



ISSUE
No. ...

THE MERIDIAN

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NOVEMBER 95

The Melbourne Cup Luncheon seemed to go very well--everyone looked happy, so I hope you were. Vi and Edie did a sterling job in the kitchen--many thanks to them and their helpers. When you think that they organised afternoon tea for the Social on the Saturday prior to the Melbourne Cup 'do' it shows just what stalwarts they are. The raffle brought in over \$60--thank you to those who bought so many tickets and also to the donors of the prizes.

Thank you also to Santo who did such a marvellous job after the show--he is a great hand with a vacuum cleaner.

Entertainers--I DO apologise for not being there at the end of the show. I thought I would take the opportunity, while everyone was occupied, to slip over to the Bank with the money (I was doing office duty as well), but on the way back I was caught in a downpour and came in looking like a drowned rat.

From what I SAW at the start and the gales of laughter I HEARD as I was packing up the cash I knew you were putting on one of your great performances. Many thanks to you all and especially to Nerida.

Didn't she look fine in her outfit? The Bride looked lovely--but those horses!! Were they in the Melbourne Saucer? It was all great fun. Congratulations!

Congratulations also to those who made hats for the Hat Parade. Some of them were very ingenious and they were all colourful. I specially liked the elegant red hat and the Jockey Caps. When she saw them all Cheryl whispered to me, 'It's too difficult, I want to pull out!' I'm only sorry that we could not have prizes for all.

I think the most popular table was the Sweep Table so ably organised by Morna and her helpers. They did a grand job--they barely had time to lift their heads from the race list and I'm sure their hands must have been sore with all the writing they had to do. Many thanks to them, too.

The only grumbles came from people who expected much more for \$3.50. One gentleman said he remembered when we had a hot lunch and wine for that. We must let him know that times have changed. It was also said that some tables did not have enough food--if so, that was a pity, but there was food left over so there must have been a breakdown in communication somewhere. Or perhaps 'real men don't eat quiche'?

At the Committee Meeting it was decided that the Christmas Party should be a lunch at the Club to cost \$6 and be held on December 4th. We can only seat 100 so it will be first to pay get the tickets. If groups wish to arrange their own Christmas function that is fine, but there are people who do not belong to a set group or who may not be able to afford a more expensive lunch--or even be able to get to another venue. It would be a pity if these people could not have a little celebration with other members. We will try to make it a "fun" time with entertainment, singing and games. Bring a pencil and some paper to write on. There will be small prizes AND a raffle. We have a book token for \$50, a dinner for 2 and a honey-bear in the raffle. If anyone would like to perform a "Party Piece" let me have your name as soon as possible.

Once again the topic of fees was brought up. As you remember we did experiment with members having to pay 50c per activity- but with no extra charge for a second cup of tea/coffee and no-one to pay more than \$1 per day. Even that small increase caused dissent with people complaining that they could not afford it. At the AGM we went back to the original of 50c + a 20c charge for extra drinks. Unfortunately, many people 'forget' to put in the 20c. One of the Committee members has done some research and discovered that the yearly subscriptions and 50c a day do not cover the Club running costs. We know this but we do get a small grant to assist and we are in a reasonable financial position. BUT--if we go it alone on our desperately needed extension then we will have to consider raising fees. If we do NOT get the extension then we would be able to refurbish where necessary but then we have the old problem of lack of space. We may have to find ways of reducing membership numbers or buy Lotto tickets in an attempt to win some money. I have already promised that if I win a Million the Club can have its extension.

If anyone knows of a club where you get more for less than you do here let us know and we'll all join. Other clubs can offer more because they take more through Poker machines and alcohol sales. Ask yourself how much you get out of the club--then ask how much you PUT IN. If you still think you have cause for complaint then come and see me--I am always willing to listen to other opinions. You never know, YOU may have the idea that will solve all our problems.

Also at the meeting we received the resignation of Myra Hickey as Public Officer. Myra has been a tireless worker for the Club -who will now organise the big raffles for us?- but feels that she can no longer do as much because of ill-health. Thank you very much for all you have done, Myra, and we hope to see you at the club for a long time yet.

Please don't forget the talk by Mike Stock on Nov.20th, 1pm. That's this coming Monday. Mike will talk about the scheme whereby children in isolated places can get help with their school work. There will be a concert in aid of the scheme on Dec.3rd and we have some discount tickets for sale. I will not say too much as Mike has plenty to tell us as well as a video to show. I hope many people will come along so that we have to use the main hall instead of the Committee Room.

