



THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

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APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Welcome everyone to the New 2021 Probud Year and the opportunity to revitalise our Club with in-person get-togethers. Immediately, we have the **13th April Changeover Lunch (with partners & Associates)** to look forward to, and with being on the cusp of us all "getting the jab", it will be back to normal, God willing, from May.

Please accept the Committee's sincere apologies for any confusion its reversal on attendees to the Changeover Lunch might have had. As my letter of 25th March endeavoured to point out, the original decision to limit the Lunch to 'Members Only' was taken very carefully and with purely Members' welfare and safety as the main consideration. Social distancing and "meet and greet" interaction, after such a long Covid separation, was the concern. However, how elevating is it to find Victoria is now free of any new locally transmitted disease, as I write, and we have nobody being cared for in hospital.

If nothing else, hopefully 2021 will be a celebration that we got through Covid in fine shape and are resolved to maximise our involvement in Club activities as we go forward. While Zoom was a great enabler over the last year the main thing was that we kept together and interest in our SIG meetings was such an important part of all that. In this coming year Functions, Events and SIG's, as well as General Monthly Meetings will be back to normal, but we will need to consciously ensure they are. Members involvement is the substance of our Club and our fellowship is what holds us together.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Committee has held TWO meetings within the last 8 days.

The first was an Extraordinary Meeting requested by President Cordell to discuss, in broad terms, issues that the Club is likely to be faced with during this coming year as outlined in his President's Statement on our webpage and I encourage all members to view this statement.

We also discussed the various roles and responsibilities of the Committee members which resulted in three Standing Resolutions being proposed that will be put to members at the May General Meeting (14 days' notice to members is required by the Constitution).

Furthermore, at today's Committee meeting there was a further Standing Resolution passed that formally creates the position of Associates within our Club structure.

We were recently advised of the passing of Ken Falconer who was Club Secretary/President of the Manningham Probud Interest Group, of which we are a member. The issue is that other Committee members of the Group are retiring as well leaving no office bearers to organise the two meetings it holds each year. It appears the Group will be disbanded in the near future.

Our Committee today discussed a number of items including the future of the Heritage and Genealogy SIG and possible merger with Photography/Travel SIG and the development of SIGs in general, amongst the ordinary business of the Committee.

The Committee is looking forward to seeing as many members as possible at the Change Over Lunch next week and recommencing the face-to-face General Meetings on May 11th at the Hub.

We realise, however, that some members may be reluctant to attend these meetings because of their personal circumstances. Consequently, I have been requested to ask members, by email, of their intentions regarding their attendance or non-attendance at both the General meetings and SIGs. An email will be sent shortly.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our bank balance at 31 March 21 is \$13,280 which includes SIG funds of \$797, unspent Council grant of \$2,000, and \$2,600 for the Changeover Lunch.

Annual fees were due on 1 April and approximately 60% of members have already paid. If anyone needs another copy of the fee advice please let me know; \$65.00 for members under 90 and \$20.00 for members 90 or over on 31 March 2021."

MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership is 62 active and 5 non-active members, totaling 67 members with our Associates at 14.

We would like to take the opportunity of congratulating Denis Spinley for completing 20 years of membership.

It is sadness that we lost our esteemed member Geoff Bowden on 13th March. Geoff had been a member since 1994 and held positions of Speaker Convenor 1996 – 1998, Tours Convenor 1999, Junior Vice President 1999, Senior Vice President 2000, President 2001, Immediate Past President 2002, Genealogy SIG Convenor 2002-2003 and Membership Officer 2011-2015. A very distinguished Career within his Probus tenure.

Angelo Bladeni & Gerry Walsh have tendered their resignation due personal reasons wishing the both of them all best in their future endeavours.

Valerie Handley has been put forward by Don Eltringham as an Associate.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

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

- **Justin Clezy, Garry Fleming, Keith Atkins, Tony Lazzarotto, Don Macdonald, Nino Xerri**

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.

The meal will consist of two courses with the provision of beverages being provided from club funds. Final numbers, which have increased substantially, have now been provided to the venue so no more additions are possible.

For your diary!

Winter Lunch. Thursday 29th July.

This function will be another 2-course lunch and will be taking place at **The Box Hill Golf Club**.

