

**COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF
CASTLE HILL**



NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 21 - ISSUE 206 – AUGUST, 2021

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
THE SECRETARY, P.O. BOX 193, CASTLE HILL 1765
Email: enquiries@probuscastlehill.org.au
Website Address: www.castlehillprobus.org.au**

**TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST, 2021 - GENERAL MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO
LOCKDOWN**

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT – AUGUST, 2021

The most startling news this month of course is the voracious spread of the COVID variant through our country, and it seems to be non-discriminatory who it attacks. Firstly, we are lucky in some ways that we are all in the age bracket that can have both doses of vaccine that should give us a better than good chance of beating this menace. Secondly, we live in a country that is doing all in its power to minimize the extent of the spread. Thankfully we are not in a country like Indonesia. Make sure you have your vaccine jabs. It's critically important, particularly at the moment with a new virulent strain taking its toll on the community.

Speaking with Probus South Pacific it would seem that a large number of smaller clubs are struggling to maintain membership and survive during the lockdown. We have not come out unscathed, having to cancel or postpone activities. Nor have we been able to maintain our membership numbers but we are managing to stay a viable club.

It is important that everyone remains active during the lockdown. Consider writing a letter to someone you haven't contacted for a long time. Get that jigsaw puzzle out of the cupboard and give it a go. Spring is coming, so spending a bit of time preparing the garden is a worthwhile relaxing activity. Solo card games, internet games and the like provide ideal time fillers and with the vast array of programs available on pay TV, after your shopping morning, you should be able to enjoy the rest of your day.

I know I have said these words before "until next month when we hopefully will be back to some form of normal," stay safe, contact other members who might like to talk and I look forward to talking to everyone next month.

JOHN PERRY, PRESIDENT

COMMITTEE – 2021/2022

<p>PRESIDENT - John Perry</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT- Aldo Cantori</p> <p>SECRETARY - John Lucas</p> <p>TREASURER - Anne Lockwood</p> <p>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - Lyn Wilkes</p> <p>(FOUNDATION PRESIDENT: Robert Stack)</p>	<p>MEMBERSHIP OFFICER - Glenys Pye</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL TOURS and CRUISES – Bob Tubman</p> <p>PROPERTY – John Perry</p> <p>OUTINGS and DAY TOURS - Elizabeth Lessells</p> <p>WEEK AWAY TOURS - Colin Yates</p> <p>ACTIVITIES OFFICER – John Wilkes</p> <p>GUEST SPEAKERS COORDINATOR - VACANT</p> <p>REFRESHMENTS OFFICER – Judy Pitcher</p> <p>SPECIAL EVENTS and PUBLIC OFFICER John Michell</p>
<p>NON COMMITTEE:</p> <p>NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Annette Watson</p> <p>WEBSITE EDITOR - Alan Watson</p>	<p>NON COMMITTEE:</p> <p>PHOTOGRAPHER/HISTORIAN - Ron Canfield</p> <p>WELFARE OFFICER – Anne Gover</p>

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

- You are advised to stay at home if you feel unwell or have flu-like symptoms or if you've been in close contact with someone with coronavirus.
- Always abide by social distancing guidelines.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitiser.

For the latest update on COVID restrictions just google [NSW COVID 19 Virus hotspots](#) or click onto the link below and check what **you can and can't do under the restrictions**. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>

WELFARE

We still have a few members recovering from health issues but most are well on the way to recovery. These members are now home and receiving lots of TLC.

Very sadly one of our foundation members is extremely ill and we can only send our heartfelt wishes to her and her family.

I have sent cards with our best wishes to these members. Our best wishes also go to their families.

I hope you have been able to enjoy our sunny days with a walk, some gardening and reading.

The Castle Hill Library is currently closed but the phone lines are open. They provide an excellent service to residents from the Baulkham Hills Shire who are over 65 years of age. You can register with them and nominate the genre of books you like and or your preferred authors and the Library will deliver books to your door. They will also pick up the books to be returned to the Library and deliver you more books. If you don't have preferred authors the Library will select books for you. We have used this service and were very impressed with their service. We looked forward to the deliveries as we didn't know what books we would receive, so it was always a pleasant surprise.

If you would like more information on this service and would like to use the service contact the Castle Hill Library. If you do not belong to the Castle Hill Library and are in the Baulkham Hills Shire they will join you up when you contact them. Contact details are 97614510 or email www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/library

If you know of anyone who would like a cheerio call please let me know, Anne Gover by phone or email.



