



THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

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MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

This newsletter reflects our increasing reliance on the electronic media to keep us in touch.

We have been using Zoom for Committee Meetings, SIG groups and, from our July meeting General Meetings.

Zoom is not difficult to use and equipping for it is quite straightforward with the camera and microphone required for computers that do not have them (often referred to as a 'webcam') costing \$50 or so and being easy to install.

Details on webcams are included towards the end of this newsletter.

In this way we have avoided some of the effects of social distancing restrictions applied by governments and continued to supply our members with the opportunity to get together from time to time. It is fair to say that, as well as our Committee, the SIGs have used this facility and it is being proposed for our July General Meeting.

One of the issues we face is whether we should follow Government in the event that they lift restrictions, given that we represent the older community that is more vulnerable to COVID-19.

MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership is 70 comprising of 68 active & 2 non-active members. Our Associate members number is 15.

It is with deepest sympathy that we note the passing of our new member **Adrian Harris** who lost his battle with his terminal illness.

Please note that membership subscriptions (\$40.00) was due on 1st April new payment arrangements are being put in place to facilitate direct deposit the subscriptions into the Bank Account. Information was previously sent out via email .If you require any further clarification please contact our Treasurer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Accounts

I attach hereto the WBC and CBA bank account information for April.

Some observations:

1. Our major account for year, PSPL Capitation Fee , has been paid. PSPL reduced the annual Capitation Fee from \$15 to \$12 as a result [of Covid 19.
2. 13 members have paid their meeting fees in advance. The \$520 received is shown in the WBC account as "Meeting Fees in Advance" as I do not believe we should regard it as available for use at this time.

Annual Fees

1. 29 members paid using the new online facility
2. 15 members have not yet paid and will be sent reminders following the Management Committee meeting

Banking Arrangements

Cheque signatories

These have not been changed for several years. Current signatories on the WBC account are:

James Kimpton

Neil Smart

John Thwaites

Bruno Coniglio

I seek approval to have Cordell Short and Barry Bolger added as signatories and Bruno Coniglio removed. This needs to be minuted as WBC will require a copy of the minutes approving the changes. Once approved I will arrange signing of the WBC forms

Internet Banking

Currently we need two signatories on cheques which are our only means of payment. I propose that we seek to adopt internet banking under which for example, I would schedule a payment and forward details by computer to a second signatory who would approve the payment using a special password. This would in fact be more secure than the present method whereby signatories frequently sign blank cheques in advance.

If agreed I would like to be appointed Administrator to get the process started and seek approval to have James and Barry sign the WBC form which I will provide.

Debit Card

Members are frequently required to pay accounts using their own debit/credit cards and seek reimbursement from the club. The frequency is increasing in this online age, for example, monthly Zoom payments, monthly Reckon payments if we go down that path for financial reporting which I think we will, the recent Consumer Affairs Vic lodgement payment, and others. I suggest that we should apply for a club debit card with limit of say \$500 with myself and Barry as authorised signatories and card holders. Members needing to pay online will be given the debit card details to facilitate the transaction.

Financial Reporting

Whilst Rodney has been looking at the purchase of computer equipment and related software and a new projector to utilise the Boroondara grant I have focussed on acquiring suitable accounting software for use by future treasurers. Past Club treasurers, have for many years, had access to software in their own accounting practices. I also have an accounting package which I use for Club reporting. To make it easier for future treasurers I have been investigating accounting packages to be purchased from the Boroondara grant without a lot of success. The last couple of years has seen a move from purchased packages with a once off cost to cloud based systems with monthly payments. The most appropriate package would appear to be a starter version of Reckon One which has a monthly cost of \$7. I have been in touch with Reckon to see if we can pay rental in advance so that we could utilise grant money for a period, without success.

I have also been evaluating a very simple package called "Cash Book" which can be purchased for a once off cost of only \$80.00. It has reporting issues which I cannot resolve using the free trial version. If, by some chance, there are any funds left from the software acquisitions being arranged by Rodney I believe we should purchase a copy and see if we can get it to work to a satisfactory level and thereby avoid the ongoing cost we would pay for Reckon One.

Given this process is geared to the future needs of the Club and its treasurers there is no immediate need to make a decision on how to proceed. I will keep the committee informed.

