



# THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

*Website: [balwynnorthprobus.org.au](http://balwynnorthprobus.org.au)*

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## FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Your committee have decided that we will resume normal meetings in May, if all goes well. This assumes two meetings via Zoom prior to then. This, in turn, assures that we have passed the danger-mark in terms of infectiousness of COVID, important to people of our age. We resume at the point of contact that we were developing in the past at Greythorn. We are hopeful that we have taken the right decision and that we will enjoy its benefits.

For our General Meeting on **Tuesday February 9th**, our speaker will be **Andrew Campbell** who will give a Zoom presentation on **“Hearing and Brain Health”**



Andrew Campbell – Audiologist is a leader in hearing health care, certified in audiological sciences. He is a speaker, teacher, manager, philanthropist and innovator. His influence in the audiology industry stretches across the world with recognition and patient treatment. He was a founding member of one of the largest hearing health care groups in the country, the founder of Campbell Cosmetic Hearing, Neuaudio – Hearing & Brain Health the Gain Hearing Network, an organisation dedicated to supporting independent private practices in Australia. He is a Member of the Australian College of Audiology. Furthermore, Andrew Campbell has been recognised multiple times as a leader in industry and integrity for his work in Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and the USA.

### SECRETARY’S REPORT:

CovidSafe Plan – Boroondara Council have advised that as the Club does not directly lease a Council property, a CovidSafe Plan did not have to be lodged and approved by Council. However, the Club would still need to abide by any requirements imposed by the management of the properties at which we meet.

Community Grant – Last October the Club lodged an application under the Boroondara Council Small Grants Program. Unfortunately, Council is yet to finalise the successful applicants. I am advised that we should be informed before 15<sup>th</sup> February.

The Committee devoted a large amount of time in discussions relating to when we should resume on site General Meetings at The Hub Greythorn and SIG meetings at North Balwyn Uniting Church.

The Committee feels that it would be premature to resume these meetings at this time before a vaccine had been made available to all members. The uncertainty with regard to rental costs, cleaning obligations by the two property managers and catering facilities led it decide that on-site meetings would not resume before May 2021. This was in line with a recommendation from a recent meeting of SIG Convenors.

It must be remembered that our membership is particularly vulnerable to the virus and this is always a major consideration in any decision we make.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

January is a busier than usual month for the Treasurer as accounts for the previous year need to be prepared for approval at the February Committee meeting and the budget for the following year needs to be drafted for consideration by the Committee.

The accounts have been approved and copies will be sent out during February in time for the March annual meeting.

The budget, which has been a quiet difficult exercise this year given the large number of uncertainties, has also been approved by the Committee and includes a substantial change to our fee arrangements which has previously been flagged as a possibility.

In order to adopt more COVID-19 friendly practices we have decided to remove monthly meeting fees, and the need to handle cash, in favour of a single annual fee. Unfortunately, this means that those members aged 90 and over who have been paying meeting fees but have not had to pay an annual fee will now be required to pay a very modest annual fee.

The proposed fees for the year commencing 1 April 2021 are:

Annual Fee for member under 90 -\$65.00

Annual Fee for member 90 and over - \$20.00

Joining Fee remains at \$40

Those members who prepaid their 2020/21 meeting fees will have the prepayment offset against their 2021/22 fees

Club funds at 31 January 2021 were \$5,219.

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

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

It was with great sadness that we have learned that **John L Ball**, a foundation member of the Club, passed away on 25/12/2020. Our thoughts and prayers were passed on to the family.

Margaret Petersen has been accepted as an Associate member.

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](mailto:rmanser@bigpond.net.au). Let us all get our thinking caps on add to the interesting stories on the website.

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 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 in February 2021:

- **John Chisholm, John Courtney, Michael Martin, Geoff Metcalf, Bruce McInerney and Mike Watts**

## **FUNCTIONS:**

### **Change over Lunch Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

This function will be held at Greenacres Golf Club and will provide an opportunity for members to thank our retiring President, James Kimpton, and welcome our incoming President for 2021/2022, Cordell Short and the members of the Committee for the next 12 months.

This will be the first face-to-face meeting since March 2020 and your committee has decided that unlike in previous years, this meeting will be for Club Members only.

The meal will consist of two courses and the cost per person will be **\$50.00** with the provision of beverages being provided from club funds.

