

A stirring account of how two men risked their lives in a bid to save others was the highlight of the Christmas Message brought to members and wives of Kyrle Probus Club on Thursday, December 18.

Club member Geoff Blake, worried that his voice was about to break, called on his wife Liz to read the Message on his behalf.

The first heroic story told of how World War One rifleman Robert Quigg received the Victoria Cross from King George V at an award ceremony at Sandringham in 1916.

After severe fighting near the Somme, Robert heard that his young platoon commander Harry McNaughten, a close friend, was missing in no mans' land and set out to find him.

He bravely ventured out despite heavy shell and machine gunfire.

But although his search for Harry was unsuccessful, Robert returned with another wounded man...and continued for seven hours, bringing in a total of seven wounded men. He only finally stopped through his own exhaustion.

Little wonder the King exclaimed: 'You're a brave man, Quigg.'

Geoff's second moving story related the drama when he was called to an accident while farming in Zambia.

A pair of oxen owned by an old African farmer fell helplessly into a 25ft. deep well, dragging their plough on top of them. But a young JCB driver working for Geoff defied the danger to scramble down a rope to hoist both oxen out of the hole.

The well-attended seasonal event at the Conservative Club also featured a splendid buffet enjoyed by club members with their wives and partners.