

NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Our Website: [CLICK HERE](#)

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Probus Bank Details: CBA BSB 063-144

Account No 10121288



Issue No. 316

November 2016

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday November 15 The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Ray King - Former CEO, Mildara Wines

Topic: Myths and Magic of the Australian Wine Industry

10-Minute Talk: Philip Stewart Heavens Above

“Ray King, like the car that he drives, is the Porsche 928 of the Australian wine industry. The Silver Fox has succeeded where so many have failed.” Simon Jemison, *The Financial Review*

“King has earned the rare but appropriate reward of being able to retire in success not failure, increasingly rare in the business community.” Terry McCrann, *The Australian*

The Castlemaine Experience



(Photos: Ian Maskiell)

Above: All aboard! The many faces of Beaumaris Probus members enjoying the sights (and food) of Castlemaine and environs; John Pound reflects on the majesty of the locomotives of yesteryear

Above left: Public Inn's smoked ham hock terrine, pickled walnut, pearl onion, crisp pork skin, apple and fennel

Far right: Rockling and polenta cake, lemon, asparagus and béarnaise sauce

MORE PICTURES p2 & 4

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

*** Office Bearers 2016**

* President: Geoff Bransbury	9589 1507	* Vice-President: Ken Beadle	9589 6120
* Past President: Kevin McDonnell	9598 8209	* Secretary: Alan Stevens	9597 0235
* Treasurer: Geoff Carlson	9589 4884	Auditor: Don Lobb	9598 5546
* Functions: John Beaty	9583 9991	* Assistant Functions: John Green	9580 6820
* Meetings: Geoff Wade	9588 2593	Assistant Meetings: Keith Ross	9589 3580
* Assistant Secretary: John Smyth	9885 3084	Assistant Meetings: Graeme Keys	9585 7297
Almoner: Noel Ineson	9589 5263	Membership: Peter Flude	9585 5559
President's Table: John Green	9580 6820	Sommelier: Bill Green	9596 1548
Speakers' Recorder: John Bushby	9598 7113	Audio Visual: Paul Crompton	9583 1310
Projectionist: Philip Stewart	9589 3309	* Newsletter: Peter McGregor	9533 4760
Archive: John Howe	9598 2429	Webmaster: Geoff Bransbury	9589 1507
Grapevine: Geoff Wade	9588 2593	Photographer: Ian Maskiell	9592 3380
* Committee Members			

*** Interest Groups**

Bike Riding: Ken Beadle/Duncan Gibson		Bowls: Ted Montfort	9589 5949
Discussion: Barry Amond	9589 1143	Digital Technology: Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Investment: Peter Harford	9592 6797	Music/Opera: Barry Amond	9589 1143
PRISMS: Bill Davis	9592 5982	Tastes: Peter McGregor	9533 4760
Theatre: John Green	9580 6820	Wine Appreciation: Roger Wilson	0418395946
Bridge: Alan Farmer	9598 2791	Golf: John Pound	9521 8252

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Geoff Bransbury

It's hard to believe this next meeting is our last for 2016. Where has the year gone?

As I review the year, it is very pleasing to see that we have gained twelve excellent new members bringing our total number to 120. Two of our newest Probud members have responded to my call for action: John Beaty will be joining the Functions team and Peter Flude will take on our new role as Membership Officer. Their support next year is much appreciated.

Our trip to [Castlemaine](#) proved a wonderful success. We had 41 members, wives and friends join us. First we took a trip down memory lane on the historic Goldfields Steam Railway to Maldon; then we enjoyed a very impressive lunch in Castlemaine at the Public Inn, a One-Hat restaurant. Sincere thanks to Peter McGregor for conceiving this trip and to Ken Beadle and John Green for their assistance in organisation and management on the day. We intend doing something similar next year. If you can suggest somewhere different and special, please tell one of us.

This year's President's Lunch is on Friday December 9 at the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron, a superb venue. If you haven't already registered, please do so now and come and join us. Ken Beadle tells me we already have over 110 booked but there is still room for another 30 or so! It's always a good event, our #1 Club Function. I hope to see you there.



Left to right: the Castlemaine Team, President Geoff; and Rod Kelly
Photos by Alan Stevens/John Smyth

NOTICEBOARD



Investment Group: 8.45 am

Jason Cook & Ed Wilmoth
Senior Financial Planners, Equisuper

Joining Fee and Subscriptions 2017

As per our Constitution, the joining fee and annual subscriptions for next year are to be determined by members at the November General Meeting. Accordingly, my recommendation, supported by your Committee, is detailed on the website for your attention. [CLICK HERE](#).

Geoff Carlson

Opera Group

Barry Amond

Our final evening for the year will be Wednesday November 23 at 7 pm. Donizetti's *Elixir of Love* is one of the most enjoyable operas, ideal for those new to opera, starring Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu who were newly-married when the opera was performed in 1996.

