



Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow Members, Partners and Guests

An iconic site within New York City is the Metropolitan Opera House. A story is told of a man fortunate to be given a behind the scene visit to The Met. The house was in darkness. The guide struggled to find the bank of light switches. Fortunately the guest struck a match offering sufficient light to find the switches. From this small light the magnificent performing arts centre was transformed. Inspired by this story, New Yorker, James Keller started The Christophers or Light bearers, their motto, 'It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.'

In our world's current hour of darkness we seek to light one candle rather than curse the darkness. Could we have ever envisaged current events when we were preparing for our fortieth anniversary? A proposal was to engage sociologist, Hugh McKay as Guest Speaker to reflect on the previous forty years and give his predictions of the ten years ahead. How far he would have been off the mark with the latter.

Some of the candles burning in our midst are that our club executive still meets via Zoom conferencing and is optimistically planning potential activities. Parents are spending time with children discovering old family practices like board and card games and even viewing TV together. Nature is taking a reviving break as traffic and industry diminishes pollution. It has given us fresh clean air and a renewed interest in nature. Have you noticed how many emails have nature as their theme?

An earlier initiative of the Executive was to phone each of our members to determine how they were. It is gratifying that all had family support and were grateful for the club contact.

At our Zoom Executive meeting of 5 May we will review current health protocols and plan accordingly. Possible options are our traditional Mid-Winter Feast as well as a trip away to Orange in spring. We thank David Bruce-Steer for his offer of tech support for computers and smart phones.

I would encourage members to renew their membership via the online option and thanks to those who have already done this.

In the meantime we hope you maintain good health and optimism. As people who have lived through many challenging periods may your wisdom and life experience be candles in our darkness.

Kevin Fitzpatrick President

May Meeting

The May meeting and regular activities currently are cancelled. However it may be possible to resume some activities in May and/or June in view of the excellent community response to the lockdown. We will be guided here by official Government advice.

June Meeting by Zoom

The June Meeting will be held over the Internet at 11.00am on June 9th using Zoom. This will be an attenuated meeting without a guest speaker. Details including login procedures will be advised closer to the time.

Annual Subscription Due

Your annual subscription of \$50 is now due. Please don't leave it until the deadline in June. You can pay preferably by online bank transfer: include your name for reference.
BSB 082 057 a/c no: 28869 5672;
Probus Club of Neutral Bay.

Australian Virus Research

The CSIRO BLOG has interesting articles about Aussie virus research plus suggestions for "isolation" reading
<https://blog.csiro.au/>

Day 7 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture."

Not a Beauty Contest (obviously!) but the April Committee Meeting by Zoom



COMMITTEE

President
Kevin Fitzpatrick
Vice President
Roger Freney
Imm. Past Pres
Peter Davenport
Secretary
John Metcalf
Treasurer
Barry Friere
Committee
Ian Ashbrook
David Bruce-Steer
Ross Bruwel
Richard Hannaford
Ted Kraegen
Yiu Lam Kwan
Bob Pearce
James Ritchie
Barry Stone
Peter Turner

OTHER ROLES

2Fifty Club
John Pike
Bowls & Welfare
Peter Cornish
Cashier
Philip Brook
John Hirst
Cycling
Allan Blake
Stewart Horwood
Golf
Murray Mair
Hon Auditor
David Lloyd
Hospitality
Richard Hannaford
Jim's Jaunts
Jim Holloway
Meetings
Martin Grover
Membership
Peter Turner
Minute Secretary
Ian Ashbrook
Movies
David Bruce-Steer
Music, Art
John Brooks
Gerald Christmas
Newsletter
Ted Kraegen
Yiu Lam Kwan
Postmen
John Metcalf
Bob Pearce
Sailing
Ross Bruwel
Speakers
Barry Stone
Tennis
Peter Turner
Tours, Outings
Bob Pearce
James Ritchie
Website
David Bruce-Steer

