



THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

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OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Believe it or not, this Club is approaching its fourth General Meeting by Zoom.

At the time of writing (28/9), we (and the public at large) are still coming to grips with what some of the changes in the lockdown mean and the further changes that might be made.

However, it is clear that Victoria has achieved a significant degree of improvement and some normality is returning.

This of course reflects the considerable reduction in the infection rate of Covid-19.

The challenge is for all of us to maintain the momentum so that the further changes occur before too long.

Hopefully, Probus will play a part in the future as it has to date. This is something to which we all can contribute.

For our Zoom General Meeting on **Tuesday October 13th**, our speaker will be **Vikki Petraitis** who will present Crime stories on:

“The Hodson Murders and Nicola Gobbo”

Vikki Petraitis has written 15 books and her best-selling book, “The Frankston Murders”, was re-released in 2018 to mark the 25th anniversary. Vikki is well-known for her true crime talks and her appearances on panels and at comic debates. She is currently working on her PhD thesis in Creative Writing. Her latest book, “Cops, Drugs, Lawyer X and Me” was released in February 2020. Vikki has made her first true-crime podcast series for Casefile called “The Vanishing of Vivienne Cameron”. She is working on her second series called “Searching for Sarah MacDiarmid”.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

The most recent Committee of Management meeting was held on Tuesday, 6 October

Issues of note discussed (other than those reported elsewhere in the Newsletter) were: –

- Barry had attended (via Zoom) a Boroondara Council Senior Citizens Officers’ meeting. Police Inspector Craig Pearson gave an interesting presentation on a Community Policing Project and he has raised the possibility of a senior staff member providing a speaking session for the Club next year.
- The Council also advised us that the Bendigo Bank is conducting a Small Grants program whereby Community Groups can apply for a grant for a Covid-19 related project. Barry to investigate this possibility further.
- We had received the Minutes of a Probus Regional meeting (organised through Probus South Pacific - PSPL) which had recently been held via Zoom. The minutes included copies of the PSPL Covid-19 Risk Assessment Plan which will be very helpful when we have to complete a Covidsafe Plan for Boroondara Council once we know when we might be able to resume General and SIG meetings where members are physically present.
- We had also received advice from Boroondara Council of a Small Grants (Amounts up to \$2000) being offered by the Council. With the closing date of 18th October there was discussion as to whether there was enough time to complete and lodge a claim and whether anything specific was required. The matter of future physical meetings being held in conjunction with a Zoom option was discussed and it was agreed that Rod Manser and Barry Bolger would discuss the computer requirements for such an option and the lodgement of any grant application

TREASURER'S REPORT:

There is very little to report from a bank perspective as there were no receipts or payments for the month and Club funds remain at \$5,359 after allowing for SIG funds and funds received in advance.

The Management Committee has been examining the option of doing away with monthly meeting fees and incorporating them into a single annual fee and has resolved to implement the change when setting the fees for 2021. This means we will not need to handle cash at the door which will be consistent with sound risk management practice in a new "Covid normal" environment. It will also mean we will only need a single EFTPOS terminal for function payments if we decide to go down that path.

MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership is 65 active and 5 non-active members, with our Associates members numbering 13.

Zoom Meetings have been conducted for the SIG & General Meetings with the phone tree calls to keep in touch with all members. Once lock-down restrictions have been eased, we are all looking forward to the day when face-to-face meetings can proceed as normal.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following members who are celebrating birthdays this month:

- **Don Campbell, Ray Ken-Allan, Gerald King, Lothar Lanz, John Thwaites and Alan French**

FUNCTIONS:

Christmas Zoom Function - Tuesday December 8th.

Due to the government COVID-19 restrictions, this event is not able to be held at a function centre this year. Consequently, the Committee has decided that it is to be a virtual function utilizing Zoom and will commence with an introduction by our President.

This would be followed by members and partners being assigned to small groups where they will have the opportunity of participating in a casual chat session while partaking of refreshments of their own choice.

The exact timing of the function is yet to be decided. More details will follow.

EVENTS DIARY:

If you thought that, in these anxious times in lockdown, there was not much going on within the club – please think again!

Below is a list of activities organised by our hard-working SIG Convenors and Committee. Put these events in your diary **NOW** so that you can maintain contact with your fellow members. Details of each activity are available in this newsletter:

Meeting	Date
• INVESTMENT GROUP Zoom Meeting	Thursday October 8th
• HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP_Zoom Meeting	Monday October 12th
• MONTHLY GENERAL ZOOM MEETING	Tuesday October 13th
• WALKING GROUP (CANCELLED)	Friday October 16th
• PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP_Zoom Meeting	Tuesday October 20th
• ZOOM LUNCH AND CHAT Zoom Meeting	Thursday October 22nd
• COMPUTER GROUP Zoom Meeting	Tuesday October 27th

Before participating in one of these Zoom meetings, it might be worthwhile checking out the following advice which was recently sent to all members on:

