

Annual General Meeting 24 Sept

THE Annual General Meeting will take place at the club on Monday 24 September, commencing at 1pm.

All positions - president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and ten committee positions - will be declared vacant.

Nomination forms for office bearers will be available at the front office. Members may nominate themselves or other members.

Completed forms need to be with the secretary by 17 September. They may be left at the front office or mailed to the club.

Members may also submit agenda items. Items need to be written in the form of a motion, and lodged with the secretary no later than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.

Following the election of the Management Committee, the positions of Public Officer and members of the club's sub-committees will be considered by the new committee.

Members are urged to attend.



Dorothy Rafferty (right), who accompanied the Woden Senior Singers on the piano for more than 30 years, with current conductor Joyleen Litherland.

Club stalwarts honoured at concert

THE 90 members and guests who attended this year's mid-winter concert were treated to a wide-ranging selection from gifted musicians (see page 6), and then paid tribute to Dorothy Rafferty and Dennis Glanville.

Club president Anne Murray presented framed certificates to the club stalwarts who, after serving the club for many years, decided a little

while ago to hand over to younger members. In Dorothy's case, to no longer accompany the Woden Senior Singers on the piano, a role she first undertook before the inception of the club, when the choir was based at Woden Churches Centre, and ever since Woden Seniors opened.

Dennis has been secretary, vice-president and assistant treasurer, but is perhaps best-known for conducting computer courses for other members and establishing computer-based club records, whereas previously they had been "paper-based".

The afternoon raised almost \$1200 for the club. More importantly, it provided immense enjoyment, and an opportunity to talk to other members over afternoon tea.

As ever, the event would not have taken place without the work of volunteers, both committere members and club members. A big thank you to these wonderful people.

Thanks, too, to David Temple. David does not regard his job as finished when he leaves the office. His contribution to club activities "outside hours" is proving to be invaluable.



Dennis Glanville and wife Jean. Dennis has been an invaluable member of the club for many years.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Concert, fund-raising, AGM, and a mini-bus

As I write this it is three days since we held a very enjoyable and successful concert.

The hall was filled to capacity with 90 members and friends and people from the Canberra community.

The U3A orchestra, the U3A recorder orchestra, the Canberra Chordsmen and the Woden Senior Singers performed splendidly for us, and then we had a delightful afternoon tea, organised by club secretary Gail Giuliano.

As I mentioned to the audience, the dream of a concert hall, at the south-east corner of our building, will only be realised when substantial funds are acquired. But, I have a dream . . . and dreams do come true.

Generally, and apart from this concert, the Management Committee has been disappointed by the poor outcome from recent fund-raising activities, and our goal of raising \$100,000 this financial year seems remote. However I hope to be in a position to outline a new strategy at the AGM, one which could result in a satisfactory financial resolution.

Club re-development awaiting examination of financial opportunities

STARTING date for Stage 1 of the club's master plan is on hold.

At a special meeting last November members carried a proposal (67 to three against) to seek planning approval for stage 1 of the proposed three-stage development, and it was hoped at the time that this initial stage would be completed by Christmas this year.

Since the November meeting plans have been submitted and approved, and the club has also obtained additional land at the south-east corner of the block, which would be necessary for stage 3. However, the club's Management Committee has put the project on

hold pending reassessment of the club's financial position, and ongoing representations to the ACT Government and private interests for financial support.

Following the approval of the plan by ACTPLA, the Management Committee became aware of potential business interests and the availability of facility grants from the ACT Government, which will not be announced until later this year.

These avenues are being pursued, and it is hoped that possibilities for the club will have become clearer by the time of the Annual General Meeting (24 September).

MINI-BUS FOR OUTINGS

With our support the Woden Community Service has acquired an 11-seater bus, and it will be made available to us the first Monday of each month.

