



PROBUS CLUB OF ARARAT

NEWSLETTER- March 2025

ISSUE 198

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

Email: mrsmart2@bigpond.com

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

PRESIDENT Joys REPORT

Good morning, all . Two weeks ago, eight of us attended the Rotary evening for “Ageing and safe driving “ . My guess is that most of us are aware of the issues discussed , but it was good to have those things reinforced. I thank Rotary for their invitation .

Information ! I learnt a lot from our members talks at our last meeting . And I think there was still a lot more to tell from Chris , Bill and Rod . It’s not easy to do ,but we as a club really appreciate your effort and input .

Next week is our AGM and I encourage all to attend . It is a time to look forward to our “ new “ year . Starting off with lunch following our meeting .

Then on Monday 10th March we head off to Swan Hill for our annual camp . Always a great time to get together for fun , frivolity and friendship . I look forward to more sunshine further north .

Then on March 20th we have our regular coffee morning at Chalambar . A nice, relaxed time to get together .

But prior to all this there will be another “ BIG “ celebration. Congratulations and very best wishes to Terry and Ian Holwell on your 60th wedding anniversary. A fine achievement to fine people .

And finally , to you all , thank you for another year as your President .

All the best.

Joy

APOLOGIES

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

Probus Club of Ararat Annual General Meeting March 7th, 2024.

Meeting opened at 10:00am

Present 49

President Joy Wheeler welcomed everyone for the 2024-2025 year.

Guests Bill Byron introduced by Rodney Byron

Apologies Ann Sullivan, John and Marg Kilpatrick, Ken Richie, Peter Kaczynski, Tim Andrew and Norm Clark. **Moved** Rhonda Spratt **Seconded** Chris Clark Carried

Minutes of the last Annual Meeting 2023 were circulated with the Newsletter. **Moved** Anne Shalders **Seconded** Pauline Weeks Carried

Business Arising Nil

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year ending 31st December 2023 presented by Treasurer Glenys Andrew

Opening Balance as of January 1st 2023 \$2311.97

Closing Balance as of 31st December 2023 \$648.17

Term Deposit 31/12/2023 Opening Balance \$2772.50 TXF General Account \$1000 Interest \$122.01 Balance as at December 31st 2023 \$3894.51 Invested to 25th May 2024. **Moved** Glenys Andrew **Seconded** Ray Hurstfield that the Audited Statement be received and adopted. Carried

Glenys Andrew moved that on the recommendation of the Committee that the Club Membership remain at \$50 per active member, \$10 non-active member and \$15 joining fee. Seconded by Glenda Hurstfield Carried

President Joy Wheeler then presented her Annual Report.

The meeting was then handed over to Richard Fisher to officiate for the election of Office Bearers for 2024 – 2025. Richard thanked Joy and all the Committee members for their work over the year. Nominations did not exceed positions vacant. The following were elected.

President Joy Wheeler

Vice President Ian Holwell

Secretary Maureen Smart

Assistant Secretary Rod McClurg

Treasurer Glenys Andrew **Committee** Peter Kaczynski, Ken Richie, Pauline Weeks, Glenda Hurstfield, Tim Andrew

Richard then asked Joy to come forward to be inducted as Club President. He then presented Joy with the Collar of Office, President's Pin and Badge. Richard then handed the meeting over to new President Joy Wheeler who then presented the new office bearers and committee with their appropriate badges.

Meeting Closed 10:25am Maureen Smart Secretary

Joy Wheeler President

Ararat Probus Club General Meeting February 13th 2025 Meeting Opened at 10:00am

Present 49

Welcome **President Joy Wheeler welcomed everyone back for 2025.**

Apologies Kerrin Gellie, Mark Harrison, Mick and Rose Dowd, Ian Wright and Lawrie and Val Tonkin. Moved Chris Clark Seconded Ann Sullivan Carried

New members Rhonda and Allan Wall were inducted into the Club. They were presented with their name badges, Probus Pins and Passports by President Joy Wheeler.

Memorial Board Harry Wheeler pinned Peter Kaczynski's name badge on the Memorial Board. A minute's silence was observed.

Birthdays Chris McIntyre, Ian Holwell, Roger Spratt, Sonia Smith, Neil Billett, Rod McClurg and Pauline Weeks.