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ATTENDANCE – no apology required this month due to lockdown.

MEET AND GREET GROUP

Established at the March Committee meeting under the management of former VP Barry Haywood. The intention of this group is to welcome new members at our General Meetings and introduce them to conveners and members with 'like activity interests' during the morning tea/coffee. Helpers required, so please contact Barry Haywood by phone or email

FOR YOUR DIARY - No bookings being taken yet.

14 October, 2021 – The Lunch Club - Billy The Greek, Dural

11 November, 2021 – The Lunch Club (TBA);

30 November, 2021 – CLUB CHRISTMAS FUNCTION - The Epping Club - \$65pp.

2 December, 2021 – GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

9 December, 2021 – The Lunch Club - Enzo's Cucina, Dural

SPECIAL EVENTS

CRAZY WHIST –22 September, 2021 CANCELLED

Refunds will be provided in the near future.

TRIVIA NIGHT - 20 OCTOBER, 2021 – 7pm for 7.30pm

Please register at the floktu address.

Payment of \$10pp is into the Club's bank account

Please use your family name as the reference and TN.

GUEST SPEAKER - *Coordinator Position Vacant*

GUEST SPEAKERS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER - CANCELLED

TLC - The Lunch Club

Our September lunch will be at Fortuna Gardens Chinese restaurant

Shop 1, 190 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills Mall

On **9 September 2021 at 12pm for 12.30pm - CANCELLED**

Further information contact Anne Perry

Dates for your diary: TLC second Thursday of the month

October at Billy The Greek; **November** (TBA); **December** at Enzo's Cucina

ACTIVITY GROUPS

These groups are established for your enjoyment. It's a great way to meet new people and make new friends. Our Convenors are always very willing and happy to welcome new members. These dates are correct at time of printing but may vary due to Covid restrictions.

BOOK EXCHANGE	Roger Attack	Ross Long	CANCELLED
BOOK READING GROUP	Barbara Primrose	Kerri Pratt	CANCELLED
BOWLS GROUP	Robert Cochrane		10 September
CARAVANS AND CABINS	POSITION VACANT		25-29 OCTOBER
CRAFT GROUP	Carole Rock		CANCELLED
FISHING GROUP	Bob Tubman		7 September
GARDENING GROUP	Harry Koller		CANCELLED
GENEALOGY GROUP	John Wilkes		8 September
GOLF GROUP	Nigel Nield		CANCELLED
LADIES COFFEE AND CHAT GROUP	Anne Gover		TBA
MOVIE GROUP	Ellen Heyes	Sue Donnelly	CANCELLED
SAPPS DINING OUT	John Michell		
TAI CHI GROUP	John Lucas		TBA
TENNIS GROUP	Harry Koller		CANCELLED
THE LUNCH CLUB (TLC)	Anne Perry		CANCELLED
THEATRE PARTIES	Margaret Butfield	Carol Kelly	CANCELLED
WALKING GROUP	Aldo and Karon		24 September
WINE AND CHEESE GROUP	Julie Savage		1 October

BOOK READING GROUP – CANCELLED

The Book Reading Group is in recess during the COVID Lockdown. We will try to meet after the lockdown is concluded.



Luckily this does not stop us reading, so we will have plenty to talk about when we do meet again!

Barbara Primrose

BOWLS GROUP – AUGUST CANCELLED 10 SEPTEMBER, 24 SEPTEMBER, 2021 - 9.00 AM



The next game will be 10 September, 2021. Please have names in by 9.00am at Castle Hill Bowling Club. New bowlers are always welcome and free coaching and bowls are available for you to try the game first.

Robert Cochrane – Convener

CARAVANS AND CABINS – 25-29 OCTOBER 2021

The Groups next week away will be in comfortable Cabin accommodation at The Blackheath Tourist Park, Prince Edward Street, Blackheath from Monday, 25 to Friday 29 October.



Blackheath is the centre of the Blue Mountains Rhododendron festival at this time of the year and will offer some magnificent scenery and colour. An easy 90 minute drive from Castle Hill at the top end of the Blue Mountains Blackheath and surrounding townships provides easy access to so outstanding mountain scenery, popular walks, scenic drives, good eating establishments and places of interest.

