

Annual General Meeting

This year's well-attended Annual General Meeting saw the unopposed election of a new President, Paul McGlew (see profile this page), with Sue Allen deciding against seeking re-election.

Paul becoming President was the only change from 2011-12, all other office bearers continuing in their roles (see list, column 3).

In her President's Report (see page 2), Sue Allen spoke of the camaraderie within the club, and her confidence in its continuing success.

Alan Hodges concluded the meeting by recalling the 10-year plan for the social and physical development of the club developed in 2003, and detailed what had been achieved since then (see page 3).

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and Audit Statement were presented to the meeting by Finance Committee member John Brown in the absence of the Treasurer, Heike Elvers.

In her report, Heike said the club had made a modest loss of \$3,346 after allowing for interest payments of \$10,302 on the club's loan and depreciation of \$29,911.

"But to me the number one highlight is to be found not in the profit and loss statement but in the balance sheet which shows \$31,000 was paid off the principal of our loan for the new building in 2011-12. In total we have paid off over \$50,000 since the loan was drawn down in 2008".

Heike said the 9.6% increase in activities income was due in large part to an increase in activities fees from April 2012.

Club expenses decreased by 4.3%, brought about largely by having to spend less on repairs and maintenance.

Heike took the opportunity to thank the club's "friends", singling

New President for club - meet Paul McGlew

I was born on 19 August 1952 in Carnarvon, Western Australia, but mostly grew up in Perth before moving to Canberra with my parents in 1969. I finished High School at St Edmunds College, Griffith and have a Bachelor of Economics (with Accounting major) from the Australian National University.

My professional career has included budget management roles in the Departments of the Treasury and Finance and Administration and policy development roles in Medicare, mental health, hearing and disability issues in the Department of Health and Ageing. I resigned from the Australian Public Service in 2007 to take up the position of Chief of Staff to Senator Bret Mason, then Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health. I returned to the Department of Health and Ageing in 2008 to manage the establishment of the \$5 billion Health and Hospitals Fund - part of the Rudd Government's economic stimulus package. Most recently I held the position of Manager, Ambassador and Policy Development Programs, with the White Ribbon Foundation - an organisation that raises awareness about violence against women.

I have four children and six grandchildren.

My current interests include scuba diving, dancing Argentinian tango, renovating my house, learning to be a barista and playing a little bridge with my mother.

I have been on committees in a number of community organisations,

out Hindmarsh and Richard Luton, each of whom had provided \$2,500 to the club.

She also thanked Waldren Constructions for extending the club's carpark, the Canberra Southern Cross Club for their generous grant, and the Hellenic Club for continuing to pay for the printing of *Meridian*, which it has done for almost ten years.



Paul McGlew

the first of which was as President of the Woden Valley Youth Club many years ago so there is some symmetry in taking on a leadership role with the Woden Seniors Club as I enter the next phase of my life.

Management Committee 2012-13

President: Paul McGlew

Vice-President: Anne Murray

Treasurer: Heike Elvers

Secretary: Gail Giuliano

Committee Members: Sue Allen,

Pat Birrell, Grahame Hellyer,

Richard Hickman, Ken Riordan.

Public Officer: Raphaela Stukoff

Forthcoming events not to be missed

Sunday November 4, 1.30 - 4 pm - concert at the Southern Cross Club.

Saturday December 1, 9 - 12 noon - Christmas Fair. All the usual stalls and attractions.

Sunday, October 28, 11am-2pm - Sunday in the Park. Musical entertainment, choirs, lunch, and Christmas food and craft for sale.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO AGM

A year of changes, and continuing success

By Sue Allen, retiring President (Acting)

I have pleasure in presenting the President's Report of the Woden Seniors Inc. for the last twelve months. As you know I have been standing in as Acting President since Roy Parekh, our previous President, resigned from office in May this year and the Management Committee moved that as Vice President of the club, I step up as Acting President. Prior to Roy's resignation, he worked hard for the club, ensuring the smooth running of the club; meeting members of the Government and Community Services to further build community links for the club. We were sorry to see Roy retire due to family and health issues and it is always good to see him back at the club playing bridge and talking to fellow members.

