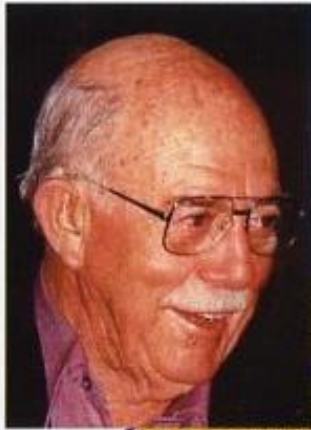


**“TWENTY YEARS OF  
FELLOWSHIP”**



1982



**THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS OF  
THE  
HOBART PROBUS CLUB**



2002

PROBUS CLUB OF HOBART (MENS) THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

The present management committee comprises-

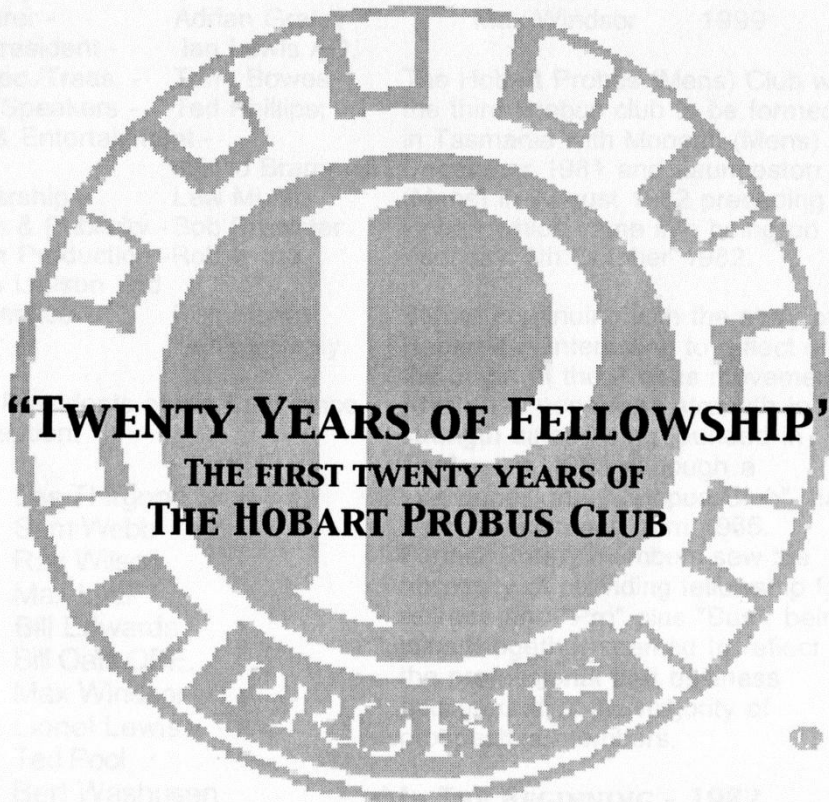
President - David Gil  
 Vice-Pres - Bill Garrick AM  
 Secretary - Bill Davill  
 Treasurer - Adrian Garrick

Life Members-

Les Thurgood 1992  
 Max Lyall 1994  
 Bert Morgan 1997  
 Sir Cots OBE 1999  
 Sir Cots OBE 1999

Assoc. Sec./Treas. - John Brown  
 Guest Speakers - [illegible]  
 Visits & Entert. - [illegible]

Membership - [illegible]  
 Public & [illegible]  
 Subscriptions - [illegible]  
 Probis - [illegible]  
 Club Sec. - [illegible]  
 Auditor - [illegible]



**"TWENTY YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP"**  
**THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS OF**  
**THE HOBART PROBUS CLUB**

1982  
 1983  
 1984  
 1985  
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 1987  
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 1990  
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...BEGINNING - 1942

**CLUB OF HOBART**

October 1952 chaired by Les Thurgood, presently Hobart Life Member, and sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Hobart, Sandy Bay, Hobart Town and North Hobart. Fred Peacock, of the Rotary Club of Hobart, moved that this meeting assemble a Club to be formed and called the Probis Club of Hobart. The motion was seconded by [illegible].