We have several more day trips in the pipeline as well as a longer one in autumn. Margaret Cannons is organising them so keep an eye on the Travel board. A 50cent booking fee will be charged to cover the cost of phone calls etc. If you cancel at short notice you may forfeit the cost if your place cannot be taken by someone else.

Would any member who has a key to the club premises please notify the person on Office Duty next time you are in the club so that numbers can be verified as our key register seems to have gone haywire. Also, if you have a key which is not numbered could it be brought in on DECEMBER 5th so that it can be engraved. We had to have new keys some months ago and they were not numbered. Ex-committee members who have keys could you please return them?

CHRISTMAS HAIKU

Peace on earth to all,
is the message Christmas brings.
Treasure it for now.



Santa Claus close by.
Tiny tots are snug in bed.
The wonder is here.

Christmas bells ring out,
mistletoe hangs from the tree.
Moments to delight.

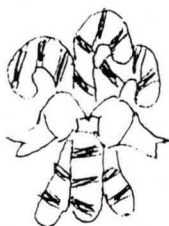


Children's eyes glowing.
There's excitement in the air.
It's Christmas magic.

Holy is the night,
before the dawn of Christmas.
Birthday of a king.

Spirit of Christmas
into all our hearts descend,
is my prayer for you.

Kathleen Heath.



(December, 1995)



Merry Christmas to All.

This is a special time to be
With family and friends for you and me.
In lands both far away and near,
A joyful time filled with good cheer.

We celebrate and remember Jesus' birth
Goodwill to all and peace on earth,
Decorations and on a Christmas tree
Pretty lights and presents to see.

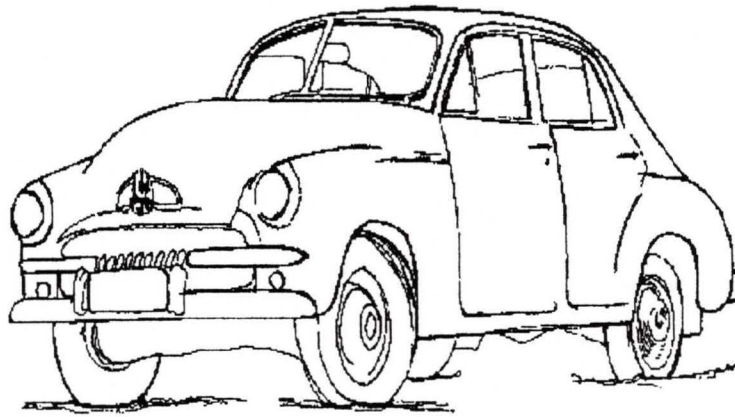
A fun time for children, so small
Waiting excitedly for Santa to call.
As you get older, you can still enjoy
Their happiness in finding a new toy.

A Christmas pudding and a cake
Lots of tasty delights to make,
Maybe a ham and a turkey
A bit rich for us oldies, we'll wait and see.

Many memories we have of Christmas past,
As the years now go too fast
May there be many more for you
To celebrate and be happy too.

Written by Marie Howard.
W.S.C. Writers Group. 1995.





PARKING PERMITS

A check of the car park one day last month revealed 13 cars not displaying a current (blue) parking permit. Yet at least 6 of these belonged to members who, it was later discovered, had in fact been issued with permits.

PLEASE, if you **do** have a permit, display it prominently in the vehicle - Duty officers have quite enough to do without having to waste time checking cars which subsequently prove to be legitimately parked. Remember, the quicker bona fide parkers can be identified, the quicker we can detect non-members trespassing on our parking area.

And of course, if you DON'T have a permit, either get one NOW, or use the public car park across the road. Permits valid for the remainder of this financial year are available from the Office for \$2.

OTHER PARKING NEWS

1. Early in the piece, some permits were issued without the fact being recorded. This error has been largely corrected, but if your name and vehicle are still not on the list and you have a permit, please produce it at the Office so that the list can be updated. A new list will be posted on the Notice Board about mid-November.
2. The "IN" sign for the grass parking area, which was removed by vandals, will be replaced as soon as possible.
3. Well over half the financial members who own cars have still not applied for a parking permit.
4. A reminder - if you change your car, don't forget to let the Office know the new registration number.