



COMBINED PROBUS CLUB CASTLE HILL Inc.

GENERAL MEETING: 17 May 2022

MINUTES

Open Meeting: - 10.00am

INTRODUCTION: Chairperson: - Aldo Cantori

• **Welcome and President's message**

Good morning and welcome to our May general meeting.

I understand we have a guest with us today, Malcolm Chalmers. Would you mind standing up please. Welcome, it's a pleasure to have you here and I thank you for your interest in our club.

• **Housekeeping**

I remind members of the usual housekeeping rules. Please check that your phone is off or on silent and take note of the location of the emergency exits and our emergency assembly point which is behind this building in that direction. Toilets are located up the ramp to the left as you exit the hall. If you need to leave the meeting early, please make sure you sign out using the form located just inside the hall doorway. And please move back to your seats quickly when asked to do so at the end of morning tea.

• **Medical Cards** – hopefully everyone has remembered to bring their medical card today – this is strongly recommended for all Probuss events. If you don't have one yet, please see our secretary, Bev Rooney.

• **Lunch** – as usual lunch will be held today at the West Pennant Hills Sports Club. If you'd like to attend, please remember to fill in the attendance sheet through Lyn Wilkes during morning tea.

• **May birthdays** – Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating a birthday this month. A list of our May babies has been included in this month's newsletter – please feel free to send them your good wishes.

• **Other messages** – today I have a number of special announcements to make.

1. Vacant roles

Firstly, the co-ordinator of our Theatre Parties, Margaret Butfield has stood down from her position for personal reasons. This is a sad loss as Margaret has been doing such a great job especially considering the impact of Covid in the past 2 years. Please join me in thanking Margaret for all she has done.

Now that leaves two vacant positions – Theatres and International Tours. I urge you all to consider taking on one of these roles. Obviously, the club's ability to put on events and trips is entirely dependent on members volunteering to fill these positions. If you're interested in either of these roles, please see me today or email me later.

Further, we have just become aware that Roger Atack who helped with the book exchange is no longer available to assist, so we will need another member to help. This is a very simple role & only involves pulling the books out for circulation initially & returning them to the cupboard at the end of the meeting.

2. Late withdrawals

There have been instances of members being unable to attend an event for which they had registered. Often this is unavoidable and happens at the last minute, however it's important that the event co-ordinator is advised of any withdrawals. May I suggest that if you register for an event that you store the relevant co-ordinator's mobile number in your phone so that you can quickly contact them if you have an unexpected issue. This is to avoid unnecessarily waiting for someone who is unable to attend.

3. Defibrillator

The club recently purchased a defibrillator. Arrangements will now be as follows:

- The defibrillator will remain in the custody of a responsible member.
- That member will be responsible for ensuring that the defibrillator is brought to every general meeting.
- It can also be booked by an activity co-ordinator for a trip or a major event. For example, Colin Yates has booked it for the Broken Hill trip.
- If more than one co-ordinator wishes to book the defibrillator, the custodian will decide which event represents the greater risk and assign the defibrillator accordingly.
- Until further notice, I will be the custodian and accordingly all booking requests are to come to me.
- Regarding the use of the defibrillator, we hope that it will never be necessary, however we plan to arrange a specialist to demonstrate its use at one of our future general meetings. More on this in due course.

4. Buddies

When new members join our club, they often need a little guidance on who's who, who to contact regarding a particular event and generally how the club works. To assist new members, the committee is considering the appointment of a 'buddy' to each new member. This buddy would be a point of contact for the first few months of membership.

So, I'm putting out a call for people to volunteer to be a 'buddy' – it's an easy job and will be of great benefit to new members. If you'd like to put your name forward for this programme, please let Glenys Pye know.

5. Weekend events

Finally, a few members have suggested that we should consider the occasional weekend event. Can I please get a show of hands as to who would have a preference for some of our events being held on weekends? Approximately 15 showed interest they would support weekend events.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Bev Rooney

-Today's meeting: Present: 135; Apologies: 21; Leave of Absence: 8; No contact: 22; Visitors: 1

-Minutes of the April General Meeting on Notice Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Anne Lockwood

Anne stated that the Turnover for April was \$146,000.00. To date there are 37 members who have not paid their membership, so please let us know if you are not renewing your membership. Members unpaid by early June will be struck off the membership list. Please review the report in the Newsletter.