Compiled by Past president Jim Wishart OAM  
 Printed and Produced by Past President Rob Irvine

## PROBUS CLUB OF HOBART (MENS) THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

The present management committee comprises:-

President -	David Gill
Vice-Pres. -	Bill Carrick AM
Secretary -	Bill Bovill
Treasurer -	Adrian Graley
Past-President -	Ian Lewis AO.
Ass. Sec./Treas. -	Terry Bowes
Guest Speakers -	Ted Phillips;
Visits & Entertainment -	David Brammall
Membership -	Lew Munro
Bulletin & Publicity -	Bob Brewster
Bulletin Production -	Rob Irvine
Probus Liaison and Club Service -	Ron Martin
Auditor -	Hedley Sealy.

List of Presidents of the Club since it's inception:

1982	Les Thirgood
1983	Sam Webb
1984	Ray Wilson
1985	Max Lyall
1986	Bill Edwards
1987	Bill Oats OBE.
1988	Max Windsor
1989	Lionel Lewis
1990	Ted Pool
1991	Bert Washusen and Bert Morgan
1992	Terry White
1993	Jim Lawler
1994	Rob Irvine
1995	Owen Carrick
1996	Norm Potter
1997	Alan McKenzie
1998	Alan Austin
1999	Colin Burrows
2000	Jim Wishart OAM.
2001	Ian Lewis AO.
2002	David Gill

Life Members:-

Les Thirgood	1992
Max Lyall	1994
Bert Morgan	1997
Bill Oats OBE.	1999
Max Windsor	1999

The Hobart Probus (Mens) Club was the third Probus club to be formed in Tasmania with Moonah (Mens) in December 1981 and Launceston (Mens) in August 1982 preceding Hobart which came into being on Tuesday 5th. October 1982.

Before continuing with the story of Hobart it is interesting to reflect on the origin of the Probus movement which has gone from strength to strength since being founded in England in 1968 although a forerunner, the "Campus Club", had been in existence from 1965. Former Rotary members saw the necessity of providing fellowship for retirees and "Pro" plus "Bus", being joined together seemed to reflect the professional and business background of the majority of prospective members,

### IN THE BEGINNING - 1982

At a meeting held at the Naval and Military Club in Hobart on the 5th. October 1982 chaired by Les Thirgood, presently Hobart Life-Member, and sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Hobart, Sandy Bay, Hobart Town and North Hobart, Fred Peacock, of the Rotary Club of Hobart moved " that this meeting determine a Club be formed and called the Probus Club of Hobart". The motion was seconded by Mark Ashton and carried and the Probus

Club of Hobart became a reality.  
An interim committee was elected

the first Tuesday of each month  
with the venue being the Naval and



#### The Interim Committee

with Les Thirgood the first President and Max Lyall his deputy; John Lennox, secretary and Sam Webb, treasurer, The election of further committee members was deferred until the next meeting. It had obviously been a well attended meeting as 53 members were signed up on the spot.

As decided at the inaugural meeting, the November general meeting appointed the following members to complete the committee;

Fred Peacock (Membership)  
Jim Barker (Bulletin),  
Errol Lane (Programs),  
Max Windsor (Visits and Entertainment),  
John Wardrop (Probus Extension),  
Alan Rowell (Community Service),  
Arnold Jenner and Dougal McDougall (Auditors).

It was decided to hold meetings on

Military Club at a cost of \$25 per meeting plus 25 cents per member for morning tea. Thus a tradition was established with November meetings coinciding with the Melbourne Cup and the inevitable sweep being conducted at the first general meeting. "Advance Australia Fair" was adopted as the anthem to open future meetings

The first issue of the Club bulletin was tabled at the December meeting.

#### **1983**

Interestingly the first Annual General Meeting was held on May 3rd. 1983 with 37 members plus "their ladies" being present at the Elwick Showground for a luncheon which preceded the business session at which Sam Webb became President with Max Lyall remaining as Vice -President, due to ill health. Time did not permit the

election of the remaining committee members and this was held over. Guests at the meeting were the Presidents of the four sponsoring Rotary Clubs (each of which had donated \$100 to the Probus club) together with their wives plus the Guest Speaker, Mr. Peter Hodgman M.L.A. and Mrs. Hodgman.

