

THE PROBUS CLUB OF SEAFORTH INC

**A SHORT HISTORY  
OF  
THE FIRST TEN YEARS**

(October 1990 - March 2001)

by

**George Mitchell**

(Foundation Member, Past President, Historian Years 1 - 10)



**Part One**  
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## INTRODUCTION

PROBUS Clubs are formed by, and may only be formed by, ROTARY Clubs.

SEAFORTH PROBUS CLUB is the second and male infant of the ROTARY CLUB OF BALGOWLAH, the first infant being BALGOWLAH PROBUS CLUB.

Our parent was present for the birth of MANLY PROBUS CLUB and needless to say, all three are thriving.

The PROBUS movement ranks highly in the achievements of ROTARY INTERNATIONAL through its member clubs. The following pages are a short history of our first ten years.

*The writing of the first five years of this history was completed in March 1997 and is referred to as Part One.*

*Part Two consists of years six to ten, inclusive.*

## PICTORIAL



Clockwise from Top Left: Allister Paech *President Year 1*, George Mitchell, *President Year 2*, David Innes *President Year 3*, Doug Forsyth *President Year 4*, Richard Whipp *President Year 5*

Centre: (Left) Geoff Dobbie *Secretary Years 1-5*, Barry Ryan *Activities Co-ordinator Years 1-5*

## THE BEGINNING

(October 1990 - March 1991)

Following an advertisement placed in the '*Manly Daily*', on 20th October, 1990 by the ROTARY Club of Balgowlah, an interest (provisional) meeting was held at Dalwood Children's Home, Seaforth, on Tuesday, 30th October 1990.

Representatives from ROTARY and PROBUS were:

Rolf Vass	President, Balgowlah ROTARY
George Fennel	Community Service Representative, Balgowlah ROTARY
Wal Freeman	PROBUS Promotion Officer
Ralph Porter	President Manly PROBUS Club
Frank Jensen	Manly PROBUS Club
Noel Bernasconi	Balgowlah ROTARY Club and P.P. Balgowlah PROBUS Club

Also present were Geoff Dobbie, Allister Paech and George Mitchell - all Charter Members, Past Presidents and Paul Harris Fellows of the ROTARY Club of Balgowlah. These three and the following other prospective members present were:

Mick Alcock (Charter Member and Past President Balgowlah Rotary Club), Leon Barlow, John Daly, Robert Emanuel, Doug Forsyth, Raymond Gray, John Glerum, David Innes, Ian O'Brien, John Panylyk (a Balgowlah Rotarian), Barry Ryan, Roy Sedman, Dick Sansom, John Scott, Cyril Solomon, Tom Stee, George Steele and Tom Verbeek.

All except George Steele and Raymond Gray confirmed their intentions and were accepted as Foundation Members. A total of 19. It was decided to proceed with the formation of the men only Club to be known as THE PROBUS CLUB OF SEAFORTH, and that until further notice, General Meetings would be held at Dalwood Children's Home, starting at 9.30 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The following Office Bearers were elected:

President:	Allister Paech
Vice-President:	George Mitchell
Secretary:	Geoff Dobbie
Treasurer:	Mick Alcock (later withdrawn) Doug Matheson
Committee:	David Innes Barry Ryan John Scott

The first Committee Meeting (and subsequent Committee Meetings) of the Provisional PROBUS Club of Seaforth was held on the 13th November 1990 at Geoff Dobbie's residence in a highly decorated semi-detached room affectionately known as "Dobbie's Den". The PROBUS Club standard constitution was adopted as recommended to the members, with a proviso that there would be no territorial limits. It was resolved that membership limit would be 50, Joining Fee \$5.00, with Annual Subscriptions of \$10.00. Members to pay for badges, morning teas and the PROBUS News, and the Committee to be reimbursed for approved expenses.

George Mitchell was elected Editor as well as Membership and Attendance Co-ordinator. Barry Ryan took charge of Activities and David Innes Guest Speakers, assisted by John Scott.

It was decided that Foundation Members would be all persons accepted by the close of the next General Meeting to be held on the 27th November 1990 at Dalwood Children's Home, the meeting place at the time, of the ROTARY Club of Balgowlah. The following Members, including the 19 already mentioned were duly elected Foundation Members (37):

* Mick Alcock	David Innes	John Scott
Leon Barlow	Doug Law	Roy Sedman
Ross Christensen	Pax Lindsay	Cyril Solomon
Ron Clayton	* Bob Martin	Tom Stee
John Daly	Doug Matheson	Tom Verbeek
Bill de Meyrick	* George Mitchell	Bob West
* Geoff Dobbie	Ian O'Brien	Tom Young
Bob Emanuel	* Allister Paech	
Roy Felan	* John Panylyk	
Doug Forsyth	* Tom Purcell	
Darrell Garnham	Bob Rowland	
Peter Gibson	Barry Ryan	
John Glerum	Dick Sansom	
Raymond Gray	Tony Sargent	
Jack Hughes	Otto Schneider	

\* Formerly members of The Rotary Club of Balgowlah.

Vol.1 No. 1 of our News Sheet was handed out at the meeting of the 27th November and the Club was already on the move. Despite the long Christmas break the membership limit of 50 had been reached prior to our next General Meeting on the 22nd January 1991.

President Allister Paech and his Officers had a long year in that it was decided (as permissible by the Constitution) to extend the term of office to March 1992, as PROBUS changeover takes place each year in March. Our first five year history therefore is really five years and five months. I am treating those few months as our introduction to PROBUS life and a lead up to our first PROBUS year from April 1991 to March 1992.

Our 50 membership limit was reached with the following people, in addition to those 37 already mentioned:

Pat Lees, Len Beecroft, Ken Driver, Bob Goddard,  
Jim Triglone, Bryan Barnard, Ric Clapp, Bill Spence,  
Bill Graham, Ron Colby, Ian Venn-Brown, Bruce Cook  
and Wal Frost.

A waiting list was opened and first on was Geoff Shattles.

During that period leading up to the beginning of our first official year, an Advantage Saver cheque account was opened with Westpac Bank, Seaforth, a Balgowlah Post Box number was secured, Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurances were taken out and our Certificate of Accreditation dated 14/12/1990 was received from the PROBUS Centre. 88% attendance at General Meetings was a good average. Bob West was our first Welfare Officer, assisted by Welfare expert Bruce Cook.

“Getting to Know Seaforth Probian” talks commenced at our January 1991 meeting and we heard from Allister Paech, Geoff Dobbie and Doug Matheson, followed by George Mitchell, David Innes, Barry Ryan and John Scott in February.

Our first guest speaker on 26th March 1991 was George Champion and his subject was “Local Area History”. That was followed by a short tour of Dalwood Children’s Home.

Barry Ryan made an early start with outings which gave members a good taste of things to come. They were:

5th February 1991

Quarantine Station

5th March 1991

C.S.I.R.O. West Lindfield

The first five months proved to be a great help to President Allister and his men to ensure that the first full PROBUS year from April 1991 to March 1992 would be a good one.



## YEAR 1

(April 1991 ~ March 1992)

PRESIDENT	ALLISTER PAECH
VICE PRESIDENT	GEORGE MITCHELL
SECRETARY	GEOFF DOBBIE
TREASURER	DOUG MATHESON
ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR	BARRY RYAN
GUEST SPEAKERS CO-ORDINATOR	DAVID INNES
AUDITOR	RIC CLAPP

### APPOINTEES:

REGISTRAR	CYRIL SOLOMON
BOWLS	CYRIL SOLOMON
GOLF	BOB MARTIN
EDITOR	GEORGE MITCHELL

Our meetings continued at Dalwood on the fourth Tuesday of each month, commencing at 9.30 a.m. Our one page News Sheet two finger typed by the Editor and photocopied by Doug Forsyth on paper supplied by Tom Purcell (all gratis) was handed out at the meetings. We had a roster of members to deliver copies to those not in attendance, and it worked pretty well in the early days.

After guest speakers, lunches were organised by David Innes at Dalwood and were usually sandwiches or B.Y.O. barbies on the verandah overlooking magnificent Middle Harbour views. There were also lunches at Balgowlah R.S.L. Club.

The waiting list for membership continued to grow and in May 1991 the limit was lifted from 50 to 60, so admitting Geoff Shattles, Don Elliot, Lister Nott, Barry Carroll, Michael Slatter, Reg Whiteley, followed by Gordon Murray, Col. Lutwyche, Ross Pogson, Ian Stevenson and Keith Chambers (an ex Balgowlah

Rotarian). With the resignation of Wal Frost and later Leon Barlow, and the inclusion of Russ Jones, who was first on the waiting list, that made up our 60 already by July 1991. Growth indeed.

A 'potpourri' segment was added to our News Sheet resulting from the Editor's successful suggestion to the PROBUS Centre that it be used in PROBUS News in its miscellaneous section. Attendances were good and included 21 with 100% for our first six months. Bob Edwards and Norm Gresser were admitted as members following the resignations of Tom Young and Otto Schneider, both Foundation Members.

By February 1992 the waiting list for membership had grown to 7 and rising still. Interclub sporting competitions were coming up and in August 1991 Cyril Solomon was appointed Bowls Convenor and Bob Martin Golf Convenor. The start of things to come. For example, Cyril, Col Lutwyche and Ron Clayton were match and major prize winners at Lane Cove West PROBUS Club's Annual Bowls Day. Also in September, walking man Tony Sargent participated with the group which was pioneering the Federation Trail from Sydney to Yass. In October 1991 we celebrated our first 12 months of operation with B.B.Q. and Birthday cake plus recognition of 10 of our 37 Foundation Members who did not miss a meeting - Ross Christensen, Geoff Dobbie, Darrell Garnham, Doug Law, Barry Ryan, Dick Sansom, Tony Sargent, Tom Stee, Roy Sedman and Bob West. It was interesting to note that in the same month there were 101,000 PROBIANS in 1288 clubs in Australia and New Zealand and the South West Pacific Islands - all created since 1981. We were not alone.


Our Christmas meeting at Dalwood was a special luncheon organised by David Innes and Barry Ryan. There were 83 in attendance including P.P., P.H.F. Peter Kaill from the ROTARY Club of Balgowlah - our Parent. Party caps, balloons, carols organised by Peter Gibson's wife Lillian, and a sing-a-long set the scene. Dick Sansom's wife, Valerie, sang for us and President Allister gave his version of "Abe, Abe, Abe My Boy" sung backwards. A very happy day. In February 1992 we had "Big Macs" at Fairlight after Ken Dollery told us all about McDonalds.

We also got to know more about Tom Purcell, Darrell Garnham, Russ Jones and Jim Triglone.


Our first golf outing and luncheon organised by Bob Martin, President and Life Member of Cromer Golf Club, took place on the 10th March 1992 at Cromer Golf Club. Of the 22 starters, Norm Gresser proved to be the best with 40 points, with David Innes runner-up. This outing was a great start to the many more to follow.

As the majority of golfers in the club were members either of Manly Golf Club or Cromer Golf Club, a competition (now hotly contested) was set up between the two clubs. A small plaque donated by George Mitchell now carries the name of the winning club with each event. Significantly, Norm Gresser was a member of Manly Golf Club, and David Innes a member of Cromer.

Ill health caused the resignation of Raymond Gray and the vacancy was filled by John Brace, leaving 6 on the waiting list - Ron Jones, Ernie Hickey, Richard Whipp, Bruce Fisk, Alec Wickenden and John Snelling. Attendances at meetings were always over 80% and as will be seen from President Allister Paech's Annual Report, Year One Plus was a very good year.



Allister Paech (Charter Member, Past President and Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Club of Balgowlah, our Parent Club) served two terms in effect as our Foundation President. Allister did much to ensure by his past experience, his guidance, gentle humour and soft manner, that this new found club was built on rock solid foundations.



**PROBUS CLUB OF SEAFORTH**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 1991-1992**

I have to report that the PROBUS Club of Seaforth was formed on the 30th October 1990 under the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Balgowlah. When chartered on the 14th December 1990 there were 37 charter members. Membership now stands at 60 with a waiting list of 7.

It is clear that the Club has fulfilled its basic purpose, and this is reflected by the fellowship and cordiality amongst all members. We rely on active participation by members for success whether it be by way of enthusiasm, regular and interested attendance, offering of suggestions or taking part in Committee activities and I thank the members for supplying great stimulus in this fashion.

In particular, the communication provided by our NEWS SHEET edited by Vice President George Mitchell has proved to be a winner . . . sweet, short, to the point and full of news.

The quality, variety and organisation of Guest Speakers has ensured good attendance, great interest, and has been the source of enjoyment to us all, including wives and guests. Special mention must be made of the career/background talks given by our own members.

Our Director of Guest Speakers, David Innes is congratulated on a fine performance in this Portfolio, with thanks also to John Scott (assisting).

The monthly Activities Program has been equally wide ranging in interest and enjoyment. We have found ourselves undertaking activities previously put on hold through lack of time or organisation. Our special thanks go to Activities Director Barry Ryan for his foresight and imagination in this regard, assisted by Ric Clapp.

Without good administration and competent guidance, the Club could develop a lack of cohesion and enthusiasm. Such discipline as is required has been wisely and discreetly provided through our Club Secretary, Geoff Dobbie. We owe much to his ability and efforts in the interest of our Club.

In regard to money (makes the world go round) we owe a debt of thanks to our financial wizard and Treasurer, Doug Matheson (who also excels at leading community singing in his lighter moments). The Treasurer Report is always accurate, on time, and gratefully in the black.

Fine efforts have been made by our Sporting Committees chaired by Cyril Solomon (Bowls) and Bob Martin (Golf), with events planned for 1992.

Welfare Officer, Bob West, reports that generally speaking we are a healthy group for our ages.

Apart from Club members collectively and individually, we must pay our respects to those who have provided assistance and extended co-operation. The ROTARY Club of Balgowlah who sponsored our formation must always be held dear to our hearts. Dalwood Homes who have provided us with an historic venue, special facilities and co-operation at all times. Dobbies "Den" (Margaret

and Geoff Dobbie) for providing your Committee with a grand meeting place which includes scrumptious, mouth-watering delicacies for our morning teas.

We must now look to the new PROBUS year commencing 1st April 1992 and I am confident of your continued and growing support for the incoming Committee so as to make the coming year a great success!

Allister Paech  
Foundation President

P.S. Directors and Committee Reports with detailed information are available from the Secretary upon request.



## ACTIVITIES

(April 1991 - March 1992)

**Activities Co-Ordinator - BARRY RYAN**

2nd April 1991	Hawkesbury River Cruise
7th May 1991	Train trip to Medlow Bath
4th June 1991	Parliament House, The Mint and lunch at City Tattersall Club
2nd July 1991	Christmas in July at Sydney Tower Restaurant
6th August 1991	Power House Museum and lunch at Glasgow Arms Hotel
3rd September 1991	AUSSAT (Australian National Satellite System)
1st October 1991	Parramatta River Cruise - Lunch Sydney Rowing Club
12th November 1991	State Theatre Tour and lunch at Centrepoint
10th December 1991	Christmas Lunch Party
4th February 1992	Lake Macquarie Cruise (44)
3rd March 1992	Royal Australian Artillery National Museum, North Head (24)



Note: First Activities were:

5th February 1991	Quarantine Station
5th March 1991	C.S.I.R.O. West Lindfield

## GUEST SPEAKERS

(March 1991 - March 1992)

**Guest Speakers Co-ordinator - DAVID INNES**

26th March 1991	George Champion "Local Area History"
23rd April 1991	Mary Bova "Environmental Law and Your Town"
28th May 1991	Paul Couvret "Atom Bomb on Nagasaki"
25th June 1991	"Getting to Know You" Talks.
23rd July 1991	Dorothy Butler "Bushwalking and Mountaineering"
27th August 1991	Cyril Solomon "Personal Cricketing Experiences"
24th September 1991	Nancy-Bird Walton "Flashback on Australian Aviation"
22nd October 1991	Captain Charles Hull "Torres Strait Pilot Service"
26th November 1991	Dr Rowland Richards "Remembrance"
10th December 1991	Christmas Lunch Party
28th January 1992	"Getting to Know You" Talks
25th February 1992	Ken Dollery "The McDonalds Story"
24th March 1992	Colin Putt "The Antarctic"

## YEAR 2

(April 1992 - March 1993)

PRESIDENT	GEORGE MITCHELL
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	ALLISTER PAECH
VICE PRESIDENT	DAVID INNES
SECRETARY	GEOFF DOBBIE
TREASURER	DOUG FORSYTH
ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR	BARRY RYAN
GUEST SPEAKERS CO-ORDINATOR	DICK SANSOM
AUDITOR	RIC CLAPP

### APPOINTEES:

REGISTRAR	CYRIL SOLOMON (DARRELL GARNHAM)
BOWLS	CYRIL SOLOMON (KEN DRIVER)
GOLF	BOB MARTIN
CATERING	ROY FELAN (MICHAEL SLATTER)
FELLOWSHIP	I.P.P. ALLISTER PAECH
WELFARE	BILL de MEYRICK
EDITOR	GEORGE MITCHELL

The manner, experience through Rotary and the subtle wit of our Foundation President, Allister Paech, in his extended term of office, helped lay the solid foundations upon which we were to build our Club. With the added help of Geoff Dobbie continuing as Secretary, Barry Ryan continuing as Activities Co-ordinator, and David Innes stepping into the role of Vice President, President George had little trouble in getting Year Two on the move, first by introducing "The President's Message" to our monthly News Sheet, which somehow grew rapidly into four pages. Newcomer to the Committee, Dick Sansom, saw to it that there would be an interesting program of guest speakers.

Quite a few things happened regarding membership which, as you will read, warrants an early mention. First and saddest was the tragic and untimely death of Probian Bruce Cook. He was struck by a car and killed whilst crossing Sydney Road, Seaforth. Geoff Dobbie, a close personal friend, delivered a eulogy at the Club Meeting in May 1992. We also lost Foundation Member, Raymond Gray, after a long illness. In January 1993 Bill Spence ("We have crossed many dry creeks" w.s.) passed on, followed by Norm Gresser in February 1993 after a long illness. So the good year was marred; but out of the sadness arose a great idea promoted by David Innes. Widows were to be invited to still be a part of us by continuing to receive the News Sheet, and by participating in our activities. Wave Spence, Betty Gresser, (and later, Shirley Triglone) continue to be a part of us.

We had our share of sicknesses and indispositions too - e.g. Russ Jones with yet another hip replacement. That brings me to "T.I.M.", the brainchild of David Innes again, introduced in June 1992. You will read about "T.I.M." (and "T.A.M.M.") in David's Annual Report at the end of Year Two. Russ Jones and Gordon Murray became our first "T.I.M." Members. Welfare Officer, Bill de Meyrick, was kept busy and did a great job keeping us up with the not so well.

There were also resignations - Tom Purcell (work), Gordon Murray (moved to Newcastle area), and inductions of course - Ron Jones, Ernie Hickey, Richard Whipp and Bruce Fisk, M.B.E. By year's end there were still 8 on the waiting list which at the time had a limit of 10. It can be seen that at our age and stage in life there are both growth in and turnover of membership, which would be typical for most PROBUS clubs.

Our first Fellowship Chairman was I.P.P. Allister Paech who is still leading the choir and looking after the ladies beyond Year Five.

Barry Ryan was busy doing a survey to assess the interest of Members in going on mini holidays. And were they interested!? Yes indeed! A good starter was the Blackheath caper on 2nd - 4th November 1992 organised by Bob Martin with

Barry. 41 golfers, bowlers and sightseers had a great time finished off with a B.B.Q. overlooking the Blue Mountains scenery.

The golfing enthusiasts (36 starters) continued to do battle at Manly Golf Club on the 4th June (John Daly 37 points and Jean Martin 34 points) and at Cromer in August with Jean Martin winning (the organizer's wife, that is!), closely followed by Don Elliot (Cromer) and Ross Pogson (Manly).

Our Landlord (N.S.W. Government) developed other plans for our meeting place and we were given polite notice to quit Dalwood. So what did we do? We followed our parent, already established at Wakehurst Golf Club. We settled in happily at Wakehurst in August 1992 and our meetings are still being held there. A cost of \$2.00 per head was made to cover morning tea and the nominal charge for the use of the meeting room. Balgowlah Rotary kindly allowed us the use of their P.A. equipment which was some help to the hard of hearing. Doug Law donated his family history cow bell to control the meetings, and Col. Lutwych made and donated our lectern.

Also in August we started posting the New Sheet to Members and widows. Dick Sansom and Doug Forsyth were very helpful with photocopying, addressing and posting. Dick, with Doug and Beverley Forsyth, also developed a new letterhead for us. Roy Felan (assisted by Michael Slatter) became our first Catering Officer. Our first B.B.Q. at Wakehurst in September was a mouth watering success.

Though perhaps acting in a corporate way, we rejected a proposal to become incorporated at this stage of our PROBUS life.

Doug Forsyth continued to get good write-ups about his Willoughby Musical Society and in November "Guys and Dolls", Doug's 40th production, was the talk of the Club. Doug and Bev made a move to Terrey Hills to escape the throng of admirers.

Darrell Garnham and Ross Pogson became Foundation Members of David Innes' "T.A.M.M." and duly received their "M.H.D.O.I.F." Awards. (See David's Membership Report at end of Year 2.)

Some might remember that Cyril and Jean Solomon and Cath Jones had their first trip through the new Sydney Harbour Tunnel - windscreen wipers going flat out. Jim Triglone celebrated 45 years of membership at Manly Golf Club, and Geoff Dobbie celebrated another year of hosting the Management Committee in "Dobbie's Den" aided by the goodies supplied by wife Margaret.

It was another good year with some fun and achievements to help off-set the periods of sadness in the passing of four of our members.

The Annual General Meeting held on 30th March 1993 (5th Tuesday of month) was for members only and took place without the usual guest speaker. We met at 11.00 am instead of the usual 9.30 am, and after a short changeover ceremony incoming President, David Innes, closed the meeting for an open forum lunch at which he briefly outlined his program for the coming year, and then told us about "Ireland and Scotland".

Editor and outgoing President George's final "Thought for the Month" in the News Sheet was - "THERE'S A GOOD TIME COMING BOYS" - *Charles Mackay 1814 - 1889.*



## PROBUS CLUB OF SEAFORTH

### ANNUAL REPORT 1992-1993

About three years ago Allister Paech, Geoff Dobbie and George Mitchell, were approached by Service Director George Fennell to assist with the formation of Seaforth Probus Club. They were not so much aware then as they are now, that they were to help open a door to a whole new world of FELLOWSHIP, INTEREST and ADVENTURE. FELLOWSHIP through our monthly meetings and luncheons. INTEREST through our Guest Speakers, and ADVENTURE through our outings. Three key words.

First is FELLOWSHIP which, of course, is a part of all our activities, but is linked particularly with CLUB SERVICE. Without it, no Club, no fellowship. For example, where would we be without Secretary Geoff Dobbie giving to us his years of experience as Secretary of Balgowlah Rotary Club? How many years can we have you Geoff? And for how long will Margaret put up with us and her beaut morning teas in "Dobbie's Den". A special thanks to you both.

How would we be without the music man and money man, Treasurer Doug Forsyth who, with Beverley, has faithfully printed the monthly News Sheet..... and, with the help of Dick Sansom, despatched it on time to Australia Post. With all that, an accurate and healthy Balance Sheet too.

