



# THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

Website: [balwynnorthprobus.org.au](http://balwynnorthprobus.org.au)

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## NEWSLETTER FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> 2023

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**Man behind the Badge – Bruce Holmes** will be presenting his life story.  
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### Speaker– Pamela O'Brien - "Exploring the Victorian Goldfields"

This presentation will highlight the gold rush and some of its effects. I would like to share favourite buildings and scenery, and some glimpses of life in that long-gone era. We will take a look at some thriving cities which began in the days of the rush to be rich, and some tiny towns which were deserted when the diggers rushed away, hoping to make their fortunes in a more likely area. We will also take a brief look at two successful miners and compare their lives after their lucky finds.

#### About the Speaker:

Pamela completed a BA at the University of Melbourne, majoring in History. Her working life was mostly spent in administration at schools and two colleges at the University of Melbourne. She retired in March 2010 and in April joined U3A Deepdene – Pamela is member number 132. She served on the Committee of Management for about seven years and has co-ordinated the weekly Travel program since 2014 and edited the newsletter since 2015. Pamela has a son and a daughter and six gorgeous grandchildren.

### Next Meeting: – Tuesday October 10th - Leigh Hay - "Henry & Louisa Lawson"

#### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

The gods have been against us in recent times. As if the loss of two wives of members was not enough on, 18 August Rod Alsop, our respected President from last year, died from a debilitating stroke. Rod was a gentle person, popular with everyone and he made a significant contribution to our club at a time when we were in desperate need for someone to enable the club to continue. The committee will now consider drafting a new member to fill the loss. Fortunately, the good work that Rod Manser does on the website has attracted Michael Siles to join us and he will be inducted at the first opportunity. We can now look forward to warmer weather and a very interesting few months.

#### **Committee Members:**

President (Ken Mitchell), Vice President (Bob Haydon), Secretary (John Thwaites), Treasurer (Peter Muir-Smith), Rodney Manser (Membership/Website), Richard Heal (Functions), Lothar Lanz (Theatre), Geoff Metcalf (Marketing), Gary Ray (Speakers) and Alan French (Newsletter).

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

30/7/23	N. Smart	P&L/BS and Bank Finances advised up to 31/7/23
31/7/23	N. Smart	PSPL 23/24 Australian National Insurance Program Summary
8/8/23	R. Manser	Website Update of PSPL Partner Offers
8/8/23	B. Bolger	Active Ageing Boroondara
11/8/23	R. Manser	Michael Siles new member accepted.
12/8/23	D. Spinley	Eastsider News Edition 19 August 23
20/8/23		Vale Rodney Alsop 16/8/23

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

As at 21st August, our Westpac account showed club funds of \$2,052 down from \$2,633 in July. During the month, receipts of \$369 were received while approved costs totalled \$950.

## MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership is a total of 58 Members, (49 active and 9 non-active members) with our Associates being 12.

- **John Hyson** and **Michael Siles** have been invited to be inducted at a future General Meeting of their choice.
- Condolences and our thoughts to Nick Alsop and family members with the passing of **Rod Alsop**, our Immediate Past President.
- **Man Behind the Badge:** **Bruce Holmes** will be presenting his life story.

<b>DUTY ROSTER</b>	<b>September Meeting</b>	<b>October Meeting</b>
Tables and Chairs	Matthew Pattinson, Mike Watts, Bruce McInerney	Alan French, Keith Atkins, Graydon Findlay, Gary Fleming
Tea and Coffee	Barry Bolger, Neil Smart, Keith Jackson	Barry Bolger, Chris Murray, Ian Caldow
Buddy	Ken Mitchell, Graeme Goudie, Nino Xerri	Keith Atkins, Gary Fleming, Per Knusden
Door Assistants	Neil Gray, Len Harvey	Neil Gray, Geoff Metcalf

## **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 has been upgraded to reflect various changes that the committee introduced recently 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.