At the June meeting the committee election was completed and further to the positions of President, Sam Webb and Vice-President, Max Lyall, the following were appointed:-  
Past-President, Les Thirgood.  
Secretary, Arthur Stevens.  
Treasurer, Ray Wilson.  
Membership, Lionel Abbott.  
Visits and Entertainment, Bill Edwards.  
Programs, Doug Peck.  
Bulletin, Mike Sharland.  
Probus Extension, Neil Bastian.  
Community Service, Max Diprose.  
Auditors, Arnold Jenner and Dougal McDougall.

The first anniversary of the Club was a cause for great celebrations with a special luncheon at the Mt. Nelson Motor Inn for "members, their ladies and guests". No less than 60 members were present and the first President of the Club, Les Thirgood, cut the cake.

## 1984

In April 1984 the Club moved to the RACT rooms in Macquarie Street for its' meetings and the Annual General Meeting for the year was held at the new venue on May 1st. Office Bearers elected were:-  
President, Ray Wilson;  
Vice-President, Max Lyall;  
Past-President, Sam Webb;

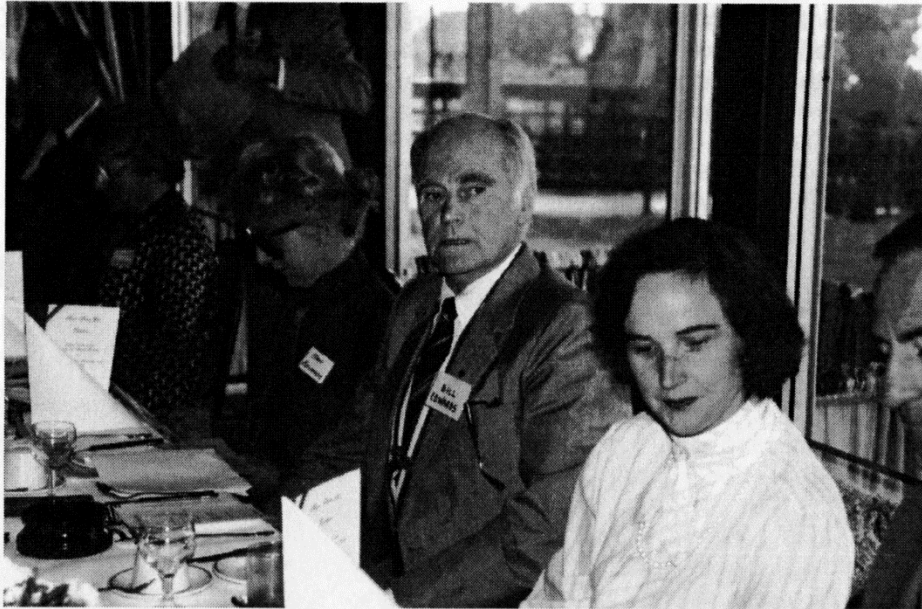
Secretary, Errol Lane.  
Treasurer, John Wardrop.  
Visits and Entertainment, Reg Johnson.  
Programs, Harvey Lincolne.  
Membership, Charlie Hay.  
Bulletin, Bill Oats OBE.  
Probus Extension, Bob Forward.  
Community Service, John Ponsonby.  
Auditors, Keith Cripps and Les Thirgood.

Bill Oats had had a distinguished career as a teacher, headmaster and educator in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania as well as overseas and was awarded an O.B.E. by the Queen in 1970. More will be heard of him later.

In September the Club accepted the offer of member Max Diprose to be the Club's official photographer.

Member Stan Gough, who had been Rotary District Probus Liaison Officer advised that Vic Fitze would be taking over from him but he would remain in an advisory capacity for the next 12 months.

