



President's report December 2021

My name is Annelies Gerritsen
I was elected to be your new President for the next two years.

Summer finally seems to have arrived.

After a long period of stormy, cold and wet weather, it did require some patience before it enabled us to enjoy the sunshine and warmth.

It's hard to believe yet another year has gone by. Doesn't time fly ?

What a year it has been.

It surely wasn't easy with the pandemic upon us. Activities being cancelled and the uncertainty of not knowing, what we were up to and all the restrictions we had to endure.

Many of you experienced a lot of hardship, not being able to see family and friends and struggled with a feeling of loneliness.

However better times seem to appear. With most of us being double vaccinated we can enjoy the easing of restrictions and getting back together again.

COVID-19 Guidelines

In association with LACVI we have released new guidelines regarding the COVID-19 policy.

All members wanting to participate in club activities, have to be fully vaccinated and check in with QR code.

I hereby express a heartfelt thanks to our secretary, John Coyne, who has done a great job, in drawing up our new guidelines and organising the various QR codes required for our activities.

I also want to say thank you to all our members for your support, cooperation and abiding to these new rules.

It has been wonderful to experience how quick and well everyone adjusted once we started rolling again.

Our Convenors have done a wonderful job. It wasn't easy to continuously being forced to adapt to so many restrictions, limitations, cancelling activities and going through all the effort to find venues.

We are really lucky to have so many great people willing to offer us their time to enable us to keep our Club thrive.

I hope, you will remember to show them your appreciation every once in a while, as they most certainly deserve this.

Our club is doing well and thriving.

All through the pandemic, many people decided to move to the Surf Coast and join LAC.

A warm Welcome to our new members: Brian Bennett, Sue Bennett, Marilyn Francis, Adelaide Barbon, John Dobinson, Debbie Cook and Lyndon Cook.

May you experience a lot of joy participating in the variety of activities we have on offer.

At the moment we have 337 members.

We also welcome new ideas and especially people willing to take on an activity.

Don't hesitate to get in touch.

AGM 9th September 2021

As half of our committee retired, we really hoped we could have a face to face meeting, in which we could say a proper goodbye and show everyone our appreciation. Unfortunately COVID restrictions spoiled this and made it impossible.

So the only option, like we did the previous year, was once again turn to Zoom.

The number of people attending was somewhat disappointing. We only just reached a quorum of 36.

We sadly had to say goodbye to four of our committee members, some of whom have been on the committee for many years.

Our President, Cheryl Annetts, decided to step down. Luckily she will stay on the committee as immediate past President. She has proven to be of great value and an asset to our club. We are very grateful for her outstanding leadership and all the work she has put into LAC. Thank you Cheryl.

I will most certainly need your support the coming period.

Graeme Perks, an honorary lifelong member, retired after being on the committee for 17 years. Over this period he fulfilled many functions and was our LACVI delegate. His experience will be sadly missed.

Joan Steele, who did a great job as treasurer for several years, also decided it was time to step down.

Liz Fowler, who proved to be a very competent secretary, has accepted a new challenge as president of Combined Probus Club of Torquay Surf Coast Inc.

Laurel Wieland, who was on the committee for a year, had to step down, because of personal reasons.

Thanks to you all for your commitment and all the hard work you put into the Club.

Luckily we found some terrific people willing to take on the position of being on the committee.

We welcome John Coyne - secretary, Alan Fowler - membership secretary, Graham Woods – assistant treasurer and Linda Crook- committee member.

I'm confident we make a strong team and I feel happy to be your President for the next two years.

I will try my best to fulfil my role of leadership as good as I can.

Activities

After a lot of struggle with restrictions, cancellations, limited numbers etc, most of our activities are back and rolling again.

It has been a difficult time for our convenors, who had to continuously adapt to new rules, try find venues and locations and send a lot of emails.

I hereby want to express my sincere appreciation for all the hard work they have undertaken to keep their activities going.

Resistance training has resumed with a steady group of people in the Wurdie Baierr Stadium.

An average of 30 people are present during each training.

Our regular coach Natalie was unable to continue as a trainer. For the three weekly sessions.

