

Introduction

This is the Fifth Annual Report of the Probus Club of Templestowe Valley (Combined) Inc.

What is Probus?

Probus is an association of retired and semi-retired people who join together for the purpose of having regular opportunities to keep their minds active and to enjoy the fellowship and friendship of new friends.

Probus originated in the UK in 1965 with the first Probus Club in Australasia being formed in New Zealand in 1974.

Probus had its beginning in Australia in 1976 and has filled a need for today's active retirees and in September, 2007 there were 1,792 clubs in Australia with an estimated 141,765 members.

What is Probus Centre – South Pacific Inc?

The Probus Centre – South Pacific was the brainchild of five Sydney Rotarians who foresaw the possibility of Probus becoming a widespread movement in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Probus Centre – South Pacific Inc. is the Administration and Service Centre for Probus within Australia, New Zealand, Papua and New Guinea, Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Tonga, American Samoa, Western Samoa, Timor Leste, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands and is the delegated authority for determining policy matters relating to Probus and the accrediting body for Probus clubs and Probus associations in the South Pacific region.

The objects of the Probus Centre – South Pacific are: to promote the advancement of intellectual and cultural interests among men and women who have retired from their employment; to promote the formation of Probus Clubs by Rotary Clubs as a community service to retired persons and to encourage existing Probus Clubs in the advancement of their objectives.

Probus Club of Templestowe Valley

The inaugural meeting of the Club was held at the Bulleen and Templestowe Community Centre, Ted Ajani Reserve, Thompsons Road, Lower Templestowe on the 12th June 2003 under the guidance of Manningham Rotarians, Ken Murray and Max Didier.

Following the Foundation Meeting and before the first fellowship meeting which was held on Monday, 14th July, 2003 a total of 62 members joined the new Club and are the clubs Foundation Members.

The Club was incorporated in 2004 with member Doug Hayne being appointed the Public Officer. By being incorporated, any litigation needs to be directed to the incorporated body and cannot be directed to individual members.

Club Insurance

The Probus Centre – South Pacific Inc provides a universal insurance cover for members and third parties attending official and approved Club events. The Club is levied an annual fee to cover this insurance.

Probus Clubs within the Municipality of Manningham

The growth of Probus in the Municipality of Manningham has been outstanding. There are twenty Probus Clubs in the municipality and there is a combined meeting of the Manningham Probus Clubs twice a year with each Club sending two delegates with items of mutual interests being discussed. There are two meetings each year for Club Tour leaders where again touring and trip information is exchanged between leaders.

President's Report: Helen Armstrong

'My Year Out Front'

How do I try and describe my year as President, I am very proud and honoured to have been chosen to be President of the Probus Club of Templestowe Valley Inc, and no I did not have any experience in this field prior to accepting this role. I was very green and terrified to be standing up in front of 100+ people and doing public speaking and no I have never done anything like this ever before. I'm sure the first few months I went through the motions feeling very inadequate and now that I love every moment it is nearly all over, yes I have come along way in 11 months. Our club is nearly five years old, and I am a foundation member, and watching the fellowship over the years grow into life long friendships is very rewarding.

What did I know about Probus before joining, it was a group of people you could spend time with after retirement, maybe a cuppa maybe an outing, how wrong can you be. What I have gained has out weighed anything I could ever have imagined. Being President is a very special chapter in my life made possible by the team of wonderful members I had to work with. The support from them has been endless particular Judy my secretary as I am a single person no one to share hiccups with Judy and Alan were there for me. Judy you will have withdrawal symptoms after March. So rethink what wonderful benefits arise from standing up and being counted.