## **Website**

- Probus Club of North Balwyn
- [Probus Club of Balwyn North – An exciting place to share together \(balwynnorthprobus.org.au\)](http://balwynnorthprobus.org.au)

Statistics supplied by Statcounter:

Locations		State/Regions		Pages	
Australia	97.8%	Melbourne	66.2%	Activities --	109
United States	1.0%	Stanhope	19.4%	Newsletters	99
Canada	0.8%	Sydney	5.8%	Contact Us	53
New Zealand	0.2%	Mareeba Qld	0.8%	Members Login	34
China	0.2%	Burlington Canada	0.8%	Photo Gallery	38
		Columbia United States	0.4%	About Us	32
		Other United States	0.6%	Home Page	69
		Unknown Australia	3.8%	Members Roster	16

**Stories/Photos:** Please provide your stories/photos to WEBSITE EDITOR & IT SUPPORT by email [rmanser@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rmanser@bigpond.net.au). Let us all get our thinking caps on add to the interesting stories or excursions on the website.

- Stay Safe & Well and observe the public health advice.

## BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following members who are celebrating birthdays in September 2023:

- **Per Knusden, John Mott, Evan Williams, Peter Muir-Smith, Thorold Merret, Keith Jackson, Gary Ray** and **Bob Haydon**

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

### **Day Trip to Puffing Billy.**

The date has now been confirmed as being **Thursday 26th October**. We will be leaving **The Belgrave Station** on the **11.15 AM** departure to Lakeside, where we will have lunch. The cost per head for this outing, which includes the return train trip from Belgrave and a two-course lunch, works out at **\$68.40**.

There is a minimum requirement of 20 guests in order get the group booking discount and a deposit has been paid to confirm the booking. Thirteen members have already indicated their intention to be part of this event.

There will be a board out at the General Meeting on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September** under the care of Denis Spinley.

Final payments due by **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September**.

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

The **Christmas Lunch** will be held at **Greenacres Golf Club** on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**.

More details with regards to payment and timing to be provided later.

**THEATRE/CINEMA EVENTS:** Convener: Lothar Lanz, Phone 98481729 E-mail: [ljlanz@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ljlanz@optusnet.com.au)

**MOULIN ROUGE** will be performed at the REGENT THEATRE from August to November.

There are 14 excellent tickets available for a matinee on **November 15, 1.00 pm; Cost of ticket: \$72pp.**

Payments can be made any time 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 "Theatre").

### **Palace Balwyn Cinema for Seniors.**

**When: Thursday (Complimentary Morning Tea on sessions before 12pm)**

**Tickets: \$10 Senior Ticket or \$8.50 Golden Club Member**

### **Next Screenings:**

Palace Cinema Balwyn has advised that the following movies will be shown in September:

Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September –	<b>Everybody Loves Jeanne</b>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September –	<b>My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3</b>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September -	<b>Scrapper</b>

### **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**

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING         | Tuesday September 12th              |
| • INVESTMENT GROUP                | Thursday September 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| • WALKING GROUP                   | Friday September 16th               |
| • PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVEL GROUP        | Tuesday September 19th              |
| • DINE OUT                        | Wednesday September 20th            |
| • COMPUTER GROUP                  | Tuesday September 26 <sup>th</sup>  |
| • FAMILY HISTORY & HERITAGE GROUP | Wednesday September 27th            |

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## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- **INVESTMENT GROUP: Second Thursday in the month. Acting Convenor; Denis Spinley  
M: 0408 567 858**

Our next Meeting will be at **10am on Thursday Sept 14th at Balwyn North Uniting Church**, Duggan Street, Balwyn North

The Agenda will be:

- . Factors adversely affecting Office Focused Property Funds
- . Some items of interest re hydrogen in Australia.
- . A forum discussion on Industry Super Funds performance and activities

- **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 again be held at the **North Balwyn Uniting Church on Tuesday 19th. September at 10.00am.**  
The agenda is:

- Presentation of images taken during our excursion to The National Library of Victoria.
- Discussion re the merits of the excursion (particularly the mix up with member not allowed to attend)
- Morning Tea
- Talk by Barry Bolger discussing how he uses his iPhone and edits the images taken.
- Tutorial re Noise Reduction.
- Ideas/suggestions for future meetings.

Last month's excursion to the National Library of Victoria was attended by 11 members and 2 guests and was considered a success all be it the mix up. 5 attended lunch with 3 exploring a couple of Street Art Laneways and finishing up at St. Paul's Cathedral.