In addition to Blackheath, the towns of Leura, Katoomba, Wentworth Falls and Mount Victoria will help to keep our ladies entertained with some excellent shopping and maybe high tea at the Hydro Majestic if time permits to round out our stay.

If you are not already a member of our Club's Cabin and Caravan tour group, then get involved, we have some great trips planned.

A group activity convener is still required – please offer your services.

Contact Alan Jones by phone or email.

CRAFT GROUP – CANCELLED



The craft group will meet once a month after lockdown on the first Thursday at one of our member's homes and for details phone Carole Rock.

New members are most welcome.

FISHING GROUP – TUESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER AND TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2021

The Probus Fishing Group endeavour to catch a variety of fish using our expertise and knowledge on the second Tuesday of each month.



A lunch is planned for Tuesday, 7 September, 2021 to be held at the Mooney Mooney Club.

A fishing trip is planned for Tuesday, 12 October, 2021 at Brooklyn where a punt will be hired for fishing on the Hawkesbury River followed with a light lunch at the Mooney Club.

We always look forward to and welcome new participants. Contact Bob Tubman

GARDENING GROUP – CANCELLED



Note: The Garden Club Christmas party - **Thursday, 2 December**

Harry and Margaret Koller

GENEALOGY GROUP – WEDNESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER, 2021

No activity in August with the Covid-19 closure.

The next Gene Group activity is a planned excursion to the Parramatta Female Factory – a building of significant history in colonial New South Wales and our tour guide is Judith Dunn. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Payment via 'Floktu' to the Club's bank account and please include your surname on the remitting advice. Details of meeting time and place to be advised by the end of August. Stay safe.



John Wilkes, Convenor - Administration.

GOLF GROUP – CANCELLED

Confirmation of attendance and the need for a cart is required 1 week in advance of the golf day.



September will be Muirfield. Most likely Monday, 13 September around 10 am
Tuesday, 12 October at Richmond Tee off time 8.30 am.

Please contact Nigel Nield

LADIES COFFEE AND CHAT GROUP – CANCELLED

Unfortunately our August meeting has had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

I am looking into a **Christmas Lunch to be held on Friday, 17 December**. I have been in contact with Enigma at Castle Hill. They are closed for the Lockdown but will contact me with the new menu and booking details once they reopen.



In the meantime please take care and stay safe. Enquires to Anne Gover

MOVIE GROUP – CANCELLED



If you would like to join the movie group please email Ellen Heyes

TAI CHI FOR SENIORS – Next session TBA

With the lockdown continuing no Tai Chi will take place, I shall notify all participants when classes commence. If you are interested in joining this group please contact John Lucas. A few vacancies exist.

Tai chi is a gentle exercise aimed at improving balance and flexibility. Classes are conducted by a highly qualified instructor and are specifically designed for people from 60 to 100 years old!!! Previous experience is not needed and new members are welcome to join.



Venue Dural Memorial Hall Old Northern Rd Dural.

Time 9.30 am (for one hour).

Cost \$100 for eight sessions payable in advance.

Please register through floktu. Payment needs to the club's bank account. Please insert your name and activity. Please contact John Lucas should you require further details.

TENNIS GROUP - CANCELLED



In recess due to the lockdown.

About 12 players from 3 Probus clubs turn up for tennis every Wednesday evening.

Contact: Harry Koller, Tennis Convenor

THEATRE GROUP- CANCELLED

As most members are now aware all our live shows have been cancelled. Refunds have been distributed. Many thanks to Anne for her assistance with the finances. Thank you to club members who have supported the live theatres. Perhaps next year will be luckier???



Margaret Butfield

WALKING GROUP – AUGUST WALK CANCELLED



Although we've had to cancel the August walk, we are still on track for a pleasant Spring walk on 24 September. Details of this walk will be provided in the next newsletter.

Aldo and Karon Cantori.

Covid restrictions: Before lockdown, government regulations limited external groups to a maximum of 10 people, however this may change at the end of August. We will continue to monitor developments and will communicate further as necessary.

WINE AND CHEESE – SEPTEMBER CANCELLED



Plans for a September event have been cancelled due to restrictions on numbers allowed in homes, however, a Wine and Cheese night in October may be possible. I will contact everybody by email shortly who are already on the guest list.

Please contact Julie Savage by Phone, Text or Email if you want to be put on the list.

