Our History 2023

Brian Stewart was elected as president. The other committee members for 2023/24 are Ian (Vice President), Gill (Secretary), Phil (Treasurer), Susan (Membership), Lynn (Welfare), Chris (Publicity/Newsletter) and Brendan (Speakers). The Events position remained vacant initially. In June, Shirley took on the role of Vice President, with Ian stepping aside; Barbara agreed to take on the Events role; Kaye also agreed to join Brendan as the Speakers Program Officers and Tom agreed to join Lynn as a Hospitality & Welfare Officer.

Meetings continue to be held at the McLeod Golf Country Club. Annual membership fees remained at $45 per year and meeting costs were $12 per meeting covering costs of morning tea having been increased from $10 at the start of 2023. Our venue has changed and as of the July meeting we now meet in the Grand Ballroom at the Jindalee Hotel. This change was due to pressures of unforeseen pricing increases from the McLeod County Golf Club.

The year started with a membership at 62. We welcomed new members Ruth in March, Clare in June and Bill in November.

The merger of the Probus Club of Kenmore Gardens and the Probus Club of Mt Cootha Kenmore was finalised with the first meeting of the new club held in July with a combined membership of 112.

Although we started off the year with no Events officer, Barbara stepped up in June to take on the role.

In **February**, members had a tour of St Stephen's Cathedral.

In **March** we had a tour of the Coucals Garden located at Mt Crosby. Members enjoyed an informative tour of the Gardens and also enjoyed morning tea provided by the owners.

Christmas in **July** outing to Canungra - We all met at Cubberla Park for a 9:30 am bus pick-up. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control the bus had to cancel at the last minute. Members decided to car pool and drive to Canungra Village. We had time to wander around the village to buy a cup of coffee, visit some interesting stores, including the Antiques shop, Op Shop, book shop, country gift shop, and a popular shoe store. We then had a tour of the historic St Luke's Anglican Church. Built in 1936 with local timbers (The walls are made of rosewood, the floor is rose gum and the furniture is red cedar). On 18 October 1936 the Church was officially opened and dedicated by Archbishop William Wand. The building was designed by architect Raymond Clare Nowland and the contractor was Gordon Rhodes, supervised by architect Thomas Percy. It was built in the Old English Gothic style using rose cedar. Also gives other historical information - example tramway construction. We then had a delicious Christmas in July lunch at the Canungra Hotel.

In **August** 18 members and 5 friends participated in a 5 day getaway to Lightning Ridge which was organised by Rod. The tour was well organized and we enjoyed visiting places to and from Lightning Ridge. We departed Brisbane with our first stop at Pittsworth Museum for morning tea and then lunch at Railway Hotel, Goondiwindi, had a beer at the Nindigully Hotel, out in the middle of nowhere, established 1864, near St George, where we stayed overnight at the Merino Motel.

On the second day we had a conducted tour of the Riversands Vineyard and sampled their many wines. We then had a morning tea tour of St George. Then on the coach again with our next stop lunch at the Dirranbandi Hotel. After lunch we departed for Lightning Ridge. We had a conducted tour of the town and its many attractions, including the Lightning Ridge Info Centre and the John Murray Art Gallery. We checked into the Lightning Ridge Outback Resort Motel, our accommodation for 2 nights. We had a swim in the hot and cold spa pools, followed by dinner at the Lightning Ridge Bowls Club.

On Day 3 we departed with our Black Opal tour Guide to the opal fields. First stop was the Fred Bodel's Hut, the oldest miners camp. We proceeded to the historic Three Mile Flat early opal miners settlement. We visited Lunatic Lookout overlooking the Lunatic Hill Open Cut opal mine. Next on the agenda was morning tea and view opal cutting demonstrations and private collections of opal and jewellery and an informative talk on the famous black opal. We visited the Amigos Castle, visited the largest opal washing bowl and then to Bevan's Cactus Garden. Bevan's host one of the largest cactus nurseries in the southern hemisphere with approximately 2,500 young and aged varieties. Grown from seeds collected from around the world, many plants are now well over 100 years old, with the oldest

being nearly 150. We then climbed down and up 81 steps to view the Chambers of the Black Hand. It comprises 26 chambers full of amazing sculptures carved into the walls by opal miner turned artist, Ron Canlin.

