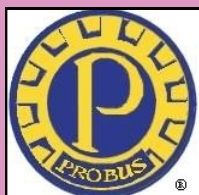


NEWSLETTER



PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

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

Correspondence to: PO Box 57 Black Rock VIC 3193

Editor: Peter McGregor 9533 4760

Probus Bank Details: CBA BSB 063-144

Account No 10121288



Issue No. 317

January 2017

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday January 17 The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Susan Schofield
Topic: Saving the Orangutans of Borneo and Sumatra

10-Minute Talk: Gus Bravo Three Years Underground



Sue is extremely passionate and has impressed many Probus Clubs with her talk about these wonderful animals
“ A society is measured by the way it treats those at its mercy. If we allow our closest living relatives to go extinct during our generation, we well diminish all humanity.”

Leif Cocks President, The Orangutan Project



Twilight Bowls 2016

A wide variety of styles can be seen from several enthusiastic Probus members who braved the cool night to participate in our first night of lawn bowls at Sandringham Bowls Club

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

*** Office Bearers 2017**

* Committee Members

* President: **Geoff Bransbury** 9589 1507
 * Past President: **Kevin McDonnell** 9589 8209
 * Treasurer: **Geoff Carlson** 9589 4884
 * Functions: **John Beaty** 95839991
 * Meetings: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
 * Assistant Secretary: **John Smyth** 9885 3084
 * Newsletter: **Peter McGregor** 9533 4760
 Almoner: **Noel Ineson** 9589 5263
 President's Table: **John Green** 9580 6820
 Speakers' Recorder: **John Bushby** 9598 7113
 Projectionist: **Philip Stewart** 9589 3309

* Vice-President: **Ken Beadle** 9589 6120
 * Secretary: **Alan Stevens** 9597 0235
 Auditor: **Don Lobb** 9598 5546
 Assistant Functions: **John Green** 9580 6820
 Assistant Meetings: **Keith Ross** 9589 3580
 Assistant Meetings: **Graeme Keys** 9585 7297
 Membership: **Peter Flude** 9585 5559
 Grapevine: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
 Sommelier: **Bill Green** 9596 1548
 Audio-visual: **Paul Crompton** 9583 1310
 Archive: **John Howe** 9598 2429

*** Interest Groups**

Bike Riding: **Duncan Gibson/Ken Beadle**
 Discussion: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143
 Investment:
 PRISMS: **Bill Davis** 9592 5982
 Bridge: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791
 Photography: **Ian Maskiell** 9592 3380

Bowls: **Ted Montfort** 9589 5949
 Digital Technology: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
 Music/Opera: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143
 Tastes: **Peter McGregor** 9533 4760
 Golf: **John Pound** 9521 8252
 Wine Appreciation: **Roger Wilson** 0418395946

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Geoff Bransbury

Happy New Year to everyone.

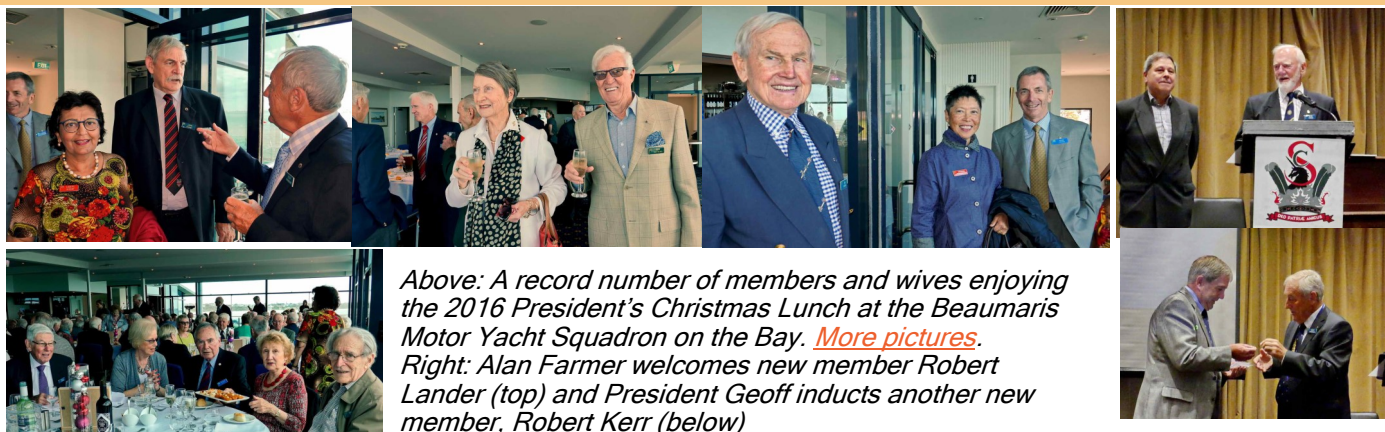
Just to remind you, the password to the Members' Section on the website has changed. If you've forgotten the password, please email me on gbransbury@gmail.com.

