



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: Box 57 PO Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 262

January 2012



Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday January 17 at St Martin's Uniting Church

See p2

Keynote Speaker: Mr. John Simpson RACV

Topic: Years Ahead - Driving Tips and Road Safety for Seniors

Investment Group: No meeting this month

10-Minute Speaker: Eric Slater

My Career as a Country Footballer

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Alan Farmer



"... humility is the ability to give up pride and still retain dignity."

2012 is the year to be light-hearted and have some fun. Most of us have retired, so we find we never get a day off, but we can still find things to stimulate us to live happily. (Life is short, so remember that a man who drives like hell is bound to get there; also, did you know that it is impossible to lick your elbow?)

Our discussion groups have learned that humility is the ability to give up pride and still retain dignity. Some assert that 'man who leaps off a cliff reaches conclusion'. They may consider why if we spell out the names of numbers, we go to one thousand before finding the very first letter of the alphabet. Meanwhile our Investment Group has discovered that $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$.

Furthermore, years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented, but was ruled 'Gentlemen Only ... Ladies Forbidden'; hence GOLF was born. How times have

changed! Golf: a game six kilometres long, and played between the ears. Some golfers blame fate or others for poor performance, yet always take full responsibility for a hole-in-one. Meanwhile, our religious golfers ponder Billy Graham's observation that his prayers were not answered on the golf course. On another sporting front, some people think football is a matter of life and death, but some members assure me it is much more serious than that. And our Cycling Group has no stress and no pressure - except in their tyres- and they handle their bars well on their socially-active monthly jaunts. Members of the Digital Technology Group tell us that even prisoners use cell phones now.

It is NOW 2012 and tomorrow we die; so let's eat, drink, love and be merry. (At least 50% of you who have read this will have tried to lick your elbow !)

Office Bearers, 2012

President: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791
Vice President: **Bruce Tomkins** 9591 0076
Past Pres: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526
Secretary: **John Howe** 9598 2429
Treasurer: **David Robertson** 9551 1930
Functions: **Menno van Ruyven** 9699 5506
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Meetgs Asst: **Duncan Gibson** 9585 3547

Almoner: **Andrew Watson** 9589 5913
Hon. Auditor: **Neil Jones** 9583 9315
Newsletter: **Peter McGregor** 9533 4760
Recorder: **Alan Williams** 9598 7550
Archivist: **Roy Petch** 9589 5757
Pres's Table: **Norm Griffiths** 9598 8575

Group Leaders 2012

Investment: **Barry Donaldson** 9598 6446
Music/Opera: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143
Theatre: **Robert Dun** 9589 5456
Grape Vine: **Roy Petch** 9589 5757
Bowls: **Ted Montfort** 9589 5949
PRISMS: **Bill Davis** 9592 5982
Digital Techn/gy: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Communications: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Bike Riding: **Noel Ineson** 9589 5263

Probuss Bank Account details: BSB 063-144
Account No 10121288

NOTICEBOARD

Bicycle Group Friday January 27



This month we will drive to Cranbourne and ride the four kilometres to the Royal Botanic Gardens' Australian Garden; then around the garden's five kilometre track. There is a unique collection of Australian wild flowers and plants which we will have time to wander through and enjoy. Finally, there will be coffee and light snacks at the Boonerwurrung café at the gardens while we rest and have a friendly chat. Noel Ineson

Report from that Dopey Old Bloke

We have news from Darkest Latin America as our very own intrepid reporter and adventurer, Geoff Bransbury, has just filed his latest report (2/1/12); see below. All part of his plan for a 2012 Probus motorbike trip?

