



# Kiama Men's Probus Club Inc.

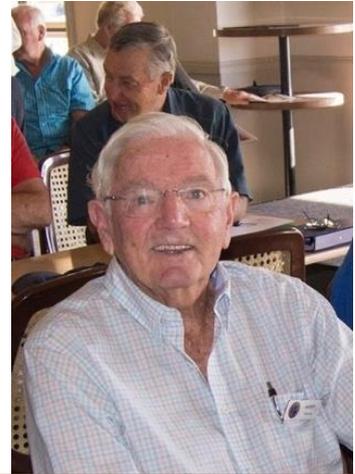
## NewsBulletin

### March 2019

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

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Club will follow  
the tea break

If you are unable to attend please send your apology to Russell  
Fredericks at [russfred@inet.net.au](mailto:russfred@inet.net.au) - phone 4232 3598



Harry Downing's birthday 30 March

### Presidential ponderings

Presidential parents were involved in the reproduction of our President -who now, following suit, may reproduce himself for another year. Thank you Ian for coming to our rescue and thanks to your Mum and Dad !

Thank you so much to Howard for publishing this photo of my parents, taken in the 1960's - it brings back so many memories.

As we approach our AGM, may I take this opportunity to thank all Committee members for their wonderful work over the past twelve months. It has been a great year and I look forward to progressing to the next year of Fun Friendship and Fellowship.

Special thanks to Howard for his hard work on compiling the monthly Bulletin which keeps all members up to date with events and happenings.

Heres's to 2019..... *Ian Hornsby, President*



### Treasurer's Report Month ending 28 Feb....

Opening Balance	2819.39
Income	777.14
Expenditure	0
Closing Balance	3596.53
Effective balance	3335.53

**Geoff Boxsell**

### Speakers

For these meetings there will not be the usual speakers in order to make time for the Annual General Meeting

and more pages for....

... members matters Events, activities and happenings including John Carmichael's recollections of choir activities from inception of the club - pages 4 to 6

Probus Global has contacts growing across the world and is available to you at no cost and no hassle

At the website [ProbusGlobal.org](http://ProbusGlobal.org)

The initiative when Probus united across the world



## Most members' matters matter most

### Anniversaries

- 3rd Barry and Judy Spooner 1962
- 27<sup>th</sup> Ian and Judy Maurer 2011

Marriage can be like a deck of cards - you start off with two hearts and a diamond and few years later you're looking for a club and a spade

### The Benefits of belonging

We are all aware that belonging to clubs that involve meeting new people and making new friends, whether social or sporting, is good for us.

According to the late psychologist Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, a sense of belonging is an important need that must be met to reach one's full potential. So, we can see that, belonging to community groups like Probus can have a significant impact on an individual's sense of well-being.

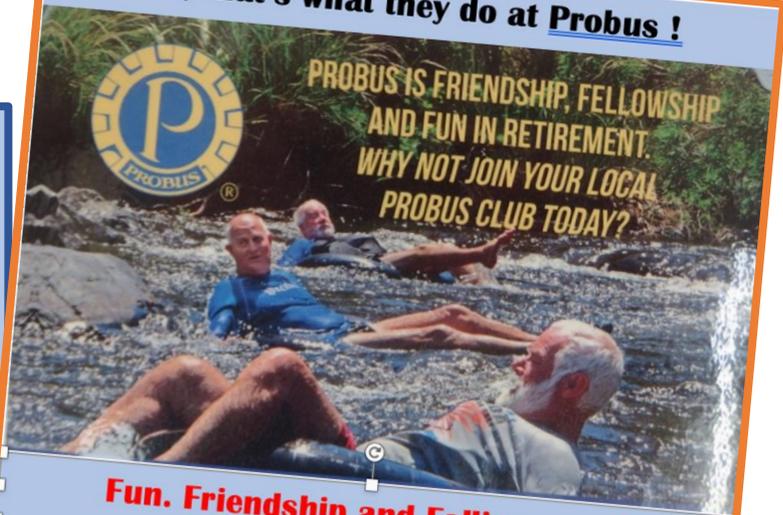
Within Probus no one member is any less important than another and all voices are heard and respected. Successes are applauded. Support and help are readily available. Probus is a great way to make friends and to be connected in the community.