The price for the lunch is **\$40.00** per person with alcoholic drinks at bar prices.

Payment date will be notified later but should be made via one of the usual methods with bank transfer being preferred.

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
• INVESTMENT GROUP Zoom Meeting	Thursday April 8th
• HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP_Zoom Meeting	Tuesday April 12th
• CHANGEOVER LUNCH	Tuesday April 13th
• WALKING GROUP	Friday April 16th
• PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP_Zoom Meeting <i>Joint meeting with</i>	Tuesday April 20th
• HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP_Zoom Meeting	Tuesday April 20th
• ZOOM LUNCH AND CHAT Zoom Meeting	Thursday April 22nd
• COMPUTER GROUP Zoom Meeting	Tuesday April 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. Convenor: Don Campbell P: 9836 6330 M: 0418 512 001**
The investment SIG meeting will be via Zoom on **Thursday April 8th**. The program will discuss:
1/ Australian Budget situation and debt levels. What are the implications?
2/ Update on vaccination program.
3/ Update on various stocks and industry funds.
- **WALKING GROUP Third Friday in the month** - Richard Heal M: 0415 776 039 E: richard_heal@bigpond.com**
The next walk will take place on **Friday 16th April** and will be along a section of The Mullum Mullum trail through the Mullum Mullum Linear Park, from Old Warrandyte Road to Park Road in Donvale.
Meet in the Carpark just off Tindals Road in Donvale at **10.30 AM** [Melways Map Ref: 34 J9]
Lunch at the conclusion of the walk will be at a local Café. New walkers most welcome.
- **HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP: Second Monday in the Month. Convenor Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964 E: graycol7@bigpond.com**

There will be two H&G Zoom activities this month. The first will be a zoom meeting at 11.00am on our normal second Monday 12th April. The gradual decline in the number of H&G members over recent years has led to the conclusion that it is probably not practical post-lockdown to resume normal two-hour H&G meetings at North Balwyn Uniting Church, even if meetings are only held every second month. The aim of the meeting on 12th April will be to consider and discuss the feasibility of combining with the Photography/Travel SIG and whether changing the day in the month when meetings are held will be problem for any members. A discussion paper will be circulated to all H&G members early in April so that members, who will not be able to participate in the meeting on 12th April will be able to get in touch with me by phone or email prior to the meeting with any queries or comments they have on the paper.

The second H&G activity will be a 2 hour Zoom meeting with the Photography/Travel SIG at 10.00am on Tuesday 20th April The main purpose will be to allow all participating members of both SIGs to discuss the possibility of combining the two SIGs. **It is therefore imperative that as many members of both SIGs attend this important meeting.** Following this discussion Jeff Collinson will give a presentation on "The Sinking of the Lusitania, a luxury passenger liner during World War 1" and Nino Xerri will talk about some of his photos from a recent trip to East Gippsland.

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

First & foremost : thank you Denis for standing in for me at last month's meeting.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 20th April at 10am** and will be conducted using the Zoom Video Conference Facility.

Following up on our joint meeting with the Heritage & Genealogy SIG last month, we will again have a joint meeting.

The main purpose will be to allow all participating members to discuss the possibility of combining the two SIGs.

It is therefore imperative that as many members of both SIGs attend this important meeting.

We will then have a presentation on behalf of the Heritage & Genealogy SIG by Jeffrey Collinson "The sinking of the cruise liner the Lusitania" This will be followed by a Powerpoint presentation on behalf of the Photography Travel SIG, from my recent trip to East Gippsland. As always, wives and partners are welcome to join in this meeting.

- **ZOOM FILM LUNCH & CHAT – Fourth Thursday in the Month – Thursday 22nd April
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 April will be emailed to participants on about **8th April**, 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.

- **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 April at 10am** will be conducted using Zoom Video Conferencing facility subject to rules re the Pandemic. At this meeting discussion will be held regarding Use of IT Technology.

Our March meeting was attended by 17 members. This session covered Microsoft Edge Collections vertical Tabs & Favourites, presented by Tony Froster & Cordless Phones by Rodney Manser, the environment video caused a lot of discussion in the Breakout rooms and at the conclusion of the meeting.

Everyone including partners are 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.