Hi Peter Four weeks on the road! I'm now in Chile at El Calafate (yes, that's its name). According to the clock, I've covered nearly 5000 km already. Adventures include a breakdown, incredible winds, great scenery, some astounding generosity from the locals, Irish Stew for Christmas lunch and great wine. Take a look at my blog at www.dopey.adventureriders.com for the story so far. Thankyou to those who have sent me messages on the blog or emails to gbransbury@gmail.com. I love to receive them, try and answer and it makes me feel closer to home and you all Happy New Year. GB

PS. Hi Peter ... El Calafate is in Argentina not Chile. The icebergs and glaciers here are amazing and you can almost touch them, you get so close. GB

PPS. Hi Peter This might sound somewhat strange but the funny thing about my blog is that quite a few people are actually sharing my trip with me which is so great for me and makes me keep up the blog. If you could change my wording a bit,... It's great to have people sharing the trip. It is MUCH harder than I expected and having people with me, as it were, is really great! GB



Left: El Calafate glacier in Argentina

More pictures from Geoff's great South America adventure p3

Music & Opera Groups

Barry Amond

Both groups will continue to meet on the 4th or 5th Wednesdays of many months during the year. Music Group will first meet on Wednesday March 29.

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

The two groups will meet in February - the second Tuesday at 2pm and the fourth Friday at 9.30am. Members of the groups will receive details of the topic before then. If anyone is interested in joining, please let me know as it may be possible to fit you in.

Theatre Group

BRIGHTON THEATRE COMPANY

The Club now has 42 tickets for each of the four(4) plays for 2012:

Wednesday, March 7

Albert Nobbs - a portrait of a modern working man, that is both touching and delightfully funny.

Wednesday, June 6

Three Days of Rain - the same three actors play both themselves and their parents and reveal a dilemma that none of the children could have envisaged.

Wednesday, September 12

Calendar Girls - based on an uplifting, inspiring British story that is both poignant and hilarious.

Wednesday, November 14

Bridesmaids' Business - a hilarious yet painful push-and-pull that occurs the night before a girl's wedding. All performances at 8 pm at the Clocktower Theatre. NOTE: Those who have indicated their desire to attend must pay \$72 per head by January meeting. Tickets will then be issued at the February meeting.

Other Musicals

Allan Taylor

Robert Dun has kindly offered to take responsibility for the organisation of all musicals handled by Ticketek and Ticketmaster.

Digital Technology Group

Geoff Wade

The next meeting of the Digital Technology Group will be Tuesday February 7 when the topic/s will be a revisit to some of the technologies we discussed last year including an update of the more popular ones. Session leaders will be advised at the meeting on January 17. Once again, the venue will be Barry Amond's house at 25 Third St Black Rock at 2 pm. An attendance sheet will be at the January meeting.

"Never trust a thin cook."

Two Fat Ladies

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES



The pictures above were taken at our President's Lunch at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in December.

NOTE: Menno van Ruyven (9699 5506; mobile 0437 154707) has taken over from Geoff Bransbury who is riding his motorcycle around South America! See below and p2 for full report.

LOOKING AHEAD

FOR APRIL AND BEYOND WE ARE PLANNING A NUMBER OF INTERESTING TRIPS SUCH AS 'HISTORIC MALDON' AND 'POLLY WOODSIDE'. AFTER THAT, WE ARE CONSIDERING A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS INCLUDING THE GEELONG WOOL MUSEUM. AS ALWAYS, WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS!

Menno Van Ruyven

February 2012

Ferry ride to Williamstown, historic walk and a hearty lunch

Wednesday February 22



We have a great day lined up to kick off the year. We take the 9.20 train from Sandringham to Flinders Street where we board the 10.30 ferry at Southgate to Williamstown. It is an interesting 50-minute ferry trip. We will be met by Jackie, our guide, who will take us on a leisurely stroll around some of the interesting places in historic Williamstown. (NOTE: Jackie was our guide on our Point Cook Homestead tour earlier this year. If you were there, you would remember her. She tells a great yarn and oozes charm - which all the boys, especially, lapped up.)

Then a delicious two-course lunch at *Banque* on the seafront followed by a short walk to the station to catch the 3.32 train back to Sandringham, arriving at 4.40 pm. There may also be time to visit the famous, award-winning Queen's Cupcake Shop!

Cost \$50 includes ferry, historic walk and lunch. Train not included (\$3.30 on Seniors Daily Concession). Please book and pay at January meeting.