We departed Lightning Ridge on day 4 for morning tea at Collarenebri Hotel, lunch at Moree Golf Club, then to Goondiwindi Gunsyd Motel and dinner at the Railway Hotel.

Day 5 saw us now on the road back to Brisbane. On the way we stopped for photo opportunities at the Yelarbon Silos, then to a morning tea tour of the Coolmunda Olive Farm at Inglewood. Next was the lunch stop and tour of the Glengallan Homestead in Warwick. We awarded Eugene, our tour operator and bus driver, 10 out of 10 for being a very pleasant and skilful operator and driver – nothing was too much trouble to him to make us happy. All up, we travelled just over 2,000 kms.

In **October** we Celebrated Probus month with a special picnic in the park at Amazon Place, Seventeen Mile Rocks. A great turnout and a great way for members of our new club to mingle and get to know each other.

In **December** we celebrated the end of the year with a Xmas luncheon at The Jindalee hotel - Past President and Joint Speaker Coordinator Brendan delivered a Trivia Quiz that had many guessing, and Gill delivered a novelty Pass-the-Parcel which produced laughs and merriment all round. This event also completed an exciting year for all members as the process of Amalgamation of the Probus Club of Mt Coot-tha Kenmore and the Probus Club of Kenmore Gardens had occurred earlier in the year. Over 90 members of the new Club attended the function and the atmosphere was the same as if the Club had been meeting for a decade. Happiness and energetic conversation was the theme of this wonderful Christmas Function. The Club was also appreciative of a special grant from the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Seniors Christmas Party Fund which was used to good effect for a memorable event. Our thanks go to Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and Brisbane City Council for their support.

Our interesting speakers for the year were ably organised by Brendan and Kaye our Speakers Program Officers. In **April** , we listened to stories from four of our members Trish, Kevin, Joan and Brendan.

Our **June** speaker was Brad McGregor, the Clinical and Operations Manager, UQ Healthy Living (for Seniors) – his topic was STRENGTH TRAINING AND THE OLDER ADULT: HOW TO IMPROVE FUNCTION & BUILD BONE MASS. Brad gave us a very informative talk with demonstrations on exercises to improve our function.

In **July**, due to 11th hour schedule changes Bill Crick had agreed to address us on the Titanic.

Our **August** speaker was Bec O'Connell, Manager, Bank of Queensland, Kenmore. Her topic was 'Scam Awareness'. Bec and her team created the idea to share their knowledge around how to protect yourself as a direct impact of more and more of their clients being the victims of fraud. The opportunity to present their Scam Awareness Presentation to the members is a way to share their knowledge, inform and support more members of the community.

Our **September** speakers were Mark and Wilna, representatives from Cross River Rail Project. Topic: TBA. Kaye introduced our guest speakers from The Experience Centre of Cross River Rail, Mark and Wilna. Mark gave a very informative overview of the Cross River Rail Project with visuals and answered questions which were many and varied. The project is expected to be finished in 2025 and operational in 2026. This lead in time will allow security and fire systems to be thoroughly checked before opening to the Public.

Our October speaker was Milly Blakely with a topic of 'Music in Silent Movies' - Milly, who came to Australia in 1965, talked about her father's life as a musician in the US and his progression from church organist from the age of 13 to music teacher at Pomona College in California. Known as "Doc", in the 1920s and 1930s he put himself through university by playing for silent movies as well as running a dance band, and demonstrating the new theatre organs that were being introduced in his home state of Indiana. In California, he put on performances of "Let's go to the Silent Movies" for student and social groups. His involvement with silent movies and the music that accompanied them is the subject of Milly's talk.

Kate Richards kept us engaged in **November** with her topic 'A Female Construction Management Expert in a Man's World'.

As in previous years we had special interest groups in full swing. They were well-attended and included Dinner/Movie night, Bookworms, Writers Ink, Picnic in the Park, Coffee and Chat morning tea and the Photography groups. A new Games Group activity was started up in May offering Mahjong and cards including Scrabble and Canasta. The venue is the Indooroopilly Hub with a membership fee of $5 annually, Marian agreed to be the group leader. In August a new Dining Out Group was formed with the first outing as an evening meal at the Little Beirut Restaurant with Rosemary as leader.