### Birthdays

- 30<sup>th</sup> Harry Downing 1931
- 8<sup>th</sup> Howard Massey 1940
- 21<sup>st</sup> Raymond Orr 1944

So, that's what they do at **Probus!**



**Fun. Friendship and Falling over!**



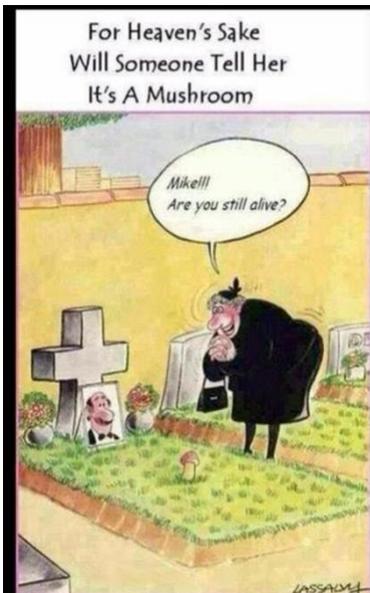
Hello Dad! an upstanding gent' by all appearances, circa 1915. BUT whose dad?



### Snooker or Billiards

Seventeen souls so far. At this rate will become bigger than the choir.

Excellent facilities at the Shellharbour Club. Sign on by letting Howard know of your interest.



## Events, Activities and Happenings

**27 March Meet and greet** after the general meeting will be at the **KIAMA BOWLING CLUB**



**Friday 29 March Coffee Crawl** – out of town at the Sea View Café at Gerringong. At 9.30 for walkers-down Belinda St to the Whale watching station and the Cemetery and back at the café at 10.30 to rendezvous with the talkers.



It's behind the Ray White offices



**April** – Ron is very busy trying to organise a visit to the Town Hall or/and the Queen Victoria building but is having to fight the rigours of inflation and suggested to the Town Hall that they should accept the Opal card.

**May 23** – Fleet Air Arm Museum at HMAS Albatross - and lunch, organised by Geoff Cole

**July** – HARS aircraft museum with Mal Bracken. Date to be advised.

**August** – Thirlmere railway museum with Terry Dixon and Barry Fleming. Date to be advised.

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

**October 10<sup>th</sup> Lunch** – at the TAFE culinary school with David Russell is booked for 45 members or partners

### The Choir

The Choir is now well into program 1 for 2019, with regular practice on Monday mornings. Our appreciation goes to our Musical Director Wendy Leatham and our piano accompanist, Bron Evans, for their efforts in keeping us in tune. All Probus members are welcome to attend and to join in.

We have now had two performances, one at Blue Haven Hostel and the other at Warrigal, Mt Terry. Both were well attended. Our next “gig” is a double header on 5 April, when we sing at Clelland Lodge, North Nowra and Osbourne House in Nowra.

As indicated at the last Probus meeting, the Choir is planning a trip to Batemans Bay on 8, 9, 10 May, with the current plans for singing at two retirement villages (Milton and Batehaven) and a concert of Probus members and guests at our motel on the Clyde River on Thursday evening 9 May. The draft trip will be put to the Probus Management Committee on 18 March for confirmation and full details will be provided to members at the March Probus meeting. At time of writing we have about 45 members, partners and guests intending to travel. We have some room for more attendees from Probus to join us.

Transport for the trip will be by car and bus. Accommodation has been arranged and any member interested in joining the trip is invited to contact Dick Groom, Choir Secretary. All up cost, including accommodation for 2 nights, 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners is expected to be around \$254 per head. The coach cost is likely to be approximately \$80 - \$90 per person.

Brian Petschler  
Choir Chairman



The two Mals

## Probus Club of Kiama Inc. - Some of the happenings of the first 25 years, as recalled by John Carmichael

Following the formation of the Probus Club of Kiama number 500 in 1986 members were encouraged to give their suggestions, or views, on the type of entertainment they were interested in and the following events evolved. They may not be in strict date order but are set out to give you good idea of past happenings.

One such outing I recall happened in 1990 when, instead of the monthly meeting being held at the Kiama Bowling Club, we were offered the use of a restored convict built building in the Coolangatta Estate. After the meeting we were given morning tea and then a history of the extensive land grant to Captain Berry. It was interesting to learn how a gang of convicts laboured for 11 days digging a canal and succeeded in opening the Shoalhaven River at Greenwell Point thereby creating a direct sea access for Captain Berry's trading ships to the Coolangatta estate.

A memorable event occurred in the year when I was the President. The occasion was at the Bulli Harness Racing Club where my wife had the distinction of sashing the winner of the Kiama Probus Club Pace. Excitement abounded that day especially for the wife of a Gerringong Probus member who backed the winner of the last race and received Tote odds of 95 to 1.

