



The Probus Club of Kiama

NewsBulletin - September 2019

The September General meeting is to be held on Wednesday 25 of September at the Kiama Bowls Club. The meeting commences at 9.15am.

If you are unable to attend it would be appreciated if you would advise the attendance officer, Russell Fredericks, by phone on 4232 3598 or by email to russfred@iinet.net.au



David and Diane Westgate

Presidents post

Having returned from Hawaii I am quietly settling into life back in the great land of Aus! Some wonderful memories of my son's wedding and the beautiful islands that make up Hawaii.

May I extend special thanks to Brian Petschler and members of the management committee for filling in for me during my absence. A special thanks to Garry Funnell for tending to minutes and other secretarial business while Barry Fleming finalises his move to Queensland. We have asked Barry to keep in touch with us after he moves as I still consider him to be a valuable member of our club and will always enjoyed his friendship and the wonderful work he has done during his time as Secretary. I believe Barry has access to a choir in Queensland and I'm sure he will prove to be a valuable member should he choose to pursue his interest. May I wish all members the very best for the coming month and extend special wishes to those who may not be in the best of health at the moment.

President - Ian Hornsby



Vale Vic Arthur

Although a member for only a short time Vic made many friends and was a valued member of the choir.

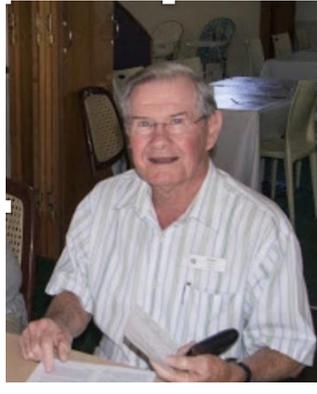
Rest in peace Vic

A Celebration of Vic's life will be held on Friday 20th September at Rydges, Sydney Central, 28 Albion Street Surry Hills, from 10 – 2pm.

In this edition

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Members Matters



September Birthday

Boys

5th John Cairns (1935)

8th Phillip Sanders (1945)

15th Ian Maurer (1936)

21st Brian Petschler (1942)

Couples Anniversaries in September

14th Geoff & Lynette Cole in 1973

Financial Report at 31 August 2019

Brought forward	3155.59
Income	281.02
Expenditure	466.70
Balance	2969.91
Effective balance	2939.91
.... Geoff Boxsell	

Speakers

Membership speaker to be decided.

Guest speaker – our own, Wendy Leatheam, on The Eden Project in Cornwall UK. Guests will be welcome to hear about this interesting project.

Welfare

It's our demography that we will always have members that are not 100%. Another member needs to keep in touch with these friends.

Joe Hurtak (10/9) Life Member is having problems walking – something between his left knee and hip he says. He appreciates getting minutes and NewsBulletins since he likes to read everything. Sends his regards to everybody. (HM)

John Cornwall - is out of rehab and continuing his recovery in Sydney. He is in good spirits and considering his future accommodation options (Dick)

Bob McKinnon is in Roper Ward at Bulli Hospital after, we think, he suffered a stroke. Does anybody have a connection with Bob's family? (HM)

John Carmichael, Life Member, has had an operation on his head and the staples make it difficult to sleep but is feel better (10/9). Garry Funnell is in touch with John and Margaret (GF)

Gerry McElwaine At home and doing well. His phone was hit with a lightning strike and had difficulty in getting service from Telstra. Now in contact. (HM)

Ian Maurer is an example to us all. Ian and Judy are very much to be seen around town.

Cheers Bazza !

We are really sorry to lose the company of our friend Barry Fleming. Lucky Qld !



Bazza has been the greatest contributor to the NewsBulletin with his stories of policing in the bush. He was also a stalwart of catering for 10 years. Barry will be very much missed by the choir. Born in Dunedoo NSW in 1938 and joined our club in 2009 now seeking the sun in Queensland. We all have his contacts and he would love to hear from you.

I told you that I don't have "alzheimer's" - but I do have "some-timers" - sometimes I remember and sometimes I don't

Events and Activities - September

Report on Probus District Croquet Day 13 September 2019



The inaugural Probus District Croquet Day held on 13 September at the Jamberoo Croquet Club was a resounding success with 12 clubs each represented by two teams of two players. The competition was organised by the Kiama Seaside Probus Club under the direction of Russell Fredericks. So flawless was the organisation that many competitors and spectators believe Russell arranged the magnificent weather. Team 1 for Kiama Men's Club was David Grose (Captain) and Garry Funnell. Team 2 was **Ron Ellis and Hilton Bloomfield**.