I've only a short time left as your President - the time has just evaporated. A year is too short to be able to implement many of the ideas we have. So, in my last two months, I thought I would challenge each of us to adopt just two New Year's resolutions. I was talking with one of our newer members recently and he made an interesting observation about our Club. He said that while he is pleased to be part of the Club, he feels that a new member who doesn't know many members might at first feel uncomfortable since most seem to know one another. I can remember the feeling of isolation myself when I first joined. How can we all help make new members feel welcome and how can we get more out of our membership?

May I suggest two New Year strategies for everyone in 2017:

- 1) Every meeting, make a point of introducing yourself to at least one person you don't know
- 2) Come along to at least three outings or functions in 2017.

Good luck. Let's make these Resolutions That We Keep (unlike my annual resolutions to lose 10 kilos and go to the gym twice a week!)



Above: A record number of members and wives enjoying the 2016 President's Christmas Lunch at the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron on the Bay. [More pictures.](#)
 Right: Alan Farmer welcomes new member Robert Lander (top) and President Geoff inducts another new member, Robert Kerr (below)

NOTICEBOARD

Investment Group: NO MEETING THIS MONTH

Parking Notice

As many of you are aware, ample parking for our meetings is available in the car park on the other side of Beach Road adjacent to the Croquet Club. However, please be careful crossing the road. Remember: you need to display your Bayside parking permit.

Directory Changes

New email addresses:

Geoff Bransbury - gbransbury@gmail.com

Barry Amond - bcdamond@gmail.com

Roy Petch has moved – new address details are:

Mayflower

Apt 285 7 Centre Road

Brighton East 3187

Phone: 9530 5765

These changes have been made to the Directory which is now on the website.

Digital Technology

Geoff Wade

The next meeting will be on Tuesday February 7 at 25 Third Street Black Rock commencing at 2 pm. Items to be discussed include proposed topics for 2017, dates and other items to be advised on the attendance sheet at the January General Meeting.

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

Plenty of topics to discuss in 2017, such as political correctness, social engineering, law enforcement, increasing energy prices, the Trump/Brexit trend, the Middle East and Australia's declining economy, to name a few. The first discussions will be on the usual second Tuesday(14th) and Friday(10th) in February. The NZ cruise means there will be no meetings in March, and in April - because of Easter - the Friday group will be the 7th and the Tuesday group the 11th. Meetings in May and June will be on the usual days.

Barry Amond

Music/Opera Groups

The Music Group's first 2017 evening will be on Wednesday March 29 at 7pm. It will then meet on Wednesday May 31. There will be an opera evening in the second half of the year.

Barry Amond

Live Theatre

John Green

I am hopeful that we will have the 32 tickets for the 2017 season of the Brighton Theatre Company available for collection at our January meeting. The first performance is on Wednesday, February 22. Also, the Mordialloc Theatre Company, located in the Shirley Burke Theatre in Parkdale performs five productions a year. To gauge possible interest, a booking sheet will be located at the functions table.

Remember: Orange means [CLICK HERE](#)

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2017 ARE NOW DUE

Annual subscriptions are due January 1 each year. The subscriptions for 2017 are \$70 pa discounted to \$65 if paid before January 31. Payment by direct transfer to our bank account is encouraged, or you may prefer to send a cheque to me at:

22 First Street, Black Rock 3193.

Pay now and pay only \$65! Thank you to those

who have already paid.

Geoff Carlson, Treasurer

Wine Appreciation

Roger Wilson

In December, the last tasting for 2016 took place at *The Lobster Cave* with members plus three guests, the meal accompanied by a bubbly, three whites and five reds including from Members' own vineyards – President Geoff Bransbury and Rod Kelly with a 2014 pinot noir from their Peninsula vineyard; and John Laing's 2014 Mt Misery Shiraz from Heathcote. Our first wine tasting for 2017 is on Tuesday February 28 at Roger Wilson's where we will sample some of his mature red wines.

