



Gymea Combined Probud Club Inc.

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Probud Times Anniversary Edition

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From the desk of the President

The Gymea Combined Probud Club was created in July 1995, so this July 2020 is the 25th Anniversary of our club. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we are not able to celebrate this milestone in the way we were planning at the beginning of the year. Avril White and Phyllis Elton in particular had invested a deal of time in organising a celebration which has not eventuated.

Because of the significance of this milestone the Management Committee agreed that production of a special Anniversary edition of the Probud Times be undertaken. The 25 year life of the club was divided into 5 year "eras" and a club member who was very active in that era was asked to write about their reflections of that era. I thank them for their contributions. I realise there are many other members who would have been willing and equally able to write about an era, but space restrictions meant that only one writer per era was feasible.

I would also like to thank those people who have provided photos over the years, in particular Dawn King for taking and collating many of the older photos, and more recently Diane Porter, resulting in a repository of photos from which I have sourced the photos in the production of this commemorative Anniversary Edition of the Probud Times.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and it brings back happy memories of times past.



Grant Fletcher

Creation of the Gymea Combined Probus Club

The Probus Club movement was established in the U.K. in 1965 under Rotary sponsorship. In 1974 Probus expanded into New Zealand and subsequently in 1976 the Probus Club of Hunters Hill was established in Australia.

The Gymea Combined Probus Club was formed on the initiative of the Rotary Club of Sutherland Civic which organised and financed the first two meetings held at the Abcot Motor Inn, Sylvania Heights on 12th July and 9th August, 1995 respectively. The first meeting on 12th July 1995 was conducted and addressed by Rotarians Ron Gale, Ian Doyle and Bill Holmes and John Henderson. Two members from the Kurranulla mixed Probus Club, Mr and Mrs Matthews spoke specifically about the mixed or combined aspect of the club. A resolution to form the club was carried.

The Official Party July 1995. From left. Bill Holmes, Ian Doyle, Ron Gale, Mrs and Mr. Matthews, John Henderson.



All those who wished to join the new club paid the yearly subscription of \$20 on that day and were accepted as foundation members. At the end of the first meeting the membership stood at 52. The Probus Club Standard Constitution was formally adopted and office bearers were elected: Robert Fender (President), Dawn King (Vice President), Jacqueline Hickey (Treasurer), Iris Rogerson (Assistant Treasurer), Colin Grainger (Secretary), Colin Pithers (Assistant Secretary), Skip and Iris Dobbie (Editors), Claire Owen and Merle Breakwell (Tours), Brian Halpin (Welfare), Basil Keevers and Edwina Goodman (Guest Speakers), Jim and Margaret Bull (Membership).

At the second meeting held on 9th August 1995 a time and place for regular meetings was set as the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am at the Sutherland District Trade Union Club. There were now 89 members signed up, 27 men and 62 women.

At the general meeting held on 20th September, 1995 a vote was held to set the maximum number of members at 100 and it was determined that a gender balance of no more than 60% of men or women be maintained.

A special resolution was proposed in October of that year for the incorporation of the club. The motion to do so was moved and carried at the general meeting on 17th January, 1996. Since that time the club has grown and at the AGM in March, 2019 the membership limit was raised to 130. Currently the club has 5 life members and 7 of our foundation members: Shirley Basterfield, Jan Fisher, Shirley Jenner, Dawn King, Colin Pithers, Jacqueline Pithers, and Patsy Smallwood.

Recollections of the years 1995 to 2000 – Shirley Basterfield

My husband Harry and I were fortunate to attend the first Gymea Combined PROBUS meeting held on 12th July 1995 at the Abcot Motor Inn, Sylvania. The Convener was Peter Williams. We were a new and young club as most members were newly retired. We had, as we have now, an enthusiastic committee and capable organizers.

In addition to our monthly meetings there were many memorable coach tours. One happy memory on all these tours was the singing on the bus led by Des Adams who always managed to entertain us with his rendition of Danny Boy. The hours travelling passed quickly, thanks to the fun games and quizzes and we all enjoyed it when a member stood at front of the bus and told us their life story.

On one particular trip to Mildura the owner of the motel was a mad Collingwood supporter so everything at his motel was black and white. He formed a strong bond with our member Keith Holman, a former Rugby League Kangaroo and diehard Western Suburbs player and supporter. Keith was also black and white mad but the rest of the group enjoyed plenty of banter with Keith and the motel owner in declaring their loyalty to the red and white of the Sydney Swans. One day when returning to the



Inaugural meeting. Intending members and visitors.

motel the coach driver decided he needed some new shirts from Target, so parked the bus and a few of us snuck off to get some fresh supplies for Happy Hour. (There was to be no shopping stops on this tour apparently). A few of the group including Joy Puckeridge and Betty McLeod bought a second-hand white sheet and some red paint and smuggled them on the bus. Back at the motel there was some frantic sewing and painting that afternoon to make a large sign declaring "Swans Forever". A



Inaugural Committee Gymea Combined Probus Club July 1995. From left. Brian Halpin (Welfare), Iris Dobbie (Editor), Skipp Dobbie (Editor), Edwina Goodman, Claire Owen (Tours), Jacqueline Hickey (Treasurer), Merle Breakwell (Tours), Robert Fender (President), Colin Granger (Secretary), Jim Bull (Membership), Basil Keevers (Guest Speakers), Dawn King (Vice President).

few of our men were coerced into hanging the banner over the large advertising sign of the motel.