The winning club on the day was Blackbutt-Flinders. Ron Ellis and Hilton Bloomfield played strongly and were overall runners-up. Congratulations Ron & Hilton!!!.... Garry F



Hilton Bloomfield and Ron Ellis

If proof was ever needed the District Croquet Day was the living proof that there is a great future in combined clubs activities in our locality. Well done those who made this happen.

Tuesday 24th September District Golf Day – Organised by specialists, Kiama Downs Probus Club and coordinated for our club by Phil Lewis and Geoff Boxsell. See the later article - "Too much golf is never enough". ? What happened to our regular Golf Reports anyway ?

Lunch after the General Meeting - - MEET GREET AND EAT !
Wednesday 25th September

A table has been reserved at Three Brothers on Collins Street – opposite the Masonic Hall.
Menu copies will be available at our meeting



Thursday 26th September Pizza / Trivia night – at the Blue Haven recreation Hall with hosts John & Margaret Porter and our President as the Trivia MC. Arrive at 6.00 to eat at 6.30.
Cost: \$15 per person BYO drinks.

Sunday 29th September Combined District Bowls Day. Due to unforeseen circumstances. both our skips, John Fardy and Vic East, cannot play. Frank Bugby and David Lewis volunteered their services and saved the day. Our first team is Bob Young, Frank Bugby and John Cairns. The second team - David Lewis, Phil Lewis, Les Hubert. . . *John Fardy*

More Events and Activities - October

Friday 4 October – Coffee Crawl at the Three Brothers

Is it time that we discussed the failure of institutions to maintain their creeds. Banks, Church, Government, Schools etc..? or is that too divisive for us? A cup of coffee and a small crowd will stimulate conversation.

Sunday 27 October - Rotary Festival of Choirs at the Showground Pavilion

A Spring Musical Celebration

A full page of information has been distributed together with this NewsBulletin to all members. Be there !

Tuesday 29th October District Friendship Day -The Gerringong Probus Club is hosting this year's District Friendship Luncheon at the Gerroa Boat Fishermen's Club at 11.30 for a midday start.

Lunch main courses and desserts will be alternate servings followed by tea & coffee. Trophies for the District Golf, Lawn Bowls and Croquet days will be presented. It is traditional to have a Guest Speaker at this annual function. The cost is \$40 per person. **Please make your booking and give the payment to our Treasurer.**

Wednesday 30 October (the date changed) - TAFE Lunch, Wollongong at 12 noon

This is a proven popular lunch event by Probus well organised by **David Russell**

Thursday 30 October. Cost is modest.

Those travelling by train should find the 10.55 ex Kiama just right.

Some people seem to prefer car travel or indeed car pooling.

David asks that you let him know by e-mail if you will be coming (whether 1 or 2) and whether you will be travelling by car or train/bus. **Please email joanda1077@gmail.com**



Choir

The Choir has welcomed back Wendy and Steve Leatheam from their holiday and we have now commenced program 3, the last for the 2019 year. It is great to have Steve and Wendy back with us. We said 'au revoir' to Jenny and Michael Maude when we sang with them for the last time at the Blue Haven Nursing Home on 27 August. We were deeply appreciative of their assistance while the Leatheams were away.

We commenced the new program with Choir Director Wendy on 2 September and had the first gig with the new songs at a function at the stage 5 Auditorium of Blue Haven retirement Village on Saturday, 14 September. This was a joint function with the 'Kiama Buskers', the local ukulele and singing group, where each party does a set of songs and then we join together for a singalong with the audience. It has become a regular event in recent years and is most enjoyable.

We have two more singing engagements before the next Probus meeting and immediately after that we will be taking part in the Rotary Festival of Choirs on Sunday 27 October at the Showground Pavilion. There will be a total of six choirs performing in that Festival afternoon together with our local MP (and Minister for Community Services), the Hon. Gareth Ward. He will be entertaining the audience with a violin performance.

Choir members are also busy preparing their contributions for the Probus Christmas Party on 3 December as mentioned elsewhere in the bulletin (Is it that time of year already!). . . .

Brian Petschler, Choir Chair

Annual Christmas Luncheon - Tuesday 3rd December

This year's annual Christmas Luncheon will be held at the Kiama Leagues Club on Tuesday 3rd. December 2019 (12.00noon for 12.30 pm). The cost will be \$35 per head for a two course meal followed by Christmas Cake and Tea/Coffee.

