



The Newsletter that reaches across Australia

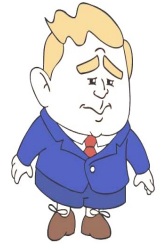
Oct./November, 2013

Website: www.countrynetwork.com.au

Secretary: Address TBA

Country Network

President's Message



Thank you to the past committee for their dedication to the on-going success and continued growth of this wonderful organisation.

Thank you also to all members of the new committee for volunteering their time so we can continue to grow as an organisation. It is also pleasing to see some new faces on the committee and within the support team. These fresh (handsome) faces help keep our organisation equally fresh as well as providing us old tired faces with renewed enthusiasm.

And while on the thanks Thank you to all those members who attended another very successful AGM gathering, this time held in the City of Churches (and synagogues as was pointed out at the meeting) Those members are well aware of the "hiccup" that occurred on the Friday night. Despite the bit of drama (and stress) at the time, it certainly showed



Adelaide AGM—2013: Meridien Hotel

the strength of our organisation and its membership, as we were quickly able to absorb the "bump", put it into perspective and continue to enjoy the weekend. So thank you all for not only participating, but participating with the tolerance, understanding and camaraderie that resulted in a very enjoyable weekend for all. The hotel as offered their apology (and reduced account) for their error, of which you can read further within this newsletter.

It is certainly an honour for me to preside and serve

Country Network.

Below is the "President's Report" presented at the meeting.

This organisation, as defined by our name, promotes networking. From this networking comes the camaraderie and friendships this organisation offers. But in this day and age, networking is an ever changing concept and at times it's hard to keep pace. We have our "wish list" to keep CN up to speed with these modern times as well as remaining relevant. But the simple truth is, we need new, fresh faces to join the support team to help keep CN vibrant and strong.

Mal and I first attended a CN weekend many years ago in Canberra as guests of Bruce Adams. (Yes, you can blame Bruce!) We met some wonderful men, and some are now among our valued friends.

(Cont'd Page 3...

Ramblings from the Editor:



In Adelaide Neil W. and David T. produced a memorable AGM for our 35th Annual General Meeting for Country Network. A big THANK YOU to them and the SA members who supported this meeting. Adelaide surpassed previous attendance records, and it was a lot of fun catching up with friends we hadn't seen for a while and meeting new ones. Richard and I arrived a few days earlier so we could again enjoy the sights that city has to offer. Often we don't realise how much work is required in organizing these events, however, WA members will, as next year Perth will be the welcoming city for the 36th AGM.

David was certainly correct when he said Adelaide was a city under construction. Lots of erections happening everywhere and tarding up some of the old ones.

At the meeting we saw a few changes; welcoming Neil back as President, Bob N. as Vice-President, John as Treasurer and sadly saying farewell to the loveable and very efficient Peter B. as Secretary. It was good to see most of the previous members able to stay on and we welcomed David B. as a new friendly face to the Committee. I, personally feel honoured to be involved with such a bunch of nice guys. I also wish to thank John R. for helping me with the Newsletter over the past 12 months. I have valued his input and assistance.

STOP PRESS: WELCOME TO SOME NEW APPOINTMENTS—SEE PAGE 3....



Tindo Solar Bus (Free around city)

Adelaide boasts the world's first solar powered bus. Solar energy generated on the roof of the Adelaide Central Bus Station recharges the batteries. Very quiet and no pollution. Richard and I tried it out—GREAT!

Cheers and Hugs— Cliff M.

Country Social Network Inc.
(Reg Y2063541)



Future Social Events Around Australia

- VIC Sunday, 24th November, The Un-Birthday Party (see page 10)
- WA Sunday, 1st December, Morning Coffee in the city (see page 7)
- QLD Wednesday 4th December—Christmas Party at Macleay Island (see page 9)
- WA Saturday, 7th December—Christmas Party at Madeley (see page 7)
- VIC 2014 Corroboree, Queenscliff—24th-28th April (see page 3)

(Please contact me [Cliff 0422 799 729 or e-mail: cliff11@inet.net.au] if you have any important events CN or otherwise in your State).