March

Werribee Zoo and Mambourin Sensory Gardens and Italian lunch

Wednesday March 28

This tour will book very quickly so book early to avoid disappointment. The bus leaves from the Community Centre at 9.30 am. We aim to be home around 5 pm.

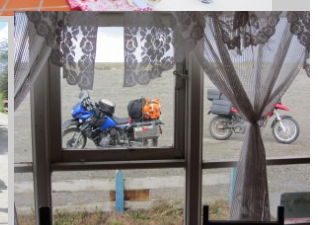


First we visit the Mambourin Sensory Gardens at Werribee (above left) to see the gardens and have morning tea. This amazing garden oasis was created in 1997 by people with disabilities. Then it's off to a delicious two-course lunch at the Italian Social Club. Afterwards, we visit the Werribee Open Range Zoo (above right) where we take the Safari Tour shuttle bus. We also have time to explore the many walking trails (hopefully not meeting the odd stray lioness!) Cost: \$60. Register now. Payment by February.

POSTCARDS FROM PATAGONIA



Some of the pics from Geoff's blog





Dying With Dignity

Alan Williams

Our two November Speakers - Dr Brian McDonald and Dr Rodney Syme - worked in tandem, speaking to the very sensitive and sometimes distressing subject of Death and Dying. Dr McDonald spoke about various aspects of palliative care, defined as "the provision of care to anyone with limited life expectancy." He said that he believes he should provide every support and assistance without euthanasia to patients, "to get the most out of living until they die." On the other hand, Dr Syme spoke of 'physician-assisted dying'. He believes that everyone should have the right to self-determination on this subject. In some circumstances, such as the relief of intolerable pain, he believes the patient should have the authority to request physician-assisted dying by medication. His preference is oral medication, leaving control and the responsibility in the patient's hands. Both doctors suggest an important document is a Medical Power of Attorney, enabling the patient to choose someone to make medical decisions on their behalf if they are unable to do so.

For more information: www.dwdv.org.au (9877 7677)

"Only buy something that you'd be perfectly happy to hold if the market shut down for 10 years."

Warren Buffett

"If you don't follow the stock market, you are missing some amazing drama"

Mark Cuban

Next Meeting: Change of Location

Due to Beaumaris RSL Club dining facilities being closed during January, our next meeting will be held at St Martin's Uniting Church, corner of Dalgetty Road and Gibbs Street, Beaumaris, commencing at 10 am. There will be no Investment Group meeting in January. Lunch is booked at Sing Tao restaurant at the South Concourse and will consist of a 2-course lunch **including** a glass of wine for \$18.50 - slightly more than the RSL but includes wine; tea or coffee.

Geoff Wade

"...the rat continued to terrorise the crew members .."



The Return of the Rat

In 1956, Alan Nash was a cadet on a Shell Company oil tanker transporting oil through the Suez Canal to Europe. He related his meeting with a large rat late one night which infiltrated the deserted engine room while he was on watch - a scary and very unpleasant experience. The rat continued to terrorise the crew members - some even claiming it was as large as a kangaroo - until the captain initiated a search-and-destroy mission. Subsequently, the rat was found after consuming poisonous baits and the captain's steward delivered the remains as an accompaniment on the captain's supper tray. At the same time as the saga of the rat was occurring, the Egyptian President, Colonel Abdel Nasser, nationalised and closed the Suez Canal creating a worrying, dangerous situation for everyone in the vicinity. Amid this dramatic period of history, Alan's ship was the second-last vessel to travel through the canal until it was reopened some years later.

Alan Williams

President's Christmas Lunch 2011

Royal Melbourne Golf Club

What more is there to say?



John Bushby (above) is looking a little stunned because he can't believe he got through at least two helpings of Christmas pudding. His wife, Hanife, looks on somewhat bemused; while Bob Matthews (right) - who won a bottle of champagne in the raffle - really wants everyone to take notice of his very tasteful tie.

**He who learns but does not think, is lost!
He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger."**

Confucius