It has been a year of many changes for the club, with Roy as President and myself as Vice President new to Executive positions in the club. There were also two new members on the Management Committee in Richard Hickman and Ken Riordan who stepped into their roles with confidence and commitment. At this point I have to thank the Management Committee who have made this year of changes run smoothly and cohesively.

Despite all these changes it has been a very successful year for the club. Some of the highlights have been the Melbourne Cup Luncheon, the Christmas Fete and the Christmas Lunch last year and the May Fair earlier this year that raised approximately \$3000. The extension to the car park was welcome and without the assistance of Stan Waldron of Waldron Constructions, would never have taken place. We thanked Stan and his workers with a mini - opening of the car park in May, which was well attended. The winter soup days were also socially a great success and requests have already been made for them to resume next year. Thanks to all the volunteers who cooked, served and generally made these lunches a great success. As you know we have very little Government funding, but grants from the Southern Cross Club this year will help the club enormously. We have received a grant from the Government to build storage on the verandah, which will happen as soon as possible, and should make a big difference to that area. Other businesses who support our club, and without whom we would be much less viable are Hindmarsh Living and Richard Luton. Their support in advertising our events is much appreciated.

Whenever anyone new comes to the club, they comment on the vitality and variety of activities provided and the friendliness of the members. This is a huge strength of our club and I must take the opportunity to thank all the wonderful leaders and organisers of the many activities offered to our members. They work tirelessly behind the scenes ensuring our members have the opportunity to attend a wide range of activities that keep us both mentally alert, physically active and socially connected. Without these leaders, we would not have so many activities and nor would they be as efficiently organised.

One of the noted pleasures in the club is the borrowing library in the Anne Murray Room. This would never have happened without the initiative and committed work of Sue Marks and the constant borrowing of these books is an indication of the value of such a library. Sadly Sue is leaving us in October to move to Queensland. We thank her for all her work and we wish her all the best for the future.

Polly too, needs thanking for her wonderful commitment to our club. It may be her job, but she is never without a smile, nothing is too much trouble and the club would not operate as smoothly

ly and efficiently as it does without her expertise and corporate knowledge. I would personally like to thank Polly for making my job as Acting President less stressful and taxing. I would not have made it through the last few months without her support.

This year, we decided to increase our activity fees from \$4 to \$5. We did not do this lightly and the Management Committee took time to talk to as many members as possible before passing this motion. As you can see from the Treasurer's Report, utility costs have increased, and while we seek to save money as much as possible, the increase from the activity fees have made quite a difference to our viability. I want to thank Heike Elvers, our treasurer, and members of the Finance Sub Committee who have worked tirelessly to manage the finances of the club. As you will see in the Treasurer's Report the auditor has once again praised the "professional level of bookkeeping with operating costs well controlled with a significant increase in operating profit of some \$17,000". I know Heike herself is very proud to have reduced the loan to under \$100,000. I am sorry she cannot be here to tell you herself, but John Brown from the Finance Committee will present the Treasurer's Report to you.

Thanks too, to Grahame Hellyer and Dennis Blewett who edit the fortnightly news and the *Meridian* respectively. Communication is vital in a club our size and these two men ensure that the club news is out there for us to read in an easy and interesting format. Behind the scenes Richard and Judy Henderson keep the computers running and offer an increasing number of computer courses to all our members.

Gail Giuliano too, as our Secretary has had a busy year, taking on extra meetings for the Combined Seniors Day-Sunday in the Park event on 28 October. Gail is always willing to go the extra mile for the club. Raphaela Stukoff and members of the House Committee are another group who tirelessly work behind the scenes, ensuring there is always enough milk, the tea towels are clean and a myriad of little things are done that make the club sparkle and always welcoming for us all.

