Our History 2014-2015

Situation normal as far as our monthly meetings went for we again convened at the McLeod Golf club. At the AGM on 3rd March 2014 a proposal to increase the annual membership fee from $35.00 to $40.00 generated a prolonged discussion As a result a decision was postponed until the April general meeting. At this subsequent meeting the increase to $40.00 was approved. The Auditor's report showed that at the 31st December 2013 the Club had a positive balance of $5627.07.

There were the usual committee member changes at the end of the year with Darryl Rossberg taking over from Neville Brandon as president whilst Geoff Isaacs became vice-president. Arthur Walters after 5 years yeoman service as publicity officer relinquished his post and Barbara Parker stepped into his shoes. We had a difficult year with regards to committee personnel. Very sadly Catherine Hesse, the secretary, had to resign her position at the beginning of the year after becoming seriously ill. Unfortunately Catherine passed away in October. Con McCormack became acting secretary but he succumbed to illness and in September was replaced by David Smith. Margaret McLeod resigned as treasurer and was replaced by Clive Machin at the July general meeting. Also during the year Kay Wright was co-opted as assistant to Eril McNamara in managing events.

In February we gained new lady members in Barbara Upfield, Merle Grundy and Pat Ryan. Membership in March was 84 consisting of 30 males and 54 females. During the year we added **new** members in David and Lynn Woodall and later on Michael Wilson. Losses in the year were Alan and Mavis McFarlane who left the area, Deidre Cahill, David Kerr and Bob Craswell. We had **news** during the year that former members Bill Boucher and Arlene Walker had passed away. All in all it was a year of sickness and absenteeism.

The speakers for the year commenced in April with Geoff Crane talking about the weather and the factors that influence our weather in Australia. The following month we had Susannah Friis who told us about Destiny Rescue. This organisation is committed to freeing girls who have become trapped in the sex slave industry. The estimate of 27 million slaves in the world is a staggering number. There was jewelry for sale to raise funds. In June we had a departure from our usual format in that there was no speaker but we had a State Of Origin quiz where we were allocated tables according to our place of birth. Each table had to answer the same set of general questions. NSW won the competition. We returned to the usual arrangements in July when Heather Rhead spoke to us about the organization Blue Nurses, its history and responsibilities with regard to providing care and support for the elderly and those with disabilities. August saw Jankees van de Have talk to us about how plants synthesize aromatic compounds which stimulate our senses of taste and smell. After the talk we were all invited to have a 'sniff' at various compounds. Of particular interest to the ladies was the presentation by Susan Tobin in September on Wedgewood pottery particularly its history and financial background. A talk on the Margaret Olley Centre and the work of Margaret Olley was given in October by Bud Brannigan who is in fact an architect. This was particularly appropriate due to our impending visit to the Centre.

Outings for the year started in February with a tour of the Pat Rafter Tennis Centre which included the broadcasting facilities, the Board Rooms and the ladies rooms. We even had our photographs taken on the centre court. Buzz's restaurant was the venue for lunch afterwards. St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with a visit to Killarney Heritage Centre with morning tea being provided by some of our lady members - much **appreciated.** After viewing the Queen Mary Falls we wont to 84 year old Ralph Affleck's working sawmill at Legume. April saw us make a trip to the Chung Tian Buddhist Temple at Priestdale followed by Chinese lunch at a nearby restaurant The menu was vegetarian but had pseudo meat dishes. After had lunch at the nearby Coffee Club our May outing had us go on a tour of the Brisbane Supreme Court. Two young law students conducted us around the Sir Harry Gibbs Legal Heritage Centre where photographs of legal luminaries included one of our own, Royce Miller. After visiting other parts of the court complex some of our members took the opportunity to St in on one or other of the court cases that were in session. Your scribe here has to report that in the case I sat in on the young male accused insisting on calling the judge 'mate'. This did not go down well and received a severe reprimand.

Due to lack of support the proposed visit to St. Helena National Park had to be cancelled. This was a repeat trip of some years earlier and hence a number of members had 'been there done that'. A party of 30 members made the journey to Maleny to the King Ludwig Restaurant to enjoy a Bavarian style Christmas in July lunch. Our members were inveigled into partaking in games and playing musical instruments. All in all a very enjoyable day except for the

drive back home as the coach was held up in a traffic jam because of an accident. So it took 4 hours including lots *of* detours. A very impressive tour of the Brisbane Busways was our fare for August finishing up with morning tea at the Captain Burke Park which is just under the Storey Bridge. The extent and complexity of the BCC routes was surprising. The infrastructure, expansion plans and general operation *of* Brisbane Airports, both Domestic and International, were the subject of the September tour. Even the Plane Spotters area was on the agenda. Lunch was at the DFO's Transit Tavern. After the talk earlier in the year about the Margaret Olley Art Centre we made the trip there in October. After morning tea in Murwillumbah we enjoyed a guided tour. Apart from the re-creation of her studio and displays of her and other artists work the views from the gallery were superb. The restored City Hall was the subject of our November outing together with a visit to the Museum of Brisbane. Afterwards lunch was at the Town Hall Shingle Inn. November being Melbourne cup time we had the usual sweep at our meeting that month and in addition some of our members took advantage of an invitation from Kenmore Village Probus to join them in a Melbourne Cup day lunch at the Riverglen Restaurant. On the first of December we were at the Riverglen Restaurant again for our own event which was the Christmas Lunch. Our MC was Eril McNamara and as usual a good time was had by all and the day was rounded of by the singing of carols. PAQ events during the year which members participated in were the Ecumenical Service and the Fellowship Day.

The sub-groups were as previous years namely:- Terrific Tennis Players, Girls' Morning Tea, Lunch in the Park, Book Worms, Writers Ink, Learners Bridge, Walking Group and Elegant Diners. The latter is an addition to the schedule and is a revival of a diners group of previous years.