We have in mind the possibility of organising "outings" to places of general interest. We hope that

members will have suggestions for us. Anyway, I invite you to discuss it amongst yourselves, and let us know where you would like to go as a group. Suggestions in writing would be helpful, or email us at admin@wodenseniors.org.au Best wishes to you all

Anne Murray



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Leader of Opposition visits club

WEDNESDAY 13 June was to be just another day at the club for president Anne Murray. Until she received a call mid-morning from a staffer in the office of Leader of the Opposition Kevin Rudd. Kevin would like to visit the club, that morning.

Well, what do you say when a man who may be Australia's next Prime Minister invites himself for a chat? Except, "Certainly. We might even manage a cup of tea for him".

Had there been any intimation that Mr Rudd was considering a visit?

"No", says Anne. "It came from out of the blue".

So it was that Mr Rudd arrived, with an army of news media, to talk to, and listen to, members of the recorder, art and table tennis groups.

There were, naturally, more serious matters to attend to.

Having shed his jacket to team up with Des Davies to defeat Joan Rackham and Dennis Carthey 21-16 at table tennis, Mr Rudd put it on again to announce to the media that Labor would lobby the Government for a Senate inquiry into cost of living pressures facing older Australians.

Melbourne Cup lunch a winner

One of the club's most popular and well-attended functions of the year is the Melbourne Cup lunch - this year Tuesday 6 November.

This year a delicious two-course buffet and a glass of wine will be served for \$20.

Members will be able to have a flutter on the result through the usual well-organised "sweeps", and the race will be shown on television.

Other entertainment is being organised, and will be announced closer to the day.

Members are advised to book early. This is a function that is always a winner.



Leader of the Opposition Kevin Rudd meets members of the club.

"John Howard has told Australians that working families have never been better off," he said.

"When I go around the country and speak to senior Australians they don't often have that view.

"Cost of living pressures from petrol; cost of living pressures from groceries; cost of living pressures from rents - all these things are adding up and making it difficult to hold your life together as a senior Australian.

"We think some focus needs to be brought on this in terms of the aggregate cost impact on senior

Australians, and whether there are things we can do better, particularly say in the area of seniors' concession cards".

Mr Rudd said consideration should be given to making seniors' cards issued by State governments valid in all States, thereby creating Australia-wide uniformity.

Finally, "Would Mr Rudd have a table tennis table at the Lodge, should he make it there?"

No need to do that, said Kevin the consummate politician, when he could drop in at Woden Seniors' and play there.

Well, you only get what you pay for

In the hospital the relatives gathered in the waiting room where their family member lay gravely ill.

Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and sombre. "I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news," he said as he surveyed the worried faces.

"The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure and very risky but it is the only hope. Insurance will cover the procedure, but you will have to pay for the brain yourselves."

The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news. After a great length of time, someone asked, "Well, how much does a brain cost?"

The doctor quickly responded, "\$5,000 for a male brain, and \$200 for a female brain."

The moment turned awkward. Men in the room tried not to smile,

avoiding eye contact with the women, but some actually smirked.

A man, unable to control his curiosity, blurted out the question everyone wanted to ask, "Why is the male brain so much more?"

The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and explained to the entire group, "It's just standard pricing procedure. We have to mark down the price of the female brains because they've actually been used."

Religion, Royalty, Sex and Mystery

A university creative writing class was asked to write a concise essay containing four elements: Religion, Royalty, Sex, Mystery.

The prize-winner wrote: "My God," said the Queen, "I'm pregnant. I wonder who did it?"

South Africa's future threatened by endless violence and crime

By Maureen Hickman

In South Africa, they call it "the chicken run" – white migration to Australia – as a way out of the seemingly endless violence and uncertainty about the future as Thabo Mbeki nears the end of his second, and final, term as the country's president.

Against a background of a healthy economy (five per cent growth), booming minerals exports and growing foreign investment, the political stability the country has enjoyed since Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first black president in 1994 is looking a little shaky.