The Facilities Sub-Committee has also worked tirelessly to assist in the maintenance of the club and a special thanks to Robin Brinton and Jeff Crossley who many a time came in at short notice and repaired damage to the club. Thanks to Anne Murray for her work with the Special Events Committee, this is an ongoing and expansive job, arranging Fairs, Musical events and many other activities such as Hai Song from Capital Health and his talks to members about health issues.

Anne, too, has had a tremendous role in the club in relation to development options that seem to surround the club. The Management Committee has formed a Development Sub-Committee, which will be chaired by the club's President, and of which Anne is an important member, ensuring her corporate knowledge and contacts are recognised and used affectively. This Sub-Committee will meet whenever issues are raised about development that will potentially affect the club. This Sub-Committee will be particularly important with the advent of a feasibility study to be taken on by the Government re the creation of a "Community Hub" involving Woden Community Services, Child Care and our club. To date the Management Committee has made it quite clear that no relocation will take place unless we are offered significant improvements to accommodation and facilities, and retain adequate parking.

Lastly I would like to thank all the members who have made me feel so supported when I stepped up to the role of Acting President. I know I speak for Roy too, when I say that the club is very supportive of the Committee and the Executive. This club is an amazing place and offers the seniors of Woden fantastic opportunities, so on that note I would like to wish the incoming President and Vice President our support and best wishes for the coming year.

Strategic Plan – 10 years on

In February 2003 the club received \$40,000 from the ACT Government to research and develop a 10-year plan for the social and physical development of the club, at the same time developing a blueprint to guide other clubs embarking on a similar process. The process, guided by an external Project Committee together with the Club President Anne Murray and the Management Committee, was undertaken by Marcus Mackay, Grahame Hellyer and Alan Hodges.

At this year's AGM Alan Hodges reviewed that process and spoke of progress that had been made, and not been made, in the past ten years. Alan's full, richly illustrated address to the meeting is available on tinyurl.com/WSAGM2012 or ask at the office.

An edited version of Alan's address follows:

The project was extensive, involving research, a workshop attended by 40 members, and consequent development of the strategic plan and associated action plans.

A very useful source of information was a questionnaire for club members, to which 152 people responded – about 25% of members.

Responses showed: Most were aged 60-79; two-thirds were women; most lived close to the club; 61% in Woden Valley/Weston Creek, 18% in Tuggeranong, and 9% in Central Canberra; Most had been members for no more than 2 years, and 22% had been members for more than 9 years.

Car parking featured in responses, being the focus of many suggestions.

While participation in specific activities was frequently the initial attraction, companionship was by far the most frequently stated reason given as to why the club was important for members once they have joined.

Most popular activities were dancing, card and table games, art and crafts, and carpet bowls and table tennis.

Members were asked their level of satisfaction with three aspects of the club – activities, the building and organisation.

Satisfaction with club activities was high. The most mentioned additional services suggested were small meeting rooms and coffee facilities and light meals. Exercise programs and a travel club were the most requested activities.

Members reported much less satisfaction with regard to the building, indicating areas in which the building could be improved. Most frequently mentioned were: A larger, upgraded kitchen with modern appliances; more/better toilets; and larger, refurbished premises with more areas for smaller groups to accommodate current needs and to cater for the likely future demand by an ageing population of baby boomers.

The club was generally seen to be well organised and run, and there was high regard for the office team.

The responses to the survey were very informative in identifying issues to be developed in the strategic plan.

Current membership: At the end of June this year the club had 625 members, only slightly more than 10 years ago, and well below the peak of 800 in 2008, even allowing for some difficulties with the current membership data base.

Based on demographic projections a decade ago, there was potential for the membership to double in line with the expected increase in the older population. In fact, the projections were reasonably accurate as shown by comparison of the population changes in Woden from the 2001 and 2011 Australian Census.

The age profile of club membership has not changed significantly, notwithstanding the growth in the aged population. So, it is worth asking ourselves why we have not increased membership? Certainly, there have been many new members. For instance there

have been 195 members joining in the last financial year, which is a sign of a healthy club. But 277 people did not renew membership. If this trend continues the club's membership will decline.

