



# THE PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH BALWYN INC.

A0016781Z

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## NEWSLETTER FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 13<sup>th</sup> 2024

### General Meeting

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#### Speakers: Sue Corvasce and Alex Ruggero "Discover the World"

Sue has been in the travel industry for 40 years & brings a wealth of knowledge & useful travel tips.

Alex works for Scenic and is very knowledgeable about his products for both Scenic & Emerald Cruises.

They will give an introduction on the ships & yachts.

They will present the features of both river & ocean cruises, the intimate experiences of smaller ships with access to unique itineraries & destinations, onboard entertainment, shore excursions & wildlife observations.

Alex will discuss the many culturally enriching and immersive excursions, incredible local cuisine & wines, the Scenic Freechoice and Scenic Enrich benefits.

Sue & Alex will discuss & consider interest, budgets, preferred destinations, what's on sale & how to grab the best offers.

Some of the destinations they will cover for the rivers will be the Rhine, Main, Moselle, all three French Waterways & the Douro, along with the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, Alaska, Australia & the South Pacific for ocean cruising.

Both are passionate & very well-travelled and love to share their knowledge & passion.

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#### Next General Meeting: – September 10<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: Peter Tully "Friends of the Cerberus"

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#### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

For our next General Meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August our guest speaker will be Sue Corvasce with her subject "Discover the World". Sue brings the Travel Industry with very useful travel tips, and her friend Alex Ruggero will advise regarding Scenic and Emerald Cruises. Again, this subject will interest our ladies as well and we have invited them to attend and join us at 10.45 for our coffee and tea break.

This month has been a five-week break, and our SIGS have assisted greatly with improved attendances at all our interest groups.

We must also congratulate Richard Heal for his Tokar Estate Winery Winter Lunch. We achieved two large tables of members and partners enjoying an excellent menu which provided great opportunities for interesting discussion.

As a reminder, please read our website as it has a great deal of extra information regarding our club, its history, and its challenges for the future, so for members, friends and guests alike. Rodney Manser informs us on a regular basis with great detail of the benefits of our club membership. Following on from this it is also our privilege to welcome our new member Graeme Adam to our club as a direct result of the website.

Finally, our thanks to Nino Xerri who has agreed to be our welcoming face at our meetings as a result of our very sad loss of Neil Gray who passed away last week.

Stay fit, keep warm, and travel whilst you are still able.

### **Current Committee Members:**

President (John Thwaites), Immediate Past President (Ken Mitchell), Senior Vice President (Stephen Millard), Junior Vice President (Michael Siles), Secretary (Graydon Findlay), Treasurer (Mike Watts), Membership/Website (Rodney Manser), Functions (Richard Heal), Marketing (Geoff Metcalf), Speakers (Gary Ray), Theatre (Denis Spinley), Welfare Officer (Ken Mitchell) and Newsletter (Alan French).

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

One of the things I received when I joined our Probus Club fifteen years ago was blue and yellow Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) card. I was aware that PSPL was a sort of umbrella group over Probus groups in the South Pacific, but not much more. It was only this year when I took on the role of Secretary that I found out about some of the things that they do to help Probus Clubs. They organise an annual public and products insurance policy to cover PSPL and accredited Probus Clubs and Probus Associations.

The PSPL card provides access to discounts from a range of businesses that are Partners with the Probus Member Benefits Scheme in categories such as Travel and Lifestyle / Entertainment. Within the Travel section there are fifteen Partner businesses that offer discounts on a very wide range of tours across Australia and overseas for groups and individuals.

If you still have some places on your bucket list of places you would like visit, google Probus South Pacific Limited and check out whether it is provided by one of the PSPL Partners.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Reconciliation Report for the month of JULY is showing available Club Funds of \$3,313.90. This is down somewhat on the previous month but a local Council SMALL GRANT of \$1908 is expected shortly and will be most welcome.

SIG funds remain positive for both the INVESTMENT (+\$447.80) and COMPUTER (+\$263.42) Groups but are a little negative for PHOTOGRAPHY (-\$129.00)

Outstanding Membership payments are now down to only 2 and are being earnestly followed up.