Why does all this matter? It matters because South Africa has a real chance of not ending up another basket case on the African continent. The example of Zimbabwe is a daily reminder to South Africans of how a healthy economy can be wrecked and its people left to starve or flee by the insane rule of a black leader who got to like the job too much.

The situation is this. Elections in 2009 will see South Africa acquire its third black president since the end of apartheid in the early '90s. The dark shadow on the horizon is Jacob Zuma, who was sacked as vice-president by Mbeki in 2005 after he was charged with corruption. In 2006, Zuma stood trial for the rape of a 31-year-old family friend. Although subsequently acquitted of both charges, no one believed him innocent of either.

Zuma's own popularity as leader is currently running at 52 per cent with a typical supporter being poorly educated, male, black and under 25.

South Africa is a country I have been visiting regularly since 1961, and recently, almost every year. Until January my sister had lived in Johannesburg since she and her husband left Australia in 1949. In recent times, she has had the good fortune to have as a neighbour a Nigerian gangster. His presence was welcome in the immediate (predominantly white) neighbourhood, apart from his loud pool parties, because he

kept petty crime at bay, so police would not stumble on his more serious pursuits. Then he moved, and my sister's home was broken into three times in a short period. Luckily she was out and so escaped the hot iron treatment, a common form of torture to get you to reveal the combination of your safe. Just as well, because she didn't have a safe and they wouldn't have believed her.

Not so lucky was the son of her doctor whose little boy was asleep underneath a doona when a gang broke in. They dragged the father from his bed into another room and gave him the hot iron treatment. He didn't have a safe either, but could not cry out in his agony in case he woke his little boy, and who knows what would have happened then? He spent 12 months in hospital having skin grafts and psychiatric treatment.

A friend from my Kenya days also had a gang break in, despite it being a "gated community" with electric fences. He had no safe either, but they tied him to a chair and were looking for the iron when he said "Look, I'm an old man, there's some brandy there - can I have one?" The gang leader got him the brandy, and when invited to have one himself, stunned my friend with the reply that he and his gang "never drink while we're working". Luckily he escaped unharmed except for needing psychiatric treatment which has left him with little memory of his ordeal. My sister's young vet was shot by a gang in his driveway for his car keys. He died, the gang got the keys, and they didn't know how to drive.

South Africa is a very beautiful country – particularly the Western Cape, where my sister now lives - and is home to a great deal of musical and artistic talent, black and white, and wonderful wildlife. It welcomes 10 million visitors a year. Planes fly to and from Australia every day, filled to the brim with tourists, people on family visits – and rich businessmen. Unless they can bring needed skills, many South Africans wanting to settle in Australia have left it too late.

The boom in house prices, however, while helping some re-locate to Australia, has made it difficult for young people there to acquire their first home. Although the big prices affect predominantly white areas, many buyers of Cape property are foreign - from the UK, Holland, Germany (for holiday houses) – and China. A recent report to the Government from a "panel of experts" recommends either a moratorium on foreign buyers, or a leasehold arrangement.

The bravest people in South Africa today are black policemen, especially in the murder capital of the world, Johannesburg, where they get killed in gang shoot-outs. Their life expectancy rivals that of policemen in Iraq. When I was in South Africa in May, the country's jails were so full that 11,000 prisoners were to be released to ease crowding. These people were not killers. Unable to pay a fine of less than R1000 (under \$200), they provide a picture of the quiet and resigned desperation of many lives.

I have witnessed this quiet stoicism over the years. When my 82-year-old sister packed up her family home in Johannesburg, she pensioned off her two old retainers – 86-year-old Betty, and Johnson, 89, who had been with her for over 40 years. It was the third time they'd retired. These three old people all looked after each other as they grew old. And in case there's any scepticism about the nature of "master/servant" relationship in white/black Africa here is a story of how it often works:

A few years ago, during an outbreak of terrifying violence in Johannesburg's black township of Alexandra, Betty, her half-blind sister Regina, and Regina's intellectually disabled adult son, walked all night to seek refuge in the only place they knew they'd be safe: with my sister and her family, who took them in and gave them shelter until it was safe to go home.

