



THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

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President: Rod Alsop

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE OCTOBER 11th 2022 GENERAL MEETING

Our next General meeting will be on **Tuesday October 11th** at Greythorn Community Hub at **10am – 12 Noon**.

This meeting will be conducted as a Hybrid Meeting (using the Logitech equipment and Zoom software), for those members who are away on holidays or unwell. If you wish to attend this function via Zoom, please contact **Rodney Manser** for an invitation.

At the conclusion of the formal business of the meeting, there will be a break for Morning Tea, followed by our speaker:

Today's Speaker: – Graham O'Rourke –

'Macpherson Robertson "The man who brought the Chocolate business to Australia?"

Born and raised in Middle Camberwell, Graham has not moved too far away from there over a lifetime – essentially to Wattle Park, then Surrey Hills.

His working life was in secondary education, teaching French, then Indonesian but above all, teaching a range of History courses from Year 9 - 12 at Xavier College, Kew, where he was Head of History and Head of Humanities at various moments in time.

For variation, he spent 3 years in Indonesia teaching English at a Teachers College – now University – in Yogyakarta, Central Java, and also did a year's exchange at Preshil in Kew.

Since finishing full-time work a decade ago, Graham has worked at Toscano's store in Kew 2 days a week – until the end of last year – and spent time as a research assistant for a writer of family and business histories. This has enabled him to develop a minor expertise in researching all sorts of local history resources and provided a stimulus to present some talks to U3A groups and local history associations.

He has been a volunteer tour guide at the State Library of Victoria since 2012 and this has led him to the topic of this talk.

- *Please note that Lunch will again be available at Kew Golf Club after the General meeting, thanks to Per.*

Individuals are no longer required to show their vaccination status before entering any venue and are also not required to check-in to any venue using the Service Victoria app. This includes the Council facilities where our club meets.

However, we suggest individuals wear a face mask if they feel they are at risk.

Next Meeting November 8th:

Speaker: - Ken Davis - "Melbourne's Suburban Signaling System"

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest on 19th September following an impressive funeral service and procession. This is not the time to discuss the Australian monarchy, but we should not forget that King Charles III actually spent two terms of his schooling at Timbertop, Geelong Grammar's bush camp in 1966.

Christmas is getting close – we only have two General Meetings before Christmas and one in February prior to the AGM and Final General Meeting prior to the Changeover Lunch.

Summer is, apparently, on the way – daylight saving (clocks should have been put forward one hour on 2nd October) or miss one hour of our next meeting – most of my clocks automatically adjust – so check that yours are correct.

Unfortunately, we do not have a Vice President, or a second Vice-President able to step up at this stage. I have spoken to a number of members who have declined, and nobody has volunteered to take over the reins. I am still approaching members, asking them to seriously consider the job. Reading through the 'Man Behind the Badge' file I notice that we have many members who are equally capable of being President for only one year – please give it some thought and call me to discuss – in confidence, - if you wish.

The future of the Probus Club of North Balwyn is in **YOUR** hands.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Club Funds at 30 September are \$4,090 excluding SIG finds of \$318 and unspent transport grant money of \$460 which we may have to return to Council. We have incurred a loss of \$111 to 30 September which is in line with our expectations.

Members were advised earlier in the year that Neil will be stepping down as Treasurer at the next AGM after 9 years in the role. We desperately need a member to take on the role. Our records are now online so whilst you will need access to a computer you do not require any accounting software. It is a simple system and Neil will always be available to assist. Please let him know if you are interested, bearing in mind that the Club cannot function without a Treasurer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Nothing specific to report. Any correspondence relevant to members is distributed by email as received.

As with the Treasurer noted above, both Neil Smart and John Thwaites agreed to take on joint responsibility for the role on a temporary basis and will not continue past the next AGM. If a member does not come forward to take on the role, the Club will in all probability, have no Treasurer and no Secretary, which effectively means it cannot continue to function.

MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership is a total of 58 members, (47 active and 11 non-active members) with our Associates being 13.

- **Helen Courtney** has been added to the Associates List.
- **William Firth-Smith** and **Christopher Murray** have lodged applications to join the club.
- **Joan Martin** passed away in September. Our thoughts are with the family at this time.
- **Bruno Coniglio's** resignation has been reluctantly accepted by the committee. His contribution to our club has been acknowledged and we wish him well in his future journey.

Please provide your stories/photos to WEBSITE EDITOR & IT SUPPORT by email at manser@bigpond.net.au
Let us all get our thinking caps on and add to the interesting stories or excursions already on the website.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following members who are celebrating birthdays in October 2022:

- **Lothar Lanz, John Thwaites, Ray Ken-Allan, Alan French, Don Campbell and Gerald King**

DUTY ROSTER	October Meeting	November Meeting
Tables and Chairs	Denis Spinley, Gary Ray, Ken Mitchell, Lothar Lanz	Peter Muir-Smith, Joe Romano, Keith Jackson, Michael Martin
Tea and Coffee	Len Harvey, Ken Davis, Graeme Goudie	Graydon Findlay, Keith Atkins, Geoff Metcalf
Buddy	Cordell Short, Gerald King, Stephen Millard	Bruce McInerney, Bob Haydon, James Kimpton
Door Assistants	Neil Gray, Joe Romano, Geoff Metcalf	Neil Gray, Mike Watts, Cordell Short

- *If a member is not able to fulfill their commitment on the day, please contact another member to take your place.*

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

Christmas Lunch Function at Greenacres Golf Club - Tuesday 6th December

The allocation of 60 guests for this function is now complete so any further applications to attend will be placed onto a waiting list. Your Committee is determined to make this function a very special event to ensure that 2022 ends on a high.

