
Meridian

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November 1999

From The President

Dear Members,

I am pleased to be able to let you know that our membership has now broken the 500 barrier - 508 at the latest count. A concentrated membership drive is underway through two different mechanisms. Annette Steadman, our new Publicity Officer, is submitting information to the Canberra Times, the Chronicle and Valley View, while Shirley Kelly is distributing flyers to as many outlets as possible - you can see a copy of one of these on the Notice Board. The Internet is not being ignored either - the Club is being publicised on the A.C.T. Governments touch-screen kiosks around Canberra. My circular to members, seeking ideas for improving the Club, produced many responses. I am very appreciative of the constructive suggestions made by so many of you.

The Craft Group have been involved in a wonderful fund-raising exercise - they have raised \$741.35, which includes \$441.35 from the sale of craft goods and \$200 from the sale of raffle tickets at Melrose High School on Referendum Day.

Anne Murray (President)



Christmas Party!
Tuesday 21 December
Book now! - details are
on the Notice Board.

News From the Groups

Dear Members,

As mentioned in last month's issue I am helping Anne with the production of the Meridian - by the way, how do you like the new format?

There is always plenty of activity going on and new members joining to swell our numbers. On Mondays there are two groups of card players quietly doing their own thing, while the Choir members practice for their concerts, which they perform once a week. Due to adverts placed in the Canberra times and the local papers, the Choir was pleased to welcome no less than six new members recently. It just goes to show that it pays to advertise.

Tuesday Bridge which starts at 10am. is flourishing as usual under the direction of Ann Scott, who is always ready to play herself should anyone find them-

selves without a partner. In the afternoon the dancers always look so happy as they glide across the floor. (Its good exercise, too!)

On Wednesdays you will find Table Tennis in full swing, and congratulations to Anita Lyons on winning two gold medals at the Master's Games held in Adelaide last month. Anita loves to compete in these games and is an ambassador for our Club. Most of the players like to go to other venues interstate where the play against other social groups, and I understand Hank wishes to organise a visit by other clubs next year.

The Bowlers too have a great time. Some of them have been playing for many years and have built up great skill in this activity, which is a good deal more difficult than it looks.

A number of people turn up for Bridge each Thursday. This session starts at 12.30pm. and is directed by Bill Davey, who also runs the Saturday Bridge, starting at 1 pm. Most Bridge sessions last for three hours or more, putting paid to the myth that all us oldies have short concentration spans.

On Thursdays you will also find Myra Hickey and the Craft people on the verandah, their nimble fingers turning out some lovely work. Myra is a strong supporter of the Club and is deeply interested in it. She and her helpers put much effort into organising raffles and selling the tickets.

The Indoor Gardeners also meet on a Thursday afternoon. Surely their beautiful flowers deserve more than mere prose

so here "gose":

prose
 so here gose:
 "And if we meander
 Onto the Verandah
 We'll see a show of beautiful flowers
 Among which Jean Simpson potters
 for hours

What plant is this?
 How does it grow?
 Just ask Jean
 She's sure to know.
 Plants are living, she wisely said;
 They need food and water
 And a comfortable bed.
 These words of wisdom she imparts
 Encourage us to make a start."

Oh well - a poet I ain't!
 Busy Lorna Pinson organises the International Folk Dancers on Thursdays. They have a lively time, and after the boisterousness comes the calm and serenity of Tai Chi under Elizabeth Halfnights.

In addition to the folk dancing, Lorna also presides over the Music Appreciation Group where you can listen to and discuss the music of the classical composers.

And have you noticed how good the area around the building is looking? Our volunteer gardener Tony Wilson is doing a wonderful job, and we all hope he will be able, with our support, to continue his very good work.

I hope I haven't left anyone out - if so, my sincere apologies.
 My best wishes to you all,

Pat Summersby.

A Bit of News from the Computer Interest Group.

Internet Publicity for the Club

Did you know that the Dept. of Urban Services runs a COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR on the Internet? After a heroic expedition into that Terra Incognita called the Internet { Here be Dragons! }

the Club is now registered on the Calendar. This means that anyone in the world, by accessing the Calendar, can read a brief description of our Club and be hyperlinked to our home page where there is a much fuller description, including our Activity List. Of course, not many people in

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Timbuctoo will want to know what is going on in the A.C.T., but many Canberrans visit the Calendar each week. Even those without Internet access can still read the Calendar through the AUSTOUCH terminals scattered around Canberra in public places such as shopping malls and bus stations.

So why is this any better than the little booklet which the Government used to put out every year listing non-profit organisations? Well, for a start, it can be updated at any time. Then there's the hyperlink to our home page. BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE! Should the Club decide to run a special event, such as a fete or a card & games day, this can be included in the Calendar, under one or more appropriate categories, in addition to our permanent entry. The details about

the event, exactly as supplied by us, are displayed on screen and, if requested, in the "Wotzon" section of the Canberra Chronicle.

To what extent the Club benefits from this new form of publicity will of course depend on the good offices of our new Publicity Officer. Remember that the Club itself does not have an Internet account - all Net access on behalf of the Club is charged to the personal ISP accounts of the Computer Group members. However, there is no reason why our spiel should not be placed on the Calendar via the FREE Internet access provided by the Public Libraries.

Construction Project

Unfortunately this is not going as well as we hoped. We have succeeded in resuscitating an old colour monitor which has been donated, so we now have a spare. But our efforts to get Bill Gynn's two ex-Govvy 486 machines going is hampered by an absence of disk drives at Revolve. If any of you out there know of a couple of hard disk drives and floppy drives going begging, please let us know.

Change of Timetable.

It is probable that after the Christmas break, our meetings will be moved from Monday afternoons to Wednesday afternoons. This is to assist the Music Appreciation Group who would like to use the room on Mondays.

Dennis Glanville