At the AGM Meeting in March nine members were appointed to the PAQMC. However, we now only have eight members, due to the passing of George Harris. George was also our RLO in the Bayside Region, and at this point of time we have not found a replacement.

The committee continues to meet monthly at the Yeronga services Club, and we invite our RLO/Ambassadors to attend whenever possible.

It is pleasing to report that during the past twelve months we have turned the Membership numbers around in Qld, from a decline to an overall increase. While some clubs have still seen a decrease in numbers other Clubs have increased.

In 2017 173 Clubs with 12,117 Members
May 2018 170 Clubs with 11,842 Members
- a loss of -275 over the previous year
May 2019 172 Clubs with 12,046 Members
- an overall increase of +204

It is hoped that with the support from all clubs we will continue to grow.

What has PAQ achieved in the past six Months - New Clubs:

In the past six Months two more new Clubs have opened. Firstly, Burpengary in April and then Paddington in June. We will continue to look for other opportunities to open more new clubs in the Future.

Sadly, St Lucia club closed with approx. 35 Members, however we are aware a number of their members joined other clubs.

Regions:

Our strategy of having a number RLO/Ambassadors in all Regions across the state is slowly being achieved.

I would like to acknowledge the work being done by all our RLO/Ambassadors it is gratefully appreciated.

Where we have RLO’S in place we see a number of great results, not only in the metro areas, but all areas across the state. Where possible the Clubs in the Regions are meeting quarterly, which has proved to be quite valuable, improving communication, passing on and sharing information and ideas, along with the sharing of trips, and in at least one Region Clubs are visiting other Clubs at their Meetings.

We have recently appointment of three new RLO/Ambassadors. Bev Culverhouse in the North Brisbane Region, Barb Tobin in the Brisbane north central Region and Daryl Spinks in the South Sunshine Coast Region. However, we still have vacancies in Bayside, Far west North Brisbane and in the Sunshine Coast areas.

Later in October PAQ is planning a two-day Training Seminar for all our RLO’s. It is hoped that we can provide them with the tools that will better enable them to do their role, and better assist the clubs in their areas.

Information Days:

Our focus in the past couple of months has been to provide nine of Information days across the State. This year they were solely conducted by PAQ. The days were held in North Queensland in Cairns, Mission Beach, Townsville and Rockhampton by our Secretary Carwyn Arnold, and supported by our RLO’s in those areas.

These events were followed, one on the Sunshine Coast at Buderim and the other at Hervey Bay. We then conducted three events in Brisbane, one in the North, South and West.

I would like to acknowledge all the work that our Secretary, Carwyn put into these days who conducted all of them.

It had been agreed that we would trial a new way of conducting the days this year with a more emphasis with time being spent in break out groups. The days were conducted around the use of the “Probus Club Health Check” which were
completed by each individual member attending, identifying the items that they believe that their club was not doing, then working in groups to come up with solutions, with the results being shared with all those attending.

I would highly recommend that all clubs have their members individually complete the Club Health Check, focusing on what they believe your club in not doing. This allows your club to focus on and improve in those areas identified. It is important for all clubs need to know what their Members actually think.

I would also recommend that your club completes an average age check of your Members. This is a simple quick process, but a very important thing to do, and not guess but do an actual check, you may be surprised. The longevity of your club relies on keeping the average age down.

**Ecumenical Services**

There were three Ecumenical Services in Qld., this year The first in the Wide Bay Region in February, one on the North side at the Uniting Church in Aspley, and another on the south side at St Johns Anglican in Wishart. The services were well supported. I also thank the choir for their support at those events.

Arrangements are in hand for three services in Brisbane in 2020, North at Aspley, South at Wishart and West at Middle Park. It is also timely to remind all members that these are non-denominational and include the Blessing of the Presidents Collars.

**Bowls Day:**

The Bowls day was hosted by the Redlands Club (and organised Gordon Somes) and held at the Capalaba Bowls Club. Numbers of participants were down on previous years. However, 80 players enjoyed the day. Samford Probus Club has volunteered to host the event in 2020.

**Golf Day:**

The golf day is due to be held on Monday 16th September at Nudgee. Again, numbers are well down on previous years, however we do not have final numbers at the time of writing this report.

**Seniors week:**

There was quite a lot of activity during Seniors week, with a number of clubs promoting Probus, including our RLO’s within the regions.

The PAQMC had a stand at Logan Loves Seniors display. The Western Region had a day at Eight Miles Rocks, Rob Neary manned a stand at a Seniors expo in Toowoomba. Our, RLO in Townsville Barbara Robinson organised one at a Seniors expo and I understand a number of individual clubs had displays in various locations.

As a result of these expo’s a number of prospective members have been referred to various clubs.

**The Queensland Probian**

Thanks must go to Rob Neary and Peter Rogers, for the excellent work they do together putting our magazine, and continually looking for ways to improve it. The size has been changed so that we can use a better-quality paper, especially on the cover.

**PAQ Website:**

Again thanks to Rob for the work on keeping our Website up to date, and providing various promotion material including the Banners you see here today.

**Future of PAQ.**

The future of PAQ is in your hands. We cannot exist without a committee, and we need members to put their name forward. I do not plan to nominate for President next year, however will continue to support PAQ in whatever way I can.

Brian Gilmore
President
30th August 2019