



Meridian



Volume 4 Issue 3

The monthly newsletter of the Woden Senior Citizens' Club

March 2002



Overheard in the Office:

"Oh, anyone can cope with a crisis - its the everyday things that put your blood pressure into orbit."

In Memoriam

NORMA JACKSON and DAVID McKIE

Those of us who have been around the Club for several years will have noted with sadness the announcement earlier this month of Norma's death. A friend to all, and a Life Member, Norma gave long years of service to the Club in many ways, but is probably best remembered for her hard work as Secretary. A perfectionist, any job she undertook was guaranteed to be done properly - and woe betide anyone who returned an index card to its box not in alphabetical order!

Your rest is well earned, Norma. Also, our deepest sympathy goes to Doreen Mckie on the death of her husband David. A long time participant and supporter of the New Vogue dance group, David succumbed to a rare disorder from which he suffered for some time. Despite the pressure which this must have placed on Doreen, she continued to assist the Club in many ways as a committee member, and standing down as Secretary only recently. The thoughts of all your friends here are with you at this sad time Doreen.

THE PRESIDENT REPORTS

A great deal of my time and nervous energy this month has gone into the Autumn Concert, so I thought that instead of my normal type of report I would try to give you some idea of what has been going through my mind as the moment of truth approaches. So instead of calling this The President's Monthly Report I'll call it "THE TRIBULATIONS OF AN AMATEUR ENTREPRENEUR".

It's two days before our March 24th. concert at the Hellenic Club - it's two o'clock in the morning and I would dearly love to be asleep. However, I'm wide awake thinking about what still needs to be done and the deadlines for doing them. Are our plans working as envisaged? What may have been forgotten? Yesterday there was a meeting at the Hellenic Club between the performers and the organising team, which included Peter Fock, President of the Southern Cross Players. Here is a glimpse of what happened between 2.30 pm. and 5 pm.:

♪ some of the performers practise their songs, testing themselves and the sound system;

♪ our choir practise their entrance and exit, and rehearse their lovely songs;

♪ a representative of the Egyptian Dance Group checks the stage and dressing rooms. She is concerned to find pins on the stage, as the group dances barefoot. "Needles" to say, the offending pins are removed forthwith!

Wedding Anniversary - Jim and Elizabeth Mayne.

On the 7th. of this month the International Folk Dancers put on an afternoon tea in celebration of Jim and Elizabeth's diamond wedding. Yes, that's right, 60 glorious years. The injunction to "bring a plate" was followed with enthusiasm and as a result twenty five guests enjoyed a spread befitting the occasion.

♪ there is a discussion about seating - how many chairs to put out? The leader of the orchestra says 600 - I certainly hope we really do need that many.

♪ Peter and Umar check the numbers in all groups and their lighting and sound requirements, plus many other details.

♪ I begin to wonder about what sort of flowers to order, and this reminds me of several other unfinished tasks. I start writing a list.

♪ We check out our sound headgear for inter-person communication - I have never been a "front-of-house manager" before!

♪ There is discussion about acoustics - will the curtains be closed and will the carpet squares be lifted from the polished floors? It seems this makes an important difference.

♪ The Function Manager of the Hellenic Club promises to organise tea and coffee at the interval, and it is decided not to open the bar then. What a shame!

♪ He also offers to run off 600 programmes for us - very kind. (I have since collected the programmes, and they look really good.)

A very hectic three hours I think you will agree.

We learned the following day that the FM

community radio station ARTSOUND has been highlighting our concert regularly throughout the week, and 2CN has also made a positive announcement today. Katie Smith took a pile of flyers to the Canberra Symphony Orchestra's concert at the School of Music last night.

Today I must remember to confirm the attendance of those volunteers who have agreed to assist on The Day, meet with Phil Lynch, the compere, order the flowers, photocopy extra programmes, ring the ABC at 2 pm. to make an announcement about the concert on the afternoon show. There's lots more still to do - its a challenge and, I sincerely hope, a very worthwhile venture for the Club in terms of our wider links with the community and with other organisations. Our Admin. Officer has undertaken the role of Concert Coordinator with a high level of commitment and expertise; Peter Fock as Stage Manager has brought knowledge and experience to the planning process. I hope that this time next month I will be able to give you a positive report on the outcome of the Autumn Concert.

It is now 2.45 am. and I'm still wide awake - there's no business like show business!

Anne



Cynical Sam says:

What does it mean when the man in your bed is gasping for breath and calling your name?
- it means you didn't hold the pillow down long enough!

Notes from the Records Clerk

Honestly, you turn your back for five minutes (well, a month actually) and suddenly there is a whole wodge of new membership applications to be processed!. Compiling the membership list for March reveals that we currently have 595 members, of whom 92 have joined since Jan. 1st. and therefore will enjoy free membership next year. In view of the recent work on the car park, it is interesting to note that of the 595, no less than 329 have purchased parking permits for at least one car. Which in turn raises the question of whether a person who wishes to register two cars with the Club should be required to purchase a permit for each. It is a matter which will need to be considered further.

On a different matter it would be much appreciated if any Meridian reader who is in contact with PAT HEFFERNAN would ask him or her (I don't know whether it is Patrick or Patricia) to call at the Office. Pat paid a subscription on February 11th. but we need a completed application form before membership becomes effective.

ON THE BOARDS

Its not too early to start thinking about that major fund raising project - the annual fete. Looking around the notice boards you will see that some people are already making preparations. The Carpet Bowls group will be running the cake stall and have put up a large notice seeking promises of cakes, pies, biscuits preserves etc. for their stall. If its eatable (or drinkable) they'll sell it!

Sue Barrett is organising the Lucky Dip and needs items which can be used as small prizes. Her notice suggests glass jars and things to put in them - such as sweets, screws etc. Also small gifts - have you

one or two things which you have been given as Christmas presents at some time and never used? Just think - they are taking up valuable space in your cupboard, so why not pass them on to Sue and reclaim the space?

Then there is that very intriguing notice about Misty's Magic Musical Tour. Sorry, I can't tell you what its all about - it wouldn't be a Mystery then, would it? But I for one will follow with interest the injunction on the notice to "watch this space", and no doubt all will be revealed in due course (as the actress said to the bishop).

YOUR

- ◇ LETTER TO THE EDITOR
- ◇ ADVERTISEMENT
- ◇ DRAWING
- ◇ ANNOUNCEMENT
- ◇ NEWS ITEM
- ◇ OR WHAT-HAVE-YOU

COULD HAVE GONE HERE - IF ONLY YOU HAD REMEMBERED TO SUBMIT IT!

THE COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP

Activities resumed in the New Year with a demonstration by Colleen Scott of the popular PowerPoint programme. Our thanks to her for a carefully prepared presentation, choosing as her subject the Woden Senior Citizens Club (and in particular the Computer Interest Group!). Of course, we cannot be said to have "learned" the programme in just one short session, but we now have a good idea of how it works should we ever need to use it. Our thanks also to David Henderson for bringing in his computer for the demonstration.

Since then, we have been playing with a cut-down version of the operating system Linux, and re-learning the delights of working from a command line and keyboard. The score at the moment is Computer Group 1, Linux 3. The version we are using is called Zipslack (a variant of the Slackware distribution) and is highly unusual in that it runs from within Windows. This version is not intended for serious use but only as an introduction to a Unix-type environment.