



PROBUS CLUB OF ARARAT

NEWSLETTER- Feb 2025

ISSUE 197

P.O. Box 258, Ararat 3377 www.probusararat.com Secretary Maureen 0400603764

Email: mrsmart2@bigpond.com

Greetings Probians. Welcome to the February Newsletter. I trust the Newsletter is finding you keeping well!

PRESIDENT Joys REPORT

Good morning, all . What a warm few days we are having . So, stay cool and safe . Of course, utmost on our minds are the fires and all those affected. And we are always so thankful for the services our communities provide to keep us safeand I must say against all odds sometimes. What with the heat , the winds , and those that don't think before lighting a campfire. My gratitude to all involved. Our editor, Tim , has been on call for the duration of the fires. Assisting those who have been evacuated and offering comfort at this awful time for them. Thanks Tim, volunteers are special .

Of course many of our members know only too well the impact these times have on farms. The farmers and their families, their stock and their land. I wish everyone better times .

What a delight it is to congratulate Kerrin and Irene Gellie. Your volunteer work, not only in your local community, but in Ararat as well, has been deservedly recognised. From all memberscongratulations.

Our picnic last month was just lovely . It was a beautiful day, and some lingered on in the shade of the beautiful trees in the gardens. So, a good start for 2025. And now we look forward to what the year ahead will bring.

I also want to wish anyone on the " not so well " list, better days ahead . I am thinking of you and your family. Looking forward to seeing you all next week.

President Joy

APOLOGIES

To be phoned or texted prior to the meeting to Secretary Maureen on 0400 603 764



I spent a lot of time, money and effort childproofing my house, *but the kids still get in*

Ararat Probus General Meeting December 12th, 2024, Meeting opened at 10:00am

Present 38

Welcome President Joy Wheeler thanked everyone for coming.

Apologies Geoffrey Wallace, Joy Cronin, Joy Harrington, Mieke and John Hunt, Alan and Bertha Grant, Kerrin Gellie and Anne and Barry Joyce.

Moved Anne Shalders Seconded Ray Hurstfield Carried

Guests Joy Wheeler welcomed Rhonda and Allan Wall

Birthdays Glenda Hurstfield, Chris Clark and Bryan Park

Minutes of the November meeting were circulated with the Newsletter. Moved Pauline Weeks and Seconded Ian Holwell Carried

Business Arising Nil

Correspondence Inwards Email from Margaret Robinson. Australian Tours and Cruises Promotion. Probus welcomes over 50 Insurance as a partner. Email from Bellarine Big 4 Caravan Park. Probus Active Retirees November 2024. PSP sent updated membership list. PSP Capitation fee increase by \$1 to \$20 for 2025. PSP December Active Retirees 2024. Probus Victoria November Delegates Meeting Minutes.

Outwards Support letter to Mick Dowd for Ararat Bowls Club Grant Application. Ordered Probus Passports for new members. Ordered membership pins for new members and also Probus pens for gifts for guest speakers from Blue Moose productions.

Moved Richard Fisher Seconded Chris Clark Carried

Treasurer's Report for December presented by Treasurer Glenys Andrew

Balance Brought Forward \$3010.95 Income Bendigo Bank Interest \$0.02. Mystery Tour \$259.50 Christmas Lunch RSL \$1200. Balance \$4470.47 Expenditure Mystery Tour Lunch \$1256.50 Yarra River Boat Cruise \$940.00 Treasurer's Petty cash \$100. Closing Cash Book and Bank Statement Balance \$2173.97

Fixed Term Deposit and Opening Balance \$3003.42 Interest earned \$57.94 Closing Balance \$3061.36 Re-invested to May 25 2025. Interest rate 4.55%

Treasurer's Petty Cash Opening Balance \$17.17 Petty cash Top Up \$100. Less Christmas Lunch Decorations \$33.50 Closing Balance \$83.67

Moved Glenys Andrew Seconded Mark Harrison Carried

Reports Publicity Maureen Smart said she has sent a report and photo to Craig Wilson Ararat Advocate following the Melbourne Trip.