TOURS AND OUTINGS

DAY TOURS

Make payments by DIRECT DEBIT to the Club's Bank Account.

Register through Floktu and pay by Direct Debit. (Preferred option)

Other payment options:

1. Electronic deposit into the account using family name and tour name.
2. Personally pay into the account at CTB using family name and tour name.
3. Post a cheque to PO Box 193 Castle Hill 1765



You have two alternatives re booking and paying for Day Tours:

- Book through floktu (and pay by Direct Debit to the club account.)
- Email Elizabeth Lessells and I will add you to the list. You can then pay the club through Direct Debit

Covid is with us again and we have to adjust our lives accordingly. **The lockdown has forced the tours of the Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong and the Norman Lindsay Galley in Faulconbridge to be postponed.**

I will endeavour to rebook these when restrictions are lifted. If you wish to withdraw from either of these tours, Anne Lockwood will return your money. Alternatively, you can leave it in the club account for when we eventually get the opportunity to go.

AUGUST and SEPTEMBER –VIVID **CANCELLED**

NOVEMBER

Tour: Melbourne Cup Luncheon
Time: To be confirmed
Meeting Place: The Fiddler, Windsor Road Rouse Hill
Date: Tuesday, 2 November
Cost: \$69

“A great day is planned at The Fiddler for Probus Groups on Tuesday, 2 November in The Greenway Room, so get in quick to secure your place. The package at \$69 per person includes: - 2 course plated luncheon, 3 hour beverage package, live action on the big screen, entertainment and prizes. Betting facilities on site.

I was able to secure the last 40 places for this event. I know that November seems a long way away but I suggest that if you are interested you book early, for it will be extremely popular.
Register at floktu.

WEEK AWAY TOURS

COFF’S HARBOUR -- **CANCELLED**

Trip cancelled by On Course.

BROKEN HILL – 18-26 MAY, 2022

We have 29 for the trip but could fit in a couple more. Please Telephone me on 0400350983 if you are interested. I have the brochures and will email them this month.

Price \$2450 pp. single supplement \$620

Accommodation Matilda Motor Inn Dubbo 2 Nights, Broken Hill Outback Resort 3 Nights, Quality Hotel Mildura Grand 2 Nights, Mercure Hotel Wagga 1 Night. Let us hope that this trip can go ahead.

Contact Colin Yates

INTERNATIONAL TOURS

NEW ZEALAND

I am now seeking expressions of interest for participants in the following trips:

- 17 day trip of both Islands for around \$6,600 per person twin share
- 10 day trip of the South island for around \$4,300 per person twin share
- 8 day trip of the North island for around \$3,500 per person twin share

The tour is planned commencing 18 March 2022 to 3 April 2022 with the South Island tour ending on 27 March in Christchurch and the North Island tour beginning on 27 March in Wellington.

Twenty members have expressed interest at this stage so I am seeking more expressions of interest by Friday, 13 August, 2022. A final commitment is required by Monday, 4 October with a deposit of \$600. The proposed itinerary will be circulated to all by email.

Contact Bob Tubman

FOOTY TIPPING COMPETITION

The Footy Tipping Competition continues to be live and well during the Covid Lockdown and twenty rounds have now been completed. Our leading tipsters are:

Aldo Cantori	118 points
Malcolm Robson	115 points
John Clifford	112 points
Terry Bishop	112 points
Graham Brangwin	112 points

It is still the plan to hold our **end of season lunch and presentation at the Fiddler Hotel, Rouse Hill on Wednesday, 30 September, 2021.**

TRAINING ON THE USE OF ZOOM ON-LINE MEETINGS

Sadly, Covid19 has changed the way people interact. We all love catching up face-to-face but government restrictions do not always permit us to do so. A number of on-line programmes have been developed over the past few years to enable people talk and see each other on-line via their computer or mobile device.

You may have heard of a programme called ZOOM but like many of us, you might think that you don't have the computer skills or the confidence to try it.

ZOOM is free to use for groups up to 100 people for sessions of up to 40 minutes. Once you accept an invitation to a ZOOM session, you will be able to see on your screen and talk to all the other participants.

Would you like to learn a bit about ZOOM? This is a call for expressions of interest in participating in a short training session on the fundamentals of this programme. If we get enough interest, we will set up some sessions for people to practice with it. If you're interested, please email Aldo Cantori

NEXT GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2021