer	Graham Higgs
Welfare/Attendance Officer	Trevor Brown
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Roving Committee	Bernie Costello
Historian	David Braidwood
Immediate Past President	Alan Carter

Support Officers for 2018 appointed by committee:

Public Officer	Brian Sullivan
Book Exchange Coordinator	Robert Rae
Morning Tea Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Walking Group Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Computer Support	Alan Carter & Phil Aubin
BBQ Coordinator	Austin Greener

There were 32 members present at the Annual General Meeting with 9 apologies and 3 absentees.

The subscription for 2018-2019 was retained at \$50 with a \$10 rebate for renewing members. The Joining Fee was retained at \$15.

2018 continued

Well, another Probus year draws to a close and so this is my final President's report. This year has had many highlights and some sad times.

Highlights include the Induction of Alan Beard and Alan Carter as the Club's first Life Members. An award in recognition of their continued commitment to our Club since foundation. The venture into our new meeting Venue after the rewarding association with the Royal Institute for the Deaf and Blind Children's Centre was both a highlight and a sad moment. The saddest moment for the Club was the death of Trevor Dee. Trevor, as a Foundation member, was very involved in the organisation of the Club over many years. Trevor's forte was organising outings and events in the tradition of Probus' theme of Friendship, Fellowship, and Fun in Retirement.

The Club's activities were varied, with Outings for the Club Members as well as Outings where partners participated. The Gentlemen's lunch continues to grow with more members enjoying the fellowship over lunch. Our visit to the Stockton Breakwater was a most successful experience with the breakwater's history brought alive by the excellent narrative by Bruce Helman. The outings to Rafferty's Resort and Alison Homestead were great experiences enjoyed by members and partners. The Christmas Lunch gave Members, partners, and guests an opportunity to mix socially, to catch up with friends and enjoy a great meal in an excellent venue in the spirit of Christmas. A sincere thank you to Alan Beard, Alan Carter, Bernie Costello, Bruce Helman, Joy Higgs and Roger Wakefield for their efforts in ensuring these successful outings.

Our Guest Speaker program has provided members with a variety of interesting personalities giving up their time to share their experiences. Some speakers provided us with important issues for people in retirement. Stuart Holding on the Aged Driving Test and Nicole Greene on Navigating the Aged Care System. John McGahen entertained us on the "Golden Years of Radio" and Bob Bush entertain members with the delivery of his poems. Stuart Torrance's history of the Men's Shed together with the analogy of comparing Men's Health with regular services of your car was a highlight. Warren Cook's outline of the history of Military Law or lack of revealed the impact of war on military personnel and civilians alike. Ed Tonks' history of Lake Macquarie Hotels was light-hearted and was highlighted by a variety of excellent historic photos in his presentation. Of course, Glenn Wardman and Natalie Kozary's 3D Printing presentation captured the imagination of the members and led to a lot of discussions. Our penultimate speaker was Norm Propert who spoke passionately about Cure Blindness Australia. Norm outlined the work this organisation does for curing RP (Retinitis Pigmentosa).

2018 continued

I will paraphrase Graham Higg's thank you to Norm when he said: "you have opened our eyes regarding the issues blind people have to cope with in our society". A thank you to Graham Higgs, Alan Carter and others who have assisted in organising the Club's Speaker Program.

Our membership number continues to fluctuate around the mid-forties. In April we had two popular members resign. Tony Bromage, a member from 2006 and Colin Shields, a member from 2003. Also, there were resignations from Howard Edmonds, Paul Montgomerie, and Ian Wilkinson, each for their own personal reasons. Membership increased when we welcomed two new members into the Club, Joe Gibson and John Benson who joined last year.

The success of the Club is due to dedicated members in management and support roles who work tirelessly in the organisation of Club activities. In my role as President, I have been proficiently supported by the Secretary, Alan Carter. Alan is not only Secretary who provided timely distribution of Agendas and Minutes along with many other Secretarial roles, but he also manages the Club's Members database and the Webpage with updates of the President Reports, Club Activities, and Photos, etc. Alan and I were ably supported by our Vice President, Bernie Costello with his extensive knowledge of Probus and his willingness to step into any Committee or support role when required. Brian Sullivan continues to manage the Club's financial accounts proficiently ensuring the Club remains financially viable. Thank you, Alan, Bernie, and Brian for your support.

Kevin Hepplewhite continues to provide the membership with the Club's Monthly Newsletter. It is a time-consuming task to ensure information about upcoming activities is timely. Also, he has had to cope with slotting in my wordy President's Report into the newsletter and still provide members with Club information. Thank you, Kevin. Trevor Brown, our Attendance and Welfare Officer has enriched the Member's birthdays with a timely personal phone call or email birthday wish. Thank you, Trevor, for your kind thoughtfulness. As mentioned earlier, our Gentlemen's lunch continues to grow, mainly due to the initiative and planning of Alan Beard. Thank you, Alan, for your efforts every month. A thank you to David Braidwood for his contribution at Committee Meetings and providing us with the Club's history for this year. The history is now available on the website.

How would we survive without our Hospitality support group? There is the Morning Tea Team coordinated by Ron Tooney. Ron leads a hard-working team of John Skehan, Brain Turner, Ken Watt, Bruce Malloy and others who step up when helpers are needed. The team does not only make and serve

2018 continued

morning tea but wash up always leaving the kitchen area spotless. On behalf of the members, I thank Ron and the team for their efforts every month. The bi-monthly sausage sizzle is managed by our chef Austin Greener ably supported by helpers Bernie Costello, Ian Wilkinson, Don Sutton, Cliff Relf and others who also step up when needed. Thank you, Austin and the team for your contribution in providing the Club's bi-monthly sausage sizzle.

Of course, Ron is also the Walking Group's Coordinator, organising the weekly walks as well as monthly coffee walk. The Club Walkers are most appreciative of Ron's efforts in organising the walks each week on their behalf. Members are most welcome to join the group for the walk each Wednesday and the "coffee walks" on the last Wednesday of the month.

I trust my monthly President's Bit has provided you with some enlightenment on my interests together with a personal comment on selective social events and issues. I thank you for the opportunity to be your President for 2018-2019. I welcome President Bernie Costello and the new management Committee into their roles for 2019-2020.

Your Now Past President Robert.

