



Meridian



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The monthly newsletter of the Woden Senior Citizens' Club

July 2001



Overheard in the Bridge Room

"I have trouble with computers - I think my learning curve is a circle."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's now midwinter and most members are coping well with the cold weather. Clear sunny days are helpful!

I am pleased to let you know that our submission to the Dept. of Community Services for funding for a celebratory party during the International Year of Volunteers has been successful. We received \$1200, and planning for the event will get under way soon.

The Club's administrative review has recommenced and we are currently seeking details from activity group leaders about their roles and responsibilities.

The Council on the Ageing (ACT) has introduced a project entitled "Clubs on the Move". It was very interesting to meet personnel from the Turner, Belconnen and Tuggeranong clubs. We all agree that the general areas of concern for us are management issues within our Clubs - communication, cohesion, the role of volunteers and the building of ethos. There are to be seminars on the GST and finances, the public image of Senior's Clubs, and one (which we will host) on conducting an administrative review.

I plan to establish a Social Programme

Committee in the near future as a means of promoting cohesion, broader communication and alternative activity options for our Club. The Diabetes Association (ACT) has been hosting exercise classes (run by the YMCA) for over twelve months. Unfortunately the Association will be unable to continue these classes because of funding difficulties.

However, the YMCA will continue to fund and conduct the sessions for at least the next eight weeks. We are fairly confident of securing other sources of funding so that this important programme can continue each Wednesday morning at 10.00 am.

Since March, forty three new members have joined the Club, and on Monday 13th. August the Committee is inviting these new members to have afternoon tea with us.

I am very happy to see members enjoying their activities and one another's company.

Anne

FROM THE RECORDS CLERK

In last months Meridian I gave a cry for help in printing members' index cards from the new Microsoft Access database. My thanks to the gentleman who responded with a solution. (Incidentally the gentleman was not a member, so how did he get to see the Meridian which is not supposed to be removed from the premises?) The proposed work-around allows printing on one side of the card only, so to compensate we will be using slightly larger cards, which will be redesigned to record a

second vehicle registration number for the benefit of those plutocrats among you who can afford to run two cars!

About 200 of last year's members have allowed their membership to lapse. Under the new Constitution there is no financial penalty on re-joining - the procedure is the same as for renewing an existing membership except that a fresh application form is required. It is possible that some of these former members may still be attending activities in the Club without paying visitors fees. If so, this represents a substantial loss in revenue to the Club. To counteract this, those collecting activity fees are requested, for the next three weeks, to enter in the attendance books the surname of those participating as well as the firstname.

Similarly a number of members who are known to bring their cars to the Club have not yet obtained their 2001/2002 parking permits. Spot checks will shortly be resumed and offenders reminded of their obligations.

Records Clerk

WHILE THERE'S LIFE

One of our members spotted the following ad. in the Personal column of a local paper:

GENTLEMAN, young 79, needs lover, lady to 80, must be slim, petite. A.C.T. area Reply 143

.....and anyone churlish enough to ask why our member was reading that particular part of the newspaper should heed the words of that Damon Runyon character: "The best one can get by asking questions in this town is a reputation for asking questions."

CARPET BOWLS

The bad news is that one of our number, Jean Watson, suffered a stroke recently - a shock to us all. The good news is that she is recovering well, and we are looking forward to her return to the mats before too long.

On Thursday the 19th. we held a small Christmas-in-July celebration - most enjoyable and a pleasant reminder that the days will be getting longer from now on.

Audrey

That little old lady we mentioned last month eventually climbed one too many drainpipes, died, and knocked on the Pearly Gates.

Who's there" called St.Peter from within.

"It is I" said the little old lady

*"Oh Lord" said St.Peter; "Not another b***** schoolteacher."*

COMPUTER GROUP

The present series of Saturday/Sunday classes has formally come to an end, marked by a bottle of el cheapo sparkly. The students have dispersed with their diplomas (although they still have assignments to complete) and the Committee room will seem strangely silent on the weekends. With regret I have to confirm that for reasons given previously in this column, there will be no more classes, although of course the usual Monday afternoon sessions will continue. I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to my two patient and tireless helpers Bill Gynn and Sheila Shakespeare. Sheila, by the way, has just departed with husband Denis on a lengthy visit to the UK - we all wish them a happy holiday and a safe return.

Dennis Glanville

Articles, letters to the Editor, etc. for inclusion in the Meridian should be addressed to the Editor and left with the Office Administrator. Items may be submitted at any time, but to make the next edition should reach the Editor before the 7th. of the month.

ROUND THE BOARDS

Two notices to which you may like to pay particular attention this month:

1. The Guide Dogs Association has kindly offered to send a speaker to introduce us to one or two of these amazing animals and to talk about their training and placement. However the Committee does not want to accept the offer and then find that only a handful turn up. A notice has therefore been posted asking you to say **whether you would be sufficiently interested to attend..**

2. Ever since the air conditioning system was installed there have been queries from members concerning Legionnaires Disease. The Office Manager has taken up the question with the Health Protection Service. They have assured us that evaporative coolers are not considered to be a source of Legionella bacteria, and as part of their response, they have provided an **Information Sheet** which will remain on the notice board for the next week or two.

EDITORIAL

I was reading in Monday's Canberra Times an article about an Internet site which decries the erosion of true-blue Aussie culture through "Americanisation". While admitting the usefulness of the site in certain respects, the author of the article criticises it on the grounds that a culture is a dynamic entity, constantly changing. As he points out "Australian culture of 1850 was quite different from that of 1950, and no-one seemed to mind". But if that is so, why is it that so much time and rhetoric is expended on saving the old tribal ways, laws

and languages of Aboriginal culture? Is there something unique about Aboriginal culture which entitles it to immunisation against the evolutionary processes which, whether we like it or not, are affecting white culture? Or am I over simplifying the issue by overlooking some vital fact? Or again, am I just being provocative, trying to stimulate some irate "Letter to the Editor" from out there?

Ed.

WANTED

Good home for Duke
Duke is a Golden Cocker Spaniel, de-sexed, well behaved and walks well. His present owner is out all day and so cannot provide him with the human company he loves. Contact PENNY BRODY on 62900130

**YOUR ADVERTISEMENT OR
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
COULD BE HERE!**

WAY BACK THEN

Continuing our suggestions as to how well-known saying could have had their origins in the "good old days".

Houses had thatched roofs - up-market ones used reeds, but many had straw. The thatch was a good place for animals to keep warm and so became a refuge for small animals, from insects to cats and dogs. When it rained, and the straw got slippery, the little ones (rats & mice) were OK, but the larger ones tended to fall off the roof. Hence the expression "Raining cats and dogs".