Website Rod McClurg said he has added photos from the Melbourne Trip to the Website. Thanks to members who forwarded photos.

Camps Rod McClurg said the numbers at this stage are 42. Arrangements will be finalised in the New Year.

Movies Nil

Bowls Harry Wheeler said the Bowls Committee met on December 5th. Members to be re-imbursed \$10 for lunch, drivers \$50 and \$60 for further destinations when representing Ararat Probus at Bowls Tournaments. He said has had printed 100 score cards at Hansen Print. Features advertising so no charge from Hansen Print.

Arrangements were made for the March 31st tournament. Lunch will no longer be provided. Morning and afternoon tea \$20. Rod McClurg has sent out invitations.

Welfare Joy Wheeler said it was a sad day on Friday at Memorial Service for Life member Peter Kaczynski. Trevor Klauss is now residing in the Gorrin Hostel accommodation. Alan Grant has been in hospital. Also she has been keeping in touch with the Howlands.

Syllabus Ken Richie said that the Ararat West School Choir will be providing entertainment today after the meeting. In January we will meet at the Alexandra Gardens (oval end) for a picnic lunch. BYO everything. Gather from 11:00am. Joy thanked Ken for his organisation of the Melbourne Trip.

History Maureen Smart said that she has added photos from the Melbourne Trip. And also, a photo of Peter Kaczynski from his Memorial Service on Friday.

Newsletter Nothing

Moved Norm Clark Seconded Harry Wheeler Carried

General Business

Christmas Lunch today at the RSL. Arrive from 12:00am for a 12:30 start. Thanks to Joy for organising special entertainment. Today thanks to Sonia Smith and Chris Clark for preparing morning tea. Thanks to Glenys Andrew for organising purchasing of Lions Xmas cake and to Chris Clark for providing some of her special mince pies. Joy said she hoped to see everyone at the Picnic in the Park in the New Year. Joy thanked everyone for their support during the year. She wished everyone all the best for the Christmas season and the New Year.

Meeting closed at 10:20 am

Next meeting January 9th 2025

Maureen Smart Secretary

Joy Wheeler President

PROBUS BOWLS

The 2025 bowls season is now well and truly under way what with pennant games and the many social tournaments available at our various local clubs there is plenty to occupy bowler's spare time.

Work has continued on the organisation for our own bowls tournament which will be held on Monday March 31st at the Ararat Bowling Club.

I have circulated all our regular sponsors ; there are 24 local business houses including several of our members who are the backbone of our event. Without their continued support we would not be able to hold our Probus tournaments in its present format and we thank them all for their generous support both financial and with product.

More news, team lists, and information will be posted in the March newsletter

From Harry Wheeler

BOWLS TEAMS

UPCOMING PROBUS BOWLS

Busy times ahead for Probus bowlers. These include Warrnambool on Friday March 21st, Ararat on Monday March 31st and Hopetoun have a tentative date of Wednesday April 9th.

Teams for Warrnambool

Team 1 Mick Dowd (Skip), Rose Dowd, Allan Wall, Rhonda Wall (car)

Team 2 Neil Billett (Skip/car), Rod McClurg, Ian Holwell, Ulrich Buscher

Emergencies R Fisher,

Lunch included, \$30 per player, arrive 9.30am for 10.15 start, 3 games 8 ends

If you are unable to play, please advise Rod/Harry as soon as possible.

Teams for Ararat

We will be entering 3 or more teams in our own tournament. This will depend on other entries.

Please advise Rod 0409523460 or Harry 0409529726 if you are not available

From Rod McClurg

WELFARE REPORT

As we are all aware, from time to time some of our members are on the “not so well” list. Not everyone wants their name in print, so I want you to know, we as a club care for and about you. Remember we are there for each other. I have made verbal contact with or visited some of our members. Your committee members are always working in the background to ensure that Welfare remains a key focus in the club. If members know of another member who may have slipped under the radar, please make me aware of this.