The owner took the prank in good spirits but the next morning when we were served our usual continental breakfast he entered the dining room carrying the biggest cooked breakfast including black and white toast just for Keith who had remained loyal to the black and white the whole time. On this same trip Shirley Jenner won a lucky draw and the prize was a trip on a big Harley Davidson motorbike.

Another of our coach trips took us to the Snowy Mountains where we stayed in a motel in Cooma. One of our members, a lovely lady named Miriam was a bit of a character and used to go for a walk early each morning. One particular morning she came back with a pocket full of beautiful apples and said she found them hanging over the fence from someone's yard. A couple of us said we would like an apple too so the next day she returned, to our amazement, with two shopping bags filled to the brim. Luckily she did not get caught. Great fun was had by everyone on our bus trips and they were a great way to get to better know our fellow members.

As the club consisted of mainly newly retired members people were looking to try new interests and hobbies. My husband Harry started up a golf club for people that either played golf or thought they would like to play, as some had not had time to try the game in their working years. This was prompted in particular by one member, Les Howarth who was presented with a set of golf clubs upon his retirement despite having never played.

1996/1997 Committee.

Back Row. Merle Breakwell (Tours), Brian Halpin (Welfare), Claire Owen (Bookings), Gerry Downy (Editor), Jim Bull (Membership), Harry Basterfield (Guest Speakers).

Middle Row. Pam Halpin (Entertainment), Marie Downy (Editor), Margaret Bull (Assistant Secretary)

Front Row. Jacqueline Hickey (Treasurer), Basil Keevers (Vice President), Dawn King (President), Robert Fender (Past President), Colin Wastell (Secretary).



The 1997/1998 Committee.

Back Row. Jim Bull (Membership), Iris Dobbie (Historian), Joy Phillips (Assist Treasurer), Merle Breakwell (Tours), Glad Williams (Guest Speakers), Brian Halpin (Welfare), Miriam Lambie (Guest Speakers), Claire Owen (Tours).

Front Row. Margaret Bull (Assist Secretary), Les Howarth (Treasurer), Dawn King (Past President), Jacqueline Hickey (President), Graham Rogers (Vice President), Colin Wastell (Secretary).





*Incoming Committee for 1998/1999.
Colin Pithers, Kevin King, Graham Rogers, Jim Bull (President), Les Howarth, Jacqueline Hickey, Colin Wastell, Beth Adams, Miriam Lambie, Merle Breakwell, Clare Owen, Pauline Keevers, Iris Dobbie.*

1999/2000 Committee.

Front Row. Betty Dobbie, Iris Dobbie, Pauline Keevers, Beth Adams, Margaret Bull

Back Row. Miriam Lambie, Brian Halpin, Nell Hocking, Gerry Downy, Rosemary Foley, Cyril Edwards, Jim Bull and Colin Paxton (missing Colin Pithers).



Each month we had as many as twenty women and more than twenty men turn up summer or winter to play at Boomerang Golf course. Good golfers such as David Bell, Keith Holman and later Ken Carswell were always there to help the beginners. Unfortunately they never won a trophy as Harry (the handicapper) always managed to encourage a win for the new players. Each month Harry and I would pack a BBQ lunch and many golfers enjoyed a turn with the tongs at the BBQ. After the last players finished their round we enjoyed our lunch together. Many of the ladies brought cake to have with our tea and coffee and a special mention for Hazel Holman who always brought cup cakes but never played golf. Some of the players enjoyed it so much they took to playing together weekly thanks to Beryl and Bob Crouch who organised this. The golf club has continued for all these years with thanks to Colin Wastell, Ken Connolly and now Laurie Neale.

One of the highlights on the golf club calendar were the presentation nights when most of the PROBUS club would turn up. They started at the little Chinese restaurant on North West Arm Road but grew so big it moved onto The Tradies and then Caringbah Bowling Club. In our early days our funds did not stretch to glamorous trophies so the winners were presented with a golf ball in an egg cup from Woolies. I was touched in 2006 when Ray Jenner and Colin Powell organised the very lovely Harry Basterfield perpetual trophy which is now presented each year.

Along with the laughs and good times PROBUS has enabled me to have many good and long lasting friendships over the last twenty five years and I hope the club and its members continue to flourish.



Nambucca Heads Coach Tour, June 1996.

