



Probus Club of Templestowe Valley (Combined) Inc.

Annual Report

2023 - 2024

Compiled by Rita Webb - Secretary

INTRODUCTION

This is the 20th Annual Report of the Probus Club of Templestowe Valley (Combined) Inc.

The Probus movement had its genesis in two ancestors – both in the UK and both established by Rotary Clubs. The first was formed in 1965 and was known as the Campus Club – its name was derived from the area of the town in which it was conceived – the Campus. The second was formed by the Rotary Club of Caterham in 1966 and was named the Probus Club for the “PRO” in professional and the “BUS” in business and which also made up the Latin word from which “PROBITY” is derived. Both were formed to meet the need for companionship of their peers and mental stimulation for retired business and professional men.

Today there are Clubs for male, female and combined gender.

The first Club in Rotary’s South Pacific area was the Probus Club of Kapiti Coast, New Zealand in 1974. The first Club in Australia was the Probus Club of Hunter’s Hill, NSW in 1976.

Today Probus is a world-wide movement in 25 countries.

Probus South Pacific Limited

By 1981 there were 44 Clubs in Australia and New Zealand and this saw the formation of the “Probus Information Centre”.

PSPL is a not-for-profit (NFP) organisation and, therefore, does not allow the distribution of surpluses (profits) to its members. Any surplus PSPL makes is put back into providing services to Probus Clubs and Probus Club members.

PSPL established an inaugural Probus Day on 1st October 2020.

Mission

PSPL’s role is to serve the members of the Probus community, a community that shares the Probus values that have been developed over more than 46 years. It is these values and our motto of fun, friendship and fellowship that are at the core of Probus.

Under the guidance of the PSPL Board, the PSPL Team is responsible for ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of a wide range of services including administration, insurance, member benefits and support to Probus Clubs and Probus Club members in the South Pacific region.

Vision

The vision of PSPL is to promote the growth, development and ongoing support for the Probus Community in the South Pacific region, as the most widely recognised and accessible organisation for retirees, fostering the true spirit of Probus – friendship, fellowship and fun.

Motto: PROBUS – Tomorrow’s vision for Active Retirees

Melbourne East Probus Group “MEPG”

The MEPG meets each February, June, and October with two delegates from each club invited to attend. Each club is requested to email a report outlining their activities. Each report will be appended to the minutes which will be sent within seven days of the meeting.

During 2023 there were no Committee Members able to attend MEPG meetings. I as Secretary attended to all incoming MEPG emails, replying and providing information requested.

It is important that interaction between clubs be maintained as the group meetings offer clubs information on outings, speakers and other items of interest affecting all clubs.

Some topics/issues being encountered by Clubs include:

- As Clubs age in time of existence their membership profile inevitably changes.
- Challenges of reducing membership due to ageing, moving to villages, etc.
- Interests changing over time.
- “Single” members (new and existing) sometimes need special attention to continue to feel included.
- Prospective new younger members need to feel they can fit into the “older existing group”.
- Difficulty in gaining new committee members as Clubs age.
- Clubs finding members wanting fewer nighttime activities.

Probus Club of Templestowe Valley (Combined) Inc.

Currently we have 146 Club Members, including two Life Members, Doug Hayne and Lyn Hudgson and one Honorary Member, Kerry McInerney. It is 20 years since our Club had its inaugural meeting on June 12, 2003, under the guidance of Manningham Rotarians, the late Ken Murray and Max Didier, when 62 Foundation Members signed up in the hall at the Ted Ajani Reserve.

The Club was incorporated in 2004. The Secretary holds the official position of Public Officer. By being incorporated, any litigation needs to be directed to the incorporated body and cannot be directed to individual members.

The Club meetings are held on the second Monday of every month throughout the year and commence at 9.45 am in the Ajani Centre, 284 Thompsons Road, Lower Templestowe 3107.

Club Insurance

PSPL provides universal insurance cover for Members and third parties attending official and approved Club events. Each Club is levied an annual fee to cover this insurance. PSPL charges an annual fee per member.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Probus Club of Templestowe Valley (Combined) Inc. Management Committee Meetings

These meetings are held monthly on the second Monday of the month in a Committee member's home.

