Castle Hill & District Probus Club Inc.

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PO Box 321 Castle Hill NSW 1765

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A Celebration of Loyalty and Service

Being the designated day on which to celebrate 50 years of Probus in Australia, our club marked the occasion this way:



Di Carroll was inducted as a Life Member of our Club.



Di has served us non stop since our Club started 14 years ago. She developed and still manages major events, is a member of our Choir, was Membership Officer and a major overall encourager. As President, she piloted us through the Covid years creatively using Zoom to hold virtual meetings—that we came out of that era as strong as we did is a testament to her commitment. She readily acknowledges that others helped, but there has to be a leader and Di is one of the best.



Earlier in the year, the Committee presented Certificates of Appreciation to several activity leaders and to those who had provided exemplary service. At the time, some were unable to attend so the day was an ideal moment to present Margaret Granzotto with her Certificate and to acknowledge Ian Landon-Jones and Graeme and Lyn Cole who could not be with us.



We have not had many retiring Activity Leaders. Accordingly, this day was an ideal opportunity to thank Judy Coulson and Chris Shirbin as they retire from organising and running coach tours. Many of us have thoroughly enjoyed those outings so it was seen as quite appropriate to thank Judy and Chris (not with us unfortunately) today.

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How to Stay Safe

A service from our Police Force



Mick Barnes is a Senior Constable at Castle Hill Police Station. His role is to keep senior citizens safe. To support his right to assist our generation, he points to his Degree in Psychology and his 26 years as a carer.

Re online activities, his advice was to ensure that we all have:

- A clean computer
- A strong password
- An up-to-date antivirus package, and
- That we stick to safe sites

For home safety he said:

- Close your curtains so that valuables cannot be seen from outside
- Have strong locks on ALL doors (including the back door)
- Use CCTV deterrents (real or fake cameras)
- Use those switches that turn lights on and off



Your scribe was most taken by Mick's advice on pass-words. His example of using the first letter of each word from a poem really resonated. So did the table showing the effect of mixing upper and lower case letters with numbers and symbols on a scammer's ability to crack it.

Thanks Mick, good advice and much appreciated.

Our October Meeting



Approx 150 members signed in, we had 22 apologies and we welcomed one visitor

Paul Bourke, our Treasurer, reported significant activity in our accounts with our month end position stable and healthy. He, once again, emphasised the importance of emailing him when you make a payment.



President Olivia thanked, on behalf of us all, the setup crew, the pack away crew together with Sylvana and her helpers for another excellent morning tea.

We think that about 55 members enjoyed lunch at WPHSC after the meeting. We celebrated Carol Dawes' birthday - a big "0" we suspect.

$2.50 Goes to Manly



One of the best things to do in Sydney is to catch the ferry to Manly on a picture-perfect spring day. What would make it better? A free, very slow trip, and this happened to the 19 of us on our $2.50 trip.

Why a free, slow trip?

Well the ferry operators were on a go-slow no-payment campaign - so we also went slowly around the harbour shore line, and didn't pay (although having said that it was theoretically free anyway as our $2.50 would have covered the Metro from Castle Hill, and the light rail down George St).



Most of us went to the Felons Pub on Manly wharf, and some wandered the streets of Manly. As we all separated rather quickly, I couldn't get a group picture, so I had some random person take my picture.

All in all a great day out with lots fun, friendship and food, and one more "F" word (now, now), frosty cold beer.

Ken Carroll

Pavilion Theatre



On the 27th September, a wonderful collection of our Probus members settled down to enjoy 'Home, I'm Darling'.

What a fun evening that turned out to be. With a young married couple pretending to be living in the 1950's, lots of us had childhood memories to look back on, both good and not so good.

The set was very authentic. This interpretation of the well written craft lived up to the standard we have come to expect of Castle Hill Players.

We look forward to their next production.

Olivia Northcott

Brunch Group



We had a very pleasant morning at The Hills Grove Annangrove on Sunday 27th September.
The food was excellent and served quickly by smiling staff. Many stories told of course.
Our brunch was finished with Danish pastries compliments of Happy, the fairly new owner. We were certainly sated after that.



Eileen Ashbrooke

Men's Group



On 8th September, our "Top Eight NRL Competition" was won by Rodney Dredge and he takes home the $115 prize. Rodney was a clear winner picking the first four places in correct order.