Payments (**\$65 pp**) can be made at any time with the final date for payments being **8th November**:

Probus Club Bank - Account Details for payment:

Probus Club of North Balwyn Westpac Bank BSB 033054 Account No.182752
(Include your name as reference and add 'Xmas Lunch').

THEATRE/CINEMA EVENTS: Convener: Lothar Lanz, Phone 98481729 E-mail: ljlanz@optusnet.com.au

**“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat” Musical at the Regent Theatre,
Wednesday December 14th, Matinee 1 pm. Tickets \$79 pp. (own transport).
Payment due at our November General Meeting.**

**“The Mousetrap” the murder-mystery from Agatha Christie (the best-selling novelist of all time) at the Comedy Theatre.
Wednesday 22 February 2023 Matinee 1 pm. Excellent stall seats. Tickets \$72 pp. (own transport).**

Palace Balwyn Cinema for Seniors.

When: every Wednesday (Complimentary Morning Tea on sessions before 12pm)

(Morning Tea includes a mini-sweet treat with a self-serve tea and coffee station).

Tickets: \$8 Golden Club Member or \$10 Senior Ticket

Offering:

New schedule announced each month!

- **Amsterdam – October 12**
- **The Night of the 12th – October 19**
- **Don't Worry Darling – October 26**

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
• FAMILY HISTORY & HERITAGE GROUP	Monday October 10 th
• MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING	Tuesday October 11 th
• INVESTMENT GROUP	Thursday October 13 th
• PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP	Tuesday October 18 th
• DINE OUT	Wednesday October 19 th
• COMPUTER GROUP	Tuesday October 25 th
• WALKING GROUP	Friday October 28 th

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- **FAMILY HISTORY & HERITAGE GROUP: Second Monday in the Month. Convenor Graydon Findlay
P: 9859 6964 E: graycol7@bigpond.com**

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 10th October**. It will be via zoom and will run from about 10.45 to noon. The Family History part will be for about an hour from 11.00 - noon. The 15 minutes prior to that will be available for welcoming people to the meeting, and for participants to chat and catch up with what others have been doing since our last meeting.

The main topic on Monday 10th of October will be a presentation on the Wentworth / Williamson branch of Colette's family tree. It will expand on a segment of the Wentworth family history that some of our members were told about during the Walking Group's enjoyable walk last month. The presentation will include a lot of other information that Colette had discovered 20 years ago about this branch of her family tree. Recently, Graydon found images of some of the original Wentworth / Williamson family history paper records by looking up 'Public Member Family Trees' on the huge 'Ancestry' database. He also used Trove Newspaper searches to discover quite a few interesting snippets about the family history that enhance the information Colette had found.

These two methods of researching family history have improved vastly over the last ten or 15 years, so if you if you have dabbled with family history in the past, it could be worth giving it a go again. You might be pleasantly surprised at how much more you can discover now.

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

To mark **Seniors' Week**, our Probus Club has planned an **Open Day** for interested seniors to join us at our Investment Special Interest Group on **Thursday 13th October** at the Balwyn North Uniting Church, Duggan Street, North Balwyn. Members are invited to bring along a guest for this **10am to 12.30pm** meeting. Details are advertised in the October Boroondara Bulletin. Non-members have been invited via Boroondara Council, and numbers are hard to assess. Morning tea & light lunch will be provided.
Costs: Guests Free. Club members \$7

The topics for discussion are:

- 1/ European Power Grid with special mention of Germany, UK, France
- 2/ Nuclear energy and small modular reactors
- 3/ Progress of wind/nuclear/hydrogen in Australia
- 4/ New method of vaccination?

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

Please note that our meeting, scheduled for the 18th October will now be a Workshop/Photoshoot at Montsalvat Artist Community: (www.montsalvat.com.au) 7 Hillcrest Ave., Eltham on **Thursday 20th. October**. Details have already been forwarded to members as follows:

- **10.30 am** start
- Anyone wishing to bring their own lunch is free to do so. Plenty of places where you can sit . Montsalvat has a Cafe for anyone not bringing their lunch.
- Most important of all: Photography is allowed, including tripods.
- Entry Fees: Adults \$14.00 : Concession : \$10.00

As always, wives and partners are welcome to attend the excursion to historical Montsalvat. which is being held in the spirit of Probus: Fellowship, Friendship & Fun.

Should anyone have questions not covered on the website, please contact me and I will endeavour to get the answer for you.

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

Our next dine-out will be at the **Shoppingtown Hotel** in **Williamsons Road, Doncaster** on **Wednesday October 19 at 6.00 pm**.

Please note that the following conditions apply:

- the Club will accept **20 only** guests, and
- those attending are required to be there no later than **5.45 pm**.

A booking sheet will be available at our next General Meeting for those wishing to attend.

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

Our next meeting on **Tuesday 25th October** at **10am** will be at Balwyn North Uniting Church & will be conducted using Zoom Video Conferencing facility, subject to the rules relating to the Pandemic. The meeting will cover making book content using Microsoft Word

The September meeting covered how to create Charts & Graphs in Microsoft Excel and was attended by 10 members. We welcomed Barry Bolger back after his trip around Regional Areas, while Graydon Finlay and Jeff Collinson joined by Zoom.

Everyone including partners are welcome to join us at our next Meeting, please contact the convener for invitation instructions.

- **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 October 28th, one week later than usual**.

The walk will be along a paved walking track towards the Darebin Parklands, commencing from the Willsmere Park Sports Oval near Willow Grove in Kew.

Meet in Willow Grove in Kew at **10.30 AM** [*Melways Map Ref: 45F1*] where there is parking at the end of the road.

There will be the option to get together for lunch at the end of the walk at a local café.

New walkers always most welcome to attend and join us in this most enjoyable activity.

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 meeting arrangements, you are encouraged to register with the relevant convenor.

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.