



THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

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DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Hopefully we will all enjoy the best Christmas and New Year that we have had for a while, given that this has been the toughest year many of us can remember. The State Government has certainly recognized and rewarded our efforts with its very substantial reduction of the requirements to which we have been subject. We are now able to enjoy food and drink vendors and sport and entertainment and travel and so forth in a way that we haven't for many months. Hopefully we will appreciate that and many associated reductions as we face up to next year.

As far as Probus is concerned we still have to formally be relieved of many requirements to which we are subject as Probians. Hopefully, this isn't too far away as we await Council and facility owner decisions that will enable us to return to meeting formats that we have not used for many months. However, the important thing is to enjoy the Festive Break in the months ahead.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Committee has decided that the February General Meeting would be conducted via the Zoom technology

The Committee of Management discussed the possible return to physical meetings in the New Year. The major consideration being that members should be **protected** to the best of our ability. The discussion centred upon two major issues –

- 1) The Committee has a **Duty of Care** to its members to mitigate any potential risk to those members if it were to begin meeting together physically. This Duty of Care would need to consider all actions necessary to mitigate any identified risk and actions to be taken were **reasonable** for members of our Club, considering the Club's member profile.
- 2) The requirement of Boroondara Council that any group wishing to utilise Council properties (i.e., Greythorn Hub) would need to submit and have approved a **COVIDSafe Plan**. The Council has adopted a Plan format which identifies 5 areas of risk applicable to the Club.-
 - 1) Ensure physical distancing
 - 2) Wear a face covering
 - 3) Practice good hygiene
 - 4) Keep records of attendance
 - 5) Avoid interactions in enclosed spaces

The Committee recognised that the completion, submission and approval of any appropriate Plan, together with the implications for members, would take time and consultation.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Club funds at 30 November are \$5,374, a slight increase over October as we have recognised a small amount of Council Grant funds remaining from our computer and projector purchases as income to offset Zoom and accounting software costs.

MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership is a total of 71 members, (66 active and 5 non-active members), with our Associate members being 12. Recently a new website page has been added to the members login folder "Members Jottings" for members to provide their stories during the pandemic lockdown. Please provide your stories to Website Master by email rmanser@bigpond.net.au. Let us all get our thinking caps on add to the interesting stories on the website.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following members who are celebrating birthdays between now and February 2021:

December: James Kimpton and Cordell Short

January: Angelo Bladeni, Bryan Radden and Neil Smart

February: John Chisholm, John Courtney, Michael Martin, Geoff Metcalf, Bruce McInerney and Mike Watts

FUNCTIONS:

Christmas Zoom Function - Tuesday December 8th at 11.00am – 1.00pm.

This function will be conducted with members and their partners providing their own specific lunch requirements. Obviously something prepared in advance such as sandwiches, for example, will allow for easier interaction with other participants. It would be nice if those attending could invoke their own brand of Christmas cheer, involving wine, beer or soft drink at the meeting, to take the place of what would normally be provided, if this event were to be held at a function centre. Looking forward to seeing you all there, at what will be the last official club function for 2020.

An invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be sent by email to all members prior to the event.

THEATRE/CINEMA:

- Local theatre, i.e., 1812 Theatre, Regent etc. will hopefully bring a return to live performance, but exactly what this will look like is still to be determined. We are hopeful that this will become evident shortly.
- Matinee cinema at the Balwyn Cinema is not planned before February 2021 at the earliest.

EVENTS DIARY:

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
• SIG GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUNCTION	Thursday December 3rd
• CLUB CHRISTMAS ZOOM FUNCTION	Tuesday December 8th
• ZOOM LUNCH AND CHAT Zoom Meeting	Thursday December 17th
• ZOOM LUNCH AND CHAT Zoom Meeting	Thursday January 21st
• HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP_Zoom Meeting	Monday February 8th
• MONTHLY GENERAL ZOOM MEETING	Tuesday February 9th
• INVESTMENT GROUP Zoom Meeting	Thursday February 11th
• PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP_Zoom Meeting	Tuesday February 16th
• WALKING GROUP	Friday February 19th
• COMPUTER GROUP Zoom Meeting	Tuesday February 23rd
• ZOOM LUNCH AND CHAT Zoom Meeting	Thursday February 25th

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

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

The next H&G Zoom meeting will be on **Monday 8th February**. Our meetings in February, March & April next year will be via zoom and will run from about 10.40 to noon. The specific 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 and catch up with what others have been doing.

Specific details about each meeting are still being developed but will probably include;

- members reporting on maritime heritage sites / maritime museums they have visited in Australia,
- members reporting on family history research they have carried out
- talk by Matthew Ety-Leal (Matthew did a presentation on Banjo Patterson at our October meeting)

A grateful thankyou to all those who have made presentations and or helped with the smooth running of our meetings through what has been difficult year. Best wishes to you all for an enjoyable and safe festive season and for better year ahead.

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

Please refer to the information on the Annual Christmas Lunch detailed in the **Photography/Travel Group** notice.

Our first meeting in 2021 will be on **Thursday February 11th**. Details will be available in the February Newsletter.

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

This year, our Annual Christmas Breakup will be a joint one along with the **Computer SIG** & the **Investment Group SIG**. It will be a lunch on **Thursday December 3rd at 12.30pm** at the **Veneto Club**, 191 Bulleen Rd, Bulleen VIC 3105. The Convenors of the SIGs are looking forward to seeing you, and as a gesture of good will they are providing a 1 Litre Carafe of White & Red wine and a Jug of Soft Drink per table, along with a little surprise!

Please remember to practise all relevant Covid-safe measures at all times.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has made 2020 a difficult year for the Club, which had to break new ground by utilising the Zoom Video Conference concept for our meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who presented Slide Shows and those members who actively participated in our monthly meetings.

I particularly would like to thank Rodney Manser for his continued support and assistance to ensure the Photography/Travel SIG Meetings run smoothly.

Finally : I wish all the members of the Photography/Travel SIG a very Happy and Safe Christmas and a Wonderful 2021.

Our first meeting in 2021 will be on **Tuesday February 16th**. Details will be available in the February Newsletter.

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

Our first walk in 2021 will be on **Friday February 19th**. Details will be available in the February Newsletter.

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

Please refer to the information on the Annual Christmas Lunch detailed in the **Photography/Travel Group** notice

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 10am** will be conducted using Zoom Video Conferencing facility, subject to rules re the pandemic. We will be covering Information Technology in Windows & Apple applications.

Further advice will be issued closer to the event and once the ISO regulations have been clarified for 2021.

Our November meeting was attended by 14 members. This session covered Apple & Zoom shortcuts, Tony Froster presented information on how to move files & folders between Drives and Folders using Copy and Paste functions.

He also identified the three 'must have' widgets. Rodney demonstrated Auto Archive for emails within Office 365.

The Christmas break-up for our SIG has been changed to **3rd December** at the Veneto Club Bulleen and will joining the Photographic/Travel and Investment SIG members.

For all the members who were not able to join us at the Veneto Club I am wishing you all a very Merry and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Everyone including partners are welcome to join us at our next Meeting in **February 2021**, please contact the convenor for invitation instructions.

Our first meeting in 2021 will be on **Tuesday February 23rd**. Details will be available in the February Newsletter.

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

The Thursday Zoom Film Lunch and Chat meetings will continue over the holiday season on **December 17th** and **January 21st**. The format for both months will be similar our six previous zoom Lunch & Chat meetings where participants have 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 two nominated movies for December and January will be emailed to participants about a fortnight prior to each lunch. We will also allocate time for members to talk about other movies / programs that they have enjoyed recently. 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.,

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.