



PROBUS

The Association of Retired Professional and Business
Persons in Localised Clubs throughout the World

Milnerton

President: Frank Powell: Tel. No. 021- 554 2418
Secretary: Dave Brook: Tel. No. 021- 551 1240
Almoner: Malcolm Willett: Tel. No. 021- 797 9276

NOTICE OF MEETING

A lunch time meeting of the Milnerton Probus Club will be held at the Italian Club, Donegal Road, Rugby, on Thurs 10th September 2009 at 12 noon for 1pm

Agenda.

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Introduction of guests/visitors
4. Announcements
5. Grace: Lunch
6. Speaker

Please Take note
Apologies for absence
from the meeting **must**
be lodged with **Robbert**
v.d. Honert at Tel No.
021 552-5611 not later than
8pm, Tuesday 8th Sept 2009

The guest speaker will be our member and Probian George Stelzner who will put forward a few thoughts about a New Educational Policy for South Africa

September Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Birthdays

2nd Sept. Tom Higgins
2nd Sept. Yvonne Lang
13th Sept. Elaine Visser
16th Sept. Gloria Powell
21st Sept. Audrey van den Honert
25th Sept. Bryce Smith
26th Sept. Jacques Malan

Anniversaries

8th Sept. 1951 Joe and Jacomina Berger
20th Sept. 1952 George and Pearl Fourie
23rd Sept. 2000 Gerrie and Jenny Maliepaard
28th Sept. 1957 Jan and Yvonne Lang

Report on the previous meeting held on Thursday 13th August 2009.

President Frank extended a warm welcome to all present, especially visitor Dave Williamson of Edgemean, a friend of Fraser Ross. Dave is a Doctor associated with St Luke's hospice and the Tygerberg Hospice

8 Apologies were received, including that of Secretary Dave Brook, suffering from a bladder and prostate infection. Ralph Kelly was asked to take notes on his behalf.

President Frank congratulated all those who had birthdays during August and in particular congratulations were extended to Justin and Lucille van Rensburg (1961) and to Raymond and Molly Deel-Smith Bill (1957) on their anniversaries.

The President reported good attendance by Milnerton Probians (23) at the Ladies Probus Lunch on the 5th August, a very enjoyable event. Singer Harry Curtis had delighted everyone with songs made popular by Bing Crosby, Dean Martin and Perry Como.

Grace was said by Norman Olsen and lunch was served.

Then it was time for our own JOHN VISSER to address us. In his introduction Frank spoke warmly of his 14 years association with John, Headmaster of Milnerton High School, as each of the Powell siblings advanced through the school, enjoying the benefits of both tuition and mentoring from John and his staff. As a proud father he was very grateful to John for this excellent nurturing.

John Visser—educationalist, caring gentleman and golfer—spent 40 years in teaching, 20 of them as Headmaster. He affirmed that his success stemmed from an enviable ability to “pick the right team”. Although “gewoner Afrikaner” was his modest description of himself, he obviously adapted well to new surroundings when he and Elaine came to the Cape and he continues to delight us all as a people’s person.

The Vissers have recently moved to Pinelands village in Pinelands, having to adapt once again—this time to a community where “pedestrians have preference” (because of their age, mostly!). Those leisurely rambles along the lagoon are now slipping into history. However one consolation is that the security of their new home has meant the end of a succession of beggars at the gate, one of the irritations of life in Milnerton where the Vissers spent 36 years.

John gives full credit to his predecessor for laying the foundations of Milnerton high School making it currently one of the best in the Province.

After his retirement from teaching, John began a “second innings”. He joined the former ARP&P in 1987 and took over from fellow Probian Ted Davison as chairman of the Milnerton ARP&P. He served on the Regional board, advanced to the National Board and eventually served as National Chairman. Membership of the ARP&P reached 25 000. George Fourie another Probian assisted John at the Headquarters of this body in Pinelands. He is pleased that ARP&P promoted Fitness Clubs for seniors and made efforts to improve their living standards through securing insurance discounts and other benefits.

Efforts to involve the Black community were less successful because of “different needs” and unrealistic expectations, although 14 lunch clubs were well patronised for a while. While John was at the helm, the ARP&P was one of the organisations to benefit from the St John’s Car competition and able to boost its finances by R1 500 000.

John retired as Chairman in 2004 and the ARP&P was deregistered in 2006, becoming part of SAARP, an organisation which was keen to make use of social clubs.

Ever upbeat, John urges fellow Probians to “stay involved”—the remedy for good mental health. “Don’t stop living!” That’s why he enjoys Probus so much (and golf of course!) Chris Wetter complimented John of his handling of the French pupils during their stay whilst the Koeberg project was in progress—he insisted that they observe the code of discipline of the school. Their parents, needless to say, were delighted!

President Frank presented John with a bottle of wine and thanked him for an inspiring talk.

The wine raffle was won by Denis O’Brian and the meeting closed.