- **DINE OUT – Convenor; Neil Gray P: 03 8848 0938**

As a result of a discussion with attendees at the August luncheon Dine-Out it was agreed that during the warmer months our dine-out arrangements return to evenings & for September a tentative booking will be made at the **Doncaster Shoppingtown Hotel for 6.00pm on Wednesday September 20th.**

A booking sheet will be on hand at the September General Meeting for those members wishing to attend for dinner.

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

The next walk will take place on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September** and will commence at the car park in Middleborough Road Blackburn North opposite the Kerrimuir strip shopping centre.

We will walk down Springfield Road admiring the spring gardens in the houses along the way before joining the Bushy Creek Track towards Elgar Road where we will turn around and head back to Middleborough Road for Lunch at The Rubbix Café. Meet in the car Park in Middleborough Road at **10.30 AM.** [*Melways Map Ref: 47 H6*].

New walkers always welcome.

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

At our next meeting at **10am on Tuesday 26th September** at **Balwyn North Uniting Church** we will continue looking at Ted Talks on the web, "The Inside story of ChatGPTs astonishing potential".

Morning Tea will be provided at the meeting to allow members with time for fellowship and exchange of life experiences.

A small fee of **\$7.00** is levied to cover costs of room hire and refreshments.

Rodney is now calling for a volunteer for the meeting to undertake the 'Members Choice' segment on a topic of IT or of a topic of their choice.

Everyone including partners are welcome to join us at our Meeting in September, should anyone need to have a challenge clarified please contact me.

Ten members attended our last meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, when our Members Choice was led by Geoff Metcalf who introduced Ted Talks with a presentation "How to stay calm when you know you'll be stressed", seeking feedback on some of the issues with his desktop and iPad.

- **FAMILY HISTORY & HERITAGE GROUP:** Convenor Graydon Findlay P: 9859 6964 E: [graycol7@bigpond.com](mailto:graycol7@bigpond.com)

The next Family History & Heritage SIG activity will be a joint excursion with the **Balwyn Central Probus Club's Family History SIG** on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September**, instead of our usual second Monday of the month meeting date.

It will be a tour, with the Collection Manager as guide, of the Public Records Office of Victoria ("PROV") in Shiel Street, North Melbourne. PROV holds about 100kms of paper records & 600,000 digitised State & Local Government records dating from 1836 to the present day. I have found PROV records to be very useful resource for finding information about my ancestors, that is not available from other sources.

As well as being shown some of the more interesting items that PROV has in the 100km of records, I would anticipate that during the tour we'll also gain an insight into identifying records that may be relevant to our own family history research and in how to access these records. It should be a very informative & worthwhile tour.

Numbers might be limited, so please respond to the Balwyn Central Family History SIG convenor, **Mark Sibree** at [mark@sibree.com.au](mailto:mark@sibree.com.au) or 0419 369 701 if you are interested in going on this tour.

Wives & partners are welcome to participate in Family History & Heritage activities.

On the **27<sup>th</sup> September**, those who have booked to come on the tour, will meet at **9.15am at Beckett Park, Parring Road Balwyn** (Melway 46 G7), to car pool to PROV and return there by about 12 noon.

- **North Balwyn Probus Club Ladies Group:**

Our next meeting will take place on **Wednesday, October 18** when **Venita Mitchell** will host a morning tea at "**Sackville Grange**", located at 376-378 Cotham Road, Kew, near the corner of Burke Road, on the opposite side of the road to **Genazzano College** and **St. George's Hospital**.

Light refreshments will be provided at this function which will begin at **10.00 a.m.** Attendees are asked to contribute **\$10.00** towards the cost of the refreshments. To assist with catering, it would be appreciated if you could inform one of the organizers of your intention to attend before **Monday, October 16**.

Robyn Heal	0408 526 342	<a href="mailto:richard_heal@bigpond.com">richard_heal@bigpond.com</a>
Margaret Lanz	0414 295 550	<a href="mailto:ljlanz@optusnet.com.au">ljlanz@optusnet.com.au</a>
Sandy Muir-Smith	0418 128 958	<a href="mailto:sandy_muir_smith@hotmail.com">sandy_muir_smith@hotmail.com</a>

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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](mailto:marketing@probussouthpacific.org) to be put on the mailing list for their regular Newsletter.

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