Contributors to Magazine:

David T.	Neil W.	Frank J.
Cliff M	Ian R.	Michael S.
Peter B.	Bob N.	

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President's Message

...(Cont'd from page 1)

We were impressed by the genuine camaraderie this organisation had to offer that we joined as members. Over the subsequent years, the number of genuine friendships have grown and it is fair to say CN has had a very strong impact on our lives. This in turn, prompted me to dedicate my spare time to this organisation. I hope that your experiences are also strong enough to prompt you to join the support team and be one of the new, fresh faces that will help CN remain vibrant and strong.

In the very short time since the AGM we have had a number of members answer the call and volunteer some of their time to assist. Another Thank You. There still remains a few vacancies?????????

A little love and affection in everything you do will make the world a better place, with or without you.

Neil

New Appointments

We are pleased to announce two new faces filling the following roles:

Secretary: Michael B of Pakenham, Victoria

Events Coordinator: Roger K of Drouin, Victoria. (This position is finally filled after being vacant, and dormant, for so long.

The main role of The Events Coordinator is to maintain the social events listed on our website, which can also extend other social groups other than our own. You can email events to be listed on our website to:

events@countrynetwork.com.au or contact Roger in Drouin.

WELCOME!

Queenscliff 2014

.....The Party Continues.....

April 24 - 28

The party continues with our next national gathering, being the Queenscliff Four Day Frolic. Those who know Queenscliff also know what a delightful location we have been able to secure. Most accommodation in the area comes at a price, but when we are fortunate to secure a guesthouse that can sleep up to 75 men in private double/twin rooms, we can secure rates that simply would not otherwise be available.

Whitehall is our Historic Guesthouse for the event, with the bulk of accommodation in double/twin rooms. No ensuites are available but the house does provide nine bathrooms. We have the complete run of the house, including all dining, lounge and kitchen areas.

Simple, cost-effective activities are planned to highlight the historical and geographical significance of the area, situated on one side of "The Heads"; the entry to Port Philip Bay and Melbourne.

Booking forms will be available from early December. Dates are locked in and yes, this weekend has stretched now to four nights. This is due in part to the Friday being Anzac Day, and in part to the fact that we have increased numbers attending these weekends and we would like to provide members greater opportunities to meet all fellow participants; something that was becoming more hectic to achieve over just the three nights. Members will be able to select what days they would like to attend should they not be available for all four nights.

Rooms in Adelaide were "sold out" and we are guessing this weekend will also become "sold out" before bookings close. So all members who would like to participate in this weekend are advised to book early as soon as bookings open. In the meantime, you can contact Neil at ecosh@bigpond.net.au or (03)59682268 if you have any questions.



DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWSLETTER INPUT

Please note the next Newsletter is due to be issued on 15th December so would appreciate your input to me by **5th December.**

Subsequent Newsletters will be issued approximately every 6 weeks as has been happening over the last 12 months. Cut off dates for material to be placed in the 2014 Newsletter will be advised in the next issue. Love getting your contributions—it doesn't have to be Shakespearian standard or lengthy. Everyone has a story to tell. Remember, it's not a competition about who can write the best, it's about sharing!
- SO GIVE IT TO ME BABY!

Photo courtesy Men of Max



OK! so the photo has nothing to do with the words above but at least it made you LOOK! And maybe read it?

Corroboree Name Change - any suggestions?

The name "corroborree" was applied to the mid-year meeting several years ago. It has served its purpose and it is now time for a name change given that enough members are a little uncomfortable with its use.

The original intent was to suggest the weekend had a little more excitement than just a "mid-year meeting". So we are seeking any suggestions from the membership that suitably describe the weekend and can also be publicly advertised.