Programs

Our Program Officer Graham Higgs provided an array of interesting and informative guest speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 22	Stuart Torrance	Explaining Dementia
Feb 26	Adrian Watson	Organ & Tissue Donors
Mar 26	George Boulton & John Trenholme	Work Life
Apr 23	Scott Holding	Driving & Road Rules
May 28	Warren Cook RFD OAM	Law of War Military Law
Jun 25	Nicole Green	Aged Care System
Jul 23	Bob Bush	Facts, Fibs & Fables
Aug 27	Ed Tonks	Lake Macquarie Hotels
Sep 24	Glenn Wardman/Natalie Kozary	3D Printing Demonstration
Oct 22	Adam Tyrell	Westpac Helicopter Serv.
Nov 26	John McGahen	Golden Years of Radio
Dec 11	Christmas Luncheon	No guest speaker
Jan 21, 2019,	Stuart Torrance	Men's Shed Movement
Feb 25, 2019,	Norm Propert	Cure Blindness Australia
Mar 25, 2019,	Robert Rae	Scotland & New Guinea

2018 continued

Roger Wakefield continued in the role of Events Coordinator and provided us with a varied and interesting program. A number of Gentlemen's Lunches were again held as they have proved very popular regularly attracting in excess of 15 members.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
Feb 5	Fort Scratchley	Visit and Lunch at Wests
April 16	Coffee & Cake Morning	Valentine Bowling Club
May 7	Stockton Breakwater	Shipwrecks Walk
July 12	Winterfest Lunch	Rafferty's Resort
Aug 16	Adamstown Pudding Kitchen Tour and Morning Tea	
Sept 13	Alison Homestead – Wyong Tour and Morning Tea	
Dec 11	Charlestown Bowling Club Christmas Lunch	
Mar 7	Jon Dickson Home Visit	Memorabilia

Membership

New Members	(2)	Joe Gibson; John Benson; John McGrath
Resignations	(5)	Tony Bromage; Colin Shields; Howard Edmonds; Paul Montgomerie; Ian Wilkinson
Non-Active	(1)	John Whitehead;
Deaths	(1)	Trevor Dee

As of 25th March 2019 membership stood at 45 Active Members and 1 Non-Active Member

Treasury

As of 31 December 2018, total Cash at Bank was \$4222.69 represented by:

Working Account	\$934.01
Term Deposit	\$3288.68

New Meeting Venue

After many happy meetings since March 2006 at The Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children's Function Room, at Floraville, we moved for our first meeting for 2019 to the Tingira Community Church at 13 Neridah Road Belmont North. The new venue is proving most satisfactory.

2019

The first meeting for the year was held on the 21st January 2019 being the first meeting to be held at our new venue in Belmont North.

The 17th Annual General Meeting was held on March 25th 2019 at Tingira Community Church – Belmont North. This meeting elected the following committee to serve until 2020.

President	Bernie Costello
Vice President	John McGrath
Secretary	Robert Rae
Treasurer	Brian Sullivan
Membership Officer	Alan Carter
Newsletter	Kevin Hepplewhite
Events Coordinator	Roger Wakefield
Asst. Events Coordinator	Clayton Vernal
Program Officer	Trevor Brown
Welfare/Attendance Officer	John Benson
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Roving Committee	Alan Beard
Historian	Alan Carter
Immediate Past President	Robert Rae

Support Officers for 2019 appointed by committee:

Public Officer	Brian Sullivan
Book Exchange Coordinator	Joe Gibson
Morning Tea Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Walking Group Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Computer Support	Alan Carter
BBQ Coordinator	Austin Greener

There were 29 members present at the Annual General Meeting with 11 apologies and 5 absentees.

The subscription for 2019-2020 was retained at \$50 with a \$10 rebate for renewing members. The Joining Fee was retained at \$15.

2019 continued

President's Report

Well, another Probus year behind us all. A year that has once again offered the members of our club the best in friendship, fellowship, and fun in retirement.

To the members and partners, I thank you for your participation in the events organised by the hard-working committee of which I am proud to be part of. There are also many auxiliary groups to be thanked for the happy running of our club. This includes the BBQ Group, the Walking Group, the Book Exchange Group, the Computer Support Group and the Gentlemen's Lunch. Well done gentlemen.

Sadly, we lost two of our members in this Probus year, namely David Davidge and Peter Greenwood. We were also saddened by the passing of Joyce Jones, wife of member Jack Jones.

Our membership remains static at 46 plus one Non-Active Member.

Whilst I am not known as a good tipster, I feel that there will be an increase in membership in the coming year. This opinion is also shared by our incoming President John McGrath so good luck John.

Finally, I thank you for allowing me to be your President during the last year and look forward to the continued success of this club.

So as the school bell rings for the final time, I leave you with my classroom greeting of 'Good Morning Boys.'

Keep Smiling!

Bernie Costello

Programs

Our Program Officer Trevor Brown provided an array of interesting and informative guest speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 21	Stuart Torrance	Men's Shed Movement
Feb 25	Norm Propert	Cure Blindness Australia
Mar 25	Robert Rae	Life in Scotland and PNG
Apr 15	Amy McKibbin	Cochlear Implants
May 27	David Harding	Trips & Excursions
Jun 24	Sue Dean	Fair Trading – Buying Awareness
Jul 22	Sue Oldham	Living with a Muslim family
Aug 25	Michael Thrift	Service NSW – Cost of Living
Sep 23	Bruce Helman	Australians Early Prime
Ministers		
Oct 28	Mike Rabbitt	Sports Journalist
Nov 25	Todd Sergeant	2NURFM
Dec 10	Christmas Luncheon	No guest speaker

2019 continued

Jan 20, 2020, Bruce Gibbs Role of JP in NSW
Feb 24, 2020, Heather Alchin Dementia Program and Carers

Social Activities

Roger Wakefield continued in the role of Events Coordinator with the assistance of Clayton Vernall and provided us with a varied and interesting program. A number of Gentlemen's Lunches were again held as they have proved very popular regularly attracting in excess of 15 members.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
Mar 7	Jon Dickson Collection	Memorabilia Display
April 4	Boy's Happy Hour	Valentine Bowling Club
May 23	Winterfest Lunch	Seaview Malaysian Restaurant
June 18	Car Observation Drive	Invitation by Warners Bay Probus
July 11	Coffee & Cake Morning	Valentine Bowling Club
Sept 12	Spring Lunch	Rafferty's Resort
Oct 17	Springfest Lunch	Seaview Malaysian Restaurant
Nov 14	Fish Fry	Bennett's Park
Dec 10	Christmas Lunch	Charlestown Bowling Club

Membership

New Members	(5)	John McGrath; Brian Watson; Gordon Ellis; Graham Taylor; Brendan Mannion
Resignations	(4)	Howard Edmonds; Paul Montgomerie; Ian Wilkinson; Gordon Ellis
Life Members	(2)	Alan Carter & Alan Beard
Non- Active	(1)	John Whitehead;
Deaths	(2)	David Davidge; Peter Greenwood

As at 23rd March 2020 membership stood at 46 Active Members including 2 Life Members plus 1 Non-Active Member

Treasury

As at 31 December 2019 total Cash at Bank was \$5076.82 represented by:

Working Account	\$1730.34
Term Deposit	\$3346.48

2020

The first meeting for the year was held on the 20th of January 2020 at our venue in Belmont North.

The 18th Annual General Meeting was held on March 23rd, 2020, at Tingira Community Church – Belmont North. This meeting elected the following committee to serve until 2021.

