



## Combined Probus Club Castle Hill Inc.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### MINUTES

21 March 2023

Venue: Cherrybrook Community Centre

- **OPEN MEETING:** 10.05
- **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME** – *Aldo Cantori welcomed members and guests again to the Annual General Meeting of the Combined Probus Club of Castle Hill for 2023. We have a few items of formal business to conduct today, so I will try to move things along fairly quickly. We'll start proceedings with a report from our Secretary, Bev Rooney.*
- **SECRETARY'S REPORT**
  - Attendance report: Present: 140; Apologies: 17; Leave of Absence: 6; No contact: 7.
  - Acceptance of the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on 15 March 2022: moved by John Wilkes. Seconded by Annette Watson. Motion carried.
  - Correspondence received pertaining to the 2022 AGM - NIL
  - Business arising from the minutes of the 2022 AGM - NIL
- **TREASURER'S REPORT**
  - Anne Submitted a written financial report included in the documented copy of the minutes.
  - Proposal for appointment of auditor for 2023. Stephen Thorpe was proposed as the Auditor, moved by Anne Lockwood. Seconded by Lynn Wilkes. Motion carried.
  - Proposed joining fees and annual membership fees for 2023. That Membership Fees revert to the pre Covid amount of \$50.00. moved by Anne Lockwood. Seconded by Bev Rooney. Motion carried.
- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The outgoing President, Aldo Cantori emphasised the following:

  - *As your President over the past 12 months, I have fortunately not had had to contend with the many Covid issues that our previous President had to face.*
  - *However, the club has still not recovered from the impacts of Covid with many of our activities suffering a decline in participation. No doubt this has been due to a number of factors including some reluctance to get out and about during the pandemic and the increase in the cost of travelling, eating out and attending events. Unfortunately, there's not a lot we can do about that but let's hope that things will improve over the course of our next President's tenure.*
  - *Our membership numbers remain healthy despite the fact that a few members have sadly passed away or have resigned and the number of new members has been insufficient to offset these losses.*

- *Our gender balance continues to be a bit of a challenge with about two thirds of our members being female. This is something that we need to work on as we could certainly do with a few more male members.*
- *Shortly, we will induct our new President but before we do, I'd like to acknowledge all the committee members, convenors and co-ordinators that I've had the pleasure to work with over the past year. You've all done an excellent job and I thank you for your efforts and commitment to the club.*
- *During the early months of my Presidency, I was well guided and supported by our previous President, John Perry and I sincerely thank John for always being there for me.*
- *Finally, as this will be my last opportunity to do so in front of all the members, I'd like to thank the many people who have contacted me over the past few months to enquire about my health and to offer words of encouragement. I greatly appreciate and value every one of those conversions. So, thank you, you've certainly made a difference.*
- *And now we move on to a very important item on our agenda – the induction of our new President. Peter, please join me up on stage.*

- **INDUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT**

Out-going President Aldo Cantori introduced Peter Wolnizer as the in-coming President.

*“Peter Wolnizer, you have been elected as President of the Combined Probus Club Castle Hill and as such it is your responsibility to uphold the Aims and Objectives as set out in the club’s Constitution. As the leader of our club, emphasis should be placed on the core values of friendship, fellowship and fun within our Probus community. It is my honour to present you with the President’s Chain of Office as the new President of the Combined Probus Club of Castle Hill. I wish you all the best in the role.”*

*Aldo stated that Peter could rely on any support from him and other Committee Members.*

Aldo Cantori presented the in-coming President with the Chain of Office and President’s pin.

Peter Wolnizer presented the outgoing President with the Immediate Past President’s Pin and a tiny token of the Club’s appreciation in the form of a thank you gift.

- **ACCEPTANCE OF POSITION BY THE NEW PRESIDENT**

Peter Wolnizer thanked Aldo for his very kind introduction and expressed his appreciation to all of the members of this wonderful club for granting him the privilege to serve as the next President of this Club.