The Probus Club of Templestowe Valley is very active and yes we do have youth on our side, the average age being 66 years young, and we have 17 activity groups to keep us on our toes. So no we do not have to feel alone

or isolated there is always something on the go and someone to do it with. Within our craft group we have a group making cushions and drainage bags for oncology patients and having received donations from Le Pine Funeral Services, Donvale Rotary and our club enabling us to purchase the material for this worth while activity. These cushions and drainage bags have been donated to Box Hill, Maroondah and Ringwood Private Hospitals. Our knitters again have been busy with baby jumpers and mini-multi coloured woollen rugs for World Vision and yes we have donated books to the Smith Family each Christmas and have so for the last five years. The four plus years I have been in Probus has been nothing short of wonderful, the fun the fellowship I have derived over this time with such a large variety of activities to participate in. What a wonderful experience we are enjoying at this time of our lives.

The speakers we have had at our Club meetings this year have been of the highest standard, most entertaining and interesting, this has been reinforced by the amount of sales of book and DVD's that Club members have purchased.

I think the icing on the cake for our club is at Christmas time when we do a musical review with our members singing and dancing forty plus members incorporating lots of fun, frivolity, friendship and fellowship.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this special time with such wonderful people. I have grown and developed more than I could have ever imaged possible.

Always remember my catch phrase life is about fun, fun and more fun keep the good times going.

President Helen Armstrong

Secretary's Report: Judy Baker

Our first club meeting with the new committee on 16 April, 2007 was in the new "Ajani Centre". The Club met on the second Monday of each month at the "Ajani Centre", Thompsons Road, Lower Templestowe with the exception of the March and June meetings which were held on the third Monday due to the second Monday of March and June being public holidays.

"Guidelines for Risk Management" new policies are now in place and a presentation will be given to all members during 2008 by Ray Cooper, Daryl Knight and Ian Gault the "Club's Safety Officers". Ray Cooper will do a presentation on the Evacuation Procedures and all members will participate in an Evacuation of the hall during a club meeting in 2008.

As our club is now an affiliate member of the Probus Association of Victoria. The benefits of this affiliation should be enhanced communication with Probus Clubs outside our immediate area. All clubs send delegates to quarterly meetings where participation in an Open Forum is invited, provision of a regularly revised "Guide to Guest Speakers and Outings" and receipt of quarterly editions of the "Victorian Probian".

Our lunch venue up until November was the Templestowe Hotel, Porter Street, Lower Templestowe. Members thought it time for a change of venue, Laurine Eames and Lynette McBain put their hands up and have organized a different venue for lunch each month in 2008, so far this is working well.

Two members per meeting were rostered to prepare and set up the tea and coffee for the morning fellowship break. Mary Gault and Alan Baker organized the roster and purchase the necessary supplies.

At 9.00 am each meeting Jenny Morcom and Robert Anderson were present to register members' attendance, Kerry McInerney and Peter Fishley were at the door to welcome members to the meeting.

At each meeting Wayne Eames set up the hand held microphone and Ron McBain took charge of displaying the Club Banner, and he has been responsible for its safe keeping.

The last meeting of the year took the form of a Christmas luncheon held at the "Ajani Centre". A scrumptious 'Traditional Christmas Lunch', was enjoyed by all present and we were entertained with various acts and songs presented by fellow members. All voices were tested with community singing and some members went home with a 'lucky door' prize. Thank you to the team of hard workers lead by Lyn Hudgson, Lynette McBain, Margaret Campbell and Wilma Pontefract for the time and effort put into organising this activity.

My year as Secretary has been busy, interesting and rewarding. I have had the opportunity to learn more about Probus as an organization and the history of its formation, as well as the background and formation of our Club in 2003. It has been my good fortune to become better acquainted with our members who without exception are forthcoming and friendly and are always prepared to volunteer for any small job. Ian Gault's experience as our previous Secretary was invaluable to me, I have really tested his patience. Thanks Ian for your support and encouragement.

The Committee for 2007 – 2008.