ACTIVITY REPORTS: Would all co-ordinators who are presenting reports today please make their way to the bottom of the stairs?

1. Special Events: John Michell. We will no longer be able to hold our Christmas in July at the Berowra Waters Inn, as the new price is \$110.00 per head. This year we will hold this function at the Mean Fiddler in the Events Room on Thursday, 28th July at a cost of \$60.00 per head. The function starts at 11.45 am. Champagne will be served on arrival, followed by a Turkey dinner followed by roast pudding. There will be 10 people to a table with red & white wine on each table. Our entertainment will be Nikki Bennett. Remember this is a highlight event on our Calendar. Please book by Flocktu as soon as possible.

2. Week Away Tours: Colin Yates. The Broken Hill Tour still has 2 available spots. Please contact Colin in the break. OnCourse Tours have requested that all travellers wear masks on the bus. There will be a defibrillator on the bus. Accommodation will be in hotels & at Broken Hill Resort. Broken Hill Resort has asked travellers to take some form of light e.g., a torch or phone, & all travellers should see Colin re allocation of accommodation.

Re the Silo Art Tour, Colin is chasing a form for one participant.

3. Theatre Outings: Margaret Butfield. The Visit to see Moulin Rouge is the last item Margaret will oversee.

Margaret advises that the current play at the Castle Hill Players, 'Earth & Sky' is well worth seeing.

4. Day Tours: Aldo Cantori. Elizabeth Lessells sends her apologies today. She has however prepared a few PowerPoint slides (which we are now viewing) & she's asked me to advise the following;

14 people have registered for the tour of The Rocks on 8 July. That's a good enough number but there is room for more and the cost is \$20.

With regards to Vivid on 14 June, 19 people have registered. A minimum of 30 is required for this event, so we still need a few more takers for this event. Cost is \$88.

26 expressions of interest have been received for the Hunter Valley Christmas Lights on 4-5 December. There are still vacancies for a few more. Cost of this event is \$495.

You'll find details of all these events in the May newsletter. If there are any queries, please contact Elizabeth.

5. Activity Groups: Chris Savage. Please refer Newsletter for further information. On Friday there will be a walk led by Vivian Wilson & Carol Evans for a walk around Kirribilli for approximately 1.5 to 2 hours.

The 250 Club will commence with a trip to Watsons Bay on 26th May.

The Men's Chat Group will hold its initial meeting on Wednesday, 1st June, at the Castle Hill Tavern- anyone interested contact John Lucas.

Wine & Cheese Has been put on hold for three months & will recommence in September.

6. International Tours: Aldo Cantori. As we don't currently have an International Tours Co-ordinator, I will fill in for the timing being. Quite a few members originally expressed interest in this September's New Zealand trip. Understandably, the number of people still interested has dropped off significantly to a total of only 7 people. I've been in contact with OnCourse who have indicated that there are on-going issues with travel to NZ at the present time. They have recommended that we consider an alternative NZ trip which they are now planning for October. I will share that information with all interested members as soon as I receive it. In the meantime, if anyone else is interested in this trip please contact me so that I can add you to the list.

BARRY HAYWOOD WILL PRESENT GUEST SPEAKER

WE WILL NOW ADJOURN FOR MORNING TEA

Reconvene at 11:00am

GUEST SPEAKER – Jan-Maree Ball OAM (hosted by Barry Haywood). Subject: Aussie Hero Quilts

Jan-Maree is a former officer with the RAAF & the Navy. She now spends her time looking after current & former Australian Service Men & Women by supplying them with Hero Quilts & Laundry Bags. These items are made by a large group of volunteers that Jan-Maree has networked with over the years. As of 13/5/22 Aussie Hero Quilts had supplied 14,000 Quilts & 33,500 Laundry Bags. Many examples of quilts & laundry bags were displayed. At the close of her talk, Jan-Maree was presented with a small token of our appreciation.

Barry Haywood previewed our next guest speakers as follow:

June – Retirement Options

July – Feet Care

CLOSING COMMENTS

- Date of next general meeting: 21 June 2022
- The meeting closed at 12pm.

Aldo Cantori (President)

Bev Rooney (Secretary)