

Our History 2012-2013

The first event of the year 2012, Barbecue at Rafting Gound Reserve, was a little different in that in January we had a morning barbecue. This escaped the heat of the day and possible crowds around lunchtime as it was still school holidays.

The club's meetings were again held at McLeod Golf Club. However charges for morning tea were again raised from \$7 to \$8. The AGM in March saw the baton for president passed from Geoff Brierley to Gill Lewis. Other committee changes were that Rene Brierley took over membership assisted by Joan O'Hara, and Neville Brandon came onto the committee as vice-president. All other positions remained as in the previous year. Congratulations were accorded to David Smith as the Club's finances at the end of the financial year, December 31st 2011, showed a healthy balance of \$4250.31. It was acknowledged that we had received a generous donation to funds from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund. The attendance at the previous years' meetings averaged 73 and we started this year with a total of 96 members of which 58 were female and 38 male.

With no speaker for our AGM our first event for the following month was short talks by 4 of our members – Russell Wilson, Neville Brandon, Barbara Parker and John Lees. This was entitled "Snap shots". During the first part of the year we had Michael Beattie from the RSPCA. Dennis Hundscheidt was scheduled to talk on his Oasis Garden but was taken ill, So at short notice Darryl Rossberg filled in and gave us a display and description of her extensive tea pot collection as well as information on her favourite movies and travels. In July, members of the Writers Ink group filled in. August saw Police Sgt Steve Cook talk on Disaster Victim Identification, he had a colleague with him and their inter play was amusing. September was Vickie Broadstock from Classic FM on 'Silver Melodies. Our own Con McCormack provided details of 'His Remarkable Air Flight at 21'. Finally the butcher, Stan Cornish, appeared in November and regaled us with stories of butchering from years ago. In February 2013 we split from tradition and did have an outside speaker – this was Margaret Willsford who gave an excellent illustrated talk about her 'Coast to Coast' trek from St. Bees on the West coast to Robin Hood Bay on the East coast of England. Known as the Wainwright Way it crosses the Northern Penine Chain and a number of National Parks.

A number of members attended the Ecumenical Service in April at the Salvation Army City Temple. Also Gill and Malcolm Lewis represented the club at the Probus Information Day and Seminar. The Probus Friendship Day Picnic was held at the Rocklea showgrounds at the end of July and 15 of our members attended including Norman Pugh who was in the Probus Choir. Kathy Summers who is the daughter of our club member, Joan Andrews, was part of the entertainment and sang a series of songs and finished by getting everyone on their feet doing the Hokey Pokey.

The outings for the year commenced in March with a coach trip to Maynes Cottages which is in the Logan area and then on to the old Kingston butter factory. May saw us visit 'Parrots in Paradise' on the Sunshine Coast followed by lunch at the Glasshouse Mountains Tavern and then on to Australian Teamsters Hall of Fame (Cobb and Co) for a talk and to view the Canungra Defence Intelligence Museum at Kokoda Barracks. Our next trip was Christmas in July in historic Auchenflower House at O'Reilly's Canungra Valley vineyard. Interspersed with the coach trips Helen Kerr had arranged local visits – these included visits to the Art Collection of Brisbane City Council at the Museum of Brisbane; Queensland Art Gallery to see "Modern Woman: Daughters and Lovers" and later to see Masterpieces of the Prado Exhibition at the same venue. Other visits included a tour of RSPCA Headquarters at Wacol and a tour of the Carnival of Flowers at Toowoomba. The final event of the year was of course the Xmas Lunch. This was again held at the McLeod Golf Club. For entertainment 'In-house' talent was again utilized. Betty Thompson played the keyboard and entertained us with a medley of songs whilst Arthur Walters gave his usual monologue this time entitled "The Batchelor's Dinner Party". Hazel Irving accompanied Geoff Brierley who sang "Stars" from Les Miserables and she also played while we all sang carols. We unearthed a great new talent in Joan Andrews who recited a poem that she had written about Christmas. The quiz was organized by Graham Nash and we also had a pass the parcel game – and no, the winning man did not have to kiss all the girls or vice versa.

All our sub-groups seemed to be still attracting members. The BBQers, Beginners Bridge, Writers Ink and Book Worms appeared to be particularly popular.

We lost a number of members during the year including Russell and Mary Wilson who left the area. Russell was a past president and together with Mary had organized our barbecue mornings for a number of years. Ariene Walker also moved away from the Brisbane area. Due to ill health we lost Peter and Isobel Robertson, Rob Jeffrey, Peter and

Mary Hollingsworth, Rosemary Witham and Sandra and Bill Boucher. Sandra had been the Membership Officer ably supported by Bill. Maureen and Alex Wilkins also resigned as Alex went back to work. Alex as a past secretary.

On the positive side new members joining were Rae Pocock, Ingrid and Tony Pritchard and Hazel Irving.

2013

As per the previous 3 years our monthly meetings were held at McLeod Golf Club. Again we had to raise our charges so although morning teas remained at \$8.00 our annual membership was increased by \$5.00 to \$35.00. There was the usual changing of the guard on the committee. After excellent service as Events Officer and then President Gill Lewis left the committee. Also after doing yeoman service Con McCormack (secretary), David Smith (Treasurer), Helen Kerr (Events) and Juliana Pinheiro (Hospitality) all finished their terms in office. The new president was Neville Brandon and Darryl Rossberg moved to vice-president from programmes officer whilst Arthur Walters continued as his excellent work as publicity officer. Coming onto the committee for the first time were Catherine Hesse (secretary), Eril McNamara (events), Ewan McLeod (programmes) and Gwen Smith (hospitality). The position of treasurer received no nominations but was later filled by Margaret McLeod.

