



Probans Chatter

Newsletter of the Probans Club of Mossel Bay

April 2010

AGM – Eden Country Inn

12th April 2010

- Present:** 16 Members
1 Awaiting member (Hilton Shinn – induction scheduled for May)
- Apologies:** Ben Cilliers, Eddie Gouge (bronchitis), Norman & Molly Jones, Lesley Phillips (gastritis), Dave Tomlinson (other commitments), Dick Thomas (travelling), Roland Host (business).
- Absent:** Frank Sterley
- Welcome:**
- President Norman Trethewey welcomed all to the meeting and in particular bade *Hilary Coetzee* a special word of welcome after her absence due to ill health.
 - He also welcomed *Hilton Shinn* whose pending membership has been delayed by ill health.
 - Best wishes for April birthdays and anniversaries were extended with special congratulations to Lorna Purchase on her 80th and Dick Thomas (in absentia), for attaining his three-score-years and ten.
(*Chatter notes that another (prominent) member will also be attaining 'Seventies Club' status during the month. The secrecy attending the occasion perhaps merits a (liquid) fine at next month's meeting?*)
- Business:** In his final address as President and before commencing the business of the AGM, Norman dealt with the following matters –
- Hilton Shinn – The President invited candidate member Hilton Shinn to briefly describe his background.
Hilton confessed immediately to being yet another ex-Zimbo (from Bulawayo nogal!). But thankfully he immediately redeemed himself by explaining that he had, after all, been in SA since '76, thereby defusing the early signs of xenophobia that had started to appear among certain of the twitchy Probans.
Hilton explained that he spent virtually his whole working life in the shipping industry based in Durban. He said that his business qualification is in the field of the certification of products in accordance with internationally designated safety, quality and specification standards, in which specialisation, he is a 'Standards and Quality Auditor'.
Hilton is retired and he and his wife have been comfortably idling away their time in Reebok for the past ten or so years. But his expertise continues to see him being called upon to render services in his field for several days a month.
President Norman announced that, all things being equal, Hilton would be inducted at next month's meeting.
 - Membership Subscriptions -The President reminded members that membership subscriptions are now due, and appealed to members to make the **R50.00** payment to the Treasurer.
 - Next Speaker – The President announced that in keeping with the Club's policy of alternating external guest speakers with invitations to members to present on subjects in which they are expert, the invited guest speaker for the May meeting is *Estelle McIlrath*, who, among her many talents, is a renowned art teacher and

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artist. Estelle will address the Club on the intriguing subject of “*There’s More to Seeing Than Meets the Eye*”

- *Next Outing* - President Norman announced that the next Club outing would be to the delightful National Parks Board river and lake Garden Route park, ***Ebb and Flow***, located in Sedgfield. The outing will be a group picnic and will take place on **Sunday 9th May 2010** from midday onwards. Details and directions will be issued at the next meeting.

- *Friends of the Museum* - President Norman stated that while Probus is constitutionally not committed to becoming actively involved in any projects, he had agreed to afford Probus members the opportunity to be advised of, and to respond individually, to an invitation to join the newly established “Friends of the Bartolomeu Dias Museum Association” (*Friends*). ‘Friends’ is aimed at recruiting and involving interested members of the public to support the museum in several ways. These include –

- Raising public interest
- Assisting in raising additional funds
- Supporting museum staff at special functions

The benefits to members in return for their active support includes –

- Free access to the museum and to selected functions
- Other bonuses such as free parking, discounts on purchases, and reciprocity at other museums are being finalised
- Added benefits for corporate members (businesses)

The ‘Friends’ membership fee is nominal at R5.00 per annum for retirees. Application forms were handed out. Interested Probians are to respond directly to the museum.

AGM:

Treasurers Report – Club Treasurer, *Roger Bennett* tabled the 2009/10 financial report which had been reviewed by *Johan Smidt* and issued copies to all present. He thanked Johan for his assistance in compiling the report. Roger reported that the financial position had remained approximately constant despite some increases in expenses. The retained balance on hand of R1 308.00, remained within the budgeted level. He pointed out that the results pointed to the need for the Club to increase its membership to help improve revenues.

