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THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

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President: James Kimpton

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MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Our **Annual General Meeting** is to be held on **Tuesday 9th March** again utilising the Zoom technology. The business to be transacted at that meeting is clear from the agenda in terms of election of a new President, approval of accounts, election of the Committee and so forth.

I should say here, though, that I have enormously appreciated being President for the past year and taking us through what has been a very difficult time for us in terms of adjusting to Zoom and coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. I have enormously been helped by the willingness of our members to experiment with new technologies for the dissemination of information. Hopefully, if we remain as a community able to minimize infection rates, we will return to normal before too long.

Following the formal business of our Annual General Meeting, **Ken Parker** will address the interesting topics of electric vehicles, renewable energy and Climate Change. He is also interested in Sustainable Homes and Societies, family values, Online information, Social Philosophy and Democracy, Tennis, Health & Fitness.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Barry reported that the Club had successfully received a grant from Boroondara Council to purchase a High-end Webcam that would enable us to undertake Hybrid Meetings in the future. This means that when we resume physical meetings, we will also be able to broadcast the meeting through Zoom via the webcam. It will enable members who cannot attend a meeting through ill health, or any other reason, to still be able to access the meeting through the Zoom technology.

The Committee is hopeful that this will open up the meetings to more members who previous had to miss out.

Other grant programs through the Council are opening up soon and a small group of Committee members will meet soon to discuss possible projects that could be funded by these grants. If any member has any suggestions regarding a project please contact Barry 0448 058 604.

The upcoming AGM was discussed at some length. Other notable discussions concerned the Changeover lunch and the possibility of restarting the monthly Cinema mornings.

It was noted that this would be Gerald King's last Committee meeting as Immediate past president and James thanked him for the significant contribution he has made while being on the Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Club Funds at 28 February are \$5,819 including \$2,000 travel grant received from City of Boroondara and \$560 meeting fees in advance. We have paid \$1,897 for new video conferencing equipment for which a grant from City of Boroondara has been approved but funds not yet received.

Fee Notices for the year commencing 1 April will be sent to members in the next day or so. Separate emails will be sent, to those members who prepaid their 2020/21 meeting fees, advising on how to claim the refund against the 2021/22 fees.

MEMBERSHIP:

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

Zoom Meetings have been conducted for the SIG & General Meetings with the phone tree calls to keep in touch with all members.

SIG Convenors are planning on face-to-face meetings commencing in May once lock-down restrictions have been eased, especially now with the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Let us get back to the normal Probud Structure and develop our friendship & comradeship.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following members who are celebrating birthdays in **March 2021**:

- **Ken Mitchell, Robin Pleydell, John Peyton, Don Eltringham, Jeff Collinson, Norman Clewlow, Gerry Walsh, Ian Caldow**

FUNCTIONS:

Change over Lunch Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 12 Noon for 12.30pm

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 of **\$50.00** is due by **Friday 19th March** and can be made by either 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
Richard Heal
3 Woodhouse Road
Doncaster East 3109

THEATRE/CINEMA:

Current indications are that we may be able to organise suitable events sometime later in the year. All being well, we hope to be able to arrange a group visit to the cinema during May 2021.

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
• ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Zoom	Tuesday March 9th
• INVESTMENT GROUP Zoom Meeting	Thursday March 11th
• PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP_Zoom Meeting <i>Joint meeting with</i>	Tuesday March 16th
• HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP_Zoom Meeting	Tuesday March 16th
• COMPUTER GROUP Zoom Meeting	Tuesday March 23rd
• ZOOM LUNCH AND CHAT Zoom Meeting	Thursday March 25th
• WALKING GROUP	Friday March 26th

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. Convenor Graydon Findlay
P: 9859 6964 E: graycol7@bigpond.com**

The next H&G Zoom activity will be a 2 hour Zoom meeting with the Photography/Travel SIG at 10.00am on Tuesday 16th March and NOT on our usual second Monday of the month.

The topics for separate SIG meetings were similar, i.e., members reporting on interesting places he had visited in Australia that others might consider when planning the itinerary for their next holiday. As this could be interesting to members of both SIG's, it was decided that it be more effective to have a combined meeting.

During the combined SIG meeting Cordell Short, Colette Findlay and Tony Froster will give short reports on interesting maritime heritage sites / maritime museums they have visited in Port Albert, Sydney, Freemantle & Geraldton. Denis Spinley will do a presentation on a Murray River paddle steamer cruise that he did with Jan from Echuca recently and I'll do a virtual maritime heritage walk along the Yarra in the city using old paintings and photos that are available on the State Library website. This might provide the basis for a combined SIG excursion later this year.

Wives and partners are welcome to join in on this interesting and informative meeting.

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

Our next Zoom meeting will be on **Thursday March 11th**. The program is:

1/ Australia/China trade problems and likely consequences

2/ Latest stock tips according to Livewire

3/ Progress with vaccine program and likelihood of overseas travel. Consequences for aviation/travel industry.

- **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 March 16th at 10am** and on this occasion it will be a combined meeting with the **Heritage & Genealogy SIG** and as such will be an interesting morning.

As I will be away for this meeting, Denis Spinley will be the Acting Convenor on my behalf. He will give a PowerPoint Presentation on his and Jan's recent 4 Night Murray River Paddle Steamer Cruise, leaving from and returning to Echuca.

Cordell Short, Colette Findlay and Tony Froster will each give a short report on interesting heritage sites and Maritime Museums that they have visited in Port Albert, Sydney, Freemantle and Geraldton.

Graydon Findlay will finish off with a Virtual Maritime Heritage Walk along the Yarra River in Melbourne, using old paintings and photos that are available on the State Library's website.

It is hoped that this will then be a basis for a joint SIG "Before & After" excursion later in the year, after we have had our COVID Vaccination.

As always wives and partners are welcome to join in this meeting by contacting either Denis or Graydon.

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

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 23rd March at 10am** and will be conducted using Zoom Video Conferencing facility subject to rules re the Pandemic. Discussion will be held regarding Use of Hand-Held phones/ Mobile devices and a Presentation from Tony Froster "Collections in Edge".

Our February meeting was attended by 14 members. This session covered Cybersecurity, Scams, Ransom & Hackers. Everyone including partners are welcome to join us at our next Meeting. Please contact the convenor for invitation instructions.

- **ZOOM FILM LUNCH & CHAT – Fourth Thursday in the Month – Thursday 25th March Convenor Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964 E: 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 March will be emailed to participants on about **11th March**, 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

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

The next walk will take place on **Friday 26th March** and will be along The Darebin Creek Trail commencing at Willsmere Park in Kew and crossing the Yarra River heading towards The Darebin Parklands.

Meet at Willsmere Park in Kew at the south end of Willow Grove at **10.30 AM.**[Melways map Ref: 45 F1]

Lunch will be at a local café in East Kew.. New walkers always most welcome.

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.