



Combine Probus Club Castle Hill Inc

General Meeting: 15 November 2022

MINUTES

Open Meeting: - 10.00am

INTRODUCTION: Chairperson: - Aldo Cantori

- **Welcome**

Good morning and welcome to our November general meeting.

- **Housekeeping**

Please ensure that your phone is off or on silent. In the unlikely event that we need to evacuate the building, our emergency assembly point is adjacent to this building. Toilets are located near the ramp on your 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.

- **Medical Cards** – for your own safety, you should be carrying a personal medical card at all Probus events. If you don't have one, please see our secretary, Bev Rooney and she will arrange one for you.
- **Morning Tea Roster** – There is a morning tea roster doing the rounds. Please place your names on it and pass it along.
- **President's Message**

1. At last month's general meeting we announced Peter Wolnizer as our new Vice President. Peter attended his first meeting of the Management Committee a couple of weeks ago and he will undoubtedly be a wonderful President and a very valuable asset for our club.

Now, I'd like to dispel a few misconceptions that may have arisen regarding the viability of our club. Let me clarify a few things. The management of our club is governed by the rules laid out in our Constitution. One of those rules is that we must have a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Constitution does however acknowledge that circumstances may sometime arise that result in an unexpected vacancy in one or more of these positions. A process is outlined for how a casual vacancy is to be filled. The Management Committee followed that process in selecting Peter as our new Vice President. A temporary vacancy on our Management Committee does not in itself make our club vulnerable or unstable. Let me assure you that our club is strong, thriving and prosperous and is in a very sound financial position, thanks largely to the hard work and diligence of our Treasurer, Anne Lockwood.

That brings me to a very important point. That is, what it means to be a member of Probus. We are all here for the same reason, to enjoy our retirement years, to make friends, to enjoy each other's company and to support each other in times of need. We must remember that those who accept a management position, do so on a voluntary basis for the benefit of all

members. Inevitably, there will be occasions when personal issues arise such as health, family, business opportunities or various other issues. It's important that we accept and respect that personal issues must always take priority over club commitments. In the spirit of Probus, we must always support and encourage members who have had to prioritise their personal lives over Probus. So, please be understanding when a member's needs to make some life choices that may impact on their ability to contribute to the club.

2. At the back of this month's newsletter, you will find a nomination form for the election of office bearers. Yes, it's that time of year again. Please give some thought to this as we always need new people with fresh ideas.

In addition to office bearer positions, we also need nominations for various convenor and activity co-ordinator roles. In particular, the leaders of the following activities have flagged their intention to not continue in their role after our next AGM:

- Membership officer
- \$2.50 Club convenor
- Refreshments officers
- Heritage and History convenor

If anyone would like to volunteer for one of these roles, please contact me or the current convenor/co-ordinator or any members of the Management Committee. It would be a shame to have to stop or suspend an activity due to our inability to secure a convenor.

3. You will all no doubt be aware that the recent failures of Optus and Medibank to protect the personal data of its customers have highlighted the risk of scams and identity theft. We all need to be much more vigilant than ever before. To assist with this, our December newsletter will include links to some useful government web sites that provide information and tips on how we can avoid becoming a victim of cyber criminals.
4. A reminder about the rules around Leaves of Absence. Members are required to attend at least 50% of general meetings in any year. In the event of prolonged sickness or any other reasonable grounds, you should submit a request for a Leave of Absence to our Secretary. These Applications for Leave of Absence need to be received prior to the Management Committee meeting which takes place typically on the first Tuesday of each month. An approved Leave of Absence will ensure that any meetings you miss will be disregarded in your meeting tally. If you don't have an approved Leave of Absence, and you are unable to attend at the last minute, you can submit an apology to our Membership Officer, Glenys Pye, any time prior to the meeting.
5. I would like to express big thank you to Jenny Wilson for once again organising the Christmas Toy Drive, which is an amazing effort. Thanks also to all those who have made a donation to this worthy cause.
6. Also, thanks to Annette & Alan Watson who have organised the sale of Lions Christmas Cakes & Puddings, with an amazing response.
7. The local Rotary Club is having a Christmas market on 3/12/22 – flyers to follow.
8. Finally, a reminder that we have a suggestion box. I encourage all members to make use of it as your ideas and comments are important. It's your club and we very much welcome your suggestions.

- **Lunch** – after missing out last month due to a change of caterers, lunch is back on today at the West Pennant Hills Sports Club. If you'd like to attend, please advise Lynn Wilkes during morning tea so that she can confirm numbers with the venue.
- **November birthdays** – a list of the names of those who are celebrating a birthday this month is included in the newsletter. On behalf of the management committee and all our members, I wish you all a very happy birthday.
- **Spotlight on a Member** - this month's "SPOTLIGHT on a MEMBER" features foundation member and former President John Purkis and our Newsletter Editor Annette Watson. I thank John and Annette for sharing their stories with us.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Bev Rooney

-Today's meeting: Present: 129; Apologies: 29; Leave of Absence: 6; No contact: 17; Visitors: Inductees.