*Back Row. From left. Murray Grundy, Leigh Dowzard, Terry Dowzard, Peg Dowzard
 Third Row. Jim Bull, Bill Devlin, Jean Devlin, Cyril Boxall, Gerry Downy, Robert Fender,
 Jacqueline Pithers, Colin Pithers, Claire Owen, Les Howarth, Miriam Lambie, John Smith
 Second Row. John (Coach Captain), Brian Halpin, Colin Grainger, Beth Adams, Rosemary Foley,
 Marie Downy, Sylvia Fender, Audrey Boxall, Merle Breakwell, Jacqueline Hickey, Neale Cooper,
 Daph Howarth, Elva Eades, Jim Rostron, Trish Smith, Pam Halpin, Maureen
 Front Row. Basil Keevers, Pauline Keevers, Margaret Bull, Joan Grundy, Marie Davis, Marjorie
 Cooper, Joyce Tyrrell, Glad Williams.*



Group Photograph of the Cooma Bus Trip (including current members Colin and Jackie Pithers, Betty McLeod, Marjorie Cooper, Jan Fisher, Shirley Basterfield, Patsy Smallwood), April 1997.

Recollections of the years 2001 to 2005 – Joy Dolan-Brown

Committee 2000/2001.

From left. Cyril Edwards (Membership), Colin Paxton (Assist Tours), Nell Hocking (Tours), Gerry Downy (President), Ray Jenner (Treasurer), Beth Adams (Vice President), Pauline Keevers (Past President), Rosemary Foley (Assist Treasurer), Colin Pithers (Secretary), Shirley Close (Assist Guest Speakers), Ron Close.



John and I had already visited other potential Probus clubs and found that Gynea had the “WELCOME” mat out for us. The atmosphere was warm and inviting with a collection of honest, true, like minded men and women, eager to participate in anything and everything. We “threw” ourselves into this and have been rewarded with lasting friendships that have been tested by time.

Looking back at those years (and being cynical), the only way to make sure that you had a seat on the coach, was for one of us to be an organiser of that tour.

As John was Secretary, I took on WALKS and have fond memories from those excursions, many standing out because of the high participation rate of the members. We always did a “trial run” before any walk was advertised, mainly to iron out any pitfalls and make the walk a successful and pleasant day out.

Barrenjoey Lighthouse, Rose Bay to Watson’s Bay, Taronga to Kirribilli and The Spit to Manly are all well remembered, mainly for the natural beauty in our great city. It was a daunting thought when somebody suggested walking over the Sydney Harbour Bridge. I had in mind that it was an exceptionally long trip and was concerned for our ‘walkers’. It was a perfect day and with a good company of talkers, it was not long before we sat for a photo at the middle of the bridge. We had planned to have lunch at Kirribilli R.S.L. club followed by a train trip from Milson’s Point station. I think it was Carole Power who suggested a short walk after lunch, to the wharf near Luna Park and a delightful ferry ride back to the Quay, then home on the train.

I do know that we never had a walk cancelled because of rain or poor weather and we never had an accident.

During these years, we also found that other friends of ours, either ex work mates or personal friends had joined other Probus clubs in the Shire. We exchanged ideas and experiences with them and helped make a great social network. I believe that this idea was the forerunner of what is happening today with the exchange of Probus Newsletters with other clubs in the Shire.



*Probud Committee for 2001/2002.
Back Row. Ray Jenner, Cyril Edwards, David Bell, Colin Paxton, Nell Hocking, Ron Close
Front Row. Shirley Close, Anne Shawl, Beth Adams (President), Shirley Jenner and Margaret Bull.*

After WALKS, I took on TOURS (along with other members) and spent many hours putting together some memorable events. A long train trip to MOREE, a stay at the local motel with three hot water spa's and with the local school bus taking us around, sightseeing. Who could forget having 30 people having a spa before dinner especially in WINTER in Moree.

Of course, these are lasting memories that came from a time when we were 20 years younger than today. John and I will always remember great people like Harry Basterfield, Ken Connolly, Dawn King, Cyril Edwards, Colin Powell, Jean Devlin, Noel Hancock and many others who were committed to making this club such a success.

*April Monthly Meeting 2002.
President Shirley Jenner inducting new members including Bob and Beryl Crouch, and Lionel and Joan Bruel.*



*Committee 2003/2004.
From left. Ray Jenner, Nell Hocking, Glenda Bell, John Dolan-Brown, Anne Shawl, Joy Geraedts, Dawn King, David Bell, Les Howarth, Cyril Edwards, Colin Wastell (missing Ann Paxton and Shirley Jenner).*



From left. Ray Jenner (President), Joy Dolan-Brown, David Bell, Yvonne Powell, Rae O'Connor. December 2004.



President Carole Power presenting retiring Committee members with their Certificates. From left. Ann Paxton (Tours), Nell Hocking (Tours), Colin Paxton (Assist Registrar), Anne Shawl (Welfare), Ray Jenner (Immediate Past President). April 2005.



Christmas Lunch, Bayview Centre. December 2004. From left. Colin Powell (Junior Vice President), Carol Power (Vice President), David Bell (Past President).



10th Anniversary 2005. Foundation Members. From left. Jacqueline Pithers, Dawn King, Colin Pithers, Shirley Jenner, Jacqueline Hickey, Shirley Basterfield, Jim and Margaret Bull, Jan Fisher, Pauline Keevers, Anne Shawl.