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| • President | Helen Armstrong |
| • Vice President | Ian Gault |
| • Immediate Past President | Peter Fishley |
| • Treasurer | Jacob Kerseboom |
| • Secretary | Judy Baker |
| • Membership/Welfare | Lorraine Cooper |
| • Speakers | Margaret McGregor |
| • Activities Leader | Ron McBain |
| • Assistant Secretary/Publicity | Doug Hayne |

Committee Meetings.

The Committee meets on the afternoon of the Club meeting day. This has proven to be successful for all committee members as no other meetings are required during the month. The Committee reviews the Secretary's minutes of the immediate past Club and Committee meetings and confirms that they are a true and accurate record of those meetings. Correspondence is reviewed, the Treasurer's report is considered and accounts for payment are approved. An important element of the Committee meetings is spent considering trips and events that have been proposed for Club member participation. Once Committee approval is given, the trip or event can be advertised and money collected from members attending the activity. Members' suggestions that have been left in the Suggestion Box are considered and decisions made with regard to these suggestions. All suggestions are responded to in writing by the secretary.

Judy Baker

Committee Reports.

Treasurer's Annual Report for Year Ended 31/01/2008 – Jacob Kerseboom.

This past year has again been a big financial one for this club with funds of \$55,467-07 passing through the account. The actual club funds recorded a profit of \$255-21 from total club income of some \$5,531-91 and expenditure of \$5,276-70 which includes subsidising the Christmas lunch to the tune of \$684-16 and a donation to the craft group of \$200-00 for the pillow making etc. Both the club income and expenditure were fairly accurately forecast in the budget which was prepared early in the year, however some additional savings have been made in the newsletter production due to increase in electronic distributions.

Income from all activities held this year has totalled \$49,935-16 and the club currently holds funds of \$7,401.75 for forthcoming events. I hereby wish to thank all the activity leaders for the way in which the funds are presented to me. Their record keeping and processing of information is first class and makes the treasurer's job a very simple one.

In addition to the club funds, I have sighted records of other financial activities (namely for the Golf group and the Games group), where the funds are not included within the club activities finances. These funds are insignificant and provide prizes etc. for functions conducted by the groups.

Financial reports will again be audited by Terry Pearlgood and are available for inspection if requested.

Jacob Kerseboom

Membership/Welfare – Lorraine Cooper.

We currently have a full membership of 130 members. Most of our members are able to attend our monthly meetings and many of them support our many varied outings and activities.

There are currently 40 people waiting to join the Probus Club of Templestowe Valley. 11 of those people are male spouses and they are still employed and are not in a position to join the Club at the present time. The remaining 29 people have submitted their application forms. They have all had confirmation letters sent to them in which it has been explained that we have a full membership list and that they may have a lengthy waiting period before they are able to join the Club.

We have had an average attendance of 100 members at our monthly Club meetings. During the last 12 months we have had one member resign owing to family commitments and one member pass away.

However it is the Committees intention to put a motion to members for their approval at the Annual General Meeting to be held in March 2008 to increase the Club's membership by 20 members. The total membership of the Club would then become 150 members if this motion is accepted and passed. The wait list will at least be halved. Any people who are on the wait list and who have been offered membership on three consecutive occasions and who have rejected the offer to join will be deleted from the wait list and they can re-apply when they have either ceased employment or are otherwise able to join. Those eleven people can come with their member (spouse) on any outings where there is a vacancy and are able to attend any three Club meetings per year.

The members of the Probus Club of Templestowe Valley are a happy group of people who do like to socialize and join together to have a lot of fun.

During the year our Craft group ladies prepared a number of beautiful hand made cards and when I learned of a special birthday, an illness or bereavement affecting our members or their families, a suitable card was posted to the member on behalf of the Club. Some of members were spoken to personally regarding welfare issues during the year and they were given the appropriate support and/or encouragement.

Lorraine Cooper

Activities – Ron McBain.

One of the joys of belonging to a Probus club is to participate in the many activities.