Who would be without the "TIM/TAMM" man V.P. David Innes who has contributed so much to fellowship and dutifully kept Membership and Attendance records with a difference? David is our ideas man, and was behind one of our big pluses ..... keeping the wives of deceased members a part of this great Club. It is pleasing to note also that our wives have been strong supporters of the Club and enthusiastically participate in our activities.

Coupled with Club Service we have our Welfare Officer, Bill de Meyrick, who has had a busy year and has done a wonderful job of keeping in touch and reporting, as well as deputising for Fellowship Chairman, Allister Paech who, unfortunately, has spent three months of the year in and out of hospital. Allister, as you know, was our Foundation President, and his name is forever a part of the Seaforth Probus Club.

Our Catering Officers, Roy Felan and Michael Slatter, stepped in where others feared to tread, and our only problems coming up in that area are our waistlines, so watch out.

Sports Convenors, Cyril Solomon and Bob Martin, are further examples of creating fellowship in the Club and beyond through Bowls and Golf. It is great that we have so much sporting talent amongst our members .... and the fact that Manly Golf Club members are current holders of the Shield is of little importance .... except, mind you, we hold it!

I understand that Cyril's Deputy, Ken Driver, has already gone to some trouble and expense to organise a Gala District Bowls Day later this year which means inter Probus Club fellowship as well.

Registrars meet and provide fellowship with every attending member and guest of the Club. None could fill the role better than Cyril Solomon and Darrell Garnham....although Cyril gets a bit testy if you forget your name badge.

The Doug Law cowbell and Col. Lutwych Lectern are examples too, of the spirit of Club Service. Contributions by members to the News Sheet, with minimal prompting from the Editor, have been many and varied, and of much interest.

We experienced a change of venue from our first home at Dalwood, but the transition went along smoothly and we have another delightful spot for our meetings. In that regard we must give thanks to Averil, Joanne and Ian for looking after us in their areas of service at Wakehurst Golf Club.

The second key word is INTEREST, and we immediately turn to our Director of Guest Speakers, Dick Sansom, who took up the reins without hesitation knowing that he had other commitments. Take a look at Dick's list of Guest Speakers throughout the year and you will remember that it has been a year of much interest and more than a little education. In Dick's Report you will find an impressive list of potential Guest Speakers for year three to help the incoming on his way.

The third key word is ADVENTURE. Director of Activities, Barry Ryan, gives us nothing that is not some form of adventure into the unknown.... and all at half price, or thereabouts. The good news is, I was chatting away to Barry on the return trip from Bowral on the 3801. "What a great job you are doing", I said. "I love doing it", said he.

So there we have them ..... FELLOWSHIP, INTEREST and ADVENTURE, all well taken care of by your fellow Probians.

In conclusion, I must say that as with life itself, there has been much sadness also, particularly in the loss of Raymond Gray, Bruce Cook, Bill Spence and Norm Gresser.

We are at that age and stage of life where much water has passed under the bridge, and for whatever time we are able to participate in Probus activities we must be grateful.

I sincerely thank my fellow Officers and you, fellow Probians, for your tolerance and your support during my term as President. My best wishes are extended to incoming President, David Innes, and his team. I have no doubt that there is a wonderful year ahead for us. However, my final words are a warning ....

Although, as you might know, I am a little hard of hearing in both ears, David, on the other hand, is only so in one. Insubordination therefore, will be heard, and dealt with severely!

Thank you.

George Mitchell  
President

*Please note:*

Detailed Reports have been prepared by Directors and copies are available from our Secretary upon request. All members will receive copies of the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st January 1993. - G.M.



**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
**(February 1992 - January 1993) \***

Full membership (60) was maintained throughout the year. There were ten (10) meetings (none in December 1992 or January 1993) and total attendance was 478 out of 600, or 79.7%.

After two (2) full years of operation just three (3) of the foundation members have recorded 100% attendance at monthly meetings - Ross Christensen, Roy Sedman and Tom Stee.

Three (3) resignations were accepted (Raymond Gray who subsequently died, Tom Purcell, Gordon Murray).

There were two (2) deaths (Bruce Cook, Bill Spence).\*

Five (5) new members were inducted (John Brace, Ron Jones, Ernie Hickey, Richard Whipp, Bruce Fisk).

There is a waiting list of six (6), extending back one (1) year.

An innovative class of membership was created in June called Temporary Inactive Member, or "TIM". The purpose is to transfer to TIM a member/s who after being absent from meetings for three (3) consecutive months due to medical or other justifiable circumstances for an initial period of six (6) months. When the member is able to again meet the requirements of normal membership he is re-admitted, in the meantime a 'waiting list' member is admitted. Since June two (2) members became TIMs (Russ Jones, Gordon Murray).

On a lighter note another innovative class of membership was created in September called Temporary Absent Minded Member or "TAMM". The purpose is to make a fun issue when a member/s fails to attend a gathering for which he had booked. Simply because "I forgot!". The Club has three (3) TAMMS (Darrell Garnham, Ross Pogson, Tony Sargent).

The wives of members are recognised as being an integral part of the Club and, sadly, the wives of Raymond Gray (Joan), Bruce Cook (Enid), Bill Spence (Wave) became widows during the year. A membership list for widows has been established and contact with them will be maintained.

David Innes  
Vice President

  
\* Norm Gresser died in February 1993.

## ACTIVITIES

(April 1992 - March 1993)

### Activities Co-Ordinator - BARRY RYAN

7th April 1992	ABC Radio Building, Ultimo Lunch at Glasgow Arms Hotel (34)
5th May 1992	National Maritime Museum (31)
2nd June 1992	S.C.A.T.S. (Sydney Co-ordinated Adopted Traffic System) Lunch at Macquarie Hotel (34)
8th July 1992	"Let the Good Times Roll" Burning Log Restaurant and Butterfly Farm - Dural (49)
4th August 1992	Fort Denison Lunch at Phillip's Foote (34)
1st September 1992	Sydney Morning Herald (26)
28th September 1992	3801 Train to Bowral - Tulip Festival (37)
2nd/3rd November 1992	Blackheath Golf, Bowls, sightseeing (organised by Bob Martin with Barry Ryan) (41)
18th November 1992	"Guys and Dolls" (Producer Doug Forsyth) (40)
8th December 1992	Christmas Party (entertainment by Willoughby Musical Society) (80+)
2nd February 1993	Train Trip to Newcastle. Lunch at Sinbads (33)
2nd March 1993	Sylvania Waters - Live Lunch at St. George Motor Boat Club (46)

- Average attendances were 41 -

## GUEST SPEAKERS

(April 1992 - March 1993)

### Guest Speakers Co-ordinator - DICK SANSOM

- 28th April 1992      "Sydney Harbour Tunnel"  
Liam Bathgate
- 26th May 1992      "Getting to Know"  
Dick Sansom, Doug Forsyth, Keith Chambers and  
Tony Sargent
- 23rd June 1992      "Arthritis Foundation of Australia"  
Sir Eric Willis
- 28th July 1992      "NSW Police Air Rescue Wing"  
Snr. Constable Geoff Perry
- (Our last meeting at Dalwood with a B.B.Q. hosted by Dick and Valerie  
Sansom)
- 25th August 1992      "More Cricketing Tales"  
Cyril Solomon (2nd innings)
- 22nd September 1992      "Brunei"  
Col. P.H. Pike, O.B.E, E.D.
- 27th October 1992      "Getting to Know"  
Ian Stevenson, Tom Stee, Bill Spence and Bob West
- 24th November 1992      "Reflections of a Past Lord Mayor"  
Jeremy Bingham
- 8th December 1992      Christmas Party at Wakehurst  
Entertainment by Willoughby Musical Society
- NO MEETING IN JANUARY 1993
- 23rd February 1993      "Independent Retiree's Association"  
Mr Laurie Jones
- 30th March 1993      Annual General Meeting  
No guest speaker
- Attendance average 80% -

## YEAR 3

(April 1993 - March 1994)

PRESIDENT	DAVID INNES
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	GEORGE MITCHELL
VICE PRESIDENT	DOUG FORSYTH (Acting President from August 1993 and Ken Driver Acting Vice President)
SECRETARY	GEOFF DOBBIE
TREASURER	RICHARD WHIPP
ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR	BARRY RYAN
GUEST SPEAKERS CO-ORDINATOR	BRUCE FISK, M.B.E.
AUDITOR	RIC CLAPP

### APPOINTEES:

WELFARE	BILL de MEYRICK
FELLOWSHIP	P.P. ALLISTER PAECH
REGISTRARS	CYRIL SOLOMON, DARREL GARNHAM
CATERING	ROY FELAN, MICHAEL SLATTER
BOWLS	CYRIL SOLOMON, KEN DRIVER
GOLF	RICHARD WHIPP, DON ELLIOT
EDITOR	GEORGE MITCHELL, P.P. ALLISTER PAECH
HISTORIAN	GEORGE MITCHELL
LIBRARIAN	IAN VENN-BROWN

Our experienced and talented new President, David Innes, took the chair for his first General Meeting on the 27th April 1993 and on the same day took off for his beloved "Innes Castle" at Elgin in the north of Scotland. He had some important family history to further research. We received a card telling us about his visit to Buckie Probus Club and whiskey galore. Upon David's return for our next meeting on the 25th May 1993 he had much to say from the chair he had hurriedly left.

Before his departure David had time to induct new members Alec Wickenden and David Millard, following the resignation of Bob Emanuel. Other resignations through the year included Bob West, Col. Lutwych and John Brace. Other new members inducted were John Snelling, Jim Hall, Owen Alvarez, Michael Lee and Doug Cameron.

The waiting list for our membership (limit of 60) hovered between 8 and 10, and in August 1993, due to a strong recommendation by our Secretary, Geoff Dobbie, the waiting list limit of 10 was changed to "unlimited". Whilst President David was away the Sansoms also had a look at Scotland, whilst Activities Co-ordinator, Barry Ryan, and Lois took their two grandchildren for a cruise on the "Fairstar" - getting more activities experience.

Meantime another Golf Day at Cromer on the 25th April saw a win for both Ross and Helen Christensen (Cromer) with Tom Stee and Peggy Mitchell (Manly) as runners-up.

The "TIM" class of membership was already spreading to other clubs and in February 1994, Roy Felan became a "TAMM", rescued (almost) by David Innes on his mobile before the Middle Harbour cruise.

It was in June 1993 that our ex Beaufighter Pilot and Author (Beaufighters over Burma) President David Innes was struck by a mysterious blood flow disorder. It resulted in a long road to recovery.

Vice President Doug Forsyth, at short notice, was able to take the chair for the June meeting. In a letter dated 4th August 1993, David resigned from his office as President due to the illness. His resignation was accepted with much regret. At a Committee Meeting on the 10th August it was proposed and later adopted that Doug Forsyth would be Acting President for the remainder of the Probus year, supported by Ken Driver as Acting Vice-President for that period only.

Much to our pleasure, David made an appearance at our East Sydney Tech. Food School luncheon in September and even proposed the toast to the School.

We didn't escape the wet weather in August/September and both the Richard Whipp Golf Day at Manly and the Cyril Solomon Bowls Day were washed out. They were not disheartened.

The News Sheet was still getting out on time thanks to the help Editor George Mitchell got from Doug and Bev Forsyth, Allister and David and their wives, and the ever reliable Dick Sansom with his addresses for the envelopes. In September 1993 we took up the offer of Kevin Worthington (President then of Balgowlah Rotary and a partner in Tocchini & Worthington, Solicitors, Manly) to allow us the use of their photocopying equipment. The arrangement continued to June 1996. A big help.

There was yet another appointee and Ian Venn-Brown became our Librarian who eagerly, but without a great deal of success, sought material for his library from the Members.

Doug Law joined the Triple By-pass Club and in the absence of Darrell Garnham, Ross Pogson appeared as Registrar Cyril Solomon's Deputy.

November was special in that we had the memorable Mudgee Getaway organized by Richard Whipp with Barry Ryan. The three day trip began with a visit en route by private vehicles to the exciting (as it turned out) Zig Zag Railway, then lunch at Windermere Dam Wall. We stayed among the beautiful roses at the Country Comfort Motel. It sure was country comfort. Apart from the golfing outings, the "social set" got amongst the wineries, other local products and the nearby historic Gulgong. There was a beaut B.B.Q. night at the motel, and the getaway was wound up with the "Augustine Bash" at which Probian talent abounded.

Memorable too was our night at "Les Miserables" on 1st December - Producer, Doug Forsyth with the help of his Beverley. The Willoughby Musical Society was one of seven amateur groups in the world to produce the show.

92 people attended our Christmas Party at Wakehurst Golf Club, thanks largely to Acting President Doug Forsyth's contribution from the Willoughby Musical Society.

Our first annual picnic at Clontarf on the 1st March 1994 was hampered again by wet weather but 19 stalwarts turned up and Michael Slatter managed to get the B.B.Q.s alight.

Ross Christensen gets another mention because he had 100% attendance.

The Annual General Meeting on the 22nd March 1994 was a no frills affair with no ladies and no guest speaker. After Acting President Doug Forsyth vacated the Chair, I.P.P. David Innes stepped up and put him back again - this time as President Doug Forsyth for Year Four.



**PROBUS CLUB OF SEAFORTH**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY ANNUAL REPORT 1993-1994**

As a prelude to handing over the presidential badge of office to Doug, the outgoing Committee agreed I may submit what could be termed. A ... "Supplementary Annual Report".

When I took office as the third President on 30 March last year, little did I realise what was to be ahead of me health-wise and how my lifestyle would soon change.

Those who attended last year's changeover meeting may recall my words "For better or worse you have elected the oldest President the Club has had - the other two are only boys" !! That comment does not suggest that our future presidents should be "younger", rather than "older" and it is therefore pleasing to see this happening as Doug Forsyth takes the reins as President for 1994/5.

When I stood down last August on medical advice the Committee decided that Vice President Doug should become Acting President and this may have been motivated - although I really do not know - by reasoning that my then undiagnosed health problem would go away and that I could resume the Presidency.

Alas this was not to be and I can now only say on my own behalf - and I am sure I speak on behalf of all Members - how fortunate it was that Doug could give the time to step into my shoes as Acting President; taking into account his other activities, including settling into a new home at Terrey Hills.

Further evidence of understanding and Club spirit emerged when Ken Driver moved off the floor to take over Doug's role, becoming Acting Vice President. And so to both Doug and Ken go my sincere thanks as well as my appreciation to the Committee for adjusting to the circumstances and to all Members for their understanding and for the many expressions of goodwill Bobbie and I received - not least the Club's letter of 12 August.

In accordance with Probus custom I now become the I.P.P., succeeding the effervescent George Mitchell and I look forward to making some worthwhile contribution to the affairs of the Club this year. I say this in confidence as my problem seems to have stabilised although it will not completely go away. Exercise is important according to the medicos and with walking, swimming and hitting golf balls I seem to be on the right track.

Thank you for your attention and I would like to move that this Supplementary Report be adopted as part of the year's happenings and would ask for a seconder.  
Seconded: George Mitchell

David Innes  
22 March 1994

## PROBUS CLUB OF SEAFORTH

### ANNUAL REPORT 1993-1994

Another year has passed in our young history in which we have continued to build on the wonderful foundation laid by Allister Paech, our Charter President and his successor, George Mitchell. Their contribution has been enormous as has that of David Innes who unfortunately could not complete this full year as our President due to health concerns. David was relishing the President's role, but was bound to follow doctor's orders to take a less active part. First things first and health must obviously be the paramount consideration. However it is now great indeed to see David and Bobbie attending our meetings and outings regularly.

Probus is all about company, camaraderie and fellowship and we are extremely fortunate in having so many members who are willing to give that bit extra of their time to ensure our Club continues to flourish. We would not survive without them.

Our Secretary, Geoff Dobbie, is meticulous in all he does ensuring that we are always on the right track.

Richard Whipp is not only our Treasurer par excellence but is also our Golf Convenor assisted by Don Elliot. Richard together with Barry Ryan our Activities Co-ordinator were responsible for a wonderful trip to Mudgee and have set a standard which will be difficult to sustain. Barry strongly supported by his good wife Lois have provided us with a wonderfully varied programme of top class outings - the forward planning and organisation never ceases to amaze. (Barry has a contract to continue at least until the year 2001).

Equally as important is the success of our monthly meetings and our Guest Speaker Co-ordinator Bruce Fisk has made a wonderful contribution in this regard. All speakers, including our own members, have been top class and stimulating but in particular David Cummings and Warwick Bateman warrant special mention.

The continued attendance and support of our ladies has been wonderful and an integral and essential part of our activities. The total roll up of 92 at our Christmas Party was a record and really made it a great day.

George Mitchell our intrepid News Sheet Editor is on his own in professionally disseminating all that we should know and we owe him a large debt of gratitude for his time and effort.

There are so many others to thank - Allister Paech our ever considerate Fellowship Chairman specialising in caring for the ladies, Bill de Meyrick our Welfare Officer who sympathetically follows up those with health problems and Cyril Solomon and Ken Driver who look after the bowlers but had bad luck with the weather on the planned Gala Day.

We are grateful to Catering Officers, Roy Felan and Michael Slatter who always ensure the smooth organisation of our morning teas and lunches - they do a great job in negotiating with James Nossiter the Club's Caterer.

Registrar and Chief Dobber Cyril Solomon with assistance from Darrell Garnham and Ross Pogson are always there to extend a warm opening welcome and extract the necessary for morning tea. Thanks to Ian Venn-Brown our new Librarian.

Whilst there was a nominal and expected turnover in membership we continue to maintain a healthy waiting list which encourages us to believe that we are heading in the right direction.

I am honoured to have been appointed Acting President after David regretfully had to step aside - it has been a wonderful experience for me. To Ken Driver a special thanks for agreeing to be Acting Vice President and for great support.

It is dangerous to single out individuals as I have done and if I have missed anyone please accept my apologies. The ultimate thanks is to each and every member for his contribution and support to our Club during the year. Our continuing aim is to make Seaforth Probus a great place for moulding new friendships, generating interest and continuing fellowship.

Doug Forsyth  
Acting President



## ACTIVITIES

(April 1993 - March 1994)

### **Activities Co-Ordinator - BARRY RYAN**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 7th April 1993     | Hunter Valley day tour (46)   |
| 21st April 1993    | "Little Mary Sunshine", Willoughby Musical Society (42)               |
| 4th May 1993       | Tip Top Bakery (cancelled at short notice)                            |
| 1st June 1993      | The Great Synagogue Tour. Lunch at Centrepoint Tavern (33)            |
| 19th June 1993     | The Holiday Travel Show, Darling Harbour (38)                         |
| 6th July 1993      | The Supreme Court. Lunch at Royal Automobile Club of Australia (28)   |
| 3rd August 1993    | Opera Centre. Lunch in Green Room (34)                                |
| 7th Sept 1993      | Scenic Coast and Industrial Wollongong Tour (32)                      |
| 14th Sept 1993     | Food School Luncheon. East Sydney Tech. (21)                          |
| 19th Sept 1993     | "Mother and Son". ABC Studios, Gore Hill (17)                         |
| 5th October 1993   | Up the Parramatta River II (Catamaran). Lunch Sydney Rowing Club (26) |
| 27th October 1993  | "Phantom of the Opera" (40)   |
| 14th-16th Nov 1993 | Mudgee Getaway (44)   |
| 1st December 1993  | "Les Miserables" Willoughby Musical Society (60)                      |
| 14th December 1993 | Christmas Luncheon at Wakehurst Golf Club (92)                        |
| 1st February 1994  | (No meeting or outing in January 1994)<br>Middle Harbour Cruise       |
| 1st March 1994     | First Annual Picnic - Clontarf (19) - Poor weather                    |
| 15th March 1994    | Police Crime Laboratories. Lunch Macquarie Hotel Bistro (27)          |

## GUEST SPEAKERS

(April 1993 - March 1994)

**Guest Speakers Co-ordinator - BRUCE FISK**

- 27th April 1993 "Getting to Know Fellow Probian"  
Bob West, Keith Chambers, Peter Gibson and Ross Pogson
- 25th May 1993 "Antarctic Expedition"  
Don McIntyre. BBQ lunch at Wakehurst Golf Club
- 22nd June 1993 "Helicopters and People of 42 Nations"  
Professor Robertson
- 27th July 1993 "Papua New Guinea"  
David Marsh
- 24th August 1993 "A Wander Through Taronga Park Zoo"  
Kay Oakland (a Probian)
- 28th Sept 1993 "Around Australia with a Rucksack"  
Jack Holmes
- 26th October 1993 "Your Personal Fight Back"  
David Cummings
- 23rd Nov 1993 "Getting to Know Fellow Probian"  
Alec Wickenden, Bob Rowland, Geoff Shattles, Bruce Fisk
- 14th December 1993 Christmas Party at Wakehurst Golf Club
- (No meeting in January 1994)
- 22nd February 1994 "The Family Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"  
Dr Warwick Bateman
- 22nd March 1994 Annual General Meeting. No Guest Speaker.

## YEAR 4

(April 1994 - March 1995)

PRESIDENT	DOUG FORSYTH
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	DAVID INNES (Retired 4.8.93 for medical reasons)
VICE PRESIDENT	RICHARD WHIPP
SECRETARY	GEOFF DOBBIE
TREASURER	ALEC WICKENDEN
ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR	BARRY RYAN
GUEST SPEAKERS CO-ORDINATOR	BRUCE FISK, M.B.E.
EDITOR:*	P.P. GEORGE MITCHELL
AUDITOR	RIC CLAPP
<u>APPOINTEES:</u>	
WELFARE:	BILL de MEYRICK
FELLOWSHIP:	P.P. ALLISTER PAECH
REGISTRARS:	CYRIL SOLOMON, ROSS POGSON
CATERING:	ROY FELAN, MICHAEL SLATTER
GOLF:	DON ELLIOT, ALEC WICKENDEN
BOWLS:	CYRIL SOLOMON, KEN DRIVER
HISTORIANS:	P.P. GEORGE MITCHELL, P.P. DAVID INNES
LIBRARIAN:	IAN VENN BROWN
PHOTOGRAPHER:	BOB ROWLAND
WALKING CLUB (Aug '94):	LISTER NOTT
LUNCHEON CLUB (Sept '94):	MICHAEL SLATTER

\* In February 1994 at a Management Committee Meeting, Acting President Doug Forsyth recommended that in future the News Sheet Editor for the time being always be an elected Member of the Committee. This was adopted. The Editor's appointed Assistant (not a Committee Member), for Years 4 and 5, was Allister Paech.

With the better part of 12 months' experience behind him as Acting President, it was no trouble for Doug Forsyth to don the collar and become actual President for the year 1994-1995. Little trouble also to produce through the Willoughby Musical Society, "Meet me in St. Louis", which our members and wives attended in strength on the 27th April.

Earlier in April (on the 19th) Mike Slatter, John Daly and Alec Wickenden starred on our Golf Day at Cromer, with Cromer winning the shield. Ross Christensen and Roy Sedman won nearest the pin and coincidentally shared 100% attendance at our monthly General Meetings over a period of three years. John Chester was welcomed as a new member and Darrell Garnham and Jim Triglone were welcomed back after lengthy sick leave.