The Entrance. Watching the Feeding of the Pelicans. From left. Bottom Row. Albert Van Dyk, Keith and Hazel Holman, Sid and Fay McAuley, Joy Puckeridge, Jim Rostron, Phyliss Hughes. From left. Top Row. Les Howarth, Pam Honeybone.

Annual Holiday, March 2002. Tilba Tilba In the Garden. From left. Marie Downy, Betty Dobbie, Beth Adams, Jim Rostron, Jane Davis, Glad Williams, Shirley Jenner, Phyliss Hughes, Albert Van Dyk, Bill Devlin, Marjorie Cooper, Hazel Holman, Nealel Cooper, Gerry Downy and Harry Basterfield.





Great Ocean Road Trip. 29th February 2004 for seven days).

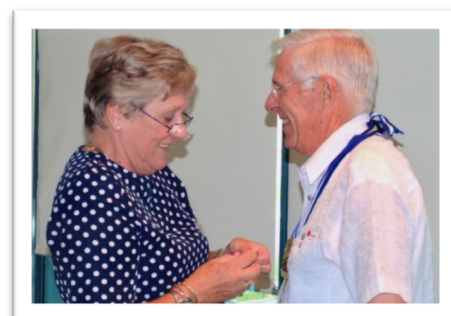


March 2005 – Scone Holiday, Homeward Bound.

From left. Coach driver, Ann Atkinson, Neale Cooper, Glenda Bell, Don Atkinson, Dick and Glad Weavers, Des Adams, David Bell, Nell Hocking, Keith and Hazel Holman, Ann Paxton, Lionel Bruel, Dawn King, Joy Geraedts, Joan McGarvey, Marjorie Cooper, Jean Devlin, Phylliss Hughes, Shirley Basterfield, Carole Power, Daph Howarth, Anne Harrison, Lorna Graham, Les Howarth, Joan Bruel. Betty and Ted Walton (foreground), Joy Dolan-Brown (foreground), Heather Dwyer, Jacqueline Hickey, John Dolan-Brown, Elva Eaves, Albert Van Dyk, Jacqueline Pithers, Fay McAuley, Colin Pithers, Sid McAuley, Yvonne and Colin Powell and Mavis Rapley.

Recollections of the years 2006 to 2010 – Shirley Jenner

When it was suggested that I contribute to the commemorative issue of “Probus Times”, I was both excited and terrified. How would I ever remember what happened in 2006! Fortunately, our Foundation Member and Historian, Dawn King (now on the Inactive List), had meticulously laminated each copy of “Probus Times” so I was able to see almost everything we had done in the period. Thank you, Dawn!



Change-over from Past President Carole Power to new President Colin Powell. 2006 AGM.

There are many memories and going through these issues was like looking at an old photograph album. You know the feeling – smiling at memories of the good times and shedding a tear for those who are no longer with us. It’s a bitter-sweet experience.

I know that I am stating the obvious but ours is a wonderful, caring Club. During this period some of our members must have had difficulty in attending our functions, so each month there was an invitation to request a lift from another member. One incident stands out in my mind. On the way home from a theatre party we were chatting with members of another Club and they were complaining about the number of members attending their meetings in wheelchairs. This would never happen at Gynea Combined – there would always be members on hand, eager to render any assistance required. Who knows – one day it might be our turn to need a helping hand.

In chronological order, our Presidents during this period were Carole Power (2005/2006), Colin Powell, Ann Atkinson, Les Howarth, Nell Hocking and John Langford.

Joy Dolan-Brown and Valda Connolly worked tirelessly, organising our day trips and holidays and Keith Burnie kept us fit by taking us on walks all over the Shire.

Up until June, 2006, the much-loved Harry Basterfield organised our golf days but eventually illness precluded him from this task and Colin Wastell took over. As has been covered previously in this issue, it was through Harry’s efforts that the golf days started. This activity was one of the highlights of our calendar. Even if you weren’t a golfer, it was worth going down to Boomerang for the company, the barbecue and the great cakes made by Hazel Holman. An enduring friendship commenced at one of our golf days and two of our members were partners for the rest of their lives.



2007/2008 Committee. AGM March 2007. John Dolan-Brown, Nell Hocking, Joan Reid, Valda Connolly, David Bell, Joy Dolan-Brown, Glenda Bell, Ann Atkinson (President), Carole Power, Les Howarth, Shirley Jenner, Ray Jenner.

John Dolan-Brown's computer classes were eagerly attended and everyone seemed to have such a good time that I thought that they must have been doing more than computing. Apparently not, because John was always requesting more computers and, as soon as someone updated, he would be there to collect the old one. The classes were so popular that the number per month had to be increased to three.