2015

The year saw us holding our monthly meetings at the same venue as previous years, namely McLeod Golf and Country club. At the Annual General Meeting in March there was the usual moving of chairs in so far as Geoff Isaacs took over as President with Robin Edwards as Vice-President, Kevin Hesse became Secretary but since he was away initially Helen Kerr stood in for him. Similarly David Woodall became Treasurer but was initially unavailable so Margaret McLeod deputized. Gill Lewis with Malcolm as assistant replaced Rene Brierley and her assistant Maureen O'Hara in the Membership role. Kay Wright took over from Eril McNamara as the Events organiser. Gwen Smith, Barbara Parker and Ewan McLeod continued in their existing positions whilst David Abercrombie continued with the responsibilities of providing and displaying photographs of our activities. It was very disappointing that Geoff had health problems during the year and Robin had an early baptism in presidential duties.

On the financial front we ended the year with total funds available of $5201.55. Annual membership was unchanged at $40.00 whilst the cost of morning teas was raised from $8.00 to $8.50. The charges by McLeod were $100.00 for room hire and $8.50 for morning teas. Anyone requiring the Active Retirees magazine would in future have to contribute $10.00.

We started the year with 80 members and finished with 77 - 27 males and 50 female. The resignations were Betty and Ross Thomson, Nev and Margaret Brandon. Pat and Royce Miller whilst at the end of the year Eril McNamara and Tony Kidston also resigned. New members that we welcomed were Jocely and Jeff Davies, Audrey and Warren McLeod and Don Fletcher, whilst returning members from a few years ago, Peter and Lyn Horn, we were pleased to see back in the fold.

Sterling work was done by Geoff Isaacs, Kevin Hesse and David Woodall on updating the Constitution and this was finally presented and passed at the August meeting.

There was the usual eclectic set of speakers starting with our own Ewan McLeod who told of his adventures in the middle of Australia in the company of friends in their 3 4-wheel drives. May saw Rod Hawkins talking on motivation and his work with the Brisbane Lions and this was followed the next month with Madonna King talking about her experiences in writing biographies on Professor Ian Frazer and the then current Federal Treasurer, Joe Hockey. Colin Dodd a retired police constable from the U.K. entertained us with tales about policing in his day. He even brought along a few tools of the trade including handcuffs and a truncheon. 'Talk about all our yesterdays'. Margaret Tidey spoke to us in August on the research work done at the QIMR Berghofer which dealt with improved health through medical research. Again in-house experiences provided our October speaker when Vivien Nash told of her father's life during the Second World War. November saw Allan Worthington speak to us about the activities of the RSL Following the Christmas break we had Father Morgan Batt an ex-army chaplain speak to us in February. His current

role is working with young men who are considering entering the priesthood and also attempting to climb the highest mountain in every country in the world.

Kay structured outings during the year so that we had alternate ‘home’ and ‘away’ trips and the first time for a few years we had a 3-day away trip. Starting in February we went to Boggo Road jail purely as visitors. A cruise on the Brisbane River in March was followed by a tour round the robotic dairy at Beenleigh. This is a very interesting concept of ‘automated cows’ which seemed to work well. The revamped Botanic Gardens at Mount Cootha were our port of call in June. Our Xmas in July this year saw us visit Cleveland and in particular the Grandview Hotel. On the way down we stopped for morning tea in a park and then or shopping and a look around in the Cleveland Mall. The Grandview Hotel is a very old building and we were given a talk on its history. There were lots of old photographs around the walls as well as other artefacts and Tony Kidston found a photograph of a relative who, years ago, was a local dignitary. At the lunch our own Writers Ink group entertained s by singing carols and Josephine Isaacs told us of Xmas in Holland. On the way back to Brisbane we had a tour around the up-market suburb of Raby Bay.

A visit to the Regal Twin at Graceville to see "Last Cab to Darwin” was our August outing. A visit to the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers was the September treat and a number of gardens were visited before journeying to Spring Bluff where again the flower display was impressive.

For the first time for a number of years we had a 3-day away trip. The last such excursion was to Kingaroy in 2010. This time we went by coach to Ballina and the Northern Rivers A total of 21 members participated. On the way down our first stop was at Point Danger on the Gold Coast for morning tea. Then on to Ballina where we visited The House Without Steps. Here we had lunch and a trip around the grounds in a tractor driven vehicle. This was to view all the fruit orchards. Finally the day concluded with our arrival at our accommodation which was the All Seasons Comfort Inn. The obligatory pre dinner drinks were followed by a hearty meal in the motel’s restaurant. The next day we were taken to Byron Bay and Cape Byron via Lennox Heads. The more adventurous had a walk around the headland whilst others took the sun sitting outside the lighthouse. We did manage to see whales out to sea. Then it was back to Byron Bay and a river cruise. However there was a delay before we could embark as a crew member had not turned up for work. When we eventually got underway the extent and width of the Richmond River was impressive. Lunch was served on board and Kay became a galley slave and helped serve the meals. This was the result of the absent crew member. Having found our land legs again we wandered around the local museum which obviously had a nautical flavor. Finally it was back to the motel, sundowners and dinner. The following morning it was a sumptuous breakfast as usual and then off to the Plantation Tea Tree Centre where there were lots of tea tree oil products to sample and to buy. Here we also had morning tea which after the breakfast not long previous was a bit hard to swallow. Our final stop on the way home was at the Mullumbimbi Crystal Palace.

November was a touch of nostalgia when we went to the City Hall and sounds of The Andrew Sisters. The Christmas Lunch this year was at The Women’s College of the University of Queensland. A highly successful event with entertainment by a Barber’s Shop Quartet being shall we say ‘the