



## Probus Club of Champagne Valley

July 2009

### President

Neil Crawford  
Tel 083 277 4978

### Secretary

Jenny Vago  
Tel 082 330 4909

### Editor

Robin Atkinson  
Tel 082 906 0206  
Email robin@isat.co.za

## A real enthusiast!



### Next Meeting

The next meeting will  
be on

**Thursday 6th  
August at 18H00  
in the Conference  
Room at  
Monks Cowl Country  
Club**

The meal will cost R80  
per person for  
members.

Visitors (i.e. non-  
members) will be  
charged R95 for the  
evening.

Payment can be made  
either in cash  
(preferred) or  
alternatively by cheque  
made out to Monks  
Cowl Country Club.

There will be a cash bar

Little did the Oxleys' know that by sending their son to join the cadet corps – the action of parents keen to introduce him to some discipline – they were setting the stage for Eddie's lifelong hobby. It all started with cadets from the different regiments swapping badges between them, and today Eddie boasts not only a major collection of military memorabilia – with emphasis on badges and insignia – but also an understanding of the significance of the various pieces and some of the history behind them.

The impressive display of badges, swords and other items which greeted Probus members attending the last meeting represented only a portion of Eddie's collection. Carefully mounted, labelled and framed, the badges of regiments from all parts of England included many names familiar to us from the various war memorials that form part of our history. To bring things even more to life, Eddie also included some more mundane, but perhaps more personal, items like pay books, letters, and photographs; and to remind us that war also meant death, he included some really impressive swords and bayonets.

With his enthusiasm for his hobby shining through in every word, Eddie then shared some of the stories behind items in his collection, and his experiences and discoveries over the years of collect-

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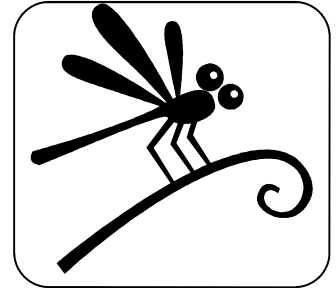
ing, from the early days when pieces were to be found in various attics and forgotten boxes, and collectors were happy to simply give fellow collectors items they came across in their particular line. Today, everything has a price, and it is ever harder to find pieces. Eddie's plea? Don't throw that old piece of junk away – it may well be a significant memento of our history.

Contributed by Neil Crawford

## Dragonfly Diary - World Cup Woes

Picture, as I often do when there's nothing on the telly, that you're a wee Bushman in 19th century Okhahlamba.

You go out for an invigorating eland hunt during the day, admiring the breath-taking mountain landscape. At night, you retire to your cave to paint your exploits and to explore the wonders of the Berg with a nubile maiden or two from Injisuthi. An occasional trip to Didima, for a spot of trading and some brisk traditional dancing, rounds off an idyllic lifestyle for any devoted fan of eland-related comestibles.



However, imagine your surprise one day when out stalking a reedbuck and, suddenly, you spot Shaka approaching at the head of a Zulu impi, with a look in his eye suggesting that he's unlikely to be fobbed off with tea and biscuits.

Even the most dim-witted of a line of notably stolid cave dwellers would realize it was goodbye eland, hello doom.

A similar dread shivers down my spine when I consider next year's soccer world cup; the thought of 450 000 fans brings me out in a cold sweat. I am plagued by nightmares of drunken phalanxes of lobster-pink hooligans.

How shall we survive the siege?

We already have the answer: never had I noticed such a prolific talent for forming clubs until I moved here.

Not least of these is the Probus Club. Almost everyone who is a member of any other club is a member of Probus. It is the club of clubs, the sanctum sanctorum, and the hub of the valley's social scene. I may go so far as to say that you aren't part of the valley until you join. I never thought that an evening once a month with exceedingly old people could be so much fun, but then I never thought that 50 would whiz by so quickly, either.

Some clubs don't actively seek members, but you can do what everyone else does: form your own. At last count, book clubs outnumbered people who could actually read. The investment club has lost more shirts than the gambling club has legs.

My favourite is the 'vegetable club'. On any weekday between 15:30 and 16:00, pay a visit to Hillbillies to buy your fruit and veg. Not only will you pay less, you can catch up on the *skinner*. (My reference to vegetables is not a personal slight of the members of this club.)

The list goes on. Before you know it, you will be happily occupied every day and night, flitting from one function to another activity, like my dream Bushman – and the yobbos will have gone home.