The future of South Africa has little to do with white/black relations. This is working remarkably (and unexpectedly) well. It's black/black that's going to be a problem for the future, as it has been elsewhere in Africa.

U3A ORCHESTRA

Want to play?

You can, you know

THE U3A Orchestra, which played music of Mozart at the Musical Christmas in July, is always looking for new players, especially in the string and lower wind sections. If you learnt as a younger person, and still have your instrument tucked away somewhere, take it out and prove to yourself that all those lessons were not wasted!

Many of the present players are in that category; they thought they would "give it a go", and have been amazed at how much they are able to play. Some people have actually taken up cello, viola or flute as adults, and are enjoying the challenge as late starters!

Some of the players have maintained their skills over the years, and enjoy making music with the friendly group that meets each Saturday morning from 10-12 at the Seniors' Club.

Orchestral players of about intermediate level and above are welcome, and the more experienced

FROM DAVID TEMPLE'S DESK

A year already! And it's been fun

HELLO sensational people, what a busy time of the year it is. I hope you are all surviving the winter, steering clear of coughs and colds. I can't stand the cold. It makes training harder (running and cycling) and you spend most of the time trying to stay ahead of getting the flu.

So I hope you are all well and as Canberra warms up again I will look forward to seeing you all around.

I am happy to say that half of you have already renewed your memberships! If anyone doesn't want to remain a member - and I can't imagine why anyone would not! - I would be grateful if you would let us know, and then we can take you off the database.

The last couple of months have been eventful. Kevin Rudd, Leader of

members are always ready to give advice and guidance if needed.

To contact us, please phone Wendy Elliot on 6254 1624, or e-mail Margaret Wright recorderteacher@hotmail.com or just come along to the club on a Saturday morning.

the Opposition, and attendant reporters and photographers coming to the club. Thank you to all the groups that let the photographers take photos of them doing their stuff. One of the media groups, that probably had in mind the possibility of using photos for "promotional opportunities", handed over to the club a cheque for \$100.

I would like to mention that I have been at the club for a year now. I have participated in a Melbourne Cup lunch, Christmas lunch, Annual Autumn Fete, CSCC Bowls Day and two Christmases in July, and enjoyed them all. I would just like to thank all of the people who have helped me with those events. I have thanked you all personally but I would like to do it publicly so thank you!!!

Which reminds me. Already we have dates for the next Melbourne Cup lunch (6 November) and the next Christmas lunch (3 December). Time sure flies when you're having fun!

Look forward to seeing you around the club.

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PROPERTIESSM

ACT GRANTS PROGRAM Preparing women for leadership role

THE success of any organisation depends upon the people in it and their willingness to contribute their skills to its running and improvement. Any organisation which does not have staff or volunteers prepared to help it continually adapt to its changing surrounds will gradually fade away. Sometimes people are just not aware of how much they personally can contribute and how easy it is to make a contribution.

In May the club ran a leadership workshop for members courtesy of a special grant from the 2006-7 ACT Women's Grants Program.

The participants included 10 women from our club, two from Canberra Seniors and four managerial staff from Tuggeranong Communities.

The day was based around the DiSC system of personality profiling which enables people to appreciate how their personality affects their behaviour and their interaction with other people. This is a process which many large companies and government departments put their staff through to improve working relationships and help managers handle their staff in a more productive way. It is also fun to do. (There were quite a few chuckles as people recognised themselves in the descriptions which popped up as they proceed through the DiSC process.)

After lunch we also looked at making committee meetings more productive and how to generate, develop and carry through new ideas in order to make improvements to our respective organisations.

Having women from Canberra and Tuggeranong present added extra interest to the day.

The facilitators for the day were Grahame Hellyer (who is on our committee and who is accredited to run the DiSC program) and Alan Hodges, who is on the board of Communities @ Work. Members may recall that they produced our strategic plan. Both gave their time voluntarily.