Joy

CAMPS REPORT

Nothing to Report

ROAD SAFE FOR ELDER DRIVERS

WEDNESDAY 12th February 2025

An invite has been extended by Ararat Rotary to Probus members to attend a presentation at Chalambar Golf Club. The free seminar is to be presented by RoadSafe Central Highlands focusing on the older driver. The presentation will be approximately 40 minutes and then questions.

Option 1. Join Ararat Rotary for a meal at 6.30pm and then the presentation. (Meal your cost)

Option 2. Join the meeting at about 7.15pm for the presentation (About 1 hour)

RSVP to Secretary Maureen by C.O.B Tuesday 11/2/25. Mobile 0400 603 764



Sunday March 2, 2025, 10am-2pm

WILLAURA HEALTH CARE

OUTDOOR MARKET

Willaura Recreation Reserve, Delacombe Way

The Willaura Market is a charity event run by the Willaura Health Care Auxiliary, with funds raised going towards improving the lives of residents and patients at Willaura Health Care, East Grampians Health Service.

This boutique country market offers goods from local and regional artisans and is set in Willaura, surrounded by fertile farmland, which lies 34 kilometres south of Ararat on the south-eastern edge of the Grampians in Victoria's Western District.

Local producers and local artisans:

- Homewares
- Cards
- Jewellery
- Giftware
- Clothing for babies, children and adults
- Plants
- Gourmet Foods

Variety of food vendors including:

- Gourmet food
- Lions barbecue
- Coffee
- Icecream
- Children's entertainment, musical entertainment and raffle.

Let's hope a large number of Probians will be able to get to the market. This is truly a fantastic cause, and you may never know, you might need their services one day. They do a great job and are essential to the wellbeing of our community.

It is absolutely remarkable the talent that exists within our club. I thought I might share with you this fantastic work of art by our Vice-President Ian Holwell. Ian was commissioned by his daughter who is employed by E.G.H.S. The work is a view from the Admin offices on the 2nd floor at E.G.H.S looking over Pyrenees House and encompassing Mt Langhi Ghiran. Ian was fortunate enough to be able to capture a drift of fog that appears above the tree line and the base of Mt Langhi Ghiran.

I said to Ian at the time that he must have been lucky to capture this on his camera thinking it was a photo, only to be informed that he painted it. It is truly an amazing work.

Well,done to you Ian what a great talent

PS: I hope I am not speaking out of turn, but if you ask Ian nicely, I am sure you might be able to sneak a view on his phone.



Mr Ponsonby-Smythe got a phone call from his wife, who was in a state of panic. "George!" she sobbed. "There's a gorilla in the apple tree in the front garden!"

"A gorilla?" Mr Ponsonby-Smythe echoed. "Nonsense, woman. Have you been at the gin again?"

"No, George," she replied. "It's a real gorilla - it must have escaped from the zoo or a circus or something. It's sitting in the apple tree growling at everyone who walks past. It's just thrown an apple at Mrs Bell from No. 23!"

"Did it hit her?" Mr Ponsonby-Smythe asked, then said, "No, never mind that. I'll come home straight away."

He drove home and, sure enough, as he pulled into the driveway he saw a huge, fierce gorilla in the apple tree. It spotted him and growled, then threw an apple at him - he only just ducked in time.

He went into the house, where his wife was nervously looking out the window from behind the net curtain. "George, what are we going to do?" she asked.

Mr Ponsonby-Smythe picked up the Yellow Pages. "It's simple, Miriam - there are bound to be professional people who can deal with this sort of thing."

He looked up 'Gorilla Catchers' but there was only one firm listed. He dialled the number and after a few rings the phone was answered. "Bloggs and Wilson, Gorilla Catchers. Bloggs speaking!"