Please send any suggestions to the Secretary, Michael B. at :
secretary@countrynetwork.com.au or
Mob: 0433 502 106

Thanks from the SA Office of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

For our new members' information, CN traditionally fund-raises just before our AGM and donate proceeds to a worthy charity in the State where the AGM is held. This year in Adelaide the PCFA was chosen and a donation of \$1,000.00 was made to this organisation. Below is an e-mail David T. from SA received:

Hi David,

I was surprised at the number of men who were at the AGM. What a great turnout and I was more than happy to speak about PCFA.

Happy to put in contact details for country network.

Thanks again for the wonderful donation. I have passed the cheque onto Karyn Foster who looks after all the fundraising for SA/NT.

Cheers

IAN RICHARDS



RESEARCH
AWARENESS
SUPPORT

Support Group and Outreach Coordinator (SA/NT)

T 08 8231 6339 F 08 9228 3200 Free Call 1800 22 00 99

E Ian.Richards@pcfa.org.au Address: 144 South Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000 SA 5000

All Mail to: P.O. Box 7168, Hutt Street, Adelaide SA

Cheque handed to Ian Richards, PCFA by CN C'ttee.



RED 2

This is an action-comedy starring Bruce Willis, John Malkovich, Catherine Zeta-Jones AND Helen Mirren and Anthony Hopkins. Bruce Willis plays a retired CIA Agent who, with his team of other retired agents is on a mission to track down a missing portable nuclear device. They are up against assassins, terrorists and power-crazed government officials who are all anxious to get their hands on the weapon. This was, for me, great entertainment. The stunts were good, the humour and laughs were plentiful and to see Helen Mirren as a gun-toting agent was in itself for me enough reason to see the movie.

RED OBSESSION

Narrated by Russell Crowe, this movie observes the financial risk that people are prepared to take in pursuit of their passion for Bordeaux—a wine that has almost mythical status as a symbol of wealth and power. It's prosperity has always been tied to the shifts in fortunes of the global economy. Traditional customers (like the UK and the USA) cannot compete with wealthy Chinese collectors and Bordeaux's fine wines are now victims to the world's most notorious counterfeit trade. Its future is uncertain. I found the documentary interesting and it had no problem holding my attention.

THE BEST OFFER

This is a mystery drama set in a high-society world of art deals. Geoffrey Rush (brilliantly) plays a fine-arts scholar and auctioneer who is also a cold introvert who keeps himself to himself and who lives alone surrounded by beautiful works of art. He receives instructions to help a reclusive woman who wishes to see family antiques—and enters a world of in-

trigue and romance. I have no hesitation in recommending this film.

I'M SO EXCITED



This is directed (and written) by the highly-acclaimed Spanish Director, Pedro Almodóvar. Flight 2549 is placed in a circling pattern because of a possible problem with the plane's safety. Passengers and crew run amok—there is a wide diversity of characters—a bi-sexual pilot, a highly-sexed First Officer, a dominatrix/madam; a woman determined to lose her virginity, and three ultra-camp stewards—amongst others. There are some wonderful lines—the movie is bawdy, funny and highly entertaining. I hope to see it a second time.

THE ROCKET

This Australian film is a moving story of a young boy in Laos who is believed to bring bad luck in his wake. He leads his family and a couple of misfits through the countryside to find a new home and enters a lucrative but highly-dangerous competition in the annual rocket festival. The movie is entertaining and inspirational and the Laos countryside is spectacular. I like this film very much.

BLANCANIEVES

A wonderful reinvention of the fairy tale “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”. It is a silent black and white movie directed by the Spanish Director, Pablo Berger. Carmencita takes on the mantle of Snow White. She is the daughter of a famous matador, now quadriplegic, who marries his nurse, the cruel Encarna. Carmencita leaves home and joins up with a troupe of bullfighting dwarfs. In time she becomes Spain's first female Toreador. The film evokes the days of the silent cinema and is full of melodrama, comedy and tragedy. The performances are excellent. The script is witty and there are some fantastic set designs. The movie won the Goya Award for Best Picture.