The fifteen women who completed the day are keen to get together again to discuss their experiences in their organisations in the light of what they learnt during the workshop.

Talented musicians delight enthusiastic mid-winter audience

By Helen Morris

SUNDAY 22 July was a fine winter's day – almost too good to be inside. The sunshine outside was matched by the sunshine inside, as this was the day of the Musical Christmas in July at the club. The hall was decorated with streamers and balloons, and Christmas music gently flowed from the CD player in one corner.

The one hundred seats quickly filled, and musicians were espied preparing their instruments and voices in the verandah.

At two o'clock, with about twenty members of the U3A Orchestra seated and tuned up, President Anne Murray welcomed everyone to enjoy this fund-raising social afternoon.

Ray Macourt, a long time conductor of amateur orchestras in Canberra, introduced clarinet soloist Salli Chmura, who then charmed the audience with Mozart's popular Clarinet Concerto, recently voted Australia's favourite Mozart work. The Orchestra accompanied Salli's sensitive playing in true Mozartian style, with tuneful rhythmic accuracy and good tone. The performance was greeted with enthusiastic applause, the audience appreciative of the great music and acknowledging the hard work and skill of the members of the Orchestra.

One of the violinists, Margaret Wright, exchanged bow for baton, and prepared the audience for a most unusual sound – the Recorder Orchestra. The members of the orchestra play seven different sizes of recorder, from the tiny soprano to the huge contra bass. The audience was fascinated to see the instruments, then to hear the rich harmonies and mellow sounds as the well-rehearsed orchestra played 'Laudamus Te' from Vivaldi's 'Gloria', followed by three short Renaissance dances, which demonstrated the melodies and rhythms of a much earlier era. The audience responded with surprise and delight, amazed that the "humble" recorder could produce such beautiful music.

The Canberra Chordsmen, the group which followed, is a talented barbershop group who enjoy close harmony singing, and are in great demand around Canberra as entertainers. They delighted the audience with a varied selection of familiar songs, including 'Shenandoah', 'Heart of my Heart', 'Shine on Me' and the ever popular and beautiful 'What a Wonderful World.'

Anne paused the musical proceedings for a few minutes while she awarded certificates of appreciation to Dorothy Rafferty for her many years as accompanying pianist to the Woden Senior Singers, and to Dennis Glanville for his long-time service to the club in many roles.

The final musical offerings for the afternoon were given by the busy and ever-popular Woden Senior Singers, under the able direction of Joyleen Litherland and beautifully accompanied by Enid Ottaway. What a happy selection of Christmas songs! Their bracket began with 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'. A highlight was the beautiful Czech carol, 'Rocking'. After singing 'The Merry Christmas Polka' to set the feet tapping, the choir concluded with a little-known Hawaiian song 'Mele Kalikimata'.

Adjourning to Hall 2, audience and musicians mingled to enjoy delicious food and good company. It was obvious from the comments that the range and variety of musical presentations covered many tastes, and was much appreciated.

The caterers, co-ordinated by the invaluable Gail Giuliani, had organised a delicious afternoon tea of sandwiches (turkey and cranberry sauce being a favourite!), pikelets and surely the best Christmas cakes ever baked!

Thoughts for the day

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

A will is a dead giveaway.

A backward poet writes inverse.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

There is a Catch-22 to acting when we think 'the time is right'

By Dennis Blewett

THEY swim and dance and play golf. They are devoted to their families and grandchildren. They read and engage with the world. So it was that, a little while ago, Four Corners described four Australians who told us, the television audience, that they will end their lives when they think the time is right.

Four Corners went on to say that the four are among a growing number of people who say they will commit suicide before they are overtaken by frailty, illness or dependence. Such a radical step, the subjects claimed on the program, was a final act of self-determination, and a human right.