Jim and Margaret Bull were long-time members of the Club, Jim being a former President. Margaret arranged theatre parties and, as well as the usual musicals and plays, she took us to the Sydney Town Hall for their "nostalgia" concerts. These concerts were so popular that you had to book quickly or the tickets would be sold out. I

remember that one of the nostalgia concerts featured the songs of Flanagan and Allen. If you were born post--1940's you would not have heard of them. Their most popular song was "Underneath the Arches" – now there's a top-ten hit! However, apart from the artists of past years, they would feature acts which had not quite made it to the top. I remember seeing The Ten Tenors and knowing that they would be something special. I was reminded recently that Margaret used to take her notebook on our trips and make note of everything we did. I wish I had that notebook at the moment! Jim and Margaret had to return to their home town of Deniliquin to be with their family, due to ill health.

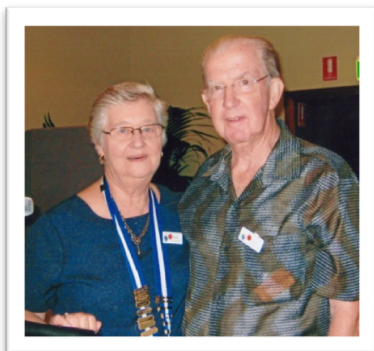


Change-over from Past President Ann Atkinson to new President Les Howarth. 2008 AGM.

On reading through the Presidents' reports, I came across one of Colin Powell's, headed **TRADIES' DEBACLE**. Sounds like a headline from the "Daily Telegraph"! On reflection, it certainly was a debacle because Tradies notified us in January that, as from 1st February, the Club would not be available to us, due to rebuilding and renovations. This resulted in 'phone calls and/or visits to almost every club in the vicinity. We finally settled on Sutherland United Services Club and stayed there until the construction of their new car park made it impossible to park close to the Club. At this time we returned to our present home at Tradies.

Our bus holidays were always popular, with full buses travelling to various destinations, mostly within New South Wales but occasionally venturing into Victoria. After a full day on the bus we would break up into smaller groups in our rooms, for

Happy Hour. On one occasion we decided to use a larger area outside of our venue, bring our chairs and something to drink and have a really good get-together. These Happy Hours became a traditional part of our trips and were one of the most enjoyable parts of our day.



New President Nell Hocking with Past President Les Howarth. 2009 AGM.

Una Voce (or South Sydney Tourist Resort as it was later called) was a popular destination. This is a very pretty resort on the Hawkesbury, out from Windsor. These five-day holidays involved lots of great food, walks, dancing, cards, table tennis and hotly contested tennis and golf championships. Gold cups (very small ones) would be presented at dinner on the last evening. We were coming home from one of our bus holidays when we decided that, even though we enjoyed our busy holidays, it would be great

if we could travel to one place and stay there for the whole time. We loved Una Voce but we thought that, for a change, it would be relaxing to stay at one venue and everyone could do what they liked (mind you, there wasn't much relaxing). Hence, the caravan/cabin holidays eventuated.

One of these holidays was to my favourite place, Kendalls Beach, Kiama. One day a few of our intrepid ladies decided to go to the ocean swimming pool for a dip. The fact that the locals were standing around, watching the waves crash over the pool, didn't deter them. In they went but panic set in when Ann Atkinson looked as though she was on her way to New Zealand. I didn't see any of this drama because I was enjoying some retail therapy at a nearby shop. Anyway, a human chain which included Judy Blackburn, Patsy Smallwood and Valda Connolly was formed and these heroines saved the day. The locals were watching in disbelief because another lady had almost gone over the side the preceding day. Anyway, all's well that ends well.



New President John Langford with Past President Nell Hocking. 2010 AGM.

At one stage we attended Scottish and Old-time dances at Sutherland. The Scottish dances were, to say the least, difficult and exhausting and involved the experts pushing us into place until we collapsed into rubbery messes on the nearest chairs; however they also included old-time dancing and this was more our style. Some of us were a bit rusty with the Pride of Erin, the barn dance and the Gypsy Tap, so Ray Jenner decided that it would be helpful to have dance lessons. Joyce and Richard Everett were expert dancers and offered to help with the lessons, volunteering their home as a venue. Ray was also on the teaching staff, although his ego was shattered when one of the pupils commented that his dancing had improved since he had been taking lessons.

Harbour cruises were also very popular. One afternoon we were standing near the Opera House, waiting for our boat, when we saw a beautiful vessel heading our way. This was going to be a very special trip! What we hadn't seen was our boat, just behind it. You would have sworn that it was the "African Queen". All I can say is that we had the best time on the "African Queen". I recall that there were casks of wine (you know, the cardboard ones). When we had the first drink we thought we were drinking vinegar, the second was "not so bad really" and the third was "not a bad drop". The drinks did improve after bar service was introduced. We returned to the "African Queen" many times and always had the best time.



President Nell Hocking with new Probus members Dianne Cooper, Judy Burchill, Heather Mulley and Carole Malley. 2010.

Another one of our favourite trips was to Kembla Grange races (we still like to do this). Originally we attended on Saturdays but discovered there was free entry and no charge for booking a table on week days so thought it a good idea to go there mid-week. On one occasion, when travelling to Kembla by train, we were having a great time until one of the passengers asked us to quieten down because it was a "quiet carriage".

