

The Meridian

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Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year, and that you had someone to share it with you --if not family, then with good friends. Have you made a New Year Resolution? Well, I certainly have--to try and lose the extra weight I must have gained; and I expect more than a few are of the same mind.

Things were were hectic, but very enjoyable, just before the Club closed, with the Choir's participation day with members a very big success--and a lovely morning tea to share. Quite a few people have commented on how nice it was to relax, enjoy the items and a chance to get to know each other better. THANK YOU, to Dorothy and Wyn who lead the Choir, to the singers and of course to you members, for without an appreciative audience the day would have been less enjoyable.

Dec. 17th was the Bowlers Christmas Party. Congratulations go to Jean and Gerry and those who helped arrange it all--so much food and what a cheery lot! The music was provided by Daphne McGregor, and I was so pleased to be invited for I had such a lovely day. I even sang for my lunch, joining with Daphne to sing a range of all the old favourite songs and carols. We need more of these sing-alongs.

The Bridge group had their party on the 13th. I was given the wrong time, so sat in the office a whole hour, quiet as a mouse, so I would not disturb anyone. (Me quiet, unusual for me). I do apologise for not joining with you earlier, but I do thank you for sharing your afternoon tea with me.

Thurs. 18th was the Craft Group's Break-up Day when we mostly sat and chatted. We are sorry to lose Adrianna, our Folk Art teacher for 2-3 months, as she will be tied up with her new job; but we extend our good wishes to her and want her to know how much we appreciated her efforts, teaching us new skills. Everyone will be as busy as ever, though, preparing for the Fete.

Kath and her hardworking willing helpers provided a lovely Christmas Lunch which was much enjoyed by all. Kath was presented with a small Aquarium and everyone laughed when Pat came in with a jar of Goldfish to complete the gift. A collection had been taken up so there was no cost to the Club.

On Friday 19th I had a last minute meeting with Michael of Levers Coaches. He will be calling in again soon, to discuss future tours and provide a better Display Board. We have had no definite appointment of a new Travel Officer, so I am willing to take over this role, too. (Approved by the Committee 12.1.98) I have been informed by some of the Bowlers Group that they were upset by one trip, whereby, although they had booked for a while, by the time they got along to pay, their seats had been given to some one else. Now this may have been a Southern Cross arranged tour, or direct with Levers, I am not quite sure which; I need more information. I have proposed that we join with other Seniors Clubs to ensure that, A-no seats are vacant, and, B-that if required, where and when possible, Levers can take more named. I also proposed, that our members who wish to, can pay a small deposit and pay a small amount each Pension Day, so the whole amount does not come at the one time. You do not miss it that way, and this arrangement will apply to the Day Trips as well as the longer ones.

FANS. The large one, on loan for approval, proved to be too noisy and too powerful. We have purchased 4 smaller ones for the Club. Two are definitely designated for the Garden Club--Craft Group area, and 2 for the Extension. We will see to the blinds for the skylights as soon as possible.

CAR PARKING.

This has proved quite a task most days, trying to patrol and keep check so there is enough space for all members. On just ONE day I counted 25 cars with either no visible stickers, or covered by sun screens. There were also many cars of non-members who had no right to be parked here at all. One gentleman told me that he was a bankrupt, so could not afford parking fees. One Club Member was quite upset that he had received an infringement notice--but he had no sticker at all. May I point out our By-laws, a copy of which has been made with bigger print for members to see, and is on the Notice Board. The member informed Dennis and me that the Infringement Notice had no legality. We beg to differ. Our Club has full authority, from the Government Traffic Authority, that we be allowed to issue these warnings.

P3.

While I would say most members are very good complying with the rules - and thank you for that--there are some instances where people leave their cars well over the activity times to go shopping etc. Even with our extra car spaces at the rear of the club, there are days when we have eight activity groups at different times and we have to cater for everyone and we have to be fair. The Committee has no wish to seem unjust, but rules are rules, and we request that in future all WSC stickers can be clearly seen to assist the Duty Officer. To help the situation I will propose that we erect larger notices Members Parking Only. Also IN OUT signs as people are still driving in the wrong entrance (the OUT) side of the Club and this could result in an accident.