I watched with considerable interest, as did many of my contemporaries I suspect. Death is inevitable, and people do not fear it, but they are fearful of the form it will take. What we want is to remain fit and cognitive until the very moment of death. We want a death like those in movies, where the heroine is given 12 months to live, and has a riotously happy time of it, marred only by having to explain to her previously unsuspecting lover that their happiness cannot last, that her 12 months comes to an end the week after next.

Life, and death, is not like that. The subjects on Four Corners were confident that they would know when the time was right, but I was reminded of Catch-22. Remember Joseph Heller's classic? Aircrew who wished to be excused from combat had to convince their superiors that they were insane. Trouble was that no sane person would want to fly combat missions, and therefore seeking to be excused demonstrated sanity. So it is with those who wait until the "right moment". While ever they are cognitive they will not recognise the "right moment"; when the "right moment" comes, they will be helpless to act.

Euthanasia advocate Dr Philip Nitschke explained on Four Corners that the easy way out is Nembutal, which veterinarians use to spare terminally-ill animals further pain and distress, but is illegal to end the suffering of terminally-ill humans. Nitschke said that many people were desperate enough to make a pilgrimage to Mexico, where the drug is readily available, and smuggle it into Australia. They then, presumably, stored it

away in a secure (?) place until the "time was right" ("shelf life" is ten years, minimum, I understand). I fully understand the comfort that a bottle of Nembutal on a top shelf in the bathroom cabinet may give people. Ready access to an instant and painless way out is appealing. But having to hand the means of killing oneself, or someone else, in a moment of depression or anger would prove irresistible often enough to some people - many thousands, I should not wonder - to make such a practice unacceptable.

An alternative, Nitschke said, was suffocation, and this was best achieved by an airtight bag and helium. Being, I like to think, a practical person, I could not help but think that manipulating knots and valves and tubes might challenge people who had reached the time in their lives when they had difficulty fastening their shoelaces and cutting their toenails, even when calm and in control of their fingers and emotions. Nitschke was well-received by his audience, who even found some of his presumably well-rehearsed comments humorous. But Catch-22 again. His audience was made up of intelligent, rational people, sufficiently motivated to attend. None would have intended pulling the plug that evening, or in the immediate future. Rather were they indulging in an intellectual exercise, assuring themselves that they would (could!) act when "the time was right".

All this suggests I am against voluntary euthanasia/suicide. I am not. I have had some involvement, and respect and admire the decision to take one's own life. Also no-one who has visited a nursing home, and passed a painful hour trying in vain to communicate with someone who was once intelligent and articulate but is now "brain-dead", as I have, could do other than wish an easy and merciful end for the, albeit blissfully unaware, "captive". But the captive of the system of whom I write had been overtaken so quickly by mental deterioration that had Nembutal, or a plastic bag, or a gun, been available, she would have been powerless to escape her fate.

It seemed to me, watching Four Corners, that the partners of those planning their own suicide, were naïve, and indulgent of their partner's intentions because they could afford

to be. The issue was one for the future, to be confronted when the time came. As I have written, I think I am practical. So, I ask myself what would happen when the time came?

"Look, dear, I've had enough.

Thanks for the past fifty years. Don't try to wake me in the morning".

Or, in the case of a suicide pact:

"Turn off the telly, love. I've something important to say. I've decided tonight's the night".

Presumably partners do not reach the decision at exactly the same time. So, there are three responses:

"I'm not ready, so you go without me";

"I'm not ready, but I'll come with you anyway";

"Change your mind. Please".

Readers may be appalled by my insensitivity. But - and remember that the assumption is that people about to end their lives are rational and lucid - they have to say something to somebody. They can't ignore the families and grandchildren Four Corners told us about.

No, being the agent of one's own death is impracticable, and visits consequences on loved ones that one would wish to spare them.

What is the answer then? Should a family member or "society" be invested with the responsibility?

