



# PROBUS NEWSLETTER

## August 2020

Website: [www.mossvaleprobus.org.au](http://www.mossvaleprobus.org.au)

**PRESIDENT**  
Malcolm Stephens CB

**SECRETARY**  
Jim McGrath

*This content is private and confidential and for the use of Probus Club of Moss Vale members only.*

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

The Chinese have a saying – “May you live in interesting times”. I am still not sure if this is meant to be a blessing or a curse. The last months have certainly been interesting and a good deal more.

The March General Meeting seems a long time ago and here we are almost in August and I still await the chance to chair my first meeting.

However, the Committee has continued to meet each month but on a virtual basis, talking and watching each other on computer screens rather than in the Board Room in the Bowral Golf Club.

Our concentration has been focussed on when we can begin to hold General Meetings and Coffee Club gatherings again and our central consideration and concern has been the safety and wellbeing of our Members. The inescapable fact is that we are all at the age where we fall into the highest risk category in terms of the consequences of catching the virus. And many of us have medical issues which involve even higher risks and more serious consequences.

But there are also the new rules and requirements of the Mittagong RSL (eg no standing and probably no coffee and minimum space implications) coupled with the feasibility of having a meeting while, at the same time, complying with social distancing criteria. We also have to be certain that we fully comply with the terms and requirements of the Probus South Pacific insurance which covers our meetings and activities.

A Sub Committee has been formed to monitor and review all these issues on an ongoing basis.

To date, we have judged that Meetings present too high a risk and social distancing would make them unviable in terms of fellowship, let alone fun.

However, we have tried to keep in touch both through regular telephone calls to you from Committee Members and also through Bruce Pearson's excellent work on the Newsletter. I would suggest you also have a browse through the PSPL website at [www.probusouthpacific.org.au](http://www.probusouthpacific.org.au)

We are grateful to those Members who have provided material and photos for the Newsletter and I want strongly to encourage you to send pieces to Bruce. They do not have to be long articles. For example, a short piece, a brief memory jogger or joke or a photo or recommendation for a book or TV programme would be fine.

We have also started to have small and very informal groups for coffee at the Bradman Café and these have been very enjoyable and worthwhile. I want to encourage you to consider contacting a few fellow members from the new membership booklet and booking a table at Bradman.

With the best will in the world, I honestly cannot yet tell you with confidence when General Meetings and the Coffee Club will resume. As I have said, your health and safety must and will be our central concern. The current uncertainties both nationally and now locally combined with the risk of spread of infections from Victoria make it impossible to take a long or even medium-term view.

The Sub Committee has recommended that we should not have a Meeting in August and that we review possibilities for September closer to the time.

We will stay in regular touch and in the meantime, please stay safe, fit and infection free.

Malcolm Stephens  
President

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

It's August with a new batch of birthdays to celebrate and we all wish these club members a very happy birthday and good health in the year to come.

Randolph Barnes	Rob Chapman
Peter Compton	Davis Deans
Peter Eustace	Roger Hodgson
Jim McGrath	John McKenzie
Geoff McNamarra	Graeme Stapelfeldt

The lucky birthday boy this month is Geoff McNamarra. We will present you with a bottle of wine to enjoy when we meet again.

We also offer our congratulations to Randolph Barnes who reaches the eighty milestone in the birthday list. Well done, Randolph!

### MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET UPDATE

A couple of errors made their way into the booklet so would you please make these couple of adjustments.

John Browne's phone should be 0421 543 082 and his email is [jfsbrowne@bigpond.com](mailto:jfsbrowne@bigpond.com).