We'd never heard of a quiet carriage but from then on we were as quiet as mice and resolved to never use a quiet carriage again. This is why some of us like to go to the Races in Rod's bus – we can make as much noise as we like and have the odd glass of bubbly.

Thanks to Annette Batchelor, today our "Probus Times" is a beautiful publication, of which we can be justly proud. All of our Publicity Officers have done us proud but I think that former members, Bill and Betty Dobbie, deserve a special mention One year Betty and Bill produced it on their old typewriter. These days we wouldn't be able to find an old typewriter! Prior to distribution by e-mail, "Probus Times" was posted to absent members or delivered by neighbouring members.

There isn't space to mention everything we did in these years but we certainly had a wonderful time. There were holidays, bus trips, Christmases in July, Christmas lunches, theatre parties, picnics, barbecues, walks, monthly dinners, golf, bowls, cards and, on one occasion, croquet – all of the activities we enjoy today. I wonder what the next 25 years will bring.



Foundation Members on the 15th Anniversary 2010.

Ladies in Pink. Fun Night. Cooma Holiday. 2010.



Men in Blue. Fun Night. Cooma Holiday. 2010



Wellington. Parkes Holiday. 2006.



Social Bowls, Caringbah. 2007.



*Kiama Camping. The "Walkers".
From left. Daph Howarth, Pat Broad,
Marjorie Cooper, Jacqueline Pithers, Ann
Atkinson, Shirley Jenner, Valda Connolly,
Dawn King, Joan Reid.*



Annual Holiday. March 2007.

From left. Front. John Dolan-Brown, Hazel Holman, Phyliss Hughes, Ann Harrison, Joan McGarvey, Dulcie Huff, Yvonne Powell, Ann Haylock, Michelle Lopez, Mavis Rapley, Heather Dwyer, Marjorie Cooper, Margaret Harris, Betty Walton, Joy Dolan-Brown, Pat Dutton, Joan Briel, Glenda Bell, Joan Reid, Ann Atkinson

From left. Back. Keith Holman, Gwen Roach, Anne Ralphs, Jeff Miles, Diana Garvin, Glad Williams, Elva Eaves, Bill Devlin, Jean Devlin, Colin Powell, Bill Huff, Jim Morris, John Langford, Arthur Harris, Ted Walton, Lionel Briel, , John Ralphs, David Bell, Graham Rogers, Don Atkinson.

Recollections of the years 2011 to 2015 – Barbara Bradley

My association with the club began in July 2011. The committee, with Judy Blackburn as President, needing new members placed an advertisement in the Leader. Jan Dawkins and I decided to accept the invitation and attended our first meeting at the Sutherland United Services Club along with many other people including Barbara Siegel who became a good friend. We were introduced to Robyn Hunt who made sure we had a copy of the newsletter and explained procedures to us. With a plethora of interesting things to do we settled in. The very first event I attended was the September walk. We were catching the train to Clarendon and walking to Richmond. Little did I know that these walks were in fact Clayton's walks! With stops for coffee and a stroll not a walk! At least it was a good opportunity to meet some of the members like Sue Broad and Kim Edgar and of course Keith Burnie who at the time was the walks organiser. The next event I attended that year was a coach trip to Floriade and finally the Christmas lunch at Gardens on Forest.



Past President John Langford with new President Judy Blackburn. 2011 AGM.

A single rose can be my garden, a single friend my world.

The following year I really got into the swing of things with a tour of Old Government House at Parramatta, a 5 day holiday at Tabourie Lake where Barbara and I showed our true colours by setting a unique dress code. There was the picnic at Gunnamatta Park, Christmas in July at the Como Hotel, the monthly walks and dinners. A walk that I particularly enjoyed was around Lake Illawarra from Oak Flats to Windang. Theatre parties to see Anything Goes, A Chorus Line and others, the Woronora Dam Picnic and the Christmas lunch which was again at Gardens on Forest. As an avid reader I also joined the book club: the first book I read was 'Last Chance Café' by Liz Byrski. I have to say over the years being a member of the book club has broadened my reading and I have read and enjoyed books I might not have read.

Just living is not enough. One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.

*Past President Judy Blackburn
with new President Phillip Broad.
2012 AGM.*



2013 was a busy year as we updated the club's Constitution and amended the Standing Resolutions to comply with Probus South Pacific requirements. We also had to find a new venue for our meetings as parking at Sutherland became a major problem. The only venue at that time with adequate parking, nearby public transport and a room that met our requirements was the Sutherland Trade Union Club at Gynea. Our March holiday was a tour of the Gloucester area, a very historical and interesting area. Other memorable events included Christmas in July at Redleaf Resort,

Blackheath (who was that masked lady), a 2 day trip to Canberra to see the Toulouse Lautrec exhibition along with the War Memorial and the National Museum, a tour of the Auburn Mosque, a Melbourne Cup Cruise on the Harbour, theatre parties such as Driving Miss Daisy with Angela Lansbury, Warhorse, Hot Shoe Shuffle and In the Mood. We also enjoyed being entertained by our guest speaker Helen Zerefos and had many questions for another of our speakers John Raynor from Sutherland Council.