A Thought

“I don't think of all the misery but of the beauty that still remains.”
(Anne Frank—1929-1945)

Some Humour

Two Nuns were on a remote beach. They decided to go behind a sand dune and sunbathe in the nude. They were lying there for a while when a photographer came by and pointed a camera at them. The first Nun asked him, “Aren't you going to focus?” The second Nun said, “Quiet Sister! Let him take his picture first.”

—o0o—

A man goes to the Doctor with a piece of lettuce sticking out of his bum. He says to the Doctor that he's a little concerned. Upon examination, the Doctor turns to his patient and says, “It's worse than I originally thought...that's just the tip of the iceberg”.

—o0o—

Two blokes were walking home from work one afternoon. “Shit!”, said the first bloke, “as soon as I get home I'm gonna rip my wife's knickers off”. “What's the rush?” his mate asks. “The bloody elastic in them is killing me.”

Letter of Apology from Adelaide Meridien Hotel

Dear Neil,

Thank you for giving us the chance to host your Country Network function this year.

I can appreciate your complaint regarding Friday nights function and as we have discussed, this was caused by a miscommunication from our sales team to our kitchen team. Unfortunately our cocktail packages changed some months ago and the pricing of the 1.5 hour package was a match for the price you had been quoted and the new package was supplied to the kitchen with the event sheet. This meant that the kitchen catered for 1.5 hours of cocktail food over 3 hours as instructed by sales. The kitchen stepped up the timing of the food once a complaint was made and also included some other food items but we totally understand that the evening had already been marred by this error and we were at this time still working on the incorrect package and therefore believing we had in fact supplied over the agreed food. It was only during our conversation well after the event that we were able to work out the problem.

We hate to disappoint any of our clients and this is not the usual standard to which we adhere. I am pleased to hear that the dinner on Saturday night went well as this is usually the standard we pride ourselves on delivering.

I am truly disappointed that an oversight at the property caused such an issue for your group and am glad that our agreed discount has been accepted. The staff themselves were also distressed that these issues happened as they are a team that always tries to deliver friendly and efficient service that was not shown to its best advantage with your group.

We would like to thank the members for their understanding and patience and apologise once again.

Regards,

Fiona Hehir
General Manager



MIXED EMOTIONS

A husband and wife were sitting watching a TV program about psychology and explaining the phenomenon of "mixed emotions."

The husband turned to his wife and said, "Honey, that is a load of crap. I bet you can't tell me anything that will make me happy and sad at the same time. She said: "Out of all your friends, you have the biggest dick."

AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT—WA

Hello members,

I am going to use the AGM report as my Area Coordinator's report for the newsletter as Cliff has mentioned this will be delayed until after the fun weekend in Adelaide.

After travelling the country for just under five years, returning to Bunbury was great and it gave me the opportunity to start organising functions for the members. We are only two hours from Perth which wasn't much after all the driving we have done.

2013 functions held this year were :

Pizza Night at Perth Foreshore in February.
Day of Culture in Perth in April.
Movie and Nibbles in Medina in April.
Donnelly River weekend in August.
(Also not forgetting the morning coffee on the first Sunday of each month.)

The numbers at the functions averaged around 12 which is disappointing however, I will look at different ideas and places which could attract larger numbers. As I have said frequently, if you have an idea, contact me to discuss. I have regular chats with Ric S. in Esperance with lots of ideas and plans made. On this I must thank Ric for his planning of the Donnelly River weekends which has now become a successful annual event.

Next year West Australia hosts the AGM so that is one major event in October. The rest of the year, who knows at this stage.

Graham and I are presently house sitting just out of Rockhampton in Qld and will not be at the Adelaide AGM so I pass on my best wishes to all the peoples there.



Birthday Greetings to November/December babies:

Pascal B.	-	14/11	John T.	-	12/12
Gerry D.	-	28/11	Trevor A.	-	15/12
Kevin	-	4/12	Brian M.	-	24/12

Keep at it. — Peter Bedford

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



We hope you will enjoy meeting some of our members. Don't be shy, pick up the phone and contact another member from our Membership List: either in your area or anywhere in Australia.