In June, the "Getting to Know Fellow Probian" series was changed. Four speakers were reduced to one only, enabling the one to give a 10 minute talk on his life before the address from the programmed guest speaker for the month. The first, in June, was John Daly.

Whilst librarian, Ian Venn-Brown continued his efforts to promote the not too well patronised library, clubs within the club began to emerge. On the 16th August we had our first walk in the Beacon Hill area organised by Lister Nott, and in September the Luncheon Club kicked off with a memorable luncheon at the Sands Hotel, Narrabeen, organised by Michael Slatter. The Walking and Luncheon Clubs have proved to be a great attraction.

We'd been having trouble with the seating arrangements in our small meeting room at Wakehurst Golf Club, and in August were given permission to use the main lounge area of the clubhouse with plenty of open space and a fine outlook over the golf course and bushland. In January 1995, after much persuasion from President Doug Forsyth, Wakehurst Golf Club allowed us to use the area permanently for our monthly meetings.

In addition to John Chester, other membership changes during the year consisted of the resignation in September of Jack Hughes due to failing health, and the retirement of Keith Chambers to the Gold Coast in January. Jim Hall became a "T.I.M." (Temporary Inactive Member) in February so allowing Gordon James to take up membership in April 1995 after the A.G.M. in March. Ted Lucas and Tom Setright took the places of Jack Hughes and Keith Chambers respectively.

Inclement weather didn't dampen the spirit of the Narooma Getaway (17th-21st October) expertly organised by Don Elliot. Lunch with the kangaroos at Pebbly Beach on the way down was a good start to a holiday which included golf at Narooma Golf Club (we stayed next to it at Amooran Court Motel), a cruise and evening B.B.Q. on the Wagonga Inlet, an historical and coastal bus tour, a trip to Montague Island, and much fun at nights at the Golf Club. Golfing stars were Reg Whiteley, Michael Slatter, Jo Dunwoodie, Jean Martin, Judy Pogson and Don Elliot. Another great getaway. Notably absent though were Greta and V.P. Richard Whipp with the excuse they were expecting their first grandchild - a good excuse - and Roy Felan blew the cylinder head at Ulladulla; but there were plenty of helpers.

Our Christmas party in the main lounge at Wakehurst Golf Club featuring a special luncheon, Santa Claus (John Panylyk still), lucky prizes and a sing-a-long, led by P.P. Allister Paech, attracted 94 very happy people including Ian O'Brien and his new bride.

As the Probus year drew to a close our membership remained at 60, we had one "T.I.M.", Jim Hall, and eleven on the waiting list. Attendances at meetings were usually well over 80%, and our credit balance at Westpac Seaforth hovered between approximately \$1000.00 and \$1500.00. Don Elliot finally tied the knot with Jo Dunwoodie, making two marriages in our club for the year. How about that!

The election of officers at the Annual General Meeting on the 28th March was followed by guest speaker Susan Allton who spoke on the "Federal Airport Corporation". A special luncheon was attended by 43 Probians and wives.

A very sad note was the passing of Jim Triglone after a long battle with cancer. Outgoing President Doug Forsyth led the assembly in silent prayers as an expression of sympathy to wife Shirley and the family. Jim's mother was a golf club champion who, with Jim, put together over 100 years of membership and achievements at Manly Golf Club.



## PROBUS CLUB OF SEAFORTH

### ANNUAL REPORT 1994-1995

Under normal circumstances an Annual Report should no doubt be a summary of the year's activities but to attempt this in our case would be totally repetitive and superfluous. Our year has been well and truly documented month by month by our Editor, George Mitchell, in our incomparable News Sheet. It could not be bettered.

I will therefore confine my remarks to briefly cover the experiments/changes we have made during the year and to express my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed.

Briefly our committee has:

- implemented the system of having Assistants for all positions to take up the workload and attend Committee meetings when members are absent due to trips away, illness etc. It is so important that we share the workload in an organisation where we are all wholly or partially retired and we are really not looking to be tied down to any great extent. The response for volunteers to cover these positions was truly gratifying. While there must be exceptions because of health and some work commitments, all things being equal I firmly believe every member of our Club should be prepared to take on a major or minor role in our Club for a minimum of two years. This will ensure the proper spread of the workload and no-one should feel it is too onerous.
- Getting to Know Our Fellow Probians has been changed to one per month in lieu of four at a time periodically. We have all but completed all Foundation Members plus a number of others. Future speakers will be taken in order of date joined.
- Held a January meeting for the first time as it was felt that without it the gap was too great.
- Commenced a Walking Club (The Fitty's) thanks ever so much to the efforts of Lister Nott.
- To cater for all types we have also started a Luncheon Club (The Fatty's) under the guidance of The Gourmet Michael Slatter.
- Transferred our meetings to downstairs at the Golf Club. This is still the subject of experimentation and review to ensure whether or not it is the best spot.
- Adopted a policy of having a luncheon in conjunction with the meetings in March, June, December and January to which the ladies are specially invited.

There are many to thank for their contribution in addition to thanking all members for their participation and loyalty. Thank you to:

- Geoff Dobbie, our hardworking and meticulous Secretary,
- Vice President, Richard Whipp, for his most willing support at all times,
- Alec Wickenden, our first class Treasurer who keeps us on the track and who has willingly assisted Don Elliot as Golf Co-ordinator. Alec in turn is subject to the scrutiny of Ric Clapp, our Auditor,

- Barry Ryan with wonderful support from wife Lois devotes hours of work, research and organisation into the difficult task of Activities Co-ordinator,
- Bruce Fisk as Guest Speaker Co-ordinator has gone to lengths to ensure variety and interest in all our speakers. Bruce has decided to step down from the role and I know you will join with me in saying thanks for a job well done.

I have already recorded thanks to George Mitchell who really is the mouth piece and prime communicator of our Club. George is assisted by Allister Paech who is also our Fellowship Chairman and who obviously relishes the task of looking after the ladies. David Innes as Immediate Past President has provided willing guidance and now steps down from Committee duties. A special thanks to Bill de Meyrick as Welfare Officer, a most difficult and caring role and we could not have a better man in the job. To Cyril Solomon our infamous Chief Dobber and Ross Pogson we are grateful to you both for acting as Registrars and being on deck to willingly check the roll (and name tags) and collect the money. We could not have two better men than our Catering Officers, Roy Felan and Michael Slatter, who willingly look after the morning teas and all arrangements for our luncheons at the Club. Their assistance has been invaluable as has been our relationship with James Nossiter the every obliging Chef at the Golf Club. Cyril Solomon and Ken Driver are still making every endeavour to get Bowls off the ground - they are just not very good at organising the weather.

It is dangerous to single out names and to anyone I may have missed the appreciation is no less sincere. Special mention should be made of all the Assistants who have stepped in when needed and provide great support to the Office Bearers.

I hope that we have provided you with an enjoyable and fruitful year. Probus is all about friendship and company at a stage when we have each taken a new direction in our lives.

For my own part I thank each and every member for their contribution and the support given to me. It has been a most rewarding interlude for me and I am honoured to have had the opportunity to serve as your President. As I said at this time last year - our continuing aim is to make Seaforth Probus a great place for moulding new friendships, generating interest and continuing fellowship.

Doug Forsyth  
President



**ACTIVITIES**  
**(April 1994 - March 1995)**

**Activities Co-Ordinator - BARRY RYAN**

20th April 1994	Blue Mountains tour - Lilianfels (45)
27th April 1994	"Meet Me in St. Louis", Willoughby Musical Society (40)
3rd May 1994	The Last Riverboat Postman. Hawksbury River Cruise (36)
11th May 1994	Seaforth Bowling Club. Players Revue
12th May 1994	Food School. Brookvale TAFE (29)
7th June 1994	The Sydney Theatre Co. Lunch Royal Automobile Club (15)
7th July 1994	Lucas Heights Nuclear Reactor (26)
2nd August 1994	Sportspace. Sydney Cricket Ground and Football Stadium (27)
6th Sept 1994	Up the Parramatta River III (39)
11th Oct 1994	Ryde Food School (35)
17th-21st Oct '94	Narooma Getaway (51)
1st Nov 1994	Spectacle and Rodd Island Cruise (20)
23rd Nov 1994	"Showboat". Willoughby Musical Society (40)
13th Dec 1994	Christmas Party at Wakehurst Golf Club (94)
7th Feb 1995	Lane Cove River cruise (25)
7th March 1995	Annual B.B.Q. picnic. Davidson Park (6)

## GUEST SPEAKERS

(April 1994 - March 1995)

**Guest Speakers Co-ordinator - BRUCE FISK**

- 26th April 1994      "Getting to Know"  
Richard Whipp, Don Elliot, Ernie Hickey, Jim Hall
- 24th May 1994      "My Life as an Author". Rabbi Dr. R. Brasch
- 28th June 1994      "Getting to Know". John Daly  
"Nuclear Power in the World Today". Keith Alder
- 26th July 1994      "Getting to Know". Ron Clayton  
"Co-operation with the Public". Const. Scott Murphy
- 23th August '94      "Getting to Know". Roy Felan  
"Ben Chifley to Paul Keating". Neil O'Reilly
- 27th Sept '94      "Getting to Know". Bill de Meyrick  
"Food, Science and Technology". Peter Rutledge  
(Ladies and B.B.Q. lunch at Golf Club)
- 25th Oct '94      "Getting to Know". John Glerum  
"Reminiscence of a Pathfinder". Deryck Giblin
- 22nd Nov '94      "Getting to Know". Ken Driver  
"Z Force". Fellow Probian Pat Lees
- 13th Dec '94      Christmas Party at Wakehurst Golf Club
- 24th Jan 1995      "Getting to Know". Cyril Solomon  
"D-Day Normandy Landing". Rae Hignell
- 28th Feb '95      "Getting to Know". Ian O'Brien  
"Royal Botanic Gardens". Dr Don Blaxell
- 28th March 1995      "Federal Airport Corporation". Susan Allton

**WALKING CLUB (Lister Nott)**

- 16th Aug 1994 (Our First Walk) Beacon Hill Area (11)  
20th Sept 1994 Upper Middle Harbour from Roseville Baths (15)  
15th Nov 1994 Manly Dam and B.B.Q. lunch (15)  
21st March 1995 Long Reef Headland, Dee Why (16)

**LUNCHEON CLUB (Michael Slatter)**

- 22nd Sept 1994 (First Luncheon) Sands Hotel, Narrabeen (13)  
26th Feb 1995 Kaiser Stub'n Restaurant, Terrey Hills (17)



YEAR 5  
(April 1995 ~ March 1996)

PRESIDENT	RICHARD WHIPP
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	DOUG FORSYTH
VICE PRESIDENT	ALEC WICKENDEN
SECRETARY	GEOFF DOBBIE
TREASURER	TONY SARGENT
ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR	BARRY RYAN
GUEST SPEAKERS CO-ORD.	IAN STEVENSON
EDITOR	P.P. GEORGE MITCHELL
AUDITOR	RIC CLAPP

APPOINTEES

REGISTRARS:	CYRIL SOLOMON, ROSS POGSON
FELLOWSHIP:	P.P. ALLISTER PAECH, ROSS CHRISTENSEN
WELFARE:	BILL de MEYRICK, ERNIE HICKEY
CATERING:	ROY FELAN, MICHAEL SLATTER
LUNCHEONS CLUB:	MICHAEL SLATTER
WALKING CLUB:	LISTER NOTT
BOWLS:	CYRIL SOLOMON, KEN DRIVER
GOLF:	DON ELLIOT / ALEC WICKENDEN
PHOTOGRAPHER:	BOB ROWLAND
HISTORIANS:	P.P. GEORGE MITCHELL, P.P. DAVID INNES

After nearly two years of tireless input from Doug Forsyth, our snowy haired, upright, forthright Richard Whipp had no trouble in taking up the reins to see us through Year Five.

He created instant humour in our ranks by introducing amusing anecdotes from the monthly star signs associated with birthday calls at the early part of our meetings. New member, Don McKinlay, had the honour of being the only (at the time) April babe to receive the "Happy Birthday" song led by Fellowship Chairman Allister Paech and his Assistant Ross Christensen. Richard was able to tell us there were 5 with 100% attendance for Year 1994-1995 - Doug Forsyth of course, Ross Christensen, Ric Clapp, Ron Colby and Tom Stee.

There was early action in Year 5 starting with an excursion to Homebush Bay on the 4th April, a Golf Day on the 27th April, and a mini holiday 1st-4th May at Lake Eucumbene and the Snowy Mountains. The golf at Balgowlah Club (21 men and 5 ladies) was punctuated with a B.B.Q. lunch at the half way. David Millard was the chef (who sacrificed his golf to do the job) and Roy Sedman was the chief. Peggy Mitchell with 34 points and George Mitchell with 41 points won the Individual Honours, whilst Bruce Fisk and John Daley with 44 points won the four ball on a count back.

Annual subs remained at \$15.00 and joining fee at \$10.00. The membership limit of 60 was retained whilst the waiting list to join the club reached a high of 16 in November, finishing the year at 15 in March 1996.

For prudent management, Treasurer Tony Sargent's aim to have club funds maintained at around \$1500.00 at Westpac Bank throughout the year was achieved, and this was usually swelled with pre-payments for intended outings. In April our innovative President Richard introduced the "Happy Snaps" Competition to be judged at the Christmas luncheon. A prize for the Judges' Choice (judges were Club Photographer Bob Rowland assisted by P.P. George Mitchell) and one for the People's Choice. This created a lot of interest and humour at the Christmas luncheon with winners turning out to be the wives of

members - Secretary Geoff Dobbie's wife Margaret and Ross Christensen's wife Helen. Margaret's "happy snap" of Geoff and Bruce Fisk subsequently made Probus News on P.46 of the 1996 Autumn issue.



Bruce Fisk (Left) and Geoff Dobbie

There was a memorable visit to the 2000 Olympics site at Homebush Bay in April, making the participants wonder what it will be like when they see it again fully operational. Here's hoping. With the continuing service of our Secretary, Geoff Dobbie, committee meetings remained in "Dobbie's Den" where the Margaret Dobbie morning teas were still devoured with relish. The meetings were pretty lengthy during Richard Whipp's time in the chair, not only because of the morning teas, but because the matter of club incorporation reared its head again. This time seriously. Thanks to the months of untiring efforts of President Richard assisted by Vice President Alec Wickenden and Secretary Geoff, incorporation became reality soon after the notice of motion appearing in the February 1996 News Sheet, to be moved by Alec Wickenden at the Annual General Meeting in March. The motion: "That the presently unincorporated

body, The Probus Club of Seaforth, be incorporated under the title, The Probus Club of Seaforth Inc and that the constitution and by-laws of The Probus Club of Seaforth Inc as tabled at the meeting and incorporated in the minutes of the meeting be adopted as the constitution and by-laws of the newly incorporated Club." The motion was subsequently moved and adopted unanimously, and we became The Probus Club of Seaforth Inc on the 17th April 1996.

The popular Luncheon and Walking Clubs continued with outings every couple of months. Michael Slatter always managed to find excellent restaurants not too far from the front doors of the chewers and chin wagers, whilst Lister Nott, notwithstanding the odd shower or two, gave foot sloggers the opportunity without loss, to always find and appreciate the interest and beauty that surrounds us, but is missed from behind the wheel.

May saw John Snelling back on the waiting list (having resigned after moving south) and we welcomed Geoff Cotton after the resignation of Barry Carroll due to other commitments. In June it was reported we still had 28 of our 37 Foundation Members. Immediate Past President Doug Forsyth was welcomed back after a bout in hospital, and Ted Lucas after a lengthy illness.

After two cancellations the first Probus Golf Shield game of the year was held in perfect weather at Cromer Golf Club on the 4th July. Manly at last wrested the shield back with the following results: Individual - Gordon James and Geoff Cotton both with 38 points, Tom Setright 34 points; Four Ball - Gordon James and Geoff Cotton with 46 points. The follow up at Manly Golf Club on the 24th August was another great day. Four Ball - Gordon James and Geoff Cotton again with 45 points. Runners up were Tom Setright and Bob Martin with 38 points. Lady winners were Judy Pogson and Geraldine Setright with 34 points. Golf Convenor Don Elliot beat the weather and gave the golfers a couple of fine outings.

Sadness struck our ranks again. This time our golden (oldest) oldie Cyril Solomon (84 years) who departed peacefully on the 16th July 1995. Cyril was a

Foundation Member, Bowls Convenor, Chief Registrar and "Dobber" (if you weren't wearing a name badge) since day one. His "getting to know you" talk in the preceding January left us in no doubt about his great wit and wisdom, and his representative talents in cricket, baseball and bowls. Very sadly missed.

At our August meeting Peter Wakefield was welcomed as a new member, leaving 12 on the waiting list at that stage, increasing to 14 in September.

Ken Driver took up the role of Bowls Convenor and soon had a Gala Bowls Day lined up with Lane Cove West Probus Club, to take place on the 25th September. One of his rink had to cancel at short notice unfortunately - otherwise we'd have won for sure. Ken still keeps trying to muster up bowls enthusiasts, but for some reason our club abounds more with golfers. Maybe they think that bowls is an old man's game.

The Port Macquarie "Getaway" (29th Oct - 2nd Nov) skilfully organised by Don Elliot assisted by his new wife Jo, saw 34 swingers and sightseers safely accommodated in the comfortable Pioneer Motor Inn following a "check-in" dinner at the Waterfront Whalebone Restaurant after the drive yourself 4½ hour trip from Sydney. Good weather accompanied the activities including two days of golf, a 3 hour dinner cruise on the M.V. Port Venture, a coach tour of the Kempsey and South West Rocks districts, dinner at the smart re-built Westport Bowling Club, and a wind up exclusive dinner after golf in the delightful dining room at the golf club.

Golf results were:

<u>Day 1:</u>	Men	Richard Whipp 34 R.U. Mike Slatter 33 C.B.
	Ladies	Jean Martin 31, Judy Pogson 31
	4 Ball	Richard Whipp / Jo Elliot 41
<u>Day 2:</u>	Men	Ross Christensen 33 R.U. Ian Stevenson 32
	Ladies	Judy Pogson 35 Jean Chester 31
	4 Ball	Ron Jones / Judy Pogson 41

The Probus Shield was won by the Manly Golf Club members.

In November we welcomed Merv Eyles to membership after the resignation of Owen Alvarez. Ross Pogson became Registrar (after the passing of Cyril Solomon) and was assisted by Ian O'Brien.

A highlight of the Christmas luncheon attended by 95 people was President Richard Whipp's Photo Competition mentioned earlier. Club Photographer, Bob Rowland, was congratulated on his presentation of a variety of interesting photos from his library, and they revived many happy memories.

Barry Ryan, close to completing over five years as Activities Co-ordinator Extraordinaire, wound the year up with his mini holiday to Norfolk Island in March, and already had an adventurous program planned for Year Six. Barry's outings and mini holidays have given new life and interest to our members. Never a dull moment.

In January, John Eather joined us after the resignation of Len Beecroft.

I.P.P. Doug Forsyth made headlines in the Manly Daily (7.2.96) by announcing his retirement from the Willoughby Musical Society after giving 39 years of involvement in 71 shows, directing 42 of them. Wife Beverley was choreographer for 34 shows. Retirement also meant our farewell to Doug and

Beverly who soon after left us for the peaceful shores of Lake Macquarie. Gone fishing!

Jack Hughes, a foundation member who resigned due to failing health, passed away at Bayview Gardens Nursing Home on the 4th February 1996.

The Annual General Meeting and luncheon on the 26th March gave the good roll-up of members and wives the opportunity to honour outgoing President Richard Whipp and his team. Richard had a very successful year and in it achieved much for the good of Seaforth Probus Club. A good sign was the number who had 100% attendance for the year - they were: Ric Clapp, John Chester, Bob Edwards, Ron Jones, Doug Law, Bob Rowland, Dick Sansom, Michael Slatter, Roy Sedman, Ian Venn-Brown, Tom Verbeek - and President Richard Whipp.

Secretary Geoff Dobbie and Activities Co-ordinator Barry Ryan deserve special mention in that they served with distinction continuously in those roles over the five year plus period. History will tell how much longer they will be prepared to give their unenviable services to the members of this club.

Twenty seven of our 37 Foundation Members were still with us at the end of Year Five - Mick Alcock, Ross Christensen, Ron Clayton, John Daly, Geoff Dobbie, Bill de Meyrick, Roy Felan, Doug Forsyth, Darrell Garnham, Peter Gibson, John Glerum, David Innes, Doug Law, Pax Lindsay, Bob Martin, George Mitchell, Ian O'Brien, Allister Paech, John Panylyk, Bob Rowland, Barry Ryan, Dick Sansom, Tony Sargent, John Scott, Roy Sedman, Tom Stee, Tom Verbeek.

Our house was well and truly in order for Alec Wickenden to take over as President in Year Six.



## PROBUS CLUB OF SEAFORTH

### ANNUAL REPORT 1995-1996

The strength of any club lies in the quality and enthusiasm of its members. I believe Seaforth Probus gets a tick on both counts.

Of a membership of sixty, twenty-nine members occupy positions which involve them in the organisation of the affairs of the Club be it as Management Committee members or as appointed assistants. Add to this the support given to the Club by all members and one can see why Seaforth Probus is so successful. The support of our partners is also very evident at many of our meetings and at the social functions conducted during the year.

A feeling of good fellowship prevails and it is a privilege to belong to a Club such as ours.

#### **Membership**

During the year, the Management Committee discussed the possibility of increasing our number of active members above the sixty limit, however it was decided not to move in this direction and to maintain the status quo.

Attendance of members at meetings during the year has been gratifying at approximately 80%. At our February 1996 meeting 90% of members was present together with a number of visitors some of whom are on our waiting list.

The last member to join the Club had been on the waiting list for precisely two years which speaks volumes for the high regard in which Seaforth Probus is held in the community.

Six new members were admitted during the year. The Club gave a warm welcome to Gordon James, Don McKinlay, Geoffrey Cotton, Peter Wakefield, Merv Eyles and John Eather.

Sadly two of our members passed away in the 1995-96 year. Jim Triglone and Cyril Solomon were active members at the time of their passing and Cyril was a foundation member. We also lost Jack Hughes who had retired from the Club through ill health. Jack was also a foundation member.

#### **Finance**

Audited accounts are included in your News Sheet and one can see that the financial position of the Club is comparatively strong. Funds in hand at the close of the financial year on 31st January 1996 were \$1616 which compared with \$1037 at the close of the previous year.

Your Committee has agreed it will not be necessary to increase either the annual subscription or entrance fee in the current year. Fees are due effective from 1st April but may be paid at our next meeting.

During the 1995-96 year the Wakehurst Golf Club waived the charge made for our monthly use of the club house. This has provided us with significant savings and I would like to record our appreciation to Wakehurst for this gesture.

The Committee is presently in the process of making an application to the Office of State Revenue for exemption from bank accounts deposit tax which will provide further savings in expenditure.

### **Incorporation**

Members will be aware of the work of the Committee on the matter of the incorporation of the Club.

The Association Incorporation Act 1984 is administered by the New South Wales Department of Consumer Affairs and is designed to protect the members of associations such as ours from successful damages litigation brought against the Club for any conceivable reason. Whilst we cannot regulate the actions of others we, as Club members, could be held jointly and severally responsible for them. The adoption of a Constitution and By-laws which conform with the Act is, in the Committee's view, a step we must take to protect members' interests.