1984 was also a significant year for all Probus Clubs in Southern Tasmania with the concept of an annual "Handclasp" get-together of members being formulated. Moonah Club held the inaugural meeting and Hobart was designated to be responsible for the next year. 14 Hobart Probians attended the Moonah Handclasp. An interesting topic discussed at the meeting was the question of admitting ladies to the present clubs. To quote "The consensus appeared to favour ladies forming Clubs of their own".



#### Xmas Lunch 1984

To this end, Vice President Max Lyall, undertook to investigate the matter during a planned interstate visit. The Hobart Ladies Probus Club was eventually formed on June 24th, 1985 with the support of several Hobart (Mens) members "issuing identity labels, recording attendance and handing out agendas".

Some members of the Club committee expressed concern that Hobart was not in line with other Probus Clubs in holding its' Annual General Meeting in May rather than March but the matter was not pursued at that time. It was decided that the 1985 Handclasp meeting should be held before a change of committee occurred and the date of March 5, 1985 was agreed on. At the Handclasp meeting some fairly contentious matters were aired, particularly in relation to the level of control to be exercised by the

Probus Centre. A new Constitution had been distributed from the Probus Centre which had also registered the name and logo of Probus and each Club would need to consider amending its constitution to comply.

#### **1985**

At the Annual General Meeting in May the Hobart Club adopted the Standard Constitution which has applied (with appropriate amendments) since that time. Of particular importance was the setting of March as the Annual General Meeting month for all Probus Clubs. Office Bearers elected were:-

President, Max Lyall.

Vice President, Bill Edwards.

Past-President, Ray Wilson.

Secretary, no nomination, Errol Lane to carry on until replaced.

Treasurer, John Wardrop.

Guest Speakers, John Ponsonby.

Membership, Charlie Hay.  
Bulletin, Bill Oats OBE.  
Probus Liaison and Community Service, George Green.  
Visits and Entertainment, no nomination, Reg Johnson carried on until replaced by David McHugo later in the year. The idea of Honorary Membership as expressed in the Constitution was readily accepted with four members being granted such membership.

Member John Rodgers commenced an album of photographs of Club activities and members. It was suggested that a Memorial Board be created to list the names, date of joining and death of those still members at their time of passing. This board was in fact proceeded with but in recent times it has become obvious that such an idea was ill conceived and has been abandoned.

Secretary Errol Lane passed away in August 1985 and Past -President Les Thirgood was elected as his replacement.

The matter of Probus signs being erected at the Hobart Airport was finalised with the Clarence Club having made the signs which Hobart undertook to have polished and engraved. The signs were erected in February 1986.

## 1986

The Annual General Meeting in March saw the following office bearers elected:-

President, Bill Edwards.  
Vice-President, Bill Oats OBE.  
Past-President, Max Lyall.  
Secretary, Les Thirgood.  
Treasurer, John Lennox.

Membership, Charlie Hay.  
Guest Speakers, John Ponsonby.  
Bulletin, Bill Oats OBE.  
Liaison, George Green.  
Visits and Entertainment, Reg Johnson.  
Community Service, George Green.  
Auditor, Ray Wilson.

1986 was a good year for one of our "younger" members, Ernie Webster, now a nonogenarian who had considerable success in the diving competitions in the Toronto World Masters Games. Ernie had been a diver from his school days with many State Championships and other trophies over the years. Subsequent successes in World Masters competitions continued to come his way and he entertained members on a number of occasions with his stories of the "behind the scenes" activities at the Games. Five Gold Medals at the Australian Masters in 1995 was one of his best results.

As the number of members attending meetings was somewhat disappointing, the possibility of moving the meeting place from the RACT rooms where parking was rather restricted was raised but not proceeded with although an appeal to members to "Bring a Friend" was made.

The introduction of a State wide Bowls competition between Probus Clubs was proposed by the then Past-President Max Lyall with a perpetual trophy, known as the "Errol Lane Memorial Trophy" to be provided for the successful Club. As things have turned out this trophy has had a somewhat chequered history.