For people over 60 in Woden, 45 percent are men and 55 percent are women. Why, I wonder, is the male membership of the club so low with males on 27 percent?

To gauge the level of participation in activities, I recently went through the attendance records for a typical week. There were 32 separate activities and 322 people participated (some, of course, attended more than one activity). Nevertheless, this high number demonstrates the importance of the club to so many people. Bridge was by far the most popular with nine different sessions.

The geographic spread of membership is much wider than Woden Valley. It is apparent that people are prepared to travel to attend activities, notwithstanding the availability of other seniors clubs in Tuggeranong, Turner and Belconnen.

Strategic Plan progress: Strategic planning can be challenging for an organisation as it requires actions to move beyond the comfortable here and now. And that involves effort, commitment and patience. Not everything can be undertaken in a short time frame. Hence, the strategic plan provided a 10-year approach.

I think it would be good to see what has been achieved. I will highlight just a few of the objectives identified in the strategic plan that have had a profound effect on the club in the last decade:

Explore opportunities to provide computer and Internet facilities for members and associated training. We now have a dedicated computer room with an active program of basic-to-advanced courses.

Review club name, including new logo and stationery. These have changed to a more modern style.

Develop club website. We now have a very informative site.

Develop user requirement to meet likely facilities needs to 2014. A comprehensive user brief was developed by an architect. This led to a detailed design and construction to improve the present facilities.

Draft relevant changes to the club's constitution for approval at AGM. This has been completed.

Review current governance and management arrangements for the club. Various sub-committees were established to provide a more professional approach to the running of the club.

Provide furnishing and decor improvements for current facilities to improve usability and presentation and undertake progressively limited facility improvements in relation to entrance foyer, office space, kitchen, toilets, security, soundproofing and internal access. These have all been done and the amenity is now much-improved compared with the dysfunctional arrangements of 10 years ago. The entrance led directly to the main hall and there was no relaxing area as we have with the Anne Murray room.

Evaluate and upgrade financial management arrangements and upgrade office machines and computer hardware. All these needs have been met.

We have much to thank Anne Murray for, in particular for the foresight in proposing the development of a strategic plan and for her guidance in implementing it. Jon Stanhope launched the plan and, as a result of his strong commitment to development of the club, was instrumental in providing us with a \$50,000 grant towards the building redevelopment.

For those members who can remember the club a decade ago I believe that they will recognise that we have a vastly improved amenity and one that provides a wonderful service for senior Canberrans.

The club is obviously making life better for many people by providing a venue for socialisation, intellectual stimulation, physical activity and relaxation.

By 2020 one in five people in the ACT will be 60 years or over. The challenge now confronting the club is to determine how it will feature in the lives of a greater number of people in the future.

Forward planning can prevent many pitfalls for elderly

By Maureen Hickman

Important aspects of elderly people maintaining control over their lives and their assets were covered in a seminar at the Woden Seniors Club in June during a visit by officials from the Office of the Public Trustee and ACT Health.

The topics covered many of the things that most of us don't want to think about, or are unwilling to take action on - making or updating a Will, an Enduring Power of Attorney, establishing trusts in a Will, taking action to either prevent, or end, elder abuse (*see separate story, below*) and, most vexed of all, having control over extraordinary measures that may be taken in hospital to prolong your life when you are unable to make your own views known.

All people over 60 in the ACT qualify for a free Will drawn up by the Public Trustee. This also entitles the person making the Will to take advantage of additional free services, such as preparation of an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA), the creation of Trusts, and free advice connected with any of these services. Naturally enough, a fee is charged for administering an estate, or trust, or

registering an EPA, but the audience was assured that this is kept to a minimum to cover legitimate costs, not to make a profit.

Power of Attorney

An important part of personal and estate planning concerns what happens to us when we are unable to communicate our wishes because of physical or mental incapacity. An Enduring Power of Attorney can solve this problem because it gives authority to a trusted relation or friend (preferably two people) to access our bank account so that bills can be paid, to make decisions about hospital care and even realise financial assets to pay for such care. If an attorney abuses this trust, then the attorney can be removed by the court, and replaced by the Public Trustee. (The Public Trustee is highly accountable and can see that property is restored to its owner.)