Bikie Group



Our first 2017 ride on Friday January 27 starts at the Tyabb Recreation Park car park (*Melways* 148H10) and follows the Westernport bike trail south to reach the coast at Hastings. We follow the coastline past Pelican Point onto a 3 km-long boardwalk through the wetlands to exit near Jack's Beach, along Wooley's Road and The Esplanade to Crib Point, and finally Stony Point (location of the French Island ferry terminal). Same route on return, stopping for coffee in Hastings. Approximate distance: 28 km. NOTE: In the unlikely event that the day is very hot, we have the option of returning to Tyabb by train from Stony Point. Meet at Black Rock beachside carpark at 8.30 am. Please advise me if you will be on the ride (to ensure adequate bike-carrying capacity on the day).

Duncan Gibson

PRISMS – Dates for 2017

Tuesday, April 4 at the Davis residence

Tuesday, August 1 at the Howe residence

Tuesday, November 28 at the Nash residence

Calling All Bridge Players

Alan Farmer

Consensus has it that we should defer our start to the new year until February, as many have January booked for seasonal recreational activities. Planned date for resumption of play is Tuesday, February 7. Hope no-one suffers withdrawal symptoms in the meantime!

Birthday Boys – January

Geoff Marshall 4/1

John Knight 10/1

Barry Donaldson 15/1 Kevin McDonnell 16/1

Jeff Sturrock 16/1

Allan Taylor 16/1

Bill Green 26/1

Jim McGann 26/1

Geoff Mason 29/1

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

January

Tour and Lunch at the Parliament of Victoria Wednesday January 25

Fully booked and a wait list established.
Our first outing for 2017 will be a tour of Parliament House followed by a 2-course Chef's Lunch. Travel independently and meet in the Parliament Vestibule at 11.50 am for a one-hour exclusive guided tour commencing at 12 noon. We visit Queen's Hall, the Library, the Premier's Corridor and the Council and Assembly Chambers before sitting down to lunch in the *Strangers Corridor* restaurant with its gold, red and pink décor, dark timbers and contemporary artworks. Vegetarian and gluten-free lunch options are available. (Please advise Ken Beadle of any dietary requirements.) Cost: \$30 per head for the guided tour and lunch. Limited to 25 persons. Payment is required by January 17.



David Hockney @ the NGV

Visit to the David Hockney Exhibition at the NGV St Kilda Road on Wednesday March 1 at 11 am. Tickets cost \$23.50 (concession) to be purchased in advance for those who wish to join the tour. We will travel in by train and meet in the main entrance to the NGV at 10.50 am. A sign-in sheet will be available at our meetings in January and February.

March



Annual Croquet Competition/Spit Roast Sandringham Croquet Club Friday March 3

Thanks to Jennie and Tony Bowles, we have again been able to book the Sandringham Croquet Club (opposite the Sandringham Club on the foreshore) for a fun evening from 4-8pm on Friday, March 3. We look forward to spit roast beef, a feast not to be missed. Jennie and Tony and others will show us how to play - no special skills required. Last March, John Smyth was our winner and the trophy will again be up for grabs. We can only accommodate a maximum of 40 players – register and pay early to ensure your place in our first major social event. Cost: \$35 per head (includes croquet and all food). BYO drinks.

Registration and payment by February

Hockney's work is to be found in numerous public and private collections worldwide, from Boston and New York to Paris and London. For more information about David Hockney, [CLICK HERE](#). If you have any questions, contact John Beaty (0400988208).



More About China

"...there are many more Christians in China than there are members of the Communist Party.."

The Australian 25/12/16

New Zealand Cruise

Thanks to the generosity of Barry Amond, I have arranged a get-together for all 19 travelling on the New Zealand cruise in March. The evening will commence at 7 pm at Barry's studio at 25 Third Street, Black Rock on Thursday February 9. It will provide an opportunity for all in our party to mix socially and at the same time there will be a short briefing followed by a Q&A segment. Please advise me if you do NOT propose to attend. A finish no later than 8.30 pm is anticipated.

John Green



*Left: Ray King
Right: Jamieson's Run, Winner of the 1989 Jimmy Watson trophy, named after a large defunct sheep station near Mildura*

An Insider's View of the Wine Industry

Ray King's presentation on The Myths and Magic of the Australian Wine Industry certainly lived up to its title. From a student at Hamilton High School in the 50s to one of the movers and shakers in Australia's wine industry, Ray lived his life to the full.