‘I would like to pay a special tribute to Aldo, and indeed his wife, Karon. As you all know, Aldo has experienced a most serious medical condition, major surgery, and debilitating post operative treatments during his Presidency. He has done so with enormous courage and resilience. If we didn’t know, we would have never guessed what he was going through. Most of us would likely have relinquished our Probus responsibilities under these unforeseen and unwelcome circumstances- but not Aldo. Together with Karon’s wonderful support, Aldo has not only been an outstanding President, but he and Karon have continued to actively participate in a wide range of Club activities. Our former President John Perry remains a quiet supporter, always willing to lend a hand.

I also wish to pay a heartfelt tribute to our superb Treasurer, Anne Lockwood, who suffered a severe stroke prior to Christmas and who, with her husband Graeme’s tremendous support and encouragement, continues to serve our Club with meticulous care and cheery devotion. And another of our Club’s former President’s, Lynn Wilkes, has taken over the administration of our new Floktu system, with much more about that to come at our April meeting. Like our dedicated, much appreciated Newsletter Editor Annette Watson, who was recently hospitalised for surgery, Aldo & Anne continued to perform their time consuming, important Probus roles, even from their hospital beds. I ask Aldo, Anne & Annette to stand so that we can all show by hearty acclamation our sincere gratitude for their service & friendship.

Having been reminded of the *raison d'être* of Probus by Aldo- to foster friendship, fellowship and fun- my sincere wish is to see this friendly club become even more warmly welcoming and friendly. Warmth of friendship and a keen focus on our members interests and needs are what makes it a pleasure to belong to this club and it will be primarily those qualities that drive our future growth. Let us all contribute to the friendliness of our club and participate whenever possible in the activities that interest us. I know that as the number of birthdays accumulate, our interests and capacities change. So, I'd like to encourage those members whose participation has declined over recent years, to suggest some activities that might be especially attractive to them. Your committee would welcome those suggestions. We all must promote all that is good and wonderful about our club to our non-Probus friends and encourage them to join us. Gaye and I have been pleased to be introduce two new couples to the club since we joined a little over two years ago, ourselves having been kindly introduced by Tony and Noni Folland and Ken and Joy Lynch.

I understand that it is customary for incoming Presidents to share a little about themselves and their backgrounds, especially if they are not well known. More important than anything else, I have been blessed to be married to my lovely wife, Gaye, for almost 49 years. We live in Cherrybrook, a stone's throw from here, and we have two married sons and 4 grandchildren; three boys and one girl. We are not native Sydneysiders, although we have lived in Sydney for the best part of 38 years, in 2 separate periods of time. We were both born and raised in Hobart, Tasmania. Professionally, I am a Professor Emeritus of the Uni of Sydney, where I served as the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business, and as a Professor of Accounting for the last 12 years of my international academic career. My students would say that being a Professor Emeritus means that I am grey and old. Well as you can see, I am well past the former, and I absolutely refuse to acknowledge the latter. Following my retirement from University I was appointed to a three-year term as the Chairman of the International Accounting Education and Standards Board, a global accounting standard setting board of the Accountancy Profession base in New York. Frankly, I thought my days of chairing meetings were well and truly over. In conclusion, I have both a confession and a request. I confess that I have taken on this role with enormous reluctance, not because I am unwilling to serve the club, but because I am profoundly deaf and I have a cochlear implant. I struggle to understand speech where there are multiple conversations occurring and background noise. And the acoustics of this hall are terrible. So, I beg your understanding and patience. But I am most grateful to our wonderful and very capable secretary, Bev Rooney, who has kindly agreed to be my ears and help me where necessary during meetings.

Peter Wolnizer then moved to the remaining formal business of the AGM by declaring all Management Committee positions vacant.