You will be aware of the intention to move for the adoption of a new Constitution and By-laws at our March meeting. The draft proposal includes the mandatory clauses required by the Probus Centre together with those clauses necessary to conform with the Association Incorporation Act. Also included are rule changes made in the past by our Club to the original Probus constitution. The Committee commends the proposal to you.

### **Club History**

Our Club has been in existence now for five years. It had its beginning on 30th October 1990 and the Committee has agreed to the suggestion of our historian George Mitchell to commence to record its history. George and David Innes will undertake this task and the work will be updated on an annual basis. I'm sure we will all look forward to reading "Seaforth Probus Club - Our First Five Years".

### **Conclusion**

On a personal note let me thank all the members for their support and friendship during my presidential year. Whilst the presidential responsibility seemed a daunting task twelve months ago I can now look back and reflect on the benefits which have flowed to Greta and myself through our involvement. It is wonderful to think that we can enjoy a completely new group of friends at this stage of our lives.

Richard Whipp  
President



## ACTIVITIES

(April 1995 - March 1996)

### Activities Co-Ordinator - BARRY RYAN

4th April 1995	Sydney 2000, Homebush Bay, BBQ lunch on grounds (47)
26th April	"The Boy Friend", Willoughby Musical Society, Chatswood Town Hall (37)
1st-4th May	Lake Eucumbene and Snowy Mountains. Mini holiday (35)
8th June	St James Church. Lunch at Centrepont (19)
15th June	Food School Ryde TAFE luncheon (31)
11th July	NSW Parliament House, hosted by Dr Peter McDonald. Lunch in Member's Dining Room (24)
1st August	Garrison Church and Military Museum. Lunch at Hero of Waterloo Hotel (27)
23rd August	"Miss Saigon", Capitol Theatre matinee (30)
5th September	Sydney University (11)
10th October	Mascot Airport and Auburn Botanical Gardens. Lunch at Canterbury Hurlstone Park R.S.L. (43)
29th Oct-2nd Nov	Mini Holiday - Port Macquarie (34)
13th November	East Sydney Food School Luncheon (Japanese) (39)
22nd November	"Rags" Willoughby Musical Society, Chatswood Town Hall (54)
11th December	Christmas Luncheon at Wakehurst Golf Club (95)
6th February 1996	Ferry trip - Palm Beach to Bobbin Head and return (34) Fish and chips lunch on board
2nd-9th March	Mini Holiday - Norfolk Island (25)

## GUEST SPEAKERS

(April 1995 - March 1996)

**Guest Speakers Co-ordinator - IAN STEVENSON**

- 18th April 1995    Getting to Know Roy Sedman  
                          "Experiences of the Blind" - Nicholas Gleeson
- 23rd May            Getting to Know Tom Verbeek  
                          "Memories of a Customs Officer - The Untold Stories"  
                          - Leon Toohey
- 27th June          Getting to Know Bob Martin  
                          "The Information Super Highway and Pay TV"  
                          - Stewart Allen (Telstra)
- 25th July          Getting to Know Ian Venn-Brown  
                          "Children Then and Now" - Keith Smith
- 22nd August        Getting to Know Lister Nott  
                          "Experiences of a Marriage Celebrant" - Julie Sutton
- 26th September    Getting to Know Michael Slatter  
                          "Historic Homes of NSW" - Valerie Sansom, wife of member  
                          Dick Sansom
- 24th October        Getting to Know Pat Lees  
                          "Services for Deaf and Blind Children" - Tom Sweeney
- 28th November    Getting to Know Bryan Barnard  
                          "The Service of Lifeline" - Di Sullivan
- 23rd Jan 1996      Getting to Know Reg Whiteley  
                          "Reminiscences of the Korean War"  
                          - Lt. Col. A.T. Pembroke M.C.
- 27th February     Getting to Know Bob Edwards  
                          "What Mining means to Australia" - Michael Cramsie
- 26th March         "Classification not Censorship" - Peter Mackay

**LUNCHEON CLUB (Michael Slatter)**

- 21st April 1995 Royal Motor Yacht Club, Newport (18)
- 15th June 1995 Food School Ryde TAFE (31)
- 15th August Mona Vale Singaporean Restaurant (18)
- 13th October Mario's Italian Restaurant, Cremorne (28)
- 16th Feb 1996 Royal Motor Yacht Club, Newport (19)

**WALKING CLUB (Lister Nott)**

- 16th May 1995 South side of Narrabeen Lake (7)
- 18th July Spit Bridge to Castle Rock (16)
- 19th September Reid Park Mosman to Cremorne Point (7)  
(leader Ric Clapp)
- 21st November "The Sugar Loaf" Harold Reid Reserve. Rain (5)
- 19th March 1996 "Ashton Park" Mosman area near Zoo (18)



# MEMBERSHIP LIST (PAST & PRESENT)

AT MARCH 1996

◆ Foundation Member

○ Member at March 1996

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- ◆○ Mick Alcock  
Owen Alvarez
- ◆ Leon Barlow
- Bryan Barnard  
Len Beecroft
- Doug Cameron  
Barry Carroll  
Keith Chambers
- John Chester
- ◆○ Ross Christensen
- Ric Clapp
- ◆○ Ron Clayton
- Ron Colby  
Bruce Cook
- Geoff Cotton
- ◆○ John Daly
- ◆○ Bill de Meyrick
- ◆○ Geoff Dobbie
- Ken Driver
- John Eather
- Merv Eyles
- Bob Edwards
- Don Elliot
- ◆ Bob Emanuel
- ◆○ Roy Felan
- Bruce Fisk
- ◆○ Doug Forsyth (Acting President 1993-94  
President 1994-95)

Membership List .....Cont'd

- Wal Frost
- ◆○ Darrell Garnham
  - ◆○ Peter Gibson
  - ◆○ John Glerum
  - Bob Goddard
  - Bill Graham
  - ◆ Raymond Gray
  - Jim Hall (T.I.M.)
  - Ernie Hickey
  - ◆ Jack Hughes
  - ◆○ David Innes (President part 1993)
  - Gordon James
  - Ron Jones
  - Russ Jones
  - ◆○ Doug Law
  - Pat Lees
  - Michael Lee
  - ◆○ Pax Lindsay
  - Ted Lucas
  - Col Lutwych
  - ◆○ Bob Martin
  - ◆ Doug Matheson
  - David Millard
  - ◆○ George Mitchell (President 1992-1993)
  - Gordon Murray
  - Don McKinlay
  - Lister Nott
  - ◆○ Ian O'Brien
  - ◆○ Allister Paech (President 1990-1992)
  - ◆○ John Panylyk
  - Ross Pogson

Membership List .....Cont'd

- ◆ Tom Purcell
- ◆○ Bob Rowland
- ◆○ Barry Ryan
- ◆○ Dick Sansom
- ◆○ Tony Sargent
- ◆○ John Scott
- ◆○ Roy Sedman
- Tom Setright
- ◆ Otto Schneider
- Geoff Shattles
- Michael Slatter
- John Snelling
- ◆ Cyril Solomon
- Bill Spence
- ◆○ Tom Stee
- Ian Stevenson
- Jim Triglone
- Ian Venn-Brown
- ◆○ Tom Verbeek
- Peter Wakefield
- ◆ Bob West
- Richard Whipp (President 1995-1996)
- Reg Whiteley
- Alec Wickenden
- ◆ Tom Young

At March 1996 - 61 Members including 1 T.I.M. and 15 on Waiting List



## CONCLUSION

Available from Club records is a folder I compiled as Editor which contains copies of all monthly News Sheets issued over the period, commencing at Vol.1 No.1 dated 27th November 1990. In addition, our able and trustworthy Secretary, Geoff Dobbie, has copies of the minutes of all Club and Committee meetings held, the Constitution and By-Laws, membership records, financial statements and other material, all forming a part of our history.

The intention of this short history is to put our past together in a way that hopefully will provide a little light reading to go along with the lists of many events that took place.

Assistant Historian, Past President David Innes, is a known and accomplished historian with a wealth of experience. His help, guidance and encouragement have been invaluable and much appreciated.

Committee Members led by Geoff Dobbie and Barry Ryan all helped, as did Appointees, led by Michael Slatter, Lister Nott and Bob Rowland. My sincere thanks to all of them.

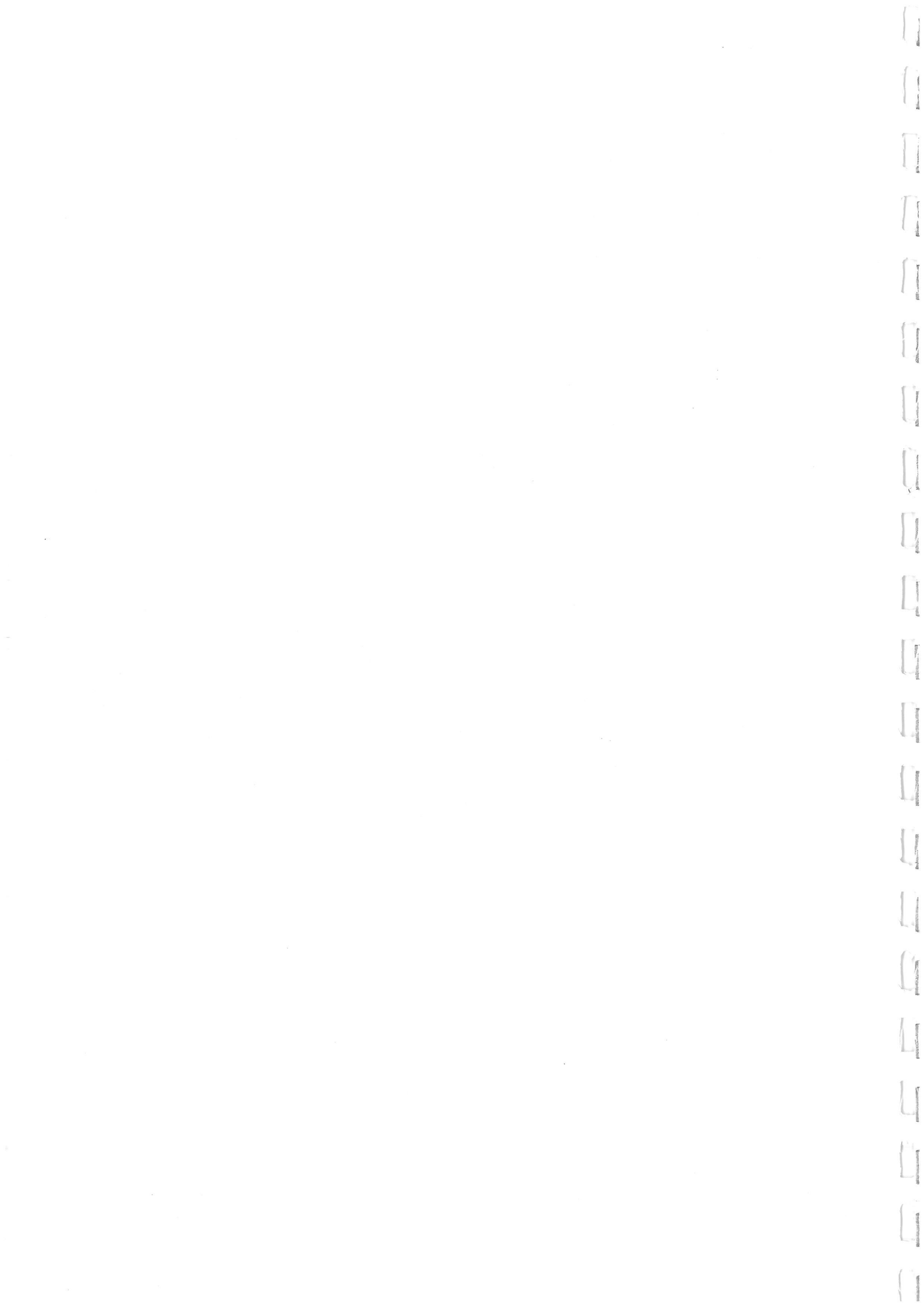
Also, a special thanks to my daughters, Sue and Jennifer, who so willingly looked after the word processing on their computers.

Best wishes,



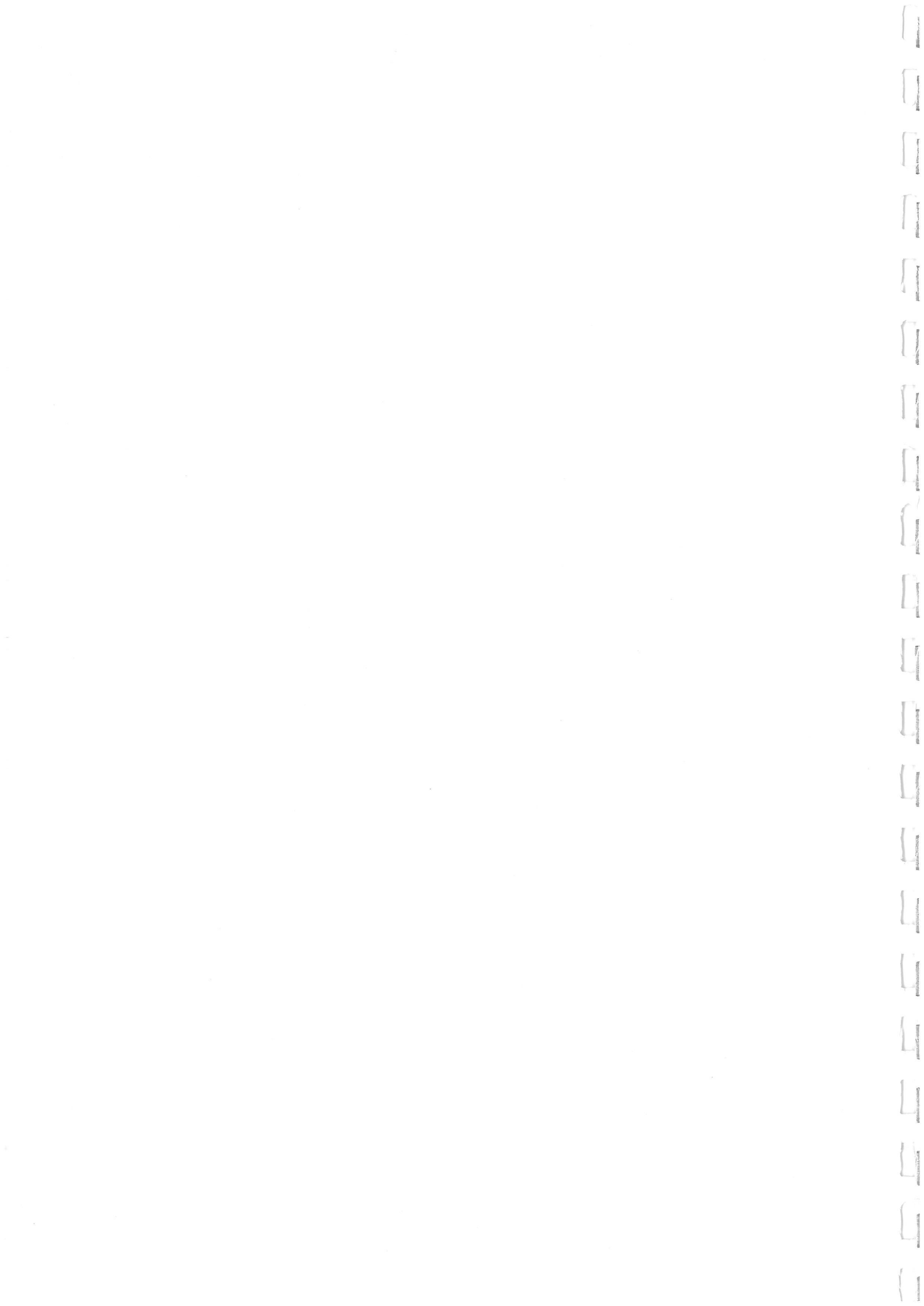
George Mitchell





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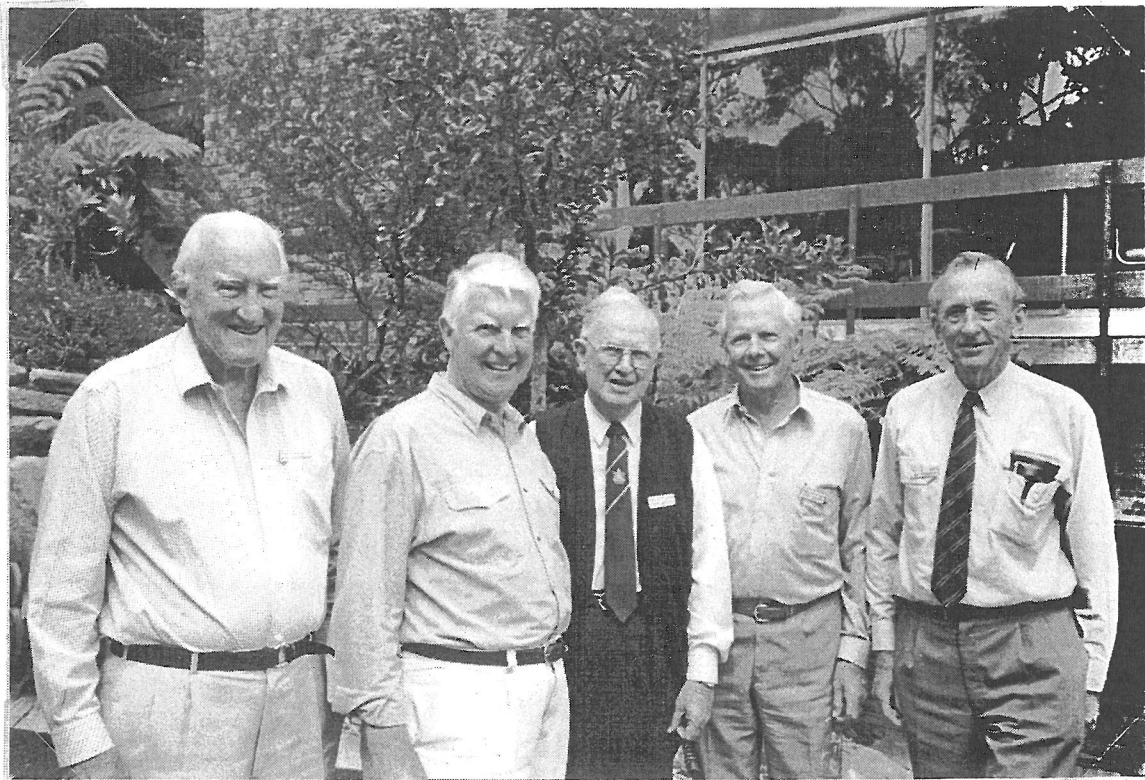
## INTRODUCTION

### Part Two

(Years 6 - 10 inclusive)

The ten year history of our Club has been written in two parts. The writing of the first five year history was completed in March 1997 and may be referred to now as Part One. It has since been distributed free of charge to all members including new members entering the Club.

The Second Part, covering 6-10 inclusive, continues with much the same format as before and brings the whole of the first ten years into one volume.



Presidents Years 6 - 10 (left to right)

Ross Christensen (Year 9)

Alec Wickenden (Year 6)

Bob Martin (Year 7)

Don Elliot (Year 8)

Ian Stevenson (Year 10)

## YEAR 6

(April 1996 - March 1997)

President	Alec Wickenden
Immediate Past President	Richard Whipp
Vice President	Bob Martin
Secretary	Geoff Dobbie
Treasurer	Tony Sargent
Activities Co-Ordinator	Barry Ryan
Guest Speakers Co-Ordinator	Ian Stevenson
Editor	PP George Mitchell
Auditor	Michael Lee

### Appointees

Registrar	Ross Pogson	Ian O'Brien
Fellowship	P.P. Allister Paech	Ross Christensen
Welfare	Ernie Hickey	Tom Stee
Catering	Doug Law	Pat Lees
Luncheons Club	Michael Slatter	PP Doug Forsyth
Walking Club		Lister Nott
Bowls	Ken Driver	Bruce Fisk
Golf		Don Elliot
Photographer		Bob Rowland
Historian	PP George Mitchell	PP David Innes

Richard Whipp was a hard act to follow but no trouble to Alec Wickenden who got down to business very smartly and saw the year through in similar manner. Alec's introduction to Year Six was aided by our first Guest Speaker, Ross McWilliam of McWilliam's Wines, who had the Members quaffing and quoting oft said remarks about the reds and whites. A good meeting.

Our "Getting to Know You" talks from members continued before the introduction of Guest Speakers, but became less frequent as the year rolled on. Most by now had revealed all - almost. We heard from Ron Jones, David Millard, Gordon James, Don McKinlay, Doug Cameron, Ron Colby and Tom Setright.

Subs. continued at \$15.00. Club Funds \$1,798.77. We had 60 active Members with 16 on the waiting list, and attendances started and continued throughout the year at around 80%.

We had become incorporated on 17th April, 1996 and Geoff Dobbie was appointed as the first Public Officer of the Probus Club of Seaforth Inc .

Our Foundation Member and Past President Doug Forsyth resigned, retired from the Willoughby Musical Society, and much to our dismay on 20th May took his Beverley to the shores of Lake Macquarie at Gwandalan. We missed them. And the feeling was mutual and on 21st January 1997 a bus load (45) paid them a visit - not unannounced. How we love our fellow Probian, Past and Present! Peter Oliver filled the vacancy left by Doug and so there were 15 waiting to join.

Barry Ryan in harness again had already planned 12 months ahead for the Ghan and Outback South Australia. And that's not all.

Meantime others were doing their own thing too. John and Elaine Daly took off around Australia for 3 months, Ian Stevenson and Tony Sargent went to Europe, Richard Whipp headed west, Bruce Fisk overseas somewhere, and Tom Setright with Doug Cameron went golfing in Scotland. All that and Probus too!

There were plenty of enthusiasts who responded to David Millard's survey of interest in forming a Bridge Club and a preliminary daytime meeting was held at Balgowlah Golf Club on 27th June, followed by an evening meeting on 24th July at the home of Reg and Moira Whiteley.

President Alec arranged for future meetings to be held at Manly Golf Club, 7.00 for 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. And so the experts emerged including Don and Jo Elliot, Alec and Shirley Wickenden, Reg and Moira Whiteley, Ross and Judy Pogson, John and Jean Chester to name a few. A charge of \$1.00 a head ensured that David was able to provide prizes galore.

We had an excellent Guest Speakers programme and were occasionally shocked by such revelations as that by Dr Michael Walker who said whilst talking about the extent of gambling in NSW - "Australians lose more money in gambling than any other country in the world".

The Luncheon Club was prospering under the guidance of Michael Slatter and 31 noisy gourmets will remember the Indian Raaj Restaurant at Balgowlah along with a variety of others to follow.

Ted Lucas became a "T.I.M" so allowing Kevin Carr to join us, and Arthur Levy applied for membership holding the wait list to 15. By November we had 16 - Peter Watson, Frank Maple, Bob Harmer, Nicholas Guoth, John Snelling, Bruce Scott, Alan Woodroof, Dennis Parle, Trevor Wallin, Trevor

Palmer, Barry Goddard, Ken Carver, John Hunt, Ron Ford, Arthur Levy, Jim Milner. Regrettably a two year wait for those on the bottom of the list.

