



# THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

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## NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 14th 2021

### TODAY'S MEETING VIA ZOOM:

### ALL SEPTEMBER MEETINGS, GENERAL AND SIGs, ARE TO BE HELD BY ZOOM

Gentlemen, regrettably due to the COVID Lockdown in Victoria and the likelihood of extended restrictions thereafter, the Committee has resolved to ensure that Members are not subjected to any risk through attending any of our meetings in the month of September. Invitations to join the General Meeting will be sent to all members prior to the event.

### NEXT MEETING:

OCTOBER 12th Speaker: Ross McMullin " Farewell Dear People"

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

### MEMBERSHIP AND THE FUTURE OF THE CLUB POST-COVID VACCINATION:

In the August edition of the Newsletter, I advised Members that our membership numbers, and the average age of our membership, was starting to become a concern in terms of the Club's ability to maintain a viable management/SIG structure going forward and the range of activities we have traditionally enjoyed.

COVID of course has intensified the impact. However, **as we get beyond being 80% vaccinated it is imperative that we are ready and organised to resolve this problem.** Our inability to recruit significant numbers of younger people to address these issues in the past (even pre COVID) is also a matter of concern we must overcome. So, **we need a new approach and a new determination.**

Committee discussion of these matters originated from a discussion Paper I tabled at the August 3rd Committee Meeting. The Paper was received and accepted by the Committee but in debate it was agreed further research needed to be undertaken on other Clubs in our immediate area. As a consequence, research was undertaken and the findings submitted by me in a Review Paper for consideration at the September 7th meeting of the Committee.

Fundamentally our situation is still that our Membership in the last 18 months of Covid exposure has fallen to 54 Active (with an average age of 82) and 10 Non-active.

At the beginning of the 2018/19 year our Active Membership was 68 and there were 5 Non-active.

In short, **we need to recruit around 10 new younger members (early 70's is the target) each Probud year if we are to successfully address the issue.** Either this or we elect to age gracefully or maybe opt for an amalgamation, if that's possible. There are only two other Men's clubs within a 5Km radius of where we meet and they have age profiles not greatly different to ours. In total there are 30 Clubs within a 5km radius of us, 3 Men only, 3 Ladies only and 24 Combined.

**My Discussion and Review Papers outline four options open to the club in considering the way forward. The Committee's unanimous view is that we should stay as we are, embark on a vigorous and innovative membership drive over the next nine months, with a dedicated Sub-Committee of three or four members, then review our position again.**

**At this September meeting, Members will be provided with my original Discussion Paper of 25th July 2021, together with my research findings and follow-up Review Paper of 31st August and the Committee's views and comments thereon. This material collectively will provide Members with a set of working papers, designed to facilitate a preliminary discussion at the 14th September General Meeting and a more in-depth review as soon as we are able to get back to physical meetings.**

I apologise for the amount of material Members are being asked to read on this matter. However, it is critical Members be fully informed and that the views and opinions of Members become the basis for any decision about the Club's future. We are not there yet but we are fast approaching the cross-roads. It is prudent we collectively address this very important issue together.

#### Remembrance and Acknowledgement:

Sadly, we have to report the very recent passing of Justin Clezy . Thanks to Rodney Manser, our Membership Officer, this together with Justin's involvements in the Club, has already been brought to the attention of Members and our collective condolences expressed to wife Judy. In the current lockdown circumstances, regrettably it would seem, attendance at any announced funeral arrangements will not be possible.

As you will also hear from Rodney, it is with deep disappointment we have to report the resignation from the Club of Graeme Seabrook. Graeme has been a prominent member of the Club, well liked and respected. Graeme has been a notable entity and contributor and will be missed. However, we respect that living at distance and all that implies regarding attendance at club meetings and events became an issue for Graeme and similarly having to make the drive on his own. Both Rodney and I spoke to Graeme at length in the hope of getting him to reconsider but his resolve to end his association with the Club was firm. Our sincere thanks to Graeme for his contributions to the Club were very sincerely expressed.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Committee spent significant time discussing the Membership issue, reported on by Cordell above.

We have applied for, and it has been agreed by Boroondara Council, that the dates for spending the two Grant allocations we received last year - Transport Grant and Webcam Grant - have been extended to 31 July 2022 and 30 June 2022 respectively.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Available funds at 31 August were \$5,694 a small reduction from the previous month following a loss of \$277 on the Winter Lunch.

#### MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership is 54 active and 10 non-active members totally 64 members with our Associates totalling 14.

We have recently learned with sadness of the passing of Justin Clezy. We extend our sincere condolences to Judy and the rest of his family.

Graeme Seabrook regrettably resigned stating that travelling between the Docklands and PCNB has taken its toll. His contribution to our club is truly appreciated, especially to the Photography SIG, Jnr & Senior Vice President roles.

Thorold Merrett has been transferred to the Non-Active members list.

#### **BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH**

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

- **Peter Muir-Smith, John Mott, Per Knudsen, Evan Williams, Bob Haydon, John Keogh, Keith Jackson, Thorold Merrett, Gary Ray**

**FUNCTIONS: - Convenor: Richard Heal M: 0415 776 039 E: richard\_heal@bigpond.com**

The remainder of our travel grant allocation from Boroondara Council has been extended to July 2022 which means we might be able to arrange several subsidised day trips depending upon the state of lockdowns into the New Year.