Correspondence In:

We have received one nomination already – Thank you to that person.

- Crowthers Tours email advising of upcoming 2023 & 2024 Tours
- Great Tour Experiences advertising tours of New Zealand.
- On Course Tours email advising of upcoming 2023 & 2024 Tours
- Probus South Pacific on behalf of Trade Travel, email offering tours of New Zealand & Mauritius
- A Travel Handbook from Probus South Pacific.

We obviously need an international travel convenor.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Anne Lockwood

We have no Treasurer's Report but it is displayed on the Notice Board.

INDUCTIONS

Today we are inducting two new members, Ian and Michelle Dale. The President inducted our two new members.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our new members.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Committee reports	Coordinators
Week away tours	<p>Colin Yates-The story of the Week Away Tours is not so good. Refunds of the Silo Art Tour have already been finalized and are slightly short as On Course had to bear the fact that two hotels would not give full refunds due to cancellations.</p> <p>Adelaide & the Peninsulas- The problem is that last year's cost was \$2,950 but this year's brochure shows a price \$3,850 which is an increase of \$900 or 31%. Colin has the list of people going, so could people please see Colin at morning tea to let him know whether they are still interested in going. Colin will</p>

	consider other travel agents to check other tours to the region at a more reasonable cost, or elsewhere.
Special events	<p>John Michell-On Tuesday 29th November, we are holding our Christmas Party at the Epping Club at a cost of \$70 per person. There are 72 people attending. If anymore wish to come, let John know immediately.</p> <p>In January we have our Breakfast in the Park on Tuesday 10th January at a cost of \$5.00- covers Champagne, bacon, etc.</p> <p>After the AGM on the 3rd Tuesday in March, we have our change over lunch with details to be provided.</p>
International tours (no report)	VACANT
Theatre Outings (no report)	VACANT
Day Tours	<p>Elizabeth Lessells initially discussing the Christmas Lights Tour on 4th & 5th December leaving from Showground Railway Station meeting at the bus stop outside the carpark at 8.10am for an 8.30am departure. Parking at the carpark. We will be returning between 4.30pm & 5.00pm depending on how much time we spend at the club for lunch.</p> <p>In February we would like to have our annual Sea Food BBQ towards the end of February. Elizabeth has been looking at West Head for three years after the Seafood Markets. It is an enjoyable tour that is enjoyed by all that go on it.</p> <p>It features a late lunch at the seafood markets., afternoon tea on the water, perhaps a visit to the Northern Beaches Bahai Temple, followed by a three course Seafood BBQ lunch at West Head. Elizabeth will contact On Course to make arrangements.</p>
Activity groups	<p>Chris Savage – earlier this month the Men’s Group attended the Turkish Mosque at Auburn which was quite spectacular.</p> <p>On Friday 18/11/22 there is a walk at Parramatta Park weather permitting lead by John Perry.</p> <p>The TLC Lunch is at Billy the Greek, Dural, registering by Floktu.</p> <p>The Garden Group Christmas Party on 30/11/2022 will be held at Crestwood Community Centre at a cost of \$5.</p> <p>Glenys will be leading a 250 Club trip to Ettalong on 24/11/22.</p>
Bowls	<p>Robert Cochrane, Bowls Coordinator, an activity that has been going since the commencement of the Club. Clive Neideck has been our coach since its inception. It is a sport where you can try before you buy. It is a great day out with plenty of walking. There are 3 other Probus clubs participating and for those more serious bowlers, there are carnivals between the other Probus Clubs. It is a great fellowship group for members. I look forward to new members.</p>

Aldo addressed the meeting about how we have been struggling to find an International Tours Convenor. One alternative is the possibility that will be discussed in Committee for an individual to be asked to coordinate an individual trip.

Leo Keegan spoke to the meeting about assisting the Hills Community Centre as a volunteer driver, generally a wide range of people but mainly older people and the bus is provided at a reasonable rate. The only requirement to drive a Toyota 22-seater Coaster or bus of that size is Light Rigid (LR) Licence. Please see Leo for a brochure if you are interested or know anyone who may be.

ADJOURN FOR MORNING TEA AND RECONVENE AT 11:00am

GUEST SPEAKERS – Subject: Matt Murphy, full time fire-fighter and part-time historian hosted by Barry Haywood.

Matt gave a very enjoyable and well-illustrated talk about the story of Rum and all the facets it played in the early days in Australian History. The chat was so well received that many people line up to purchase Matt's book 'Rum, A Distilled History of Colonial Australia'.

Barry thanked Matt for attending & presented him with a gift card.

CLOSING COMMENTS

- Date of next general meeting: 13 December 2022 (please note that the December meeting will not be on the usual 3rd Tuesday of the month but will be a week earlier)
- Meeting closed at 12pm

President- Aldo Cantori

Secretary- Beverley Rooney