President	John McGrath
Vice President	Vacant
General Secretary	Robert Rae
Membership Secretary	Alan Carter
Assistant Secretary	Bruce Helman
Treasurer	Brian Sullivan
Newsletter	Kevin Hepplewhite
Events Coordinator	Roger Wakefield
Asst. Events Coordinator	Bernie Costello
Program Officer	Trevor Brown
Welfare/Attendance Officer	Joe Gibson
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Roving Committee	Alan Beard
Roving Committee	John Benson
Historian	Alan Carter
Immediate Past President	Bernie Costello

Support Officers for 2020 appointed by committee:

Public Officer	Brian Sullivan
Book Exchange Coordinator	Joe Gibson
Morning Tea Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Walking Group Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Computer Support	Alan Carter
BBQ Coordinator	Austin Greener

There were 11 members present at the Annual General Meeting with 35 apologies and 0 absentees.

The subscription for 2020-2021 was retained at \$50 with a \$10 rebate for renewing members. The Joining Fee was retained at \$15.

2020 continued

President's Report

The addition to the Club's history throughout 2020/21 was no doubt unique. In fact, unique in our lives in general. The second world war produced food and beer shortages, but not a run-on toilet paper, a run that saw two women wrestling over a package of tissues in the aisle of a supermarket. Suppliers were required to work additional shifts to meet demand, their workers classified as essential in the battle against Covid or was it necessary to maintain law and order.

Retailing other than essential services closed and we were quarantined in our homes, a solid test of husband/ wife relations came into being. The sale of jigsaw puzzles skyrocketed, and dusty card packs were extracted from the rear of shelves.

The 5kilometre rule was applied, with anyone travelling a further distance from their residence running the risk of a fine, should they not comply with the few acceptable reasons.

Past President Bernie Costello was pulled over by Police. Fortunately, he was able to point to grocery items on the back seat of his vehicle and a fuel gauge approaching empty. He was in the clear pointing out the slight detour he had made was to purchase fuel.

Masks became a common sight, (in some instances designer label) and companies diversified to the manufacture of hand sanitiser.

We squeezed through our AGM when the late arrival of Ron Dillow provided the required number for a quorum. Meetings were then cancelled, your Committee meeting on Zoom, under the chairmanship of Trevor Brown.

There were some interesting moments as members worked out the hand, that when activated on screen indicated you wanted to speak.

Fellowship Officer Joe Gibson suggested a telephone tree as a means of maintaining communications between our members. We are all thankful as I am certain many members were happy to receive calls throughout the lock down.

Robert Rae provided regular updates on all aspects of the pandemic.

As soon as it appeared possible that meetings could be resumed, representatives of your committee met onsite to assess the numbers that could be accommodated in accordance with the social distancing rules. Meetings resumed in July with Covid Safe procedures in place.

The one issue that concerned me on resumption of our meetings was the virtual morning tea, it just didn't hit the spot. The more civilised experience of tea and coffee served by Ron Tooney, Ken Watt and Brian Turner has resumed and is much appreciated by our members.

2020 continued

Trevor Brown has done a wonderful job in securing a broad range of interesting speakers, from a bicycle ride across the USA to the subject of our February Speaker the Kokoda Track.

After eight years Kevin Hepplewhite is stepping down as editor of our Newsletter. Kevin your artistic ability and humour were on display in every edition. Sincere thanks for your wonderful contribution to club life.

Bernie Costello is standing down from the Committee following a year as immediate Past President. The only comment I can offer is those immortal words “good morning boys”, reply: “good morning, sir.”

Outdoor activities have resumed with a visit in March to the Rathmines Catalina Base, organised by Roger Wakefield and the Book Club has resumed with Covid 19 precautions, hopefully, it will not be long before Austin Greener can be placed on the business end of a BBQ, perhaps the final step in a return to club normality.

Finally, my personal thanks to all members of our Committee who have coped well under unusual and difficult circumstances.

John McGrath

Programs

Our Program Officer Trevor Brown provided an array of interesting and informative guest speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 20	Bruce Gibbs	Role of Justice of the Peace
Feb 24	Heather Alchin	Dementia & Caring Program
Mar 23	No Guest Speaker or Meeting as result of Covid-19	
Apr 27	No Guest Speaker or Meeting as result of Covid-19	
May 25	No Guest Speaker or Meeting as result of Covid-19	
Jun 22	No Guest Speaker or Meeting as result of Covid-19	
Jul 27	Bob Dally & Bruce Armstrong	Cycling Across USA
Aug 24	Sarah Fenton	Future Travel
Sep 28	Peter Kilpatrick	Legal Matters – concerning Seniors
Oct 26	John Watson	Changing Lives through Education
Nov 23	Judy Messiter	Weird & Wonderful Lake Macquarie
Dec	No Meeting	
Jan 25 (2021)	Justin Smith	Feet- the hole is greater than the sum of its parts
Feb 22	Dr Jan McLeod	Australian Army Field Ambulance - Kokoda Trail

2020 continued

Social Activities

Roger Wakefield continued in the role of Events Coordinator with the assistance of Bernie Costello.

As a result of Covid-19, social activities were restricted, however, later in the year, a number of Gentlemen's Lunches were again held a meeting at Jewells Tavern, and they have proved very popular, regularly attracting in excess of 15 members.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
Sep 3	Fish & Chips Boys Lunch	Meeting at Bennett Park
Dec 8	Christmas Lunch	Charlestown Bowling Club
Mar 13	Boy's Day Out	Visit Rathmines Catalina Base

Membership

New Members	(1)	Alan McLean
Resignations	(1)	John Prudence
Life Members	(2)	Alan Carter & Alan Beard
Non-Active	(1)	John Whitehead
Deaths	(2)	John Skehan & Joe Gibson

As of 22nd March 2021, membership stood at 44 Active Members, including 2 Life Members plus 1 Member Elect and 1 Non-Active Member.

Treasury

As at 31st December 2020 total Cash at Bank was \$5710.60 represented by:

Working Account	\$2321.99
Term Deposit	\$3388.61

Foreword

The Committee decided to change the History Document from the Calendar Year to the Probus Year from 2021-2022. The Probus Year is from April to March. The purpose of this change is to reduce duplication.

2021-2022

The first meeting for the year was held on Monday 26th April 2021 at our venue at Tingira Community Church, Belmont North.

The 19th Annual General Meeting was deferred a week to Tuesday 30th March 2021 due to the Funeral of Joe Gibson. The March meeting elected the following committee to serve until March 2022. Several positions were left vacant.

Committee for 2021-2022

President	Trevor Brown
Vice President	Geoff Black Resigned in February 2022
General Secretary	Robert Rae
Membership Secretary	Alan Carter
Assistant Secretary	Bruce Helman**
Treasurer	Brian Sullivan
Newsletter	Vacant ***
Events Coordinator	John Benson *
Asst. Events Coordinator	John McGrath *
Program Officer	Roger Wakefield *
Welfare/Attendance Officer	Vacant ****
Webmaster	Alan Carter
Roving Committee Member	Kevin Hepplewhite **
Roving Committee Member	Vacant
Historian	Kevin Hepplewhite
Immediate Past President	John McGrath

Support Officers for 2021 appointed by the committee:

Public Officer	Brian Sullivan
Book Exchange Coordinator	Trevor Brown
Morning Tea Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Walking Group Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Computer Support	Alan Carter
BBQ Coordinator	Austin Greener

* These members changed to the position in May due to the Committee's vacancies.