"Good afternoon - my name is Ponsonby-Smythe. There is a gorilla in the apple tree in my garden, and I need you to come and catch it!"

"I'm very sorry, sir," replied Bloggs. "I'm afraid Wilson is off sick at the moment, so we're unable to take on any jobs."

"But this is urgent!" said Mr Ponsonby-Smythe. "It's in the tree, causing a scene - I'm sure the property values are reducing even as we speak! There must be something you can do!"

"Well..." said Bloggs. "Catching a gorilla is a two-man job, but if you're willing to fill Wilson's role then we should be able to pull it off."

"I'll do whatever it takes, " promised Mr Ponsonby-Smythe, and gave Bloggs his address.

Twenty minutes later a battered Transit van bearing the sign "BLOGGS AND WILSON - GORILLA CATCHERS" pulled up outside. The driver got out and went round to the back of the van, opened the doors, and brought out a large rifle, a set of manacles, and a vicious-looking Rottweiler dog which barked and snarled. The man came up to the front door and rang the bell.

"Good afternoon, sir. I'm Bloggs," said the man when Mr Ponsonby-Smythe answered. "I can see the gorilla in your tree - he's a big 'un, isn't he? We'd best get started right away." "That's fine," said Mr Ponsonby-Smythe. "What do I have to do?"

"Well," replied Bloggs. "You stand there with the manacles while I climb the tree. I will wrestle with the gorilla and push him out of the tree. The instant he hits the ground; the dog is trained to leap forward and bite the gorilla's private parts. This will distract him

long enough for you to put the manacles on him. Then I can load him into the back of the van and take him away to the zoo”

"I understand," said Mr Ponsonby-Smythe. "But what is the rifle for?"

"That is actually the most important part of the whole operation Ponsonby-Smythe," replied Bloggs. "If by any chance the gorilla should happen to push me out of the tree, you must instantly shoot the dog!"



Well, done to Kerrin and Irene Gellie, as reported by President Joy. Kerrin is a recent member to the Probus fraternity and great to have you aboard.



I failed maths at school so many times, ***I can't even count***



Always borrow money from a pessimist. ***They'll never expect it back***



Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation toward the local pool. ***I gave him a glass of water***



I am reading a book about anti-gravity. ***It's impossible to put it down***

FEB 2025	Committee Meeting	General Meeting	Chalambar Coffee	Guest Speaker	Morning Tea Roster	
6th	10.00am					
13th		10.00am Followed by Lunch at the Ararat Hotel		Member talk	David Haddow & Bryan Park 9.30am Instructions rear of syllabus handout	
20th			10.00am			

Mar 2025	Committee Meeting	General Meeting	Chalambar Coffee	Guest Speaker	Morning Tea Roster	
5th	10.00am					
6th		10.00am. This meeting is also the AGM. Lunch at Chally Golf Club		Member Talk	Ken Ritchie & Pauline Weeks. 9.30am. Instructions rear of syllabus handout	
20th			10.00am			

Yes Probians, it's that time of year again. Your membership dues are ready to be paid to renew your membership (2025-2026). If you could be mindful that they are required to be paid by the end of March 2025.

A big shoutout to the Executive Committee who have been able to keep the fees at the same rate as 2024-2025, great news for our membership.

The fee rate is \$50 per single member or \$100 per couple.

If you think about it what a great club to belong to for under a \$1 per week.

Payment is by way of Bank Deposit or EFT

IN PERSON

BENDIGO BANK
BARKLY STREET
ARARAT

DEPOSIT TO

BSB 633 000
ACCOUNT 144517661

PLEASE REQUEST THE CASHIER TO INSERT YOUR NAME AT THE TIME OF THE DEPOSIT PROCESS

ONLINE EFT

DEPOSIT TO

BSB 633 000
ACCOUNT 144517661

YOUR REFERENCE : WILL BE YOUR First Initial followed by your surname