Jan Groenewald proposed a vote of acceptance of the tabled financial statement. Don Cohoe seconded.

President’s Report – *President Norman* reviewed the year by reflecting that the club had regrettably seen the departure of several members during the period for various reasons. He called a roll of those names. He expressed thankfulness that the club had not endured any deaths among present or past members and wished a recovery for those in ill health.

Continuing, he reprised the high points of the year’s meetings, outings, guest speakers and trial meeting venues. He reported the Club to be in good shape with the primary issue being a new membership drive. He quoted from the speech by businessman *Johan Ackerman* reported in the PAWC ‘Buzz Gathering’ newsletter, in which he reflects on the current status in society where “people apparently, don’t need people...” because of the burgeoning so-called, social networking facilities available in virtually all developed societies today. He cited these as challenges which needed to be recognised.

President Norman expressed thanks to the committee for their support and work during the year. He referred to the long-serving input of *Doreen Smidt* who has faithfully and reliably managed the role of Attendance Officer, taking care of

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the monthly roll call and luncheon payments together with contacts of members far and wide. He advised that Doreen would be departing in June for an extended visit to her and Johan's son and family in Canada and would therefore no longer be eligible for election.

President Norman acknowledged and thanked past President and outgoing ex-officio member of the committee, *Ben Cilliers*, for his wise council during Norman's office term. He finally thanked all members for their support and loyalty to the Club.

Election of Office Bearers for 2010/11 – The nomination and election of office bearers was as follows:

President -	Eddie Gouge (in absentia) (Proposed – Don Cohoe; Seconded – Rob Phillips)
Vice-President -	Rob Phillips (Proposed – Estelle McIlrath; Seconded – Hillary Coetzee)
Secretary -	Rob Phillips (Proposed – Norman Trethewey; Seconded – Roger Bennett)
Treasurer -	Roger Bennett (Proposed – Don Cohoe; Seconded – Jan Groenewald)
Attendance Officer -	Lesley Phillips (in absentia) (Proposed – Doreen Smidt; Seconded – Norman Trethewey)
Outings Officer -	Margret Trethewey (Proposed – Estelle McIlrath; Seconded – Lorna Purchase)
Fellowship Officer -	Jan Groenewald (Proposed – Estelle McIlrath; Seconded – Don Cohoe)
Guest Speaker Officer –	Estelle McIlrath (Proposed – Norman Trethewey; Seconded – André Yazbek)
Past President - (Ex-officio)	Norman Trethewey (per constitution)

The election matters having been concluded, the meeting ended.

Roger Bennett said the grace before the lunch followed by a toast to the Republic.

May Birthdays & Annis.....

Birthdays -	3rd Roland Host 3rd Heila Groenewald 6th Pauline Tomlinson 10th Beattie Bennett 19th Colleen Thomas
Anniversary -	19th Dick & Colleen Thomas

From the Court Records: Lawyer: - *Now Marai, are you sexually active?*
Witness: - *Nay, I jus' lie there.* (continues)

NEXT MEETING >>>>>>>

- **Date:** Monday 3rd May 2010
- **Place:** Eden Country Inn, Little Brak River
- **Time:** 11:00 Committee Meeting
12:00 General Meeting & Fellowship
- **Agenda**
 - Induction of New President & Committee
 - Apologies
 - Matters Arising
 - Affirmation of Committee Responsibilities
 - Details of Ebb and Flow Outing
 - New Member Induction
 - Introduction of Guest Speaker -
Estelle McIlrath
"There's More to Seeing Than Meets the Eye"
 - Thanking Guest Speaker
 - Meeting Close
- **Lunch**
 - Grace & Toast
 - Selected menu of starter, main course, dessert & tea & coffee
 - Refreshments from cash bar
 - Rate R65.00 p/p

NOTE: * Confirmation of attendance to be made with Lesley Phillips at 044 693 4016, or Cell no. 082 821 2336.....
Or E-mail: lesleypabc@icon.co.za no later than Friday 30th April 2010