** Bruce Helman was on Leave of Absence from January 2022 until June 2022. Kevin Hepplewhite stepped in to do the Assistant Secretary position.

Committee for 2021-2022 continued

*** Trevor Brown produced the Newsletter but was not formally elected for the position, as the position was vacant.

**** Robert Rae took on the role of Attendance officer and in a limited capacity as Welfare officer due to the positions being vacant.

The subscription for 2021-2022 was retained at \$50 with a \$10 rebate for renewing members. The Joining Fee was retained at \$15.

President's Report

It has been another interesting year. Out west a mouse plague happened in mid-2020 and then we ended with RATs (testing). COVID stayed with us this year resulting in vaccinations, boosters, mask-wearing, QR codes, social distancing, quarantining and many other inconveniences.

More recently there were devastating floods up and down our eastern coast. My thoughts go out to all those who have been affected.

However, amongst all these disruptions we were able to hold nine general meetings where we enjoyed fellowship, friendship and fun. The meetings missed were August and September. I thank everyone who attended our meetings and following the restrictions that were in place at those times. At the time of writing many restrictions have now been lifted and we are resuming to some sort of normality.

Your committee moved from Zoom meetings to mask meetings and have to be congratulated on organising our general meetings, guest speakers, the limited outings due to the restrictions and also our walks with the walking group and monthly luncheons.

During the lockdown period, the committee reintroduced the 'Telephone Tree', developed by Joe Gibson. A thank you to all the committee for contacting our members throughout this period.

I'd like to thank Roger Wakefield for taking over the Guest Speaker role from me and organising some excellent speakers.

John Benson stepped up to the Outings role with John McGrath assisting. A number of outings had been investigated and proposed but unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we only enjoyed a fish and chip afternoon and the more recent Morpeth adventure.

A thank you to the committee, Bernie Costello and Joy Higgs for their input and organisation of our Christmas lunch.

Our annual tour to Jindabyne was booked back in July '19 for the 'Life of Riley Tour' in September '20. Due to COVID the tour was cancelled and rescheduled for September '21. Again, COVID resurfaced, and the trip was cancelled.

President's Report continued for 2021-2022

My thanks also go to Robert Rae for all his work as Secretary, behind the scenes activity, deciphering the COVID rules of meetings and the text reminders for informing you all of our meetings, luncheons and in Ron Tooney's absence (holidaying in Tuncurry) of the weekly walks. Robert also sends out birthday cards via emails to our members.

Let us not forget Bruce Helman in taking the minutes and Brian Sullivan as Treasurer and Public Officer.

Alan Carter contributed significantly as webmaster, membership secretary and also behind the scenes activity. Alan was a foundation and life member and unfortunately resigned from our club due to family commitments.

Kevin Hepplewhite for stepping in whenever someone could not attend and being our historian.

Geoff Black prior to his resignation also contributed to our committee meetings.

Let's not forget our auxiliary Group, Ron Tooney, Ken Watt, Brian Turner, Graham Taylor and Austin Greener for our morning teas, walking group and BBQ's. Hopefully Austin will light the BBQ more often.

I'd like to thank those who contributed to the newsletter throughout the year.

If I've forgotten anyone my apologies but your contribution is very much appreciated.

We celebrated a number of milestones this year which included:

- our two hundredth general meeting in November 2021
- some OBE's and NON's
- Life membership for David Braidwood

Sadly, we lost 6 members during the year.

Thank you.

Trevor Brown

Programs

Our previous Program Officer Trevor Brown had organised the first few speakers. Roger Wakefield then took over the position of Program Officer and continued an array of interesting and informative guest speakers for the remainder of the year.

<u>Date</u> (2021)	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 25	Justin Smith	Feet the whole is greater than the sum of its parts
Feb 22	Dr Jan McLeod	Australian Army Field Ambulance - Kokoda Trail
Mar 30	Wal Williams,	Stained Glass, and Lead Lighting
Apr 26	Graham Burgess	Unusual people you meet when you go to unusual

Programs Continued 2021-2022

<u>Date (2021)</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
May 24	Eden MacLean & Georgia Amess	Exercise Physiologists: Fall Prevention Osteoporosis, Arthritis, and Joint Replacement Exercises
Jun 28	Alan McLean, 40 years in the Caravan Industry in The Hunter	
Jul 26	Pat Conroy, ALP Member for Shortland, Various topics	
Aug 23	<i>Meeting Cancelled due to Covid shutdown</i>	
Sep 27	<i>Meeting Cancelled due to Covid shutdown</i>	
Oct 18	Dave Sullivan	NASA Stratospheric Balloon Program
Nov 22	Ken Watt	Cooks Hill to Valentine
Dec	No Meeting	

Date (2022)

Jan 24	Dr John Page	12 Miracles of our Anatomy
Feb 28	Adam Loong	Pilot Angel Flight
Mar 28	Dr John Page	12 Miracles of our Anatomy (Part 2)

Social Activities

Roger Wakefield continued in the role of Events Coordinator with the assistance of John Benson.

When Roger took on the role of Programs Officer position, John Benson stepped up to Events Coordinator with John McGrath as the assistant. With the reduction of Covid-19 risk, social activities were restarted.

The Gentlemen's Lunches were again held, meeting at Jewells Tavern except for August, September, and October due to another Covid shutdown. When held, the lunches have proved very popular, regularly attracting 15 or more members.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>
Oct	Life of Riley Tour to Snowy was cancelled due to Covid	
Nov 18	Fish & Chips in The Park	Bennett Park Valentine
Dec 14	Christmas Lunch	Charlestown Bowling Club
March 10	Morpeth Museum / Lunch	Car-pooling / Commercial Hotel

Membership

New Members	(7)	Nev Thomas; Ken Whicker; Trevor Platts, Ted Tait; John Holliday, Bob Maloney, John Adlington.
Resignations	(5)	Barry Graves; Ron Dillow; Don Sutton, Jack Jones; Alan Carter (Feb 2022)
Life Members	(2)	Alan Carter & David Braidwood who was investiture at the July 2021 meeting

Membership Continued

Foundation Members David Braidwood; Alan Carter; John Gatt,
Ron Tooney and Ken Watt were presented with
Appreciation Certificates

Non-Active (2) Bob Edwards; Les Crowe

Deaths (5) Alan Beard (life member),
John Wiltshire, George Boulton, and
Non-Active Members Ern Alchin.
John Whitehead.

Leave Of Absence (1) Bruce Helman from January 2022 to June 2022

As of 28 March 2022, AGM membership stood at 39 Active Members,
2 Life Members and 2 Non-Active Members.

Treasury

As of 31st December 2021: Total Cash at Bank was \$5912 represented by:

Working Account \$2523

Term deposit \$3389.

2022/23 (Probus year)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

It has been another challenging year; on the brighter side, more people are out and about and starting to enjoy travelling and venturing within Australia and overseas again. Some are cruising the high seas, but I believe masks need to be worn within the ship.