The Probus Shield at Manly on 29th August produced the following results;

Ladies	Jo Elliot	34 C.B.
Runner Up	Judy Pogson	34
Men	Ian O'Brien	35 C.B.
Runner Up	Bruce Scott	35
4 Ball	Marion Eyles & Peggy Mitchell	43 C.B.
N.T.P.	Don Elliot	

Plenty of countbacks but Manly won the shield.

The Bowral getaway organised largely by President Alec saw 43 at Craigieburn Hotel from 7th - 11th October enjoying the Tulip Festival, Bradman Museum, arts and crafts, Kangaroo Valley - and yes, golf too!

<u>Bowral G.C.</u>	Ron Colby & Dot Edwards	43
N.T.P.	Alec Wickenden	
<u>Moss Vale G.C.</u>	Doug Cameron & George Mitchell	41
Individual	Kev Worthington (Vis.)	41
	Jean Chester & Meg Stevenson	39 C.B.
	Judy Pogson & Dot Edwards	39

On 9th December Ross Christensen led 105 at the Xmas Party singalong. Another memorable occasion, with Ross Pogson winning Bob Rowland's Photo Competition. Bob Edwards was runner-up with his photo of a Norfolk Island Convict (not Darrell Garnham)

Keith Chambers joined our Club in Year One. He left us two years ago to settle at Southport with wife Judy. Tragically in January Keith and Judy were killed instantly in a motor accident at Gilgandra.

Our Secretary Geoff Dobbie had a couple of weeks in Manly Hospital in January and I suspect it might have been his way of taking Long Service Leave prior to taking office again in Year Seven.

Approaching Year's end on 25th March 1997 the getaway to Nowra was already in the pipeline for November 1997 and a late report from Don Elliot and Bob Martin confirmed that 41 people had an adventure-filled time in South Australia 3rd - 14th March.



### **Help at Hand - Our Coach Bugged in the Flinders Ranges**

12 day fly/coach tour (promoted by Bruce Fisk) 3.3.97 to 14.3.97 covered Adelaide, the legendary Ghan, Outback South Australia, Roxby Downs, Flinders Ranges, Clare Valley, Barossa Valley, Broken Hill, Nyngan.

41 adventurers were taken by bus from Seaforth to Mascot to begin another action packed tour.

Bob Martin's words explain a lot about the photograph he took, above; "The Flinders Ranges, centred on Wilpena Pound was voted tops for its beauty. We loved the mountains, the river red gums and the animals such as emus, kangaroos, wedge-tailed eagles, corellas, galahs and even a dingo and a king brown snake. We even managed to get our coach bogged in a dry river bed as we entered Gum Tree Station for a bush lunch. Despite that, 31 of our intrepid group later took a light aircraft flight over the Pound."

George Mitchell announced his retirement as Editor after six years commencing at Year One when he used to two-finger type our one page "News Sheet". His final "Thought for the Month" was:

"A little of what you fancy does you good" - Marie Lloyd 1870-1922

The year ended much as it began with our final Guest Speaker Patrick McGarville giving us another tasting - this time of the Irish Whisk(e)y - hic! - experience.

Attendances remained at over 80%, there were 61 Members (including one T.I.M.), 17 on the Waiting List, and at the end of February we had the grand sum (excluding pre-payments for activities) of \$1,588.51 Credit in the bank.

### THE MEMBERSHIP LIMIT

Not for the first time the question was asked in Committee, "Should we increase the Membership limit?" The membership limit in year one was 50, raised in May that year to 60. By year's end there were already 7 on the waiting list.

Despite the introduction of T.I.M. (see Year 2) the list, which at the time, had been limited to 10, continued to grow, and last on it could expect to wait 12 months to join. In year three, through a recommendation by Secretary Geoff Dobbie, the waiting list limit of 10 was changed to "unlimited". Despite losses, the waiting list had extended to 14 by September 1995.

In Year 6 the list had grown to 18, and those waiting were prepared to wait up to two years to join this great club.

For a happy club like ours with high attendances at meetings, short holidays, day outings, and numerous other activities, a limit of 60 members works well. This will increase marginally in years to follow, but the answer to accommodating would-be Probians lies largely with Rotary Clubs. They control not the size of Probus Clubs, but the number of Probus Clubs.

Our parent, the Rotary Club of Balgowlah, has formed 2 Probus Clubs with a hand in another. A commendable effort.

Probus Clubs are tremendously popular and growing rapidly in numbers, so it appears Rotary Clubs generally are doing their bit to form them. Perhaps the day will come, conditionally when Probus Clubs are permitted to form other Probus Clubs.

Presidents' Report to the  
PROBUS CLUB of SEAFORTH INC. 1996/97.

It was with some anxiety but with great pride that I took over as President from Richard Whipp. We worked together on the incorporation of our club, which he completed just prior to our last Annual Meeting. Richard deserves our gratitude for the time and effort involved, and in particular the additional protection for members which incorporation brings. Geoff Dobbie was appointed Public Officer and our application for incorporation under the Associations Incorporation Act was approved on the 17th April.

The remainder of the year was busy as the following report indicates.

Membership.

The year began and ended with 60 active members. It was with regret that we received P.P. Doug Forsyth's resignation due to his move North. Also Ted Lucas was put on the Temporarily Inactive Member (TIM) list due to continuing poor health. We wish you an early recovery Ted.

Those moves allowed us to welcome and induct two new members, Peter Oliver and Kevin Carr. Six new applications for membership were accepted, bringing our current waiting list to a total of 19.

During the year, your committee reconsidered the present membership limit of 60 but decided not to increase that number due largely to the great demand for seats on Coach trips, organised by Barry. In other words, we do not want to become a 'Two coach' club.

Attendance remained at a high level (83%), indicating great interest in our monthly meetings and speakers, capably organised by Ian Stevenson. A large number of members, who will be recognised at our Annual Meeting, have maintained a 100% attendance record. Thank you Ross Pogson and Ian O'Brien for your work as Registrars, Bob Rowland for providing photographic evidence of our activities and Ernie Hickey for keeping us up to date with reports on absent friends.

Finance.

At the end of January, when our books were closed for Audit, Club Funds totalled \$1,644. That was slightly ahead of last year's close of \$1,515 and our thanks go to Tony Sargent for a job well done. That amount will be reduced by around \$450 due to the printing and publication of our Club History by George Mitchell early in March. Your Committee has approved the distribution of that history free of charge to all members at the Annual Meeting.

Activities.

The success of our Club lies in the great variety of activities so capably organised by Barry Ryan. They are too numerous to mention here but I have a feeling that he has left the best till last. A group of around 40 depart on the 3rd March for South Australia, including a trip on the Ghan. No doubt we will hear all about it at our next meeting.

Our Bowral Breakaway at Tulip time was another highlight and I am grateful to Shirley for her support during our stay. The shops and gardens at Berrima, Bowral and Mittagong were well patronised and the trip to Kangaroo Valley and Fitzroy Falls was another success.

We started a new regular club activity which resulted in a Bridge Club evening at Manly Golf Club on the 1st Wednesday each month. Our thanks to David Millard for organising that activity which has attracted more than 20 players, including beginners. I expect that participation will grow in the year ahead.

The Golfers enjoyed another good year under Don Elliot's leadership, with visits to Moss Vale & Bowral as well as our regular jousts at Manly and Cromer. Thank you Don and Geoff for your work. Thanks also to Lister Nott for organising to keep us fit through the Walking group and Mike Slatter and Doug Law for keeping us well fed during the year.

News Sheet and Club History.

This wonderful source of information is of great value to members and wives and we are indebted to George Mitchell and his team of helpers for a job well done.

George has prepared and edited all issues since our club commenced in 1990 and has now completed work on our Club History - The first 5 years. As earlier mentioned, that report will be distributed at our Annual Meeting and I commend it to you. George has indicated his wish to 'step aside for another enthusiast' after that Meeting and I thank him, his family, Alasdair Paech and Dick Sansom for all their work.

Conclusion.

Finally I thank my wife Shirley, all Members of the Committee, and others for their support of various club activities. I believe my major claims are that we have had another good year and that we are a happy club. None of this would have been possible without the enormous contribution which Geoff Dobbie has made. He has been a tower of strength to me and I thank him and Margaret for their hospitality at Dobbie's Den, where our monthly Committee Meetings are held.

Bob Martin and his team have my best wishes for another great year ahead.



Alec Wickenden.  
March 1997.

ACTIVITIES Co-Ordinator Barry Ryan

(April 1996 - March 1997)

2nd April	Golf Day at Cromer (Cromer won the Shield - just)
11th April	Jamberoo Valley
7th May	BBQ at Davidson Park
21st May	Anne of Green Gables WMS
22nd May	Brookvale TAFE Food School
4th June	Hyde Park Barracks
15th-17th July	Yuletide Festival, Blue Mountains
12th August	Port Hacking Cruise
29th August	Golf Day - Manly
7th-11th October	Bowral Breakaway (Tulip Time)
6th November	"Beauty and the Beast" Her Majestys
12th November	QANTAS and Sydney Morning Herald
19th November	East Sydney Food School
24th November	How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying
9th December	Xmas Party at Wakehurst Golf Club
15th January	"Crazy for You" Theatre Royal
21st January	Doug Forsyth visit at Gwandalan
4th February	Goat Island
3rd-14th March	Legendary Ghan and Outback South Australia

GUEST SPEAKERS Co-Ordinator Ian Stevenson

(April 1996 - March 1997)

23rd April	"Wine Appreciation" - Ross McWilliam
28th May	Getting to Know David Millard
	"The Extent of Gambling in NSW" - Dr Michael Walker
25th June	Getting to Know Gordon James
	"History of Norfolk" - Dr Ray Nobbs
23rd July	"The ABC Overseas" - Tony Hill
27th August	Getting to Know Don McKinlay
	"The Effects of Illegal Drugs" - Michael Colbourne
24th September	"Working for the Supreme Commanders in the War Against Japan" - Mrs Beryl Daley
22nd October	Getting to Know Doug Cameron
	"Ground Water - Hidden Resources" - Bill Williamson
26th November	Getting to Know Ron Colby
	"Safety for Seniors" - Charles Butler
9th December	Xmas Party at Wakehurst Golf Club - No Guest Speaker
28th January	"Genetics - The Future is Now" - Jennifer Philps
25th February	Getting to Know Tom Setright
	"Restoration of The Queen Victoria Building"- Neil Glasser
25th March	"The Whisk(e)y Experience" - Patrick McGarville

LUNCHEON CLUB (Michael Slatter)

19th April	Kaiser Stubb'n
21st June 1996	Raaj Restaurant, Balgowlah
23rd August	Restaurant 51
18th October	Mistomare Italian Restaurant, Seaforth
21st February	Seaforth Chinese Palace, Seaforth

WALKING CLUB (Lister Nott)

2nd July 1996	Bush Walk Cheltenham
17th September	Bush Walk Davidson
12th November	Bush Walk & BBQ Chatswood West
18th March 1997	Bush Walk Narrabeen Lakes

CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB (David Millard)

(Promoted in April 1996)

Thurs 30th May 1996	First Meeting (afternoon) at Balgowlah Golf Club
Thurs 27th June	Afternoon meeting at Balgowlah Golf Club
Wed 24th July	Evening Meeting at the home of Reg and Moira Whiteley

Note: President Alec arranged with Manly Golf Club to hold all future Meetings there - 7.15pm for 7.30pm, first Wednesday of each month ...

Regular winners included the Elliots, Wickendens and Chesters.

YEAR 7  
(April 1997 - March 1998)

President	Bob Martin
Immediate Past President	Alec Wickenden
Vice President	Don Elliot
Secretary	Geoff Dobbie
Treasurer	Tom Stee
Activities Co-Ordinator	Barry Ryan
Guest Speakers Co-Ordinator	Geoff Cotton
Editor	Reg Whiteley
Auditor	Michael Lee

Appointees

Don Elliot	Assistant to	President
Bruce Fisk (membership)	"	Vice President
Ian Stevenson	"	Secretary
Ron Jones	"	Treasurer
Ric Clapp, Barry Goddard	"	Activities Co-Ordinator
Peter Wakefield	"	Guest Speakers Co-Ord
PP Allister Paech	"	Editor

Registrar	Ross Pogson	Ian O'Brien, Peter Oliver
Fellowship	PP Allister Paech	Ross Christensen
Welfare	Ernie Hickey	
Catering	Doug Law	Pat Lees
Luncheon Club	Michael Slatter	Ross Christensen
Walking Club	Lister Nott	
Bowls	Ken Driver	
Golf	Tony Sargent	John Daly
Photographer	Bob Rowland	
Historian	PP George Mitchell	PP David Innes
Bridge	David Millard	

None have been keener nor happier to don the collar than our exuberant foundation member Bob Martin. As recommended by new editor Reg Whiteley, he immediately brought back the "President's Message" introduced to our monthly news sheet in year two. Bob's messages told much of his enthusiasm and "great interest" in the well-being of the Club and its members. His comprehensive report at the end of his term says it all.

Amusing anecdotes from the monthly star signs associated with the birthday calls increasingly added a pleasing and relaxed tone to our meetings. Enthusiastic and accomplished new member Peter Wakefield gave his "Getting to Know You" talk, then quickly got to know us and join us in the activities.

Guest Speaker George Roberts got us airborne with his interesting "History of Qantas". V.P. Don Elliot, had already organized our annual getaway, this time to Nowra for golf and sightseeing in the Shoalhaven area. Treasurer Tom Stee told us we had \$1,108.68 in the bank at 31 March 1997 - and so another great year began.

Our new Editor Reg Whiteley got to work on his computer and was going along great guns until interrupted with by-pass surgery; so it was back to George for 3 months from October.

During that period, with support from Reg whilst recuperating, the monthly publication received a new title. What was at the beginning a sheet of news handed out at meetings, graduated in December 1997 to become the "Seaforth Probus Club Newsletter". P.P. Allister Paech (followed later by Peter Oliver) ably assisted Reg with printing and posting.

The following is an excerpt from "The President's Message" in September 1997; "The passing of Meg Slatter on 3rd September 1997 weighs heavily on my mind. She was a fine lady and will be missed. Along with several members and some wives I attended the funeral and have subsequently written to Michael expressing our deep sorrow and offering friendship and comfort as he comes to grips with his loss."

Foundation member Roy Sedman had recurring health problems, and after extended leave of absence, passed away on 6th May 1997.

As might be expected, health problems were always present with both husbands and wives, but on a happier note, and despite his own occasional health problems, our true and trusted evergreen Secretary Geoff Dobbie joined the Octogenarian Club in September. Another stalwart P.P. David Innes, also joined in January 1998.

Widows of deceased Probians continued to be a part of our lives, and one of our regular, Wave Spence, made a significant remark whilst boarding the bus after the Canterbury Races outing - "It has been a very good day." Winners are grinners, Wave.

Photographic competitions continued and winners of the South Australian adventure were the Pogsons, the Sansoms and the Martins. A variety of instruments, batons and other aids emerged for the regular birthday song each month, one of the most useful being an old "Pitch Pipe" donated by Ian Venn-Brown, and much appreciated by the tone deaf.

Our December meeting combined with Xmas Day luncheon on 8th December was another great success with a record number of 105 in attendance. Thanks largely to the inspiration of President Bob, the entertainment segment was indeed a memorable one.

The choir, led by Bruce Scott and directed by Val Sansom, followed by P.P. Richard Whipp and his little ukulele, were star performances.



**Geoff Cotton, Doug Cameron, John Scott, Ross Christensen, Bruce Scott, Peter Wakefield, Richard Whipp, John Panylyk, Val Sansom (at front)**

Last to be admitted into our Club after two years and five months wait was Trevor Wallin, a fine fellow who will be a great asset and will quickly become involved in club affairs.

Bob Martin really enjoyed his year as President. It was a memorable one, and Bob's only regret was that it all went so quickly. That's life.



**Tranz Alpine Train - Arthurs Pass - N.Z.  
New Zealand South Island Discovery Tour 5 - 15 March 1998**

45 very happy Seaforth Probiants returned from an excellent tour of the South Island after a wonderful trip from Christchurch to the wild west coast, onto Queenstown, Te Anau, Dunedin, Mt Cook and back to Christchurch. The scenery was magnificent, the bus and hotels very comfortable and the Food!! What can I say? So much to see that it would take many pages to describe fully our eventful and entertaining journey. Suffice it to say we all thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful holiday. Your scribe will give a more detailed report verbally at our next meeting. Our tour wound back to Christchurch with a very noisy Happy Hour where our many adventures were recalled, including the excitement of the Shotover, the Mt Cook flight, the night spent beside the roaring, rising river from Franz Josef Glacier, the fire evacuation on arrival at The Elms Hotel, the irrepressible humour and the misadventures of some of our forgetful girls including a return trip to Hokatika to find a hidden handbag! We must record here our thanks to Barry and Lois for their excellent organisation of this memorable adventure.

Ross Christensen

THE SEAFORTH PROBUS CLUB INC.

President's Report for the Year 1997/98.

I took over a great club full of wonderful people, a club developed to an extremely high standard through the efforts of the six earlier presidents and their committees. The continuity provided by Secretary Geoff and Activities Chair Barry were invaluable.

It is a privilege for me to be a member and to enjoy the fellowship. To serve as President has been an extreme honour. I believe we have had another good year.

My Objectives: I said a year ago that basically it would be "steady as we go" with emphasis on fellowship and a few minor innovations. There has been a great involvement of our ladies and, from time to time, little changes have been introduced to make a great club even better.

Membership: Don Elliot reports that we continue to have sixty active members plus three T.I.M's-- Ted Lucas, Gordon James and Mick Alcock.

Our active foundation member, Roy Sedman, passed away on 6/5/97. We inducted three new members, Nicholas Guoth, Bruce Scott and Trevor Wallin. The last person inducted had waited 2 years and 5 months.

Attendance: Attendance continued to be excellent, averaging 83.46%. Attendance at meetings by our ladies was also high, due in no small part to the quality of our guest speakers so capably arranged by Geoffrey Cotton.

100% attendance was achieved by twelve members, namely: John Chester, Geoffrey Cotton, David Innes, Russ Jones, Bob Martin, David Millard, John Panylyk, Tony Sargent, Geoff Shattles, Mike Slatter, Ian Venn-Brown, Tom Verbeek. Congratulations! Thanks go to our Registrars Ross Pogson, Ian O'Brien and Peter Oliver; also to Bob Rowland for his photography input and to Ernie Hickey for reports of those suffering health problems. The work done by Doug Law and his assistant, Pat Lees, looking after our catering needs is greatly appreciated. We remain indebted to Wakehurst Golf Club and their caterers for their on-going support.

Finance: Following recommendations made by our Auditor, Michael Lee, a Finance Sub-Committee was formed early in the year under the chairmanship of P.P. Richard Whipp. It was found that the general running of the club was being substantially subsidised from our activities and it was suggested that activities finance be kept separate from administrative items. Changes were immediately implemented and we can now see clearly how important the activities income has been. Nevertheless it is felt that activities should be self-funding but should not be required to contribute to the general funds of the club. The Sub-Committee suggested as an initial step that subscriptions be increased to \$20. per annum and entrance fees to \$20. per inductee. This suggestion has been recommended by the Treasurer and endorsed by the Committee.

Finance(Continued): Club Funds at the end of January close were \$1,310...43, some \$151...63 lower than last years. Thank you to Tom Stee, Michael Lee and to other members of the Finance Sub-Committee.

Activities: Barry Ryan continues to provide us with a full and interesting programme, which attracts excellent response from members and wives.

The South Australian adventure which completed last years activities gives way to an end of this year's tour to New Zealand by a party of 44.

In between times, we have been to horse races, food schools, theatre shows, Yulefest in the Hunter and other fine sight-seeing outings. A full programme for 1998 has already been prepared.

Other Activities: We have golfed at Manly and Cromer and had a great Monday to Friday stay at Nowra, capably organised by Don Elliot and Tony Sargent.

Michael Slatter, assisted by the Christensens, continues to look after our food intake with fine dining every two months. On the other hand, Lister Nott has attempted to keep us trim with his walking group. David Millard looks after our more intellectual people with Bridge each month.

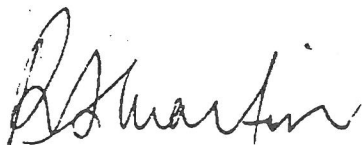
Newsletter: This year saw a new editor in Reg Whiteley take over this demanding task and he has continued to provide us with the information we all need, still posted to our homes a few days before each meeting. Allister Paech acted as assistant for most of the year but he has handed on the job to Peter Oliver.

Some changes introduced during the year were the format of the letterhead, the addition of a President's Message and social outing reporting being done by our ladies.

Administration: The Club is in good shape due to the meticulous efforts of our long-serving and hard-working Secretary, Geoff Dobbie, who manages to keep everybody strictly in line. Thank you Geoff for so many things and to you and Margaret for the Dobbie's Den facility and the morning teas.

Conclusion: I have enjoyed my role as President of The Seaforth Probus Club Inc. and, in return, I believe I have given something of myself to the Club. I know there are others to follow who will make their own contributions. I know the Club will be in good hands under Don Elliot and I offer him my full support.

I thank the team who have worked so well with me throughout the year and the members as a whole for their wonderful support. Lastly I thank Jean for becoming a part of all this and for her willing help in the performance of my various duties.



Bob Martin.  
President.

24th March 1998.

ACTIVITIES Co-Ordinator Barry Ryan

(April 1997 - March 1998)

1st April	Cooronbong Visit (36)
4th May	"42nd Street"
7th May	Canterbury Races and Seaforth Probus Cup
2nd June	Ryde Tafe Food School (luncheon)
1st July	Queen Victoria Building (43 braved rain)
23rd July	"Sweet Charity" Capitol Theatre
4th-5th August	Hunter Valley Yulefest (31)
4th September	Government House
23rd September	Club Lunch & Ladies Day at Wakehurst Golf Club
7th October	Wine River Cruise - Windsor (42)
13th October	East Sydney Food School (luncheon)
10th-14th Nov	Nowra Getaway (incl. golf)
23rd November	"Me and My Girl" Willoughby Musical Society
8th December	Xmas Party at Wakehurst Golf Club
17th December	"Les Miserables" Theatre Royal
3rd February	Historic Picton Guided Tour
5th-15th March	N.Z. South Island Tour
22nd March	The Plumbers Opera
27th March	Anniversary Tour of the Capitol Theatre

GUEST SPEAKERS Co-Ordinator Geoff Cotton

(April 1997 - March 1998)

22nd April	George Roberts "The History of Qantas" Getting to Know - Peter Wakefield
27th May	Verne Toose (Neutral Bay Probus) "Building the Burma Railway"
24th June	Eric Vigar "The Sinking and Finding of the Titanic"
22nd July	Col C.H.A. East, M.B.E., R.L. "Political and Military Situation in Indonesia"
26th August	Graham Lightfoot "Confined in Bagdad during The Iranian War" Getting to Know - Merv Eyles
23rd September	Mrs Sierum Baldvins Dottir (Consul Gen. for Iceland) "Iceland"
28th October	John Allerton "The Greatest Sea Battle of all Time"
25th November	Our own Don Elliot "Out of Africa"
27th January 1998	Leon Becker "Golden Sea Battle of all Time"
24th February	Reg Austin O.A.M. (S.O.C.O.G.) "Preparing for the Sydney 2000 Olympics"
24th March (A.G.M.)	Getting to Know - Bruce Scott and his association with Theatre and the golfing world. Video of Nowra getaway by Doug Cameron

### LUNCHEON CLUB (Michael Slatter)

18th April 1997	Thai Khaen Khoon, Harbord
15th August	Collaroy Services Beach Club
16th January 1998	Kanaby's, Seaforth
27th February	Sofia's Classical Italian, Manly

(Two food school luncheons and a special club luncheon - see "activities" - shortened the Luncheon Club Program)

### WALKING CLUB (Lister Nott)

20th May 1997	Lane Cove National Park Bush Walk
15th July	Great North Walk - Upper Lane Cove River
16th September	Red Hill
18th November	Middle Cove

The following is an extract from the minutes of meeting of members held at Wakehurst Golf Club on 25th November, 1997:

"Bush walks - in view of shrinkage in the number of starters for bush walks, Lister Nott recommended that the activity be discontinued for the time being. This was accepted"

### BRIDGE CLUB (David Millard)

A continuation of the meetings on the first Wednesday night of each month at Manly Golf Club saw up to six tables in use and no shortage of talent, both potential and established.