Our Probus club has some seventeen (17) activity groups including three new groups established during 2007 being, Bike Riding, Fine Photography and a Get-away Group, and one (1) group The Entertainers established in 2008. The three groups established in 2007 have had an excellent start and many members have shown a keen interest.

If any member took part in all of the activities on offer I would suggest that the member would undoubtedly be a very mixed up individual, just trying to remember which activity falls on what day is enough to stretch the brain cells.

In total there were in excess of 125 different activities on offer during the year, these varied from BBQ's in the local park to Intrastate and Interstate excursion, in all a most enjoyable year.

I would like to pass on my thanks to the many activity leaders who made my job as co-coordinator an easy one and a most enjoyable one. I look forward to an enjoyable and challenging year in 2008.

Ron McBain

Speakers – Margaret McGregor.

It has been my honour and pleasure to take over this role from very competent predecessors Bev McDowell and Gwen Young. I hope you have enjoyed the guest speakers that have been chosen for you during the past year, remembering that they aim to give us entertainment and knowledge at the same time giving up their valuable time to slot us in to their busy schedules.

19 th March'07	Adele Thompson	First Fleet Ancestors
16 th April	Polly Williams	New York Policewoman
14 th May	Ed Dickinson	Power of Telling Stories
18 th June	Peter Breen	Blind Musician and Tenor
9 th July	Les Twentyman	Open Family Youth Worker
13 th August	Les Thompson, Ron McBain & Wayne Eames	Video-Christmas Party & Group Outings
10 th September	Lady Marigold Southey	Myers Family History
8 th October	Bud Tingwell	A Bit of Talk on Show Biz
12 th November	Robin Bowles	My Life of Crime (Author)
10 th December	Christmas Party entertainment by Club Members	
14 th January'08,	Beth Wilson	Health Services Commissioner
11 th February	Janice Peterson Witham	Author of book on "Black Box"
17 th March	No speaker required for AGM	

Margaret McGregor

Assistant Secretary & Publicity

The Assistant Secretary and Publicity Office position was created in 2007 to provide a resource to back up the Secretary as well as provide communication channels to our club members and to other Probus Clubs and to the public at large. Doug Hayne nominated and was elected by acclamation to the position at the 2007 AGM. Being the Foundation Secretary from 2003 to 2005 Doug had the resources available to quickly provide backup to the newly appointed Secretary in 2007. Doug has also produced the club Newsletter since foundation in 2003 and continued with this task as part of the Publicity Officer's charter.

Doug Hayne

A Summary of the Year's Activity Groups:

Book Group – Helga Braun

About our "Book Discussion Group". The present book we are reading is "The Secret River" by Kate Grenville. Why don't you join us soon? Your thoughts will be very much appreciated and valued. We meet every 3rd Tuesday but December, January and August. For further information contact me on 9850 32144. You also can talk to me at our next meeting. Till then.

Helga Braun

Book Swap – Patricia Edwards

The book library has had a very successful year thanks to all the contributors and customers who arrive regularly with new books and borrow many from the display at each monthly meeting. We certainly have quite a wide selection to choose from and many members are regular browsers. When our members no longer borrow some of the books, we have given them to charity shops such as the Salvation Army that gives them a useful new life. It is also necessary to dispose of some books regularly to freshen the collection and make the job of transporting them to and from the meetings manageable.

I also wish to thank the very kind people who assist with bringing in and putting back the books in my car. It certainly is a great help. We look forward to another happy year of reading.

Patricia Edwards

Craft Group – Yvonne Boyall

Over the last 12 months the craft ladies have been very busy. Janet, Claire and Esma making their lovely cards which are now being used by the club. I am still trying for a lesson. We have distributed 100 pillows plus drainage bags to three hospitals from the month of August to December 2007. During that time we have been given donations from Le Pine Funeral Services, Donvale Rotary and our club, not forgetting our ladies here at the club who supplied materials and their time. Our aim this year is to continue making cushions and drainage bags, as they are certainly a comfort to those less fortunate than ourselves.