Thank you for supporting our club; without you, there would not be a club. In saying that, you would not be here if there were no committee.

A big thank you to the committee, sub-committee and the helpers throughout the year that made it all possible. You will have to bear with me as I'm going to outline my thanks to individuals.

John McGrath is not only my Vice President but also our Events Coordinator. John organised a number of outings this year, and were enjoyed by those who attended. Let's not forget the BBQs John and Graham Taylor cooked for us. John negotiated the pricing for our outing at Brown Sugar Restaurant while Robert Rae organised the finer details.

Robert Rae has carried out a magnificent job being General Secretary; also the role as Welfare Officer, Membership Secretary and organised our Christmas Function at the Belmont Golf Club. Robert arrives early to organise the hall and ensures the venue is ready for you and our guest speaker. He also sends text messages informing our members of the luncheon and outings as appropriate.

The minutes of our Committee and General meetings were succinctly prepared by Bruce Helman, and at times when Bruce was unavailable, Kevin Hepplewhite prepared the minutes.

Our numbers man, Brian Sullivan, expertly controlled our finances and prepared our budget for the upcoming year as well as being our Public Officer.

With a wealth of knowledge of the local scene and contacts, Roger Wakefield engaged some excellent guest speakers this year. I would also like to thank Graham Higgs, Roger's assistant, for his input.

When entering the meeting, you were greeted by John Bear's bright smile as he recorded your presence.

If you look at our website under 'Club History,' you'll see the great work carried out by Kevin Hepplewhite.

Let's not forget John Benson, who acted as 'Roving' and organised our Gentlemen's lunches at Jewells Tavern. One anomaly is when Peter Steel organised our lunch in March, coupled with a morning of lawn bowls at Valentine Bowling Club.

Now we come to our sub-committee. We would be parched at our meetings if it weren't for Ron Tooney, Brian Turner, Ken Watt and Graham Taylor. As a cohesive team, they work together in setting up and serving our morning tea and then tidying up.

Ron Tooney for organising our walk and coffee Wednesday mornings. Don't forget the red tee shirt and blue Probus cap. Many a time, we have been stopped and engaged in conversation about our activity.

Thank you to Ted Tait for sharing his library of books with the club members.

To Alan Carter, a life member, for continuing to be our webmaster and in providing some technical advice on 'windows software' and general matters of interest circulated to our members.

My appreciation is also to the members who have provided stories to the club's monthly newsletter.

Again, thank you to all, and my apologies if I have missed anyone or anything in particular.

There has been a number of other achievements throughout the year, which have included:

- having all our monthly meetings, both committee and general
- starting our bi-monthly BBQs
- achieving our milestone by celebrating the Club's 20th anniversary.

Festivities included a special cake, some OBEs and NONs Awards.

With sadness, we lost members throughout the year, with our numbers reduced to 38. As I have said in the past, please bring along your friends, neighbours or 'noblemen' to ensure the prosperity of the club.

Your President for 2022 - 2023, Trevor

2022/23 continued

The first meeting for the 2022 Probus year, also included the 20th Annual General Meeting, was held on the 28th March 2022 at our venue at Tingira Community Church – Belmont North. There were 29 members present at this Meeting with seven apologies, two absentees and 0 Visitors.

The meeting elected the following committee to serve until March 2023. Several positions were left vacant, and a number of the existing board members also filled some of the vacant positions.

* These members undertook vacant positions on the Board. Further details are shown under the portfolio details.

** Bruce Helman was on extended Leave of Absence until June 2022. When Bruce was absent, Kevin Hepplewhite stepped into the Assistant Secretary position.

*** Alan Carter updated the website with the information supplied by the President and Secretary

President	Trevor Brown
Vice President	John McGrath
General Secretary	Robert Rae
Membership Secretary	Robert Rae*
Assistant Secretary	Bruce Helman **
Treasurer	Brian Sullivan
Newsletter	Trevor Brown*
Events Coordinator	John McGrath
Asst. Events Coordinator	Vacant
Program Officer	Roger Wakefield
Asst. Program Officer	Graham Higgs
Welfare	Robert Rae*
Attendance Officer	John Bear
Webmaster	Alan Carter***
Roving Committee	John Benson
Roving Committee	Vacant
Historian	Kevin Hepplewhite
Immediate Past President	Trevor Brown
Support Officers for 2022 appointed by committee:	
Public Officer	Brian Sullivan
Book Exchange Coordinator	Ted Tate

2022/23 continued

Morning Tea Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Walking Group Coordinator	Ron Tooney
Computer Support	Vacant
BBQ Coordinator	Austin Greener

There were 29 members present at the Annual General Meeting with seven apologies, two absentees and 0 Visitors.

The subscription for 2022-2023 was reduced to \$0 for renewing members due to the healthy bank account. This was an equitable distribution of funds to all members, and the Joining Fee was retained at \$15.

Programs

Our Continuing Program Officer, Rodger Wakefield, had organised the first few speakers for the year and continued in the role. Roger provided an array of interesting and informative guest speakers for the year.

<u>Date</u> (2022/23)	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 24, 2022,	Dr John Page	12 Miracles of our Anatomy
Feb 28	Adam Loong	Pilot Angel Flight
Mar 28	Dr John Page	12 Miracles of our Anatomy (Part 2)
Apr 26	Brian Watson	Angel Flight experiences as support
May 23	Gary Herrett	200 Years of Coal Loading in Newcastle
June 27	Jessica Kyle	Services NSW Cost of Living
July 25	Paul McFarlane	Newcastle Airport Upgrade
Aug 22	Bruce Helman	All Australian Prime Ministers
Sept 26	Kathy Edwards	Her Bush Poetry
Oct 24	Ian Hemphill	Demystifying Wonders of the Spice World
Nov 28	Wayne Cooper	History in Police Service plus as Tribute.
Jan 23, 2023,	Bob Cook	William the Fourth
Feb 27	Rebecca Barnes	Integrated Living

Social Activities

John McGrath took on the role of Events Coordinator.

With the reduction of Covid-19 risk, social activities were restarted. The Gentlemen's Lunches were again held, meeting at the Jewells Tavern. When held, the lunches have proved popular, however, with less numbers attending.

2022/23 continued

<u>Date</u>	Activity	Details
May 19	Brownsugar Restaurant Lunch	With partners/wives
Oct 13	Gosford Gardens and Lunch	With partners/wives
Nov 17	Picnic at Bennett Park Valentine	With partners/wives
Dec 14	Christmas Lunch Belmont Golf Club	With partners/wives

Membership

New Members (1) Paul Rheinberger
Resignations (2) Ken Whicker
Leave of Absence (2) Bruce Helman till June 22, Clayton Vernall
Life Member Active (1) David Braidwood

Life Member Non-Active (1) Alan Carter
Non-Active Members (2) Bob Edwards; Les Crowe
Deaths (2) John Whitehead, John Trenholme,
and Les Crowe.

As of March 2023, membership stood at 38 Active Members, including one Active Life Member.