Minutes of the December Meeting were circulated with the Newsletter prior to the meeting. Moved Pauline Weeks Seconded Jeanette Hawley Carried

Business Arising Nil

Correspondence Inwards PSP Management Committee Update 2024. Membership Applications received from Rhonda and Allan Wall. Probus Victoria change of date for delegates meeting. PSP Active Retirees December 2024. Murray River Cruise for 7days. Probus Victoria January Delegates Meeting. PSP Make your New Years Resolution. Consumer Affairs new licensing and registration system. PSP Travel Insurance Information. PSP Management Committee Update. Letter from Probus Victoria President. PSP Active Retirees 2025. Email Road Safety Central Highlands a Road Safety Presentation for older drivers. Probus Victoria Minutes from Delegates Meeting. Ararat Rotary Invitation to attend Road Safety Presentation. Consumer Affairs Annual Statement. PSP Janesco Exclusive Tours of Japan. Probian Magazines. Probus Victoria Random Football Competition.

Outwards Updated membership list. Emailed minutes from December Meetings. Moved Anne Shalders Seconded Harry Collins Carried

Treasurer's Report for December 2024 presented by Glenys Andrew

Balance Brought Forward \$2173.97 Income Bendigo bank Interest \$0.02. Christmas Lunch \$240.00 Total \$2413.99

Expenditure Ink Station(Printer Cartridges) \$38.99 Lardner Brothers (Name Tags) \$23.00 Blue Moose (pins and pens) \$82.00 Ararat RSL Christmas Lunch \$1590.00 Closing Cash Book and Bank Statement Balance \$680.00

Fixed Term Opening Balance \$3061.36 Maturing 25 May 2025 Interest 4.55%

Treasurer's Petty Cash Opening Balance \$83.67 Chocolates Christmas Lunch \$36.75 Closing Balance \$46.92 Moved Glenys Andrew Seconded Ray Hurstfield Carried

Treasurer's Report January 2025 Presented by Glenys Andrew

Balance Brought Forward \$680.00 Income Bendigo Bank Interest \$0.01 Balance \$680.01

Expenditure Treasurer's Petty Cash \$100.00 Probus Bowls (Stubby Holders) \$179.00 Closing Cash Book and Bank Statement Balance \$401.01

Fixed term Opening Balance \$3061.36 Re-invested until 25May 2025 Interest Rate 4.55%

Treasurer's Petty Cash Opening Balance \$46.92 Plus Re-imburement \$100 Less Postage Stamps \$9.00 2xLions Christmas Cakes \$40.00 Closing Balance \$97.92 Moved Glenys Andrew Seconded Ian Holwell Carried

Reports Publicity

Maureen Smart emailed Christmas Lunch Photos to Advocate following request from Editor Craig Wilson. Emailed some photos and article following 40th Birthday Celebration to Probian Magazine Editor.

Website

Rod McClurg has uploaded photos from the Christmas Lunch and January Picnic. Fees for Website due in February.

Camps

42 members are attending. Committee have been busy confirming venues and program Handouts will be handed out next meeting.

Movies

"A Complete Unknown".

Bowls

Harry Wheeler has provided an update in the Newsletter. Ballarat unfortunately have abandoned their tournament. Teams from Ararat will participate in Warrnambool and Hopetoun tournaments. Ararat Probus Bowls Tournament March 31st.

Welfare

Joy Wheeler has contacted 8 members during the last couple of months. She welcomed back Jan Porter and Ray Hurstfield who have recovered from serious medical issues.

Syllabus

Ken Richie said today's program will be member's talks. Next month member's quiz following General meeting. Ken provided a brief summary on last night's presentation for Senior Drivers at Chalambar.

History

Maureen Smart said that she has added some photos from the Christmas Lunch in December. Bev Walker who passed away in December has had her photo added so that

we remember her. Also, photos from the January Picnic have been added. Moved Bertha Grant Seconded Glenda Hurstfield Carried

General Business

Lunch numbers 30. Coffee morning Chalambar February 20th. 43 attended the Picnic in January. Beautiful venue and weather. Joy Wheeler said the Christmas Lunch was a great success. Entertainment was excellent and it was a happy social day. The RSL has been re-booked for this year. Fees to remain the same for the 2025-26 year at \$50.00. Some members have indicated that they would prefer to drink tea/coffee out of disposable mugs. Some will be provided each meeting along with the china ones. The club have purchased some stubby holders, and these will be used for prizes and gifts during the year. Also, some are available for sale at \$10 each. Joy said she is looking forward to seeing everyone next month one week earlier than usual for the Annual Meeting.