For "family member" or "society" read a human being charged with administering Nembutal to a loved one (and this raises the question, "When does taking a life that results in personal profit become murder?"), or a public servant (albeit a compassionate one wearing a white coat). Who would (could) do it? I couldn't do it. Could you? And if you and I are not prepared to do it, surely it is unfair to expect someone else to do it. Medical practitioners, as a group, would refuse to do it. It would be a job that could hardly be compared to that of a hangman, but one that nonetheless would be profoundly affecting; taking the life of another must surely diminish one's own.

Again, at the risk of being insensitive:

"Have a good day at work today, love?"

"Oh, the usual. Busy, you know".

I, like the Four Corners subjects I suspect, will continue to discuss euthanasia with friends over after-dinner coffee and brandy, but in the end it is highly likely we will be merely talking the talk.

Walking the walk is something else again.

Catch up with movies, old TV series on DVD . . .

UNFORTUNATELY in Canberra movies do not stay on at the cinemas for very long. We often miss films we want to see because of other commitments. Fortunately these days it is possible to catch up with films, or even TV series, on DVDs.

DVDs, which, for those who have not seen them, are small discs like CDs, have almost completely replaced the VCR tapes which used to be the medium that we rented films on from the video stores. DVDs give a sharper picture and can store more than the old tapes could. In addition to the film itself the viewer can choose to switch on subtitles (including those for the hearing impaired in many cases) or even – for the real cinema buff – a commentary by the director or main actors. In many cases the "extras" include details of the actors, and scenes which were cut from the final version of the film.

Movies are now made available on DVD as soon as they have finished at the Australian cinemas – and before they appear on TV. There are now well over 20,000 different DVDs available – although many of these are not of much interest to us. All the old films are being released on DVD as the movie studios see a way of making money from their archives. If you have a favourite old black and white movie, or actor, try a web search, or get someone to do it for you, and you will probably find it has already been released on DVD.

However if you have ever wandered round a video store looking for a movie to rent you may have found it a bit discouraging. Many of the most popular films do not appeal to seniors. Fortunately, if you have access to a computer, such as those at the club, or can get someone to do it for you, you can sign up for one of the "on-line" DVD rentals. These can cost from \$3 to \$5 dollars per film, including postage both ways. The stocks held by these companies are huge, so that you can choose from any film or TV show ever released in Australia while sitting at your desk. The DVD arrives in your letter box and when you have seen it you simply

put it back in its pre-addressed envelope and post it back.

Another advantage of these schemes is that you can keep each DVD for as long as you like! You sign up for so many films a month, usually between two and six, and it does not matter how long you keep a film – you just don't get another one until you send it back. And most schemes let you have two DVDs at a time.

Have a look at the Bigpond or Homescreen web sites – you even get a free trial.

And remember, the club's computers are available for members to use at no charge. If you can't use a computer or search the web, the club's courses are provided at the same charge as any other activity.

Grahame Hellyer

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

Key questions for prospective sellers

By Marcia Delander and Noel Lane

PROSPECTIVE sellers of residential real estate invariably consider a number of questions to help satisfy themselves that they are taking appropriate courses of action to optimise their own interests. Key questions are addressed in this article.

Perhaps the basic question is to decide whether one should move from one's home. There are many reasons to induce a move, including career opportunities in another city, to move to a preferred area or house, to be closer to members of the family or to schools, and increasing age or deteriorating health. This question can involve painful issues and warrants very careful consideration and consultation with confidants.

Another basic question is how to program, with financial provision, the transactions associated with selling your home and buying a new one. Should I sell first then buy or should I buy first and then sell. This tends to depend on the circumstances of the seller. Some sellers have the inclination and resources to buy their next home first and then sell theirs.

LIBRARY NEWS

Please return library books!

The library continues to be a popular spot in the club, and it is that time of the year when staying home with a good book is a definite option to going out in the cold.

However, the yellow dot (fiction) book shelves at the club's library are looking decidedly empty at the moment. So, this is your annual reminder to please return library books.

A big thank you to all our members who continue to donate books to the library, and so keep it alive.

Sue Marks
(Library Co-ordinator)