



THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

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President: Cordell Short

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NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 9th 2021

TODAY'S MEETING VIA ZOOM: Speaker: Dr Janet Patford "Living-Apart-Together (LAT) Relationships"

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Gentlemen, there's still a degree of COVID turmoil but thank goodness it now feels like there's light at the end of the tunnel.

The good news, as you know, is that the 70% vaccination rate in Victoria exceeded the plan and the release from lockdown was able to occur 5 days earlier than expected. Furthermore, the race to 80% of the 15+ age group is now expected to be reached by end October, rather than the planned 5th November, and that the opening of retail will be similarly advanced.

The 12+ eligible group originally, planned to get to the 80% benchmark by November 19th, is now likely to get there 5 to 6 days earlier also, but with the progressive increase in freedom of movement will come increased exposure and infection rates. Consequently, in the view of the Committee, it was thought prudent to again hold the General meeting in November by Zoom. There are still social distancing rules in place, masks have to be worn and attendees would have to be seated. Another couple of weeks is needed for facts to take the place of conjecture so we keep our members safe.

However, the Committee did consider there was every reason to believe that, providing COVID compliance measures are strictly adhered to, there should be no impediment to safely holding the SIG Christmas break-up functions/activities which are comparatively smaller groups, in November or the larger gathering at the **Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 14th December**.....again, providing any COVID control rules in place are strictly complied with. What a year!!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Despite all the COVID related events, MEMBERSHIP, for us, is still the compelling issue and Geoff Metcalf will have things to say to you about how we are gearing up for the committed drive for new members we all voted for at last month's meeting.

TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2022 IS 'INTRODUCE A POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER' DAY

This is our February General meeting when we have Ted Baillieu as a special guest speaker. So, gentlemen, we need to start right now grooming these new people we intend to bring along.

As Robert Garran, a very committed and influential contributor to Federation, wrote in his 1895 pamphlet, The Urgency of Federation:

"Better today than tomorrow, better at sunrise than noon,
let Doing not wait on Delay, nor Now be the servant of Soon".

PLEASE MAKE IT HAPPEN FOR OUR GREAT CLUB

NEXT MEETING:

December 14th - Christmas Lunch

Speaker: Bev Moss "Come Fly With Me"

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. The Committee considered the wording of a proposed Special Resolution in relation to Non-Members being able to attend three Club meetings (General and SIG) before being asked to formally apply for membership. In this, the importance of the SIGs in introducing new people to the Club activities and its members, was duly recognised.

After considerable discussion it was felt that the proposed resolution could be worded more appropriately and so it was agreed that a newly worded resolution would be considered at the next Committee meeting.

2. As Cordell advised above, there has been considerable discussions on Membership following the resolution passed at the last General Meeting and the Committee has therefore considered a wide range of matters relating to this issue.

An important point related to the Club's future - the willingness, or otherwise, of members to take on the Committee positions of Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents – was discussed at length. These are important roles relating directly to succession planning for the role of President.

In conclusion it was resolved that if the Club was unable to secure at least one of these positions at the AGM in March 2022, then the membership would have to realise that the Club will be forced to plan for a winding-up by March 2023.

It was however suggested, as an alternative to this dilemma, that if there was a member prepared to take on the role of President in 2022 allowing Rod Alsop the opportunity to continue for a second year as Senior Vice President and have a better opportunity to get to know other members and the administration of the Club, then the deadline might be able to be extended. Rod, it was noted, had experienced COVID lockdowns for the majority of his membership.

In any event, "We cannot continue without a President"

3. On a lighter note, we are pleased to report that we have been successful in obtaining a \$2,000 grant from Boroondara Council for computer equipment to augment the Webcam previously purchased. This will enable General Meetings held at The Hub to be available also via Zoom.
4. I have also forwarded emails from PSPL and Deakin University to all members.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Club funds at 31 October after allowing for SIG funds, theatre receipts in advance and the unallocated council travel grant were \$5,512, the same as at 30 September.

MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership is 53 active and 11 non-active members totally 64 members with our Associates totalling 14.

John Roberts, who joined the club on 1st May 2011, has requested that he be transferred to the Non-Active list

Congratulations to **Michael Martin** who will achieve 10 years of service on 1st November.

Bruno Coniglio has kindly produced 12 copies of the membership booklet if any member would like a copy, they will be made available at the General Meeting in February. Please let Rodney know so that he can reserve a copy for you.

Our first face-to face-General Meeting will be **8th February 2022**.

Please diarise this date and join us at the Greythorn Community Hub.

Stay Safe and Well!

BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

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

- **Barry Bolger, Graeme Goudie, Doug McNeil, Matthew Pattison, and John Williams**

FUNCTIONS: - Convenor: Richard Heal M: 0415 776 039 E: richard_heal@bigpond.com

CHRISTMAS LUNCH at Green Acres Golf Club on Tuesday 14th December

There has been a great response to the proposed Christmas lunch function and at this stage there are 46 attendees on the list. The current rules allow for that number of fully vaccinated guests to be seated inside the function room at Greenacres Golf Club, so we should be right to continue planning for this event to proceed.