Meeting Closed at 10:31am

Next meeting AGM March 6th

Member's Talks

Chris Clark was born in 1940 spoke about her childhood growing up in England. Her father was tragically killed in the Second World War. Her mother now a single parent became an invisible mender and needed to provide for the family. Chris was experiencing ill health and doctors advised the family to move to a warmer climate. Her mother applied for a job in Australia and the family became 10 pound poms and set sail in 1951. The family settled in Ararat and Chris's mother became the Manager of Prestige. After finishing her education Chris worked at Coles as a sales assistant and window dresser. After her boys grew up Chris did house cleaning for 45 years. She became a naturalised Australian in 1996. Chris and Norm had many trips overseas and on one occasion they went to Germany and Chris was able to locate her father's grave in Germany.

Bill Byron was born in Stawell in 1932. They lived on a farm and Bill's father died in 1951 and at 17 years of age Bill had to manage the farm with his mother. It was a difficult time for the family as he had had no experience. Later his much younger brother Rodney formed a partnership with him to run the farm. Bill married when he was 41 and they had two children. When the farm was eventually sold Bill went contract mowing and hay baling in the Wimmera. At the age of 75 Bill ceased that work and began doing volunteer work. For many years he volunteered at the Salvation Army in Stawell as well as Delivering Meals on Wheels. He finished delivering meals on wheels just before Christmas last year. He still enjoys playing bowls. Well, done Bill!

Rod Smart gave a brief history about his ancestors who migrated from Scotland in 1800 to South Australia. They settled on 80 acres at Golden Grove East of Adelaide. Land grants were issued and Rod's grandfather obtained land at Narridy SA. Land had to be cleared, and times were tough. Houses had to be built, and the original house is still lived in by Rod's cousin and family. Rod was born at the Crystal Brook Hospital and went to school in Redhill. Being one of five children, the older ones had to help out on the farm. He enjoyed the farm work and for secondary education it was boarding school in Adelaide which he didn't enjoy very much. At 14 he joined the cadets and was issued

with an army uniform, 303 rifle and ammunition. He left school at 16 went home to help on the farm. In 1966 his father brought a property at Dobie and so the whole family moved to Victoria. Rod had the challenging job of driving the John Deere Header from the Mid North of SA to Ararat.

Secretary Maureen Smart

Joy Wheeler President

PROBUS BOWLS

The organization of our 2025 Annual Bowls Tournament is well under way as the 31st of March is approaching very quickly.

Joy and Helen have been thinking about the catering and there will much less work for them this year because we will not be providing a hot lunch .The players will be bringing their own ,which happens at tournaments these days.

Rod has been in contact with all the clubs who usually attend our event and is getting a very positive response . He will arrange for as many of our own members to play as possible and we should be able to field at least three teams.

Our committee will be soon circulated with notes setting out their responsibilities for the day . We will have a meeting on Sunday March 30th to finalize the draw and fine tune other arrangements unless something urgent pops up.

I have been in contact with all our usual sponsors and the response from these very generous people has been overwhelming. Some of these people have been contributing for over fifteen years now to my knowledge .A great effort and an indication and a reflection of the high esteem that our Probus club holds within our community.

It was a shame that the Ballarat tournament was cancelled through lack of support; even though there are over twenty clubs in Ballarat they could not gather enough to make the event viable.

Rod will be in contact with all our players soon to select teams, so check your calendar. Good luck to the two teams who will play in Warrnambool on March 21st I am sure that you will enjoy the modern facilities if you have not been to Warrnambool City Bowls Club before.

Congratulations to all the Probus members who represented their various clubs in the Grampians Association finals recently.

Good bowling,

Harry

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

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		Members Quiz	Ken Ritchie & Pauline Weeks. 9.30am. Instructions rear of syllabus handout	
20th			10.00am			

APR 2025	Committee Meeting	General Meeting	Chalambar Coffee	Guest Speaker	Morning Tea Roster	
3rd	10.00am					
10th		10.00am Followed by Lunch at the Ararat RSL		Mr Brendan Holland fmr Solicitor Tivey & Holland	Mick & Rose Dowd. 9.30am. Instructions rear of syllabus handout	
17th			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

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