



Kiama Men's Probus Club Inc.

NewsBulletin

February 2019

The February General Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 27 February at the Bowling Club at 9.15am

If you are unable to attend the meeting please send your apology to Russell Fredericks at "russfred@iinet.net.au" or phone 4232 3598



From the President's Desk



Gentlemen

It's hard to believe that it is February already. The year is off to a busy start as thanks to Ron Ellis and Howard, there are a range of activities in which to partake. Snooker seems to be a popular and regular pastime among our members and some of the other local clubs as well. It is impressive to know that long time surfing guru, Dave Grose, is a keen snooker starter and experienced in dealing with any challenge whatsoever.

It's great to see members of all clubs share in the "Fun, Friendship and Fellowship".

Choir is off to a flying start and we are all looking forward to the first of a full program of concerts.

As they say in the movies, here's to 2019. Enjoy the many moments!

President, Ian Hornsby

Treasurer's Report end Feb 2019

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Opening Balance | \$2797.23 |
| Income | \$ 96.66 |
| Expenditure | \$ 74.50 |
| Balance | \$2819.39 |
| Effective Balance | \$3031.39 |

Geoff Boxsell

Speakers at the general meeting

10 minute speaker is John Rolfe – "life before Probus".

Guest Speaker Margaret Crothers who is an advocate for the "Seniors Rights Service".

Steve Leatheam

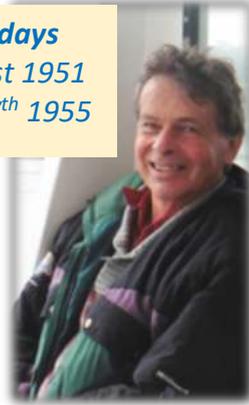


Older people having fun



**MOSTLY
MEMBERS
MATTERS
MATTER**

February Birthdays
Mal Bedford 1st 1951
Ian Hornsby 27th 1955



Ross Harrison was inducted
by Ian at the January meeting

Please make Ross very
welcome.



Wedding Anniversaries

13th John & Joy Fardy 1959
6th David & Elaine Kirkman 1960
18th John & Kate Cairns 1961
17th Bob & Annette Young 1962
29th Dick & Joan Groom 1964
27th Hilton & Jan Bloomfield 1965
17th Gerry & Kathy Reitsma 1968
5th Frank & Marjorie Bugby 1994

Marriage is a relationship in which one person
is always right and the other is the husband -
but not with Probian's, of course

Hello
DAD

Hello Dad! an upstanding gent' by all
appearances, circa 1915. BUT whose dad?



Thanks to Geoff Cole for some of our
best photos



Face
it –
we're
a
club
of
Dads

Events and Activities

Weekly snooker or billiards Thursdays and/or Fridays - Now running several weeks of old blokes getting back into form, for even the colour blind. **Pot those reds! Join** - Let Howard know and your name and contacts can be circulated.

At the *Shellharbour Club* opens at 10am. Balls and Cues are free, as is the use of the tables. Lunch is on from noon. Specials are \$10. Seventeen !! signed up are – David Grose, John Ashworth, Garry Funnell, Phil Lewis, John Porter, Hilton Bloomfield, Ken Jeffery, Tom Reid, Ian Hornsby and Howard Massey plus six gents from the *Kiama Downs Men's Club* and a regular and mysterious visitor being Francis Lim.

Events In place - planned or fermenting. Some arrangements that keep Ron awake

27 February (President Ian's birthday) **Meet and greet** after the general meeting will be at **Three Brothers** in Collins Street opposite the Masonic Hall. We have a table booked for 12 noon.

Friday 1 March Coffee Crawl - we have determined to give the **Green Kanteen (106 Terralong)** a try. At 9.30 for walkers and back at the café at 10.30 for talkers.

Tuesday March 5 -Return to Cockatoo (an under-estimated visit) Great ferry trip. Train time to be advised by Ron. A Kiama combined club will be Glaping on the Island that same night. We will have the benefit of Ron being resident and available for informative explanations. Get your name down.

April 16th The Jewish Museum Sydney arranged by Barry Spooner. Tour lasts for one hour and starts at 11.00am. We could then have lunch in their cafe and look more closely at their exhibitions at our leisure after lunch. Trains and other details will follow. Get your name down.