The Management Committee for 2023-2024		Officers Appointed by The Committee	
President	Jenny Powell	Minute Secretary	Anne Lukeman
Vice President	None	Assistant Treasurer	Liz Turner
Past President	Colin Neal	Assistant Activities	Ron McBain
Treasurer	Frank Schlechta	Newsletter	Phil Mithen
Secretary	Rita Webb		
Membership	Jeni Moodie		
Welfare	Maurelle Thompson		
Activities Co-Ordinator	Alan Baker		

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORTS 2023 - 2024

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Jenny Powell

This year has been a very special year with the celebration of the 20th Birthday in July. It was very rewarding to have so many Foundation members join us for this occasion.

The entertainment featured an outline of our Club's activities which were put into song and narration. This was written and produced by Colin Neal which was a great success and very appropriate and entertaining.

This year we have had many interesting mini speakers and we have also used this time to do some Club singing and exercises.

My thanks to the management team who have been so supportive this year and who have carried out their roles so effectively and willingly: Rita Webb (secretary), Frank Schlechta (treasurer), Jeni Moodie (membership), Maurelle Thompson (welfare), Alan Baker (activities), Anne Lukeman (minutes secretary) and Colin Neal (past president)

Jeni, Maurelle, Rita and Colin finish this year as does David French who has been the speaker organiser. Frank, Anne and Alan are continuing. And a big thank you to those members who have volunteered to fill the committee positions for next year.

The Club is so successful due to the very committed activity leaders, and I thank them for their ongoing efforts.

Thanks to a membership drive, we have inducted 15 new members this past year and hope they will pick up the baton and keep the Club moving along.

The management team held a very successful and enjoyable BBQ for the new members and their partners. It was an excellent way to get to know each other.

I thank Ray Walker for his support with our singing of Happy Birthday and singalongs at our meetings and Cathy and Gordon Culbard for organising the morning teas.

Thank you, Arthur, for your help with my cartoons ... ever ready with the microphones and controls as needed.

To Phil Mithen and Doug Hayne who keep the Club fully informed on all events and important issues relating to the Club. Thank you.

I thank everyone in the Club for their support and encouragement. I have enjoyed my year as President and the many new friendships I have made.

Yours in Fun, Friendship and Fellowship,

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Rita Webb

It has been a pleasure to work over the past twelve months as Secretary of the Probus Club of Templestowe Valley Inc.

Correspondence was attended to and forwarded where appropriate, to the Management Committee, activity leaders and members. Annual Capitation fees, new members details and membership changes were advised to PSPL. New office bearers and details were forwarded to Manningham City Council and the Department of Consumer Affairs Annual Statement was completed. Foundation Members were contacted and invited to join the Club in its 20th year birthday celebration in the month of July.

My term as secretary is now completed and I would like to say I have found it a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. It enabled me to get to know more Club Members and be more involved in the Club. Working with the other Committee Members has been a fantastic experience. All have been so helpful and supportive. Anne Lukeman as Minute Secretary made my job so much easier. Anne was always there for me with advice and support. Thanks to Jenny Powell as President who kept the committee in line, and I might add always with a smile. Colin Neal, Past President, stepped up to take on minutes secretary when needed. Treasurer Frank Schlechta and I were able to work well together and keep all the Bank Transfer Details on track. Jeni Moodie kept me up to date on Membership by keeping wonderful records. Maurelle, in her quiet way, let me and the committee know about the welfare of members who may have been on the sick list. Activities leader, Alan Baker, perfect for the position, always positive and unflappable.

I want to say a big thank you to Pam Brown the previous Club Secretary. Pam was amazing in setting me off on the journey of being secretary and was always there to help me when I called on her.

I would like to thank Jenny Mirams for volunteering to take the position of Secretary. I wish her well and hope she enjoys the role as I did.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Frank Schlecha

Many thanks to Liz Turner for her patience in introducing and guiding me through the many tasks that the treasurer is responsible for.

Many of our Members now feel comfortable with making payments and receiving refunds by Electronic Fund Transfer. Club meetings, activities and functions mostly returned back to normal.

We paid the full Capitation Fee of \$16.75 per Members from Club Funds to PSPL and received some Membership and Joining Fee income from new Members.

We ended the financial year on 31st January 2024 with a surplus of \$896 in Club Funds compared to a deficit of \$1913 for the previous year (The previous year included the purchase of a computer for \$1516.65).

