



# Newsletter

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to Box 57 PO Black Rock VIC 3193



## Issue No. 254

## April 2011

**Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday April 19 at Beaumaris RSL**

**Investment Group: Is it Time to Resume Buying?** 9 am before the main meeting. See p2.

**10-Minute Speaker: Eric Slater Bank-robbers and Building**

**Keynote Speaker: John Knight Former Mayor of Bayside Council**

**Topic: Men's Sheds** Good health is based on many factors including feeling good about yourself, being productive and valuable to your community, connecting to friends and maintaining an active body and an active mind. Becoming a member of a Men's Shed gives a man that safe and busy environment where he can find many of these things in an atmosphere of old-fashioned mateship.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the secrets of success of our Club is that all members - not only the Group Leaders and Committee - contribute to the running of the Club. Every time we attend functions, go on trips, enjoy a theatre/music night with other members, we interact and make life more pleasant for each other - and easier to fulfill the objectives of our Probud Club.

The Club is in fact a collection of great individuals whose diverse backgrounds and life experiences sometimes are in contrast with their high quality intellectual and emotional wisdom and pleasantness. To have so many like-minded people with such a wide diversity of experiences in one group is exceptional and must surely be one of the reasons for the friendliness and fellowship that pervades the room whenever we meet. It is a privilege to belong to such a group.

The fact that the Committee and Group Leaders from last year have opted to continue in their roles for this year is an

illustration of the cohesiveness of the membership and the pleasure we derive from our varied meetings and activities.

Noel Ineson's initiative in forming a new bicycle group is to be applauded. He already has a number who are prepared to dust off some muscle memories and investigate new hardware to improve our fitness as well as to experience the great delight of whistling through the fresh air, like we did in the 'good old days'.

Geoff Wade is to lead the new group of members who have stated their interest in exploring new digital technology with a view to consider just what is available before purchasing the best - or deciding not to buy at all. Others are keen simply to learn about new technologies to satisfy their curiosity. Leaders of both these new groups are advising members of their next planned meeting by email and in the newsletter as well as information to be provided at our next meeting.

Alan Farmer



***"To have so many like-minded people with such a wide diversity of experiences in one group is exceptional"***

### Office Bearers 2011

President: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791  
Vice President: **John Bushby** 9598 7113  
Past Pres: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526  
Secretary: **John Howe** 9598 2429  
Treasurer: **David Robertson** 9551 1930  
Functions: **Geoff Bransbury** 9589 1507  
Mobile 0416 294 452  
Functions Asst: **Robert Dun** 9589 5456  
Meetings Co-ord: **Bill Green** 9596 1548  
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: **Norman Griffiths** 9598 8575

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

### Group Leaders 2011

Investment: **Barry Donaldson** 9598 6446  
Music/Opera: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143  
Theatre: **Allan Taylor** 9521 6180  
Grape Vine: **Roy Petch** 9589 5757  
Bowls: **Ted Montfort** 9589 5949  
PRISMS: **Bill Davis** 9592 5982  
Art: **Paul Crompton** 9583 1310  
New Technology: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593  
Communications: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593  
Bike Riding: **Noel Ineson** 9589 5263  
Tastes: **Peter McGregor** 9533 4760

# NOTICEBOARD

## First PRISMS Meeting

The first meeting of the PRISMS group for 2011 will be held at Bill Davis' home on Tuesday April 26 at 2 pm.

[Picture Courtesy of the Scotch Malt Whisky Association in Australia]



## Tastes: Mystery Italian Night



Please join us for a special festival of Italian food. Can't tell you all the wonderful details yet, except:

WHEN: Thursday May 5

COST: \$45 pp

WHERE: To be advised

WINE: \$15 a bottle

Full details/pay at April meeting.

## Theatre Group

*Dr Zhivago*

28 seats sold for Wednesday, May 18 at 1 pm at Her Majesty's Theatre. Tickets available at April meeting.

*Love Never Dies*

Still some seats remain for the Andrew Lloyd Webber sequel to *Phantom of the Opera* on Wednesday, August 17 at 1 pm at the Regent Theatre.