May 23 – Fleet Air Arm Museum at HMAS Albatross - and lunch, organised by Geoff Cole (on his birthday)

July – HARS aircraft museum with Mal Bracken

August – Thirlmere railway museum with Terry Dixon and Barry Fleming

September - Trivia night at BlueHaven with John and Margaret Porter and Ian Hornsby

October 10th Lunch – at the TAFE culinary school with David Russell is booked for 45 members or partners.

Kiama Probus Men's Club Choir



The Choir resumed activities on Monday, 4 February with the first practice for our new program. The first singing event for this year will be at Blue Haven Hostel on Tuesday, 26 February. We have at least ten other "gigs" in place for program 1 extending through until early June, with two other programs to follow through to December.

On 18 February the choir held its 2019 annual general meeting with the result that the outgoing choir executive of myself, Dick Groom (choir secretary) and Barry Fleming (assistant secretary) were re-elected. We have been delighted to have several interested fellows attend our practice sessions so far this year and look forward to the possibility of new members joining both the Probus club and the choir in the near future.

The Choir is investigating the possibility of a trip away in early May where we will stay for two nights and sing at a several retirement villages and maybe a Probus club or other local organization. At least two options are being considered – Batemans Bay or the Young area. Costs, travel and accommodation are being examined to determine feasibility. Of course, Probus members and their partners are always most welcome to join choir members and their partners on these jaunts away. More information when the final figures have been prepared.

Choir Secretary Dick Groom has dug out some interesting statistics on choir activities in 2018, revealing that we had a total of 43 choristers listed at the end of the year's activities with the average age of choir members being 78.29 years. In 2018 the choir had 38 practice sessions and performed 32 times throughout the region. 2018 was a busy year for the choir and 2019 looks to be developing into a similarly busy and enjoyable time.

Brian Petschler, Choir Chairman

Things that you didn't even realise that you didn't know

Back to the future with George Orwell - in his "The Road to Wigan Pier" and his sociological investigations of the bleak living conditions among the working class in Lancashire and [Yorkshire](#) in the industrial north of England before World War Two.

Orwell proposes ... "Skipping forward to the Utopian future, and the scene it totally different In that age when there is no manual labour and everyone is educated. . . . And there won't be a coal fire in the grate, only some kind of invisible heater. The furniture will be made of rubber, glass and steel. There will be no racing news for gambling since it will be meaningless in a world where there is no poverty and the horse will have vanished from the face of the earth. Dogs too will have been suppressed on grounds of hygiene. And there won't be so many children if birth controllers have their way.

Worth reading ... ed.

What's my Line ?

Remember this programme – well here's an oldie and a goodie from times when the USA was top of the pops. Copy this address into your favourite browser

https://youtu.be/FNDe_ZmKI_U

Friends, Fun and Fellowship

Dear Reader...if you are retired and not yet a member of a Probus Club you could do worse than to ring us and come along as a visitor to one of our general meetings (see front page) and *add years to your life*. Phone Ian Hornsby on 0438 464 925 or email hoolong@bigpond.com

Go on – try it!

It's a Post Turtle

An old farmer was getting his hand stitched up after an accident at his cattle farm.



He and the doctor start into conversation, which leads into politics.

The old farmer explained, "Well, as I see it, most politicians are 'Post Turtles'."

Not being familiar with the term, the doctor asked what a 'post turtle' was. The old farmer explained as best he could, *"When you're driving down a country road and you come across a fence post with a turtle on top, that's a 'post turtle.'"*

The doctor remained puzzled. The farmer continued further.

"You know he didn't get up there by himself, he doesn't belong up there, he doesn't know what to do while up there, he's elevated beyond his ability to function, and you just wonder what kind of dumb arse put him there to begin with."



A little bit of history that speaks for itself

PROBUS CLUB OF KIAMA

Inaugurated March 1986
Postal Address P.O. Box 35 Kiama 2533

CLUB No. 500



| | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| PRESIDENT: | LAURIE GEARIN 29 BELE PL. KIAMA | Ph. 42 33 1213 |
| SECRETARY: | RON PARKINSON 2/10 AKUNA ST. KIAMA | Ph. 42 32 3030 |
| TREASURER: | GEOFF BOXSELL 63 ALLOWRIE ST. JAMBEROO | Ph. 42 36 0161 |
| SENIOR: V.P. | JOHN FARDY 1/11 WESTON PL. KIAMA | Ph. 42 33 1045 |
| JUNIOR V.P. | VACANT | |