An unfortunate episode arose during my term in office (1990-1991) with the choirmaster refusing to abide by the club rules, mainly concerning expenses. After conferring with the Probus South Pacific Office I was forced to ask for his resignation and the choir split up. To prevent such a happening again guidelines for the conduct of the Kiama Probus choir were formulated in June 1992.

The newly formed Probus choir consisting of five members, with Barbara O'Brien conducting and Lyn Langstaffe on the piano, gave their first performance to raise funds for the Kiama hospital. We were on our way, giving eleven concerts that year.

On one occasion Barbara O'Brien brought along a teddy bear when we sang at the Peterborough Special School, as entertainment for the children. From that date onwards "probus Bear" accompanied us on all our engagements and became our mascot.

In 1994 some of the breakaway group re-joined us bringing our choir to seventeen members.

In August 1994 the Probus garden was created in a circular position in Bombo cemetery. Probus members in attendance planted shrubs and trees and carried out maintenance for many years until it was taken over by Kiama council.

In 1995, having a sizeable number of singers we were able to plan a three day coach trip to Cowra singing at retirement homes etc at Yass, Cowra, Boorowa and Young.

In 1996 we sang at various local venues resulting in thirty four performances that year alone. Then in 1997 we travelled by coach and spent three days in the Newcastle area joining with the Wangi/Rathmines choir singing to large audiences – another successful away trip.

6<sup>th</sup> December 1997 saw the re-enactment of the voyage from Sydney to Westernport in Victoria by George Bass and crew 200 years beforehand. The choir assembled on the front verandah of the Pilot's Cottage on Blowhole point where suitable nautical songs were sung as the beautiful timber whaleboat, specially built for the occasion, came ashore in Kiama harbour to a welcoming crowd.

The next two years were busy ones for the choir, averaging thirty performances each year. In March 2000 we sang at the Sydney Town Hall and received a Premier's Award. Also the Combined School Musicfest at Shellharbour was another special event.

In 2001 a three day tour to Wagga Wagga was successfully completed. Margaret (my wife) compiled a record of the visit literally "from go to wo". In March 2002 we cut our first CD, another milestone.

An extensive five day coach tour was undertaken in April 2003 and we sang at Yass RSL Veterans Village en route to Albury. Other places where we sang included Albury for the combined Probus Club luncheon, Bright for the Bright Festival and Beechworth for sightseeing and Wagga Wagga at Willens Hill Special School en route home. On this trip we surprised the owners of the Strawberry farm north of Yakandandah who produced strawberry wine. In the sampling room we sang a song that we had recently learned relating to strawberries. On completion the owners said 'you sang that so well' and we proudly enlightened them that we were the Kiama Probus Club choir.

At the end of 2004 Barbara O'Brien and Lyn Langstaffe retired. They were made honorary members of the Probus Club of Kiama which they richly deserved after giving eleven years of dedicated service.

Wendy Stocker was our salvation when she agreed to be the new Musical Director and Gem Buck our pianist. The first performance under our new guidance was in Senior's Week 2005. With Gem Buck having to retire for health reasons we were fortunate to secure the services of Pam Harris as pianist.

In trepidation we decided to enter the 'Choir of the Year' competition at the ABC studios in Sydney on 23 April 2006. We certainly appreciated the applause that we received from all in attendance in the Eugene Goosens Hall (until we sang the applause has been rather restrained). We didn't win but a good time was had by all and everybody benefitted from the experience.

During these past years the choir has gone from strength to strength due to Wendy's choir leadership. It must be said that the choir has determined the progress and indeed the honour bestowed on the Probus Club of Kiama thereby ensuring that our club membership is maintained.

Apart from our regular, plus special performances, throughout the recent years so much has happened that I will have to condense the events from hereon...

1. Our participation in the North Kiama Bypass Community Celebrations
2. The sad passing of two long term serving members namely Tom Baird and John Gavin
3. A two day trip to Bateman's Bay enjoying true Probus hospitality with two local Probus Clubs
4. Singing at the opening ceremony of the Kiama Pavillion. The opening being by the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir
5. Attending the service for the passing of Paul Stocker to celebrate his life and to grieve his passing.
6. Receiving a portable electronic piano from Barbara Baird in memory of her husband Tom Baird.
7. With Pam Harris no longer available as pianist this position to be shared between Michael Maude and Stephen Leatheam.
8. The sad passing of long time member Ron Douglas.
9. The highlight and happiest event of the year 2010 the choir singing "Music has brought us together" at the wedding of Wendy and Stephen Leatheam at the Jamberoo Pub.

Lovely to end on a high note

John Carmichael April 2011