For those who are already members, check the list and see who has joined so you can contact them to make them feel WELCOME!

Neil B. - QLD Greg M - TAS
Norman P. - QLD Michael B - WA

NEXT COFFEE MORNING IN PERTH CITY WILL BE SUNDAY, 1ST DECEMBER



Bocelli's Espresso, Forrest Place (at the base of the escalator) in the Murray Street Mall. Meet about 10.30 am.

[call cliff on 0422 799 729 if you have not been before and don't know where to go?]

CN—NOTICE BOARD



- ♦ **VICTORIA — THE STATE OF HANDSOME MEN'S MONTHLY GET-TOGETHER.** On the first Monday of each month (unless Monday is a public holiday, then it moves to Tuesday), the guys get together for a fantastic evening meal. Prices at the restaurant are very reasonable—so for further information contact Brooce, Geelong on 03-5244-1265 or e-mail: adamsbd@optusnet.com.au. If you plan to attend please contact Brooce the Friday before.
- ♦ **WA—Sunday morning coffee in Perth City.** 10.30 am on the first Sunday of the month. Bocelli Espresso in Forrest Chase. (For details see notice above)
- ♦ **Website Notice Board:** Don't forget to visit the NEW exciting Notice Board on the Website and **HAVE YOUR SAY.** It's a great place to exchange ideas and keep in touch about current events and happenings inside and outside CN.

XMAS PARTY TIME-WA



Gary and Graham has kindly offered to host the CN Christmas Party this year.

Saturday, **7th December at 4.00 pm**
Nibbles and finger food.

6.00 pm full meal

Some of the Prime Timers may join us

Cost: \$10 per person, BYO Drinks
Tea and Coffee available

Where: 3 Kingsway, Madeley

Pool: swimming (cossies optional)

Interstate visitors welcome.

Please RSVP by 1st December to Cliff
(0422 799 729 or e-mail cliff11@iinet.net.au)



JOKE FOR TODAY

A farmer ordered a high-tech milking machine. Since the equipment arrived when his wife was out of town, he decided to test it on himself first. So, he inserted his 'manhood' into the equipment, turned on the switch and everything else was automatic.

Soon, he realized that the equipment provided him with much more pleasure than his wife did. When the fun was over, though, he quickly realized that he couldn't remove the instrument from his 'member'..

He read the manual but didn't find any useful information on how to disengage himself. He tried every button on the instrument, but still without success.

Finally, he decided to call the supplier's Customer Service Hot Line with his mobile phone.

'Hello, I just bought a milking machine from your company. It works fantastic, but how do I remove it from the cow's udder?' 'Don't worry,' replied the customer service rep, 'The machine will release automatically once it's collected two gallons.' .. Have a nice day.....

Rio Tinto Ride to Conquer Cancer



**2 DAYS -
220 KILOMETRES.
1 EPIC RIDE.**

17-18 August, 2013. Riding throughout S.E. Queensland's scenic countryside in two days. Sure, it sounds like a lot — and it's meant to be. But make no mistake, this wasn't an event just for athletes or cycling enthusiasts.

The Rio Tinto Ride to Conquer Cancer® to benefit the Queensland Institute of Medical Research was for anyone who wanted to challenge themselves for a great cause. Our Country Network Queensland member Tony Groom, answered that challenge. As he said on his website donors "thank you" page, having raised \$6,500.00 for the cause.....all you need is motivation, a bike and a helmet. I used to think cancer happened to other people. As a survivor of prostate cancer and the partner of someone who died of lung cancer, I am now personally aware of the impact cancer has and the urgency of finding cures, better treatments and prevention methods. The money raised will benefit the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, one of Australia's largest and most successful medical research institutes.