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Current membership is a total of 54 members, (42 active and 12 non-active members) with our Associates being 11.

- **Barry Bolger** resigned on 10/7/2024 for personal reasons.
- **Neil Gray** passed away on 17/7/2024.  
Neil joined PCNB on 1/5/1992, 32 years of service to our great club, he held the following positions: -
  - Membership Officer 1994 – 1996
  - Auditor 1999
  - Treasurer 2000 – 2002
  - Dine Out Convenor 2020-2023
- **Michael Martin** has been transferred to the inactive List at the request of his family.  
We will have new member inducted at our General Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> August;
- **Graeme Adam** Please introduce yourselves and welcome him to the club!

### **Birthdays:**

Congratulations to the following members who are celebrating their birthdays in **August 2024**:

- **John O'Callaghan** (08/08), **Rodney Manser** (14/08), **Peter Barker** (22/08), **Ted Duez** (22/08) and **Richard Heal** (27/08)

<b>DUTY ROSTER</b>	<b>August Meeting</b>	<b>September Meeting</b>
Tables and Chairs	Cordell Short, Ian Caldow, Stephen Millard, Graham Goudie	Matthew Pattison, Mike Watts, Bill Firth-Smith, Bruce McInerney
Tea and Coffee	Denis Spinley, Harold Ball, John Hyson	Denis Spinley, Neil Smart, Keith Jackson
Buddy	Ted Duez, Denis Spinley	Geoff Metcalf, Graeme Goudie, Harold Ball
Door Assistants	Jeff Collinson, Per Knudsen	Nino Xerri, Len Harvey

### **Roster Reminder:**

The roster list is published in the 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 rostered members** to contact a replacement member to take their place.

Our newsletter has two months' roster posted which will allow sufficient time to ensure the activities are covered at each meeting.

## 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! Looking forward to continuing a successful 2024.*

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

### Winter Lunch Thursday 25th July at Tokar Estate Winery, Coldstream.

Despite wet and cold weather on the day, the 22 guests who attended this function all agreed that it had been a huge success. The meal choices were delicious, and the wine selection was most appropriate. The trip back to Melbourne was under clearing skies and the rain was gradually easing. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make the day most enjoyable.

**THEATRE/CINEMA EVENTS:** Convenor Denis Spinley M: 0408 567 858 E: dbspinley@gmail.com

### Palace Balwyn Cinema.

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

**Tickets:** \$10 Golden Club Member, \$12 Senior Ticket

Movies: -

August 7<sup>th</sup> – **The President's Wife**

August 14<sup>th</sup> - **The Way, My Way**

August 21<sup>st</sup> – **The Fabulous Four**

August 28<sup>th</sup> – **It Ends with Us**

### 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.

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
• INVESTMENT GROUP	Thursday August 8 <sup>th</sup>
• <b>GENERAL MEETING</b>	<b>Tuesday August 13<sup>th</sup></b>
• LADIES GROUP	Wednesday August 14 <sup>th</sup>
• WALKING GROUP	Friday August 16 <sup>th</sup>
• PHOTO/TRAVEL GROUP	Tuesday August 20 <sup>th</sup>
• DINE OUT	Wednesday August 21 <sup>st</sup>
• COMPUTER GROUP	Tuesday August 27 <sup>th</sup>

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## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- **INVESTMENT GROUP: Second Thursday in the month. Convenor: Harold Ball M: 0418 359 353**  
**E: [hball19@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hball19@optusnet.com.au)**

Our next meeting is at **10am on Thursday August 8<sup>th</sup> at Balwyn North Uniting Church.**

Topics for Discussion are:

- 1 Rare earths miner targeted in cyber attack
- 2 Gina Rhinehart and Rare Earth Minerals
- 3 Haemophilia in the descendants of Queen Victoria  
*11am Morning Tea/Coffee Break*
- 4 The Importance of Your Will

- **NORTH BALWYN PROBUS CLUB LADIES GROUP**

1. The next meeting of the NBPC Ladies group will be held on **Wednesday, August 14.**

Venue: **"The Travelling Bandit" Café at 10.30 a.m.**

Address: 287 Doncaster Road, Balwyn North.