Our Luncheon is held each year in place of a December meeting, and to celebrate the start of the Festive Season. It is always a great occasion lasting through to about 4.00pm, and partners, friends, and guests are all welcome to come along and enjoy all the fellowship and entertainment. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the September meeting, so check it out at home and be ready to give us names and numbers.

Sports or games that are worthy of your participation

Too much golf is never enough.. by David Shield (Secretary Kiama Downs Probus)

District Probus members are meeting on a regular basis for a lawn bowls morning and for informal games of snooker on a weekly basis. We are wondering if there was any interest in doing something similar for golfers. Kiama Downs Men's holds regular "competitions" on Tuesdays and Fridays each week unless it is Veterans Tuesday or the course is booked for a charity, corporate or competition day.

On Tuesday at 8.00am we play a stableford event overlaying your GA handicap with our own handicapping system. On Fridays at 7.45 we play off our GA handicaps and play a variety of events many of which we make up ourselves. Nothing much in the way of prizes, just a "walk and talk" as they say.

Our numbers are dwindling and we have heard all their stories before so new participants would be welcome. Would be best for existing Kiama Golf Club members as green fees are north of \$30.

Any questions contact David Shield on 4237 8425 or tuffash4gy@gmail.com You don't need to book a spot you can just turn up but best to check with David that play is on at suggested time. We play at 8.00am on Tuesday or 7.45 on Fridays (most weeks anyway) **David Shield 4237 8425**

The mystery of billiards – Just three balls for old blokes - Billiards is a cue sport that is played by two players and utilises one object ball (red) and two cue balls (yellow and white). Each player uses a different colour cue ball and attempts to score more points than their opponent and reach the previously agreed total required to win the match – simple.



Get snookered – making life difficult for your friends. We could discuss the etymology of the word "snooker" as a noun, based on a game played on a pool table. But dictionary.com references a form of the word, "snookered" as a slang verb that means to "deceive, cheat, or dupe: to be snookered ."

"What did our parents do when they were bored before the internet?"

I asked my 26 brothers and sister and they didn't know either.

Tweet Tweet

This months tweet... is the eastern spinebill to be found in Kiama and in the south east. Difficult to spot since he flashes from here to there at great speed – we must appear very large and lethargic to this little fellow.



TWIT of the month

? Who said it ? "I'm not a schmuck. Even if the world is going to hell in a hand-basket,

A matter of interest and concern

How criminals steal your identity information to steal your money

Scams reported to the ACCC involving identity theft or the loss of personal/banking information have cost Australians at least \$16 million this year. Four in 10 Scamwatch reports in 2019 involve attempts to gain information or the actual loss of victims' information.

“If you think scammers might have gained access to your personal information, even in a scam completely unrelated to your finances, immediately contact your bank,” ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

“Timeliness in alerting your financial institution is absolutely crucial and will give you the best possible chance at recovering your funds.”

Some of the ways scammers obtain personal or banking information are:

- phishing emails and text messages which impersonate banks or utility providers seeking your login details
- fake online quizzes and surveys
- fake job advertisements
- remote access scams in which the scammer has direct access to everything on your computer
- sourcing information about you from social media platforms
- direct requests for scans of your driver's license or passport, often in the course of a dating and romance scam.

“No one is really selling an iPhone for one dollar or rewarding the completion of a survey with expensive electronic goods or large gift vouchers. They're scams to get your valuable personal information,” Ms Rickard said.

“The identity thieves can make victims' lives a nightmare. They'll change the victims' phone carrier so they lose service and set up mail redirections so they're in the dark about what's going on.”

Scammers can empty victims' bank accounts, take out tens of thousands of dollars in bank loans under victims' names, and purchase expensive furniture or electronics under 'no-repayments for 12 months' schemes.

Lost personal information also leaves victims more susceptible to future scams. Scammers will use the victim's personal information to seem more convincing in cold calls.

“The trick is to be alert to the signs. If your mobile phone suddenly loses coverage, you haven't received expected electronic or physical mail, or you receive unexpected notifications from a financial institution, call your bank.”

If you have been the victim of identity theft, contact [IDCARE](#) on 1300 432 273. IDCARE can guide you through the steps to reclaim your identity.

People can report a scam to the ACCC via [Scamwatch](#).

BULLETIN WISDOM

*Note for golfers seen on car rear bumper – if you think my driving is bad
you should see my putting*

Essential Probus – the original club

Caterham Probus Club south of London was the first club to have the name “Probus” and It Has now passed its 54th birthday. I was fortunate to be invited to their July general meeting. Caterham is a men’s club but with a non-gender constitution.