Who should you appoint as your attorney until you die? According to advice from the Public Trustee, that person should be someone you trust, like you should trust the executor of your Will. It could be a spouse or partner

What is 'Elder Abuse'?

Maureen Hickman seeks the answers

'Elder abuse' is defined as any action or behaviour by another person in a relationship of trust that harms an elderly person. The abuse can include physical, sexual, financial, psychological, social abuse and/or neglect.

Adult sons and daughters have been found to be the single biggest category of abusers -- and the most common cause is money. The abuse most often occurs at home but can also occur in long-stay facilities such as nursing homes, where the abusers can include staff or other residents.

In Canberra, about six per cent of older people are reported to authorities as having been abused. However, the real figure is believed to be significantly higher. The common factor is an imbalance of power in the relationship between the elderly person and the abuser. Elder abuse, like domestic violence, happens across all social and income groups.

Physical Abuse includes inflicting pain or injury but can also include giving an elderly person inappropriate medication (or withholding medication), using restraints or confinement, and damaging property. Sexual Abuse is unwanted sexual behavior, including unwelcome sexual acts or exposure to pornography. Emotional or Psychological Abuse can include creating a fear of violence, humiliation, ridicule or embarrassment, or emotional blackmail, intimidation, habitual blaming or scapegoating. Non-verbal psychological abuse includes ignoring the elderly person, isolating them from friends and activities or terrorising and menacing them. Social Abuse includes neglect, denial of the necessities of life such as adequate food, medical care or special needs. Financial

Abuse can include stealing, illegal use of funds, forging signatures or misusing a Power of Attorney.

How does this happen? Some adult children get sick of waiting for what they see as 'their entitlements', they get tired of caring for their elderly parent, they 'get even' for real or imagined past wrongs. And when people become old and frail, they become fearful, and so put up with it, like a child with an abusive parent, because, where else do they go? They don't complain because they fear retribution and because they are embarrassed and ashamed of what their children - or carer - are doing. They also fear being accused of lying or being put in residential care. Most of all, they are unaware of their rights.

However, there is a great deal that can be done, early, in order to prevent abuse happening. The advice of the Public Trustee is: plan for the future, educate yourself, update your Will, complete a Power of Attorney, and importantly, let others know what decisions you have made. Also, try to be involved in the community, keep healthy, ask for help when needed, and consider getting a personal alarm if you are concerned about home safety. The Public Trustee adds two other precautionary measures: seek advice before giving others money (not getting change from shopping others have done for you is a warning sign) and, importantly, be careful of agreeing to have a live-in carer in exchange for accommodation.

A preventative program to deal with elder abuse is coordinated by the Office of Ageing and people concerned about someone who may be subject to this type of abuse can contact the Office or the ACT Elder Abuse Prevention, Referral and Information Line on 6205 3535.

(as well as an alternative, in case the spouse/partner is unable to act) preferably someone younger and living locally. You can also think about appointing different people to take responsibility for different things, for example, appoint a family member (or the Public Advocate) for personal and medical decisions and the Public Trustee for property and financial matters. It is also best to have the EPA to begin immediately. In fact, anyone over the age of 18 should have one.

Advanced Care Planning

Elderly people get used to thinking about the end of their lives. They even get used to the fact that their remaining years are probably limited. But without many exceptions, most do not fear death itself, but the process of dying - will it be painful, prolonged, or medicalised to such an extent that continued treatment is solely a means of preventing death, rather than prolonging life.

Advanced Care Planning, which started at the Austin Hospital in Melbourne in 2006, provides a way to take control as if you were conscious and able to make those decisions yourself. You can decide whether or not you would want extraordinary measures taken to prolong your life when the chance of recovery is either non-existent or slim, or when a life sustained through extraordinary means would be so compromised as to make any meaningful quality of life unachievable.