As a cancer survivor my bike had a yellow flag and everyone's first name was on the back of their bike so people would come up from behind, call me by name, give some encouraging words then we usually swapped cancer stories -- more tears! Especially hearing about Mums and Dads in their 30's and 40's being taken by cancer. We have to stop this epidemic! Cancer at my age is inconvenient but not tragic. However of all those with yellow flags, only 2 or 3 were my age. All the others were in their 20's and 30's.

The 2-day cycling adventure began with a gathering of fellow riders for an inspiring opening ceremony at the University of Queensland, where participants and their supporters remembered those lost to cancer and honoured those continuing the fight. After an energising send off, they rode out of Brisbane with a renewed sense of purpose, to follow the winding route through some of south east Queensland's most beautiful scenery. *I just enjoyed the ride said Tony - easier than expected, the camaraderie of the riders, the rush of the thrilling downhill or flat sections, the grunt of the hills.*

Three weeks before the event Tony fell seriously ill with pneumonia. *I wasn't sure I was going to make it, he said. Maybe I'd show up at the start then hitch a ride to the camp. A week later I decided to start the ride then get a lift. The Friday before, after several good rides around the local Brisbane River loops, I knew I would finish it. And I did - and also signed up for next year!*



All told, in *The Rio Tinto Ride to Conquer Cancer®* "jaunt", 1246 riders raised an amazing \$4.2 million for cancer research! Now that gives real meaning to the words "icons" and "heroes"!

Presently, Tony is busy lending his support to the recently formed *Gay Brisbane Prostate Cancer Support Group* (GBPCSG) whose details are below. Following the very successful Country Network October AGM in Adelaide, and the wonderful initiative of Conference Convenor David Tait, another PC survivor, who recently organised a *Gay Adelaide Prostate Cancer Support Group*, Country Network SE Qld wants to support Tony. It is planning a Christmas fund-raising gathering mid-December to benefit GBPCSG. Details soon on the CN website *Members' Message Board*.

**Cheers.....Bob N.
1st November, 2013.**

Gay Brisbane Prostate Cancer Support Group

Gay, Bi and Trans Prostate Cancer Support Queensland

This confidential group is open to all gay bisexual and transgender men who have had a prostate cancer diagnosis.

All issues concerning prostate cancer will be open for discussion including:

- an overview of prostate cancer
- side effects of treatment
- the impact of a diagnosis
- communicating with your partner
- having an ongoing support group for gay men with prostate cancer.

First Saturday of every month
Cancer Council Queensland,
553 Gregory Terrace, Fortitude Valley

10am - 12.30pm

Parking under the building

Contact—David Wells

Phone: [0411 081653](tel:0411081653) or Email:

holisticsexualtherapy@hotmail.com

Support Groups for gay and bisexual men have been established in collaboration with Malecare.

An Invitation to Country Networkers in South East Qld

to a Christmas lunch at Keith M.'s, Macleay Island home!



Wed 4 December, 2013

Be at the Redland Bay Marina by 10:15am - Lunch provided \$10.00 pp : BYO drinks
All proceeds to: Cancer Council of Qld **Gay Brisbane Prostate Cancer Support Group**



Keith M. is expecting special guests to fly-in!

You must RSVP please by 25th November to Bob N. <dorothydownunda@optusnet.com.au>
Be quick - numbers are limited!

Macleay Island is a scenic residential island in the relaxed waters of Southern Moreton Bay. Ferry connections leave from Weinam Street in Redland Bay. CN Members who wish to join us for Christmas lunch at Keith's home on Dec 4th, will have to be at Redland Bay Marina by 10:15am - park as directed near the wharf.

A one way ticket on the 10:30am ferry to Macleay Island is \$4.80 for seniors (\$3.28 with a "Go card").

AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT—SA

Happy Birthday

Kevin.....of Port Pirie is celebrating on the 30th Nov, sorry I missed you on passing through recently.

Just A Thought

You cannot change the past ,but you can ruin the present by worrying about the future.

Adelaide AGM

Many thanks to all the members that attended. It was great to see you in

the City of Churches and hopefully you returned to your respective States all safe and sound.