Surplus for the current year was mainly due to new members fees and transfer of net surpluses from activities to income.

Craft Group fund raising enterprise at Hayville Retirement Community by June Duncan and other Craft Group Ladies added \$4,172.10 to their coffers.

All this meant that it was unnecessary to apply for any grants to keep up with the financial needs of the Group. They ended the financial year with cash-in-hand of \$6,576.21, which is \$1,231.31 more than at the same time last year.

As this is the last of the Hayville Retirement Community fund raising efforts, alternative methods for fund raising will have to be considered for the coming years.

Activities returned to normal and thanks to the tenacity of the Activities Leaders we ended the financial year with Activity Funds standing at \$35.64, this does not include a refundable bond payment of \$500.00 for the Australia Day BBQ hall hire, once this bond is returned to

Activities funds in February 2024 there will be a surplus of \$535.64 at the beginning of the new financial year.

Some of this surplus fund will be transferred to Club Funds in the new financial Year.

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

Jeni Moodie

Membership growth has continued this year with 15 new members: Jenny Buckland, Verna Carter, Grant Cruickshank, Lyverne Newson and Jim Robertson in April; Kay Cruickshank, George Turner, Maureen Mitchell, Doris and Peter Sage, and Lyn Gray in June. In August it was John and Jill Aberly, with Patricia Hicks and Ted Hayes in November. In February (2023) new members included Jenny and Colin Green and Anne and Michael Rossi. It is expected that two to five members may be inducted in February (2024). Sadly, three members died since the last report, Jim Douglas (Dec 2022), Claire Douglas (Jan 2023) and John Wilson (April 2023). Another 9 members have resigned: Janet Pulis, Marilyn Smith, Graeme Stammers, Terry Cummins, Carole English, Pam Snibson, Jan Bartlett, Jill Dickason and Shirley Simms. Helen Armstrong has taken on a non-active membership option.

At the time of report, we have 146 members, with four on the waiting list and two non-active members. Some members have taken the choice of exemption to membership attendance obligations due to ongoing health issues and we hope to welcome them back soon.

I would like to thank my many Registration table volunteers for the year (invaluable!), Laurel Bishop and Bill Mirams the door welcome persons, Christmas assistants (Dawn Pratley, Bernadette Ong and Joan Bryce) and the many others who have supported me during the year (including Jenny Morcom, Sue Hudson, Doug Hayne, David Moodie and Probus Committee members).

WELFARE

Maurelle Thompson

TVPC Members are not immune from ill health, especially as we age. Unfortunately, cancer has struck some of our members, heart issues, shingles and various types of surgery. If I am told about these members, I can keep in touch with them to see how they are getting on. 'Get Well' and 'Thinking of You' cards are sent on behalf of the Club. I thank our member, Liz Smith, for the beautiful cards she makes for me to use. I've had so many lovely comments from recipients. Sometimes it is necessary to suspend members' memberships while they recover or have treatment. This has been done in consultation with Jeni Moodie our Membership Secretary.

Of course, birthdays come around with regularity (we are grateful for all our birthdays even although we know we are getting older) and singing 'Happy Birthday' each month to those recipients is done with accompaniment by Ray Walker on his guitar. Thanks Ray. Those celebrating a special '0' birthday receive a card on behalf of the club.

Shortly after Jim Douglas passed away his wife Claire died. We were also sad to lose John Wilson during the year, one of our Foundation Members. Sympathy cards are sent on behalf of TVPC to the family and in the case of John Wilson to his widow, Mary.

Each month I encourage our members to be careful on stairs and to hold the handrail, or to use the ramp (if there is one) to guard against falls. We also like our members to keep up to date with their mammograms and prostate checks, especially once you hit 75 and no reminders are sent.

My grateful thanks to Alan Baker and John Reid for helping to keep in touch with our male members, who prefer speaking to a man about their health.

May 2024 be a healthy year for all our members.

ACTIVITY CO-ORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Alan Baker

Being the Activities Coordinator over the past year has been a rewarding experience for me and I have enjoyed working with the 32 activity leaders and their helpers who have provided 22 activities for our club members. The Club is fortunate to have such a hardworking and dedicated group of people who have provided the members of the Club with such a broad range of activities to choose from.

All activities play a role in helping our members to socialise and form new friendships within the Club and by keeping them active, both physically and mentally. It helps to make our Club as vibrant as it is today. The Activity Leaders are a big part of the reason that our Club is so successful.