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

At our meetings on Tuesday November 8 at 2 pm and Friday November 11 at 9.30 am, we will share views on doing voluntary work in our community. Then we will discuss some of the topical issues in the news. Last month, we debated the pros and cons of downsizing as well as details of retirement homes and villages. Of particular interest was the recent decision by Aveo to make available a range of care services at their independent living homes.

Wine Appreciation

There were 11 members at our first white-wines-only tasting at Kevin McDonnell's home. Bottles sampled included Italian prosecco followed by pinot gris (and grigio), two chardonnays, vintage semillon, a 2004 riesling, a WA verdelho, and finishing with an orange muscat and an extraordinary 20-year-old sauvignon blanc brought by Alan Farmer - a talking point along with many other topics in a very pleasant two and a half hours. Our final get together for 2016 will be lunch at *The Lobster Cave*, Beaumaris, on Tuesday December 13 at noon. Our first wine tasting for 2017 is at convenor Roger Wilson's home, Tuesday February 28.

PRISMS

Tuesday, December 6 at the Alan Nash residence.



Victorian Probus Bowls Association

The Metropolitan Probus Annual Bowls Day will be held on Wednesday March 15. See our website. [CLICK HERE](#) for full information.



Bike Group

We are planning for a mix of shorter (easier) and longer (harder) rides to encourage others to join with us at the level they choose. The November ride - starting at the Black Rock car park at 9 am - will be a gentle ride along the Beach Road bike path to St Kilda marina followed by a coffee break and returning by early afternoon. As summer kicks in, riders are advised to use sun protection and bring a drink. For further information, please contact Duncan or Ken. Don't forget our regular ride date - last Friday in the month - November 25.

Bridge Group



Interim supervisor Bruce Tomkins congratulates the winner of our inaugural game of duplicate bridge, Tony Bowles

The Probus Bridge Group has completed its first year of operation, growing from 8 to 18 card sharps, Tuesday mornings from 9.30 am until noon. Our success has been due to the enthusiasm of the group and the great assistance of Gill Tomkins. To mark our first year, a birthday luncheon is being held at Victoria Golf Club on Tuesday November 8 after the weekly game. We are looking forward to our second year.

Alan Farmer

Brighton Theatre Group

Tony Bowles

We have just received the program for next year. The following dates have been booked:
February 22 May 24 August 23 November 22
Cost: \$76 pp for four shows or \$152 per couple. As the Club must pay in full, would those who have booked please let Treasurer Geoff have your money ASAP. Tickets and program will be handed out at the January Meeting.
NOTE: Next show on Wednesday November 16

REMEMBER TO CLICK WHENEVER YOU SEE [THIS COLOUR](#)

Birthday Boys – November & December

Ian Gallagher 6/11	Ken Rattray 8/11
Peter Flude 10/11	Nick Caris 14/11
Barry Podger 21/11	Allan Small 24/11
John Laing 26/11	Geoff Taffs 2/12
Philip Stewart 5/12 *	Stan Bernhard 6/12
Ken Reed 15/12	Geoff Carlson 18/12
Warwick Andrews 21/12	Aub Gamble 21/12
John Solomon 22/12	John Brimage 23/12
John O'Connor 27/12	Geoff Bransbury 28/12
Bill Cleland 30/12	John Wallace 31/12

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

December

President's Christmas Lunch

Friday December 9

This year's lunch will be held at the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron clubhouse on the waterfront at Beaumaris Bay (Melways 86F8).

Cost: \$60 pp (includes two-course lunch, coffee and drinks to a generous limit)

Time: 12 noon for 12.30 pm.

Please make a big effort to attend our marquee social event for 2016. REGISTER NOW.

Payment required by December 1.

NOTE: Please advise Ken Beadle of dietary requirements and table seating requests by December 5.

MARQUEE EVENT

January

NEW

Tour and lunch at the Parliament of Victoria



Wednesday January 25

Our first outing for 2017 will be a tour of Parliament House followed by a 2-course Chef's lunch. We will travel independently to Spring Street and meet in the Parliament Vestibule at 11.50 am for a one-hour guided tour exclusive to Club Members commencing at 12 noon. The tour visits Library, Queen's Hall, the Premier's Corridor and the Council and Assembly Chambers before we sit down to lunch in the Strangers' Corridor - dark timbers, contemporary artworks and gold, red and pink decor. Vegetarian and gluten-free lunch options are available. Please advise dietary requirements to Ken Beadle. Cost: \$30 pp for the guided tour and lunch, including tea or coffee. Register now for this event (limited to 25 persons). Payment by January 17.

March

NO SPECIAL SKILLS REQUIRED

Annual Croquet Challenge and Spit Roast
Sandringham Croquet Club



Friday March 3

Thanks to Jennie and Tony Bowles, we have been able to book the Sandringham Croquet Club (opposite the Sandringham Club on the foreshore) for another fun & food evening. Peter McGregor will again be the Chef de BBQ and we look forward to spit roast beef, a feast not to be missed.