Payment will be due by **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March** and can be made via a bank transfer to the club account or by sending a cheque to our Club Treasurer, Neil Smart. Bank details for transfers will be provided in the near future.

## **THEATRE/CINEMA:**

Current indications are that we may be able to organise suitable events sometime later in the year.

## **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:

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
• 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](mailto:graycol7@bigpond.com)**

The next H&G Zoom meeting will be on **Monday 8th February**. Our meetings in February, March & April this year will be via Zoom and will run from about **10.40 to noon**.

Graydon will talk about what he has been able to find out about the lives of a branch of his family tree, particularly those ancestors who migrated to Australia in 1841. During his talk he will explain how he was able to use the results of a recent family history DNA test to validate some aspects of the research into this branch of his family tree, and also a surprising find in another branch of his family tree.

We will also have discussion to develop a list of maritime heritage places around Australia that members will talk about at our March meeting. Our following meeting will probably be on **Monday 8th March** with members reporting on maritime heritage sites / maritime museums they have visited around Australia. We'll confirm the date of our March meeting following a discussion at the February meeting about whether holding our March meeting on the Labour Day holiday will influence members ability to join our zoom meeting.

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

Our first Zoom meeting in 2021 will be on **Thursday February 11th**. The program is:  
 1/ Livewire assessment of top 9 stocks for 2019 and an assessment of how they went in 2020.  
 An interesting comparison of how COVID influenced the stocks - both good and bad.  
 2/ Livewire assessment of Managed Funds and how they have performed.  
 3/ Assessment of COVID progress re vaccines and mutant strains.  
 Will Australia be the Lucky Country yet again?  
 4/ Consequences of trade problems with China (if time permits).

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

Happy New Year to you all and looking forward to a much "freer" 2021.  
 Our first meeting in 2021 will be on **Tuesday February 16th** and once again will be via The Zoom Video Conference. Each member has been asked to submit 2 images of either Kitchen Appliances, Cutlery or Food. Discussions will be held as to the difficulty or the simplicity of the images and what photographic principles were used. Rodney and Nino will discuss a recent Workshop they attended with respect to Long Term Exposure. They will be showing images from this Workshop. It is hoped that once the COVID Vaccine is available excursions will once again be undertaken. So, I will be asking for suggestions as well as making my own for future discussions.  
 Lastly, thanks to the members who attended our joint Christmas breakup with The Computer & Investment SIGS. It was a wonderful way to end 2020!

- **WALKING GROUP Third Friday in the month\*\* - Richard Heal M: 0415 776 039 E: [richard\\_heal@bigpond.com](mailto:richard_heal@bigpond.com)**

The next walk will take place on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. It will commence in the Pound Bend picnic area in the Warrandyte State Park and will follow a walking track beside the Yarra River upstream towards Pound Bend. Meet in the Pound Bend Car Park, which is accessed from Pound Bend Road, at **10.30 AM**. [*Melways Map Ref: 23 A11*]. We will be having a picnic lunch at the conclusion of the walk so please bring everything that you require for that, including seating. New walkers always welcome.

- **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 will be **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** at 10am will be conducted using Zoom Video Conferencing facility subject to rules re the Pandemic. This meeting, discussion will be held regarding Cybersecurity myths, hacking ransomware & scams. Our November meeting was attended by 13 members. This session covered Apple & Zoom shortcuts, Tony Froster presented how to move files & folders between Drives and folders using copy and paste. Also, he presented the three must have widgets. Rodney demonstrated Auto Archive for emails within Office 365. Our Christmas break-up was held on 3rd December at the Veneto Club Bulleen being joined the by Photographic/Travel and Investment SIG members some 27 members attending.  
 Everyone including partners are welcome to join us at our next Meeting, please contact the convener for invitation instructions.

- **ZOOM LUNCH & CHAT – Fourth Thursday in the Month – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
 Convenor Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964 E: [graycol7@bigpond.com](mailto:graycol7@bigpond.com)**

The Thursday Zoom Film, Lunch and Chat meetings will continue during 2021 until the Balwyn Cinema Film and light lunch meetings can resume. The format this month will be similar to 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 three movies nominated for February will be emailed to participants on about **11<sup>th</sup> February**, 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

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](mailto:marketing@probussouthpacific.org) to be put on the mailing list for their regular Newsletter.