



# Meridian



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The monthly newsletter of the Woden Senior Citizens' Club

June 2002



Overheard in the Bridge Room:

*"Yes, I went on a diet once - it was the worst afternoon of my life."*

## EDITORIAL

I don't know how many of you saw the brief shots of our Club on one of the commercial TV channels on Monday night (June 17th.), and the equally brief interview with our President. For those who didn't catch the TV segment, or the corresponding story in the Canberra Times, the report concerned the appointment of Anne to the Government's Advisory Council on The Ageing. In accepting the appointment Anne must have calculated that she has the time to devote to this most recent addition to her list of responsibilities - one of these days we must get her to reveal the secret of the 25 hour day.

Congratulations, Anne.

Congratulations also to the organisers who found those terrific entertainers for the June birthday lunch. Weren't the costumes of the Bush Dancers magnificent? What a shame that the accompanying musicians were almost drowned out at times by those few members whose conversations were so important that they had to be continued, regardless. I suppose compulsive talking is one of the concomitants of old age, but it would be a pity if the Club gained a reputation of being discourteous to those who take the time and trouble to come and entertain us

Changing the subject, I was listening the other day to a member complaining about the changing focus of the Club, and suggested that she write to the Meridian about it. The response was "What's the use - nobody reads it." If this is true, then the time has surely come to cease publication, or at least look for an alternative. One possibility is a combined publication with the other A.C.T Senior's clubs, professionally produced, and perhaps financed by sponsorship.

The Editor

## THE PRESIDENT REPORTS .....

Membership renewals proceeded smoothly during June. More than 200 renewals were completed by June 30 and 150 new memberships were processed between January 1 and June 30.

Your responses in completing the new forms have been very positive, though a small number of you have expressed misgivings about the need for the new forms. The Committee believes that the information requested will enhance our data base and assist us to plan effectively for the needs of the Club membership today and in the future .

A very pleasant lunch party was held on Wednesday June 19. It was a strong cooperative effort with members of the Bridge group taking responsibility for the lunch preparation and other associated matters. Several other members of the Club generously assisted with setting up and putting away furniture etc. Thank you to everyone involved including birthday members and the 78 of you who attended.

For many months now future directions for the Club has been a topic raised in Committee, between Committee members and some of you individually, and between Umar and myself. You will be aware of the consultation being undertaken by the A.C.T. Government, through Planning and Land Management (PALM) for a master plan for the development of the Woden Town Centre. Many of you will have seen the display put up by PALM in the foyer of the Woden library. While to some extent our Club serves the whole of the A.C.T., it is an integral part of the Woden community and will benefit from a well thought out and courageously planned development of the business, recreation and community sectors. We became aware that PALM did not intend at this time to plan in any detail for future Woden community facilities. We discussed this matter with PALM and we hosted a meeting on June 18 with PALM, which was attended by the Woden Community Service, the Woden Library, the Health Centre, the Woden Community Council and other concerned community groups. These consultations will continue in order to clarify issues and concerns.

You will have noted frequent media coverage about the

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

- 24 hours in a day.....  
 24 beers in a case .....  
 Coincidence?

FROM THE RECORDS CLERK

By the time you read this, the deadline for renewal of memberships will have passed, and one hopes that you will all have renewed your parking permit and, where necessary, your membership. What happens if you allow your membership to lapse? Well of course you will always be welcome to re-join, but bear in mind that

1. if you continue using the Club you will be doing so as a visitor, and visitor's fees will apply;
2. you will be no longer eligible to use the car park, and you may be asked to move your vehicle;
3. there is a grey area as regards your insurance cover (which the Admin Team is attempting to resolve).

The new application form and procedure, devised by the Admin. Team, and the reasons therefor, appear to be well accepted by the members, although it does add considerably to the time taken to key in the data. At the moment there is a backlog of more than 250 forms to process, and one or two people have volunteered to assist with this - my thanks to them.

The Records Clerk.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

In addition to our normal activities in June, we gave a performance at the Southern Cross Club on Tuesday July 2nd. The Southern Cross is a venue to which have been invited several times in the past, and on this occasion, to mark their appreciation of the entertainment we provide, we were presented with a handsome certificate. Congratulations to the display teams, past and present, which have so impressed the Southern Cross patrons..

