

The Meridian

A W.S.C. Monthly Publication

AUGUST 1998

Dear Members,

It was not my intention to do one this month, but for the MAJORITY who enjoy these pages, and to do justice to those who are worthy of praise and a "thank you", I put pen to paper. As I soon finish my year as President this will be my last Meridian. The A.G.M. is scheduled for Monday September 7th at 1pm. Please ensure your membership is up to date, or you will be unable to vote on the day.

If you have seen me painfully walk about, the cause is a very painful 'spur' on my foot which has to be attended to. My second most enjoyable activities have been the Folk and New Vogue Dancing, but although I try, it has been 'one, two, and oh, oh, oh'. Couple this with the worry and stress of illness among family members here and overseas, I have come to the decision not to accept any position on the Committee at the next A.G.M. I look forward to a rest, but will probably be bored stiff, so will look forward to later enjoying a change of activities, and a trip back to Scotland sometime next year.

Appearing in this issue is a report from Mr Dennis Glanville on the progress of his Computer Group. Dennis has done a Mammoth and time consuming job, despite his very heavy workload this year. Thank you, Dennis.

Thank you also, to my dear friend, Elsa, who put so much work into the last Garage Sale. She put in days, not just hours, sorting items. What was left was then packed up and dispersed to the Papua Appeal, the Smith Family and the Salvation Army. Elsa has done a great job, working quietly and willingly, to raise funds for the Club. Thank you, too, to all the helpers who made the Garage Sale a success.

I am very pleased with our new NO ENTRY-EXIT ONLY sign. I feel the size made, and the prominence in position would be sure to be seen, and adhered to. Wouldn't you think so, too? But, NO, some members are STILL driving in the wrong side. For those who have queried why it was not fixed on metal posts--the cost would have soared. The Committee will have to make a decision on what action can be taken when people ignore the sign.

Brrrr, the temperatures certainly plummeted recently. It has reduced the numbers turning up to some groups, but the die-hards who brave the elements to enjoy their time with friends, have found the Club warm and cosy on their arrival. Thank you, Pat, who makes it so. Spring is just around the corner and we will celebrate its arrival with our Spring Social on the 19th September. I hope to have the Junior Scottish Country Dancers from the Burns Club along. That will be two reasons for me to celebrate--my nostalgia will reach to my tapping feet.

We have lost one more of our old and valued members, Mrs Beryl Heldon. Lorna had been faithfully visiting Beryl in hospital and the suddenness of Beryl's passing was quite a shock. Mrs Edie Douch has also had a spell in hospital, but hopes to be home this week. Also my dear friend and fellow Choir member, Mrs Rena Prince was in hospital for surgery. We wish you all a speedy recovery, and this is extended to any others who have not been 100%. Sometimes the names of those on the 'sick list' are not passed on very quickly, but we send our best wishes to all who are 'under the weather'

NOTICE re Activity Books.

As reported in the July Meridian, Mr Robert Page will take over the Membership Records assisted by Mr Werner Schenck. To ensure a smooth transition and to be 100% sure that our records are accurate, these will be both on Card Files and Computer Disk. There have been instances, this year especially, when it has come to light that there are those who have been attending activities while not being a paid up Member of the Club. As a visitor, the fee is \$2. It was decided at a recent Committee Meeting that each person attending an Activity should add the Surname to the first name, clearly printed, please. We would appreciate your co-operation in this matter so that our records are acceptable to the Auditor.

A big 'thank you' to Werner, who is doing a great job while Robert Page is away.

PARKING

Marion had a meeting with Mr Tony Gill, who was representing Mr Brendan Smyth. Our parking areas were inspected, our problems discussed and he was quite sympathetic to our needs as regards illegal parking. The outcome of our meeting was as follows: we could have a limit of three hours parking, then Patrol Officers could book people--our own Members would be included. That is not an option.

A chain was suggested, but as the Duty Officer of the day does not have the time-- or in some cases the facility, to be running in and out doing this, it would seem that we have to put up with things as they are until the Woden Plaza parking is completed. Then things should be better, I HOPE.

Lastly, a great big THANK YOU to Lorna, who always with a warm smile, took these written pages to type up. It has been most appreciated. Maybe learning to type can be one of my new activities for the future.

Marion Ferguson

President.