Location: Up the hill from "The Greythorn Hub" in Doncaster Road, Greythorn

i.e. This café is located in the Greythorn shopping strip, on the same side of Doncaster Road as "the Hub" and is next door to "Wardika Hairdresser"

2. All members of the **North Balwyn Probus Club Ladies Group** have been invited to attend the next General Meeting of the Probus Club on **Tuesday, August 13 at 10.45 a.m.**

The focus of this meeting will be "Overseas Travel". One of the guest speakers, **Sue Corvasce** will provide useful tips and valuable insights into overseas travel whilst the other presenter, **Alex Ruggero**, will examine the itineraries, the highlights and distinguishing features of both River and Ocean Cruises undertaken by Scenic.

For further information regarding this presentation refer to page 1 of the Probus Newsletter for August.

Please note that all members of the Ladies Group, who wish to attend, should plan to arrive at the Greythorn Community Hub at 10.45 a.m. to join Probus Club members for Morning Tea prior to the presentation which will begin at 11.00 a.m.

If you have any questions regarding this function, please contact **Robyn Heal (0408 526342).**

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

The next walk will take place on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August** and will be along The Anniversary Trail commencing close to High Street in Kew at **10.30am** and heading towards Deepdene.

Park in Winton Street or Segtoun Street where there is unrestricted parking. However, Segtoun Street, being quite narrow, has a requirement for staggered parking of vehicles. [*Melways Map ref: 45 G4*].

Lunch at the conclusion of the walk will be at Kuche Café at 682 High Street in Kew East which will be close to the end point of the walk. After lunch we will walk back to Winton Street or Segtoun Street where the walk commenced.

New walkers always most welcome as the number in the group has reduced over the last few months.

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

The Photography/Travel SIG meeting will be held on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August** at the Balwyn North Uniting Church, Duggan Street, Balwyn North.

The Agenda will be:

- Video Tutorial

-Power Point Presentation by John Thwaites

-Morning Tea

-Workshop (how to adapt Vintage Lenses to current Digital Camera Bodies) Bring with you any Vintage Lenses/Adaptors with you)

-Discussion (if time permits) as to possible walks conducted by Isabel Simpson (you may remember her as the speaker at our General Meeting last month)

### **October Echuca Excursion:**

Nino Xerri has organised another trip away to Echuca.

The full itinerary is available on our website on the Activities tab.

The trip is from **22nd – 25th October**.

Staying at Georgian Motor Lodge: 373-375 High Street Echuca. (Another motel may need to be booked) undertaking the Iconic Silo Art trail, Port of Echuca, St Annes Winery, Echuca Historical Museum, Murray River cruise, visiting picturesque Tongala township and stopping at Benalla on the way home visiting Munro Sargeant Café & Benalla Gallery.

Please contact Nino Xerri M: 0410 571 446 E: [ninros1946@gmail.com](mailto:ninros1946@gmail.com) & / or Rodney Manser M:0418 164 432 E: [rmanser@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rmanser@bigpond.net.au) for further details.

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

The next Dine-Out will be held on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August** at the **Blackburn Hotel**, 111 Whitehorse Road, Blackburn with a start time of **6.00 pm**. There is ample on-site parking available.

A booking sheet will be available at our August 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](mailto:rmanser@bigpond.net.au)**

Our next meeting on **Tuesday August 27<sup>th</sup>** will be along the line of basic IT skills, conducting another workshop on challenges being experienced by members.

Our meeting Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 was attended by 9 members who enjoyed a workshop solving challenges of the members. Welcome to Sandy Muir-Smith & Gerald King who we haven't seen for some time.

Morning Tea was provided at the meeting with coffee, tea and biscuits allowing members time for fellowship and exchange of life experiences. A small fee of \$7.00 is levied to cover costs of room hire and refreshments.

Please diarise the date and make an effort to join for the fellowship & fun. It was pleasing to see everyone joining in and solving the challenges presented today.

Everyone including partners are welcome to join us at our Meeting, should anyone need to have their challenge clarified please contact Rodney.

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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.

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