The Convenors Bernie, Paul and Alie managed to find excellent replacement in the shape of Anthea and Noel, who together with Natalia each have their own day. So far this has worked well. It is nice to have the variety of different workouts during the week.

Tennis

The tennis group is going strong as ever. Darryl wrote a clear and lengthy report, which was placed on the frontpage of our website for you all to read.

Walking groups

All groups have resumed and are doing well.

It feels good to enjoy the exercise and finish off with a coffee and a friendly chat.

Last October we started **The Thursday Short Walk** for members, who have trouble with the length and pace of the regular **Thursday Walking Group**, which is a brisk walk of about 7 km. The group left about 10 minutes later and walked halfway.

Since a few weeks it was mutually decided to merge the two groups into one. Both groups each walk in their own pace and meet at TSLSC, where everyone makes his/her decision to either continue on the long walk or return with the other group. They all meet at Bomboras for coffee after the walk. So far this seems to be working well.

The Saturday Walkers experienced quite some trouble trying to find a venue for coffee. The convenor, Julie Stevens, had to endure a lot of hardship and stress, trying to comply the many restrictions. The Saturday walk seems a very popular walk, with an average of 20 to 30 people taking part at times. It was hard to organise a large group with limited numbers and no venue able to take on so many people for coffee.

I really admire Julie for her perseverance, it certainly hasn't been easy.

Thank you, to all convenors for keeping the groups going and organising lovely end of season get togethers in the shape of festive morning coffees or Christmas lunches.

Scrabble

After meeting in various outdoor, open spaces, the Monday Scrabble group was pleased to return to their usual meeting place at the Library.

Playing outdoors proved very challenging with our unpredictable weather. At one session, stormy conditions developed, tiles started flying off the board and they got soaking wet.

The Wednesday Evening Group has resumed at RACV.

The Cinema Group

The group has resumed and has been to the cinema and a nice lunch since.

They hope to enjoy a nice Christmas Get Together Picnic in Taylor Park later this week.

Knit Whits

The Knit Whits was started during Covid and lockdowns. It is a group of wonderful people, who produce an incredible amount of knitting from home and meet once a month for devising new knitting projects and a chat.

They knitted several patched blankets, dozens of beanies, fidget muffs and sleeves for the elderly, baby clothing, dish cloths and many other articles.

Everything was either sold or donated with proceeds going to charity.

We thank Julie and Cheryl for all the work they put in and organising a regular venue for the group to come together.

The Wanderers

The Wanderers trip had to be postponed, because of COVID restrictions.

There will be a trip to Portland in April 2022 if all stays well.

Happy Hour

We unfortunately had to cancel The Happy Hour a few times.

However we are planning another one sometime late February or early March 2022.

We keep our fingers crossed, everything will stay well this time, so we can go ahead and enjoy a lovely social gathering with some fun and laughter.

Details will follow at a later date.

Last but not least our **LACS Christmas Picnic at Bellbrae Reserve**.

We had a great time. It turned out to be a lovely, sunny day.

Unfortunately a little too warm for some of our members, who at the last minute decided to give it a miss. About 40 people attended.

We had a great time , sitting in the shade, with a nice breeze, enjoying a tasty picnic lunch, which everyone brought themselves.

We played a game of Christmas Trivia with many contenders winning a treat of chocolate.

Everyone received a free Raffle ticket and we had a large number of prizes, so most people were happy to return home with a lovely gift.

The only disappointment was our coffee truck, who decided not to show up and let us down, while everyone was waiting for the free drink we had promised them.

I hereby want to express a big shout out to Michele Jones, who went through all the effort organising, collecting prizes and beautiful giftwrapping. A great job, well done ! Thank you Michele.

We will have a break over the Christmas period.

There won't be any activities until the end of January. Please check our website for further details and while you're there have a look at the lovely photos of our latest adventures.

Thank you to Joe Annetts, who makes all this possible and does a great job maintaining our website.

Stay well

Annelies Gerritsen

President LAC Surf Coast

Faith makes all things possible

Hope makes all things work

Love makes all things beautiful

May you have all three for this Christmas and the future

Merry Christmas !