- **Virtual Museum Tours** - There are really excellent online tours of many museums - Sydney has a world class museum <https://australianmuseum.net.au> – also investigate Berlin's Pergamon, Amsterdam's Van Gogh, New York's Guggenheim and London's British Museum
 - <https://www.smb.museum/en/museums-institutions/pergamonmuseum/home.html>
 - <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en>
 - <https://www.guggenheim.org>
 - <https://www.britishmuseum.org>
- **Go to the Opera** - A Comprehensive List of Opera Companies Offering Free Streaming Services <https://operawire.com/a-comprehensive-list-of-all-opera-companies-offering-free-streaming-services-right-now/>
- **Go to the Zoo** – Taronga has an excellent site with live cam and other content
 - <https://taronga.org.au/taronga-tv> (Show the grandkids!)

"REAL" OUTINGS

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel all Outings until end of May at the earliest.

Winter Feast

While our booking for July 28th at Watergrill, Sydney Rowing Club, Abbotsford is still nominally booked, it appears unlikely we will be able to hold it in July. Hence, we have booked the alternative date of Tuesday, August 25th – please keep this date free. We will send out a flyer once we have confirmed costs.

Orange in the Spring

We still have a few places available for our proposed 4 day visit to Orange in September.

- Celebrate your release from the virus lockdown.
- Tuesday 22 September to Friday 25 September
- Good Fellowship, Food and Wine. See the flyer for details
- Contact Bob [bobpearce37@gmail.com] or James [jamesfr@ozemail.com.au] **NOW**



Except where mentioned below our regular activities are currently cancelled. However Group organisers below will monitor activities and will communicate when and if possibilities arise.

CULTURE, ART & MUSIC

John Brooks 9908 282

CYCLING

Our usual Monday rides have been suspended. However, we are meeting each Mon and Thurs at 9.30am at Milsons Point Station for a 23km ride around the Opera House then wharves to near Anzac Bridge. Contact Stewart on 9439 9609

GOLF

Murray 0419 488 609

MOVIE ENJOYMENT

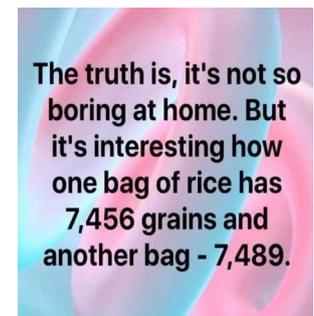
David Bruce-Steer 9419 7017

ROLL-UP LAWN BOWLS

Peter Cornish 0421 012 538

SAILING Ross Bruwel 0421 817 106

TENNIS Peter Turner 0428 611 456
Collaborating with Council on a return to social doubles tennis in the foreseeable future. Will keep you posted.



WE ARE NOT ALONE (VIDEOCONFERENCING)

With everyone stuck at home the use of video links to see and interact with friends and family is a marvellous innovation. We encourage those who have not used them to "have a go". It can make a huge difference during the lockdown. You need to install a program (app) on your computer, tablet or smart phone as appropriate/ but its not all that hard; two popular apps are Zoom (for all devices) and WhatsApp (for phones).

Zoom; (See <https://zoom.us>) Free version is limited to 40 minutes. Anyone can register which will allow hosting a session to start immediately or schedule one for the future. There can be many participants (such as our Committee conference) or even just one or two other participants, and its easy to email participants with a link that they can "click on" to join your session.

WhatsApp; Designed for smart phones as a messaging service however up to 8 people can also now use its video capability (Download the app from Apple App Store or Google Play Store) and allow it access to your contacts.

Other programs include **Skype** (see skype.com) **Whereby** (see whereby.com), **Facetime** (for Apple devices only)

Where to Start? We suggest googling for an appropriate simple tutorial for the program you choose (eg search for Zoom for Seniors). In addition our IT guru David Bruce-Steer (Zoom, dobs@ozemail.com.au) or Ted Kraegen (WhatsApp, ekraegen@me.com) are happy to help with advice.



More on the Lighter Side