Regular participants included Moira and Reg Whiteley, (their home was the first venue) Dot and Bob Edwards, Jo and Don Elliot, Shirley and Alec Wickenden, Peg Mitchell and Shirley Triglone, Joan and Tony Sargent, Jean and John Chester, Darrell and Phyl Garnham, Helen (and later) Ross Christensen, Judy Lee, Meg and Ian Stevenson, Judy (and later) Ross Pogson.

All had their moments and enjoyed receiving David Millard's prizes he "tastefully" purchased with the one dollar per head cover charge.

Meetings were held 4th June 1997, 2nd July, 6th August, 3rd September, 1 October, 5th November, 4th February 1998 and 4th March. All at Manly Golf Club.

### GOLF (Convenor Tony Sargent)

In addition to the Golfing Activities during the Nowra getaway in November, the Seaforth Probus Golf Shield continued beforehand as a periodical contest between members of Manly and Cromer Golf Clubs. After a resounding win by Manly members at Cromer Golf Club on 15th April (arguably because of the weight of numbers playing for Manly) it was decided to make the event an individual stableford for all golfing members of our Probus Club.

The inaugural event was held in glorious weather at Manly Golf Club on 28th August.

The original small shield was incorporated into a new and larger one by George Mitchell. He couldn't win it, so he donated it. The first name to go on it was that of long-time member of Manly Golf Club, Ross Pogson, who had an impressive 39 stableford points.

Next up was Michael Slatter who won the shield with 38 points during the Nowra getaway, at Nowra Golf Club.

**YEAR 8**  
**(April 1998 - March 1999)**

President	Don Elliot
Immediate Past President	Bob Martin
Vice President	Ross Christensen
Secretary	Geoff Dobbie
Treasurer	Tom Stee
Activities Co-Ordinator	Barry Ryan
Guest Speakers Co-Ordinator	Geoff Cotton
Editor	Reg Whiteley
Auditor	Michael Lee

**Appointees**

Ian Venn-Brown	Assistant to	Secretary
Ron Jones	"	Treasurer
Ric Clapp & Barry Goddard	"	Activities Co-Ordinator
Peter Wakefield	"	Guest Speakers Co-Ord
PP Allister Paech	"	Editor

Bridge	David Millard	Tony Sargent
Bowls	Ken Driver	
Catering	Bob Edwards	John Chester
Golf	Tony Sargent	Ian O'Brien
Historian	PP George Mitchell	PP David Innes
Luncheon Club	Mike Slatter	Kevin Carr
Photographer	IPP Bob Martin	
Fellowship	PP Richard Whipp*	PP Allister Paech
Registrar	Ian Venn-Brown	Peter Oliver
Welfare	Ross Pogson	Geoff Shattles

\* to co-ordinate the latter three activities

Our very energetic Don Elliot has been there, done (or going to do) that. His travels have been many and varied. They really took off again when, a couple of years ago, he tied the knot with his long time friend, Jo Dunwoodie. A great pair. Both golfers, of course. A little surprising really, that Don was able to find the time to carry on the good work he did as VP assisting Bob Martin. No trouble to Don. At his first Committee Meeting on 14 April 1998 in "Dobbie's Den" (where else?), President Don was happy, not only to be with last year's familiar faces, but pleased indeed to welcome for the first time the very popular foundation member and 100% attendance man, VP Ross Christensen.

Treasurer Tom Stee announced Club funds of \$1,431.08 at 31.3.98 (\$1,108.68 at 31.3.97), and another enjoyable year for we Probians was assured.

Contract Bridge for 20 players on April Fool's Day wasn't a bad start though perhaps a little untimely.

Our ladies continued to be an important part of Club activities with good attendances at outings, mini-holidays, luncheons, bridge and even golf. However, the need for definition of their attendances at monthly meetings was voiced in Committee (12.5.98) with the following agreement:  
"Ladies be asked to attend only two ordinary meetings annually including Xmas meeting, and they not be invited to future annual general meetings."  
An agreement proved not to be inflexible.

The birthday songs continued happily, and new fellowship chairman PP Richard Whipp led the first song for the year with a Norfolk Island pine needle as baton - which isn't so bad when Ross Christensen (elevated to VP) started the previous year with a drinking straw!

Active membership continued at 60 with 3 T.I.M.s with the inclusion of Noel Harrs of Balgowlah on the waiting list it increased to 18. By August '98 it had grown to 22. The list was kept open, but applicants advised they might have to wait 2 years plus, to join the Club. With that, and the following observations by President Don who did quite a bit of research during his year in the chair, it was decided by the Committee of Management to increase membership to 65 (we were founded with 50):

1. Attendances at meetings 80 - 85%
2. Decline in numbers for participation in activities
3. The ageing factor of our members
4. Average 25% of members unable to attend activities other than monthly meetings
5. There are regularly temporarily incapacitated members (T.I.M.s)

Although there were 3 resignations from July '98 (Mick Alcock - a T.I.M., Ron Clayton and Pat Lees) and 7 inductions, there were no less than 9 names to

add to the waiting list with the result that in March 1999, 2 T.I.M.'s and 20 applicants were added to the 65 active members. The outstanding success and popularity of our Club had created a problem, and the Committee at its 9 March meeting unanimously adopted the recommendations of the sub-committee formed to deal with it as follows:

1. The waiting list be closed until further notice
2. The sub-committee, with the help of the individual proposers and seconders fully revise applications on the waiting list with consideration to;
  - (a) membership guidelines
  - (b) the long waiting time which could well be 7 to 8 years for the last applicant listed

Year 9 will lead us further into solving this little problem to the satisfaction of all concerned.

And whilst on membership, here are some interesting figures from President Don about former occupations of our members:

- (a) 10 professional, 33 business and others
- (b) the most common - Accountants 4, Architects 3, Food Industry 3, Import/Export 3

The President's annual reports included at the end of each year's history give a fair precis of events, and the following extracts from monthly Bulletins this year might add to the flavour of our Activities:

Involvement: More than half our members have at least one job to do for the good of Seaforth Probus Club.

The Young at Heart: Average age is 73 years 6 months, and there are 5 over 80, with two 60 and under (courtesy Don Elliot).

Travellers: In addition to the usual monthly outings, at least 8 members and their wives (including the evergreen Dobbies) indulged in extra activities taking them to the UK, around Australia, and on to the QE2 - all believing you do what you can, while you can.

A Sizzler: The beautiful Clontarf Reserve was the venue again for our annual "Sausage Sizzle" on 2 Feb '99. Much talent around the barbie to satisfy 77 Probian, wives and friends. One of our highlights.

Rivalry: PP Alec Wickenden defeated fellow member Gordon James in a play-off for the monthly medal in March at Manly Golf Club. Still friends.

A very sad loss: On 19 March '99, not long before the AGM, Foundation Member and PP David Innes passed away following injuries received in a car accident. The man responsible for our 'T.I.M.'s", David was ex-RAAF 27 Squadron Burma, a noted war author, and co-writer of the History of Cromer Golf Club. Only in January last, David was our Guest Speaker. His subject - "The Great Northern Road".

President Don did not escape the sadness and the misfortunes among our members throughout the year but they were softened by all the good things that happened; the wonderful activities and fellowship in which Don with his tireless enthusiasm played a major part.



**Wakefields doing it in style - Pioneer Settlement, Swan Hill.**

**Murray River Tour 18 - 25 March 1999**

Best described as eight very full and enjoyable days covering 337kms of bus travel, this tour traversed the fertile Murray region. Our daily tours took us to Bright, Beechworth, Mt Beauty and Bendigo where we visited the brilliant Chinese museum, through Ned Kelly country to Jerilderie, on to Tocumwal where a dedicated local historian delivered a brilliant nostalgic, memorable and educative talk on the History of the Wartime Airfield since it was built by the U.S. early in 1942 to defend the Brisbane Line. Visits were made to Echuca, Lake Bog, Swan Hill and several other places of scenic and historical interest. Visits to a world class private collection of oil lamps, and a unique clock museum which among its exhibits has an 18th Century x-rated French clock. Just ask any of the tour why it is X-rated!! A very knowledgeable Coach Captain-cum-Tour Guide went out of his way to make this tour a great success. Perhaps the journey to and from Barooga was a mite too long, but everyone came home, though a little tired, very happy after such an enjoyable tour.

Reg Whiteley

The golfers in the party enjoyed 2 games on the excellent Barooga courses. On the West course Bob Martin and Trevor Wallin took 4-ball honours with 39 points, and Ian Venn-Brown individual with 27 points. Honourable mention must go to Jo Elliot, being the only lady player to brave the wild wind and the tough West course. On the old course the two Jeans, Martin and Chester, won with 37 points and Don Elliot individual with 33 points. NTP went to Ian Venn-Brown and Don Elliot the long drive.

Trevor Wallin

THE SEAFORTH PROBUS CLUB INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1998/99

It is difficult to believe that the year has gone so quickly. Members, I feel, have been well served by the Club with the variety of activities provided for them.

I was very hesitant to accept the responsibility of President particularly having regard to the calibre of our Past Presidents and am very grateful for the encouragement and support afforded to me at all times.

FELLOWSHIP The main role of a Probus Club is fellowship. A knowledge of a member's outside activities, travel, experiences, successes, humorous incidents and so on help us to find common interests. In so doing it reinforces the high level of fellowship we enjoy.

Thank you Richard Whipp for your amusing and informative reports and your contributions to our Newsletter as Fellowship correspondent. Thank you Allister Paech for deputising as and when needed.

The conduct of the Birthday Song by different members led to an imaginative selection of batons and we thank the members involved.

MEMBERSHIP It was pleasing that in the last year we lost only 2 members.. Ron Clayton – health- and Pat Lees – moved north and 1 TIM – Mick Alcock – physical inability.

Because of the number of members unable to participate in activities due to circumstances beyond their control, membership was increased to 65. The new members admitted are Ken Carver, Barry Goddard, Trevor Palmer, John Hunt, Arthur Levy, RonFord and Jim Milner. We wish them a long and happy association with the Club.

Membership presently stands at 65 with 2 TIM's and a waiting list of 20. The person now on top of the waiting list has been waiting since 12 December, 96!

ATTENDANCE Attendance has continued at an average of 83% which is most commendable.

Our ladies, as always, were most supportive and we thank them for their continuing interest.

Our meeting venue is ideal and we are grateful to Wakehurst Golf Club for accommodating us.

We still have 23 Charter members with us and 12 members have had 100% attendance:

John Chester, Rick Clapp, Bob Edwards, Don Elliot, Ron Jones, Russ Jones, David Millard, John Panylyk, Dick Sansom, Tony Sargent, Geoff Shattles and Ian Venn Brown. Great effort.

Thank you Ross Christensen for these statistics.

One tends to take for granted tasks that are carried out quietly and efficiently. Therefore it would be remiss if we did not express our appreciation to, firstly, Ian Ven Brown, our Registrar, his assistant, Peter Oliver and back-up Geoff Shattles. Always there and always on time.

WELFARE I am pleased to report that Ross Pogson has had an easy year. Thank you Ross for keeping in touch with those members who did have some problems.

ACTIVITIES Congratulations Barry Ryan and your very able assistant, Lois, on a job very well done. Our gratitude too to your money collectors Rick Clapp, Bob and Barry Goddard.

To achieve such numbers as:

New Zealand 45, The Historic Picton Tour 46, Homebush Olympic site 48 and Wollongong Botanic Gardens 43, indicates how well you are catering for our members likes and how proficient Barry is in his role.

The Luncheon Club organised by Michael Slatter, with the active support of Kevin Carr, has proved very popular, with 6 luncheons during the year with numbers exceeding 30. Thank you Michael and Kevin.

Our annual Get-Away, this year to Canberra, was not as well patronised as usual but was still a great success thanks to Tony Sargent with the assistance of Trevor Wallin. Thank you also to Tony and Trevor for organising our Golf competitions at Manly and Cromer.

David Millard has done a great job with the Bridge Club, not only organising and supervising but also teaching. Thank you David and Tony as standby.

Thank you to Bob Edwards and John Chester for so well looking after our morning teas and organising such a good lunch for our Christmas Luncheon, a great success with 110 attending.

We should soon see the results of the efforts of I.P.P. Bob Martin in continuing and revising our photographic records. Thank Bob.

SPEAKERS The high level of attendance makes it worth reflecting on the speakers Geoff Cotton has so ably arranged for us through the year:

Reg Austin, Preparing for a Successful Sydney 2000 Olympic Games;

Dr Brendon Nelson, The Wick Debate and Health Issues;

Des Barrett, The Power House Museum;

David Behrens, The Red Cross Anti-Land Mine Campaign;

David Cummings, Those Days when its Raining in Your Head;

Arthur Buchan, Rugby Yesterday and Today;

Cathy Jones, City to Mascot Tunnel Project;

Prof. Ron Cox, Water Purity Control and Ocean Outfalls.

We are also fortunate in having members who can present informative and interesting talks. Our Gratitude to Bruce Scott, "Involvement with the Theatre and Golf Industry";

Peter Wakefield "Mining Sites Jetabout"; and David Innes "The Great North Road".

We also appreciated Trevor Wallin, Trevor Palmer and Barry Goddard in helping to get to know them better.

NEWSLETTER We have come to rely heavily on our Newsletter to keep us fully informed and we thank Reg Whiteley and his Sub-Editor, Peter Oliver, for an indispensable duty so well and punctually accomplished.

FINANCE Tom Stee has done a fine job as Treasurer and with the assistance of Auditor, Mike Lee, has kept a comprehensive set of accounts showing specific results for each of our activities.

It was not your committee's wish to accrue funds beyond a reasonable level. In assessing costs per head for bus tours, etc, it is necessary to protect our position by allowing for less than a full compliment. Participation in activities last year was so good that we ended up with a surplus of \$714.92. Your incoming committee will keep a close eye on his situation.

ADMINISTRATION Thank you to the members of your management committee who have all been diligent and conscientious in accepting their responsibilities.

A special thanks to Geoff Dobbie who, despite the handicap of cataracts, has continued to do all things necessary

In the paper work and advising on past decisions and constitutional matters. Thank you also, Geoff, for again accommodating the committee meetings, and to Margaret for spoiling us with morning teas.

Thank you also to Ian Venn Brown who so ably steps in in Geoff's absence.

GENERAL The Seaforth Singers under the guidance of Val Sansom and Bruce Scott contributed a great deal to the success of our Christmas Party along with popular soloist Richard Whipp. Thank you all. John Panylyk managed a dual role as singer and Santa. Well done John.

Perusal of this report reveals how many of our members need to be involved in running our Club and the continuing need for members to contribute. I have endeavored to cover all credits to members who have contributed but if I have missed anybody please accept our thanks and my apologies.

Those of us in management roles would like to express our gratitude to our wives for their tolerance, support and understanding.

I hope Ross will do a great job in the coming year and I am sure he will receive the full support necessary to ensure an enjoyable and rewarding year.

Don Elliot,

President

30<sup>th</sup> March, 1999

ACTIVITIES Co-Ordinator Barry Ryan  
(April 1998 - March 1999)

6 April	Nepean Belle & Environs
7 April	Golf Day at Cromer Golf Club
3 May	Willoughby Musical Society - Grand Night of Singing (32)
5 May	Olympic Site & Bicentennial Park Wetlands Tour (40)
3 June	The Boy from Oz
16 June	District Court (Old Mark Foys Building)
3 - 5 August	Orange Yulefest Tour (23)
27 August	Golf Day at Manly Golf Club
1 September	Sydney for Seniors (Darling Harbour Visit)
8 October	Nan Tien Temple - Wollongong
10 November	Australian Scenic Tours Shield (Pennant Hills Golf Club)
13 November	Heritage Walk - Hunters Hill
16 - 20 November	Canberra Getaway (including Golf)
22 November	West Side Story
7 December	Christmas Party at Wakehurst Golf Club
5 January 1999	Madame Toussard's Tour (46) (with food and gambling at Star City)
2 February	Club Sausage Sizzle at Clontarf Reserve (77)
18 - 25 March	Murray River Two State Tour (incl. golf)
31 March	Chicago - The Musical

GUEST SPEAKERS Co-Ordinator Geoff Cotton  
(April 1998 - March 1999)

28 April	Dr Brendan Nelson "Issues of Interest to Older Australians"
26 May	Des Barrett "The Powerhouse Museum"
23 June	Club Member Peter Wakefield "Mining Sites Jetabout"
28 July	David Behrens "Red Cross & Anti-Land Mine Campaign"
25 Aug	Getting to Know - Trevor Wallin David Cummings "Dealing with Those Days When it is Raining in your Head"
22 Sept	Arthur Buchan "Rugby Yesterday and Today"
27 Oct	Cathy Jones "City to Mascot Tunnel Project"
24 Nov	Professor Ron Cox "Control of Water Purity and Ocean Outfalls"
7 Dec	Xmas Party Seaforth Singers and Santa (no Guest Speaker)
19 Jan 1999	Foundation Member & PP David Innes "The Great Northern Road"
23 Feb	Getting to Know - Barry Goddard Mrs Cherry Cordner "A Mavis Singing"
30 March	John Pace "Stress Control"

LUNCHEON CLUB (Michael Slatter)

1 May 1998	The Last Train to Bombay - Manly (22)
26 June	Two-Can, Manly
28 August	Fenix, Manly
30 October	El Alambhra, Manly (37)
26 February 1999	Ying Wah, Balgowlah

### BRIDGE CLUB (David Millard)

Meetings 1st Wednesday each Month at Manly Golf Club 7.30pm

1 April 1998	N/S	Peggy Mitchell & Nicholas Guoth
	E/W	Shirley & Alec Wickenden
6 May		70 Match Points - Joan & Tony Sargent
		69 Match Points - Jean & John Chester
3 June	N/S	Joan & Tony Sargent
	E/W	Jo & Don Elliot
1 July		Dot & Bob Edwards
5 August		Helen Christensen & Judy Lee
2 September		Joan & Tony Sargent
7 October		Joan & Tony Sargent
4 November		Joan & Tony Sargent
4 December		
3 February 1999	N/S	Jo & Don Elliot/Joan & Tony Sargent
	E/W	Ross Christensen
3 March	N/S	Jo & Don Elliot
	E/W	Meg & Ian Stevenson

### GOLF (Convenor Tony Sargent)

7 April	Cromer Golf Club	
	Shield	Bob Goddard
	4 Ball	Bob Goddard/Ian Venn-Brown
	NTP	Alec Wickenden
	Long Drive	Bob Martin
27 August	Manly Golf Club	
	Shield	Richard Whipp (38)
	4 Ball	Tom Stee/Jim Milner (44)
	NTP	Don Elliot (18th)/Tony Sargent (3rd)
10 Nov	Pennant Hills Golf Day (Australian Scenic Tours Shield)	
	Won by Killara Probus Club	
15-20 Nov	Canberra Getaway	
	Shield	Ian Venn-Brown
	Hole in One	President Don Elliot

**YEAR 9**  
**(April 1999 - March 2000)**

President	Ross Christensen
Immediate Past President	Don Elliot
Vice President	Tony Sargent
Secretary	Geoff Dobbie
Treasurer	Tom Stee
*Activities Co-Ordinator	Barry Ryan
Guest Speakers Co-Ordinator	Ken Carver
Newsletter Editor	Ross Christensen
Auditor	Michael Lee

**Appointees**

Ian Venn-Brown	Assistant to	Secretary
Ron Jones	"	Treasurer
Ric Clapp, Bob & Barry Goddard	"	*Activities Co-Ordinator
Bruce Fisk & Peter Wakefield	"	Guest Speakers Co-Ord
PP Bob Martin & PP Allister Paech	"	Newsletter Editor

(\* changed to "Tour Co-Ordinator" 9.11.99)

**Other Appointments**

Bowls	Ken Driver
Bridge	David Millard
Catering	Bob Edwards & John Chester
Golf	Trevor Wallin
Historian	PP George Mitchell
Luncheon Club	Mike Slatter & Kevin Carr
Photographer	PP Bob Martin
Fellowship	PP Bob Martin & PP Allister Paech
Registrar	Ian Venn-Brown & Reg Whiteley
Welfare	Ross Pogson

With the Club going along so well, and the younger as well as the older members not getting any younger, one could understand there being no great rush to occupy the Chair. Ross Christensen sensed the position when stepping in as VP much to his credit as an older Foundation Member (the oldest to date to become President) and using his own words, he was more than happy to "fill in". That he did, admirably, bringing himself right into our midst. He "filled" in also as Editor, and at his first General Meeting of members on 27th April 1999 he "filled in" as Guest Speaker. And it transpires that he did not lack experience in any of his undertakings to "fill in".

Another Foundation Member, Tony Sargent, had done his share of duties and planned to take a lesser role; but he also "filled in" (provisionally) as Vice President.

With our 10th Anniversary coming up one also might wonder who our President will be for that milestone year.

There would of course be nothing to wonder about with the roles of Secretary, Tour Co-Ordinator, Treasurer and Auditor.

Life was meant to be easy, after all.

Clubs within our Club have continued happily, and although (not due to lack of spirit) Lister Nott phased out the Walking Club, and Ken Driver is still finding members are "too young for bowls", the Luncheon and Bridge Clubs and Golfing activities remain popular and well attended.

From the list of outings and mini-holidays contained herein it is obvious that Barry Ryan has graduated in Tourism, borne out by the following agreement at the Committee Meeting on 9th November 1999;

"It was agreed that Barry Ryan's title be changed immediately from "Activities Co-Ordinator", to "Tour Co-Ordinator"

One of the best of Barry's tours was that to Hong Kong, Zhanjiang, China and Halong Bay, Vietnam. A separate report about this trip was later written by Valerie Sansom.

President Ross in his Annual Report summarised the position regarding Membership, noting that the waiting list, still closed, remained at 16; this after two had already withdrawn. One living at Avoca Beach was nominated by PP Richard Whipp who was prompted to suggest applicants live no more

than 30kms from the meeting place. The Committee agreed to consider this along with an overall review of the club's governing document.