In Canberra, the ACT Department of Health co-ordinates a program Respecting Patient Choices and provides facilitators to help you think and talk about the medical treatment, especially life prolonging treatments, that you would or would not want, and to make an Advanced Care Plan (ACP). The facilitators can also find out information on your behalf, if you wish, about your illness and potential treatments, in order to help you with decision-making. The ACP documents ask very specific questions that can be confusing - partly because of the terminology used - so help in completing them is recommended.

It is important to register both the ACP and an Enduring Power of Attorney with ACT Health. A solicitor having copies is not enough, because solicitors are not always available. While one document complements the other, an ACP is not a legal document but an EPA is. It is also a good idea to let close relations or friends have copies of these two documents so that they know they exist and that they are accessible.

In the ACT, when a person is admitted to hospital through Accident and Emergency and their documents have been already registered, this shows up on the computer and medical staff are immediately aware of the wishes of that person. This applies only to Canberra Hospital and Calvary Public - John James and Calvary Private do not share this information. However, ACT Health is working with the ACT Ambulance Service to share documentation. Interstate hospitals respect ACPs made in another State or Territory, if they are aware of their existence. This is why it is important that the documents are registered with ACT Health and close friends and relations also know of their existence and where to find them.

The joy of making music

By an anonymous contributor

*We tell many people we play the recorder
Some may think we have a strange disorder.
Large numbers of children play it at school
Not oldies like us as a general rule.
Children play recorder because it's cheap
A little music know-how may they reap.*

*What is a recorder? Do you really know?
Well, it's not something you just puff and blow.
For all of us who love to have a toot
It's a sort of, kind of, vertical flute.
It has a shaft and holes here and there
And of this shaft we take great care.
The hole down the centre gets quite wet
Then distorted noises we often get.
With rag and oil we make sure its clean
Clear, pure notes then we should glean.*

*Recorders come in many a different size
From very small to quite large they rise.
The smallest the hand can just about span
While the largest is almost as tall as a man.
Here are descants, trebles, tenors and basses
Some even come in their very own cases.*

*We're aged from fifty to eighty-four
Don't think there's anyone that's much more!
Its not only girls but there're men too
Not all that many but just a few.
Mature age students is what we all are
In learning music we have indeed come far.*

*We meet each Wednesday to come and play
Rain, hail or shine, come what may.
We take music seriously, its not a game
And we are not out for any glory or fame.
Notes we know are little black dots
On each score there are lots and lots.
We may creak at the knees and have grey hair
But it's music, not knitting, beside our chair.*

*So with us oldies spare us a thought
When thinking of recorder lessons children are taught.
Their brains are young, responsive and trim
Whilst ours are wise, nearly full to the brim.
Because we are now all in our years of prime
Don't think we play just a nursery rhyme.
It's wonderful music from down the ages
Many a score has pages and pages.
Come listen to us all and you will be aware
About our music playing we really do care.
So age isn't a matter for any real concern
If it's recorder playing you wish to learn.*

More success for our artists

Once again the work of our talented artists has attracted attention, with Julia Widdup and Iris Blewett selling paintings at the Artists Society of Canberra's Spring Exhibition at the Albert Hall.

Soup Glorious Soup

Down through the meal times of history, soup has been part of most culture's staple diet and continues so to this day. The word "restaurant" (meaning restoring) was first used in France to describe a soup that was cheap and highly concentrated and was advertised as something that would "restore" the consumer from physical exhaustion. According to Wikipedia in 1765 a Parisian entrepreneur opened a shop specializing in soups such as these, prompting the use of the modern word restaurant.

It was without this knowledge, but with an intuitive understanding of the restorative values of soup and bread, especially in the cold months of winter, it was suggested that our club provide soup two days a week, during the winter months. So it came about that soup was provided at a small cost, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the months of June, July and August.

Beginning quietly, but with gathering momentum, the soup meals soon became part of the calendar for those that used the club on these days. Such a range of soups; from clear broths to hearty soups, were served. People came in to share a meal, lured by the aromas of cooking soup and warm bread. On finishing their soup they often stayed to continue the conversations that roamed around the table.

