

# NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001- 6598G

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. 307

February 2016

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday February 16 The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Dr Dennis Dragovic University of Melbourne

Topic: Why deployment of troops in the Middle East would play into the hands of Islamic State

10-Minute Speaker: Bruce Kaplan Moments in Journalism

Denis Dragovic is an expert on international affairs and religion and he has worked for over a decade with various UN agencies and NGOs in conflict and post-conflict environments in the Middle East (including three years in Iraq), Africa and Asia leading humanitarian and development programs. While in Iraq, Dr Dragovic successfully led the efforts to release the first aid worker kidnapped by militants. He is a regular contributor in the media on Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL).



*The so-called Islamic State is a Salafist jihadist militant group that follows an Islamic fundamentalist, Wahhabi doctrine of Sunni Islam. The group is also known as Daesh.*

Wikipedia

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## **PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.**

### **\* Office Bearers 2016**

* President: <b>Kevin McDonnell</b>	9598 8209	* Vice-President: <b>Geoff Bransbury</b>	9589 1507
* Past President: <b>Peter Harford</b>	9592 6797	* Secretary: <b>Alan Stevens</b>	9597 0235
* Treasurer: <b>Geoff Carlson</b>	9589 4884	Auditor: <b>Don Lobb</b>	9598 5546
* Activities: <b>Ken Beadle</b>	9589 6120	* Assistant Functions: <b>John Green</b>	9580 6820
* Meetings: <b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593	Assistant Meetings: <b>Keith Ross</b>	9589 3580
Almoner: <b>Andrew Watson</b>	9589 5913	Archive & Grapevine: <b>Roy Petch</b>	9589 5757
President's Table: <b>David Robertson</b>	9551 1930	Sommelier: <b>Bill Green</b>	9596 1548
Speakers' Recorder: <b>John Bushby</b>	9598 7113	Audio Visual: <b>Paul Crompton</b>	9583 1310
Projectionist: <b>Philip Stewart</b>	9589 3309	* Newsletter: <b>Peter McGregor</b>	9533 4760

\* Committee Members

### **\* Interest Groups**

Bike Riding: <b>Noel Ineson</b>	9589 5263	Bowls : <b>Ted Montfort</b>	9589 5949
Discussion: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9589 1143	Digital Technology: <b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593
Investment: <b>Peter Harford</b>	9592 6797	Music/Opera: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9589 1143
PRISMS: <b>Bill Davis</b>	9592 5982	Tastes: <b>Peter McGregor</b>	9533 4760
Theatre: <b>Tony Bowles</b>	9598 7973	Wine Appreciation: <b>Roger Wilson</b>	0418395946

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**



## **Kevin McDonnell**

I trust all members are well rested and refreshed for the year ahead which promises to be an exciting one.

Despite no longer being in the workforce, I find it nice to be able to put one's feet up and relax in January. For me it is my favourite month of the year where I have an opportunity to read a book or two and get around to doing things that I often have trouble fitting in during other times of the year.

The comment you often hear from retired people is that they don't know how they ever found the time to go to work. How much of this is a result of being able to spend more time on activities that we were unable to do when working and how much is to do with the dictum that 'work expands to fill the available time' is open to conjecture. Whatever the case, most people today who have retired from paid work lead very active lives.

In January I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend the 84th Anniversary Memorial Service for Albert Jacka, the first Australian VC recipient of World War 1. The service

was held at the St Kilda cemetery and afterwards at the Town Hall. The service has been put on annually by the City of Port Phillip. It was pleasing that the council after so many years is continuing to hold the service, to not only mark Albert Jacka's military service, but also to acknowledge his life on return to Australia. This included being a councillor and mayor of St Kilda immediately prior to his untimely death in 1932 aged 39.

This month sees the recommencement of all of our interest groups at Probud. I would strongly encourage all members - and especially newer members who joined over the past 12 months - to consider joining one of the interest groups. The value and benefit of membership in Probud can only be enhanced by becoming involved in the various activities provided. Please contact one of the activity co-ordinators if you are interested in joining one of our many groups.



*Above left: Roger Wilson introduces new member, Peter Morris  
Below left: Geoff Marshall, introduced by Jim McGann, gives members two minutes on his life and background*



*Right: President Kevin McDonnell and our January Keynote Speaker, Lt Col Bernard Mulholland; below, answering members' questions*



# NOTICEBOARD

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If you are one of the few people who receive this newsletter as a hard copy, you will need to consider alternative arrangements in future as we are looking to eliminate the need for photocopying at the earliest opportunity. If you are seriously disadvantaged by this, please speak to me asap.  
Peter McGregor ☎ 9533 4760

## Bike Group

Noel Ineson

Our next ride is on Friday February 26, assembling as usual at the Black Rock beachside car park at 9 am and driving to Head Street Brighton (Melway 67 C5). We will ride along the attractive beachside trail through St Kilda, Middle Park, Port Melbourne and Beacon Cove to beautiful Westgate Park with its many attractive lakes, returning to enjoy coffee in Armstrong Street - an easy ride of 22 km.

## Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

At their February meetings, the groups are tackling a range of current topics. The next meetings will be on Tuesday March 8 and Friday March 11.

## Opera and Music

The Music Group's first evening of the year will be on Wednesday March 23 at 7pm.  
Barry Amond

## Seafood Tastes

Where: Lobster Cave

## LAST CHANCE



North Concourse, Beaumaris  
When: Thursday February 25  
6.30 pm Cost: \$40  
PLEASE PAY TREASURER  
GEOFF CARLSON ASAP  
Selected wines available for  
purchase @\$15 per bottle

## Probus Member Benefits

## Scheme

This is a special **offer** from Probus South Pacific for all members to be able to take advantage of various partners' offerings of a wide variety of goods and services. Click [hyperlink](#) above.


**"Money can't buy you friends but you get a better class of enemy..."**  
Spike Milligan

## Wine Appreciation

Roger Wilson

## Investment Group

## NO INVESTMENT MEETING THIS MONTH

 Our next meeting is Tuesday February 23 @ 2pm at 35 Church Street Beaumaris where we will taste some mature red wines from my cellar.

## Theatre

Tony Bowles

Don't forget the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Saturday February 13, and Brighton Theatre Company on Wednesday March 2 for those who are going. Tickets still available for *The Sound of Music* and *Singing in the Rain* - see Functions Desk.

## We Need Your Help

A unique opportunity exists for a smart young (or older) member to take charge of our Functions & Activities for 2016/17. Applicants must be energetic, imaginative, enthusiastic and highly competent in organising a wide range of trips and excursions to locations near and far. Your club needs you!

## Directory

Geoff Wade

The 2016 edition of the Probus Members' Directory is being prepared. Many photos of members were taken some years ago and may not now accurately represent members' current appearance. Further, some are in black and white. I will be on the prowl at the February meeting to take up-to-date photos—your full assistance would be appreciated. Also, to ensure your details are current, you are requested to check and advise me of any changes to interests, address, phone number and email address.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2016

Member subscriptions are due and payable on January 1 each year. As of February, there are still subscriptions outstanding. Payment - \$70 for the year – may be paid direct to our bank account or by cheque to Geoff Carlson, Treasurer, 22 First Street, Black Rock 3193.

## Birthday Boys – February

Allan Cox 27/2	Paul Crompton 18/2
Peter Harford 27/2	Dick Kirby 9/2
Gary Sebo 21/2	Hugh Stevens 26/2
Graham Symon 6/2	Lachlan McLean 25/2



# FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

## February

Ken Beadle

RAN West Head Gunnery Range, Flinders

Monday February 22

An exclusive tour of the facilities will commence at 1pm following a briefing at 12.30pm. We will make our own way to Flinders and car-pooling will be arranged nearer to the date. We will meet at the RAN visitors' carpark at 12.15 pm on the West Head approach road (Melways ref 262C11) after driving through security gates. A maximum number of 30 visitors can be accommodated. No charge for this visit but registration is essential.

NOTE: Members are invited to coffee/tea prior to the visit at the Beadle holiday house at 28 Young Street, Flinders from 11 am (Melways ref 262 A6).

## March ■ ■ ■

*Below: Highlights from the 2015 event*

Annual Croquet Challenge and Beef Spit Roast

Friday March 18

Thanks to Jenny and Tony Bowles, we have booked the Sandringham Croquet Club (opposite the Sandringham Club on the foreshore) for another fabulous fun evening from 4 pm to 8 pm. The much-prized handsome trophy will again be up for grabs.



Dame Nellie Melba's Cottage Garden, Yarra Valley

Thursday March 31

Coach leaves from Beaumaris Library at 9 am. NOTE: This function is sold out with all places reserved for our members/guests registered at the January meeting.

However, a second visit is being organised for April; details and date to be advised at our February meeting.



*Left to right: Geoff Marshall, George Montgomery, Keith Ross; Geoff Mason, Ralph Butcher, Barry Amond; Alan Nash, Geoff Wade, Geoff Carlson; Norm Griffiths, Alan Farmer, Nick Caris*



### Princess Cruise to NZ

Mea culpa, mea culpa. Please note that because of the President's Christmas Lunch there will be no trip in December. January is still school holidays so a date in either February or March 2017 seems more appropriate. A firm date will be advised in the March newsletter, providing ample time to consider your options.