Zoom Etiquette

- Advise convener acceptance of the invitation to the meeting.
- Join Zoom Session on time.
- Rename your name if it is not displayed correctly within Zoom.
- Position your camera at eye level.
- Adjust your screen so that you have a head and shoulders in the frame.
- Have appropriate lighting in the room, avoiding bright sunshine from a window behind you.
- Participants to talk without overtalking each other.
- To mute your microphone if you need to answer the phone/mobile/or front door.
- Have your mobile devices on mute if it all possible.
- To mute your microphone if there is uncontrolled noise in your environment.
- To use the chat function to ask question of the presenter.
- Use the hand reaction feature to ask a question of the presenter.
- Do not undertake other functions that distract you from the presentation.
- Avoid multi-tasking during the session.
- Turn off your email notifications during the meeting.
- Be careful when using virtual backgrounds as they can be distracting.
- If you are providing a presentation during the meeting have your material queued and ready to present.
- Provide constructive comments and positive feedback to the Convener.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- **INVESTMENT GROUP: Second Thursday in the month. Convener: Don Campbell P: 9836 6330 M: 0418 512 001**

The investment SIG meeting is slightly early in October as it is on **Thursday 8th October at 10 am.**

The program is

1/ potential problems with that may influence the markets

2/ how are various companies managing

3/ how will COVID-19 alter the way business is conducted

4/ update on Covid-19

All members and partners are invited to participate.

- **HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP: Second Monday in the Month. Convener Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964 E: graycol7@bigpond.com**

Our next H&G part will be about an hour from 11.00-noon. The 20 minutes prior to that will be available for welcoming people to the meeting, and for participants to chat. Zoom meeting will be **on Monday 12th October.**

The meeting will be from about **10.40 to noon.** The specific H&G part will be about an hour from 11.00-noon.

We'll have a guest speaker, Matthew Etty-Leal who will talk about Banjo Paterson. Early Australian poets portrayed graphic pictures of life in Australia when many of our ancestors were living so they can help us gain an understanding of the conditions that ancestors faced. A B (Banjo) Patterson was awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) in 1939 as a tribute to the bush balladist whose poems and prose are a part of Australia's rich heritage. Paterson's image is memorialized on the ten dollar note, and it is accompanied by an illustration and text from the poem, 'The Man from Snowy River'.

Please get in touch if you would like to join this zoom meeting, but have not participated in H&G meetings this year. I'll then add you to the list that I use to email the electronic link that you'll need to join zoom meeting on Monday 12th Oct. At our following meeting on Monday 9th November Jeff Collinson will talk about research he has done about a Coast Watcher stationed in New Britain NG during WW2 who alerted officials in Port Moresby that Japanese planes that were flying in their direction and their need to get prepared. I'll also do another presentation on a branch of my family tree. As always wives and partners are welcome to join H&G SIG meetings

- **PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP: Third Tuesday in the month. Convenor Nino Xerri M: 0410 571 446 E: ninros1946@gmail.com**

Our next meeting will be held at **10 am on Tuesday 20th October**, Rodney Manser will present a slide show of the Singapore Botanical Gardens, which will be followed by another slide presentation of images taken by members during the Lockdown, which is in line with the discussion held at our September meeting, where members were asked to forward 2 images : one of an Ornament/Figurine and another from anywhere in their residence, preferably shot in Manual Mode and in RAW Format. As usual there will be time for discussion detailing how these images were taken. Nino will show a set of images of The Netherlands taken during a Baltic Sea Cruise. 12 members at the September meeting enjoyed the presentation by Denis Spinley on the Caribbean Cruise and so, as always there is an open invitation for any member or partner to join us by contacting the Convenor. You can be assured of a morning conducted in line with Probus philosophy of Fellowship, Friendship and Fun.

- **WALKING GROUP Third Friday in the month** - Richard Heal M: 0415 776 039 E: richard_heal@bigpond.com**

The current lockdown conditions mean that our planned walk has again had to be cancelled.

- **ZOOM LUNCH & CHAT – Fourth Thursday in the Month – Thursday 22nd. October Convenor Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964 E: graycol7@bigpond.com**

Zoom Film Lunch and Chat meetings replace activities such as evening Dine-outs &, Balwyn Cinema lunches, that were held each month prior to the coronavirus pandemic where wives and members could chat and keep up with other participants. The format this month will be similar the five previous Zoom Lunch & Chat meetings when participants chatted about a range of topics and discussed several nominated movies that they had watched at home on Channel 32 or SBS On Demand prior to the Zoom lunch.

Details about the three movies nominated for October will be emailed to participants on about 8th October, i.e. about a fortnight prior to the lunch. Please get in touch if you would like to become a participant and receive details about the nominated movies or if you are likely to need assistance getting connected to Zoom.

- **COMPUTER GROUP: Fourth Tuesday in the month. Convenor: Rodney Manser M: 0418 164 432 E: rmanser@bigpond.net.au**

Our next meeting on **Tuesday 27th October at 10am** will be conducted using Zoom Video Conferencing facility covering Information Technology and Windows shortcuts. Also, Cordell Short will be presenting "Exploring the capabilities and features of the Apple iPad".

Our September meeting was attended by 25 members with Keith Atkins, Gary Ray & Rod Alsop joining for the first time. This session was devoted to Apple products displaying the new released products and future developments.

Cordell Short spoke about "Is Mac more secure than Windows, we ask the experts" Breakout rooms discussed the security aspects of the Apple environment & Apple new releases.

Everyone, including partners, is welcome to join us at our next Meeting in October.

Please contact the convener for invitation instructions.

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:

- You are encouraged to go to our website <https://balwynnorthprobus.org.au> that contains much useful information, including a link to the Department of Human Services regarding the 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.