



**COMBINED PROBUS CLUB
OF
MURRAY DISTRICT (WA) INC.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2005/2006

At the conclusion of this, the seventh year of our club, it gives me pleasure to submit my report. It is exciting that for the first time, an outline of the report can also be seen as a PowerPoint presentation. The Management Committee's aims for the year 2005/2006 were to broaden our Club's horizons by extending the hand of friendship to other clubs, to improve the quality of our meetings by ensuring that all members could hear the speakers and questions and answers, to recognise special and significant events in the lives of members and to encourage members to share their experiences with the general membership. I believe we have achieved our aims and that it has been a very successful and rewarding year.

The average attendance of members has been 59.5 persons at each of our ten General Meetings. Our activities for the year have included; a coach tour of local wineries, a Hotham Valley Railway trip to Collie, Morning Melodies at His Majesty's, a trip to Northam, attendance at a symphony concert, a Melbourne Cup luncheon, a fashion parade, the annual Christmas Dinner/Dance, a performance of H.M.S. Pinafore, a trip to Penguin Island, Probus Race Day at Pinjarra and Dinner at the Greyhounds.

I, and other members of the management committee and club members have attended the Probus Information Day, the President and Partners Luncheon, the Probus Association Western Australia General and Annual General meetings, the Mandurah Ladies Birthday Luncheon, the Bunbury Ladies Birthday Luncheon, the Probus Travel Expo, the Mill Point Ladies Luncheon, the Mandurah Estuary Ladies Luncheon, the Coterie at Rockingham, the South West Get Together at Margaret River, the Liaison and Activities Luncheon and the Probus Rendezvous in Geelong. In addition, we have visited the Narrogin Club and been visited by the Subiaco Club. We have also been visited by Winston Marsh and Rachel Forward representing Rotary. These activities and visits have broadened our club's understanding of Probus and have embraced the Organisation's objectives of Friendship, Fellowship and Fun.

Our speakers have presented a diverse and interesting range of subjects including topics such as the Peel region, The River of Life, The Politician Who Should Have been Prime Minister, Broadband, Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, Taking the "S" out of Curse, The Youth Maritime Program, The Lions Institute, Alcoa in the Community and Mining Information for a Living.

The club is in a sound financial position, as the Treasurer's audited statement of Income and Expenditure will show and therefore it is the view of the committee that the annual subscription of sixteen dollars per member does not need to be increased in the 2006/2007 year. A Term Deposit has been established at the Bendigo Bank and the amount deposited increased to \$2,000. This amount has accrued interest. It is recommended by the management committee that this amount be increased to \$3,000 in the coming year.

The amount is a self-insurance policy against the possible loss or damage of the Club's equipment and memorabilia. In November 2005, our club received \$5,645 from Lotterywest for the purchase of a new Public Address system and a Projector and Laptop Computer. Our club was responsible for paying the additional 10% GST for the new equipment. In addition, we have purchased two lecterns, software programs, additional microphones, batteries and a carry case. All of these additional costs will be more than covered by the sale of a DVD player and a wall screen for \$100 and the sale of our small Public Address System.

Four new members have been inducted this year and eleven have resigned, including six recently. Applications for membership from eight persons have been received and are in process. Twelve persons have attended our meetings as visitors.

During this year, after surveying all Member Clubs, Probus Centre-South Pacific advised of changes that needed to be made to the Standard Constitution. In our case, it was one just one word in a sentence that needed to be changed from "may" to "shall". That is, Article V11 of the Constitution states "Members of the club shall pay an annual subscription as provided in the by-laws. The subscription shall include such capitation and insurance fees as "may" be required by Probus Centre- South Pacific Inc. Because there is a cost involved, the Members and the Management Committee of our club agreed to make the change but to wait for the next triennial survey by Probus Centre- South Pacific, who agreed to accept our decision.

Other ideas that have been put into practice in 2005/2006 include the introduction of medical cards, personalised cards welcoming visitors, thank you cards for speakers and get well cards for members. We also purchased a visitors' book. The committee put together introduction packages for new members which included a membership certificate. The ladies were also presented with a corsage. New members were introduced to the club by their sponsors and we became a "link" club with the Subiaco Club.

Forward planning for the Club's activities for 2006/2007 includes hosting the South-West Get-together and visits to and from other clubs.

My sincere thanks to the Management Committee; Colin Hartley, Colin Brown, Shirley Boyd, Maureen Hayes, Janice Rinaldi, Jill Brown, David Smeeton, Sandy Bartle, also to the Immediate Past President Brian Pulford for his help and support. Thanks also to; David Vernon, Historian, Neville Hayes, who organised our raffles, Brian Sydney-Smith, our Auditor and Liz Grant who made all our flower arrangements. Also appreciated were the efforts of those members who acted as hosts and hostesses, those who offered a vote of thanks to our speakers, members of the sub-committee who organised the Christmas function, Penny Hoffman for the February Newsletter, all those who have contributed to the successful running of the club in many different ways and lastly and most importantly, thanks to all of you for your attendance and support.

Congratulations and best wishes to the incoming President Daryl Makin and his Committee. Thanks also to May Holgate who has agreed to organise our raffles, Tom Hoffman who will be our Archivist and has offered to help with computer matters and Brian Sydney-Smith our Auditor.

Thank you and Best Wishes for every success in the coming year.

Lorraine Hume
President
14 March 2006