



Combined Probud Club of Blackburn South Inc.

Reg. No A0029946T

MINUTES of Monthly General Meeting 3rd September 2025

HELD: Whitehorse Horticultural Centre, 82 Jolimont Road. Forrest Hill.

PRESIDENT: Sandra Knight OAM.

Opened the meeting at 10.00 am by welcoming members and visitors whilst reminding everyone to turn their mobile phones to 'silent'.

APOLOGIES: Recorded include: -

- Ken and Gilly George, Alan and Christine Hunter, Mike and Shirley McGorlick, Phil Colbert, Jurgen and Sibylle Ahrens, Eric and Bev Sutherland, Colin and Dot Farr. Vin White, Cushla Appelby, Denis Hawthorn, Mary Rasmussen, Beryl Marston, Ree Dowling, Gillian Horlick, Ian Rose, Dennis Birt.

Present: 44 members, 22 apologies, 5 absent

VISITORS:

President Sandra made special welcome to **Ashley Simmons** on his first visit and acknowledging Ashley had indicated he planned to return.

Sandra invited visitors to join Members to the after-meeting lunch at BLACKBURN HOTEL, 111 WHITEHORSE ROAD. BLACKBURN.

BIRTHDAYS: Sandra wished Members celebrating birthdays in September a Very Happy Birthday and Lorelle kindly handed out Birthday Presents to: -

Liz Henwood 3rd; Colin Farr 4th; Lorelle Borgas 13th;
Hazel Hoellmuller 26th; Mary Burton 28th.

INDUCTION of NEW MEMBER:

Sandra was pleased to induct a new member, Sudershan Gajree.

Prefers to be referred to as: '**Palli**' Gajree.

Sandra requested Palli to come forward, where a Welcome Pack was handed over as Members gave Palli a warm welcome. Palli joined the Club for lunch.

MINUTES of Monthly General Meeting.

Acting Secretary moved the minutes previously circulated for the 6th August General Meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record of the August meeting.

Moved – Lindsay Borgas Seconded: -Sheillah Blanchfield Carried.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- Apology of Nelsa Counsell had been 'omitted' from minutes. Inserted to original.
- No other matters arising.

REPORTS:

- **President:** Sandra Knight OAM
 - Sandra advised the Whitehorse Probus Club was closing down as of December 2025. The current Whitehorse Probus President and two other members have visited our Probus club recently and plan merging with our Combined Blackburn South Probus Club.
 - We expect a number of Whitehorse Members will move across to our Probus club.
 - Mike Bampffield and Lindsay have met with the current Whitehorse Probus President to discuss best way to welcome a merge of Whitehorse Members to our Club. It has been a positive discussion, which is continuing.
 - The Management Committee will be following up to prepare for a smooth and happy transition for those merging into our club.
 - All members need to ensure we make a special effort to include the potential new members from the Whitehorse Probus Club in our activities.
 - Our Management Committee will follow up with Whitehorse Probus Club on proper procedures associated with such a merger of Probus Club Members.
 - Referred to the investigation and trial of the electronic payments/transfers system, TYRO, recommended by Bendigo Bank. (Refer Treasurer Report).

SECRETARY REPORT – Lindsay Borgas (Acting Secretary)

Correspondence.

IN:

- Various proposals have been received from individuals offering Speaking Sessions and services.
 - President Sandra, Ree and Catherine have details.
- Various Probus South Pacific communication.

OUT:

- Response and Acknowledgement to those offering services.
- Response to Membership enquiries.
- Monthly (September) Club Bulletin emailed to all.
 - Lilydale Theatre 'typo'. Free Sherry at 7:30 pm before the show.
 - **Not** starting Drinks at 1:30 pm as stated in the Bulletin.
- A copy of the Survey 'Report' and Photos of Members emailed to all.
 - Photos became 'disarranged' somewhat in transmission.
 - When Gilly returns the photos will be reset and resend to all.
- Those who were absent last month can find a Hard copy of the photos and Survey Report on the Desk.
- Latest PROBIAN newsletter is also available to all on the Desk.

TREASURER – Harish Shah

- Financial Report
 - Bank Balance 2nd September
 - \$6,588.39 TOTAL
 - \$3,063.00 ADVANCES (Trips etc).
 - **\$3,525.39 Net Club Balance.**
 - TYRO Electronic funds transfer is available now.
 - Associated fees described in PowerPoint presentation.
 - 0.7% Added to Debit Card transactions.
 - 1.4% Added to Credit Card transactions.

- On trial until end of financial year.
- Question asked Is TYRO safe with transactions?
 - Bendigo Bank recommends use and TYRO is used by many retailers

Moved: - by Harish our Club trials TYRO electronic facility.