People began to ask for soup to take home to their partners, or to save for a later meal. This service became very

Leek and Chickpea Soup

From Jenny Gregory

Here's the recipe for the leek and chickpea soup.

Ingredients

30g butter

1 garlic clove, crushed

2 medium leeks - trimmed, halved, washed, thinly sliced

3 medium carrots, peeled, chopped

2 medium potatoes, peeled, chopped

2 x 400g cans chick peas

2 cups Massell chicken stock

opt. light sour cream and chopped fresh chives to serve

Method

Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add leek and garlic and cook, stirring, for 6-8 minutes until leek has softened.

Add carrot and potato, cook, stirring for 5 minutes. Add chickpeas, stock and 2 cups cold water.

Bring to boil then reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 10 minutes.

Remove half the mixture to a bowl and process or roughly mash. Return to saucepan, cook stirring for a few more minutes.

Top with sour cream and or chives to serve. Freezes very well.

popular. Members began offering to help provide the soup and we tasted a wider and wider range of soups.

The breads too, were popular, soaking up the final goodness of that left in the bowl. It was the home-made, the whole-meal and the heavier breads that were popular, rather than the business donated white breads. These hearty breads, like the soups, reflected the cook, and it was fascinating to see how many different ways people could cook pumpkin soup or bake wholemeal bread.

Financially too, the soup was a great success. Members cooked their soups; businesses donated goods or vouchers, all of which kept the costs down. Over the three months we raised over \$1500. Do we do it again next winter? Definitely - if the soup makers are willing. - Sue Allen

Thanks to Sue Marks

It is with regret that we have to announce that Sue Marks our librarian, who has set up and run the library in the Anne Murray room for many years is leaving us to move to Queensland.

Sue has quietly and effectively collected, organised and kept running a great lending library for our club. We will greatly miss Sue and her work.

Thank you Sue, for your constant support of the club in organising and maintaining this invaluable resource.

We wish you all the very best for the future.

The good news is that Kay Lancaster and Sue Allen have undertaken to become joint librarians.

SELLING YOUR PROPERTY?

If you plan to sell your home or other property, you are welcome to contact Noel Lane of Luton Properties (LUTON), for a confidential and informative discussion.

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noel.lane@luton.com.au Experience more at luton.com.au

LUTON

Delightful afternoon at Government House

Members of Woden Seniors were among representatives of the Canberra community invited to Government House on 9 May for a recital by Harvard Krokodiloes, the University's oldest *a cappella* singing group, founded in 1946, visiting Australia as part of an 11-week, six-continent world tour.

The afternoon was hosted by Governor-General Quentin Bryce and Mr Michael Bryce, patron of Woden Seniors.

Following the recital, afternoon tea was served in the dining room and the Governor-General, Mr Bryce and the Krokodiloes mingled with guests. As on his visits to our club, Mr Bryce proved most affable (he told us he was going to show members of the group the kangaroos after tea - "everyone, from kings to presidents, wants to see the kangaroos"), and the Governor-General - who had already good-humouredly joined the group on stage to play her part in their rendition of *What's your name* - was eager to talk to as many people as possible.

The Krokodiloes consists of twelve to fourteen tuxedo-clad male undergraduates who sing songs from the 1920s through the 1960s. Their afternoon recital included such popular works as *Let's get away from it all*, *This can't be love*, and *Loch Lomond*, concluding with *Bye, bye love*.

They perform more than 200 concerts every year. In addition to the 150 or so concerts that the group performs stateside during the school year, each summer for the past twenty years the Krokodiloes have embarked on a world tour.

They were visiting Australia after touring Asia, and were to return home to the United States via Europe.

They were a delightful group of young men, courteous and eager to talk, and listen. Like Bobby Flitsch, from New York, who is studying engineering but, like his companions, is sharing his love of music ("I'd like to have been around in the days of Sinatra and Ella"), storing away travel experiences, and forging life-long friendships.