## 1987

The formation of the Sandy Bay (Mens) Probus Club which had the Derwent Sailing Squadron (DSS) in Marieville Esplanade, on the waterfront at Sandy Bay as its' meeting place again raised the possibility of our Club changing the meeting venue as it was considered that the availability of parking and easy access would encourage a better attendance. The proposition was canvassed at the October meeting and mentioned at the Annual General Meeting in March 1987 when the election of the committee resulted in the following assuming office:-

President, Bill Oats OBE.  
Vice-President, Max Windsor.  
Past-President, Bill Edwards.  
Secretary, David Pillinger.  
Treasurer, Owen Carrick.  
Membership, Charlie Hay.  
Guest Speakers, Ted Phillips.  
Visits and Entertainment, Ted Pool.  
Bulletin, Pat Byrne.  
Liaison and Community Service, Max Lyall.  
Auditor, Hedley Sealy.  
At the request of the President, Frank Williams assumed the role of Musical Director.

The Club finally moved to the DSS for the June 1987 meeting after members had inspected the site and been favourably impressed. There was an immediate significant increase in the number of members in attendance at meetings.

As Hobart meeting day was the first Tuesday of the month, and the DSS always held a Melbourne Cup function in November an approach was made to the Sandy Bay Senior Citizens Club for the November

meeting to be held in their rooms, a tradition which has continued until the present time. At the first meeting at the Senior Citizens Club our member Charlie Hay gave a talk on Santa Claus, in particular his participation in this role. A special invitation to members' ladies to attend was apparently well received.

Incorporation, which had been mentioned several times over the intervening years without any affirmative action having taken place was finally laid to rest by the committee.

Although the general feeling of members was that the Christmas dinner at the DSS was enjoyable the service appears to have come in for criticism and the matter was to be taken up with the Rear Commodore in the hope that the problem might be remedied in future years.

## 1988

The "Errol Lane Memorial" bowls trophy was already experiencing trouble in 1988 with a misunderstanding as to who was responsible for organising the competition but it was anticipated that all would be right for the next year with Longford to be the likely venue.

At the Annual General Meeting in March, Max Windsor was elected President with Lionel Lewis as Vice-President.

Past-President, Bill Oats OBE.  
Secretary, David Pillinger.  
Treasurer, Owen Carrick.  
Guest Speakers, Ted Phillips.  
Visits and Entertainment, Ted Pool.



Membership, Charlie Hay.  
Liaison, Max Lyall.  
Bulletin, Bert Washusen.  
Auditor, Hedley Sealy.

Max introduced a new initiative into the Club and proposed the idea of having members belong to various hobby groups which would meet at convenient times in between meetings and so increase the fellowship arising from Probus membership. There was an enthusiastic response with some 17 groups being proposed. A number of these have fallen by the wayside but there is still solid support for:- Aquarobics, Bowls, Brewers, Fishing, Golf and Music ("Warblers" choir). These, together with the monthly visits and entertainment continue to provide plenty of opportunity for members to meet between meetings.

An attempt to continue with social evenings at the Senior Citizens Club was abandoned due to lack of support.

The first invitation to be received from the Tasmanian Racing Club which asked for any interest from members to attend a special Probus Race Day was well received however there seems to have been a problem with correspondence because our Probus Club missed out on tickets.

### **1989**

At the 1989 elections in March, Lionel Lewis became President with Ted Pool as Vice-President.  
Past-President, Max Windsor.  
Secretary, Guy Ward.  
Treasurer, Bob Forward.  
Guest Speakers, Ted Phillips.

Visits and Entertainment, Bert Morgan.  
Bulletin, Bert Washusen.  
Membership, Charlie Hay.  
Liaison, Max Lyall.  
Auditor, Hedley Sealy.

Max Lyall resigned from the Liaison position during the year and was replaced by David McHugo.

In an effort to resurrect the social evenings a committee representing the Sandy Bay Mens' and Ladies' Probus Clubs together with the Hobart Mens' and Ladies' Clubs was proposed and a function was held in July, however a very poor response from Hobart Mens' Probus which only had five starters was very disappointing to the organisers.

There was a more satisfactory outcome for the Probus Race Day in November 1989 with those attending having an enjoyable time.