I would also like to thank the members who have supported the activity groups during the year.

I thank all the leaders for all their hard work in making this another successful year and for their support in helping me carry out my role of Activities Coordinator.

WEBMASTER ANNUAL REPORT

Doug Hayne

Our web site has been online for 18 years now and has been useful for members to access information concerning the club including our newsletters which are all available on the site from our first edition. We have had some feedback from other clubs who have seen the usefulness of the site for their members in getting ideas. The web site is also good for informing and attracting new members when required.

Minutes of our Club meetings and AGMs and other documents of interest to members and our forms are also available for viewing and downloading if necessary for member use.

We have a Gallery Page with photo presentations from Probus outings, and our Scrapbook which has been put together by our Scrapbooking group for several years.

We also have several external links to other Probus entities such as Probus South Pacific and Probus Association of Victoria for Information on Probus travel insurance and other club activities.

Due to privacy concerns our newsletters and some other documents containing members' personal details have been quarantined from public access but can be accessed by using an unpublished link which can be obtained from the Webmaster for members only. The Webmaster is also responsible for archiving club records - a task that is ongoing.

SPEAKER CONVENOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

David French

February 13. No speaker due to a miscommunication on timing. The members were entertained with a unique version of "Would I Lie To You?" with three members addressing the audience each with three facts about themselves and the audience had to pick who was lying.

March 13. Speaker Jim Beggs with his subject being "Proud to be a wharfie". Jim related his experiences on the Melbourne wharves with particular reference to the infamous "Patrick" wharf strike in 1998 and his efforts in brokering a solution.

April 10. George Turner gave our members a fascinating visual and verbal presentation under the title "Insects and other critters at the bottom of my garden".

May 8. Linda Kenworthy from the Manningham Waste Reduction department gave an address to our members on the various programmes for waste reduction in the City of Manningham with particular emphasis on the newly reduced FOGO bins food recycling initiative.

June 12. Adrian Rossi entertained us with a talk on Roy Orbison with a visual and sound presentation. It was a wonderful trip down memory lane for the audience and was so enjoyed by the members that Adrian has been invited back to give another future presentation.

July 10. There was no speaker due to that meeting being devoted to our 20th Anniversary Lunch.

August 14. This was the meeting where we learnt all about the things we know and don't know about bees with a lighthearted but informative talk from Ben Moore. Ben runs a business called "Ben's Bees" and is considered an international expert on bees.

Sept. 11. We got to hear all about forensic science and its application in court cases when Phillip Wynn, a retired forensic scientist, spoke to our club. Phillip detailed his background and how he became involved in a number of legal court applications.

Oct. 9. Our speaker for this month was Dawn Harper who spoke to us on the "Wiser Driver" programme which aims to assist primarily older drivers in better understanding of the current road laws and a fuller awareness of driving skills as we age. A number of our members will be attending a 4-week course during February and May as a result of hearing her talk.

Nov. 13. The speaker, Paul Wilson, gave a talk on technology as it affects our lives. Amongst the subjects he covered, and questions he answered, he gave a few demonstrations on the newest technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and how it can be applied.

Dec. 11. There was no guest speaker as we enjoyed the Christmas concert and lunch.

GROUP LEADERS' ANNUAL REPORTS 2023 – 2024

BARBEQUES – SUMMER & WINTER Ron & Lynette McBain/David & Jeni Moodie

This year we held 7 'BBQs' over the year with an average of 8.7 participants. On two dates the weather was not suitable and another event Dawn & Bob Anderson hosted the occasion due to site overcrowding. It is a relaxed occasion to swap news and stories with others, share food, drink and many laughs. It starts again on Thursday 22nd February 5pm, thank you to all who participated, it was good to see a few new members joining us. Everyone welcome including friends, just bring something to eat and a sense of fun. Check newsletter for monthly details re dates and times, meeting at BBQ area Ruffey Lake Park off Church Rd, the King Street entrance in Doncaster.

BIKE RIDING Geoff Grimster & Wayne Eames

We have a great group of riders, nine in total, and have gained two more this year.

This year, like last year, had an average of six riders all of which have been on bike paths.

The weather plays its part in the number of rides we have. It allowed us to have twenty this year.