Payments can be made via the usual method and a bank transfer is preferred.

Final payments to be made by **Tuesday 30th November** but payments earlier than that date would be appreciated.

Cost is \$60 per head.

Probus Club Account details: Probus Club of North Balwyn

Westpac Bank

BSB: 033054

Account No. :182752

Include your name as reference and Xmas Lunch.

PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR FUNCTION - Tuesday 18th January 2022.

At this stage we are thinking that this event will be a **High Tea**. If members are supportive of the idea, please let Richard know as soon as possible. Final details will then be circulated to members.

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.

- All allocated tickets have now been paid for.

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
• HERITAGE / GENEALOGY GROUP	Monday November 8th
• GENERAL MEETING Zoom Meeting	Tuesday November 9th
• INVESTMENT GROUP Zoom Meeting	Thursday November 11th
• WALKING GROUP	Friday November 19th
• COMPUTER GROUP Christmas Break-up Function, with	Tuesday November 23rd
• PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP	Tuesday November 23rd
• ZOOM LUNCH AND CHAT Zoom Meeting	Thursday November 25th
• DINE OUT	N/A
• BRIDGE	N/A

NOTE - Before participating in one of the Face to Face or Zoom meetings, it might be worthwhile contacting the SIG convenor 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

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

The next H&G meeting will be a **Heritage and Poetry walking excursion** at the **Royal Botanic Gardens** starting at **10.00 am on Monday 8th November**. The Royal Botanic Gardens are on Victoria's Heritage Register because they are of historical, architectural, scientific, aesthetic, and social significance to the State of Victoria. They are Victoria's earliest botanic garden and the early curators established the gardens as the centre for botanical research in Victoria. They are aesthetically significant for the layout and planting established by William Guilfoyle between 1873 and 1909. There are buildings and structures of historic and architectural significance and the gardens provide a valuable recreational and educational role for visitors.

The excursion will provide a choice of short walks of 1.5km, 2km or 2.5 km for small self-guided groups in the south eastern section of the Botanic gardens. The walks will pass pavilions, historic gates and former Gardeners lodges that are part of the overall heritage significance of the gardens. During the walk we'll also listen to two recordings of poets reciting a poem that had been inspired by that part of the Gardens.

Please get in touch with Graydon by phone or email if you would like to come on this excursion and he will send you details about where we meet, a map of the paths the walks will follow, notes about heritage sites along the walk .

Details about some on-line virtual tour options of the Gardens will be provided for members who are not able to come to the excursion and for those who have not had two Covid vaccinations.

- **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 November 11th at 9.40** for a **10am** start.

The program will be:

- 1/ The little know financial crisis of 1906/7 and its ramifications
- 2/ Further news of carbon/global warming crisis.
- 3/ Westfarmers new lithium venture with update on rare earths
- 4/ Waste disposal problems with solar/wind farms

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

The next walk will be held on **Friday 19th November** and will commence at Stiggant Reserve in Warrandyte and follow a trail beside the Yarra River to Warrandyte and return.

Park in the carpark at the end of Stiggant Street in Warrandyte for a **10.30AM** start time. [*Melways Map Ref: 23 C12*]

We will have a picnic lunch at the conclusion of the walk. New walkers most welcome to join the group.

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

The November meeting of the Photography/Travel SIG, scheduled for the **Tuesday 16th November**, has been moved to **23rd. November** to allow for the following:

1. Annual Joint end-of-year Christmas Breakup function with the Computer SIG by way of a picnic at Westerfolds Park in Templestowe
2. Photographic opportunities/workshop for members who are keen to undertake this option, starting time **10.30am**

As this is a joint venture with the Computer SIG, please let Nino or Rodney know of your attendance and if you intend to bring your wife/partner, so we can make the necessary seating arrangements.

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

Our next meeting on **Tuesday 23rd November** will be our Christmas Breakup for the Computer SIG & Photography/Travel SIG which will be a picnic at Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe at **10.30am**.

We will be meeting at Red Stringybark Picnic spot which has tables under cover.

Everyone is welcome including partners to join us at our Christmas breakup at Westerfolds Park.

Make it a day to remember and celebrate being out of lockdowns.

To complete the arrangements for the day, please contact the conveners if you wish to attend our celebrations.

At our October meeting we had 13 members join us. We covered Windows 11 updates, the history of Computers and software for PC's & Apple, with discussion on the various Internet Security Suites.

- **ZOOM FILM LUNCH & CHAT – Fourth Thursday in the Month – Thursday November 25th.**
Convenor Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964 E: graycol7@bigpond.com

The final Thursday Zoom Film, Lunch & Chat meeting on **Thursday 25th November**. 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 or on SBS or On Demand prior to the zoom lunch. Details about three movies nominated for November 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.

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

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

- **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 November.

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 to be put on the mailing list for their regular Newsletter.