



# Kiama Men's Probus Club

## NewsBulletin – May 2020

**LIVE EACH DAY  
LIKE IT'S YOUR LAST.**  
One day, you'll get it right.



Our "Cook" in the kitchen

### President's Post

**Gentlemen.** Greetings from the Presidential Palace. I trust the last month has been kind to you and your family as our world faces a daily challenge in terms of health care.

I would like to thank all of those members who have contributed/responded to the literal barrage of communication emails and great entertainment as a means of maintaining contact between our members.

Howard has floated the idea of conducting a "club meeting" using the Zoom internet app. It is free to use and he has offered to organise a meeting should we decide to go ahead. It would need members to download the free Zoom app and learn how to join a meeting. I am assured it is straight forward to do. Stand by for more information regarding this in the near future.

Our club remains in recess owing to the restrictions brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic. I know how much you must be missing our regular activities, particularly those who are choir members. Hopefully, things will improve and allow us to return to some sort of normality sooner than later. I know you will all agree that the health of all members and their families is paramount at this time.

Best wishes to you all.

*Ian Hornsby - President*

**The General Meeting of the club for May 2020 has been cancelled in accordance with existing health regulations.**

### Days of member's celebrations from May and into June 2020.

- **3rd May** Mal and Thelma Bracken celebrated a wedding anniversary.
- **6th May** it was Barry Flemings birthday
- **7th May** David Lewis' birthday. That's also Frank and Marjorie Bugby's wedding anniversary (7<sup>th</sup>).
- **8th May** was Bill and Carmen Cook's anniversary.
- **12<sup>th</sup>** is that if Tony Traynor and Ann Brady.
- Lastly, definitely not least, in May on **23rd** is Geoff Cole's 75th birthday.

And so to June....

### Birthdays

- **4<sup>th</sup> June** Peter McLachlan 1928
- **10<sup>th</sup> June** David Russell 1935
- **14<sup>th</sup> June** John Porter 1940
- **15<sup>th</sup> June** Gerry Reitsma 1944
- **17<sup>th</sup> June** Alan James 1934

■ And nobody got hitched in June !

**Committee of 2019/20**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>      | <b>Ian Hornsby</b>   |
| <b>Vice President</b> | Brian Petschler  |
| <b>Past President</b> | David Russell  |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Vacant   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Geoff Boxsell  |
| <b>Membership</b>     | Howard Massey  |
| <b>Events</b>         | Ron Ellis  |
| <b>Speakers</b>       | Stephen Leatheam   |
| <b>Welfare</b>        | Vacant   |
| <b>News Bulletin</b>  | Howard Massey  |
| <b>Choir Reps</b>     | Dick Groom   |
| <b>Attendance</b>     | Russell Fredericks<br>and Terry Dixon  |
| <b>Catering</b>       | Phil Sanders, Garry<br>Funnell, Howard<br>Massey, Tom<br>Miller, John Porter |
| <b>Historian</b>      | David Lewis  |

**Treasurer's Report for the month ended 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.**

|                                    |                                 |                   |                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Opening Balance:</b>            | <b>As per Cash Book</b>         | <b>\$2,595.54</b> |                   |
| <b>Add Income:</b>                 |                                 |                   |                   |
|                                    | CBA – Interest                  | \$ 1.03           |                   |
|                                    | Membership                      | <u>\$ 25.00</u>   | <u>\$ 26.03</u>   |
| <b>Sub-total:</b>                  |                                 |                   | <b>\$2,621.57</b> |
| <b>Less Expenditure:</b>           |                                 |                   |                   |
|                                    | Bank Charge                     | <u>\$ 2.50</u>    | <u>\$ 2.50</u>    |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>             | <b>As per Cash Book</b>         |                   | <b>\$2,619.07</b> |
|                                    | <b>Add</b> Unpresented Cheques: | Nil.              |                   |
| <b>Bank Statement Balance</b>      |                                 |                   | <b>\$2,619.07</b> |
| <b>Cash Book Balance</b>           |                                 |                   | <b>\$2,619.07</b> |
| <b>Less:</b>                       |                                 |                   |                   |
|                                    | Guest Speaker Fund              | <u>\$ 10.00</u>   | <u>\$ 10.00</u>   |
| <b>Effective Operating Balance</b> |                                 |                   | <b>\$2,609.07</b> |



Again, this month there is no singing to report as the COVID-19 regulations continue to apply and we cannot meet. The dates for practice sessions and singing events continue to pass on by - We have missed gigs booked by Warrigal Care (Albion Park), Clelland Lodge (Nowra), Osbourne House (Nowra), and the Kiama Mixed Probus Club since our last Probus Club meeting.

Hopefully, the regulations will start to be relaxed over the next month or two (or three!) so that we can start getting those rusty vocal chords operating again.

To remind our club members of the enjoyment the choir gets from our performances, here is a photo from our South Coast tour in 2019 when we sang at the IRT's Sarah Clayton Retirement Village at Milton on 10 May 2019.