On a lighter note the ladies with the help of Ron McBain put together Christmas decorations for all to enjoy at our Christmas Revue, in between all of this we still have time for a chatter and cuppa.

Yvonne Boyall

Cycling – John Hudgson

Our cycle group started in April'07. We have completed 24 rides involving 20 club members, numbers averaging from 4 to 12 people each ride, covering 360 km in all. Most riders have mentioned feeling better and fitter for the exercise, although a few sore bottoms have been mentioned. Tracks ridden have been mainly flat on gravel or sealed surfaces with lovely scenery. Comments such as "Where are we now" or "How does he find these tracks", have been heard. After our ride we have a well earned cup of tea and biscuits (scones would be nice) lots of talking and laughing about the ride just completed. What happens on the ride stays on the ride.

John Hudgson

Fine Dining – Hugh Cornell

There are presently 80 active members on our Fine Dining list, built up over almost three years. Participants are enjoying this opportunity of getting to know other members better and the restaurants used have nearly always been well reported upon. Sometimes members have written up their visits to restaurants in our Newsletter and in many cases diners have continued the evening at a home. Hugh is still requiring a note from the leaders indicating the name and address of the restaurant date of dining and a brief comment on the food and service, so that our Events Register is kept complete. The most frequently used restaurants over the last 12 months have been noted in the January newsletter. We have reached the time when some members will have dined together on a second occasion and can reflect on the earlier outing.

I thank members for participating as leaders and trust you can enjoy yet another year of camaraderie and fine dining.

Hugh Cornell

Exhibitions – Wendy Fishley

February – Abbotsford Convent: Interesting and historic buildings, the famous Federation tree and lunch in the Convent Bakery.

March – South Melbourne Walk with Kenneth Park: Stately buildings, especially the Town Hall, some really quaint old houses e.g. the iron houses and lovely streets and squares.

May – Collingwood Walk with Kenneth Park: Town Hall and surrounding streets – interesting examples of crowded inner city living, the Doll's House, Melbourne's tiniest house, the old Foy and Gibson factory then morning tea at Greek café in Smith Street.

June – Melbourne Cemetery with Kenneth Park: A fascinating walk through Melbourne's history, remembering characters from the past, some with notoriety, many with sad ends. Lunch at Ian Potter café, Melbourne University

July – Johnston Collection – Christmas in July: A collection of Christmas works by various groups featuring embroidery, knitted items, fabric foods, calligraphy and lace-making all depicting aspects of Christmas inspired by pieces displayed in the rooms of the house. Lunch at Pavilion Restaurant, Fitzroy Gardens.

September – Docklands Walk with Kenneth Park: Amazing apartment buildings, lovely water views and an innovative children's garden and playground, all contained in an area of about three kilometers. The old railway workshops and the sites of old dock sheds and piers made for an interesting morning of discovery. We spoke to a crew member of a Greenpeace ship that was tied up there. Morning tea at Southern Cross station café.

November – Visit to County Court: The group attended the morning session which was the hearing of a fraud case. The sitting judge was a quirky character, making some amusing remarks, the Defence Council was definitely the more persuasive in his arguments, the Prosecuting Council was very weak and seemed ill-prepared. The case remained inconclusive and the jury dismissed to return at a later stage. Lunch at nearby café.

Wendy Fishley

Games Group – Marion Cummins

Many of us have enjoyed a mixture of games during 2007. We held tutoring for beginners in both Canasta and 500 as well as learning Reducing 500. Our special nights of Crazy Whist and Trivia were well attended and always prove to be a great way to mix and meet new members. This year instead of having a break we will continue to play every 4th Tuesday of the month ending in November. All beginners welcome.

