



THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

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NEWSLETTER FOR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13th 2024

General Meeting

Speaker: Geoff Chambers – ‘Australian Jazz Musicians– An Historical Perspective’.

Geoff Chambers has had an abiding interest in jazz ever since he heard the Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman bands on pre-television radio. Unable to sing, or play an instrument, Geoff has directed his energies into assembling a sizeable library of jazz literature and recordings, and channels that into his weekly radio program ‘Colours of Jazz’ on 3MBS Fine Music Melbourne 103.5FM.

Geoff will be giving us a very informative presentation on the subject of ‘Australian Jazz Musicians – An Historical Perspective’. He will focus on three or four of the all-time ‘greats’, particularly on the post-World War 2 Melbourne scene, as well as highlighting some of the wonderful jazz venues, now mostly long gone.

Geoff is a very engaging speaker, and he will be including photographic and recorded elements to illustrate his address.

Next Meeting: – March 12th – Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Ross McMullin - “Life so full of promise - Further biographies of Australia’s lost generations”.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

The news this month is highlighted with the advice that Bob Haydon has advised that for understandable reasons he is not able to undertake the role of President for 2024/25, although he will still remain a member.

Having lost Rod Alsop and Lothar Lanz this year, it is clear that we need to introduce new members onto the committee and, as a matter of urgency, to identify the man to take the role of President.

Any one ready to help in these situations is asked to speak to me or a committee member by Friday 9 February.

Committee Members:

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

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Club Membership has now received a Nomination Form and also a request for assistance to the Management Committee by Tuesday 13th February 2024.

Financial Statements for 2023/24 and Budget for 2024/25 were received by the 6th February Committee Meeting.

Notice of Meeting for AGM, together with a copy of the Financial Accounts for 2023/24, will be sent out following the Committee Meeting on 6th February.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Proposed Annual Membership Fees for 2024/2025:

Members, 90 and Under on 31 st March 2024	\$95
Members Over 90 on March 31 st March 2024	\$30

This should leave the Club with a very small surplus of \$274 for the year.

With such a small surplus this means that we cannot subsidise any other Functions/Programs.

Therefore, all functions etc need to budget so that they will make a 'small profit', or at the very least, 'break even'.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Current membership is a total of 59 members, (48 active and 11 non-active members) with our Associates being 12.

- **Lothar Lanz** passed away on January 8th. He was a valuable member of the Committee and was a contributor to the Photographic/Travel & Computer SIG's. He also was the Theatre and Cinema convenor who organised many events.
- **Margaret Lanz** has joined the Associates group to continue her involvement with the Probus activities and the Ladies Group.
- It is with sadness that we report that **Margaret**, wife of **John Mott**, passed away on 21st January. We extend our condolences to John and his family.

Birthdays:

Congratulations to the following members who are celebrating birthdays in February 2024:

- **Mike Watts (03/02), Bill Firth-Smith (06/02), Michael Martin (09/02), Geoff Metcalf (17/02) and Bruce McInerney (18/02)**

DUTY ROSTER	February Meeting	March Meeting
Tables and Chairs	Neil Smart, Barry Bolger, Gerald King, Nino Xerri	Len Harvey, Richard Heal, Ted Douez
Tea and Coffee	Barry Bolger, Bruce Holmes, Matthew Pattison	Barry Bolger, Joe Romano, Denis Spinley
Buddy	Bruce McInerney, Len Harvey, Joe Romano	Ken Davis, Alan French
Door Assistants	Neil Gray, Cordell Short	Neil Gray, Graeme Goudie

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.

Website

Probus Club of North Balwyn

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

Emergency Contacts & Next of Kin project:

The database development is in the early stages of development. The first draft report for the contacts has been designed in the dummy data and final design is continuing. The input table is being constructed and should be ready for the start of the new year 2024 which will allow new members information to be updated. In the meantime, information from the members is being stored in an Excel spreadsheet which will be uploaded into the database when it is completed.

Thank you for those members who have completed the Emergency & Next of Kin forms.

We have 68% completed to date, please keep them coming.

Stories/Photos

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

Stay Safe & Well! Looking forward to a successful 2024.

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

Change Over Lunch – Tuesday 16th April – 12 Noon for 12.30pm

This will be held at **Kew Golf Club**, 120 Belford Road, Kew East.

The price per person for the two-course meal will be **\$70.00 pp**.

There will be a board out at the General Meeting on **Tuesday 13th February**.

TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS:

The PCNB Photography/Travel SIG is organising an excursion to **Lancefield**, as previously discussed last year. Our forthcoming excursion for 2024 will be a **2-Night Stay** at the **Lancefield Lodge: 45-50 Main Rd. Lancefield**. Tel 03 54291777 www.thelancefield.com.au . Lancefield Lodge is approx. 1.5 hours' drive from Balwyn North.

Details are:

Please see itinerary below.

Staying at Lancefield Lodge **Tuesday 19th** and **Wednesday 20th March**, checking out on **Thursday 21st March**.

Cost \$159.00 per night (\$159.00 x 2=**\$318.00**) for a **Classic Room**. Breakfast is available at **\$25.00 pp**.

Dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday nights will be provided by the Lancefield Lodge. Prices to be confirmed.

Carpooling can be arranged, if required, for those who wish to use this option.

Please confirm **ASAP** by return email ninros1946@gmail.com or phone 0410 571 446 to expedite the necessary booking.

Deadline 16/2/2024

ITINERARY:

Tuesday 19th March.

- Leave home at 9.00 am. Drive to Kyneton Approx 1.20 mins drive.
- Meet at Kyneton Botanical Gardens Mollinson Street at 10.30am to view the gardens and then explore the shops of Kyneton.
- Lunch will be at 12.30pm at The Country Cob Bakery 130-132 Mollinson St., Kyneton
- Leave Kyneton at 2.00 pm for an approx. 30-minute drive to Lancefield.
- Register accommodation at Lancefield Lodge at 2.30pm.
- Meet in the Courtyard at 3.00pm to explore the township of Lancefield.
- Discover Lancefield Township visit Bakery and Knick Knack shops or Romsey Township.
- Note that photographic opportunities are available during all events.
- Dinner at The Lancefield Hotel at 7.00 pm: 2-4 High St., Lancefield : www.thelancefieldhotel.com.au
(to be confirmed along with menu)

Wednesday 20th March.

- Breakfast 8.30am at Lancefield Lodge
- Leave Lancefield Lodge at 10.00am
- Option one: Photographic Group drive towards Emu Flat, stopping for photographic opportunities along the way.
- Option two: will have the opportunity to visit places either Kilmore Township or Newham General Store at the base of the iconic Hanging Rock.
- Lunch at 1.00pm at the Lost Waterhole Brewery 8/10 The Crescent Lancefield.
- Leave the Brewery at 2.30pm and drive to Mt. Macedon
- Arrive at Mt. Macedon at 3.30 to explore the township visit Gardens and The Memorial Cross.
- Leave Mt. Macedon at say 6.00.
- Note that photographic opportunities are available during all events.
- Arrive at Lancefield Lodge at 7.00 for dinner and a bit of further socializing to discuss today's events for those who wish to do so.

Thursday 21st March.

- Breakfast at 8.30am at Lancefield Lodge.
- Leave Lancefield Lodge at 10.00am
- Opportunity to visit Lancefield Bakery for morning Tea
- Drive to Trentham Falls on the way to Daylesford, visit Daylesford Convent Gallery (open 10-4pm Concession Ticket \$8.00pp)

- Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens: 103 Vincent St., Daylesford
- Daylesford Township at leisure and lunch at a local bakery (to be determined by mutual agreement).
- Visit Chocolate Mill: 5451 Midland Hwy., Mt. Franklin.
- Leave Daylesford at your own time via Daylesford Ballan Rd, stopping at Sailors Falls.
- **Suggested:**
- Stony Creek Gallery (open 10.30am to 4.00pm: Stony Creek Rd., Daylesford
- Walk around the Lake Daylesford Circuit which is an easy 2.6km walk, or Lake Jubilee Loop which is an easy 1.6km walk.
- Note that photographic opportunities are available during all events.
- Arrive home for dinner.

Websites:

Lancefield Lodge: www.thelancefield.com.au
 Lancefield Bakery: www.lancefieldbakery.com
 Kyneton Botanical Gardens: www.kynetonbotanicgardensfriends.org
 The Country Cob Bakery: www.countrycobbakery.com.au
 Lancefield Victoria: www.lancefield.org.au
 Emu Flat map: www.mapcarta.com/16680362
 Kilmore Places: www.victorianplaces.com.au/kilmore
 Newham General Store: www.newhamgeneralstore.com.au
 Hanging Rock Reserve: www.mrsc.vic.gov.au
 Lost Watering Hole-The Lancefield Brewery: www.lostwateringhole.com
 Mt. Macedon: www.visitmacedonranges.com/village
 Chocolate Mill: www.chocmill.com.au
 Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens: www.hepburn.vic.gov.au
 Daylesford Convent Gallery: www.conventgallery.com.au
 Daylesford Bakery: www.daylesfordbakery.com
 Stony Creek Gallery: www.michaelparkergallery.com.au
 Lake Daylesford Circuit: www.alltrails.com/trail/australia/victoria/lake-daylesford-circuit
 Romsey: www.bing.com/travel