The first of our General Meetings is scheduled for Monday, 23rd March 1998 at 1pm.

The FETE will take place on Saturday 2nd May, 1998; 9am--12.30pm.

Christmas Decorations.

Three have been returned, and so far there has been no reply from the Serbian Club following the letter offering to pay the cost; but I understand the Restaurant is closed until the 23rd January.

The Coffee and Chat afternoons will take place on the 1st Monday of every month. Verandah, 12.30- 1.30.

The Extended Games Day will be on the 2nd Monday of each month 12.30 onwards. More days (Mondays) if required.

On the 3rd Monday of the month we will alternate with a speaker, a Video Afternoon or a Birthday Afternoon, etc., depending on what members would like and what I can arrange. These will be on a trial basis.

Monday 2nd February we have representatives from COTA to speak on Home Safety and Security at 1.10pm. Also a representative from Levers Coaches will be in the Club from 12.20pm.

Monday 9th Feb. Committee Meeting--please use the Suggestion Box if there is anything that you would like discussed.

Monday 16th Feb. I have arranged for our Committee Members to host a visit by the Turner, Belconnen and the Tuggeranong Seniors Clubs Committee Members. This has not been done before, but I have always felt that it would be a very good idea to get to know each other better. A sharing time to pool ideas, learn what is happening in other Clubs, learn from each other and advertise each other's events and Social Activities. Should be a very enjoyable meeting.

Please consider coming on to the Club's SOCIAL COMMITTEE--no one has come forward yet and I would appreciate whatever you could do.

Members will be notified of other events when details are finalised.

Marion Ferguson

President.

What is in a jar of jam? Fruit, sometimes with vegetables according to some recipes I have seen. So what? you may say. Well, just before Christmas, a lady came up and pressed a small, heavy, gift-wrapped item into my hand. When I peeled back the paper, it was a small jar of one of my favourites-Gooseberry! I must admit I was quite taken aback, as it was quite unexpected, and I cannot express how I felt. You see, for a couple of weeks--because of certain incidents--I felt very down, wondering if somehow I had failed with what I had set out to do--to try to make difference within the Club. Add to that my usual feelings at this time of the year (No matter how much I love this country and the friends I have made, I still get very homesick and miss my family and old friends) and I was feeling very vulnerable. Then, on the day we closed, I was presented with another jar of jam from another member and my second favourite--Blackberry. Just a jar of jam--but to me, much more than that! I immediately felt my spirits rise 100%. As I was going home in the bus, I would take another peek and think of all the happy events in the Club recently--the parties etc and all the work that people had put in to please their friends. You feel good within yourselves knowing that you have done something worthwhile, something to share in another person's happiness and well-being.

Today is New Year's Day. Christmas has come and gone with all the work and Joy it brings, but I took time to remember those who were less fortunate. In spirit I was with (Pat's) Christmas Lunch at the Club, although at the last minute I could not attend.

Just a jar of jam, but the thought meant a lot to me. To make a jar of jam the person has a lot of preparation--choose the right fruit and make sure the quality is right, prepare other ingredients and cook all with care.

No matter how much care and effort you put into the preparation, sometimes things can go wrong.

So it is with life. I thought of the preparation and with the kindness it was shared, and the happiness it brought. So it can be with people. We do not have to be people with great minds, high degrees, or do great deeds. People can be good listeners (and keep it to themselves) give someone a helping hand, be sympathetic to those who are bruised--in fact, just be a FRIEND. I am the richer and better for knowing two more. May 1998 be specially good for you, in Health and Happiness and continued Friendships.

Marion Ferguson

President.

Elsa just gave me Fig jam--Thank you Elsa.