



Combined Probus Club Castle Hill Inc

General Meeting: 18 July 2023

MINUTES

Peter Opened the Meeting: - 10.00am

INTRODUCTION: Chairperson: - Peter Wolnizer

- **Welcome**

Peter welcomed all to this special General Meeting – our 19th anniversary celebration!

- **Visitors / guests** – Janet Kingi, Margaret Wetton, Mr. and Mrs. Zarb, Malcolm Chalmers
- **Housekeeping** – Peter read the following points to ensure that the meeting was able to run efficiently:
 - Please ensure that your phone is off or on silent.
 - In the unlikely event that we need to evacuate the building, the 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.
 - At the conclusion of the meeting please vacate the hall and the foyer as quickly as possible. The Hornsby Council requires us to vacate the hall by noon.
- **Medical Cards** – Peter advised all members to carry their personal medical card when attending Probus events. He referred anyone without one to please see our secretary, Bev Rooney.
- **President's Message**
 - Peter said how deeply saddened we were to learn that our Inaugural President and Foundation Member, Bob Stack, passed away on Saturday 24 June. While Peter didn't have the pleasure of knowing Bob, all his Probis friends with whom he had spoken have said what a wonderful man he was and paid heartfelt tributes to his enormous contribution in establishing our Club and leading it effectively and graciously through its formative years. Together with his wife, Myra, Bob actively participated in the life of our Club ever since. We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Myra, their children, and families at this sad time of loss. Peter was sorry that he was unable to attend Bob's funeral on Monday 3 July because he and Gaye were not in Sydney on that day. However, Peter understood that several of our members did attend – and that speaks volumes for the personal affection and high esteem in which Bob was held by his many friends in our Club.
 - We were also saddened to learn that another of our wonderful members, Paul Jones, passed away on Saturday 8 July. We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to his wife Jan (who is a foundation member of our Club) and to his brother, Alan, and sister-in-law, Robyn, and their families at this sad time of mourning and loss. Peter regretted that he didn't know Paul, but he has been delighted to get to know

Alan and Robyn since joining Probus and, of course, Alan and Peter share a special lived experience as Cochlear Implant recipients. I don't know how many members know this, but Alan – with the unceasing support of Robyn - has made enormous contributions to the Cochlear Implant community in Sydney over almost 40 years, especially through his foundation membership and service as President of the Cochlear Implant Club and Advisory Association.

- Peter notified the meeting that, at its meeting on Tuesday 4 July, the Committee decided to pay for the venue hire for the next series of Tai Chi classes in the hope that enough members might then be able to afford to participate in the classes. The feedback to the Committee was that those who participate derive great benefit from the gentle and tailored exercise programme, but some are finding the total cost for venue hire and the instructor to be prohibitive. The Committee hopes that by the Club covering the cost of the venue hire, we might be able to offer a financially viable Tai Chi class.
- Peter informed the meeting that the Committee was delighted with the spontaneous and positive response by those attending the June meeting to the idea of devoting one of our future meetings to having informal, small group conversations about enhancing member participation in General Meetings and adapting our extensive activities and events programme to the contemporary interests of our members. Peter stated that member feedback at and after the June meeting has been very encouraging and most welcome. We will have an extended morning team – and no guest speaker – at our October meeting. The Committee will then discuss your ideas and feedback at our November meeting. May I say a very sincere and personal 'thank you' in anticipation!
- Peter advised that the Committee is keen to maintain up-to-date contact details for all members and asks that if any member's details change that they complete a 'Change of Contact Details' form available from Helen Strong our Membership Officer. Peter thanked Helen Strong for her superb work in updating the membership database – with Anne Lockwood's kind assistance - and for producing the members' registry and phone contact numbers that has been distributed this morning.
- Peter thanked Bev Rooney for her splendid work, as Secretary, in placing advertisements for our Club in several community newspapers including the HK Post.
- **Lunch** – Peter reminded the meeting that lunch would be held at the West Pennant Hills Sports Club; the decor of the Club has been significantly improved and the noise levels are reduced due to carpeted flooring. They offer a special and varied luncheon menu for \$20 and an extensive bistro menu with prices ranging from about \$18-mid\$30's. Drinks are reasonably priced. Peter Attendees to advise Lyn Wilkes during morning tea.
- **July birthdays** – Peter extended birthday wishes to all members who celebrate a birthday in July and stated how special the celebration of birthdays was.
- **Spotlight on a Member** – Peter noted that it was fitting that the July Newsletter featured Bob Stack.
- **CELEBRATION of the Club's 19th anniversary** – Peter called upon all Past Presidents present to come to the podium, noting John Perry and Aldo Cantori were not present. All foundation members were requested to stand. Pete cut the cake with Myra Stack, the wife of the first club President. Also acknowledged were previous Presidents Eric Pye and Malcolm Robson, who had passed. Cakes were provided by Gaye Wolnizer and distributed with the assistance of many members, to whom a letter of thanks will be sent.
- Peter mentioned the concern of many members for Graeme Lockwood's health. Graeme is now home and doing as well as can be expected. Peter welcomed back Naas Hoffman after a long period of ill health. Also, Anne Perry was recently hospitalised at a very inconvenient time prior to moving house today, but was now home and had recovered.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Bev Rooney

Today's meeting: Present 117; Apologies 18; Leave of Absence 16; No contact 14; Inactive 2; Visitors 5
Bev welcomed visitors: Janet Kingi, Margaret Wetton, Mr. & Mrs. Zarb and Malcolm Chalmers.

