



PROBUS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010
NO 197

PROBUS CLUB OF WATERKLOOF
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NOVEMBER MEETING

The meeting was called to order by the President at 12:30hrs. He welcomed all present and particularly the ladies who had joined us for this the final lunch of the year, which also anticipates Christmas. The President also welcomed our guest speaker: Prof Andri van der Merwe , who is a private consultant. Her subject was to be:

“The Common cold, HIV Infections and the H1N1 ‘Swine’ Flu virus – The differences.”

Remembrance. Members stood in a brief moment of silence as a solemn tribute to three of our number who had passed on during the year:

Norman Rethman, Danie Le Roux, and Gert Stevens.

Absent. Ten members sent apologies for their enforced absence:

Leon Breytenbach, Jack de Jong, Herman Dreyer, Andre Ferreira, Buddy Glen, Dick Heunis, Bruce Laing, Bill McKechnie, Fanie Spies, Deon von Willich.

Forthcoming Celebrations

The President offered congratulations and best wishes to the following:

<u>Birthdays</u>		<u>Anniversaries</u>	
Fanie Spies	26 Nov	Bill and Ellen van Wyk	22 Nov
Maureen Erasmus	28 Nov	David and Lesley Bryant	26 Nov
Walda van Niekerk	28 Nov	Bruce and Catherine Laing	28 Nov
Elizabeth Gevers	30 Nov	Vince and Phyllis Mathews	30 Nov
Gladys Johnstone	3 Dec	John and Walda van Niekerk	8 Dec
Jopie Webster	8 Dec	Alan and Louise Wilson	12 Dec
John van Niekerk	22 Dec	Hank and Jerice Doeg	13 Dec
Alan Wilson	27 Dec	Herman and Truida Dreyer	13 Dec
		Trevor and Shirley Ward	5 Jan
		Louis and Jean Lourens	10 Jan
		Bill and Joan Aucamp	12 Jan
		Steggie and Maree van Niekerk	21 Jan

Music Group. The group's next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 December at 14:00hrs in Francois' home.

Stop Press: Deon von Willich has passed on. Having announced that he was not well and was moving to a frail care centre, he also tendered his resignation. No sooner had we absorbed this piece of news than we were all shocked to hear of his death. He will be missed: Deon was a founder Member of Probus Waterkloof, when it was chartered on 4 June 1993. He also served on the Committee as Speaker Convener during the 94/95 session, and was very active in the Computer Group while it existed.

Committee Business.

Outings. Members were reminded of the visit to the war Museum in JHB on 26 Nov. No bus will be used. Transport will depend on own cars and lifting.

Membership Changes. During the course of lunch we were reminded that three new members had joined during the year: Karl-Heinz Gessner, with Dorothy; Buddy Glen, with Beverley; Trevor Ward, with Shirley. Also it was noted that Francois Junod and Richard Kruger had left the club when they moved away from Pretoria.

The Ladies

Dave Bryant proposed the toast to the ladies, which we honoured with warm appreciation. In the process Dave explained the proof of the theorem that, "The squaw on the hippopotamus was the equal of the squaws on the other two hides."

Viruses

Andri was introduced by Johan Johnstone. Her qualifications and experience were very impressive and could not have been more suited, either to the job of spreading the word at school children level – which she is heavily involved with - or at explaining to us what the subject and her activities in it were all about.

She gave us an insight into the fundamental differences between three types of virus: Common cold; HI virus; the H1N1 virus. She explained the different ways in which you might fall prey to them. Also dismissing some myths about how they are passed on (particularly in the case of HIV). She also outlined the different ways in which the body's defences cope with these infections.

Unlike the other two HIV, once contacted, is with you for life.

HIV, as we try to keep pace with its mutations, leads to the body's inability to fend off other diseases and, as one consequence, TB is on the increase, with presently incurable strains contributing to an increasing death rate. (We have the dubious honour of being amongst the world leaders in this scourge and its penalties.)

Whether we are winning or losing in the battle to reduce the rate of HIV infection by concentrating on educating the young is still not clear. The kind of education which they receive has little to do with the mechanics of sex, but rather a comprehensive knowledge of the consequences of indulging in casual sex and a thorough understanding of the process of reasoning which should be followed in order to allow them to make sound, responsible choices in their behaviour.

Naturally, in a subject as vast and varied as this, Andri was only able to give us basic principles and general guidance through the maze. We appreciated the work she is doing and the contribution she makes to the fight against disorder.

Jannie Verwyen thanked Andri, giving her a small gift, and the President asked her to accept our traditional memento of the occasion.

The Luncheon

John Viviers gave thanks and we enjoyed a festive lunch.

Closure

The President closed the meeting with a special word of thanks to Louise for her support during the year and also to Louise, Gladys and Estelle for the table decorations.

Members applauded in approval. There was no immediate rush for the door!

Future

Our next meeting is on Friday, 21 January - 12:00 for 12:30 - and the speaker will be Alan Wilson himself.