Thank You

To the retiring members of our CN committee a job really well done and welcome to our new volunteers we could not do without you.

Adelaide's Feast Festival

Feast is Adelaide's lesbian and gay culture Festival, held from 9-24 No-

vember. Includes our gay pride celebrations. Check out all the details on the web—

www.feast.org.au.

Best wishes to all
Cheers, David T.

Adelaide's beautiful heritage houses



The State of Handsome Men
presents

The Un-Birthday Party

Yes, it's on again this year
with

all the usual fun of a Mad Hatter's Gay Luncheon Party

Sunday, November 24, High Noon

held in the lovely home of Loose Broose (Bruce Adams for those uninitiated)

99 Church Street, Grovedale (Geelong-ish)

- A donation of \$12 for a sumptuous gourmet lunch (RSVP essential as this event is catered)
- Bring a present of \$5 value for the Un-Birthday Lucky Dip Sack
- The climatic, orgasmic selecting and crowning ceremony of the new Queen of The South
- Complementary overnight accommodation available. (bookings essential)
- Bring a friend or two to join all the fun of this long standing traditional day.
- Having troubles getting there? Give Brooce a call and he'll organise something.
- Everyone in attendance is guaranteed to be another year younger after the event. Brooce is now five.

RSVP not later than November 21

Bruce Adams (03)52441265 or adamsbd@optusnet.com.au

Let's all keep the great momentum going as Country Network builds from strength to strength.

THE AGM PHOTO GALLERY — ADELAIDE 2013



HINT
If you have a computer and want to enlarge these photos—right click and select “Zoom” - 400% is good viewing.



VICTORIA—AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The State of Handsome Men has had a busy time with 22 members visiting Adelaide for the AGM. The locals were hospitable in every way. The hotel was good. Also having meetings there were the Australian Corrosion Society and the Hypnotists Association. Some people at the hotel seemed to be in a trance. Whether the Australian Anti Corrosion Society was having a meeting nearby is not known.

The AGM was civilized, with no Victorians disgracing themselves. On the way to Adelaide I was hosted by 2 new members, firstly by Ross S in Dunkeld, and then by Dennis M in Warracknabeal. I accompanied Ross to a religious meeting where there were many hallelujahs. The following day at Dennis's house where 2 gay nurses were staying over, the atmosphere was much more relaxed. The only hallelujahs were in the bedrooms. 2 contrasting days. I felt more at home on the 2nd day.

In Adelaide I was hosted by David T, always a delight, his housemate Eric and many stuffed animals. The return journey was in a convoy of 3 cars containing 7 Victorians, as well as the ever-smiling Irishman Michael and his partner Vinnie. Our illustrious leader Neil led the convoy. In Mount Gambier Neil was determined to lunch at a bakery. Instead of stopping at one of several bakeries in the main street, he led us on a tour of the outer suburbs of Mount Gambier to a shop with a sign "Bakery".

Upon enquiring as to what type of bread rolls they had, I was informed that they had none. So I request-

ed a multigrain or wholemeal sandwich. No such luck. The choice was either plain bread or white, which appeared to come out of a packet from a supermarket. Cakes were also not visible. It was the bakery without 'bake'. Upon leaving I looked for a rubbish bin, as you would expect outside a bakery. This also did not exist. The lesson to be learnt is not to allow Neil to lead you to a bakery, rather go to McDonalds.

Back in Victoria I attended the monthly Geelong dinner organised by Peter. I understand the annual combined Boilers/CN CupDay pool party at Frank's place was successful under sunny skies.

Birthday greetings for November and December to Owen E, Dennis N, Rob E, Iwan D, David R, Ian C, Mal C, Bruce A, Ken L, Sholto E, and Ian B.

Frank Jackson

The Blue Lake of Mt Gambier



A STORY FROM THE TOP END

A rich man living in Darwin decided that he wanted to throw a party and invited all of his buddies and neighbours. He also invited Colin, the only aborigine in the neighbourhood.. He held the party around the pool in the backyard of his mansion.