Change-over. Past President Jan Mecham with new President Greg Schofield. 2014 AGM.

Age does not matter unless you are a cheese

2014 saw us once again going to Lake Tabourie for our March holiday but with a different itinerary which included Mogo Zoo. We visited the Mounted Police centre, Vaucluse House, Kembla Grange, Christmas in July was at Juniors on Hawkesbury (Una Voce), theatre parties included Oklahoma, The Good Old Days, The King and I and The Last Confession starring David Suchet. Book Club covered some great authors, Jeffrey Archer, Truman Capote and Hannah Kent to name a few. Although we did not participate in the monthly game of golf, we always attended the end of year dinner which Ken and Valda Connolly organised at the Caringbah Bowling Club.

Practice safe eating always use condiments

2015, another busy year as we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the club's foundation recognising the contribution of our foundation members. The March holiday was to Mudgee and in October our caravan/cabin holiday was to Werri Beach at Gerringong. Outings included St Mary's Cathedral, Garden Island, Vivid, a cruise on Port Hacking, Melbourne Cup Cruise on the Harbour and the first of our 'Walks with Ellen' this one was the Jacaranda walk around Hunter's Hill. Walks to Blackwattle Bay and Barangaroo. Theatre parties to Evita, Anything Goes and the Russian Ballet and finally our Christmas lunch at Doltone House.

Over these years we have experienced the joy of meeting new members, the sadness at the loss of well loved members but over-all the memories of new friendships and enjoying times spent with some wonderful people singing, dancing, laughing and generally enjoying life.

Birthdays are good for you, the more you have the longer you live



President Jan Mecham conferring Life Membership on Shirley Jenner. 2013.

Twentieth Club Anniversary - 2015



President Dianne Cooper with Rotarian Dick White at the 20th Anniversary. 2015.

Foundation Members Jan Fisher and Dawn King cut the "Anniversary" cake.



Foundation Members. Shirley Jenner, Anne Shawl, Patsy Smallwood, Shirley Basterfield, Jan Fisher, Dawn King.



Werri Beach Cabin/Caravan Holiday. Cruise up the Shoalhaven River. October 2015.



Orange. Holiday Touring Orange, Bathurst, Molong area. April 2011.



Xmas in July. Una Voce. 2014.



Visit to the Wendy Whiteley Secret Garden. 2011.



Group at Kiama Lighthouse.



Tour to Berry May, 2014. Group outside Gerroa Fisherman's Club.

Recollections of the years 2016 to 2020 – Bruce Catt (and a little earlier)

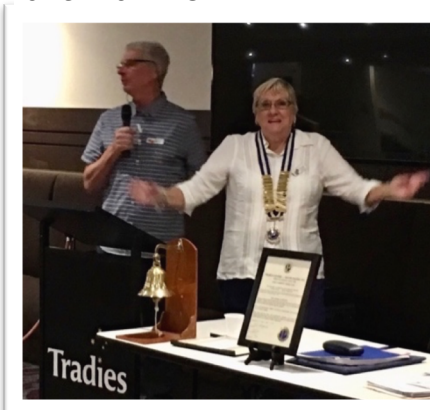
My journey with our Probus club started in June 2014. I had recently retired and downsized from a house in Kareela to a villa in Caringbah. In need of something to fill my time I made enquiries with a neighbour about joining a Probus club. That neighbour was someone who many of you will remember, Jan Dawkins. So, I went along to the June meeting where Jan organised for one of her friends, Sue Broad, to look after me. Sue did a fantastic job, making sure that I felt comfortable, introducing me to her friends and explaining the meeting process. I remember the guest speaker well. He was a sailor who had sailed with another friend from Sydney, across the Pacific, around Cape Horn and on to England where they were sailing in the Fastnet race. Two points stay strongly in my head. This sailor fell overboard in the Pacific and was watching his yacht sail away. To save himself he remembered that they were towing an electric generator behind their boat. He managed to grab the trailing cable and ultimately made his way back on board. Secondly, they noticed a shining light in the sky and thought it may have been the international space station. They contacted NASA and amazingly were put in touch with the crew in the space station, one of whom they later met when they arrived in England... must have been a satellite phone connection. This was my introduction to Gynea Combined Probus Club. My wife Sandra, who was working part time also came along in July 2014.



Change-over. Past President Dianne Cooper with new President Bruce Catt. 2016 AGM.

