

Our History 2016

Nothing changes or at least very little and this year we again had our monthly meetings at the McLeod Golf and Country Club. As usual there were a few place adjustments on the committee. Those stalwarts continuing from the previous year were Kevin Hesse as Secretary, David Woodall as Treasurer. Gill assisted by Malcolm as Membership, Kay Wright as Events organizer and Barbara Parker as Publicity guru. Robin Edward due to Geoff Isaacs health problems had already shouldered a lot of the president's responsibilities but now took over in her own right. Newcomers to committee were David Abercrombie who took over the role of organising the speakers and Wendy Bailey who took over welfare.

Financially the year ended with a small loss of \$103.21 from total revenue of \$29,851.06. The present cash balance for the beginning of the year is \$3,737.65 together with a term deposit of \$2,025.07. Morning tea charges at McLeod remained at \$8.00 and room hire charge at \$100. Annual subscription fees for members were raised to \$45.00 and morning tea charges remained at \$8.50.

Membership started the year with 77 members who were comprised of 50 females and 27 males and there were 2 additional members on leave of absence. We finished the year with 74 members of whom 48 were females and 26 males. The losses were Eryl McNamara, Tony Kidson, Peter and Lynn Horn, Maureen Asbury, Keith and Anne Jobbins, Elizabeth Skerman and Dawn and Peter Ulrich. The latter couple had previously listed as being on leave of absence. We were pleased to welcome new members during the year and these were:- Trish Andrews, Shirley McLeod, John Copley and Ian and Kathy Douglas. Doing the sums and 4 fewer men against which we gained 3 females and 2 men.

David Abercrombie in his new role as Speaker's Organiser' started us off in April with David Terry from RACQ who spoke about 'Road Change Rules'. Maybe just one or two of us were not quite up to speed. May saw the return of an old favourite in Spencer Howson from 612 ABC whose topic was radio 'Then, Now and Into the Future'. After 26 years in radio he seems well qualified on this topic. June was the turn of Roly Sussex to pay us another visit and this time his heme was 'Australian English: What is It and where is it going?' His broadcasts and writings in the Courier Mail are well known. Inspector Cory Allen was speaker in July. He is a very experienced police officer and is currently the manager of Field Training at the QLD Police Academy. His topic was Fighting Crime with Empathy. Our August speaker was well known to some of our members. He was Stephen Janz who runs the Centre for Health and Acupuncture in Kenmore and is particularly well versed in Chinese Medicine. Matthew Ames in August impressed everybody. His resilience and that of his wife and family was outstanding in view of the fact that he was a quadruple amputee as a result of contracting streptococcal and suffering toxic shock. Malcolm Chandler gave us advice in October of how to be prepared for storms. He was from the state Emergency Service and his talk was entitled 'More Frequent and Severe Be Prepared'. "Make a Difference" was the David Ham OAM talked to about volunteer organisations in Queensland. For the February meeting members of our own Writer's ink Group presented some of their work. The particular members of the group involved were Kevin Hesse, Joan O'Hara, Arthur Walters, Helen Kerr and Joan Andrews.

The year's visits commenced in February with a visit to Oxley Creek Common where Ian Bardwell's erudite discourse on plants and trees was appreciated. The Gold Coast Light Rail was next on the agenda in March. We travelled the total length of the route from the University Hospital to Broadbeach South. BBQ Brekkie and Brainteasers in the Botanical Gardens was the venue for our April outing. A coach trip to Redcliffe and details of the area provided by a local guide were the fare for May. An exhibition entitled "Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience" at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre occupied us in June.

A Christmas in July 3-day trip was made to the Granite Belt. We were pleased to welcome as part of our group members of the Sherwood Probus Club. Everyone went well prepared for really cold weather but it was warmer than expected and sweaters and anoraks were not required. It was déjà vu or some members as we stayed in the same hotel as on a similar trip some years ago. The first stop for morning tea was at Thunderbolt Farm. Here some intrepid members tried their hand at whip cracking and boomerang throwing. There were visits to the obligatory wineries which included Rumbalara and Granite Belt Brewery. Cheese tasting was on the agenda and we also visited Girraween National Park and Storm Dam. A crash on Cunningham's Gap meant a diversion via Gatton on the way home.

Our September outing was a coach trip to Tamborine Mountain. Our first stop as for morning tea and a tour of the Tamborine Botanical Gardens. These were very impressive and a credit to the volunteers who maintain them. A viewing/shopping spree through Tamborine or a visit to nurseries was next on the agenda. On offer at the shops as anything from dresses to cuckoo clocks. Lunch was at the Tamborine Bowls Club.

A visit to Old Government House in October and a tour of Mt. Mee, Petrie and Woodford in November concluded our years outings. Kay Wright had provided an interesting and full year of events. Of course the year is not complete without the Christmas Lunch which again this year was at the Women's College at UQ. Entertainment was by a ladies choir from Bellbowrie. Once again the College proved to be an excellent venue with top marks for food and service.

As in previous years we had special interest groups in full swing. These were Book Worms, Girls Morning Tea, Picnic in the Park (was originally Barbecue), Writer's Ink and Learners Bridge. Unfortunately Elegant Diners fell by the wayside due to falling support.