John Green

*Conversations:  
Barry Donaldson  
and  
Dick Kirby;  
Duncan Gibson  
and  
visitor, Robert  
Kerr*



February 2016

## Australia's Greatest Soldier

John Bushby



The challenge that our January Keynote Speaker, Lt Col Bernard Mulholland, faced was how to meet our members' expectations, given that most had some knowledge of Monash and his achievements in both war and peace. Whilst covering the range of Monash's accomplishments, he alluded to the rare personal characteristics of this great Australian: his natural skills and strength of mind. However, his faith in his abilities to achieve difficult tasks founded on his Jewish religion, his intellectual prowess (including multiple university degrees between 1890 and 1893), his ideas on radical tactical warfare and the unflinching support of those he commanded led to him playing a decisive role in the outcome of World War 1 and a subsequent knighthood from a grateful king.

Fol-



Left: Monash; Right: President Kevin with Lt Col Mulholland

Following the war, Monash studied the potential of generating power from brown coal and this focus led to his appointment as the Manager of the SECV, championing the construction of the power grid across Victoria. But Monash never forgot his war experiences and the men he fought with; in 1927 he became the Chief Organiser of the Anzac Day March and an advocate for the construction of the Shrine of Remembrance. When he died, October 8 1931, at the age of sixty-six, 300,000 attended his funeral to pay their respects.

But of all his achievements, Monash may well be remembered as a man who overcame the then-existing anti-Semitic views prevalent in our society.

## Solar is Our Future

### Australia Day “

Along with everything else that arrived with the British in this country in 1788, there came a vitally alive democratic tradition – then building to a climax with the anti-slavery movement – and a relatively strong legal system. We would be fools not to value them. . . .

Martin Flanagan *The Age* 30/1/16 ”

**The main benefit of solar energy is that it does not produce any pollutants and is one of the cleanest sources of energy. It is a renewable source of energy, requires low maintenance and is easy to install. The only limitation that solar energy possesses is that it cannot be used at night and the amount of sunlight that is received on earth depends on location, time of day, time of year, and weather conditions.**

Members' responses to John Howe's excellent presentation on solar energy highlight our club's readiness to embrace knowledge on various power sources in a complex and ever-changing world. John's comprehensive exposition on the variety of systems to convert sunlight into electrical power – along with the different approaches taken by such countries as France, Japan, Spain and Australia – were very educational. Most of us were left with the clear impression that despite the reticence of many of our national decision-makers, solar energy must be part of our planning for the future.

**“... solar energy must be part of our planning for the future.”**

In other words, solar is here to stay.

John Bushby



Above: John Howe and Spain's unique solar energy tower



Left: one of the solar energy installations in Seville, Spain

Tuesday February 9	10 am Bridge Group	Victoria Golf Club
Tuesday February 9	2 pm Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday February 12	9.30 am Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Saturday February 13	1 pm Edinburgh Military Tattoo	Etihad Stadium
Tuesday February 16	NOTE: No Investment Meeting 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Monday February 22	RAN West Head Gunnery Range	Flinders
Tuesday February 23	10 am Bridge Group	Victoria Golf Club
Tuesday February 23	2 pm Wine Appreciation	35 Church St Beaumaris
Thursday February 25	6.30 pm Tastes	Lobster Cave ★
Friday February 26	Bike Ride	
Tuesday March 1	10 am Bridge Group	Victoria Golf Club
Wednesday March 2	8 pm Brighton Theatre Company	
Tuesday March 8	10 am Bridge Group	Victoria Golf Club
Tuesday March 8	2 pm Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday March 11	9.30 am Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Wednesday March 9	10.30 am Annual Bowls Day	Burden Park Bowls Club
Tuesday March 15	8.45 Investment Group 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Friday March 18	4 – 8 pm Croquet & Spit Roast	Sandringham Croquet Club ★
Tuesday March 22	10 am Bridge Group	Victoria Golf Club
Wednesday March 23	7pm Music Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Thursday March 31	Dame Nellie Melba's Garden	Yarra Valley ★
April 11–13	Annual Golf Trip	Port Fairy GC ★
Tuesday April 19	8.45 Investment Group 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Tuesday, 26 April	2 pm PRISMS	Bill Davis' residence

FOR THOSE WHO WOULD PREFER THE PICTURES IN THIS NEWSLETTER TO BE A BIT LARGER, SIMPLY HOLD THE CNTRL KEY AND ROTATE THE SCROLL WHEEL ON YOUR MOUSE TO MAKE THEM AS LARGE AS YOU WISH.

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