Treasury

As of 31st December 2022, total Cash at Bank was \$4146, represented by:

- Working Account \$ 757
- Term Deposit \$3389

CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

PROBUS CENTRE - SOUTH PACIFIC INC.



Certificate of Accreditation

The Men's Probud Club of Valentine

Accreditation Number: 2186
Registration Number: 56729
District Number: 9670

Has been duly accredited and registered as a Probud Club and is hereby authorised to use the Probud Name and Logo (Registered under the Trade Mark Act, both in Australia and New Zealand) whilst maintaining in the Club Constitution the mandatory clauses as specified by the Probud Centre - South Pacific Inc. from time to time.

Formed on the 2nd December 2002

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Belmont

Chairperson
Leslea Martin

Executive Secretary
Pat Atkinson

Addendum 2 **CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION**

ROBERT ALVAN STENT
2/164 MACQUARIE DRIVE
ELEEBA NSW 2282

REMOVE THIS TOP SECTION IF DESIRED, BEFORE FRAMING



DEPARTMENT OF **FAIR TRADING**
NSW Consumer Protection Agency

Certificate of Incorporation as an Association

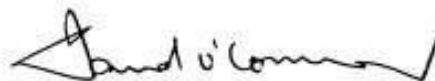
THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the undermentioned Association is incorporated in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984.

Association Name: **THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE INCORPORATED**

Incorporation No: **INC9879100**

Date of Incorporation: **14 January 2003**

Issued and given under my hand this fourteenth day of January, 2003.



D B O'Connor
Director-General

Addendum 3

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE INC.

Effective from 28 / 10 /2013



**The inaugural meeting of
The Men's Probus Club of Valentine Inc.
took place on 2nd December 2002.
It became incorporated under the
Associations Incorporation Act (1984) on 14th January 2003**

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

The PROBUS name and emblem are registered under the Australian and New Zealand Trade Marks Acts. They may be used only by Probus clubs, Probus Associations and other bodies accredited by the Probus South Pacific Limited and they may not be used for any commercial purpose without the written approval of the Probus South Pacific Limited. To hold accreditation a Probus club must have been sponsored by a Rotary club and must adopt and comply with the bold and italic typeface wording of this constitution.

1. TITLE

The name of this club shall be The Men's Probus Club of Valentine Incorporated.

2. AIMS and OBJECTIVES

- 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.***
- d. It shall be non-political and non-sectarian. It shall not endorse any candidate for public office and shall not take corporate action at any meeting with the intention of influencing the policies or decisions of governments; however the merits of any public question may be a subject of fair and intelligent study or discussion at a club meeting for the information of members.***
- e. It shall not be, or be seen to be, a fund raising body. The club by a majority decision of its members may engage in corporate projects for social benefit provided that any such activity shall not involve the raising of funds and provided that individual participation in any such project shall be entirely voluntary.***
- f. It shall not enter into any contract which involves the use of the Probus name or the Probus emblem without the prior written consent of the Probus South Pacific Ltd.***

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 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 the City of Lake Macquarie.***
- c. Membership of this club shall consist of ordinary members as defined in clause 3(a) and non-subscribing members comprising Honorary Members, Life Members or Non-Active Members.***

- i. Honorary Members may be elected at the discretion of and on such terms as may be decided upon by a special resolution of members at a general meeting. Honorary Members shall not be required to pay membership subscriptions, shall not be eligible to hold office and shall not be entitled to vote but shall enjoy all other privileges of membership. The maximum number of Honorary Members shall be as decided by members at any general meeting.
 - ii. Life Membership may be conferred upon a member who has rendered outstanding service to the club. Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Management Committee for consideration, and if approved, referred to the next general meeting of the club for confirmation by a special resolution of members. Life Members shall not be required to pay membership subscriptions but shall enjoy all other privileges of membership. The maximum number of Life Members shall be as decided by members at any general meeting.
 - iii. Non Active Membership may be conferred by the Management Committee upon a member who because of illness or a physical disability has been granted leave of absence by the club, such members shall not be included in the member number of the club during that period of absence. Non-financial membership may be granted to Non Active Members, no maximum number of such members being applicable.
- d. The maximum number of ordinary members shall be decided by members at an annual general meeting.
- e. ***Applicants for membership must be sponsored by two members of the club and approved for membership by a majority of the Management Committee.***
- f. ***No person shall be denied membership of the club for reasons of race, religion, or political persuasion.***
- g. Upon the acceptance or rejection of an application for membership by the Management Committee the Secretary shall forthwith give the applicant notice in writing of such acceptance or rejection.
- h. An appeal against rejection of application for membership shall be in writing addressed to the Secretary and submitted to the next general meeting of club members for decision.
- i. Membership of this club shall be contingent upon attendance at regular meetings of not less than fifty per cent in any club year, subject to leave of absence in cases of sickness or on any other reasonable grounds.
- j. A member may resign by giving a written notice of resignation to the Secretary.
- k. The membership of a member convicted of an indictable offence may be terminated, without right of appeal, by decision of the members at a general meeting.
- l. The membership of a member may be terminated in accordance with the process set out in clauses 11 and 12 should such a member not comply with the provisions of these rules or act in a manner considered injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the club.

4. MANAGEMENT

- a. ***The Club shall be managed by a Management Committee, comprising a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and officers as provided in the By-laws or the club's Standing Resolutions.***
- b. ***Members of the Management Committee shall be elected annually in accordance with this constitution and any provision in the By-laws or the***

club's Standing Resolutions. ***The term of office of the President shall be one year, which may be extended to not more than two consecutive years if required due to special circumstances.*** Other Officers and Committee Members may serve for not more than three successive years in any one office except as otherwise determined and recommended by the Management Committee to members for decision.

- c. For the purpose of these rules, the office of an Officer or Committee Member becomes vacant if the Officer or Committee Member

 - i. ceases to be a member of the club
 - ii. becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001*.
 - iii. resigns the office in writing given to the Secretary.
- d. A casual vacancy on the Management Committee may be filled by action of the Management Committee.
- e. A quorum at meetings of the Management Committee ("Committee Meetings") shall be a majority of the members thereof.
- f. In order to avoid any doubt, a motion is carried by a majority if more than half of those people voting (including proxies but not including those who wish to abstain) vote in favour of the motion, unless otherwise specified.
- g. Voting shall be by a show of hands, with each Officer and Committee Member having one vote only. Proxies are accepted.
- h. Where there is an equal division of votes at a Committee Meeting, the chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.
- i. The minutes of each Committee Meeting, when confirmed at the following meeting, must be signed by the chairman of the meeting verifying their accuracy.
- j. The Management Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees to deal with specific matters.
- k. Committee Meetings shall be as determined by the Management Committee, meeting at least once in every four calendar months to exercise obligations.
- l. The Secretary shall advise members of the Management Committee the time and venue for each meeting, at least seven days prior to the meeting, orally or by mail, electronic transfer or any other method agreed upon.
- m. The Management Committee shall exercise general control and management of the club affairs between meetings, reporting on actions taken at the next general meeting of members.
- n. A member of the Management Committee may be removed from office at a general meeting of the club if a majority of members present at the meeting vote in favour of removing the member.
- o. Before a vote of members is taken about removing the member from office, the member must be given a full and fair opportunity to show cause why removal from office should not be effected.
- p. A member of the Management Committee has no right of appeal against the member's removal from office under this section.

5. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

- a. *An annual general meeting for the election of Officers and Committee Members shall be held on or before March 31 of each year.***
- b. *The newly elected Management Committee shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.***
- c. *Nominations for positions on the Management Committee for the ensuing year shall be called for at the meeting preceding the February meeting, such nominations to be lodged with the Secretary no later than the February meeting. These positions shall be filled by ballot, if necessary, at the annual general meeting.***
- d. *Voting shall be by show of hands or by ballot as decided by members. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes of members present and voting in the election for each office or Management Committee position shall be declared elected. Proxies are accepted.***
- e. *Where there is an equal division of votes, the chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.***
- f. *If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies, the candidates nominated shall be deemed elected and further nominations shall be received at the annual general meeting.***
- g. *If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed elected.***
- h. *If the number of nominations received is more than the number of vacancies to be filled, an election shall be held.***

6. MEETINGS

- a. *The general meetings and the annual general meeting of the club shall be held as provided in the By-laws or the club's Standing Resolutions. General Meetings of the club shall be held at monthly intervals, except as otherwise decided by members when affected by Public Holidays and/or the December/January holiday period.***
- b. *General meetings of the club shall be held at such a time and place approved by members.***
- c. *A quorum at meetings of the club shall be twenty five per cent of the total club membership (excluding Honorary Members and Non Active Members) with a minimum of ten members.***
- d. *A general meeting shall be called on the request, in writing, of not less than five members (excluding Honorary Members and Non Active Members). Notice of such meeting shall be given to members at least twenty one days before the meeting is to be held with a statement setting out the purposes for which the meeting has been called and any motions submitted.***
- e. *An annual general meeting shall be held on or before March 31st each year at such a place and time as may be determined by the Management Committee and at least twenty-one days' notice of such a meeting shall be given.***
- f. *Notice of an annual general meeting stating the time, date, venue and business to be conducted at the meeting shall be given at the February meeting or by mail, electronic transmission or any other method agreed upon.***

- g.** Voting shall be by a show of hands, or by ballot if required by a majority of members (excluding Honorary Members and Non Active Members).
- h.** In order to avoid any doubt, a motion is carried by a majority if more than half of those people voting (including proxies but not including those who wish to abstain) vote in favour of the motion, unless otherwise specified.
- i.** At general meetings and annual general meetings of the club a member shall have one vote only. Proxies are accepted.
- j.** Where there is an equal division of votes, the chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.
- k.** The President, or in the absence of or the inability of the President to do so, the Vice President shall preside at all meetings. In the absence of both Officers the members present shall elect a chairman.
- l.** The minutes of each meeting, when confirmed at the following meeting, must be signed by the chairman of the meeting verifying their accuracy.
- m.** Any notice of motion (other than to amend the club's constitution or by-laws) must be submitted to the Secretary, in writing at least fourteen days prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be formally proposed, where it must be read to members prior to discussion.
- n.** Any notice of motion to amend the club's constitution or the by-laws must be submitted to the Secretary, in writing at least twenty eight days prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be formally proposed.
- o.** The club may hold a postal ballot to determine any issue or proposal.
- p.** A postal ballot is to be conducted in accordance with Schedule 3 to the *Association Incorporation Regulation 2010*.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a.** ***Members of the club shall pay*** a joining fee (if any) and ***an annual subscription as provided in the By-Laws*** or the club's Standing Resolutions.
- b.** ***The subscription shall include such capitation and insurance fees as may be required by the Probus South Pacific Limited.***
- c.** The joining fee (if any) and annual membership subscription payable by members shall be determined by members at an annual general meeting and shall remain in effect until amended by resolution at a subsequent annual general meeting.
- d.** The annual subscription is due and payable on the April 1st each year. Should a member have not paid the annual subscription by June 30th the Management Committee may recommend to members termination of that member's membership.
- e.** The subscription of a person joining the club is to be paid pro-rata on a quarterly basis. That is where a person joins the club during the:

Quarter ending June 30 th	Subscription is payable in full
Quarter ending September 30 th	Three-quarters of subscription is payable
Quarter ending December 31 st	One-half of subscription is payable
Quarter ending March 31 st	One-quarter of subscription is payable

Notwithstanding the date upon which a person joins the club, the joining fee (if any) is payable in full.

8. FINANCE

- a. The funds of the club shall be derived from joining fees, annual membership subscriptions, donations and such other sources as the members determine.
- b. The financial year of the club shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the last day of December.
- c. An income and expenditure account (and balance sheet if appropriate) together with the auditor's report for the twelve months to the end of the financial year shall be presented to the annual general meeting after being audited by the person(s) appointed at the previous annual general meeting.
- d. The Treasurer; or in the absence of the Treasurer, a delegated Officer or Committee Member appointed by the Management Committee shall be authorised to deposit all funds of the club to the credit of the club's account in the bank or other financial institution approved by the Management Committee within two working days of receiving the funds.
- e. Cheques in payment of accounts shall be signed by authorised signatories who shall be any two of the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.

9. DUTIES OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS

- a. The Secretary shall keep the records of membership and attendance at meetings, shall record and preserve the minutes of meetings, and perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office.
- b. ***The Secretary or Public Officer shall keep a register of members in which shall be recorded their names, addresses, telephone numbers, date of joining, date of death or resignation and such other information as the club may require.***
- c. The Secretary must ensure full and accurate minutes of all questions, matters, resolutions and other proceedings of each Committee Meeting and general meeting are entered in a minute book.
- d. The Treasurer shall maintain and keep custody of all financial records and have custody of all funds of the club accounting for same to the club annually, shall submit monthly reports to members and perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office.
- e. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, the Secretary shall keep custody of or keep under control all books, documents and securities of the club.
- f. All accounts, books, documents and securities of the club shall be available for inspection by any member of the club upon request.

10. COMMON SEAL

- a. The Secretary or Public Officer shall maintain custody of the common seal of the club.
- b. The common seal shall not be fixed to any instrument except by authority of the Management Committee and the affixing of the common seal shall be attested by the signatures of either two members of the Management Committee or of one member of the Management Committee and of the Public Officer of the club.

11. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

- a.** A complaint may be made to the Management Committee by any person that a member of the club:
 - 1. has refused or neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of this constitution, or
 - 2. has wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the club.
- b.** The Management Committee may refuse to deal with a complaint if it considers the complaint to be trivial or vexatious in nature.
- c.** If the Management Committee decides to deal with the complaint, the Management Committee:
 - 1. must cause notice of the complaint to be served on the member concerned, and
 - 2. must give the member at least 14 days from the time the notice is served within which to make submissions to the Management Committee in connection with the complaint, and
 - 3. must take into consideration any submissions made by the member in connection with the complaint.
- d.** The Management Committee may, by resolution, expel the member from the club or suspend the member from membership of the club if, after considering the complaint and any submissions made in connection with the complaint, it is satisfied that the facts alleged in the complaint have been proved and the expulsion or suspension is warranted in the circumstances.
- e.** If the Management Committee expels or suspends a member, the Secretary must, within 7 days after the action is taken, cause written notice to be given to the member of the action taken, of the reasons given by the Management Committee for having taken that action and of the member's right of appeal under clause 12.
- f.** The expulsion or suspension does not take effect:
 - 1. until the expiration of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal against the resolution concerned, or
 - 2. if within that period the member exercises the right of appeal, unless and until the club confirms the resolution under clause 12,whichever is the later.

12. RIGHT OF APPEAL OF DISCIPLINED MEMBER

- a.** A member may appeal to the club in general meeting against a resolution of the Management Committee under clause 11, within 7 days after notice of the resolution is served on the member, by lodging with the Secretary a notice to that effect.
- b.** The notice may, but need not, be accompanied by a statement of the grounds on which the member intends to rely for the purposes of the appeal.
- c.** On receipt of a notice from a member under subclause (a), the Secretary must notify the Management Committee which is to convene a general meeting of the club to be held within 28 days after the date on which the Secretary received the notice.

- d. At a general meeting of the club convened under subclause (c):
 - 1. the Management Committee and the member must be given the opportunity to state their respective cases orally or in writing, or both, and
 - 2. the members present are to vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- e. The appeal is to be determined by a simple majority of votes cast by members of the club.

13. INTERNAL DISPUTES

- a. The procedures set out in this rule applies to disputes between
 - i. A member and another member (in their capacity as members)
 - ii. A member or members and the club
- b. The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the dispute within fourteen days after the dispute comes to the attention of all parties.
- c. If the dispute is unable to be resolved in accordance with clause 13(b) the dispute is to be referred to a community justice centre for mediation under the *Community Justice Centre Act 1983*.
- d. If a dispute is not resolved by mediation within 3 months of the referral to a community justice centre, the dispute is to be referred to arbitration.
- e. The *Commercial Arbitration Act 2010* applies to any such dispute referred to arbitration.

14. INFORMATION

- a. ***On formation and thereafter each year, the club shall provide the information required by Probus South Pacific Limited concerning membership, meeting arrangements and, Officers and Committee Members for the ensuing year.***
- b. ***The club shall provide the information on other matters as and when required by Probus South Pacific Limited.***

15. NON-PROFITABILITY

The income and property of the club howsoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives of the club and no portion thereof shall be paid to or transferred directly or indirectly to the members of the club provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any Officer, Committee Member or member of the club for any services actually rendered to the club, or reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the club.

16. PUBLIC OFFICER

A Public Officer shall be appointed in accordance with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*.

17. BY-LAWS AND STANDING RESOLUTIONS

The club may by a majority decision of members adopt by-laws or standing resolutions not inconsistent with this constitution, embodying additional provisions for the management of the club. Such by-laws or standing resolutions shall be amended from time to time as provided therein.

18. WINDING UP

- a. ***On winding up, the funds and assets of the club shall not be distributed to members but shall be donated to a charitable organisation, which prohibits distribution of its funds to members.***
- b. The liability of a member to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the club or the costs, charges and expenses of winding up of the club is limited to the amount, if any, personally owed by the member to the club.

19. AMENDMENT

- a. ***Except as provided in this Article (b), the Articles in bold and italic typeface in this constitution may be amended only Probus South Pacific Limited.***
- b. ***Article 1 (Name) and Articles not in bold and italic typeface of this Constitution may be amended at a general meeting of this club, a quorum being present, by the affirmative vote of not less than three quarters of the members present and voting, notice of such proposed amendment(s) having been published to all members at least twenty one (21) days before such meeting.***
- c. Proposed amendments of this constitution shall require pre-approval by Probus South Pacific Limited (prior to submission to members and prior to submission to the NSW Office of Fair Trading) and shall not be effective unless amended at a general meeting of this club, a quorum being present, by the affirmative vote of not less than three quarters of the members present and voting; and accepted by the NSW Office of Fair Trading as being in compliance with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (including subsequent amendments).

We hereby certify that, a quorum being present, this recommended Constitution amended by The Men's Probus Club of Valentine Incorporated regarding Management Clause 4 and approved by Probus South Pacific Limited was adopted without alteration by decision of not less than a three quarters majority of the members present and voting at a meeting held on the 28th October 2013.

.....

(President's Signature)

.....

(Secretary's Signature)

THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE INCORPORATED.

1. MANAGEMENT

Adopted: 22nd March 2004

(a) The Club shall be managed by a Management Committee, hereinafter called "the committee" comprising a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and sufficient committee members to be responsible for Tours and Visits, Entertainment, Programs, Membership, Fellowship, Publicity, Club Bulletin and such other activities as may be decided from time to time by the Club. The Immediate Past President shall be a member, ex officio, of the committee.

2. MEETINGS

Adopted: 22nd March 2004

(a) The Club shall meet monthly on the fourth Monday of each month.

(b) The Club may meet at another time, on another day, or at another venue by decision of the members.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Adopted: 26th March 2007

(a) The maximum membership of the Club shall be 60, as determined at the Annual General Meeting held on 26 March 2007.

(b) There shall not be more than two Honorary Members at any one time.

(c) There shall not be more than two Life Members at any one time.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Adopted: 24th March 2014

a) The subscription payable by members is \$50 per annum, as determined at the Annual General Meeting held on 24th March 2014.

(b) The joining fee payable by a member on admission to the Club is \$15, as determined at the Annual General Meeting held on 24th March 2014, and such fee shall include the cost of a name badge for each member.

(c) Visitors to the Club, termed "prospective members", shall be limited to three visits without cost to them or their sponsor and the Club will carry morning tea costs applicable.

5. AMENDMENTS

Adopted: 23rd July 2007

(a) These Standing Resolutions (other than those to be determined at an Annual General Meeting), may be amended at a general meeting of the Club, a quorum being present, by the affirmative vote of not less than three quarters of the members present and voting, notice of such proposed amendment having been published to all members at least twenty-one days before such meeting.

6. FINANCE

Adopted: 22nd August 2011

(a) The Treasurer and one other delegated officer of the Management Committee, appointed by the Management Committee are authorised to use Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) banking system for club accounts.

(b) The Management Committee shall annually include a budget allocation for payment of NON MEMBER fees and authorise the Treasurer to remit the relevant fees calculated as at 31st December to Probus Centre South Pacific on behalf of the club.

(c) The definition of a NON MEMBER for this Club is a person who does not meet one of the following categories:

Member of any Probus Club or Probus Association; honorary members; life members; spouse or partner of member; widow of deceased member; carer of a member; prospective member; voluntary committee person or voluntary worker; guest speakers; participants in any organised or officially recognised activity of an accredited Probus Club or Probus Association.

7. PUBLIC OFFICER

Adopted: 22nd June 2015

Brian Sullivan is confirmed as the current Public Officer.