COMPUTER GROUP

The "Introduction to the Personal Computer" course, which began in April, finally came to an end on 13 July. The determined few (Ann, Ingrid, Marie and Tom) who had persevered to the bitter end, and survived the dreaded weekly exercises, were awarded certificates proclaiming their competence to drive a computer without

danger to the public. Rather belatedly, certificates were also presented to two survivors of the previous Advanced course (Bill and Sheila). Congratulations to all. The afternoon finished on a sibilant note - Soup, Sandwiches and Spumante.

Will the "Introduction" course be run again? Probably not - at least in its present form. The aim of the course as originally devised was to convince people who had never touched a computer that much useful work (and fun) could be obtained from an old XT or 286 machine which could be picked up for a few dollars, and DOS-based programmes free for the asking. Nowadays most people who express an interest in the course already own, or have access to, more modern machines running graphical operating systems and are looking for programme-specific "how to" courses rather than the "why is it so" basics. Even if I was competent to run such a course, the increased complexity of these huge programmes would imply a very lengthy course, and it is difficult enough to find people able to make an uninterrupted commitment for even the twelve weeks required by the "Introduction" course.

So for the time being, Monday afternoons will revert to being a time when anyone interested in computers, whether they already own one or not, can come along and discuss conceptual or practical problems, demonstrate new hardware or software, use the Club's computer and generally prove that "geeks" can be Senior Citizens too.

The first of such free-wheeling sessions occurred on 20 July, when the group was able to demonstrate to a new member that his computer, which he said "just sat there and refused to do anything", did in fact have not only Windows for Workgroups installed but also Microsoft Works and so could be used for word processing, playing games, generating spreadsheets and other goodies. Yet another satisfied customer!

Afterwards, those who were interested in musical aspects of the computer stayed on and were instructed by my son Peter in the mysteries of the MIDI interface and a beautiful programme called, intriguingly, Band in a Box.

Dennis Glanville

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Some of our table-tennis players set off in July for warm and sunny Coff's Harbour to challenge the locals. Thanks to Hank Massen's earlier contacts ,organisation of accommodation, supply of maps, and ensuring all were enjoying themselves at all times it was a happy and memorable trip.

With one exception members travelled by car which enabled visits to old friends on the way and choice of travel times and routes. Dennis and Beryl Carthy and Hank and Ann Massen chose an inland route.Unfortunately they encountered torrential rain about Tamworth.All arrived in due course to temperatures of 13-24°.

Eleven stayed at Coff's Village Caravan Park notable for The Clog Barn, miniature Dutch village, and Big Oma's Coffee House. The cabins were comfortable but a bit chilly on cooler nights.

The owners were friendly and helpful.

Table tennis was played at the Over-50's Table Tennis Club which has 50 members and 6 permanently erected tables in 2 rented rooms.We were made most welcome. Delicious sandwiches and home-made cakes were served on the day the local Federal M.P. came to greet us. His promise of "V.I.P." treatment fuelled Coff's players' enthusiasm to play against us here next year. Bolstered by the support of Ken Hutchins and Arthur White our players gave a good account of themselves. Hank and Dennis took on their best pair. Carmel quickly earned respect from skilled opponents while Anita tried tirelessly to wear out the opposition. We also played table tennis at the Ex-Servicemen's Club which has 3 tables and some younger players.

Of course time was found for other things such as trips to Woolgoolga and Sawtell, The Big Banana, and Carobana[free chocolates and coffee], two large shopping plazas, Jetty markets and the magnificent botanic gardens. The gardens include a mangroves board-walk, a herb garden, glasshouses and international sections. It has koala bears, ducks and laughing kookaburras. Is'nt that a nice backdrop for the senior citizens seen there

doing their Tai Chi gentle exercises to music?

Some of us played indoor bowls [ten pin], card games and triominoes while Anita and Ros played bridge against the locals.

Most cooked meals in cabin facilities taking advantage of cheap local produce [bananas 50 cents kilo]. Some gathered at an attractive fish restaurant and at Big Oma's where we had the pleasure of Joe Hinton's company. Those who tried the Chinese smorgasbord across the road were pleased with the quantity, quality and price.

You will hear different accounts from different people but we all thank Hank for his initiative and organisation which led to such enjoyment.

FOLK DANCING

The Folk Dancing Group performed at George Forbes House, Queanbeyan, and at Goodwin Village, Farrer, last month. Next month they will perform at Burrangiri, Rivett. On the last weekend in July Jean and Lorna attended a Folk Dance Workshop at Bowral. The teaching was done by Andre van der Plas---a very lively person--and a great time was had by all. Some of the dances are now being taught to our Folk Dance Group, so that we will add a few 'specials' to our ever-growing repertoire.