



The Probus Club of Greythorn Inc

Annual Report

March 2009

Committee of Management
2008-2009

Office Bearers

President	Ray Leak
Past President	Peter Courtney
Vice President/Membership	Pene Whiteley
Treasurer	John Brophy

Committee Members

Newsletter	Marilyn Poole
Interest Groups	Charlie Boschetti
Welfare	Chresley Robson
Programs	Toni Bruin
Hospitality	Val Dunlea
Outings	Vivienne Newman
	Geoff Griffiths

Public Officer

Basil Johns

Auditor

Max Horne

Reports

Ray Leak - President

I have much pleasure in presenting the second Annual Report of the Probus Club of Greythorn for 2008.

Following our inaugural year where a lot of work was done to form the Club, the second year was more of settling and stability. I'm happy to report that we have been able to run a balanced budget, with income and expenditures roughly in line and maintaining a manageable surplus for special needs. On this basis the Annual Club membership fees remain at \$25 per member, the same as last year.

The Club has now established its own identity and the Management Committee and Special Interest Group Coordinators have done their utmost to set up an atmosphere of friendship and fun, the main reasons for the Probus Club's existence.

I remember earlier in 2008 that some office bearers were a bit unsure whether they could do their job, with statements such as "I've never done this before and not sure how I'll go" Well I can honestly say that they have successfully done it their way, have grown in confidence and excelled over the period.

Thank you ALL for a job well done!

Throughout the year as well as our Monthly Meetings with great speakers and morning teas, the Special Interest Groups have all been well supported and running smoothly. Most started modestly and have grown in support, and they all welcome more of you to join them.

For your information, the approximate numbers attending the main activities are: -

Paid up Members	115
Monthly Meetings	80-95
Lunch after Probus Meetings	16-30
Book Group	10
Canasta Group	8
Computer Group	6
Dine Out Group	16-26
Gardening Group	12-28
Golf Group	12-15
Investors' Group	16
Movie Group	6-8
Scrabble Group	9-12
Solo Group	8-12
Theatre Group	14-18

Other Outside Activities are on a more one-off basis and have had good support. Annual dinners, and the Woolamai Picnic Races, are now becoming more annual events.

In the coming year you will have some new Committee Members and Coordinators. I am strongly of the opinion that some changes each year are good for the Club by helping to maintain enthusiasm, provide new ideas, and to share the not too onerous workload. Each will need your thoughtful support and understanding.

The General Meeting in April will not have a Guest Speaker but will be more of an Open Forum, where the new Committee and Special Interest Coordinators can indicate their direction for the 2009 year, and to take into account ideas and suggestions from ALL Members. Additionally we will discuss support for Bush Fire Appeals and call for a couple of volunteers to consider ideas and put forward a plan of assistance.

I would like to thank ALL members of the Club for your encouragement and support, and particularly the Management Committee and Interest Group Coordinators for their great efforts in making the Club such a great success.

Pene Whiteley- Vice-President/Membership

Firstly I would like to congratulate and acknowledge our leader Ray Leak on a job well done over the past twelve months in steering our Committee and seeing to the general well being of our Club, thanks Ray

In the Membership arena we welcomed 13 new members to the club which kept our list to 115, two more than last year so we must be enjoying ourselves and spreading the word about the Club to friends and neighbours so that they could enjoy themselves amongst the Groups and Speakers that we offer.

Toni Bruin – Programs

This year I believe we have had a good variety of very entertaining and informative Guest Speakers i.e. Paul Carman Business Development Director MSC Italian Cruises, Gwen Rosengreen from Better Hearing Australia, Hazel Edwards author of Writing a Non Boring Family History and many other books and our own Member Barb Longmuir from 'Friends of the Zoo'. I am sure you are aware and most appreciative of the time given up by these Speakers to attend our Meetings.

It has also been very pleasing to be involved in the organization of other events such as a three day adventure to my country property at Acheron in April where 21 of us got together for lots of fun, food, wine and laughter. Our Friendly Get Together Lunch in October at St. Aidan's Church Hall was a wonderful success with 85 members in attendance. On the 21st November 45 Members also went along to the Albert Yachting & Angling Club for a most enjoyable lunch on the shores of Albert Park beach.

A couple of months ago I was asked to organize a Friends of Probus trip to Norfolk Island on the first of May. I am delighted that we have a lovely group of 18 traveling including some of our own members, friends of members and members of a couple of other Probus groups.

In conclusion I would like to thank those who have been there to provide support and assistance and I sincerely hope the Probus Club of Greythorn continues to prosper as it has done in the last two years.

Vivienne Newman- Outings

We had mixed success during the year with outings on offer, and it would appear that organized bus trips do not appeal. Many members and friends enjoyed the Johnston Collection. We visited the Collection in July and also in December for the Christmas display.

Although only a few members visited the MCG and museum, we all thoroughly enjoyed our time there. The Woolamai Picnic Races were very popular in January.

Marilyn Poole – Newsletter

One of the best things about being newsletter editor has been getting to know so many people in Greythorn Probus. I have shared the excitement of seeing the Club become established and being part of the management team. As I look back on the newsletters over the two years, it is interesting to see how the format of the newsletter has changed reflecting not only my own developing style but also the activities offered by the Club. Thank you again to all the contributors, without you there would be no newsletter.