Our coffee breaks are always enjoyable.

BOOK READING GROUP (Day)

Sue Hudson & Bev Wignall

The day book group has had a most enjoyable year of getting together and discussing a wide range of books.

Our thanks to the Yarra Ranges Library staff for their continued support and encouragement.

My thanks to the members of the group for hosting the meetings, leading discussions and making cakes for afternoon tea.

BOOK READING GROUP (Twilight)

Lyn Crosbie & Judy Baker

Consisting of nine members, we completed the year reading 10 books. We have had a happy year with our group meeting each month from 4pm until 6pm. We all enjoy each other's company, which makes the meeting and our discussions something to look forward to. Our annual dinner in December was once again a great night.

The Rosanna Librarian chose the 10 books for us to read, and we enjoyed most of them. With some excellent choices the range was both varied and interesting and we looked forward to 2024.

It was a successful and satisfying year for our group.

CRAFT GROUP

Jenny Morcom

The group has met regularly this year at our new venue, Applewood Retirement Village. It was another very successful year. Many items were made and completed and supplied to various oncology units.

During the year I met with the Volunteer Representative of Peter Mac, and this resulted in a few changes to some of the items made and supplied by our group to this hospital.

My thanks to Barbara for her ongoing cutting out and sewing and to the ladies who take home bags to machine, cushions to stuff and lastly to all who come along and work on our designated day.

A big thank you to June Duncan and her band of helpers for the fund-raising luncheon held in October at Hayville Retirement Village where \$4172.10 was raised. This will enable the group to continue the good work for some time without having to apply for Grants from Council for the purchase of materials.

For your information the following is a list of the number of items made and distributed from January to December 2023.

Pillows (both styles) 256, Drainage bags (Large and Small) 330, Rugs 70 and Turbans 93. Beanies and other knitted items are also given to Peter Mac and some of these are sold in their shop which raises money for the purchase of equipment.

A great effort, ladies.

ENTERTAINERS

Wilma Pontefract & Ray Walker

We commenced the year with our Australia Day Performance at Wombat Bend where we always seem to have extra bystanders enjoying our music.

Once again, we were able to hold our monthly meetings at Maple Rise, thanks to Maurelle Thompson, Lyn and John Hudson.

In the big celebration of our Club's 20th Birthday, we played a big part in the Special Lunch. Colin Neal further developed the program with appropriate songs to illustrate the activities of Templestowe Valley Probus Club. It was greatly appreciated!

Since August, we have worked on songs for our Christmas Lunch.

We will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Maple Rise in 2024.

EVENTS, TRIPS & OUTINGS

Elaine Hayne, Pam Walker, Lorraine Cooper

Probus Club of Templestowe Valley members were able to enjoy many more outings during 2023 due to the downturn of the Coronavirus. Thanks to Pam and Lorraine for their help and suggestions.

The plans for our outings are presented to the Activities Officer for approval by the Committee. We look forward to some more exciting and interesting outings in 2024.

Outings for this year were:

- Finns Reserve, Australia Day Barbeque
- Kerrisdale, Scenic Train Ride and lunch
- Ambulance Museum, Bayswater
- River walk and Lunch at Fairfield Boathouse
- Elvis Presley and Lunch at Ringwood Club
- Mornington Market
- Werribee Treatment Plant
- Christmas in July Bus Trip and Lunch at Mt Dandenong
- Harness Races at Yarra Glen
- Bus Trip and town tour of Walhalla
- Tour and lunch at Mont De Lancey, Wandin
- Evening Tramboat Cruise on the Yarra

FINE DINING

Jenny Mirams

Fine dining is now in recess for the Christmas period. During 2023 there were 78 attendances at 13 dine outs at a variety of venues. In June, July and August dine outs were paused because of inclement weather. It would be very nice to see some of the new members taking part as it is such a good way to extend acquaintanceships and make new friendships or even catch up with people within the club you know well but don't see often. There are 52 active members and 10 members on hold for various reasons.

FISHING

Maurie Smith

It has been a trying time for our Probus Fishing group this year. We had a great trip back in March which resulted in some good catches and a most pleasant 5 hours on Port Phillip Bay with our 12 members. Lots of fun aboard with our fishermen.

Our trip scheduled for 16th November last was cancelled due to 25 -30 knot winds and much rain was disappointing and Timeout Charters advised it would be unpleasant and we be unable to feel the bites.