Marion Cummins

Garden Group – Faye Williams

The Garden Group has gone from strength to strength, this year and I would like to thank all those who have supported it during 2007. We have had an interesting year visiting a diverse variety of Gardens and Nurseries. Our year started on a very hot February day, when we had a guided tour of Maranoa gardens in Balwyn followed by a picnic lunch under the trees. We also went to the State Rose Garden at Werribee, where we enjoyed strolling through beautiful Rose Arbours. An Inner City Garden at the High Rise Apartments in Flemington where we were guided through vegetable gardens, grown by the residents who are from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds. A large group went to the Native Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne, where we were given a conducted tour of this wonderful, colourful Australian Garden. The group also visited Cloud Hill Nursery at Olinda, and we finished our year with a visit to the well known Heronswood Garden overlooking the Bay at Dromana. I would like to thank Jo Danahay and Heather Bindon who kindly took over the group whilst I was away overseas, thanks also to Helen Armstrong and Elaine Hayne, for their assistance at Heronswood. I have planned another interesting year of Garden Tours, with visits to Rivers Nursery and Garden at Yarrambat, Kurunga Native Nursery and Mt Eveland, another Community Garden, and The Edible in Mt Waverley. I have also submitted a plan for the group to go to Floriade in Canberra for a few days in October. Many thanks once again to all those who support the group, the volunteer drivers many whom provide their cars each time we car pooled, and to all those who give me information and suggestions for visits to other gardens they are familiar with, you all help to make the Garden Group a happy successful Group.

Faye Williams.

Genealogy – Ray Lawley

Our Genealogy Group is a small number of Dedicated & Determined members researching their family history. During the past year we have met at the Nunawading Library after the closure of Shopping Town Library, we are now able to meet at the temporary Doncaster Library. Most of the local Library's now have Ancestry.com on line as a free service. Our group has visited the State Library & the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints at Fairfield [specializing in English records]. In March we will be visiting the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at Braeside which specialize in Scottish records. One of our members carried out research in Sydney & another in Tasmania both with great results. We look forward to the future, searching the past, for more Ancestors. New members always welcome.

Ray Lawley.

Getaway – Lyn and John Hudgson with Ron and Lynette McBain

The Getaway Group was formed in 2007, the aim of this activity is to have a casual few days away in Caravan Parks. Own transport and self catering, caravan, tent, or park cabin, is the accommodation. November 2007 Phillips Island as our destination, four sites and seven cabins in a very comfortable park. Four other club members' came to visit, and joined in our activities. Great fun and friendship was enjoyed by all. Daylesford in Autumn, and the Bright Spring Festival are booked for 2008. In future years we hope to venture a bit further for a longer time. Barossa Valley, Forster – Toncurry, Merimbula, Wilson's Promontory, are a few that have been suggested. Thank you to the members for supporting this activity, we look forward to many more adventures away. Stay happy and healthy for traveling.

Lyn and John Hudgson with Ron and Lynette McBain

Golf – Lyn Crosbie

2007 has been a very successful year for our golfing group. We have played every fortnight for the entire year at Freeway Golf Course and had two getaways. The first trip in April was to Tocumwal for the Autumn Cup with 30 members attending. The winner on this occasion was Mike Bindon. Our second trip in September was to Barham for the Spring Cup and once again 30 members went along and Jim Douglas was the winner. Both trips were great with many new friendships being formed. We also had a terrific end of year breakup at Urban Retreat in December. Our fortnightly golf provides lots of good exercise and fun and I look forward to staying on as activity leader in 2008.

Lyn Crosbie

Photography Group – Doug Hayne

Several Probus Club of Templestowe Valley members meet once a month to share their photographs with an aim to improving their results. Meetings are held at a member's home where they have access to Data Projectors and Computers to share their photographic experiences. A member who is associated with photographic study has been leading the meetings and presenting some of his experience to the members. Excursions are being planned for 2008 where members travel to specific areas specifically to take photographs and share their ideas

Doug Hayne

Scrap booking – Verity Moore

During the year it was demonstrated that power of recording our Probus club's events as a testimony of the members' commitment in PROBUS Ideals and Constitution. The activities have grown in number and changed as they reflect and meet the interest of the members, as recorded.

