



THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

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NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 14th 2023

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Welcome to the new year to all our Probud members and families. I trust that everybody had a pleasant Christmas and New Year – whether you travelled to just the beach, the High Country or further afield.

I for one did not venture far away from Melbourne – to my sons' places in Upwey, Somers and Beaumaris seeing them and their families, and a bit of childminding whilst their parents were working. Only my youngest sons' children need supervision and normally the sleep, read or watch television.

Our Probud year now kicks off with meetings in February and our Annual General Meeting in March and the Changeover Lunch in April.

We need as a Club to focus on building our membership – this is a job that every member should consider their friendship groups and invite friends, previous workmates and neighbours to attend a meeting and consider their retirement activity. Hopefully the next committee will set a goal for our 'post Covid' membership numbers.

I sincerely hope that we have got Covid behind us, or at least under control, and the new committee can concentrate on Building and strengthening our membership in the next twelve months.

Speaker: Matthew Ety-Leal – “Tibet”

Tibet "the land of snows". We arrived at Kanding Airport, 4,280 m above sea level in April 2014, having flown over the Himalayas. For the first week, we walked 20 metres before stopping for a break.

The tour was organised by Don Cullen, a regular visitor to Tibet since 2000. I travelled with four other Victorians. Tibet is also the principal source of six rivers, i.e., the "Water Tower of Asia". We greatly increased our understanding of Buddhism, visiting temples, monasteries and nunneries, later schools and medical clinics. One Buddhist tradition is the hoisting of prayer flags on rooftops, tents, hilltops, & almost anywhere a Tibetan can be found, another tradition the use of prayer wheels.

Forty percent of Tibet's cash income comes from the sale of fungus, contributing US\$225m p.a. to Tibet's GDP. "Himalayan Viagra" has been used for about 1,000 years as an aphrodisiac. Yaks are everywhere and every bit of a yak is used for food, blankets, butter, tea, cheese, curtains etc. Tibetan nomads, called drokpa, graze several forms of domesticated livestock, including yaks, dzhos, (yak-cattle hybrids), sheep, goats & horses, often living in tents.

Next Meeting: March 14th 2023

Speaker: John Barlow “ Will your next car be electric?”

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Meeting dates for both Club meetings and SIG meetings have been locked in at the Hub and the North Balwyn Uniting Church.

Requests for nomination to the Management Committee have been sent to all members with nominations to be received by 14 February 2023.

The AGM will be held on conjunction with the Club meeting on 14 March 2023.

A Notice of Meeting will be sent to members later in February.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Club funds at 31 January after allowing for SIG funds and liabilities were \$2,944, the lowest level for many years.

The financial report for the year ended 31 December 2022 has been approved by the Committee and will be distributed to members with the Notice of Meeting later this month. The final result for the year was a deficiency of \$1,385 compared with deficiency of \$393 in 2021.

The Committee have agreed to recommend to members' annual fees for 2023-24 as follows;

- Members under 90: -\$75.00
- Members 90 and over on 31 March 2023: \$25.00

This represents increases of \$10.00 and \$5.00 respectively.

Members are reminded that we did not increase fees last year and the Committee planned for a deficiency which is reflected in the \$1,385 deficiency mentioned above. The proposed fee once again will result in a deficiency which will be covered by a further draw-down on existing Club funds.

MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership is a total of 60 members, (49 active and 11 non-active members) with our Associates being 12. (Chris Murray has been included in these numbers)

- Chris Murray will be inducted at our March 2023 General Meeting.

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 February 2023:

- **Bill Firth-Smith, Mike Watts, Michael Martin, Bruce McInerney and Geoff Metcalf**

DUTY ROSTER	February Meeting	March Meeting
Tables and Chairs	Don Campbell, Geoff Metcalf, Bob Haydon, Neil Gray	Denis Spinley, Gary Ray, Ken Davis, Lothar Lanz
Tea and Coffee	Michael Martin, Denis Spinley, Stephen Millard	Len Harvey, Alan French, Graeme Goudie
Buddy	Tony Froster, Gary Fleming, Joe Romano	Cordell Short, Gerald King, Stephen Millard
Door Assistants	Neil Gray, Bruce McInerney	Neil Gray, John Thwaites

Roster Reminder:

The roster list is published on the PCNB website under the Members Login and covers 18 months and with two months being published in our newsletter each month for the various activities within the function of the General Meeting. The roster is prepared at the beginning of each year and is developed to provide a balanced and fair contribution of activities across the year. As you can appreciate there is no way illness or holidays can be built into it.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of the monthly rostered members to contact a replacement member to take your place to allow a successful meeting for everyone.