We all look forward to normal life resuming. Thanks to Howard, David Graham and other contributors for the ongoing supply of jokes, videos and other items from all over.

In the meantime - Stay Safe everyone

**Brian Petschler, Choir Chair, May 2020**

## Senior golfer

I'm a senior golfer, with legs somewhat wobbly,  
The shorts rather saggy, the knees a bit knobbly  
The old hair's become sparse, the eyes aren't as twinkly,  
And putting it bluntly, the skin is a mite wrinkly.

I still love my golf, two or three days a week,  
And consider myself elderly, but not quite antique,  
My drives aren't as far, my putts aren't as true,  
The approaches drop short, the chip shots go through.

I can't see the green, let alone the flag,  
And keep putting my clubs in the other bloke's bag.  
I bend down to retrieve my ball from the cup,  
And bloody near faint as I try to stand up.

An eagle's impossible, a birdie's a miracle,  
A par is enough to send me hysterical.  
I feel tired and develop a terrible thirst,  
And that's just while I'm waiting to hit off the first.

I can't find my ball (you know what I mean),  
And fall in the bunker as I walk off the green.  
'Point of relief' has a completely new meaning,  
(Thank goodness for shrubbery, and excellent screening).

I'm not getting deafer, it's just people speak lower,  
And they're walking faster - I'm not getting slower.  
I get back to the clubhouse, and sit down with a sigh,  
And they have to remind me it's my turn to buy.

But when the Great Handicapper up there in the sky,  
Decides that at last my time has drawn nigh,  
I can look back and say, well, I had lots of fun,  
And won a few tickets, but mostly got done

And I guess I've been honest, even when things were tough,  
(No leather Niblicks to get out of the rough).  
I've endured the pain, the despair, the profanity,  
And clung by a thread to the remains of my sanity.

So when my life member's subscription is due,  
I think old St Peter will let me play through

This guy was idly walking along the Beach  
when he came across a lamp partially buried in  
the sand. He picked it up and, on an impulse,  
gave it a rub and, sure enough a genie appeared  
and told him he had been granted one wish. He  
thought for a moment and said, "I want to live  
forever." "Sorry," said the genie, "I'm not  
allowed to grant eternal life."

"Okay then, I want to die after our government  
balances the budget, eliminates debt and  
stamps out corruption."

You sneaky blighter..." said the  
genie.

Thanks Graham from South Africa

## "Possible" Dates for your diaries

\*Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October Friendship lunch hosted  
by Oak Flats is planned for at Port Kembla Golf  
Club.

\*Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November Melbourne Cup

\*Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 Christmas Lunch

Planned but dates to be considered . . .

\*A tour of the Choice Magazine laboratories at  
Tempe

\*In winter we could warm up with a trip to  
Bluescope Steel at Port Kembla – for those that  
can climb a few stairs.

\*\* All subject to health restrictions\*\*

## The Shield 8 point Report

For my amusement this morning I was reading a story about the lockdown protests in Melbourne this week where one of the participants suggested that we smash our TV's and some apparently followed suit. Unplugging it or putting it in the garage may have been just as effective in protecting yourself from whatever evils were involved. I was also taken by one protest sign which had so many conspiracies listed they could barely fit them in. Some I have heard of and some were self-explanatory like Epstein island, Plandemic, Clinton emails, 5G is dangerous etc. I decided to look for info on some of the more obscure threats to society. This is what I found.

MKULTRA - A CIA program to examine effects of mind-altering drugs on subjects, not all of them willing participants.

VRIL Society - a pseudo-historical society established in Germany around 1921. Involves advanced aircraft UFO's etc

Fiona Barnett - born in Sydney 1969 claims she was victim of a CIA child trafficking ring, Luciferian ritual abuse and MK Ultra.

Operation paperclip - a program to bring German researchers and scientists to the USA post WW II to help develop weapons for the Cold War with Russia. I had heard of this and appears to be legitimate although numbers involved are unclear.

Lucifer telescope- A large telescope in the Vatican that is used to locate extra-terrestrials and keep findings secret.

There were more but I am bored now. Must be a full-time job keeping up to date with all of these conspiracies.

## A Special Message

Who would have thought it ....

With all the advances in technology around the world, much of which is located on electronic devices such as mobile phones, iPads, laptops, the cloud, on-line shopping, on- line banking and joy unbeholden. Even this Probus Newsletter is communicated to you via the internet. No wonder humanity, especially our young people, think we are invincible and in full control!

But that was before “coronavirus” arrived.

Coronavirus, you can't see it. You can't smell it. You can't poke a stick at it. And yet it is capable of impacting every human being and every nation on the planet. The streets are bare, the only things flying are birds, even the seven seas are free of cruise ships. For something that is invisible (except under a microscope), coronavirus has very cleverly and very quickly disrupted the entire world and in some instances with devastating effect.