Correspondence received: Email from Hornsby Ku Ring Gai post advising of the inclusion of our club details in the online magazine.

Suggestion Box: Bev had received a suggestion from a member requesting the introduction of Keep Cups at morning tea to assist with the reduction of litter and aid with recycling.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Anne Lockwood -Anne referred to financial statements displayed on the notice board showing over \$33,000 in the bank. As of this morning Anne has \$46,000.00 in the bank, held as deposits for upcoming tours. Anne advised that everything had balanced.

INDUCTIONS -

Peter stated that he had the pleasure of inducting three new members. He asked the following people to please make their way onto the stage – Bobbie Cochrane, Margaret Seale and Joy Young; they were then inducted into the Club and presented with their Probus badge. New members were welcomed with applause.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Committee reports	Coordinator
International tours	Rodica Benton - <u>The Sri Lanka</u> trip will definitely be on, and we will be joined by members from other Probus Clubs. Please see Fran to add names at morning tea.
Week away tours	Colin Yates – Referred to the upcoming <u>Adelaide tour</u> . Final payment is required in August. Singles payment is \$3435 and doubles payment \$2795. Please pay these funds to the Probus Bank Account. Frances Orr-A table has been booked at the Baulkham Hills Sporting Club on Saturday, 2 nd September for members of the <u>Gloucester tour</u> to meet. If members are still interested in attending there are 3 more rooms available. <u>High Country Tour</u> -We have only been allocated 15 places. Fran is taking a waiting list. <u>Berry</u> -is on 24 th May. Fran is taking suggestions for next year as follow: 3-day-2-night trip to <u>Canberra</u> 9-16 th March \$800. <u>Silo Tour</u> also goes in March. Oncourse approx. \$3500. August- trip to the <u>tip of Australia</u> , landing in Cairns then by Coach with many side tours and a boat trip to Thursday Island. Cost is \$7,500. October- <u>Tasmania</u> -14 day 13 nights \$6300.
Day Tours	Elizabeth Lessells-22 nd August- <u>Australian National Maritime Museum</u> -\$18 entry; seeing sailing ships, warships, etc. 1 st September – <u>A tour of Rookwood with Judith Dunne</u> , light lunch-see Elizabeth please.
Caravans/Cabins	Sue Donnelly- <u>Gerroa trip</u> in November with 31 attending. <u>Movie Group</u> -every 2 nd Tuesday of the Month, followed by lunch. Sue is looking for anyone interested in travelling abroad.
Special events	John Michell- <u>Crazy Whist</u> on Wednesday September 13 th - \$10 in the Redgum room. <u>The Christmas Party</u> will be on Tuesday 28 th November at Allegro. It contains a drink on arrival, 3 bottles of wine on each table, 3 appetisers, a 2-course meal, The price is \$65.00, which has been heavily subsidised by the club. 70 people are required to attend.

	On Thursday 20 th <u>July Christmas in July</u> will be held at the Fiddler.
Activity groups	Chris Savage- The <u>walkers</u> will meet at Circular Quay at 9.55am on 21 st to catch for a walk from Manly to Shelley Beach, returning to walk to Fairlight. Chris also gave a reminder of <u>Tai Chi</u> commencing on 31 st July.

ADJOURN FOR MORNING TEA AND RECONVENE AT 11:15 a.m.

GUEST SPEAKER –

Felicity Gee - a resident of Australia who works in Age Care industry. Felicity has just completed a holiday in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Felicity was born in Zimbabwe, grew up in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia). Felicity brought photos, posters and artifacts to display. Zimbabwe is a small landlocked country with a population of 14 million people. In 1980 Zimbabwe gained independence and Robert Mugabe became the leader. There were many imbalances. In approximately 2008, major inflation took place and caused many people to go without. Queuing for all items became the norm. The people are patient and passive. Children play happily with very simple things, whereas in Australia, there are fewer children playing and more involved with screens.

Felicity entertained us with many interesting facets and comparisons with life in Zimbabwe, but is now happily living in Australia.

Barry presented Felicity with a card in appreciation for her talk.

CLOSING COMMENTS

- Peter thanked everyone for attending and commended the Newsletter and lunch at WPH Sports Club.
- The meeting closed at 12pm.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS ON TUESDAY 15 AUGUST 2023

Peter Wolnizer

President

Bev Rooney

Secretary