

Notes from Citywest Probus Group Zoom Meeting 26/5/2020

Meeting Topic: How has your Club survived the lockdown

The Meeting was held by Zoom because of the then active Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. It replaced the quarterly meeting scheduled for today at Club Burwood RSL.

- Participants / Attendees were welcomed
- Special Guests from PSPL were introduced:
 1. Dick White – Probus District Chairman (covering an area Sydney to Kiama and west to Picton).
 2. Abigail Walker – Membership Development Officer (taking up the role from Julia Oliver).
- Apologies were received from Iris Loudon (*Ashfield*); Rosemary Newman (*Balmain East*); Kath Beresford & Jan Sayers (*Cabarita Breakfast Point*); Jenny Haynes (*Croydon Park*); Janelle Watson (*Homebush*).

The following are notes that I managed to acquire from reviewing the video. Where possible, I've attempted to separate comments raised by each Club. Some items and comments will however have been missed or duplicated in other comments. Still, the main ideas from the meeting should be contained in the list below.

- Kay Wood & Kay Woodcock (*Abbotsford Chiswick*) reported that their Club has retained or added Walking Groups, Golf Club, Sunday afternoon quizzes, Friday drinks via Zoom, Committee Meetings via Zoom.
- *Ashfield* is continuing to keep up communication with its members by distributing Newsletters and meeting in small picnic groups in a local park. Cinema Club (after having watched a free-to-air movie), and Discussion Group are expected to recommence soon.
- Both Sandra Hussey (*Auburn*) and Margaret Dunn (*Balmain*) were with us, but unable to contribute because of audio/visual problems. Thanks, ladies, for joining us.
- Colin Peterson (*Cabarita Breakfast Point*) and Jim Dumont (*Drummoyne*) are both from large Clubs. Colin advised that during this time of social isolation they have been able to maintain a number of home or outdoor activities (viz. Newsletters, Zoom groups, Photography, Wine appreciation), he also gave a warm welcome to members of other Clubs who may be interested in participating in some of their interest groups. Jim advised that even though they are keeping in touch, they have not yet restarted any formal activities.
- Two relatively young (new) Clubs were each represented by Archie Fraser (*Leichardt*) and Heather Smallbone & Laurent Neuenschwander (*Marrickville*). Newsletters have continued, Book Clubs, WhatsApp Groups, Coffee and Phone contacting have all served the Clubs well. Laurent and Heather would like to introduce “fetonk” (or something sounding like that – Laurent can correct) and golf croquet respectively into Marrickville and invite anyone else interested to contact them at info@laurentdesign.com.au or heather.smallbone@gmail.com
- Our newest Club, *Russell Lea*, had their Inaugural Meeting in Feb 2020. Fifteen joined that day, but they have not met since because of the virus. Megan Nelson (President) advised that they are keen to get going once restrictions are eased.
- Sandra Da Silva informed us that some from the former Burwood Ladies club and Legacy had now joined her *Strathfield Ladies* club. They now have about 70 members. Their 35th Anniversary celebration has been delayed until virus restrictions are eased.

- Anne Smith from *Wentworth Point* told us a little about her Club. The suburb is very densely populated, so members frequently meet up with one another on occasions not specifically arranged by the Club. However, they have maintained their Bulletins and many of their group activities. Additionally, they've had fun with Trivia via Zoom and Laughing Yoga. They're hoping to have a paper plane throwing contest in Olympic Park to launch the Club back into full swing (once restrictions are lifted).
- One Year Presidential Role: Since elections are due to occur again at the AGMs in March 2021 and Clubs may only be back in full swing for a couple of months, the question of whether we should hold elections or whether the 2020-21 Committee should continue for 2021-22 was asked. Dick White (PSPL) recommended that we hold elections (according to our Constitutions) but the final decision should be up to the individual Clubs.
- Fees: With the 2020-21 Probus Year being shorter and the Capitation Fee concession given by PSPL, Clubs should consider allowing a fee discount in 2020-21 or, where fees have already been paid, 2021-22.
- Abigail requested that, to maintain good reputations in our communities, all Clubs respect the social distancing and Government regulations during the time of the virus restrictions.

The Meeting closed at approximately 11:30 AM.