



# THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

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## APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Gentlemen, this is probably the first time we have issued a Newsletter without there being a General Meeting associated with it. With the Coronavirus and its associated "lock-down", all social gatherings have had to be abandoned, as you know, and that has obviously meant we were not able to hold our April 2020 General Meeting / Hand-Over Lunch. I and the Committee, however, thought it essential we stay in touch with Members to maintain the essence of our Club, namely fraternity and fellowship. Right now, until the Government directive is lifted, our contact will have to be by means other than physically getting together. The same will apply of course to any SIG activities.

In any event, I was keen to assure all Members that the Committee is working hard to devise appropriate means to keep us all in contact and informed and what measures have been taken, or are being taken, to make this happen.

The Committee itself has had a virtual meeting using an internet video conferencing facility called "Zoom". Some Members might well have already heard of Zoom. Even though our first 40-minute free meeting was somewhat short by the time start up things got sorted, it was a great success and demonstrated its worth. As a consequence, we elected to purchase and unlimited time access licence for twenty-one dollars per month for the duration we can make good use of it.

At the April Zoom meeting we resolved to establish a "phone tree" member contact arrangement whereby each Committee member undertook to be in telephone contact with five or six members allocate to them, to keep those members informed of emerging issues and particularly what matters the Committee is dealing with. We also resolved to establish a Member Communications Strategy for the lock-down period, comprising not only the phone tree initiative but also the form and content of a Newsletter, providing reports and comments on all our normal activities. This also incorporated the decision to use video conferencing wherever it could be used to good effect and, if at all possible, to expand this to General Meetings and the ongoing use of guest speakers. All of this, as I said, is about keeping Members informed and included and my simple message is that we are doing all we can to bring that about.

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

A group of dedicated members have been testing the video-conferencing over the past weeks to allow the SIGs to continue and provide support to their members. After several trials it was decided to move forward with the software provided by the Zoom Organisation. The committee have agreed to take out a Licence on a monthly basis which will allow the video meetings to go longer than the 40 minutes offered by the free version.

It is planned once the SIG meetings have been undertaken the video-conferencing will be opened up to the General meetings. Planning for the format and guest speakers is under investigation at present and as details are formalised further information will be supplied.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership is 70 comprising of 68 active & 2 non-active members our Associate members number is 13. We will induct a new member **Keith Atkins** at our next General Meeting once we restart our services at the Greythorn Community Hub. Please make him welcome at a future meeting.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As at 31 March 2020 club funds were as follows;

Westpac club account \$3,419

CBA functions account \$2,133

Approximately 50% of members have paid their annual fee and many have accepted the option to prepay their meeting fees. It should be noted that the Management Committee have determined that for those who prepay the meeting fee it will cover a minimum of NINE meetings at the Greythorn Hub commencing from the recommencement of meetings.

As the club still needs to meet its ongoing expenses including the annual Probus South Pacific capitation and insurance fee it would be appreciated if outstanding fees could be paid. (Membership subscriptions (\$40.00) became due on 1<sup>st</sup> April). As you are aware all surpluses belong to members and any in excess of club requirements will be utilised for your benefit by either fee reductions or subsidising functions or events.

Furthermore, the Management Committee have decided to give members the OPTION of paying their monthly meeting fee in advance. Members exercising this option will pay \$40.00 for the period 1 April 2020 -31 March 2021 covering the nine meetings to be held at the Greythorn Hub during that period. (The Management Committee have resolved that the advance payment will cover a minimum of NINE Greythorn Hub meetings from recommencement.)

Your fee of \$40.00 (or \$80.00 if exercising the prepayment option) can be paid by any of the following methods:

1. Direct deposit to  
Probus Club of North Balwyn Inc  
Westpac  
BSB 033 054  
Acc 18 2752  
Use your name as reference
2. Cheque to Treasurer  
N Smart, 4 Jersey Street, Balwyn, VIC 3103

Richard Heal has returned all monies received in respect of the Changeover Lunch and the Kerrisdale trip, to members. A small amount is still being held in respect of the Winter Lunch until such time as the fate of this function is decided.

The club has lodged an application with Boroondara Council for a Strengthening Communities Grant for subsidised travel in 2021. Our application has been successful in previous years and we are optimistic of obtaining the grant for next year.

## FUNCTIONS

While these activities have been cancelled for the time being, we will be 'ready to go' again once a relaxation in public meetings will allow us to return to our original plan for 2020 and 2021.

## THEATRE EVENTS

"Mama Mia" presented by Babirra Theatre, at Whitehorse Theatre Nunawading: CANCELLED

"A Flea In Her Ear" presented by The 1812 Theatre, July 30, 2020: DEFERRED - UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

"9 to 5 The Musical" Presented at " Her Majesty Theatre" on August 19 PENDING - UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Palace Cinema Balwyn, Matinee 11am, Film & light lunch \$20 DEFERRED - UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- **HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP:** Convenor Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964  
E: [graycol7@bigpond.com](mailto:graycol7@bigpond.com)  
We have already held a successful meeting via video-conferencing on Monday 13th April and plans are in place for future meetings to be held.
- **INVESTMENT GROUP:** Second Thursday in the month. Convenor: Don Campbell P: 9836 6330  
M: 0418 512 001  
The group is planning to hold a video-conferencing meeting in May. Details will be sent to Group members in due course.
- **COMPUTER GROUP:** Fourth Tuesday in the month. Convenor: Rodney Manser M: 0418 164 432  
E: [rmanser@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rmanser@bigpond.net.au)  
Our next meeting on **Tuesday 28th April** will be conducted via Video Conferencing using "Zoom"  
An email will be sent to you advising how to join the meeting. Our first meeting will be establishing how we move forward with this system. It will cover Beginners Guide to Microsoft Outlook 2019 using Ribbon in Outlook & Outlook Tips. Everyone is welcome to join a new experience for conducting our meetings.
- **PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP:** Third Tuesday in the month. Convenor Nino Xerri M: 0410 571 446  
E: [ninros1946@gmail.com](mailto:ninros1946@gmail.com)  
Our next meeting on **Tuesday 21st April** will be undertaken by Video Conferencing using Zoom  
Lothar Lanz will be presenting photos from Moscow & Nino will presenting some photos with discussion  
Video of Landscaping tips will also be shown. Everyone is welcome to join please let the convenor know of your interest.

Other Special Interest Groups plan to organise appropriate meetings in the future.

If you are a regular attendee at SIGs, your SIG Convenor will be in touch with you in due course. If you are not a regular attendee but would like to be included in the video conferencing arrangements, you are encouraged to register with the relevant convenor and advise if you are likely to need assistance getting connected.

## USEFUL RESOURCES:

- Our website has a link to the Department of Human Services re Coronavirus
- The following article on "Coronavirus Survival Guide" has been published by Probus South Pacific P/L (PSPL):  
<https://livewellclub.com.au/wp-content/uploads/flipbook/2/mobile/index.html>
- You may wish to contact PSPL to receive a copy of their regular newsletter.  
Email [marketing@probussouthpacific.org](mailto:marketing@probussouthpacific.org) to be put on the mailing list for their regular Newsletter.