Prior to this, the Committee decided in fairness to write to those at the end of the list (Messrs Staples, Menzies, Higgins, Garden and Elvy) advising that entrance could be between 2003 and 2005. All were local and all decided to wait, which, apart from their confidence in living to a ripe old age, says something for the popularity of Seaforth Probus Club. Upon reading Year 10 of this History readers will learn how those five were rewarded.

Meantime, there were three inductions during the year made possible by foundation member John Glerum's resignation for health reasons, removals from the waiting list, and "T.I.M." adjustments. IPP Don Elliot proposed amendments to the Temporarily Inactive Member classification which were adopted by the Committee 7.3.2000. An interesting, original and useful classification introduced by PP David Innes, the conditions are worth recording here:

T.I.M. (Temporarily Inactive Member)

"An existing financial member who because of any medical or Justifiable circumstance, will be unable to regularly attend monthly meetings, will at the Committee discretion be entitled to transfer to the membership category of "T.I.M."

Subject to annual review of the individual circumstances at the time of setting the forthcoming year's membership fees, such membership shall continue until changes in circumstances no longer justify such membership.

A T.I.M. member will need to be a fully financial member but will not be included in membership numbers in calculating the prescribed membership limits.

When a T.I.M. member's circumstances allow him to resume full membership activities he will be reinstated immediately.

Should membership numbers be increased beyond the established limit because of re-admission of a T.I.M. member, new members will not be admitted until a vacancy within the limit occurs."

At the Committee meeting 9.11.99 a sub-committee consisting of President Ross Christensen, IPP Don Elliot and PP Richard Whipp was appointed for the purpose of reviewing and up-dating the Club's constitution and by-laws.

This was done, and at the General Meeting of members 22.2.2000 the proposed amendments were adopted by resolution of 100% of the 54 members present, representing 84% of total active membership.

Enough of that. Guess who once again appeared on the Queen's Birthday Honour List? Our esteemed ever-smiling and friendly Bruce Fisk. Barry Goddard would have had fun producing Bruce's birthday card for June. Barry's cards, expertly produced, were a keepsake with a lot of fun and interest for both recipients and others.

Subs were now \$20.00, an increase of only \$10.00 over nine years. Monthly morning teas at General Meetings would go from \$2.00 to \$2.50, raising, not an eyebrow. Furthermore, Treasurer Tom Stee reported Club funds of over \$2,000.00 at February 1999, more than double at about the same time in 1995.

Goodness only knows to what extent Tour Co-ordinator Barry Ryan features favourably in those figures.

Our monthly newsletter is the foundation upon which the history of this club is written. President Ross has produced and typed it regularly, factually, and with interest and a little humour thrown in - not always, understandably, in four pages as once required by the Committee (Meeting 13.7.99) for budgeting purposes. Furthermore, much would have been lost without PP Bob Martin's "Fellowship Corner", always worth a read.

With the year closing in it was back to the question of who will step up and take the Chair. VP Tony Sargent made it clear at the beginning of the year he would look after membership but otherwise would be unavailable. A little unexpectedly, but fittingly, another "oldie" who joined the Club in Year One, a quiet achiever with past experience on Committee, decided he could find the time, and his time had come - coincidentally, to help celebrate our 10th Anniversary year.

Outgoing President Ross, very popular with our Members, had the satisfaction of a very good year as well as knowing that a new President had been found, as well as an up and coming VP to help secure our future.



(Pictured from left)  
Ian Venn-Brown, Richard & Greta Whipp, Helen & Ross Christensen

### The Great North Road

A wonderful day for 41 Seaforth Probians, ladies and friends. Perfect weather, an extremely interesting journey into history of the early days of settlement along the northern shore of the Hawkesbury River, with a very knowledgeable guide telling us the story of the building of the Great North Road way back in the early years of the last century. Followed by an excellent lunch at the "Fickle Wombat" in the village of St. Albans."

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT for the year 1999/2000

A very happy and active year has passed by so quickly - now I find that in writing this report and summarising the year's activities memories come flooding back of all the excellent outings I and our members have enjoyed. When I read the list and the numbers who have participated on those occasions I feel that our Probus club has been a great way for people to make new friends and socialise in our retirement years. I hope it remains the same way for many years ahead. Highlights were the longer trips, to the Murray, to Alaska, the Melbourne Cup and the finale for the year the adventure to Hongkong and the south China seas. The many day trips to such places as the Olympic stadium, the Fox studios, the Georges River, the Great North Road just to name a few, and not forgetting visits to theatres, the Willoughby Society plays, and the luncheon club soirees. Golf days and Bridge nights were also very popular. Highlights of the year which I and the large number of members who attended enjoyed were the Mid-year and Christmas luncheons, and our annual picnic at Clontarf. The list seems never ending. One of the reasons I feel is that our Fellowship Co-ordinator Bob Martin with his newsletter Fellowship corner and Roving reporter comments has greatly enhanced the acceptance by members of the spirit of just what Probus is all about. A thank you to Bob for his work of encouragement in this area. While on this theme I add my thanks to Barry Goddard for his skill in producing those great birthday cards which all birthday boys eagerly look forward to, wondering just what Barry will get up to with his caricatures.

**ACTIVITIES.** Surely Barry Ryan, ably assisted by Lois, must deserve a gold medal for all the work he has put in over the years since the foundation of our club. Now starting his tenth year as Tour Co-ordinator, Barry has organised all the events which I have listed above. I'm sure Barry, that all our members will join me in saying thank you (and Lois) for such a fine effort on our behalf I have a feeling that you will be lining up some more goodies in the coming year.

**ATTENDANCE** Vice-President Tony Sargent has reported that the number of members attending our monthly meetings is mostly over 80%. With Gordon James returning to TIM category and our newest member Reg Tuxford joining our ranks we have 65 active members. Our waiting list which is still closed stands at 16. Early in the year we were saddened by the loss of charter member David Innes, who, until illness forced his standing down, served as the third President of the club. During the year we were pleased to welcome Phil Thompson and John Woods as members. We still have 21 charter members in the club. 12 members had a perfect attendance record for the year, namely Brian Barnard, John Chester, Ross Christensen, Ken Carver, Barry Goddard, Ron Jones, Arthur Levy, Peter Oliver, John Panylyk, Bob Rowland, Ian Venn-Brown, and Tom Verbeek.

**FINANCE** TREASURER Tom Stee has as usual done an excellent job in keeping our finances in good shape. His fiscal report is written in this newsletter for your information. With our auditor Mike Lee, I thank you both for a fine effort. Tom has recommended in his report to me that a slight increase in our annual subs should be made. This will be raised at the AGM.

**GUEST SPEAKERS.** The focal point of our monthly meetings is the very popular guest speaker segment. Ken Carver has arranged a wide choice of most interesting speakers during the year. He has already lined up speakers as far ahead as July next. Well done Ken.

**ADMINISTRATION.** I don't think there is any need for me to tell what an excellent and efficient secretary we have in Geoff Dobbie. This coming year will see Geoff in his tenth year as secretary, which means of course that he has been secretary since the foundation of our club. I must thank Margaret for her hospitality in providing such beautiful morning tea's when we hold our management meetings in Dobbies Den. One of the reasons why we stay on committee !

**LUNCHEON CLUB** organiser, Mike Slatter, with assistance from Kevin Carr, selected a diverse variety of good restaurants in the district, at which around 30 members and ladies attended each time. David Millard with the Bridge group and Trevor Wallin with the golfers are another two members who do a sterling job in offering members the opportunity of getting together to enjoy their chosen game.

**CATERING.** Both our Mid year and Christmas luncheons were popular functions during the past year, very well attended and ably organised by catering co-ordinator Bob Edwards. We all wish you well Bob and hope to see you fit and well again very soon. My personal thanks for your fine effort in arranging.

NEWSLETTER I must thank members who gave your editor copy for publication in our newsletter, particularly the "Roving Reporter" aka Bob Martin for his contributions to "Fellowship Corner" which from feedback received has been a very popular feature. To get that newsletter to you the member responsible for the necessary legwork in collecting, arranging printing, folding and posting 75 copies is our untiring circulation co-ordinator Peter Oliver. Peter is also always on call when required as standby registrar. Thank your Peter for your valuable assistance in the publication of all the news.

In summary my term as President has passed by very quickly. I have enjoyed the work because the reason I joined Probus was to keep active, healthy and happy in my retirement years and being a member of the Probus Club of Seaforth has played a big part in achieving that objective. Helen has asked me to also thank members and their ladies for the many occasions when she has enjoyed the company and friendship of so many Probians.

I have written to the President of the Wakehurst Golf Club to thank him and all the members of that club, on your behalf, for their generosity in allowing us the use of their clubhouse, gratis, for our meetings.

I complete this report by wishing my successor, Ian Stevenson, a happy year ahead which I am sure will follow with such a good team around to support him.

Ross Christensen March 2000

ACTIVITIES (Co-Ordinator Barry Ryan)  
(April 1999 - March 2000)

4 April 1999	Central Coast Tour
2 May	State Fair
4 May	Opera House - Justice and Police Museum
3 June	Alaska Tour
6 July	Great Northern Road (see photo)
3 August	Georges River Cruise
15 August	"Fame" - The Musical (Star City)
18 August	"Merry Widow" (Star City matinee)
24 August	Mid-year Luncheon (Wakehurst Golf Club)
30 August	David Jones Flower Show
22 September	Olympic Stadium & Telecom Museum
16 October	Opera in the Vineyards (Hunter Valley)
30 Oct -5 Nov	Melbourne Cup Tour
12 November	The Back Lot Tour (Fox Studios)
19 November	David Parsons - Concert
21 November	"Pickwick" - The Musical (Willoughby Musical Society)
6 December	Probus Xmas Luncheon (Wakehurst Golf Club)
29 December	"The Sound of Music" (Star City matinee)
1 February 2000	Annual Picnic (Clontarf)
*8 - 16 March	Hong Kong - Super Star Leo

\* A separate very interesting and comprehensive bound report with accompanying memorabilia was written about this great trip by Valerie Sansom, aided by husband Dick. It is with the club's permanent records and available for viewing by our members upon request to the Secretary

GUEST SPEAKERS (Co-Ordinator; Ken Carver)  
(April 1999 - March 2000)

27 April	President Ross Christensen "Escape from German Occupied France (W.W.II)"
25 May	Getting to Know - New Member Ken Carver George Richards - Editor Column 8 S.M.H.
22 June	Edgar Penzig - Bushrangers
27 July	Getting to Know - New Member John Hunt Brian Chaseling - Westpac Helicopters
24 August	Ann Glissan - "Dial a Gourmet"
28 September	Dick French - "Umpiring Test Cricket"
26 October	Member Reg Whiteley - His Trip to Turkey Don Middleton - "Financial Planning at 66+"
23 November	Getting to Know - New Member Arthur Levy Tim Acton - "Air Travel and Cathay Pacific Airlines"
January 2000	Carl Bliim - "Safety Driving for those 60 and Over"
22 February	John Andrew - "The Sydney Harbour Bridge History"
28 March	James Woolley - "The Battle of Villers Bretonneux in France During W.W.I"

LUNCHEON CLUB (Michael Slatter)

30 April 1999	Mirabelle Boutique Cafe Bonds Nursery, Terry Hills
25 June	Seaside Eatery, Narrabeen
24 August	Mid-Year Club Luncheon with guests at Wakehurst Golf Club
29 October	Charng Thai, North Narrabeen

With the Club Xmas Luncheon on 6 December and the Annual Picnic  
1 February, 2000, Luncheon Club outings were placed on hold until ...

31 March 2000	Eat Well Chinese Restaurant, Manly
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(Attendances generally up to 35 regular enthusiasts)

BRIDGE CLUB (David Millard & Tony Sargent)  
(April 1999 - March 2000)

7 April 1999	N/S John & Jean Chester E/W Darrell & Phyl Garnham
5 May	Helen Christensen & Gwen Palmer
2 June	John & Jean Chester
7 July	Don & Jo Elliot
4 August	N/S Judy Lee & Helen Christensen E/W Tony & Joan Sargent
1 September	N/S John & Jean Chester E/W Ian & Meg Stevenson
6 October	Alec & Shirley Wickenden
3 November	Nicholas Guoth & Valda Kirk (Visitor)
1 December	
2 February 2000	Don & Jo Elliot
1 March	N/S Ian & Meg Stevenson E/W Ross & Judy Pogson

All Bridge nights were held at Manly Golf Club and attendances were usually between 16 and 20 people.

GOLF (Convenor Trevor Wallin)  
(April 1999 - March 2000)

11 May 1999	Cromer Golf Club Shield Ross Pogson (35 points) 4 BBB Ron Jones and Kevin Carr
26 August	Manly Golf Club Shield Ian O'Brien (40 points) 4 BBB Jo Elliot and Gwen Palmer (45 points)
3 March 2000	Balgowlah Golf Club 4 BBB Geoff Cotton and Don Elliot (43 points)

**YEAR 10**  
**(April 2000 - March 2001)**

President	Ian Stevenson
Immediate Past President	Ross Christensen
Vice President	Peter Wakefield
Secretary	Geoff Dobbie
Treasurer	Tom Stee
Tour Co-Ordinator	Barry Ryan
Guest Speakers Co-Ordinator	Ken Carver
Newsletter Editor	IPP Ross Christensen
Auditor	Michael Lee

**Appointees**

Ian Venn-Brown	Assistant to	Secretary
Ron Jones	"	Treasurer
Bob & Barry Goddard	"	Tour Co-Ordinator
Bruce Fisk & Peter Wakefield	"	Guest Speakers Co-Ordinator
Peter Oliver	"	Newsletter Editor

**Other Appointments**

Bowls	Ken Driver (Vale: Nov 2000) & Geoff Dobbie
Bridge	David Millard
Catering	Bob Edwards (Vale: Sept 2000) Mike Slatter & John Chester
Golf	Trevor Wallin
Historian	PP George Mitchell
Luncheon Club	Mike Slatter & Kevin Carr
Photographer	PP Bob Martin
Fellowship	PP Bob Martin & PP Allister Paech
Registrar	Ian Venn-Brown & Reg Whiteley
Welfare	Ross Pogson
Computer	Trevor Wallin

Ian Stevenson is no stranger to responsible activities to keep him busy enough without too much involvement in Probus management. Even so, he had a couple of years on Committee (Years 5 & 6) followed by a stint as Assistant to Secretary Geoff Dobbie. Not surprising then, that he found time again, a little unexpectedly, to move from "retirement" straight to the chair.

Ian was well aware that something remained to be resolved about reducing the waiting list for membership. There were 65 active members, 3 T.I.M.S. and 15 waiting to join. At the Committee meeting 11.7.2000 a relevant sub-committee was formed consisting of VP Peter Wakefield, IPP Ross Christensen and Ken Carver. PP Bob Martin and PP Don Elliot were invited to confer with the sub-committee.

By investigation it turned out that some applicants had either withdrawn or joined another club, and others were content to wait. The latter, consisting of 9 patient people, were rewarded in as much as the Committee at its meeting 12.10.00 decided as follows:

"All persons on the club's waiting list be invited to join the club and that the club no longer maintain a waiting list" was confirmed by the Committee and the Secretary was instructed to take steps to arrange for the relevant inductions to be carried out over the meetings of 28 November 2000 and 23 January 2001.

This done, Year 10 saw our membership numbers increase to 75 (including 2 'T.I.M.S.')

 with none waiting and the waiting list closed. It remains to be seen in future years whether or not a waiting list will be opened again before or after we return to the limit of 65 active members.

I dare say this will depend largely upon how well 75 can be accommodated at meetings and our many other activities. Time will tell.

There should at least be less trouble with seating for our future very popular Xmas luncheons, if we are to follow this year's example.

The past has seen quite a scramble and a few damaged shins on tilted chairs intending to reserve seats with friends to put it upon. This year Peter Wakefield took on the unenviable task of preparing displayed seating plans for each numbered table of eight - and despite the odd teething problem, we not only got seated but had the pleasure of being seating with some delightful people who turned out to be Seaforth Probians and their partners.

Ross Christensen took on the very important role of Editor one more time. The monthly newsletters not only keep our members up to date with current and coming events, but, as before mentioned, form the basis upon which the history of the club is written - and a few throw-away lines also here and there make for light reading.

Peter Oliver assisted one more time and Dick Sansom keeps on producing address labels. He's been doing it ever since we started posting the newsletters (formerly news-sheet) 8 years ago.

Dick lost his dear wife Valerie in October. Val was a great supporter of our club and rarely missed an outing or an opportunity to sing and play the piano (a very talented lady) despite her long battle with health problems about which few would have been aware.

We also lost three members, well known popular contributors Bob Edwards, and Ken Driver, as well as Ted Lucas who had been a 'T.I.M.' for quite some time.

One of the least sought after club appointments is Welfare Officer. Two very caring and assiduous fellows willingly took on the job - Ernie Hickey for two years, followed by Ross Pogson who elected to carry on beyond year ten, after 3 years.

On a lighter note, birthday cards from the happy chappy Barry Goddard continued to give us a chuckle, and the birthday song continues each month with great gusto and companionship, which is what Probus is all about.

Foundation Member Doug Forsyth OAM (for his services to the Willoughby Community), who served nearly two years as Acting President, then President in Years 3 & 4 respectively, left us in 1996 to enjoy his retirement (from the Willoughby Musical Society) at Gwandalan - but not for long. Much to the pleasure of those who knew him, he and his Beverley returned to Sydney in June 2000. We had never really lost touch with Doug, nor he with us, and at the General Meeting 25.7.00 PP Richard Whipp had the pleasure of reintroducing this rather distinguished fellow to our members. Doug was unanimously elected back into the fold. A one-off occurrence with a touch of history too.

With the sudden influx of new members we have yet to hear a few more "Getting to Know You" talks. Like all others we've heard over the years, they will no doubt be interesting revelations of how ones pursuits and directions in life can be basically the same and yet so different from another's.

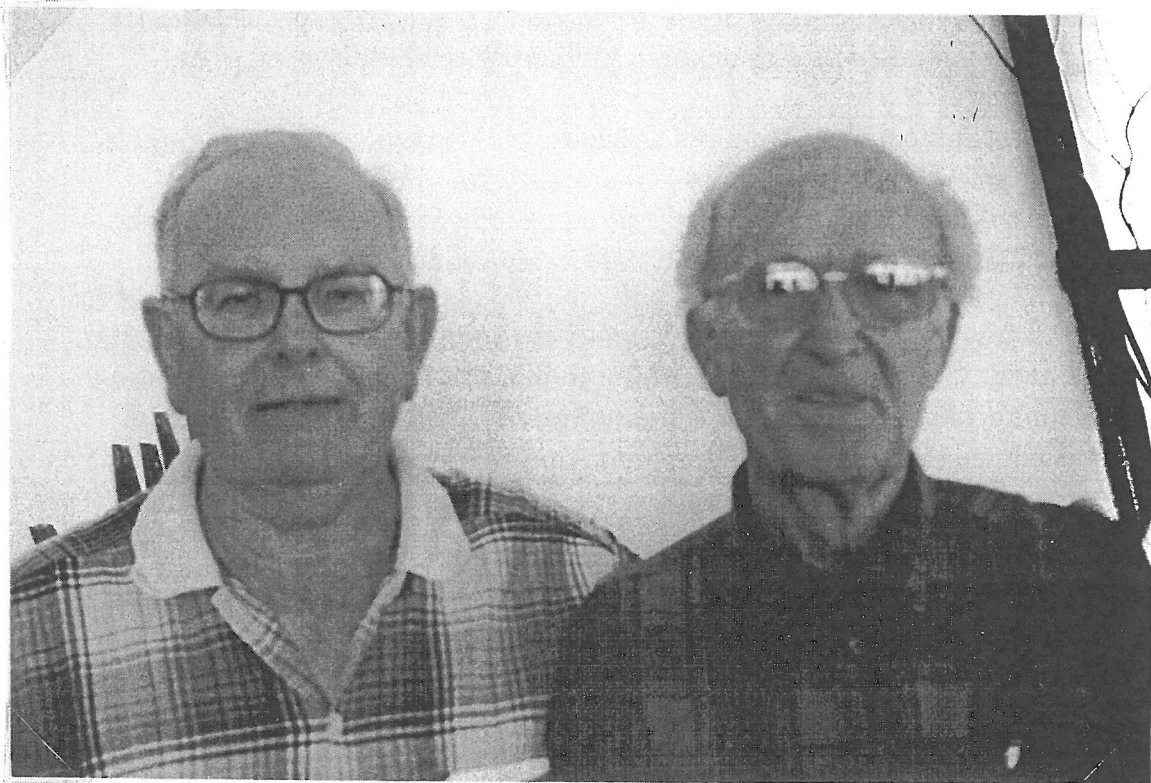
I well recall Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator Ken Carver having our members and ladies captivated at the mid-year luncheon (27.6.00) by having Phil Thompson tell us the story of his "Life and Times". The hard times and the good times of life in the country were made abundantly clear and often hard to believe. Phil has written a book on his 25 years of humorous experiences in the bush.

Not a few of our members have been worthy Guest Speakers and who could forget PP Ross Christensen and his long story of escape when downed in Europe during WW2.

Upon retirement of our worthy official club photographer Bob Rowland after year 7, PP Bob Martin was quick to produce his camera, and has since been clicking here, there and everywhere. Truly.

Apart from his valued hand-outs to many of his subjects recording for them pleasurable moments in Probus life, the photos included in the second part of this history (years 6 - 10) were all selected from Bob's albums.

Whilst our punctilious Secretary Geoff Dobbie continued as custodian of the constitution and by-laws, amongst other things, and we were still recovering from the grand Hong Kong and Super-Star Leo trip, our dedicated Tour Co-Ordinator Barry Ryan had us contemplating an even grander escape to South America. These two fellows, Geoff and Barry, have served us so well, without change since day one.