NOTE: Nino advises that his Norton Antivirus Program indicates that the following websites listed on the Itinerary are considered suspicious and therefore not recommended to be opened. They are:

- Newham General Store : www.newhamgeneralstore.com.au
- Chocolate Mill : www.chocmill.com.au

THEATRE/CINEMA EVENTS:

Palace Balwyn Cinema.

Golden Years screenings every **Wednesday at 11am**

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

• **Movies: –**

- February 7th – **Anatomy of a Fall**
- February 14th – **May December**
- February 21st – **Force of Nature: The Dry 2**
- February 28th – **Fallen Leaves**

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 8 th
• MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING	Tuesday February 13 th
• WALKING GROUP	Friday February 16 th
• PHOTO/TRAVEL GROUP	Tuesday February 20 th
• DINE OUT	Wednesday February 21 st
• COMPUTER GROUP	Tuesday February 27 th

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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

Our first meeting for 2024 will be on **Thursday 8th February** at the Uniting Church North Balwyn at **10 am**.

The program is:

- 1/ State of rare earth prices/demand/recycling
- 2/ Attempts at circumventing the foreign ownership laws
- 3/ Interview with Meg O'Neil re Woodside
- 4/ The Gas terminal in Port Philip Bay/Western Port Bay
- 5/ Interview with Charlie Munger

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

The first walk for 2024 will be held on **Friday 16th February** and will be around **Blackburn Lake Reserve**.

Meet in the Blackburn Lake carpark off Central Road Blackburn opposite the end of Gwenda Avenue at **10.30 AM**.
[Melways Ref: Map 48 B 11].

At the conclusion of the walk, a lunch option will be available at a local café. New walkers always most welcome.

- **DINE OUT – Third Wednesday in the month – Convenor: Gerald King M: 0417 323 599**

The first function for this year will be held on **Wednesday 21st February** at the **Box Hill RSL Club**, 26 Nelson Road Box Hill at **5:30 pm**. The earlier start than usual is required because of the Remembrance Ceremony held at 6.00 pm. Consequently, all attendees **must arrive by 5:30 pm**.

Neil Gray is retiring from his role as one of the coordinators of these functions. We all thank him for his efforts over the years, and welcome Bruce McInerney as his replacement.

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

The Photographic/Travel SIG first meeting for 2024 is on **Tuesday 20th February** which will be an outdoor excursion at the **Titanic Artifacts Exhibition** at the **Melbourne Museum**, 11 Nicholson Street Carlton. Tram 86 or 96 from Collins St. or bus 907 from Park & Ride Doncaster.

Nino will be at the front entrance at **9.45am** for a start at 10.00am Concession Ticket: **\$22.50 pp**.

Photography is allowed: flash use with caution (probably not necessary as there should be sufficient light anyway) We will be allowed to wander through the museum after the viewing the Artifacts.

Let Nino know if you are coming, email him (ninros1946@gmail.com) so even though a guide will not be available, he can have an idea of who will be attending. For those who wish to socialise and stay for lunch, there is an onsite cafe or cafes along Nicholson Street. You might also give him an idea if you would like to stop for lunch so that a reservation can be made at the venue.

Please come along enjoy the fellowship and fun with your wives/partners who are more than welcome to come along.

Thank you for those members who have already indicated that they will be attending.

COMPUTER GROUP : Fourth Tuesday in the month. Convenor: Rodney Manser M: 0418 164 432

E: rmanser@bigpond.net.au

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday 27th February** when we will further explore the AI world. Rodney has a video presentation of Melissa McVeigh VA Consumer Product @ Conda Nast GQ, presented at Photo Vogue Festival 2023 Talk. If you want to understand AI in simple view, come to our meeting in February.

The Member Choice presentation will be conducted by Graydon Findlay.

Morning Tea is provided at the meeting to provide members with the time for fellowship and exchange of life experiences. A small fee of **\$7.00** is levied to cover costs of room hire and refreshments.

Everyone including partners are welcome to join us at our Meeting in February. Should anyone need to have the challenge clarified please contact Rodney.

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.

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USEFUL RESOURCES:

- You are encouraged to go to our website <https://balwynnorthprobus.org.au> that contains much useful information.
- 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.