I am very keen to arrange a day trip, so as soon as there is some freedom announced there will be trip details publicised.

#### ***A note for your diary.***

Christmas Lunch at Green Acres Golf Club hopefully scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021**.

**THEATRE EVENTS: – Convenor: Denis Spinley M: 0408 567 858 E: dbspinley@gmail.com**

**“MOULIN ROUGE” Musical at the Regent Theatre, Wednesday January 19th 2022, Matinee 1 pm. Tickets \$79 pp.** (own transport).

**Payment due at the October General Meeting** but can be made at any time via one of the usual methods, however, a bank transfer is preferred:

Account Name -The Probus Club of Nth Balwyn Inc.

BSB- 033 054

Account No.- 182752

Use your name as reference.

**NOTE:** If the event has to be cancelled because of COVID restrictions at the time, all payments will be refunded to members.

## **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>
• INVESTMENT GROUP	Thursday September 9th
• HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP_Zoom Meeting	Monday September 13th
• GENERAL MEETING	Tuesday September 14th
• PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP	Tuesday September 21st
• ZOOM LUNCH AND CHAT Zoom Meeting	Thursday September 23rd
• COMPUTER GROUP	Tuesday September 28th
• DINE OUT	N/A
• BRIDGE	N/A
• WALKING GROUP	N/A

**NOTE** - Before participating in one of the Face to Face or Zoom meetings, it might be worthwhile contacting the SIG convener to confirm the final format and timing of the meeting.

When participating in any Zoom meeting, it might be worthwhile checking out the following advice

### **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 at 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 will meet via Zoom on **Thursday 9th September at 9.45** for a **10am** start.  
The subjects for discussion are:  
1/ BHP/Woodside merger and the driving reasons for it. It includes an interview with Meg O'Neill, the new head of Woodside.  
2/ Green hydrogen is it a possibility or a pipe dream.  
3/ Financial cost and other problems of lockdowns.

- **HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP: Second Monday in the Month. Convenor Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964 E: [graycol7@bigpond.com](mailto:graycol7@bigpond.com)**

The next H&G meeting will be on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September**. Instead of the planned walk or tour around heritage sites in Doncaster, it will be a Zoom meeting and will run from about **10.40** until **noon**. Jeff Collinson will demonstrate some of the range of features in the Legacy Family tree software program that he has found particularly useful during his long involvement in doing family history research.

We'll also have some time in three Zoom break-out rooms where members can discuss how they used the Trove newspaper search site to find information about events that were important in the lead up Australia becoming a Federation of States. The groups will also be able discuss how to collaborate in preparing short presentations for the October H&G meeting.

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

Our next meeting will be on **21st September** at **10.00 am**. via Zoom

The Agenda for this coming month's meeting is a simple one:-

Video showing: a) How to use a Tripod like a boss : b) 3 Budget Cameras comparison : c) Photography Workshop.

An in depth discussion will be conducted on the video, followed by a break for Morning Tea.

After Morning Tea, we will discuss a Compositional Technique "Fibonacci Spiral" with hopefully members producing at least 1 image utilising this technique.

As always Nino will make this meeting an interactive one with members expressing their views on any photographic issue they wish to discuss. Everyone is welcome, including partners. A great morning in the spirit of Probus : Fellowship : Friendship & Fun is assured.

It was pleasing to see 10 members at the August Meeting.

- **ZOOM FILM LUNCH & CHAT – Fourth Thursday in the Month – Thursday September 23rd Convenor Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964 E: [graycol7@bigpond.com](mailto:graycol7@bigpond.com)**

The Thursday Zoom Film, Lunch & Chat meeting will continue this month. The format will be similar to previous Zoom Lunch & Chat meetings when participants have chatted about a range of topics and discussed movies that they had watched on Channel 32, SBS on Demand, or Beamafilm (available on-line via your local municipal library) prior to the zoom lunch. Details about three movies nominated for September will be emailed to participants about three weeks before 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](mailto:rmanser@bigpond.net.au)**

Our next meeting on **Tuesday 28th September** at **10am** will be via Zoom. A revised Agenda will be sent out to all members.

Our August meeting was on a revised topic and was attended by 15 members It was great to see Bryan Casey join us after his recent visit into hospital & Rehab. During the meeting we covered Microsoft One Note. Videos were shown on the Microsoft One Note and 7 awesome features on the One Note application. After morning tea Graydon spoke about his challenge with Virus infection on his laptop. We finished with a video on Hot spotting your iPhone to connect your laptop or iPad to the internet.

Everyone is welcome to join us at our next Meeting September 28th. Please contact the convener for invitation instructions

- **DINE OUT - Third Wednesday in the month\*\* Convenor: Neil Gray P 8848 0938**

There are currently no plans to hold this event during September.

- **BRIDGE: Third Thursday in the Month at Kew Golf Club - Convenor Per Knudsen M 0402 810 644**

There are currently no plans to hold this event during September.

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

The walk for September will not be able to be held in the normal format due to the ongoing lockdown restrictions.

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 also 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.