However, looking forward to early next year when conditions will be more suitable.

GAMES & BRIDGE

Marion Cummins

Bridge has continued during the year at The Orchards, Baptcare. We play every Thursday at 9.30am until 12.30pm. New members are always welcome. We have not ventured forth to Lorne for our bridge getaway for several years due to COVID restrictions.

We have held 4 Crazy Whist Nights during the year also at The Orchards but in the lounge. They have been well attended with Probus members and residents playing together. Prizes are awarded to the top scoring man and lady as well as encouragement awards given to the lowest scorers. Everyone seems to really enjoy this highly social game which relies on luck. Very basic card skills are needed to enjoy playing with a new partner each game. Charge \$2 per head which covers cost of cards and prizes.

GENEALOGY

Pat Marsh & Pam Brown

Another year has drawn to a close. It has been witness to our small but enthusiastic group meeting to research, explore and share the history of our past and present connections.

As had been mentioned previously, we are no longer able to access the private room upstairs in the Manningham Library but making use of the downstairs public space has not been a problem. We will continue to meet at this venue where we are able to have easy access to power if required and the ability to connect with the library's ancestry memberships such as Ancestry, Find My Past, etc.

One member met with a distant relative through DNA, whilst another found a piece of the missing puzzle in their Ancestry.

Another member of our group produced an Ancestral book of their family. Both husband and wife's families were included following the direct line several centuries back in time. Stories, photographs and family trees were also included.

We were joined by 4 members of our Probus Club at various times throughout the year seeking assistance in the discovery of a missing family member, as well as endeavouring to trace back their family line.

In the coming year, we are looking forward to other members joining our group and hopefully connecting the dots to the mystery of their past.

Once again, our friendly group has enjoyed their time together, conversing and learning from each other whilst being inspired to continue researching along the path of our ancestors.

GETAWAY GROUP

Laurine Eames

The 2023 getaway trip was an 8-day adventure to Horsham and Swan Hill. There was a total of 36 attendees staying in caravan parks. We made good use of camp kitchens for pre-dinner drinks and nibbles. Many viewed the silo art in the area and took part in day trips to Murtoa, Rupanyup and Lake Boga. Exercise was morning walks, boules and barefoot bowling. We all made the most of the country air and returned home refreshed.

GOLF

David French

The golf group participated in two separate activities during 2023. They were a fortnightly 9-hole competition for the Jeff Crosbie Memorial Cup and a four-day break to Phillip Island in October for the Getaway Cup. Whilst the number of participants was less than in previous years, those that participated enjoyed the camaraderie and events throughout the year.

The Jeff Crosbie Memorial Trophy

During the year, we transferred playing from Morack Golf course to the revised and reopened Freeway Golf Course. We conducted just on twenty rounds of nine holes over the course of the year with Wayne Eames the most consistent player. Other club members who were regular attendees were Dawn Pratley, Barb Green, Ray Walker, Barry Murphy, Noel Freeman, Dennis Elliot and David French. The winner of the Jeff Crosbie Memorial Cup will be announced at our dinner in February and all results will be published later in the Club's newsletter.

The Golf Getaway

Results

The Golf Getaway Stableford event.

Men's	First	David Powell
	Second	George Thomas
	Third	Barry Murphy
Women's	First	Wilma Pontefract
	Second	Barb Green
	Third	Jenny Kerseboom
Yellow Ball Team	David French, Ray Walker, Noel Freeman, Jos Freeman	
Longest Drive	Men	David Powell
	Women	Joan Bryce
Nearest the pin	Men	David Powell
	Women	Wilma Pontefract
Ambrose Comp	First	David Powell, Dawn Pratley, Jenny Kersboom
	Second	David French, Joan French, Wayne Eames

A big thank you to everyone who has participated in the golf outings this year. A special thank you to Wayne Eames, our official Score Keeper and Handicapper. We would love to see more club members join us in 2024. Happy golfing everyone. See you next year.

MAHJONG – Afternoon Group

Anne Lukeman & Irene Baird

The afternoon Mahjong group is comprised of ten members all committed to both the game and the camaraderie of the group. We meet every first and third Monday of the month at one of the members' homes. The venues are published in the Newsletter each month. Hosting a game entails setting up tables and providing light afternoon tea.