Neil Smart, Treasurer

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 / MOVIES

Theatre: No offerings for the next 4-6 months based on Industry Information

Movies: Based on the Matinee Movie session (followed by a Light Lunch) at the Balwyn Theatre and including the Walking Group as well as the regular Dining-Out Group we have developed a substitute; utilising the offerings of SBS TV and Beamafilm and making use of current computer technology – in this case ZOOM.

The format will have 2 components

A) Watch a movie as recommended (at home and in comfort) and

B) Log-on to the arranged ZOOM session and discuss the Movie with other members. Our first Zoom lunchtime meeting is planned for **Thursday 21st May**.

ZOOM is being used by other SIG's i.e. Computer, Heritage and Photography and is not difficult to master.

For further details, Interested members should contact Graydon Finlay, Richard Heal or Lothar Lanz.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- **HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP:** **Convenor Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964**
E: graycol7@bigpond.com
We have already held two successful meetings via video-conferencing on Monday 13th April and Monday 11th May. The current situation provides an opportunity to set objectives on what you want to achieve during the COVID-19 restrictions and to make progress on finishing and documenting your family history. H&G members would be happy to assist those who would like help in tackling a stumbling block with their research, entering their paper records into a software program or documenting their family history.
Plans are being prepared for our next video conferencing meeting on **Monday 15th June**.
This will include a segment on National Heritage listed sites and members reporting on progress they have made with their Family History.
- **WALKING GROUP** **Third Friday in the month** - Richard Heal M: 0415 776 039 E: richard_heal@bigpond.com**
The first post Pandemic Lockdown Walk will be held on **Friday 29th May**. The walk will be around the Blackburn Lake walking tracks where there is enough scope to maintain appropriate social distancing. At the conclusion of the walk, if the weather is conducive, it is proposed that we have individual picnic lunches in the park area using our own chairs and tables if required. Meet in the carpark off Central Road Blackburn which is opposite Gwenda Avenue at **10.30 AM**.
[Melways Ref: Map 48 B11.] New walkers are always welcome, but I will be in contact with the current members of the group prior to the event to check their availability.
- **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
Our next meeting **Tuesday 26th May** at **10am** will be conducted using Zoom Video Conferencing facility covering Microsoft Outlook continued & discussion on Information Technology developments whilst in Isolation.
Our April meeting was our first meeting with our licensed version of Zoom.
Unfortunately, some technical issues needed to be overcome.
Everyone is welcome to join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday June 23rd**.
- **PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP:** **Third Tuesday in the month. Convenor Nino Xerri M: 0410 571 446**
E: ninros1946@gmail.com
Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 19th. May** and again will be conducted via Zoom Video Conference, following our successful meeting last month.
Barry Bolger will be presenting images from his recent trip to Spain and Tony Froster will present 3 slides shows on Cambodia/Vietnam : California and Fort Lauderdale to San Diego via the Panama Canal.
Tony will also show us a photo of the members attending the inaugural meeting of the Photography SIG on 15/2/2005.
Graeme Seabrook was the Organiser/Convenor and is still an active member of the Group.

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:

Webcam

The term webcam is a combination of "Web" and "Video camera" The purpose of a webcam is not surprisingly, to broadcast video via the web. Webcams are typically small cameras that either attach to a user's monitor or sit on a desk. They feed a **video image with audio by the microphone** in real time to or through a computer to a computer network, such as the Internet. Many Laptops have a webcam built into the screen as do iPad's and Tablets.

For a full explanation of a Webcam click on the following link

<https://www.explainthatstuff.com/webcams.html>

How to install a webcam

The webcam that you purchase will either come with a separate USB cable or have a USB cable attached to the camera itself. Plug the USB cable into the USB port on your computer. If the computer is a desktop, the USB port will be located in the back and/or front of the system unit.

Where to purchase a webcam

Officeworks

<https://www.officeworks.com.au/shop/officeworks/c/technology/computer-accessories/webcams>

JB Hi Fi

https://www.jbhifi.com.au/collections/computers-tablets/webcams?q=&hPP=36&idx=shopify_products_published_at_desc&p=0&dFR%5Bfacets.Brand%5D%5B0%5D=MICROSOFT&dFR%5Bfacets.Brand%5D%5B1%5D=LOGITECH

Centrecom

<https://www.centrecom.com.au/products?q=webcam&ss=@Category:Webcams+%26+Cameras>

"I personally have a Microsoft Lifecam HD-3000 which has served me extremely well for many years". Rodney Manser

also

- 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 to be put on the mailing list for their regular Newsletter.