



Probuss Chatter

Newsletter of the Probuss Club of Mossel Bay

July 2009

For the Record.....Club Meeting - 6 July 2009, **Admiral's Restuarant**

Present: 17 members; 3 Visitors

Apologies: Roland Host, Molly Jones, Lesley Phillips, Lorna Purchase, Dick Thomas.

Absent: Frank Sterley.

Welcome: Club President Norman Trethewey, welcomed all and extended a special welcome to visitors John & Janet O'Connel, (John, Guest Speaker) and Hilary Coetzee, new member-in-waiting.

Meetings Venue(s):

With Admiral's Restuarant unavailable for the August meeting because of renovations, several alternatives were proposed and discussed. These included Rosenheim, Ocean Grill, Eden Country Inn and the Mossel Bay Yacht Club. Johan Smidt to follow up the possibility of regaining access to Riviera Hotel, Hartenbos, Probuss' former regular meetings venue.

It was decided that Eden Country Inn would be used for the Club meeting scheduled for Monday 3 August 2009, (Rob Phillips to organise), that Roger Bennett would explore Ocean Grill as a possible future venue (he knows the owner) and Rosenheim was deemed to not be suitable on grounds of dodgy service. A cost ceiling of R70.00 per person was set.

Looking ahead, consideration as venue for the *Christmas meeting* in December is the Mossel Bay Yacht Club. The format to be a sing-along lunch with entertainment by musician Alan Green - Roger Bennett to follow up; Con Iversen to investigate availability of the yacht club. In absentia, Dick Thomas to be co-opted to assist on his return from ocean cruising; Club President Norman Trethewey to follow up with Yacht Club Sailing Commodore, Rob Holden.

Outings:

It was agreed that in consideration of the winter season, outings planning is to be for the warmer, summer months and will be addressed at the next meeting.

Induction:

While inducting Estelle McIlrath into membership of the Club, President Norman Trethewey briefly described her attributes and achievements: Accomplished artist, award winning art school founder and operator and keen angler and small arms shot.

Probuss Mossel Bay welcomes Estelle into membership and wishes her a long and active fellowship with her fellow Probussians.

Continues.....

Guest Speaker:

President Norman introduced guest speaker John O'Connell, an old friend who has previously entertained members as Mr Shun-Shun, the Magician. On this occasion, however, he was drawing on his years of living and travel in the Far east, China in particular, to share with us some of the sights and background of the food markets and culinary styles encountered.

From the slides shown it was clear that John (and Janet) O'Connell have led extraordinary lives and have seen and experienced in the East, a greater variety of life and cultures than most. From the grinding squalor of Chinese peasant farms and city backstreets to the opulence of palaces and temples, the O'Connells have been there. Not merely observing, but contributing to making a difference through their role in the transfer of business knowledge and the establishment of effective joint venture undertakings in the food industry. John O'Connell pointed out that his presentation was a look back in time to twenty five years ago and that since then China has made significant strides in modernising their cities, farms and society in general.

Some of the lasting observations conveyed in the presentation include:

- No flies in China after the Cultural Revolution – people were activated to kill flies.
- Street butcheries with meat on the pavement.
- Primitive street kitchens.
- Trains run punctually – you can literally set your watch by their arrival and departure times.
- Bicycles are the most ubiquitous transport all over China, giving credence to the popular song “There are Ten Million Bicycles in Beijing.”
- Bicycles in China come in many versions. Some of the more unusual ones depicted included – cycle ambulances, sewage tanker cycles, portable kitchen cycles, bulk freight delivery cycles, cycle water pumps, etc.
- One of the less savoury sights was that of roast dog – commonplace items on Chinese menus.

Dave Tomlinson thanked the guest speaker for his entertaining presentation and fascinating background explanations of the ‘real’ China which made the slide show come alive.

The meeting adjourned to the lunch tables in the adjacent room where Con Iversen led with grace and the national toast. Jan Groenewald (John Greenwood's stage name), ruthlessly fulfilled his role as Finesmaster and placed punitive fines upon the unwary.

Probus Mossel Bay will meet again at Eden Country Inn at next month's meeting. (See details below)

Consider this.....

- *Disabled toilets* - Ironically, the only toilets big enough to run around in.
- *Experience* - Something you don't get until just after you need it.
- *A conscience* - What hurts when all your other parts feel good.

NEXT MEETING

Date: 3rd August 2009

Venue: Eden Country Inn, Little Brak River

Time: 11:00 Committee Meeting
12:00 General Meeting and Fellowship

Agenda:

- Meeting Called to Order
- Apologies
- Matters Arising (from previous meeting)
- Induction of Lorna Purchase
- Introducing Guest Speaker – Roger Bennett
- Guest Speaker – Johan Smidt – “Me and My Computer”
- Thanking Guest Speaker – Ben Cilliers
- Grace and Toast – Lesley Phillips
- Fines Master – Norman Jones

Detail: Eden Country Inn is well known to many members. Managers Leon Gouws and Elize Els remember Probus from the Christmas party at the Mossel Bay Yacht Club which they served a few years ago. They are keen to reconnect with Probus because “You are all such nice people.”

On arrival Probiants will be welcomed with a complimentary glass of sherry. The menu selected will be:

- Bread rolls with butter
- Mushroom Quiche appetiser
- Chicken Cordon Bleu (filling of ham/mushroom)
- 2 Vegetables and Savoury Rice
- Chocolate Mousse with Cream or Ice Cream

All of this will cost R45.00 per person. Refreshments will be available from the cash bar.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries: August is a bye month for members.