**VOLUNTEERS FOR ISOLATED STUDENTS' EDUCATION**

As many of you know, this worthy organisation has only one fund-raising activity in Canberra each year. This takes the form of a dinner and/or show ("STARS ON PARADE") at the Southern Cross. Although the event is not until October, bookings are well advanced, and early booking is advisable. The cost is \$18 for the show only, or \$38 for the dinner and show. This is a very full evenings entertainment, offered (thanks to the Southern Cross Management) at a price substantially less than the norm for such events. See the notice board for details. If you would like more information about VISE, or if you would like to organise a small group to go from the Club, let me know and I will arrange to get the tickets.

Dennis Glanville (62812607)

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP

The two topics which have occupied our attention this month have been the programme Microsoft Access 2000 and the Windows Registry. Database programmes, although essential in industry, commerce and government, are not things which are widely used in the home, at least not to the full extent of their formidable capabilities. However, many people who have installed the ubiquitous Office 2000 on their machines will have Access sitting idle, and we had a brief look, including a few practical exercises, at how it can be applied to a real situation. Our approach was rather superficial, encompassing only the end use of an already created database, but it paved the way for a more in-depth look if there is enough interest.

Windows Registry is terra incognita for most users of the Windows operating system, so we set out to demystify it, including that most essential operation, backing up and restoring the Registry. As usual we finished with a small exercise in which we made some fairly harmless changes and restored a backed up copy. While it is unlikely that any of us will ever need to make drastic changes, to the Registry, it is as well to know how to navigate its many branches and edit them safely.

Dennis Glanville



**DID YOU HEAR ABOUT .....**

the two Eskimos who set out in their kayak on a lengthy sea voyage. Once they left the shelter of the bay however it became extremely cold, and in order to keep warm they lit a fire. Of course the inevitable happened and the fire burned a hole in the bottom of the kayak which promptly sank, and the two unfortunate (and not very bright) Eskimos perished.

Which just goes to show that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

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changing population profile in the A.C.T. and especially in the Woden area. Research by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates that by 2012, just 10 years away, 30% of the population in the Woden area will be 60 or more. This projection, linked with increasing longevity, is likely to put considerably more pressure for the provision of services and organisations such as ours.

Maybe it is helpful at this stage to remember how our Club got established and what its purpose is. People took initiative. They planned for the future and took action. They secured this block of land with a 99 year lease and built an attractive facility. That early work, energy and foresight was maintained by many members and continued over the years. We have a Club facility and grounds which have served us well and new members and visitors comment on how fortunate we are to own such an excellent asset and how much they like the friendly, welcoming environment.

Given the current circumstances and those foreshadowed we have opportunities to consider our priorities and options. Do we stay as we are or do we take advantage of opportunities which arise? I believe it is very timely for us to review the objectives of our Club as they are now and decide if these objectives should be retained or amended in the interest of existing members and those of the future. A reading of our Club rules will show that the objectives and purposes of the Club are stated to be (in brief):

*the alleviation of loneliness, provision of friendship, companionship, enjoyment for members and visitors, and to provide benevolence, charity and welfare advice.*

Presently we provide a facility and support services to encourage ongoing social, recreational and

educational activities for members and visitors (although few visitors regularly attend at present). Welfare support is provided through a contractual arrangement with the Woden Community Service and the A.C.T. Government.

Due to the Club's strained financial, organisational and physical resources the provision of benevolence and charity is generally limited to that provided spontaneously by members, usually within their activity groups. The Committee and administrative team also seek to provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere which is responsive to members' needs wherever possible.

Although most of our activities are undertaken on the Club premises, some are held elsewhere routinely (for example hydrotherapy, trips and outings) or occasionally (for example the Senior Singers and Folk Dancers).

We need to assess if under our present circumstances we can fulfill adequately our Club's stated objectives, either currently or in the future. With the approval of the Committee, the Administrative Officer and I are consulting with the Chief Minister's Department, PALM, local business interests and community groups to clarify the opportunities and possible avenues of development. We have also initiated consultations with independent experts in finance, property and the law to ensure that the financial security, identity and independence of the Club is safeguarded. However, no binding decisions or commitments will be made without the approval of the membership of our Club as a whole. I will make every effort to keep you informed about our work and any significant developments as they emerge.

The Admin. Team is seeking sources of funding which will allow us to communicate more effectively with members through mail-outs and meetings to ensure that you have every opportunity to provide us with comment, criticism and advice.

Anne



**Cynical Sam says:**

*Many people quit looking for work when they find a job.*