Seconded: Lois Cheevers. **Carried.**

GUEST SPEAKERS – Dot Thompson

- Upcoming speakers.
 - October: Andrew Davenport. Whitehorse City Council Mayor.

BULLETIN - Nelsa Counsell

- All good.
- Lindsay thanked Nelsa for the excellent work she carries out in producing the monthly Club Bulletin.

WELFARE – Catherine Pratt

- Advised there are some Members who are not well. Referred to:
- Mary Rasmussen in hospital due home soon.
- Alan and Christine Hunter recovering from Covid.

OUTINGS – Catherine Pratt

- Films going well
 - Friends 18th September Pinewood Shopping Centre Mount Waverley.
- Lilydale Theatre
 - Need 'Numbers' for those planning to have meal at Gracious Grace restaurant pre: Theatre 26th September.
- Ex Pentridge Prison visit 23rd October.
 - Self-drive
 - Need more names to boost numbers visiting Pentridge.
- Planned Healey factory visit with Mont Albert Probus Club in November is cancelled due to Healey Factory changes. Will investigate a visit at a later date.

ACTIVITIES-

- **Tours - Sandra Knight**
 - Reminded all members attending outings and tours to wear Name Tags with contact details etc. on the back of the Name Tag. Important for medical and Insurance purposes.
 - 25th September planned **Coach Trip** to Parliament House and Old Treasury Building is short on numbers for the coach cost to be affordable.
 - Option to travel in by Tram is being considered if numbers don't increase.
 - Sandra to liaise with Ree to decide final plan.
 - 12th October Bahram trip booked. Sandra arranging transport options.
 - 13-15th November Self-Drive Castlemaine Trip booked. Payments due.
 - Other planned Tours include:
 - 13th to 17th April 2026.
 - Bright Chalet via Coach.
 - To be decided in 2026.
 - King Island and Flinders Island trip.

- **Roll Back the Clock** - Catherine Pratt.
 - A fun time and good exercise.
 - **Each Friday**
 - 11.30 am to 12.30 pm.
 - Vermont South Bowling Club.
 - Catherine invited Members to attend and meet others.
 - **Guest Services** - Kath Thompson.
 - Morning Tea held outside.
 - **Book Club** - On hold until Gilly returns.
 - **Discussion Group** – Mike Bampfield
 - Good attendance of around 17 members.
 - Mike described 'typical' topics the group tackles.
 - Reminded Members more are welcome to enjoy the fun and social activity over a coffee/tea and biscuits/cakes.
 - Meet every 3rd Tuesday of the Month at Vermont South Bowls Club.
 - **Book Exchange and DVD's available** – Each Month these items are on the table to be used.
 - **Web Master Report** - Doug Westcott
 - All good.
 - Some positive reports from potential members who state our Web Site is excellent and very informative. Thanks to Doug.
 - **After Meeting Lunch** – Blackburn Hotel. 111 Whitehorse Road BLACKBURN.
 - 29 Show of hands.
 - **Other General business:**
 - No general business – from the floor.
 - **President Sandra closes meeting:** Time: 10.40 am.
- MORNING TEA:** 10.40 am – 11.05.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dot Thomson introduced Guest Speaker: - Ernie Brigham.

- Member and Web Master of East Malvern Probus Club.
- Ernie provided a PowerPoint presentation on how East Malvern Probus Club developed and grew.
- Key factors which Ernie claimed contribute to their success include: -
 - Club membership has always been Male and Female.
 - It started with around 32 members and has grown to 95 members.
 - Wary of Probus Head Office to grow Clubs and Members.
 - Success stems around.
 - 'Nurturing'.
 - Ensuring Members are involved and motivated.
 - Strong 'social' activity.
 - Key is Friendship.
 - Not a focus on Club 'Procedures'.
 - Short Meetings.
 - History indicates Clubs may be easy to start up - Difficult to maintain.

- Steps to understand:
 - Not the Responsibility of the Management Committee to seek new members.
 - Web sites are good - but who uses them and how they are used is key to success. Websites are meant for prospective members - not club members.
 - Use 'New' technology where possible.
 - Current members are Google savvy!
 - Aim for those born 1961 to 1980.
 - Set Plan for future. Eg; 5 and 10 years.
 - Use 'own' club surveys to plan ahead.
 - Promote what Probus Club is doing and offering.
 - Getting members to take on leadership roles is difficult especially 'after' completing eg, Chairman and other roles.
 - Spread the load.
 - Commended our Probus Club for offering to assist declining Probus Clubs. Ie: Whitehorse Probus closing.
 - Use Bendigo 'Community' Bank to benefit from annual Bendigo Bank Grants. (We may need to meet with and discuss with our Bendigo Bank...access to Grants etc).

Dot thanked Ernie for his presentation and presented him with a small gift.

Sandra thanked everyone again and wished FATHERS a very Happy Father's Day.

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President October 2025