A new 18-month roster will be prepared and will be made available in the new year.

- **Stay safe and well and observe the public health advice** -

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

CHANGE-OVER LUNCH Greenacres Golf Club on Tuesday 4th April at 11.30am for 12 noon

The cost per person will be **\$70** which will include a two-course meal.

Payments can be made to the Probus Club account by bank transfer:

- Probus Club of North Balwyn Westpac Bank BSB 033054 Account No.182752

(Include your name as reference and add 'Change Over Lunch').

NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

Winter Lunch. Thursday 27th July at Tokar Estate Winery, Coldstream.

Two course meal and a glass of wine for **\$62** per person.

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

"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).
All tickets sold.

Palace Balwyn Cinema for Seniors.

When: every Monday.

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

Palace Cinema has not advised on movies to be shown.

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	Thursday February 9 th
• FAMILY HISTORY & HERITAGE GROUP	Monday February 13 th
• MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING	Tuesday February 14 th
• WALKING GROUP	Friday February 17 th
• PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP	Tuesday February 21 st
• COMPUTER GROUP	Tuesday February 28 th

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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

The next meeting is on **Thursday 9th February 2023** at the Balwyn North Uniting Church

The program is as follows:

1/ World Bank Update on global economy and the factors driving it.

2/ Guidelines for share markets over time

3/ The gas crisis and how it relates to Australia and the world.

4/ Several interesting stocks, Incitic Pivot, Core Lithium and Woodside.

5/ If time permits, an interesting insight about Berkshire Hathaway according to Charlie Munger

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

The next FH&HG meeting will be on **Monday 13th February at 10am** at the Balwyn North Uniting Church.

During the meeting we'll have a chat about a heritage documentary that was aired on Channel 2 recently, "A Grand Royal Design". It is about a special project that King Charles III has been working on for over a decade - the purchase and ambitious restoration of Dumfries House, a rundown estate in one of the most deprived parts of Scotland. If you missed it on Channel 2 you can still watch it ABC iview prior to our meeting.

We'll also have a chat about a Discussion Paper that Graydon circulated recently with some suggestions on ways to make our meetings more interesting.

After morning tea, he will give a short presentation on the McDonald branch of Colette's family tree who were 'cleared' off their croft on the Isle of Harris in north-west Scotland and taken to South Australia in the 1850's.

- **DINE OUT – Third Wednesday in the month – Convener Neil Gray P: 8808 0938**

The first Special Interest Group Dine-Out will be held on **Wednesday 15th March 2023** at the **Box Hill RSL Club**.

As it is a group booking, we are limited to 20 members & partners & are required to be at the Club by **5.30 p m**.

A booking sheet will be at our February & March meetings for those wishing to attend.

- **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 February 17th**. 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.

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

Our first meeting for 2023 will be on **Tuesday 21st February** at **10.00am** and will be once again held at Balwyn North Uniting Church.

The agenda will be:

- Presentation of images by Members who attended the Montsalvat Artist Community.
- Video Tutorial.
- Morning Tea.
- General discussion regarding future meetings.

As always, wives and partners are welcome to attend our meetings which are always held in the Probus spirit of Fellowship, Friendship & Fun.

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

Our first meeting for 2023 will be on **Tuesday 28th February** at **10am** will be at Balwyn North Uniting Church & will be a hybrid meeting for those folks not able to join us at BNUC.

The agenda for this meeting will be Lothar Lanz presenting how he has created his Life Story memoir and discussing how he created and developed the manuscript in Microsoft Word.

Everyone including partners are welcome to join us and share their moments over the festive season over morning tea.

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.



The Club needs YOU!

Alan French, our Newsletter Editor, is looking for a member who can assist by putting together the newsletter during May and June this year. He is going overseas during this time but will be back by mid-June.

If you are interested in helping out, please send him a message on 0408 584 398 or sante@bigpond.net.au