*"Members are advised that there are 3 existing committee members who have made themselves available to continue in their roles who have exceeded their 3-year term. These are;*

- *John Michell*
- *Anne Lockwood*
- *Elizabeth Lessells*

*In accordance with section 4(b) of the Constitution, anyone holding a position for longer than 3 years may do so with the approval of the members. The committee recommends their reappointment and I move that their continuation be approved."*

Sally Birhcill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## ● **APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICER**

Peter Wolnizer declared the following,

*"As only one member has nominated for the position of Public Officer, John Michell is duly elected. Please join me in thanking John who has been our Public Officer since our club was founded in 2004 – that's enormous commitment and wonderful dedication. John continues to be a very active participant."*

- **ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Peter Wolnizer announced the following,

*“As only one nomination has been received for each of the following committee positions, each nominee is duly elected. When I call your name, could you please make your way onto the stage.”*

- *Vice President: Carol Evans*
- *Immediate Past President: Aldo Cantori*
- *Secretary: Bev Rooney*
- *Treasurer: Anne Lockwood*
- *Day Tours Convenor: Elizabeth Lessells*
- *International Tours Convenor: Rodica Benton*
- *Activities Convenor: Chris Savage*
- *Property Officer: John Perry*
- *Guest Speaker Convenor: Barry Haywood*
- *Special Events and SAPPS: John Michell*
- *Week Away Tours: Frances Orr*
- *Attendance and Membership Officer: Helen Strong*

*“A hearty Congratulations to you all. I look forward to working with you over the next 12 months. Ladies and gentlemen, please join be in congratulating your new Management Committee.”*

Peter Wolnizer announced the following,

*“Most of our non-committee office bearers, activity convenors and co-ordinators have agreed to continue in their respective roles. I’d like to thank each of them for their continued commitment. In the interest of time, I won’t name them all but you will find a list of all our office bearers, convenors and co-ordinators in your monthly newsletter.*

*A special thankyou to all those who have taken on a role for the first time namely,*

- *Carol Evans*
- *Helen Strong*
- *Michelle Dale*
- *Trish Warton*
- *Rodica Benton*
- *Frances Orr*

Peter Wolnizer announced the following,

*“A number of members have decided not to continue in their role. These are,*

- *Maryanne and Richard Vella*
- *Glenys Pye*
- *Carole Rock*
- *Colin Yates*
- *John Wilkes*

*I wish to say thank you, you’ve done your part for the club and I look forward to the opportunity for you to take on a role again in the future.”*

Call for a round of applause for all past and continuing convenors and co-ordinators.

*Now, that leaves us with the following vacant positions, two of which are new.*

- *Alternate Secretary - New*
- *Alternate Treasurer - New*
- *Tennis Group Convenor*
- *Heritage and History Group Convenor*
- *Craft Group Convenor*

- \$2.50 Club Convenor

*In accordance with the Constitution, there being no nominations for these positions, I call for nominations from the floor. Are there are nominations for any of these positions?"*

Aldo Cantori stepped forward to take up the role of Alternate Secretary. Thank you, Aldo. As there were no further nominations, with the exception of Alternate Secretary, Peter announced that, the remaining positions will remain vacant until further notice.

- **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Peter asked whether there were any further items of general business; no items put forward.

- **CLOSING COMMENTS**

- Peter wanted to acknowledge the service of other members today. Recent members are the beneficiary of the voluntary work and dedication of members who have served our club since its inception, 19 years ago. I have noticed that there is a significant proportion of our members who have served in one voluntary capacity or another. I thank you very much indeed. I think that this is a very fitting moment to say thank you to all our past Presidents. Could all those who are present please stand, so we can all see who you are and we can all applaud your past and continuing commitment in leadership and service to our club.
- Thank you all of those who have registered to come to our celebratory Change-over lunch and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.
- The next AGM will be held on Tuesday 19 March 2024
- Thank everyone for their attendance and I declare the meeting closed at 10.32 am.

**ALDO CANTORI (Past President)**

**PETER WOLNIZER (Incoming President)**