

President' Report 2007-2008

It is with great pleasure that I deliver my report at the end of the ninth year of our club. It is still my intention to reduce the amount of formality which results in a general stiffness and lack of attention, therefore this report is as informal as I can get without being frivolous.

Our main aim for the year was to bring back the FUN into the club which would of course create more Friendship and Fellowship. I believe we have been entirely successful in these achievements. (This was helped to a certain degree by my inability to remember names!) Unfortunately, our other aim was to increase the membership back to full quota, and sadly we have been unable to fulfill this aspect.

The meetings over the past year have been shorter and more concise resulting in more time for morning tea and fellowship. A light hearted approach to the format of the meetings has created a friendlier atmosphere which we believe is more in keeping with the members' attitudes at this time of our lives. In this day and age of mobiles, ipods, blackberries and other such alien beings, attention spans are shorter and, although some format is needed, formality does not necessarily have to take precedence.

An extra special thank you to Daryl Makin for handing over the club in such good condition after the dramas of last year. This has made my job so much easier.

My personal thanks must go to my Committee who have been fantastic in their support.

Darryl Makin, immediate Past President, for his continued guidance and general prompting on my "duties"

Peter Green, Vice President, was thrown in at the deep end in having to cover for me at the first two meetings of the year.

Shirley Boyd has been the most incredible and capable Secretary (somehow managing to keep me on the straight and narrow),

Lloyd Bevis, Treasurer, has kept a stringent eye on our spending,

Neil Fitch, Programs Officer, has managed to find a different and entertaining guest speaker each month,

Elizabeth Ford, Activities officer, has excelled herself with many and varied outings,

Elaine Aylmore, Welfare officer, kept a watchful eye on the health and wellbeing of our members and recorded attendances and absences at each meeting.

Penny Hoffman, Newsletter Editor, has created an accurate report of the meetings and kept us amused with jokes and anecdotes each month.

Ann Bevis, Liaison Officer, sold raffle tickets, arranged visiting clubs and generally liaised well between clubs and members alike.

Thank you to all those who volunteered as Host and Hostess. This is something that adds to the friendliness of our club and makes us somewhat unique in Probus.

Special thank you to Tom Hoffman, who has persevered with our website and spent many long hours editing and updating. Also thanks to Brian Sydney-Smith as our annual auditor.

We must give congratulations to Val Green and her subcommittee for the efficient organization and running of the Photographic competition. Well done!!.

Financially we finish the year in good shape despite the low membership numbers. Full details will be given by the Treasurer in his report.

Our guest speakers for the year showed a large diversity of subjects and created many a long discussion. Especially fascinating was Penny Hoffman's talk on the History of West Murray. Many thanks to George Ford and David Smeeton for stepping in so ably in June when our guest speaker failed to appear.

Our activities were indeed many and varied, and in keeping with the times, as flexible in price as possible. The fact the cost was an over riding factor was evident in the good attendance at the simple social outings such as the afternoon tea and Australia Day barbecue. The attendance at the Southwest get together was somewhat disappointing considering that the club supplied the bus free of charge, however 33 members did go along and we all had a great time. For the first time, our Annual Christmas dinner was held locally at the Sportsmans Club in South Yunderup, and I believe this is a great venue and should be used more often.

Finally, the visit by members of the Narrogin Club was also a great success and thank you to those of our members who stayed to lunch with them after the last meeting.

Over the year an average of 45 members have attended each meeting with 47 visitors which includes to 34 from Narrogin last month. Although we have had a few resignations this year, we have inducted 4 new members and welcome them to the club.

The introduction of our new badges has given a lift and a degree of modernization to the club. They are much easier to read and a boon for people with bad memories.

Best wishes to the incoming committee and I hope they have as much fun as we had during this year.

Thank you to you all for your attendance and support and we look forward to seeing you all at several functions throughout this next year.

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Sandy Bartle

Outgoing President 2008