Due to the dissatisfaction over the 1988 Christmas luncheon at the DSS a number of alternative venues were considered and the quote by Wrest Point Casino was accepted with the Club to subsidise drinks up to \$300. Entertainment by the Club choir which had adopted the title of "Warblers" was proposed by the Musical Director, Frank Williams. At the February 1990 meeting the Club committee was commended on a very successful function.

### **1990**

The new committee elected at the 1990 Annual General Meeting consisted of Ted Pool as President with Bert Washusen as Vice-President.

Past-President, Lionel Lewis.  
Secretary, Guy Ward.  
Treasurer, Bob Forward.  
Guest Speakers, Ted Phillips.  
Visits and Entertainment, Bert Morgan.  
Bulletin, Bert Washusen assisted by Terry White.  
Membership, Charlie Hay.  
Liaison, David McHugo.  
Auditor, Hedley Sealy.

Various hobby groups established under the presidency of Max Windsor were popular with, Bowls, Brewers, Fishing, Golf, Music, Walking and Snooker giving their reports.

At the June meeting Sam Webb suggested that there should be a special song to welcome new members to the Club. More is heard of this later.

An exemption from the payment by the Club of sales tax on items it purchased was apparently canvassed by the committee but an enquiry by the Secretary to the Taxation Department received a negative response.  
Charlie Hay, long time Santa Claus for the Myers store in Hobart received a Sydney Myers Service Award for unselfish service which was warmly applauded by members.

A recital by the "Warblers" at the August meeting which saw Ian Simpson as conductor and Frank Williams as Director and Accompanist was well received with particular thanks going to Frank for his enthusiastic work which had made the program possible.

Member, George Billing, was

honoured by the Photographic Society of America by admitting him to the position of Fellow and he gave a report on his attendance at their meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.

Another successful Christmas luncheon was again held at the Wrest Point Casino with the "Warblers" providing entertainment.

### 1991

The 1991 Annual General Meeting saw the election of the following.  
President, Bert Washusen.  
Vice-President, Bert Morgan.  
Past-President, Ted Pool.  
Secretary, Jim Lawler.  
Treasurer, Bob Forward.  
Guest Speakers, Ted Phillips.  
Visits and Entertainment, Bert Morgan with assistance from Ted Pool.  
Membership, Charlie Hay.  
Liaison, Lionel Lewis.  
Bulletin, Terry White.  
Auditor, Hedley Sealy.

It is perhaps appropriate to report a particularly sad occasion shortly after the A.G.M. when the newly elected President, Bert Washusen, passed away. He was the victim of ill-health having been battling with cancer for some time but had been hoping to become President before it finally got the better of him.

Following the untimely passing of Bert Washusen, Bert Morgan was elected as President with Terry White as Vice-President. Richard Roberts took over the position of officer for Visits and Entertainment and Len Reynolds became responsible for the Bulletin.

Another successful Christmas luncheon was held at Wrest Point with entertainment by the "Warblers" being highly praised by the Committee.

## 1992

1992 was a special year for the Club which became 10 years old in October. At the March meeting the

by member, Lloyd Phillips, of beautifully crafted wooden pen holders made by him, which in future would be given as mementos for guest speakers at our meetings.

10th. Anniversary Port was selected and it was decided to combine a special dinner as a celebration of the anniversary of the Club with the



Presidents of The First Ten Years  
committee members elected for the year were:-  
President, Terry White.  
Vice-President, Jim Lawler;  
Past-President, Bert Morgan.  
Secretary, Jim Lawler, replaced by John Wythes in April.  
Treasurer, Bob Forward.  
Guest Speakers, Ted Phillips.  
Visits and Entertainment, Alan Thurley.  
Liaison, Lionel Lewis and Ted Pool.  
Membership, Charlie Hay.  
Bulletin, Len Reynolds.  
Auditor, Hedley Sealy.  
President Terry White advised the Club of the very generous donation

annual Christmas luncheon and after some investigation of venues, Wrest Point was again the choice.

At the Christmas luncheon the Club's first Life-Member was elected, with the foundation President, Les Thirgood, being the recipient of the honour.

After several years of satisfaction there appears to have been some general consensus of opinion that the 1992 meal left much to be desired and the Committee was instructed to look elsewhere for the next Christmas function.