Tickets: \$60. Must pay by the June meeting.

Allan Taylor

## Lunch at the RSL

I would like to emphasise that the quality of the food provided for lunch at our meetings has improved quite considerably during the past few months. I invite you all to consider joining other members for lunch after the meeting if at all possible as it is yet another great opportunity to share the quality of the fellowship within the Club. I commend it to you all. Alan Farmer

*Incoming President, Alan Farmer, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing President, Eric Slater*



## Digital Technologies Interest Group

When the mentors for the advanced computing skills program for 2011 met recently to plan the program, they discovered a mutual interest in exploring new technological products and the associated skills. The focus of each meeting has yet to be decided. It may be on one set of products - eg digital cameras, smart phones, E-readers or perhaps tablet computers – or new software. The actual topics and conduct of the meetings of the group will be decided by the group itself. It all promises to be both very interesting and stimulating. It was agreed to meet the first Tuesday of each month. First meeting : Tuesday, April 5.

## Investment Group

For discussion: Is it time to resume 80/20 buying to catch one horn? Review of poll results and compile a watch list. Also, an address by John Wallace.

When: 9 am before the main meeting. Barry Donaldson

## Opera and Music Group



*Annual Music Party: Just some of the 43 people who had dinner in the garden before the musical part of the evening in the Amond's studio.*

The next meeting of the Opera Group: Wednesday April 27 at 7 pm. As usual, please advise me if you wish to attend. At its recent meeting, 30 members of the Music Group enjoyed a varied program including excerpts from the 1954 movie, *The Student Prince*, the precision of the Paris Opera Ballet's *Swan Lake*, Brahms' Violin Concerto, and the amazing voice of Cecilia Bartoli.

Barry Amond

## Next Month's Speaker

Dr Beth Wilson, Health Services Commissioner

*Geoff Bransbury introduces new member, Bill Cleland, who told us of his early working life in some exotic places such as Iran and Iraq and, eventually, Australia.*



# Functions & Activities



## May

**Wednesday 11th**

**Tutankhamen Exhibition and Italian lunch, Carlton**

All sold out. Please put your name on the waiting list in case of last-minute cancellations. The bus leaves the Community Centre, Reserve Road at 9 am sharp!

## June

**Wednesday 8th**

**Point Cook RAAF Museum and Homestead**



A day with something for everyone! We will have guided tours of this fantastic Air Museum and the beautiful old Homestead as well! We will have a light lunch and also a Devonshire Tea. The highlight for the boys is the amazing array of aircraft and missiles and other displays - but everyone will all enjoy the Homestead, lunch and Devonshire Tea!

The luxury Mercedes coach will leave the community centre at 9 am returning at 5 pm.

A truly great trip at only \$50. Please register now and pay by May meeting.

## July

**Tuesday 5th**

**Mid-year Candlelight Dinner**

Yes, it's time for our mid-year dinner! This year, we return to the Beaumaris RSL. Drinks are not included but the RSL prices are very reasonable.

This time we will literally have a 'magic' evening and we hope for a record crowd!

Expect a 3-course dinner, a professional entertainer and of, course, the raffle!



Cost \$45 pp

Please register ASAP. Payment: by June meeting

## MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

At the April meeting, we will have a quick straw poll to determine whether to organise any/all of the following in the next few months:

### 1) Moonee Valley night races

How about a fun evening at the night races? Facilities at Moonee Valley are excellent and under cover!

Going by bus would enable us to relax and have a drink or two...Even if you're not a racing enthusiast, this will be a great night out!

Probably a Friday night in September or October!

### 2) Guided tour of Anaesthetic History Museum

Historic house and lunch.

**Ulimaroo** is a lovely old mansion in St Kilda Road and home to the College of Anaesthetists.

Volunteers host groups such as ours, showing us the museum with many intriguing objects, enlightening us with stories on surgery before anaesthetics as well as historical achievements and current developments.

Any questions you may have about anaesthetics will be answered in a light and informal way. We would also have a tour of the mansion. Not surprisingly, we will probably have a lunch too!