Not even the worst of terrorism or political dictatorship can come anywhere close to what this virus has done. Our medicos tell us we have had virus pandemics before, but we have never had 'social-distancing' and 'self-isolation' and such a shut-down of the community. All non-essential activities being restricted, including our Probus meetings. Is this Mother Nature telling us to take a breather albeit for a moment or two?

Not to understate the horrific death toll world-wide, but talking of medicos, I never knew we had so many professors in Australia all specialising in 'infectious diseases' and all with slightly different views on the pandemic. Also, so many economic experts telling us their particular scenario of how and what we have to do to come out of this.

Nonetheless, some of the wise amongst us say we will never return to normal, but were we normal before coronavirus? Who knows. All I know is that after it rains the grass will grow, flowers will bloom. And hopefully, all those other issues will eventually sort themselves out.

Dear Probus members, stay strong, stay safe. See you at the next Probus meeting at a time when we are allowed to gather again.



👉👉 Read the titles from top left onwards ....arranged by a librarian. Simply brilliant! 😊😄

### So how does the lockdown affect the role of Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL)

Well, as we know a significant attraction of joining Probus has been to have access to PSPL branded travel insurance available to members of Probus and to Rotary. Alongside this is the PSPL “Active Retirees” Magazine which relies on travel and holiday advertising for income. All this directed exclusively to the senior citizens market.

The lockdown has virtually removed this market, for the time being. Nobody needs travel insurance and the magazine has ceased hard copy production since advertisers have pulled their adverts. PSPL is not staffed by volunteer Probusians but by paid staff (not Probus members) in fact about 10 individuals at an annual cost in excess of \$900,000 per annum. They may get some government support and also receive a reduced annual capitation fee from clubs (\$12 per member per annum). But what the devil are they going to do with 10 staff now and in the “new normal” and who pays?....ed

## **Bazza** - THE RUNAWAY BANK ENGINE

In the late 1950's I was employed at Thirroul Locomotive Depot as a Fireman. On the day of the incident I am referring to I was the fireman on the bank engine, the train we had to bank was made up at Unanderra with two engines in the front plus our engine that was attached to the rear of the train.

All the engines were steam locomotives of the 50 to 55 class. (ie., T, TF, & K class locomotives.) It was our job to push the train from the rear as far as Summit Tank. Upon arrival at Summit Tank we detached, filled the tender with water, and turned the engine on the turntable. Upon obtaining the electric staff \*\* for Summit tank- Dombarton section of line we started back down the mountain "light engine". (ie., not attached to anything.) The electric staff\*\* comes out of an instrument placed at either end of the sections, it is stamped with the names of the places at both ends of the section, and it is the fireman's duty to read the names out to the driver to ensure him that it is the right staff. It is only possible for one staff to be taken out of the instrument at a time to ensure that only one train can be in the section marked on the instrument. Upon reaching Dombarton the staff was given to the signalman, and he gave us one stamped Dombarton-Unanderra.

(\*\* In [railway signalling](#), a token or staff is a physical object which a train driver is required to have or see before entering onto a particular section of [single track](#). The token is clearly endorsed with the names of the section it belongs to.)

When we arrived back at Unanderra we parked on the back platform, I jumped off the engine, and went into the signal box, and handed the staff to the signalman. A short time later my driver also walked into the signal box, then the signalman noticed lights flashing on his indicator board, and he said to my driver somebody is moving your engine. He was closer to the door than me and he raced out the door. A fair while later the driver came back with the engine. It turned out that when he left the engine he only applied the air brake, and did not use the hand brake, air brakes leak off after a while. It also turned out the regulator which controls the amount of steam going into the cylinders, even though it was in the closed position, some steam was escaping past it, also he failed to open the cylinder cocks. If they had been open any steam coming through could harmlessly have escaped to the atmosphere. But because they were closed the steam pressure built up and caused the engine to take off. The cylinder cocks should be open at all times when an engine is standing.

On the start of a journey you will see all this steam coming out of the front of the engine, this is done to blow out any accumulated water in the cylinders to avoid water hammer. My driver later told me that he had ran a fair distance, and when he reached the back of the engine he could only hang on to the rear tender ladder, he was winded, and had to wait awhile before he recovered enough energy to climb over the tender, he then took control and brought it back to the station. A lesson well learnt. Nothing was reported. Luckily there was no train coming from Coniston at the time.

Years later I attended my driver's funeral, and the above incident was mentioned. When I told them that I was his fireman at the time they were amazed, I was also able to straighten out some of the facts for them.

**Bazza** (Barry Fleming)

What is the bond that holds Probus together ? I can answer that with the one word of **Fellowship** In spite of shortcomings of health and memory there is nothing that I enjoy more than attending a monthly meeting and socialising with other members. That is missed greatly. I miss the tea and scones, I miss hearing stories and the laughs, Terry Nichol's ice breaker and Terry Dixon's interventions.

It's past time for a new NewsBulletin editor for the club and this is the ideal time for a new face and a new style. Please make your interest known to President Ian Hornsby.