BULLETIN NO 225

SEPTEMBER MEETING 27-09-06

NEXT MANAGEMENT C'TEE MEETING 18/ 10 / 06 9.45 a.m. at Kiama Leagues Club
NEXT MONTHLY MEETING 25 / 10 / 06 9.15 a.m. at Kiama Bowling Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, as President, I have a lot to be thankful for -

- 1. The continuing growth of our membership with the addition of Brian Petschler, Ex- Kiama Municipal Council General Manager, to our ranks today.*
- 2. The acceptance by John Fardy of the position of Senior Vice President thus ensuring the position of President next year.*
- 3. The pleasure of welcoming our ladies and visitors today to a meeting at which our choir will entertain us, showcasing the talents of the group and individuals within the group.*
- 4. The opportunity of lunching together at the Bowling Club Bistro today where a meal at a reasonable price will be available for those able to join us after the concert.*

Best wishes

President Laurie

SOMETHING SPECIAL.

We will be entertained today by our own Probuss Choir with a variety concert it is hoped all present will enjoy. For years now our choir has performed at many and varied venues earning admiration for the contribution it makes to community events, and to the encouragement it gives to the young and to those whose lives need brightening.

At this meeting we see for ourselves what they can do!

NEW MEMBER To be inducted this morning

Mr Brian Petschler

Former Occupation: Gen.. Manager Kiama Municipal Council

96 Attunga Av. KIAMA

Tel. 4232 2412 Wife's Name: Susan

BARBECUE

JAMBEROO PARK FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER
From 11.00 a.m .B.Y.O everything.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance | <u>\$1637.29</u> |
| Income for August | 10.72 |
| Expenses | 54.00 |
| Closing Balance | <u>\$1594.01</u> |

'bout time I got this message right!

and so, perhaps, to future developments

Graham Lamourie, Toronto, Canada (December 2018)

Graham is responding to a brief description of Kiama Men's Probus Club - Unfortunately I have no newsletter to share. As a club, we have now become fully web based. , Now everything comes and goes through our website. Consequently, we no longer have a traditional newsletter - we ditched that last October as the new website was being developed. Now a "news blast" goes out to the members on the first of the month with timely notices and news, with links where necessary to more details. There is also a section always present on the website called "News" which is being constantly updated.

We pay a monthly fee for a web application - there are many but the one we chose is called "Wild Apricot" which is designed for organizations like ours. It costs about CAN\$ 125 per month. Several Probus clubs in Toronto are now using it and the clubs share web development information.

We have some tech people in the club who have spent the last six months tailoring it and fine-tuning it to our needs which are the needs of a Club with 300 members, 15 activity groups and about 35-40 one-off special events a year. We now have over 100 applicants on our member wait list and have been averaging almost one a day since the new year. We are not sure what is driving this latest explosion of Probus interest. We have had to recently sponsor a new club to take up the demand.

The website has taken us to the next level. With this website, there is a home page for the general public with very basic info and a link to a membership application. That is all you see. You can only see more by logging in as a paid-up member.

Access to the website and all club participation is by email address. Every member has to have a distinctive email address which is their personal identification and username - that is how you register for activities or events. That is how you pay for membership and any paid events. This was initially a hurdle since at least a dozen couples had a shared email address. They each had to get their own.

The website generates announcements (and reminders) for regular activities or special events. We have about 15 Activity Groups and about 35-40 special events per year that each generate its own automatic notifications and reminders.

A member creates a simple profile including identifying the activities in which he or she is interested and they get an automatic reminder whenever an activity is to occur in which he or she has expressed an interest. Members registers for an special events by logging in and completing simple steps - email address and password and a registration sign-up. If payment is required, then registration cannot be completed until online payment is made. Payment is made through PayPal either directly with a PayPal account or via a credit card. Confirmation of registration is always subsequently sent by email to the registered member.

This website process has reshaped our monthly meetings at which we only average about 40% member attendance anyway. The meetings are no longer the primary method for communicating or announcing special events as announcements for those go out electronically as soon as they are ready to be posted. No delay. In many ways it makes it easier for volunteers to organize activities and events because the website does much of the work. Meetings are more streamlined, leaving a more time for coffee/tea and socialization before our guest speaker.

Our demographic means that for many of our members, even simple adjustment to our website functioning has been a cause for consternation. We were a bit surprised how long it took for the membership generally to come on board. The learning curve was longer than expected and we may a lost a few members come renewal time. However, we needed to go to the next level to improve communications and efficiency.

Graham Lamourie, Toronto, Canada