Jennie and Tony, together with some other croquet members, will show us how to play - no special skills required. The 3rd annual competition was won by John Smyth last March and the handsome trophy will again be up for grabs. We can accommodate a maximum of 40 players, so register and pay early to ensure your place in next year's first social event. Cost: \$35 pp (includes croquet and all food)

BYO drinks. Registration, payment by February 24.

*Left: The Ettershanks enjoying Castlemaine's Public Inn;
Right: The Wilsons also at table*



Ken Beadle

November 2016

Inside A People's Paradise

John Bushby

As North Korea is a country that evokes mystery and fear in the Western World, members were keen to hear from Professor Ian Howie, a frequent visitor to the rogue state. Ian said that North Korea has never ceased being at war with the South and with Japan. The common view in the West is that it is a paranoid society with a brainwashed populace, a view that appears to be largely accurate. Professor Howie's stark satellite photos showed the country in complete darkness, testimony to its backwardness.



Professor Ian Howie painted a bleak picture of a bizarre society held together by a form of religious fervour and the exercise of totalitarian power

Alan Stevens thanks Ian Howie for his presentation

A god-like adoration of its Great Leader, Kim Jong-un, is the totalitarian power that holds the population together. Strict security, control of the media, lack of human rights, restricted education, food shortages and demonstrations of nationalistic fervour all serve to define this unique, yet bizarre, country. (In what other country would people be asked to cut grass using scissors?) Professor Howie also suggested its nuclear capacity is real and growing, a country only making progress through its close relationship with China and Russia.

The common view in the West is that it is a paranoid society with a brainwashed populace

A keynote speaker of the calibre of Professor Howie will have prompted our members to take an ongoing interest in this unpredictable but fascinating country. [For video [CLICK HERE](#)]

Great Photographs

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to those who take photographs for the newsletter, in particular Ian Maskiell, Alan Stevens and, on the Castlemaine trip, also John Smyth. Having a range of photos makes such a difference to the quality of the newsletter – so many, in fact, that the surplus had to be added to the website. Ed.

Wine Facts

Total Australian wine exports to mainland China during the 2016 financial year rose 50 per cent to \$419 million. China is now Australia's second most valuable export market after the US.

Weekend Australian 9/10/16

Bach and Me



Vice-President Ken beside a bronze sculpture of Bach outside the church in medieval Muhlhausen where he (not Ken) was organist in his 20s, which was his first job outside his birthplace

Ever the adventurers, Ken and Margie Beadle spent recent holidays on a cultural tour of Germany during which they stepped back into the shoes of Johann Sebastian Bach. The intrepid couple pedalled their bicycles in the company of 17 others, covering 200 kilometres over five days across the central part of Germany containing the cities in which Bach was born and lived throughout his life. Cathedrals, churches, converted convents, fairy tale palaces all impressed as did the food and wine. Perfect weather and postcard surroundings made for a memorable European adventure, the pair embracing the famous but somewhat naive Bach quote, "I was obliged to be industrious. Whoever is equally industrious will succeed equally well".

John Bushby



The intrepid couple pedalled their bicycles in the company of 17 others, covering 200 km over five days across the central part of Germany

Fact Check

75% of Australia's 700 000 Aboriginal people live in cities, most of them in jobs
More than 30 000 Aboriginal students have graduated from university
14 000 Aboriginal students are currently enrolled in university

Don Aitkin *Quadrant*, September 2016

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Probus Club of Beaumaris Events Calendar

See Website: <http://www.beaumarisprobus.org.au/calendar/>

Tuesday November 8	9.30 am	Bridge/Lunch	Victoria Golf Club
Tuesday November 8	2 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday November 11	9.30 am	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Wednesday November 9	4.30 pm	Twilight Lawn Bowls	Sandringham Bowling Club
Tuesday November 15	8.45 10 am	Investment Group GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Wednesday November 16	8 pm	Brighton Theatre Group	
Thursday November 17	6.30	Tastes	Thai Rani ★
Tuesday November 22	9.30 am	Bridge	Victoria Golf Club
Wednesday November 23	7pm	Opera Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday November 25		Bike Ride	
Tuesday December 6	9.30 am	Bridge	Victoria Golf Club
Tuesday December 6	2 pm	PRISMS	Alan Nash Residence
Friday December 9	12 for 12.30 pm	President's Christmas Lunch	Motor Yacht Squadron ★
Tuesday December 13	12 noon	Wine Appreciation	Lobster Cave
Tuesday January 17	8.45 10 am	Investment Group GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Wednesday January 25	11.50 am	Tour and lunch at the Parliament of Victoria	
Friday March 3	4-8 pm	Annual Croquet Challenge and Spit Roast	Sandringham Croquet Club



Members at morning tea, October meeting. From left: Rod Murrell, Don Lobb and Paul Crompton, Bruce Tomkins with Dick Kirby, Secretary Alan Stevens and Lloyd Jenkins. At right: members line up for their cuppa

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★ Payment required

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