Games start at 1.00 pm and we play until about 3.30 pm after which we have afternoon tea and a chat.

We play using 'The Mah Jong Player's Companion' by Patricia A Thompson and Betty Maloney supplemented by additional games we have acquired from other groups.

This is a most enjoyable group and Irene and I really enjoy leading it.

MEN'S MORNING COFFEE GROUP

John Reid, Head Grump



The Grumpy Lads have had another successful year drinking fine coffee at Carlucci's Templestowe on alternate Tuesday's mornings. Over the year 221 coffees were consumed by our members amid chatter on a broad range of subjects. Attendances varied from 6 to 16 on any day depending on how many played at being Grey Nomads! We rounded off the year

with a hearty breakfast ably provided by Carlucci's once again. Dates for meetings during 2024 have been issued as V2.0 and continue to be on the First and Third Tuesdays of each month.

NEW SKILLS

Dawn Anderson & Margaret McGregor

MAHJONG - Morning Group

Our Morning Group has met consistently throughout the year at Applewood Retirement Village. While playing Mahjong together we enjoyed the game and the company of other players. It is a good, fun game and we would welcome any other Members who would like to join us (no experience required). We meet twice a month on the first and fourth Tuesdays at 9.30am at Applewood in the Lounge area.

Please call Dawn Anderson or Margaret McGregor if you are interested.

NEEDLES & STITCHES

We meet once a month on the second Wednesday at 1.30pm, mainly at Dawn Anderson's, for a very social get-together. We enjoy knitting, crocheting, sewing or any other craft creations the girls bring along and we "sometimes" copy or create new ideas. Again, we would welcome any members who are interested, and we can help with any projects or UFO's (unfinished objects) you may have in your cupboards and we generally have a good "natter" during the afternoon with a cuppa too. Call Dawn if you are interested.

SCRAPBOOKING/PHOTO BOOKS

Maurelle Thompson

Our small but vibrant group have enjoyed the year working on family and holiday books, reliving lots of memories along the way. There were no meetings in March or April due to the 'Probus Getaway' and overseas holidays. Our final meeting for the year was lunch at 'The Tempy' which was enjoyed by all. We look forward to 2024 to continue working on our books and to welcome any newcomers who would like to join us or find out how to start a scrapbook or photo book.

THEATRE

Judy Baker

It was a good year for the theatre group. We attended the following shows.

- "Barefoot in the Park" on the 13th of March at Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre – 20 members attended lunch at the Crown Hotel, Lilydale and 20 members attended the theatre.
- "Legends of Brass – Centre Stage" on the 7th of May at Doncaster High School – 9 members attended this great show.
- "Switzerland" on the 15th of July at Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre - 20 members attended lunch and 23 attended the theatre.
- "Last Night of the Prom" on the 6th of August at The Centre Ivanhoe - 26 members attended this entertaining show.
- "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, abridged, revised, again" on the 17th of September at Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre - 18 attended lunch and 18 attended the theatre.

Thanks to all members for attending these shows, and for your ongoing support.

WALKING GROUP

Judy and Colin Gaskell

Another year has passed without any covid restrictions, and we managed to fit in about twenty walks throughout the year.

Some of our regulars took advantage of their freedom and headed north for the Melbourne winter.

February- Our first walk for the year was the Warrandyte river walk followed by Mullum Mullum and morning tea at the stadium.

March- We went to Blackburn Lake and did the Plenty river trail, followed by morning tea at the Plenty hotel.

April- We walked Finns reserve and Banksia park.

May-Ruffey Lake Park and a sausage sizzle after, and a walk from lower Eltham park.

June - A walk from Slater reserve Blackburn alongside the freeway and a walk from Elgar Park to Dorking Road Box Hill

July - We did the Pound Bend walk guided by David Moss, who is a local in the area. Tikalara park was our next walk.

August -We walked Westerfolds park followed by a walk from North Eltham reserve.

September- We had a later walk and enjoyed lunch at the Doncaster hotel.

October - A short walk at Birrarung park started with some drizzly rain, but fined up for our morning tea.

November- Blackburn Lake again and Finns reserve were our last walks for the year.

December - the walking group and the bikers got together for a Christmas breakfast at Carlucci's Restaurant in Templestowe, where everyone had a good time.

An enjoyable year was had by all, and we look forward to 2024.