The photo is Bill Broadhead with ed. Bill’s father was a colleague of Harold Blanchard credited with founding Probus. Caterham Club is an impressive example of the origins of Probus. At General Meetings members are met by the President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The meeting is conducted during lunch and between courses with polite membership interruptions. A guest speaker who is a visitor at the lunch addressed the meeting over coffee. It is clear that the club is vibrant and has sound finances.

UK clubs are totally autonomous. Characteristics noted include their financial strength enabling subsidised activities that encourage participation.

It was observed by several UK Probians that we (our Kiama Club) was fortunate in having an excellent choir involved with the community.

Bill Broadhead’s original email to me from March is reproduced on the last of this NewsBulletin so you can read what he said before we had even met.

howard

John Porter is looking for a new home for his 1300 wide TV consul (have john and margaret given up tv ?). It’s in good nic. Give John a ring on 4237 7752 or 0412 578 199 or email - bakieporter@westnet.com.au



and ...SERIOUSLY

Is it time for communities to embrace and advocate for ethical standards ?

Valuable institutions like the church, banking media and authorities appear to have lost sight of their true purposes. The ethical foundations that underpin our society are at risk.

The Church fails to confront pervasive abuse.

Banks have knowingly rorted their customers.

Aged care is rife with evidence of shaming abuse of it patients.

Governments are focused on the short term and fail to lead.

The media has lost focus on truth, above all else.

As a direct result, communities are damaged when they see hypocrisy in institutions. We respond with cynicism. The weakening of our ethical structure feeds off a stagnant reform agenda, protectionism, short termism and an increasingly divided public discourse in the face of a lack of idealism and leadership.

For an ethical agenda to be enacted we need to see ethical principles embodied in educational agendas, social media platforms and the professions. The movers and shakers in society need to accept and adopt ethical principles and knowledge in their work.

Communities need to advocate for the adoption of ethical values and principles.

? Is it time for senior citizens to speak up and to be active in promoting good ethics in all of our actions and to embrace the ethical qualities in the world around us and to speak up and to speak out ?

Should Probus debate for the sake of future generations ?

**We may discuss this at our
4 October coffee crawl**

Screenshot of email from Bill Broadhead 18 March 2019

Probus > Inbox x Probus Caterham UK x



BILL BROADHEAD <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>
to me ▾

Mon, 18 Mar, 22:45 ☆ ↶ ⋮

Dear Howard,

I'm the Hon. Secretary of The Probus Club of Caterham and send you greetings from the world's first Probus Club which has now just celebrated its 53rd birthday. At last week's committee meeting we were fascinated to read your recent email. It will be no surprise to you that it rang several bells for us. For example, we used to have a limit of 90 members in Caterham and a waiting list which prompted the foundation of our sister club, Tandridge Probus. Both clubs now have about 50 and are reasonably stable at that number but there is no doubt that retired people are much busier than hitherto, with a wide range of interests, so recruitment is always a challenge.

Our Club, founded by Harold Blanchard in 1966 produced an anniversary booklet to commemorate our 50th anniversary and I've attached a copy for your interest. Harold Blanchard was a friend of my father who was an early member of Probus so I have both anecdotal accounts of his approach and quite a few of the original documents produced by Blanchard and his colleagues. It is quite clear that part of the founding ethos was to "Keep it Simple" and avoid bureaucracy, over-arching or umbrella organisations and let each club grow to represent what was right for its particular membership. This is no doubt why the UK does not have a national organisation but this doesn't mean that we don't enjoy the fellowship of our sister clubs and do have joint events. It does mean, however, that we don't have the competition between organisations of the sort that has emerged elsewhere and can become destructive.

It was interesting, too, to see your statistics and the information on the worldwide reach of Probus. You may be interested that during our 50th celebrations we had a visit from Probus members in Ireland where, although again there is no umbrella body, clubs do collaborate on activities and publications of mutual interest. A bit of "Googling" may be profitable!

All the very best

Bill Broadhead, Hon. Sec. (and Past Chairman - during anniversary year 2016/17).

Should any member be interested in previous or / and associated email contact with Caterham or others clubs in the UK just let Howard know.



Barry at Three Brothers recently

And last and by no means least – it might not be the end of the world – but it's certainly the end of this News

There's a significant deliberate mistake in this Newsletter – any ideas men? (there are also accidental mistakes)

The Poms would rather Bazza to Boris!

