

President' Report 2008-2009

After the drama at the Annual General Meeting when we had no interest in the positions of President or Vice-President, it is amazing that we have had such a successful year. With the club under threat of closure due to the lack of nominations, we managed to scrape together a committee. Vice-President elected was John Dickson, who unfortunately had to resign on doctor's orders. Luckily in July, Ken Murray stepped into the vacant position and we sincerely thank him.

What a year! After a comprehensive recruitment drive, we have completely filled our membership lists again and start the New Year with 2 persons on the waiting list. The large influx of new members meant that some of our meetings turned into an assembly line of inductees. How lucky are we to meet such talented and varied people and greet them as new friends. We look forward to hearing more of their exciting lives in the future.

Financially the club is in a good position as you will see from the Treasurer's report. The lucky number raffles have been consistent throughout the year and the introduction of the book exchange has been a handy little sideline. We must thank Gaye Lloyd and Lloyd Bevis for their efforts.

My personal thanks must go to your Committee for their full support and enthusiasm. They have worked really hard this year and this has been reflected in the numbers attending functions and outings. Thanks to the dedication of your committee, I feel we have fulfilled the Probus ethos of Fun, Friendship and Fellowship this year. Everyone has put their heart and soul into helping the club move forward after such a shaky start to the year. Unfortunately a few outings have had to be cancelled, but we hope this is due more to the economic downturn than to lack of interest.

- A special general meeting was held in June to amend the changes to the Constitution as required by Probus South Pacific.
- A sub-committee was appointed to undertake the organization of our 10th Birthday celebrations in April 2009. Vice-President, Ken Murray agreed to head the committee.
- Through the efforts of Shirley Boyd, the club presented the new Combined Probus Club of Mandurah with an embroidered banner similar to the one we display of the front desk during our meetings.

- Members donated lots of soap, toothbrushes, pencils and biros to Notre Dame University, Nursing School for their future trip to the hill tribes of Vietnam.
- In July, our club was featured in the Probuswest magazine, showing the results of last year's photographic competition and a brief history of our club.
- The club reintroduced the emergency cards for members' wallets.
- We hosted visitors from Ellenbrook Club in November and, after lunch at the Ravenswood, carried them off for a boat ride down the river to our canals at Murray Lakes. We thoroughly enjoyed their company for the day.

I must apologise for my vagueness in not remembering names on the spur of the moment, I do know who you are, its just I have trouble recalling the name instantly.

Overall, I feel we have achieved our goals for this year. Making the club a fun place to be, the meetings a pleasure to attend and refilling our membership lists were our prime objectives.

Our special appreciation is directed at those who stepped in as Host and Hostess at the monthly meetings, thank you all.

We had 86 visitors attend our meetings during the year mainly due to our recruitment drive and over the 11 months the average attendance was 48.6 per month. Considering our membership numbers were down for most of the year this was a pretty good result. The final 3 meetings, November, December and February, all had attendances around the 75% mark.

To all those who have suffered with ill health during the year, we send our heartfelt wishes for a speedy and sustained recovery.

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 2009