We all know Rodney is a passionate Souths supporter but clearly he didn't select teams by his heart, as Souths come in at 6th place (Rodney had them at 7th).

Well done Rodney - bragging rights for 12 months.

John Cowpe

We had 14 men at our men's group get together on Tuesday 22nd September.
Our big chief, John, was in Korea so he handed the reigns over to me.

We would normally have a member tell us his life story - but instead we had Maurie tell us about his fall, which led to other stories about falls and ways to prevent them.

I know one thing about the men's get togethers, that there are plenty of stories to be told.

Ken Carroll





BBQ Picnic Group



True to form Bella Vista Farm welcomed us with a gusty breeze which didn't disappoint as this was considered the norm at this venue. Added to the possible discomfort of the breeze was the possibility of the lack of parking space as set up was taking place for a Festival of Light at the Farm.

But with the Monty Python song "Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life" ringing in our ears, we soldiered on.

The breeze dropped, parking was adequate, the sun came out and 17members enjoyed several hours eating, drinking (in moderation) and solving most of the current world problems.

On this day we were fortunate to witness the emergence of the Dredge Burger Tower (see photos)





This culinary creation, has been promised on many occasions but logistical setbacks have delayed the reveal. Many were overawed at the end result and the only constructive criticism was that possibly there could have been additional beetroot and pineapple to enhance the product to even greater heights.

Our next Barbecue / Picnic will be at Endeavour Park Kings Langley on Thursday 15th October. All Welcome.

Why not put me to the test when I say:

"there are no strangers at a Probus Barbecue /Picnic"

Warren

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Ed: here are a couple of photos from past BBQ's



April 2014



February 2019



August 2019



March 2014

Ladies Coffee and Cake



Our October Ladies Morning Tea at Flower Power was well attended by 20 lovely ladies on a very warm spring morning.



We welcomed Melva Lee to our group and we hope you enjoyed yourself.

Thank you to all of our ladies for your great company and hope to see you all next month on 9th November, which will be our last morning tea of the year.

Marie Inglis

Hawkesbury Races

On Thursday 8th October, approximately 40 mad punting members gathered at Hawkesbury Races.



We dined on carefully selected fare which included Antipasto, Beef Cheeks, Roast Pork, Chicken, salads and roast vegetable. Dessert came later in the afternoon, consisting of delicious cakes, fresh fruit and a selection of cheeses.



As for the punting, whilst no one lost their shirt, several members were successful. With one in particular (who doesn't wish to be named) selecting the first three runners in three races and second and third in a couple of others.



It was a truly lovely afternoon with everyone gathering in the true spirit of fellowship, friendship and most certainly fun.

Verna Cowpe







HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUTH KOREA



Our 14 day tour was an outstanding experience allowing us to be immersed in Korean culture, cuisine, geography, landscapes and significant historical events. We had the most passionate guide, our little "Eveready Bunny" Miss Lee and "Smiley" Mr Lee, our excellent bus driver.

The Korean people are polite, very respectful, friendly and kind.

Here are some particular highlights.

- May 18 National Cemetery - moving video of the 18th May 1980 Uprising by students for democracy where the military battened them down and bayoneted them mercilessly in the streets.
- The colour and pageantry of the Royal Guard Changing Ceremony.
- Haenyeo Museum - learning the history of the Haenyeo women divers who battled hardship every day gathering food from the sea.
- Wandering around many cultural folk villages, temples, national museums and UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Korean BBQ and cuisine were a food lovers delight and great indulgence. (Many of us came home a little heavier!)
- Fabulous hotels and accommodation.
- Busan- traditional rice cake making class with a master chef, many enjoyed pounding the rice mixture with mallets.
- DMZ - crossing the Unification Bridge and looking across to North Korea with the opportunity to walk the third infiltration tunnel.
- Morning tea Q & A time with the head monk, especially when he was asked if he used any modern electronics and he just pulled back his sleeve and produced his smart watch and into his pocket came his iPhone, ha, ha!

Fun, Food and Friends + the 2 Lees = The Best of South Korea

Janice Hoon



(more photos on the next page)



SOUTH KOREA (cont'd)