Individual members of the Scrap booking group have worked to preserve their family history – past and present. They are aware of the importance of naming people in photographs and details of the event – we tend to forget small details which will be of interest in years to come. This fact is evident when viewing photographs of prior generations.

We have met monthly and value the input of each member. This year, 2008, promises to be as rewarding and we welcome all who would like to join our group.

Verity Moore

Theatre – Pat McInerney

Once again we had a great year with our theatre outings. We covered a wide scope of theatrical arts, attending both amateur and professional productions. The amateur productions were performed by the Whitehorse Musical Theatre, including "Chorus Line", and the Eltham Little Theatre "Stepping Out," and the Christmas melodrama "Trapped by a Treacherous Twin". We sat in awe as the Australian Ballet performed "The Nutcracker Suite", and Cinque de Soleil's incredible "Veraka". We also greatly enjoyed the block buster musicals of "Miss Saigon" and "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert".

On behalf of Yvonne, Norma and myself, a big thanks to all who supported us, and best wishes to Ellen and Joan for taking over.

Pat McInerney.

Trips and Events – Elaine Hayne

Probus Club of Templestowe Valley members enjoyed many outings during 2007 with around 30 to 40 members and friends attending most events.

Barbecues

Regular Barbecues at a local park were popular. During daylight saving time these were held in the evenings and at other times Sunday afternoons. Members often say these outings are their favourite.

Evening Outings

An evening social event in the hall where we hold our meetings has been held for three years now with another one planned for 2008. We have a brilliant band led by Diana Mayne. They play all of the favourite music and dances for our age group, complete with lucky spot and door prizes, this is a popular event attended by around 40 members and friends.

The Tramboat on the Yarra is another social event for us. We have had several different trips on this interesting vessel over the years and this year we had two trips. Our first trip in February was up the Yarra and back to see the spectacular display of flames at the Crown Casino. The second trip was a lovely evening looking at our marvellous city lights from the bay end of the Yarra eating delicious fish & chips along of course with a busy bar on board. We always complete the fun with dancing and rock & roll on the great dance floor on the boat.

The Gown of The Year is another outing we have especially for the ladies. An event which probably resulted in a rush to the shops the following day.

Day Trips

Trips were organised using buses or car pool to a variety of destinations such as the country property Wallaby Rise, Dandenong Mail Sorting Centre, Visy Recycling Centre, The Eastern Link Project, Telstra Dome and Carlton Brewery. A visit to Crown Casino for a dribble and a dabble and a marvellous tour of "The Docklands" and the Domain and Burnley tunnels.

A visit was also arranged to attend the "Astrotour" at Swinburne University where we were astounded by the moving images of The Universe in the 3D theatre there.

We made use of our free seniors transport passes for two Sunday train trips. One to Geelong where we enjoyed the busy activity of a Triathlon being held there. Visits to the Ford museum kept some of the men occupied as well. The other free train trip was to Bendigo where we took the vintage tram trip and a long lunch before returning to Melbourne

Getaways

We had several 2 and 3 day car trips to nearby country areas where caravans and cabins provided the accommodation. These simple and inexpensive get togethers were a lot of fun and good times were had by all. Several of these getaway trips are planned for 2008.

Extended Trip

A four day bus trip with 25 members and friends to Mt Gambier with its magnificent lakes and Umpherston Sinkhole Gardens was enjoyed late in the year. A river cruise on the Glenelg River with wining and dining on the vessel was enjoyed. Trips to Robe, Millicent and Penola with activities such as a chocolate factory and winery visits and a compensatory walk along a long jetty at Beachport were taken in. A last evening dance and "Limbo" activity made this trip one of the best we have had. A visit to the Ballarat Gardens and War Memorial was made on the way home.