Val Dunlea– Hospitality

We had a very successful year and it has been a pleasure to provide this service. We have 115 members of which 10% have helped to serve the morning tea. From the feedback I have received, it has been suggested that we have a roster, so maybe the next committee will go ahead with the idea.

Thank you to all the willing and efficient helpers. I could not have coped without their help. Special thanks to Myra Marmion and Denise Boschetti for their support when I was unavailable. I wish the next person to take over all the best and I encourage everyone to support either him or her.

Chresley Robson – Welfare

My two years as Welfare Officer have been a very rewarding experience for me. It keeps you in touch with all the members of the Club and you are able to offer some TLC when it is needed. I wish the new Committee well. I know they will find it very rewarding.

Charlie Boschetti– Interest groups

To me Probus Interest Groups is a way of enjoying the company of people sharing similar interests to you, and I believe the dozen or so interest groups in our club help most of our members do that very well. Thank you to all the interest group convenors for a job well done, and for keeping our Editor-in-Chief Marilyn properly informed of your activities throughout the year without any stirring from me.



Acheron

Gardening
Group



Woolamai
Races

Christmas
Lunch



Reports from the Interest Groups

Book Group - Marilyn Poole

The book group (usually somewhere between eight and ten in number) meets once a month to enjoy good conversation and have lively discussions about our chosen book. We conclude with a relaxing and pleasant afternoon tea. The books we read vary: from biography, contemporary novels, and crime fiction to some of the classics. One of the benefits of being in a book group is that we leave our comfort zone and read books other than by our favourite authors.

We have had two outings. In April 2008 we attended *As You Like it* by the Bell Shakespeare Company and in February 2009 enjoyed a book talk on Nellie Melba at an old homestead in Boronia (complete with Melba champagne as well as Melba toast with savouries).

We share, with great pleasure, the wonderful world of books and the fun of talking about them with each other.

Canasta- Margaret O'Connor

We meet each month on the second Wednesday at 7.30pm. There is a regular attendance of 8-10 players. We have enjoyed a friendly game hosted by one of the group. . If you are interested in playing ring Margaret O'Connor on 9859 5875.

Computer Group – Neil Swansson

This small group assists those would like to know more about using their computers. We have been meeting from time to time to discuss computer issues of interest to members and to hear presentations from those having some particular knowledge. Plans are to continue the present relatively low-key arrangements.

Dine-out -Anita Swanson

Dine out has had a great year with attendance ranging from 15 to 25 people. The lively atmosphere of each event suggests a great time is had by all. We have treated our taste buds to various cuisines from Chinese, Italian, Thai, Japanese and French. Thank you for your support over the last twelve months and we look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Gardening Group-Rosie Leak

2008 was a great year for the Greythorn Probus Garden Group, visiting many beautiful and interesting nurseries and gardens. We also enjoyed informative talks, with some great advice. I have enjoyed my time as convener, and I am happy so many willing hands will continue to run the garden group into the future. Thank you Mary for taking on the convener's role. Thank you to everybody for all your support

A very special thank you goes to Heather Baillie for all your help, and thank you to Denise Boschetti for the beautiful Gardening Album.
HAPPY GARDENING to all.

Investors Group-Charlie Boschetti

Our group has grown to about 15 regulars and with our notional portfolio we have learned how to lose money along with the rest of the world. But with real money for our December meeting we had a wonderful Christmas dinner at the Leinster Arms in Collinwood.

Movie Group-Thelma Wright

The monthly meetings of the movie group have attracted up to sixteen members, enjoying a wide variety of excellent films at the Palace Theatre in Balwyn, including *Gran Torino*, *In Bruges*, *The Bank Job*, *The Kite Runner*, *Mama Mia* and *The Visitor*.

Having coffee before the movie and then dinner afterwards at various Balwyn restaurants has given us a great opportunity to socialise and get to know each other. As I will not be continuing as convenor in the new Probus year, someone else will have a chance to choose the movies. Any offers?

Scrabble-Lorraine Mack

Our group has been steadily consistent; mostly we have 8-9 who turn up with enthusiasm. Our game is not too serious. We seem to spend most of our time laughing whilst learning words we hadn't heard before. It would be great if we could have more players as we have enough room to hold another six. There are three of our players who host our games so that the convenor can have a break.

Solo Group-Peter Harman

We meet on a regular basis with about twelve players in attendance. We enjoy a friendly game and one of our members hosts the group.

Theatre Group-Sandra Davis

About a year ago, I became the convener for the theatre group, with much trepidation. Ted and Ivy Angleton have been my partners in crime, and have taught me the ropes. Thank you.

We managed to get tickets to *The Merry Widow*, which was our first venture, and it was a wonderful success. There were over 30 attendants there.

Since then, we have had a number of shows, but the participation has dwindled. We are fortunate that there are several trusty loyal people that are always there, but with a lot of badgering we are lucky to get 20.

This year we have started bi monthly morning sessions at the Whitehorse Civic Centre, which appears to be gathering interest. We want more input please.

Thank you for all your help and input. I am thoroughly enjoying my role as convener.