Also, Michael Gray's phone is 48 77 2855

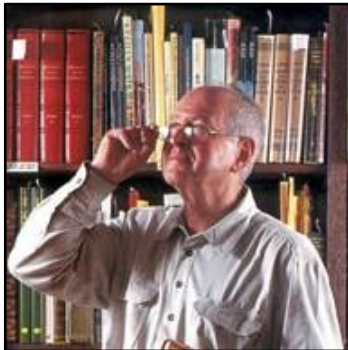
### THE FRANK CONROY CONVERSATIONS

This month Frank conducts a fascinating interview with Leo Berkelouw of the well-known local bookseller and restaurant owner of Berrima. Leo's business had its roots in Rotterdam where

Solomon Berkelouw traded in vellum-bound theology books in 1812. He often traded around the docks and unfortunately one winter's day slipped from a boarding plank and drowned in the icy waters of the Rhine. The business was carried on and expanded by members of his family and several stores opened throughout Rotterdam. Unfortunately, World War II interrupted trade and not only was the business destroyed by bombing but several members of the family were also casualties.

After the war the business was re-established but the decision to move to Australia was made and a thriving bookstore was re-established initially in Sydney and later in other locations.

Turn on your speakers and [CLICK HERE](#) to listen to this captivating story from the man himself.



### **BEECHWORTH CANCELLED**

As you would expect in this current situation, our Beechworth trip has been cancelled. Whilst this is disappointing let's all look forward to the possibilities of next year!

### **STAYING CONNECTED**

Many of you enjoy the bi-monthly magazine handed out at meetings called "Active Retirees". This publication is also available online and can be accessed [CLICK HERE](#). Use the arrow at the right to turn the pages and the small square at the bottom left to make the page full size.

#### **Corona Blues II.**

Well, we've nudged and bumped our elbows  
Kept ourselves a yard apart  
Washed our hands until they're bleeding  
Sanitised like we were smart

Stood with care on little arrows  
Eyed our neighbours with alarm  
And whenever distance narrows  
Leapt from any sign of harm

And we never kiss the children  
Even feel a little smug  
When we visit with the family  
We refrain from many a hug

We no longer go to meetings  
Sit at home and sigh with gloom  
When we send each other greetings  
Mostly do it over Zoom

Some of us are so darn careful  
We resort to wear a mask  
While it might restrict the Virus  
Makes our breathing quite a task

And while sneezing in our elbows  
Makes our sleeves all sopping wet  
If we do it with our masks on

This can lead to much regret

So, I hope these little verses  
Might just bring my friends a grin  
And I pray that life's reverses  
Never let despair set in

May the Good Lord bless and keep you  
"May this Virus quickly end"  
From the Poet of the Parish  
This the message that I send

Arthur E Delbridge AM  
July 2020

### **IT HAPPENED IN K-MART**

Two guys, one old, one young, were pushing their carts around K-Mart when they collided.

The old guy says to the young guy, "Sorry about that. I'm looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going."

The young guy says, "That's OK, it's a coincidence. I'm looking for my wife, too ... I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate."

The old guy says, "Well, maybe I can help you find her... what does she look like?"

The young guy says, "Well, she is 27 years old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, is buxom ... wearing no bra, has long legs and is wearing short shorts. What does your wife look like?"

To which the old guy says, "Doesn't matter, let's look for yours."

*Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.*

### **The Tale of Rodney and the Donkey.**

A city boy, Rodney, moved to the country and bought a donkey from an old farmer for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.

The next day the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry son, but I have some bad news, the donkey died".

Rodney replied, "Well then, just give me my money back."

The farmer said, "Can't do that. I went and spent it already".

Rodney said, 'At least give me the donkey'

The farmer asked, "What ya gonna do with him"

Rodney, "I'm going to raffle him off"

Farmer, "You can't raffle a dead donkey"

Rodney, "Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead"

A month later the farmer met up with Rodney and asked, "what happened with that dead donkey?"

Rodney, "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars each and made a profit of \$998."

Farmer, "Didn't anyone complain?"

Rodney, "Just the guy who won. So, I gave him his two dollars back."

*The secret service isn't allowed to yell "Get down!" anymore when the president is about to be attacked. Now they yell "Donald, duck!"*