Everyone was having a good time drinking, dancing, eating prawns, oysters, from the BBQ and flirting. At the height of the party, the host said, 'I have a 15ft man-eating crocodile in my pool and I'll give a million dollars to anyone who has the balls to jump in.'

The words were barely out of his mouth when there was a loud splash and everyone turned around

and saw Colin in the pool fighting the croc, jabbing the croc in the eyes with his thumbs, throwing punches, doing all kinds of stuff like head butts and chokeholds, biting the croc on the tail and flipping the croc through the air like some kind of Judo Instructor.

The water was churning and splashing everywhere. Both Colin and the croc were screaming and raising hell. Finally Colin strangled the croc and let it float to the top like a dead goldfish. Colin then slowly climbed out of the pool. Everybody was just staring at him in disbelief.

The host says, 'Well, Colin, I reckon I owe you a million dollars.'

'Nah, you all right boss, I don't want it,' said Colin.

The rich man said, 'Man, I have to give you something. You won the bet. How about half a million bucks then?'

'No thanks... I don't want it,' answered Colin.

The host said, 'Come on, I insist on giving you something. That was amazing. How about a new Porsche and a Rolex and some stock options?'

Again, Colin said "No."

Confused, the rich man asked, 'Well Colin, then what do you want?'

Colin said, 'I just want the bastard who pushed me in.'

**BLAZE—SA GAY
NEWSPAPER**

Editorial by Ian Richards

A brand new Gay support group has been formed to support men and their partners who have encountered prostate cancer. The Gay Prostate Support Adelaide group is one of approximately 150 prostate cancer support groups nationally affiliated with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA). The group's goal is to offer social connection with other gay men and be a source of information on prostate cancer and hope after treatment. The group has a gamut of resources that the individual can access including books and information pamphlets on topics from diet through to erectile dysfunctions. The group meets once a month and welcomes anyone who has been touched by prostate cancer whether directly or indirectly.

Ian Richards, the support group and outreach coordinator for PCFA says "it is great to see such a friendly bunch of guys with a passion to help others in their cancer journey. The group is new, vibrant and willing to offer support to other gay men in an informal and approachable way. They are not doctors so they can't give medical advice but they

can help men by supplying information about prostate cancer, treatment and wellbeing, and are willing to share their stories of hope. In the future, the group are planning to have guest professional speakers to give talks about men's health from a gay perspective. It is such a friendly group with a real purpose and the work this group is doing is getting out. So much so that Country Network (an organisation founded to promote and foster contact and friendship among gay men living in rural and regional Australia who often deal with limited social opportunities) has kindly donated \$1000 to PCFA.

The group

Meeting Details:

We meet at 6.30pm - 8.00 pm every fourth Tuesday of each month (excl. Dec) at the following venue:

Colin Need Room
1st Floor
Uniting Communities Building
10 Pitt Street Adelaide, 5000
All are welcome.

Statistics about prostate cancer: Each year in Australia, close to 3,300 men die of prostate cancer, which exceeds the number of women who die from breast cancer annually. Around 20,000 new cases are diagnosed in Australia every year.

- Each day about 32 men learn news that they have prostate cancer - tragically one man every three hours will lose his battle against this insidious disease
 - One in 9 men in Australia will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime
 - Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in Australian men and is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in men
 - Each year more Australian men die from prostate cancer than women die from breast cancer but... a national survey by PCFA in 2002 showed that while 78% of women felt well informed about breast cancer – only 52% of men felt informed about prostate cancer
 - The chance of developing prostate cancer increases:
 - as men get older.
 - if there is a family history of prostate cancer eg a man with a father or brother diagnosed with prostate cancer
 - Early, curable prostate cancer may not have symptoms. While younger men are less likely to be diagnosed with it, they are more likely to die prematurely from it
 - Simple testing by a GP can indicate prostate cancer
- Source (<http://www.prostate.org.au/articleLive/pages/Prostate-Cancer-Statistics.html>)