



The Probus Club of Moss Vale Inc
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MOSS VALE PROBUS.
Note to all Members from the President.
Half-Day Workshops.

Introduction.

As I mentioned at the last General Meeting, I have suggested that we might consider introducing a new activity, trying to build on our experience with some of the Coffee Club Meetings. The format would be a half-day Workshop where we would concentrate on one particular topic and try to consider and discuss it in depth. If it worked, we might try to hold two or three Workshops each year.

Outline.

We would not seek to involve outside speakers or “experts” but would concentrate on drawing on the interests and expertise of our Members.

We would have two main components.

1. First, a general presentation on the background – to try to set the topic in context – and to give some of the basic facts. This would be given by a Member who had an interest and some expertise in the area.
2. Second, more detailed discussion on some individual aspects of the topic. A list of the issues would be circulated in advance and we would look for a Member to introduce each topic with a short presentation concentrating on key facts.

The aim will be maximum participation by all Members attending the Workshop via questions and discussion.

First Workshop.

Subject to there being sufficient Member interest, I suggested at the last General Meeting that our first topic would be “Climate Change – What are the Facts?”. I have been discussing an outline with Keith Huxham and Stan Donnelly. We suggest that the Workshop have the following outline.

Session 1.

Title: “TRUTH IS REAL AND SCIENCE IS THE BEST WAY OF FINDING IT” – (R Dawkins)

- What is science?
- What is climate?

In applying a scientific approach to the question of climate, consideration should be given to ALL the phenomena which influence it. Note that models, while they may lead to a scientific outcome, are not in themselves science.

PHENOMENA IMPACTING CLIMATE

1. Extra-terrestrial
 - a. The sun
 - b. Near earth supernovas
 - c. Cosmic radiation
 - d. Other planets (in our solar system)

2. Terrestrial

The earth’s physical and chemical properties

- Dimensions

- Shape
- Axis
- Rotation
- Magnetic field
- Composition
 - Core
 - Mantle
 - Lithosphere
 - Atmosphere
 - Biosphere

NB The two most significant are the crust, oceans and the atmosphere (most time will be devoted to these)

Conclusion: This is a broad and vague outline of what will be covered. Details will be provided in the talk.

COFFEE BREAK

Session 2.

Topics for detailed consideration and discussion.

1. Temperature Changes
2. Water – sea levels, rainfall patterns, Ice caps
3. Carbon Dioxide, including man made and “natural”.
4. Energy – including its “links” with climate, price changes and the key reasons for these changes.

We would aim to concentrate on the key facts but also try to include some of the relevant “history” of climate change – how new or unprecedented is it and whether, for example, any rise in temperatures is a wholly bad thing and, finally, what we can do and what “policies” make practical and economic sense (taking account of, for example, the inexorable rise in world population).

We hope we have found two members to handle Topics 2 and 3

What Next?

We would hope to hold the Workshop in July

Location and final details including any cost will depend, crucially, on how many Members would like to attend.

To proceed, we need two things:

First, a couple of volunteers with interest and some expertise in Topics 1 and 4 to volunteer to help us to finalise arrangements and to make a short presentation when introducing the discussion of the Topic and the relevant main facts and figures.

**Could any member willing to help get in touch with me
by phone (0475 436 470) or email (malcolmstephens@hotmail.com)**

Second, a pretty firm indication from Members who would like to attend such a Workshop

**I will ask for this at the June General Meeting
but any emails before then would be welcome.**

I much hope that you will support this concept and help to make it happen.

Malcolm Stephens
May, 2021.