

The Meridian

A.W.S.C. Monthly Publication

MERIDIAN DECEMBER 1997

Dear Members

How quickly those few months have passed! Christmas is just around the corner, and as like myself, everyone is flat out busy, fitting so many things into their schedule.

The Tai Chi group held their 10th Birthday Party on 13th November. We enjoyed their display; the music is so relaxing. The group hosted a very nice afternoon tea. Congratulations to Elizabeth and the ladies.

We are sorry to lose Jean Manley as our Travel Co-ordinator. She has done a very efficient and much-appreciated job in the years she has organised our trips. Her husband, Gerry, as many of you know, has had health problems for a long time, and recently had surgery to have a Pacemaker fitted. Understandably, it has been a very stressful time for both of them, when they must not be under any undue pressure. Jean, you would be welcomed back most warmly, if and when the time comes, should you wish to return in the future. I and the Committee extend to you a very big THANK YOU, and wish wish you all the best for the future. As for you, Gerry, we want you to be a MODEL PATIENT, do all the doctor and Jean tell you, and you will soon be 100% again. WE wish you good health.

We now have to appoint a new Travel Officer. The Fish and Chip Tour will certainly still go ahead, and you will have seen information on the others on the board. We will let you know as soon as possible, any alternatives, after the next Committee Meeting, 8th December, who will take over from Jean.

I do hope that all our members enjoyed the Christmas Lunch at the Serbian Club on 1st December. I, myself, was well pleased with the amount of food for such a small price. As for the entertainment, I thank Lance Carder for coming along at such short notice to fill in. He is in great demand, especially at the Burns Club Tuesday Seniors' Lunch Days. No wonder, he is such a good accordionist who kept our feet tapping. And what about that talented Jazz singer? Lorraine is a member of our choir, along with Chris, who is also a very good musician. If you enjoyed our entertainers today, please let me know, perhaps they would agree to entertain on a special day at our own club.

Of course, we enjoyed our Sing-along etc., and the appearance of Santa, who underneath that beard was Darcy Plath who gave out sweeties (sorry, lollies), was so welcome, going by the smiles and laughter! Shows we are just kids at heart. And of course, the Santa in the Chimney was your zany President, accompanied by Rosa Jones as Merry Christmas.

On Monday 15th December the Choir will welcome members to their morning practice to hear our Christmas Programme. This will be followed by Morning Tea. Please put your name on the Notice Board if you wish to attend, -the more the merrier. The Choir has been much in demand again this year, filling many engagements. This will be the first of our Social Days that members have asked for, and I do hope that next year the club members will support the various events I have organised for their benefit. I am working very hard to make my term as your President a success.

Next year, shortly after the Club re-opens, we will start some of the activities requested at our Informal Meeting.

1. The Coffee and Chat venue will be in the Garden Club Corner.
2. Video Afternoon in the Committee Room, depending on numbers.
3. We have various speakers to give talks--on Health, Safety etc,
4. Healthy One Pot Cooking.

These activities will be arranged monthly, and on Monday afternoons, which was always the day that we had speakers in the past. Unfortunately, times of present activities may have to be altered occasionally to suit those less active.

5. Picnic Trips - Vineyard - Wine Tasting - Afternoon Tea
6. Birthday Afternoon Tea --bring a plate, music. Should you wish to participate in this, please ask to have your Birthday added to your Membership Card-- just the day and month, unless you are going to be 100

List of dates, events, will be given soon. Also we need some willing people to form a Social Sub-committee. If you would be willing to help, please give your name to Marion as soon as possible.

We hosted the visit by the littlies from Lyons Pre-school on 10th. December. I must admit, although the shops are full of Christmas Decorations etc,--too early for my liking, as it takes away from the excitement and magic-- I did not really feel Christmassy until I started baking the cup-cakes and planning the setting of the children's table for morning tea. I am a real softie at heart, when those little darlings came tottering in, a little apprehensive and nervous, my heart just melted; and as they did their little performance, I cried. Santa (Darcy) and Helpers gave out lollies etc, to take home.

This is what makes part of the real meaning of Christmas. Children, their eyes filled with wonder, their innocence, the excitement of looking forward to Christmas Eve, the visit by Santa Claus. I remember, as many of you will do too, when our own children were small, and for many times were hard, money short, but homes were filled with warmth and love. Now, things are so commercialised, and for months beforehand we are urged to buy this, buy that, the higher the price the better the present. Australia is a great country, especially the generosity of the people, who give so unselfishly of their money and time to help those less fortunate. How sad, the world does not have the meaning of Christmas in their hearts all year, not just at Christmas.

May I now, on behalf of our Committee and myself, wish you all a very Happy, Blessed and Safe Christmas, and a very Good New Year, and Lang nay Yer Lum Reek (intepreted from Scottish) as a Good New Year. May your homes be filled with warmth, comfort and a glow of well-being.

Your President

Marion Ferguson

Remember--the Club CLOSES 19th Dec. RE-OPENS 5th Jan 1998

LATE NEWS

IT is unfortunate that I had to put an appeal on the Club Notice Board, for the return of some Table Decorations, removed after the Christmas Party at the Serbian Club. The notice was also circulated to ALL activity groups. Personally, I hope that this caused no offence, as this was not intended. However, I have always believed that to take something that is not your own, even if as small as a paper-clip, is a very bad thing to do.

I was feeling happy and pleased that I had made a little profit for the Club, after clearing expenses, so I am very disappointed with the outcome. However, I am thinking positively, and I am putting my trust in the person/persons concerned, that they will return all decorations and the Club will not have to make up the cost. When one person does something wrong, it reflects on ALL members.

PLEASE, let the Spirit of Christmas prevail.

Marion Ferguson.

P.S. Some names have been reported to the President.

Dates to Remember

18th Kath's Thursday Special

16th Dancers' Christmas Afternoon Dance

17th The Bowlers' Party

TABLE TENNIS.

Our group mourn the death of our oldest player Fred, who died last month.

Although in his eighties, Fred could still play a good game of Table Tennis. He had been a club member for a number of years and we all miss him.

Another eighty year old has had to give up playing because of an Arthritic hip, but Eric often pops in for a chat and watch some of the games being played and is always willing to umpire games at tournaments.

We have welcomed three new Players, Beth, *GRAHAM* and *IUAN* all are very keen and play very well.

On behalf of the Table Tennis group, I would like to wish all members of the club, a happy Christmas and a healthy New year.

Pat Summersby.