Elaine Hayne

Walks – Judy Chapman

The “Walkers” are a very active and enthusiastic group with between 16 to 25 members attending our fortnightly walks. Most people come to improve or maintain their fitness, to enjoy the stimulating conversation, soak up the scenery and relax at coffee stops. Or could it be, because it’s the only opportunity we get these days to hear some heavy breathing?! Over the past year we have undertaken a wide variety of walks. There have been some short informative walks such as “The Heidi Artists Trail” and “Gardeners Creek”. Loner walks have included “Eastern Freeway Circuit”, “Warrandyte Hills”, and the ever popular “City Walks”. In February, we combined with the “Getaway” group for a two night stop over at Point Lonsdale with plenty of great walking opportunities. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to organize and lead walks this year. They have ensured that we enjoyed a varied and vibrant program. Special thanks to Helga who has been a very willing assistant. I will conclude my turn as walk co-ordinator at the end of June when “The Two Spunk’s” (Terry Cummins and Wayne Eames) will take over. So the fun and fitness will continue.

Judy Chapman

Newsletter – Doug Hayne

Without the Newsletter, the club could not function properly. It is important that all club activities are communicated to members quickly and in time for decisions to be made before fellowship meetings. There is an events list which provides advance information concerning times and meeting places for events for the coming year. This list has proven to be of great value in making sure members are kept aware and up to date concerning events. Monthly reports from the President, committee members and activities leaders keep communication with members up to date. Reports on past events help encourage more participation from members. Member Profiles, and jokes and musings have also been popular in the newsletter. The newsletter is printed off in the week before the meetings. We have recently made an arrangement with the office of our Federal Minister, Kevin Andrews to use his photocopying machine to print our newsletter. This will result in a significant saving on the cost of producing the newsletter.

We print off 80 copies of our Newsletter, providing 77 copies to be posted out to members for delivery before the next meeting, and leave some over to have on hand at meetings for delayed postage and our visitors. Because we send only one copy to couples at the same address, there were 98 newsletter addresses among our 130 members. However, 21 members have agreed to be removed from the mailing list and take their newsletters from the web site and thus only 77 are posted out. Those members able to access the web site are notified by email when the latest issue is available and so have the benefit of getting it one or two days earlier. Other interested parties such as past members and wait-listed people, can also access our newsletter from the web site at their discretion.

Web Site – Doug Hayne

As well as the newsletter as mentioned, our web site provides access for members to club documents and also a means of sharing information about travel and any other topics of interest to members.

We also have a web site on the Probus South Pacific server which provides information about our club to prospective members and other clubs.

Although only about one third of our members have easy access to the internet, those who do have access have expressed appreciation of the web site. As the only cost involved is time, this is a good way of providing intercommunication within the club.

In Conclusion

To read this report gives the reader an insight into a Probus Club that is active, resourceful and over the past year many events and outings were organised for members to enjoy.

In April, Helen Armstrong will retire from the position of President and Ian Gault will be installed as our new President. I anticipate 2008 will be a year of fun and new challenges. Elizabeth Turner has nominated for the position of Vice President for 2008/9 as there is no other nomination there will be no election for Vice President. All other Committee positions have un-opposed candidates and they will be formally announced as being duly elected at the Annual General Meeting, on 17 March 2008.

- Secretary – Judy Baker
- Treasurer – Jacob Kerseboom
- Assistant Secretary/Publicity – Doug Hayne
- Activities – Ron McBain
- Membership/Welfare – Lorraine Cooper
- Speakers – Margaret McGregor

All positions within the club do need refreshing, including committee and all activities. All positions are voluntary and as with any voluntary role you always receive more back than what you could ever give. Please do consider taking on a role in 2008/09 whether on the committee or as an activity leader your input would be greatly appreciated, all positions are fulfilling and rewarding.

Judy Baker,

Secretary, Probus Club of Templestowe Valley Inc.