At the end of the financial year on the 31st December 2012 the Club's finances were very healthy with the audited accounts showing a balance of \$5371.43. Our membership total at the end of February was 85 and consisted of 33 males and 52 females.

At the AGM we maintained the Probus emphasis by having Yvonne Sadler give a short talk to us on her portfolio as publicity officer for the Probian. This was followed in April by Carmel Audsley who is a retired journalist speaking to us about her book which is entitled "Ours, Yours and Mines" which is about family life in 19th Century Scotland. May saw Rod Hyatt, who is the Development Manager for Habit For Humanity Brisbane, extol his passion for war on poverty in the world and where everyone has a decent home in which to live in peace. Judith Nissen who is a freelance historian talked to us in June whilst July saw Patrick Pickett CSM the newly appointed Director/Conductor of the Queensland Pops Orchestra amuse us in extolling the benefits of becoming "Friends of the Pops". Jim Butler spoke to us about bird life in the Western Suburbs of Brisbane and then in September Sarah and cohorts explained the work on Legacy Way and also the interchange work at the junction of Moggill Road and the Western Freeway. The adventures of Annette Henderson and her partner Win in crossing the Sahara in a VW Kombi and living and working in remote rainforest in Africa were described to us in October. And the year's programme finished in November with our own Ewan McLeod explaining internet security and how to protect yourself on line. Our new calendar year commenced in February 2014 with Don and Julia Cornford, Barry Luck and David Vine talking about the "first Fleet" and their ancestors connections with it.

The year of outings commenced with a visit to the McArthur Museum at the junction of Queen and Edward streets in the City. This was followed in March by a coach trip to the Sunshine coast and a 90 minute cruise of Pumicestone Passage from Caloundra and then on to Mary Cairncross Park for lunch and a Rainforest walk. Back into Brisbane in April with a tour of QPAC where we were shown features of the excellent theatre complex that we have available to us. Laidley Pioneer Village was next on the agenda with a guided tour of many artifacts from yesteryear including the old school, butcher shop, shire office, P.O. store, lock-up i.e. 'clink' or jail, workshops and farm machinery. After lunch at the Queensland National Hotel in the main street we visited Das Neumann House which was formerly the residence of one of the leading pioneers of the district. June saw us back in Brisbane and a visit to the Maritime Museum and lunch at the Ship Inn. This repeated a visit of a few years ago. We were on our travels again In July and morning tea at Cedar Creek Falls was followed by a tour round the glow worm caves, wine tasting and a Christmas in July lunch which were all at the Cedar Creek Winery. The trip back to Brisbane was slowed somewhat as our bus in order to avoid an errant vehicle on a steep downhill bend hit a rock outcrop at the side of the road. A replacement bus had us back home none too late. The Queensland Art Gallery was the location of our August visit and was of more interest to the ladies as it was Quilts and Stitchery Exhibition. The following month saw us have morning tea at Noela's Gorgeous Gardens before continuing to the Air Museum at Caloundra where we had a picnic in a hangar and a guided tour of the 50 aircraft housed here and this included an F111. The new ABC Studios at Southbank were the venue for our next outing and we were shown the recording studios and the many offices of staff compiling news and other programmes. Queensland University was our last trip of the year. Here we were shown around the Queensland

Brain Institute where a number of staff explained the work being done particularly in relation to Alzheimer's research. After morning tea at the coffee shop on the Great Court we split into two groups and visited the Geology Museum or the Art Gallery. For the Christmas Lunch this year we had a change of venue We held the event at Sherwood District AFL Club at Chelmer. The entertainment was imported this year and we had Anita Reed who is a Bush Poet and the Dixieland Band. Both these acts had performed at the Probus Friendship Day. As usual we had the usual quiz which again was organised by Graham Nash and we also had Lucky Door Prizes. The event was organised by Darryl, Rene and Arthur.

In April a number of our members attended the 20th. Ecumenical Service at the Baptist Chapel on Wickham Terrace whilst in July the Stafford Club hosted the annual Friendship Day which 6 of our members attended at the Samford Showgrounds. A new venture this year was a Local Friendship Day which 6 of our members attended at the Sherwood AFL Club in February. Aileen Cummings and David Kerr even won prizes. During the year at the instigation of Probus Centre-South Pacific a lot of work was done by President Nev Brndon ably assisted by Kevin Hesse on re-writing the Constitution. New By-Laws and Resolutions were finally put to the members and adopted in August.

All our sub groups continued to function satisfactorily although Barbecues adopted a grandiose title of Luncheon in the Park. This latter group had a particularly significant event when in August we celebrated Jack and Aileen Cumming's 60th wedding anniversary at the Bellbowrie Tavern. Bridge took to holding some of their meetings at the Kenmore Library.

As usual there were a number *of* membership changes in the course of the year. Jan McCabe passed away Glen Caitlin, a past president, was advised that she was no longer a member as she had not attended any meetings for a considerable time. Jim Lawson also resigned. New members welcomed to the club were Denise O'Sullivan, Barbara Upfield, Merle Grundy and Pat Ryan.