## Next Meeting: Thursday 6th August .....now for something really different!

We live in the midst of the Ngwane people but what do we know of them, of their traditions and of their cultures. For example, why are they different from the Zulus and why are they known as Amangwane? For an eye opening presentation of the Ngwane tribe from their origins in the north of Africa in the early days of 1100 AD to the present we welcome at our next meeting, Sydney Ngwenya who is an enthusiastic narrator and authoritative spokesman for the Ngwane tribe.

We promise you an entertaining evening with a difference so ban the winter chill and join your friends for supper and let's hear Sydney tell his story. Details are as follows;

**Date:**           **Thus 6th August 2009**  
**Time:**           **6.00pm**  
**Venue:**          **Conference Centre, Monks Cowl Country Club**  
**Cost:**           **Members R80 / Guests R95**  
                      **A cash bar will be available**

**As Martin and Wendy Goulding are overseas, please confirm your attendance with Val Atkinson on either 036 468 1154 or 082 880 7150.**

### MENU for 2nd July

**Artichoke Soup**

**Stuffed Chicken Fillet**

**Lemon Sponge Cake**

**Vegetarian Option**  
***Eggplant Parmigiana***  
***with Parmesan***

**PLEASE** confirm your attendance for the next meeting with Val Atkinson.

Please assist by contacting Val advising whether or not you are going to attend, before she needs to contact you.

**Val's numbers are:**

**036 468 1154 or**  
**082 880 7150.**

Please note that, in consideration to the Caterers, we must apply a cut off time of Midday on the day before any meeting; ie if you have not booked by that time, we shall not be in a position to accommodate you and, conversely, if you have booked and do not cancel by the day before, we must still look to you for payment. Of course, substitutes are always welcome but should be advised to Val.

## Ag no! Not again

Unfortunately, the outing to Nottingham Road Brewery promised for 22 July will not happen. Judy Carte, our outings convenor, says that as brewing does not happen to a pre-planned schedule it is not been possible to confirm that the visit would be more than a taste and buy opportunity. She does, however, promise a red hot outing in September!

## Let's hear from all those golfers!

Graham Appleby of Hilton Probus has approached us to verify the level of interest for a Probus golf tournament. The format would probably be a three or fourball alliance to take place on a weekday morning at a central club (Kloof Country Club?) and followed by lunch. To take place (say) late October/early November.



So, even if you have only a passing interest or are a golfer of note, let's put together a fourball or two and represent the Valley at this new event on the Probus KZN calendar. Please confirm with our own Secretary, Jenny Vago - no mean golfer herself - on 082 330 4909 as soon as possible.



### Probus KZN AGM

The Probus Club of Hilton recently hosted the 15th General Meeting of KZN Probus. Although a chilly day, even by 'Berg standards, our Champagne Valley club was bravely represented by Judy Carte and Nikki Walters. Of the 20 clubs in KZN, 15 were represented with a turnout of 38 members.

Feedback from our ladies, apart from commentary on an excellent carvery lunch, was of a very positive meeting under the chairmanship of Brian Kearney who has taken over the reins from Walter Eastman. Walter's dedication to Probus over many years was recognised by presentation of a certificate of appreciation and life membership.

Membership in KZN has grown to 820 with our own club being the newest and fastest growing. Brian Kearney was encouraged to try and visit more clubs to encourage the aims and objectives of Probus going forward and to pass on lessons learnt. Brian, we look forward to hearing from you with the date of your visit!

It was announced that The Probus Council of Southern Africa will move to KZN during 2010. The Council is the controlling body for the 160 clubs presently in Southern Africa and the responsibility for functioning of the Council will

remain with KZN for the following three years.

The next KZN function is the annual Probus Braai to be held, as usual, at the Durban Mangrove Swamps on 8th October and will include an environmental walk and presentation. Look out for details in a forthcoming newsletter.

Our ladies clearly enjoyed their day in Hilton with a useful exchange of ideas and contacts.



### Forthcoming Birthdays

Dick Vago:	22nd July
Jens Jacobsen:	22nd July
Betty Ashley-Botha:	23rd July
Anthony Muirhead:	23rd July
Rosemary Killen:	29th July
Trevor Wilson:	29th July
Marcelle Spinks:	2nd August
Sally Wood:	8th August
Paul Brogan:	16th August
Jean Carte:	17th August
Graham Barry:	18th August
Debbie Dowling:	30th August

**Congratulations to you all! Enjoy the day.**