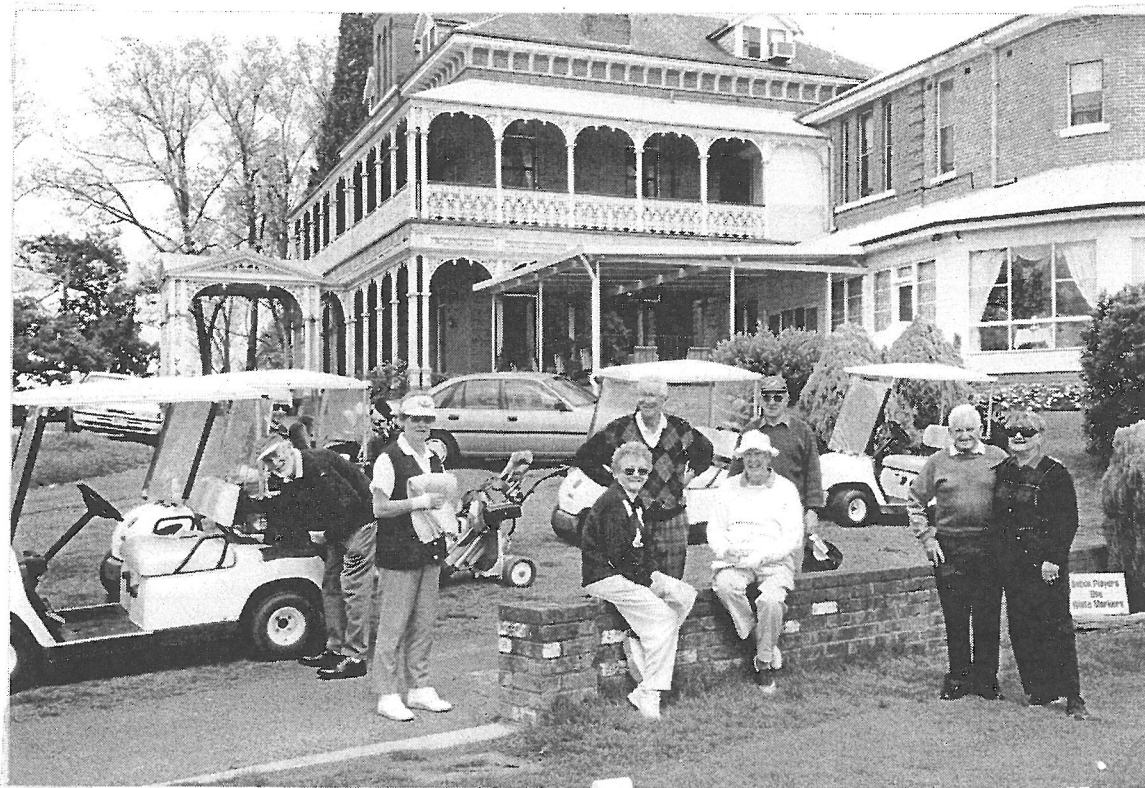
**10 Years of Distinguished Service  
Barry Ryan (left) and Geoff Dobbie**

Geoff and Barry aside, there have of course been plenty of changes since day one. Here are just a few:

- We started with 37 Foundation Members (21 are still with us) and now we have 75.
- Lost along the way were no less than 30 members. Some had found that goldmine in the sky. Others were in poor health or had moved to another location. None left us through dislike.
- We began our meetings at Dalwood Homes in a room with a view but little else of comfort. In August 1992 we moved to Wakehurst Golf Club, graduating from a small meeting room to rent free accommodation in a very comfortable and spacious mixed lounge overlooking the Golf Course.
- Today we have five popular clubs within our club, but no longer a Walking Club or a Book Club. We very nearly started a gardening club when foundation member Pax Lindsay gave us some of his "Flanders Poppy" seedlings. Those who accepted and planted had a fine show.  
The longest serving is our Luncheon Club, and Michael Slatter has been expertly serving us some epicurean delights ever since and including our very first luncheon at The Sands Hotel, Narrabeen in September 1994.
- We began penniless and now have over \$2,000.00 to play with. Tom Stee, who has been keeping the books since the beginning of Year 7, and auditor Michael Lee since Year 6, might have other ideas. The annual subs of course have sky-rocketed from \$10 to \$25, and that's without GST (or with it?).
- There has been little debate about the date to celebrate our 10th Anniversary which is just as well because we were operating for five months before the beginning of Year 1.

Along with his other achievements through the year, Ian Stevenson has the distinction of being our President for Year 10. Geoff Dobbie, upon his retirement from office, has the added distinction of having served us as Secretary faithfully and well for all ten years plus those five months.

Whatever the next 10 years might hold, there is no doubt we are getting away to a good start with Peter Wakefield in the chair and Bruce Fisk alongside as VP. They will have plenty of support from Ian Venn-Brown - Secretary, Tom Stee - Treasurer (again), Barry Ryan - Tour Co-Ordinator (again), Reg Whiteley - Guest Speakers Co-Ordinator and Trevor Wallin - Editor.



**Golfing Greats Waiting to Hit Off on Day One  
The Orange Caper 6-18 October 2000**

The country getaway to Orange was very successful, with 46 members and ladies enjoying two beautiful days of sunshine, with golf, dinners and an excellent tour of Orange district and surrounding towns for those non-golfers. We were very lucky with the weather. Our 2 days were clear, fine days - however the day we left to return home was dreadful! It rained all day. Everyone seemed to enjoy this country break with two very good dining nights at Duntryleague.

The golf results were;

Monday

4BBB	Ross Pogson & Shirley Wickenden	43points
	Jo & Don Elliot	41points
Individual Stableford	Peggy Mitchell	
36points	Jean Chester	
33points		
NTP	Ladies: Shirley Wickenden	
	Men: Trevor Wallin	
Longest drive	Ladies: Shirley Wickenden	
	Men: Alec Wickenden (Family Affair)	

Tuesday

4BBB	Tom & Gerry Setright	43points
	Bob Martin & Meg Stevenson	41points
NTP	Ladies: Nina Millard	Men: David Millard
Longest drive	Ladies: Jo Elliot	Men: Trevor Wallin

I'm sure members would be pleased to know that a dinner in honour of Geoff and his supportive Margaret was organised by PP Don Elliot, at which Past Presidents attended with their wives. Our foundation President Allister Paech preceded his presentation with his usual witty words of wisdom.



**All For One and One for All**

**Standing:** Presidents Bob Martin (Year 7), Ian Stevenson (Year 10),  
Don Elliot (Year 8), Doug Forsyth (Year 4), Alec Wickenden (Year 6),  
Ross Christensen (Year 9) **Seated:** Allister Paech (Foundation President),  
Geoff Dobbie (Guest of Honour - Secretary Years 1-10)  
George Mitchell (Foundation Vice President - President Year 2),  
Unable to attend; Richard Whipp (Year 5)

*David Innes (Part of Year 3) who passed away in March 1999*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT for the YEAR 2000/2001.

Every President must think that his year has passed quickly because so many things happened. I am no exception, and find it remarkable to be writing this just as it seems that I am starting my term of office! We have had our sorrows during the year with three old friends leaving us, but we have had so many good times together which will be summarised below. Of course the great thing about our Probus is the camaraderie between our Members which is so much in evidence at the many kinds of activities we have.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Vice-President Peter Wakefield has noted that attendance at monthly meetings has averaged well over 80%. Congratulations to those who attended every meeting. Peter will announce their names at the meeting. We have lost 3 old Friends during the year, Bob Edwards, Ken Driver and Ted Lucas, They will be missed.

After much consideration, the decision was made to eliminate the Waiting List because potential Members on it have been waiting far too long. Accordingly it was decided to increase our Membership for a time, enabling us to welcome back a distinguished Past President, Doug Forsyth and 9 new Members who were on the list namely Rex Elvy, Ric Garden, Noel Harrs, Dick Higgins, Harry Hooley, Max McVicar, Don Menzies, Bruce Staples and Kevin Zehnder.

This has brought our Membership from 65 to 73 plus 2 Temporarily Inactive Members (TIMS). Your new Committee will monitor this increase to our numbers and advise Members when it is deemed advisable to accept nominations for new Members.

**ACTIVITIES.** Activities to most of us means Barry Ryan who has organised our regular outings (with a little help from Lois!) since Seaforth Probus was started over 10 years ago. Since March 2000 Barry has organised 8 theatre parties, 5 one day tours plus stay away trips to Lake Eyre and Jenolan Caves, and of course the Mega Tours to Hong Kong and now South America. Naturally he has also been very much involved in our golfing trips to Orange and shortly to The Hunter Valley! We owe a lot to Barry, and the good news is that he has indicated that he is prepared to carry on next year.

**GUEST SPEAKERS.** Eleven times a year we have a Guest Speaker arranged for us at our monthly meetings, and what a good job Ken Carver has done. A lot of organisation goes on behind the scenes to make this happen and to ensure that we get a variety of interesting people. Thank you Ken for doing this job for 2 years and for organising speakers for the next few months.

**FINANCE.** Tom Stee has brought in a small surplus, perhaps we should lend him to Peter Costello? His detailed report is printed in this Bulletin and you will note that the small increase in subscriptions at the start of the year was needed but no further increase will be recommended this year. Thank you Tom and also to Michael Lee for auditing the accounts.

**LUNCHEON CLUB.** It can be said that when someone takes pleasure in his work a good job is done, and this certainly applies to Mike Slatter who with the help of Kevin Carr personally tries out, negotiates with and selects a great variety of excellent restaurants for our enjoyment. The numbers who attend demonstrate how well this job is done.

Mike has also looked after our catering at Wakehurst Golf Club after the sad loss of Bob Edwards. Thank you Mike and Kevin for your contribution.

**REGISTRARS.** At every meeting we are greeted by two cheery faces who tick off our names, take our morning tea money and ruthlessly inspect to ensure that we are wearing our name badges. These are Ian Venn-Brown and Peter Oliver. Our thanks go to them for their devotion to duty.

**BRIDGE.** Our monthly bridge evening at Manly Golf Club has a strong band of supporters, of varying abilities, who are grateful to David Millard for organising and working out the winners, which is by no means an easy task. Tony Sargent has ably carried on in David's absence. Thank you David and Tony.

President's report continued -

**FELLOWSHIP, GOLF and COMPUTERS.** Trevor Wallin does so much for the Club that it is hard to find something where he is not involved. He greets us at the meetings, remembers our birthdays, organises our many golf days and has started up the successful Computer Club. Rumour has it that he will be taking on another important job for us next year so we will be looking for people to take over from him for some of his present tasks. If everyone was as active as Trevor we would never stop! Congratulations Trevor.

**NEWSLETTER.** Past President Ross Christensen has been a tremendous help to me as President with his wise advice and has continued his record as a great contributor to the Club by producing the essential Newsletter. He has been assisted in this by Peter Oliver who carries out the production and by Dick Sanson who prints the address labels. Ross has been a tireless worker for the Club since it's foundation and this past year has been yet another reason for all of us knowing what a wonderful fellow he is!

**ADMINISTRATION.** This year will see the retirement of Geoff Dobbie from the post of Secretary and Public Officer. Geoff has held these positions since our inauguration nearly 11 years ago and has guided the Club through many organisational and legal problems which have come up in that time. I can testify that he has been a tower of strength to me as President, and I am sure to my predecessors, and it gives me pleasure to express my thanks to him on behalf of us all for everything he has done for the Club. Members of the Committees over the years will also wish to thank Margaret for those wonderful morning teas she has provided. In addition to all this, Geoff has led our inauguration into bowls, which will be a popular activity for the Club in the future. Geoff we all thank you again for what you have done and trust that you can now settle down to enjoying your time in Probus without worrying about your duties.

I believe that The Probus Club of Seaforth has had an excellent year with an exciting programme of events thanks to the efforts of a wonderful team of people. I am grateful to Members for giving me the opportunity to be your President for 2000/2001 and trust that my successor Peter Wakefield will be as lucky as I have been.

Ian Stevenson, March 2001.

**The Probus Club of Seaforth Inc**

**Audited Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2001**

	2001	2000
<b>Income</b>		
Activities	-	115.80
Christmas Party	93.65	109.00
Subscriptions	2012.50	1410.00
Name Badges	111.30	60.00
Interest Received	32.46	6.14
Other	<u>24.95</u>	<u>20.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>2274.86</u></b>	<b><u>1720.94</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Activities	89.05	-
Newsletter	801.20	697.93
Admin Expenses	70.05	113.85
Guest Speakers	204.00	248.45
Probus News	267.90	201.00
Insurance	68.00	53.60
General Expenses	199.35	188.30
P.O. Box Hire	77.40	72.00
Probus Pins	70.80	22.90
Name Badges	116.50	60.00
Bank Charges	<u>54.20</u>	<u>73.50</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>2018.45</u></b>	<b><u>1731.53</u></b>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	256.41	(10.59)

**Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2001**

	2001	2000
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	3776.67	3150.76
Cash in Hand	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>3876.67</b>	<b>3250.76</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Advance payment by Member for Activities	1605.50	
Less Deposit Seaforth Probus Cup	<u>100.00</u>	<u>1136.00</u>
	<u>2371.17</u>	<u>2114.76</u>
Balance Brought forward	2114.76	
Plus Surplus for the Year	<u>256.41</u>	
	<u>2371.17</u>	

Signed T.R. Stee Treasurer

**Auditors Report**



I have audited the attached accounts comprising a statement of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet of the Probus Club of Seaforth Inc for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2001. In my opinion the accounts present a true and fair view of the state of affairs of The Probus Club of Seaforth Inc and the results for the year ended on that date.

  
Signed Michael Lee Auditor

ACTIVITIES (Tour Co-Ordinator Barry Ryan)  
(April 2000 - March 2001)

13 April	ANZAC Month Spectacular Concert
30 April	"Crazy For You" (Willoughby Musical Society)
19 May	Sydney International Regatta Centre Fernbrook Garden & Gallery, Kurrajong
10 June	Scotland The Brave
4 July	Central Coast Tour
23 July	"Buddy -The Musical"
1 August	Sydney Wine Trail
29 August	Skytour (Sydney Tower)
3-11 October	Lake Eyre (9 day tour)
16-18 October	Orange Caper (including golf)
17 November	Cruise to Ettalong
19 November	"Anything Goes" (Willoughby Musical Society)
8-10 December	Carols at Jenolan Caves
18 December	Xmas luncheon at Wakehurst Golf Club
17 January '01	"Annie"
6 February	Annual Picnic at Clontarf
27 Feb-17 March	South America

GUEST SPEAKERS (Co-Ordinator: Ken Carver)

(May 2000 - March 2001 No April meeting)

- 2 May "Northside Storage Tunnel"  
Richard Merriman
- 23 May "Japanese Attacks on the Australian Mainland and  
Coastal Shipping 1942-1945"  
Dudley Vose
- 27 June "My Life and Times" Phil Thompson (member)
- 25 July "This is Your Life" Reg Tuxford  
(Guest Speaker Leonard Werman had to cancel at  
short notice)
- 22 August "This is Your Life" John Woods  
"Fairmile Ships of the R.A.N. in WW2 1942-45"  
Peter Evens
- 26 September "Up and Down the City Road"  
Leonard Werman
- 24 October "Getting to Know" Ron Ford  
"The Australian Telescope" John Brooks
- 28 November "Sister City Relationships between Manly and  
North Asian Cities"  
Mrs Jean Hay A.M. Mayor of Manly
- 18 December Christmas Luncheon - no guest speaker
- 23 January 2001 "Life in Libya Under Col. Gaddafi"  
David Boyall
- 27 February "The History of Sydney's Chinatown"  
Mr King Fong
- 27 March "The Golden Days of Radio"  
Harry Griffiths

LUNCHEON CLUB (Michael Slatter)

- 26 May Lagoon Restaurant - North Steyne
- 27 June Mid-Year Luncheon at Wakehurst Golf Club
- 28 July Trudy's Restaurant - Seaforth
- 29 September Sophia's Restaurant - Allambie Heights
- 1 December Dumpling Inn - Balgowlah
- 18 December Xmas Luncheon - Wakehurst Golf Club
- 2nd March 2001 Collaroy Services Beach Club

BRIDGE CLUB (David Millard & Assisted by Tony Sargent)

Held at Manly Golf Club

5 April 2000		Shirley & Alec Wickenden	52 points
		Joan & Tony Sargent	47 points
3 May		Joan & Tony Sargent	51 points
		Judy & Ross Pogson	50 points
		Jo & Don Elliot	50 points
7 June		Ross Christensen & David Millard	51 points
		Peggy Mitchell & Gwen Palmer	44 points
5 July	N/S	Judy Lee & Helen Christensen	1220 points
	E/W	Moira & Reg Whiteley	260 points
2 August	E/W	Don & Jo Elliot	640 points
	N/S	Peggy Mitchell & Gwen Palmer	1380 points
6 Sept	N/S	John & Jean Chester	1680 points
	E/W	Judy Lee & Helen Christensen	260 points
4 October	N/S	Jean & John Chester	
	E/W	Phyl & Darrell Garnham	
1 Nov	N/S	Jim Choice & Gwen Palmer	
	E/W	Phyl & Darrell Garnham	
7 Feb 2001	E/W	Judy Lee & Helen Christensen	
	N/S	Peggy Mitchell & Gwen Palmer	
7 March		Joan & Tony Sargent	45points
		Joyce Minett & Shirley Wickenden	38points
		Phyl & Darrell Garnham	38points

### GOLF (Convenor Trevor Wallin)

18 April 2000	Cromer Golf Club		
	Probus Shield	Tony Sargent	(34 points)
	Runner Up	Bob Martin	(32 points)
	4BBB	Bob Martin & Ron Jones	(40 points)
	Ladies	Jo Elliot	(30 points)
14 September	Manly Golf Club		
	Probus Shield	Bob Goddard	(37 points) (Won on a count-back from Shirley Wickenden)
	Runner Up	Alec Wickenden	(36 points)
	NTP	Alec Wickenden	(3rd hole)
16-18 October	"The Orange Caper", Duntryleague (for results see captioned photo of 'Golfers Waiting to Hit Off on First Day')		

Games were also scheduled for 11 August 2000 and 19 January 2001 at the popular Balgowlah Golf Club.

Note: The Probus Northern District Annual Golf Day was also held at Pymble Golf Club on 20 November 2000 and we received the usual invitation to enter a four.

### BOWLS CLUB (Ken Driver)

At our August 2000 general meeting, Ken announced that Seaforth Bowling Club was available for a "roll-up" by those interested. Geoff Cotton said the green at Manly Golf Club also available. Some were interested. It takes time, and the first day was scheduled for 19 October at Seaforth Bowling Club - an instructor and bowls to be provided. 9.00am sharp! With a repeat performance on 23 November we became "drawn" to bowls.

\* Following the passing on, after the very long and eventful life of Ken Driver, Geoff Dobbie (an old hand also at the game and a long time member of Seaforth Bowling Club) took over and kept trying to stimulate interest.

There were about 10 who responded previously and further dates were set for 11 January 2001 and 25 February.

The interesting part about this is bowls has become a younger man's sport today. Our blokes are mostly in their seventies and many still think they are too young to play. Geoff will keep trying, no doubt.

### COMPUTER CLUB (Trevor Wallin)

15 members, ladies and friends, some experienced, some beginners and others who don't own computers, turned up at Wakehurst Golf Club in November to mix it with Trevor Wallin. Meetings run for 2hrs from 10.00am and the theme for the January 2001 meeting was "Do you know how to ...?"

Trevor with the very capable help of Barry Goddard and Dick Sansom, is determined that his youthful enthusiasm will be catching and I shouldn't be surprised if many of us (if not already) will be converts to life on the "net".

## MEMBERSHIP LIST (PAST & PRESENT)

at March 2001

# Foundation Member

^ Member at March 2001

<p># Mick Alcock Owen Alvarez</p> <p># Leon Barlow</p> <p>^ Bryan Barnard</p> <p>^ Len Beecroft</p> <p>^ Doug Cameron</p> <p>^ Barry Carroll</p> <p>^ Kevin Carr</p> <p>^ Ken Carver</p> <p>^ Keith Chambers</p> <p>^ John Chester</p> <p># ^ Ross Christensen (Pres. '99-'00)</p> <p>^ Ric Clapp</p> <p># Ron Clayton</p> <p>^ Ron Colby</p> <p>Bruce Cook</p> <p>^ Geoff Cotton</p> <p># ^ John Daly</p> <p># ^ Bill de Meyrick</p> <p># ^ Geoff Dobbie</p> <p>Ken Driver</p> <p>^ John Eather</p> <p>^ Merv Eyles</p> <p>Bob Edwards</p> <p>^ Don Elliot (Pres. '98-'99)</p> <p>^ Rex Elvy</p> <p># Bob Emanuel</p> <p># ^ Roy Felan</p> <p>^ Bruce Fisk</p> <p>^ Ron Ford</p> <p># ^ Doug Forsyth (Acting President '93-'94 &amp; President '94-'95)</p> <p>Wal Frost</p> <p>^ Ric Garden</p> <p># ^ Darrell Garnham</p> <p># ^ Peter Gibson</p> <p># John Glerum</p> <p>^ Barry Goddard</p> <p>^ Bob Goddard</p> <p>^ Nicholas Guoth</p> <p>^ Bill Graham</p>	<p># Raymond Gray</p> <p>Jim Hall</p> <p>^ Noel Harrs</p> <p>^ Ernie Hickey</p> <p>^ Dick Higgins</p> <p>^ Harry Hooley</p> <p># Jack Hughes</p> <p>^ John Hunt</p> <p># David Innes (President part '93)</p> <p>^ Gordon James (T.I.M.)</p> <p>^ Ron Jones</p> <p>^ Russ Jones</p> <p># ^ Doug Law</p> <p>Pat Lees</p> <p>^ Michael Lee</p> <p>^ Arthur Levy</p> <p># ^ Pax Lindsay</p> <p>Ted Lucas</p> <p>Col Lutwych</p> <p># ^ Bob Martin (Pres. '97-'98)</p> <p># Doug Matheson</p> <p>^ Don Menzies</p> <p>^ David Millard</p> <p>^ Jim Milner</p> <p># ^ George Mitchell (President '92-'93)</p> <p>Gordon Murray</p> <p>^ Don McKinlay</p> <p>^ Max McVicar</p> <p>^ Lister Nott</p> <p># ^ Ian O'Brien</p> <p>^ Peter Oliver</p> <p># ^ Allister Paech (President '90-'92)</p> <p>^ Trevor Palmer</p> <p># ^ John Panylyk</p> <p>^ Ross Pogson</p> <p># Tom Purcell</p> <p># ^ Bob Rowland</p> <p># ^ Barry Ryan</p> <p># ^ Dick Sansom</p>
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MEMBERSHIP LIST (PAST & PRESENT)  
at March 2001

# Foundation Member

^ Member at March 2001

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# ^ Tony Sargent  
^ Bruce Scott  
^ John Scott (T.I.M.)  
# Roy Sedman  
^ Tom Setright  
# Otto Schneider  
^ Geoff Shattles  
^ Michael Slatter  
John Snelling  
# Cyril Solomon  
Bill Spence  
^ Bruce Staples  
# ^ Tom Stee  
^ Ian Stevenson (Pres 2000-'01)  
^ Phil Thompson  
Jim Triglone  
^ Reg Tuxford  
^ Ian Venn-Brown  
# ^ Tom Verbeek  
^ Peter Wakefield (Installed  
as President 27.3.01)  
^ Trevor Wallin  
# Bob West  
^ Richard Whipp (President  
1995 - 1996)  
^ Reg Whiteley  
^ Alec Wickenden (Pres. '96-'97)  
^ John Woods  
# Tom Young  
^ Kevin Zehnder

At March 2001 - 75 Members including 2 T.I.M. and none waiting

## Part Two CONCLUSION

Without my collection of invaluable newsletters, minutes of monthly general and committee meetings, I could not have written this history.

Without the invaluable and thorough proof-reading by Barry Ryan, PP Bob Martin (who also supplied all the photos from his albums) and Trevor Wallin (who was also helpful with publishing), I could not claim reasonable accuracy of this history. Mind you, the responsibility is still mine.

Without the invaluable assistance of my daughter Christine Farkas who willingly carried out the word processing while not engaged with family duties, this history would not have gone to the publishers anyway. Who else could have read my scribble?

Rarely, if ever, can one say "Alone I did it".  
So to all my helpers I extend sincere thanks and appreciation, with a wish that readers will have a little pleasure in browsing through something of our past.

  
PP George Mitchell