Other Probus clubs have loved this trip. Group size is limited to 25. This outing is something different and very interesting.

### 3) A boutique breweries 'crawl' and lunch



A bus would take us to some of the excellent boutique breweries around the Bayside area where we can sample the offerings. Naturally, we would select a good location to have a nice lunch as well!

Google: microbreweries

[Acknowledgement: Thanks to Graham Symon, Geoff Goodwin and Peter McGregor for their suggestions.]

**"Time is our most valuable asset, yet we tend to waste it, kill it and spend it rather than invest it."**

Jim Rohn



## A Warrnambool Excursion by Our Correspondent, Rod Murrell



*Rod and  
Ross Murrell  
lead the way  
in the tourist  
train on the  
Portland trip*

We had a most enjoyable three days away – 22 - 24 March . There were 20 Probians and partners in the group, 11 from Beaumaris and the rest from several other Bayside clubs. It was a novel experience for most of us leaving home so early and finding our way to Southern Cross Station, our departure point. We were collected from Warrnambool station by a 'Geoff' who was to be our 'host' for the first two days. After settling into the motel, we were taken to lunch at the Marine Village on Flagstaff Hill. A guided walk through the village included a visit to the museum in which the foremost exhibit was the famous porcelain peacock - hand-made by an Italian artisan - which was washed ashore after the wreck of the Loch Ard and is now valued at \$4 million. In the evening, after a more than adequate dinner, we were taken back to the Marine Village to witness a dramatic, engrossing Sound & Light show on the sinking of the Loch Ard. Wednesday dawned even darker than the day before but failed to mar any of our outdoor activities as we journeyed to Portland. We had an interesting drive around the busy port and aluminium smelter precinct, an opportunity to see the blow-hole, a petrified forest at Cape Bridgeport and a visit to a strawberry farm where it was difficult to resist the temptation to buy their fruit in all its different forms (ranging from fresh to alcoholic). Thursday was moving day again. Before going to the station, we were driven to see more high-lights of Warrnambool. But all good things must come to an end and, eventually, we were left to the inefficiencies of V/Line. Some of us went from pillar to post before managing to find transport back to Camperdown where we found utter chaos brought about by a number of duplicated bookings. Fisticuffs were averted and we eventually settled down for what was a seamless journey back to Melbourne. Thanks to Barry/Margaret Amond, David/Val O'Loughlin, Ken/Val Reed, Eric/Joan Slater and, in particular, Robert Dun. Ros and I thoroughly enjoyed their company.



Robert Dun and  
Ken Reed; old  
petrified forest  
contrasts with the  
new wind farm



*Financial Planner, Graham Matthews (left) and Paul Fleming (right) from Centrelink.*

### On Leaving the Home Environment

Paul Fleming, a Centrelink specialist, and Graham Mathews from FPC Investments combined in a fact-filled presentation on the subject of accessing a part or full pension from the Federal Government, plus the quite complex issues involved in moving from a family home environment into retirement villages or aged care facilities. If we contemplate accessing an aged care facility, they emphasised the importance of a meeting with Centrelink in advance to complete an assessment form before "setting foot in any facility". It seems a minefield of complications awaits us in this area, including assessing the need for high level or low level care. Members were very appreciative of Paul and Graham for bringing these important matters to our attention and explaining so competently and clearly the options available in a complex regulatory procedure.

Alan Williams

**"My riches consist not in the extent of my possessions, but in the fewness of my wants."**

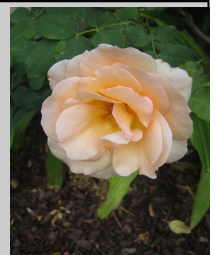
J. Brotherton



#### DID YOU KNOW?

That China is soon to become #1 English - speaking country in the world?  
There are 540 000 words in English - five times the number in Shakespeare's day?

### VALE



We respectfully note the death on March 27, after a long illness, of Brian Hirsh. Brian, a member of our club since 1994, was President in 2000-2001. He was a founder of the Music Group and one of its keenest supporters.