DB

FABULOUS FAKES Matisse, Degas Modigliani *et al.*

Matisse, Degas, Modigliani . . . the works of the masters have adorned the club's gallery of artwork this past few weeks. Or, at least, fabulous fakes created by our talented artists have.

Taking their lead from similar exhibitions elsewhere, artists who attend sessions here at the club decided to present their own copies of the masters in addition to the customary selection of their own inspirations.

Our artists do not confine their activities to the club, of course. They continue to both sell their work and have it recognised by judges at venues throughout Canberra and the surrounding region.

Sales at the club benefit club funds by 15%.



Nic Cave (Howard Arkley)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Long may both survive

Sir, - I am a very ineffective and lazy member, but I do read *Meridian* and I want to congratulate you on your efforts over a long period of time (ten years).

I particularly appreciated the history of the club in the June issue. Thank you, and I am sure that it was a very worthwhile endeavour.

All the best to the newsletter and the club, and long may both of them survive.

Sincerely

V. Staggs (Ms)



Woman with flowers (Matisse)



Ballet dancers (Degas)



Seated nude with shift (Modigliani)

Children visit club - and sing with choir

On Monday 3 September, the club was visited by children from Goongerah and Tubbut Schools, in Far East Gippsland.

The schools came to an arrangement some years ago whereby they share resources and technology and exchange visits at least twice a week to share classes and other activities - a very long trip on dirt roads, sometimes blocked with fallen trees or snow in winter.

Sue Allen, then Acting President of our club, is a former teacher at the schools, and when she heard that the schools were planning a trip to Cambodia and were preparing for their trip by seeking to translate books and songs they had written into Khmer, she wondered if our Polly, Cambodian-born, might be prepared to help.

Polly readily agreed, and recruited her sister, Christine, to help also. So it was that the sisters worked with the children, largely via e-mail, to translate their work into Khmer and also to speak some Khmer.

This was a great success, and when the Grade 3-6 children learned they were coming to Canberra on their school camp, they wanted to meet Polly and tell her about their trip to her homeland.

The children arrived at the club

towards the end of the choir's practice, and Joylene Litherland, the conductor, welcomed them and three staff members, inviting them to join the choir in singing Christmas Carols.

The children then brought out their ukuleles and played *Grandfather's Clock*, which is part of the choir's repertoire. As Peter May, the principal, said, it was good for the children to perform for more than "a few adults and two kangaroos".

Everyone was enjoying the combined recital so much, they continued with *Blue Moon* and *Five Foot Two*.

After a shared lunch, the children played their Cambodian song, and used theatre games to interview each other, thereby telling their audience about their trip, and finally they showed parts of a documentary they had made.

Polly presented the children with Cambodian scarves, presents from sister Christine.

The children and their teachers found Woden Seniors so welcoming they returned on Wednesday to listen to the Intermediate Recorder Group and once again they performed their Cambodian song.

Thank you to everybody who helped to make these days such a great success.

Ode to Jewellery Makers

*Out there on the verandah,
The ladies sit and toil,
Not the usual jewellery
They create with fun and joy.
But now the dreaded Christmas bells
Are ringing to annoy.
The President she pleaded,
Please help us make these few
To sell and make us money.
Please do! Please do! Please do!
So now the jewellery ladies
Grab beads and balls and wire
Making Christmas bells and candles
They really are afire.
Thanks to all you ladies
From the bottom of my heart
May you soon be back a making
Your favourite works of art.*

- Sue Allen

Declarer and responder

Two bridge players are having a wretched afternoon, both convinced (as bridge players are) that it is their partner's fault.

Finally, one hands to the other a tiny piece of blank paper and says: "Write down everything you know about bridge".

The other responds, "Well, it's a bigger piece of paper than I would have given you".

It's a bewildering world

Mother sent a text to her daughter: "What do IDK, LY & TTYL mean?"

Daughter replied: "I don't know, Love you, Talk to you later."

Mother: "OK, I'll ask your brother".

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WEDNESDAY - 7:30pm • Total Prize Pool \$5,200

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