(Incidentally, he is quick to recognise the role of his wife, Dawn, throughout his journey – he says she is the brains whilst he has other talents!)

Ray's sporting achievements were impressive but only added to his reputation as a man who 'got things done'. His unique ability to think outside the square, take initiative and weather the storms of the corporate world defined his business acumen.

Whilst Ray is spoken of as the man who lifted a diminutive Mildara Wines Ltd into an International success story, he also drove numerous takeovers and mergers, some more successful than others. In the 1960s and 1970s, he recognised Wolf Blass' entrepreneurial expertise and unique marketing methods. He recognised innovative packaging and market identification as the drivers of success.

Subsequently, Ray adapted some of these methods and decided that a requisite to selling a product was to 'get inside the minds' of the customer. A great example was Ray's resurrection of the wine cask, a runaway success in attracting a market share which today stands at about 30% of wine consumption in Australia. The transformation of Australia's brewery giant Foster's into a global powerhouse began with Ray's initiative to have it purchase his company, Mildara Blass.

Another example of his innovative thinking was his belief in holding wine, a prestige product, at a higher price than the competition. However, it has not been widely adopted despite being shown as a tool in holding and increasing market share. Interestingly, he sees the decline in Australia's once-vaunted share of the UK market as a direct result of falling prices. The image of superior quality, he says, has been lost as a result of price decline. Ray's solution for the Australian market, both home and abroad, is to increase current prices by 10 -15%. A question remains as to whether our wine producers have the courage to do so.

John Bushby

At our last meeting, Ray King left copies of his book *King's Run* for distribution. Some members missed out – such as Geoff Mason – and would appreciate the opportunity to read the book, if you have finished. Please bring your copy to our next meeting and share it with others.

Heavens Above

John Bushby

Many of our members could rightfully claim to be of high intellect, inquiring minds and possessors of substantial nous and general knowledge. Philip Stewart certainly sought to put all these attributes to the test by taking us on a virtual galactic journey to the unimaginable vastness of the heavens.



Philip advised that there are 200 billion galaxies with an average of 500 billion stars in each

The universe - an interaction of time and space and its contents - includes planets, moons, stars, minor planets, galaxies, the contents of intergalactic space, and all matter and energy. The precise size of the entire universe, Philip told us, along with its evolution and composition is unknown but we should know that the observable universe is about 28 billion parsecs. For comparison purposes, the most distant probe from earth (Voyager 1) was 0.00065 parsecs from Earth as of August 2016 and it had taken 39 years to cover that distance. Today, astronomers have calculated a parsec to be a unit of distance equal to about 30 trillion kilometres. Phew! Philip also advised that there are 200 billion galaxies with an average of 500 billion stars in each. The figures are beyond rational comprehension but we should thank Philip for stretching our minds and beliefs in his short but provocative presentation.



Above: Some of the many happy diners at the final Tastes for 2016 at Thai Rani [Photos: Ian Maskiell]

Saving the World?

"Organic farming on a global scale would leave billions starving."

Norman Borlaugh, biologist, humanitarian and Nobel laureate

Probus Club of Beaumaris Events Calendar

January 1

ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Pay by January 31

Tuesday January 17	No Investment Group 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Wednesday January 25	12 Noon Tour of Victorian Parliament	★
Friday January 27	Bike Ride	
Tuesday February 7	9.30 am Bridge	Victoria Golf Club
Tuesday February 7	2 pm Digital Technology	25 Third Street Black Rock
Thursday February 9	7 pm NZ Cruise Meeting	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday February 10	9.30 am Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday February 14	2 pm Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday February 21	8.45 am Investment Group 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club ★
Wednesday February 22	8 pm Brighton Theatre Group	
Tuesday February 28	Wine Appreciation	Roger Wilson's ★
Wednesday March 1	11 am David Hockney Exhibition	NGV ★
Friday March 3	4 pm - 8 pm Annual Croquet Competition	Sandringham Croquet Club
Sunday March 5	4 pm NZ Cruise Departure	
Tuesday March 21	8.45 am Investment Group 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Wednesday March 29	7 pm Music Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday April 4	PRISMS	Davis Residence
Friday April 7	9.30 am Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday April 11	2 pm Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday April 18	8.45 am Investment Group 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club



Assorted pictures from the first Lawn Bowls Night at Sandringham Bowls Club early in November. [See more.](#)

Probus Bank details: CBA BSB 063-144
Account No 10121288

★ Payment required

January 2017