In 2014 and 2015 our club had full membership of 125 with a waiting list of about 6 visitors. I waited until March 2015 to be inducted. In October 2015 I was approached to take on the role of Vice President and invited to attend a committee meeting to make sure I was comfortable taking on the role as it also meant that in the following March I would become President (if accepted by the membership of course). In early 2016 it became apparent that our waiting list had been declining and with resignations at the end of the Probus year in March our membership started to fall below our maximum. This was a trend affecting most Probus clubs at the time. Probus South Pacific had also observed this trend and initiated the Cluster Group system to encourage clubs to

Change-over. Past President Bruce Catt with new President Carole Power. 2017 AGM



work together to address falling membership and to cooperate with each other by sharing thoughts, activities and holidays. To rebuild our membership the Committee asked all members to encourage their friends to come along, we advertised in the What's On section of The Leader and we attended local fairs and Council sponsored Seniors Events to promote our club. Over two years our membership grew to capacity and we started to build a waiting list again. In 2019 our waiting list had grown so long that the club members decided to increase our maximum membership numbers from 125 to 130.

Committee 2017/2018. From left. Jan Fisher, Bruce Catt, Carole Power (President), Barbara Siegel, Dianne Cooper, Margaret Sticovich, Grant Fletcher, Patricia Howard, Avril White, Sandra Catt (missing Barbara Bradley).



What is it that makes a Probus Club successful? I believe it is our members interacting and forming new friendships at our meetings and during the wide range of activities that we offer. Our activities allow closer relationships to form because they are less formal and more relaxed, offering members the opportunity to mix and move around. My personal favourites were and still are the monthly lunches or dinners, the monthly walks, day trips and holidays. When Sandra took on responsibility for Theatre Parties in 2016 another popular activity was added to our list of things to do. There are also a lot of activities that we repeat annually – our Christmas party, Christmas in July, Australia Day and Melbourne Cup. These are incredibly popular and all attract large numbers.

During the last five years our club has offered the following holidays – Mudgee, short holidays to Avoca (twice for Melbourne Cup and Christmas in July), Wangaratta, Lake Taborie, Broken Hill, Barham, with Lightning Ridge rescheduled for the May 2021.

Mudgee was the first club holiday that Sandra and I participated in and we were still visitors at the time. It was memorable for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it gave us a great opportunity to get to know some of the longest serving members of the club – Shirley Basterfield, Patsy Smallwood and Dawn King, all lovely ladies but surprisingly wild at the daily happy hour. Sandra made this an event to be remembered by becoming ill enough to warrant an emergency trip back to Sydney one day early. I was concerned that we would miss the scheduled wine tasting that day, but we just managed to squeeze that in before



our emergency bus trip to Lithgow and XPT back to Sydney.

The Wangaratta holiday was an outstanding success. To fill our numbers, we had 5 members from one of the Engadine clubs join our Gynea group. Our accommodation was excellent and our daily trips to Bright, Beechworth, Glenrowan (Ned Kelly Country) filled our days and then back to Wangaratta for dinner, drinks and fun. I remember being pulled from the audience by our entertainer one night and dressed in a bra (by him, not by me) to the laughter of all. See the photo to the left. Our first short trip to Avoca was mainly to celebrate the Melbourne Cup but timing allowed a Halloween celebration as well. Most



of our members came prepared and dressed up for the occasion. We still talk about the amazed reaction of the other (quite conservative) Probus club that shared the venue with us. The motel management had organised entertainment for each of the 3 nights we were there. The entertainer on the 3rd night was a little different, sitting reading a book while playing suitable old-style music for the elderly (us). When he started his live act, the laughter started. He was singing a Roy Orbison song and to hit the high note he pulled his pants up tightly and suddenly. Jackie Pithers laughed so hard I thought she would split her sides.



Perhaps our most popular event each year is our Christmas party. We normally have an extraordinarily good time along with some extraordinarily good entertainment. As an example, have a look at the photo to the left of those two amazing South American dancers who entertained us in 2018 at Woollooware Golf Club. There are many more stories that I could tell and much more I could say but I am running out of space and the photos had to be included. Please continue to socially

distance and look after yourselves until Tradies let us back into the club for us to resume our meetings and activities.....



Committee 2018/2019. From left. Grant Fletcher, Bruce Catt, Patricia Howard, Margaret Sticovich, Phyllis Elton, Annette Batchelor, Barbara Bradley, Rob Bennett (President), Barbara Siegel, Dianne Cooper, Robyn Hunt.



Committee 2019/2020. From left. Pamela Conway, Margaret Sticovich, Jeanette Heidrichas, Bruce Catt, Rob Bennett, Patricia Howard (President), Dianne Cooper, Grant Fletcher, Toni Proudlock, Phyllis Elton.

2020/21 Partial Committee. From left. Diann De Vere (Theatre Parties), Bruce Catt (Treasurer), Annette Batchelor (Publicity), Toni Proudlock (Secretary), Grant Fletcher (President).



Change-over. Past President Patricia Howard with new President Grant Fletcher. 2020 AGM.



Bus Trip to Peter Olde Garden – Burratorang Lookout. April 2016.



Group 1. Murray Mallee Discovery Tour. May 2019.



Group 2. Murray Mallee Discovery Tour. May 2019.

Games at the January 2020 General Meeting.



St Patrick's Day Luncheon, Camden Valley Inn. March 2020.

