



# 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: BSB 063-144  
Account No 10121288

**Issue No. 280**

**August 2013**

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday August 20 at The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Emeritus Professor David Penington  
Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne 1988 to 1995.  
Chairman Bionic Vision Australia (2009-2013)  
Topic: The Bionic Eye Project

NOTE: No 10-Minute Speaker: Extraordinary General Meeting

**What is the bionic eye?**



The bionic eye is a retinal prosthesis designed to restore a sense of vision to people with profound vision loss due to degenerative retinal conditions.

## **Probus Big Night Out**

**Furtive photos from the 2013 Candlelight Dinner in July at Sandy on the Bay**



## PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

### Office Bearers 2013

* President: <b>Peter McGregor</b>	9533 4760	* Vice-President: <b>Peter Harford</b>	9592 6797
* Past President: <b>Bruce Tomkins</b>	9591 0076	* Secretary: <b>John Howe</b>	9598 2429
* Treasurer: <b>Geoff Carlson</b>	9589 4884	Auditor: <b>Don Lobb</b>	9598 5546
* Activities: <b>Geoff Bransbury</b>	0416294452	* Assistant Functions: <b>John Green</b>	95806820
* Meetings: <b>Duncan Gibson</b>	9585 3547	* Assistant Meetings: <b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593
Almoner: <b>Andrew Watson</b>	9589 5913	Archive & Grapevine: <b>Roy Petch</b>	9589 5757
* President's Table: <b>Alan Stevens</b>	9597 0235	Sommelier: <b>Bob Matthews</b>	9583 9958
Speakers' Recorder: <b>Alan Williams</b>	9598 7550	Audio Visual: <b>Paul Crompton</b>	9583 1310

\* 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>Barry Donaldson</b>	9598 6446	Music/Opera: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9589 1143
PRISMS: <b>Bill Davis</b>	9592 5982	Tastes: <b>Peter McGregor</b>	9533 4760
Theatre: <b>Robert Dun</b>	9589 5456		

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



## PETER MCGREGOR

“  
A  
table,  
a  
chair,  
a bowl  
of fruit  
and a  
violin  
“

One of the things you would have to say about the Probus Club of Beaumaris is that it is a very happy club. The happiness of members is our main purpose and focus, so I was prompted to think a bit more deeply about what we do and how we foster happiness after reading a recent article about happiness in the local paper. US TV comic George Burns reckoned happiness was having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family ... in another city, a sentiment it is sometimes easy enough to identify with. Albert Schweitzer thought it was nothing more than good health and a bad memory, while Einstein reflected that “A table, a chair, a bowl of fruit and a violin; what else does a man need to be happy?” But in face of all the evidence to the contrary, that astute observer of the human condition, the somewhat impoverished Jane Austen, had a different view. “A large income is the best recipe for happiness I ever heard of,” she wrote. So who is right? Professor Ed Deiner from the University of Illinois is said to be, perhaps, the world's leading researcher into

happiness. In an interview with Michael Short in *The Age* (22/7), he says that we can choose to be happy, that marriage and children are not necessarily the source of happiness, and that - beyond the basics - the accumulation of great material and financial wealth does not add to well-being. Happiness, he says, is about having some close, supportive relationships, having a long-term goal and adopting a positive outlook. Happy people are healthier, he says, and it's the things we choose to do that make us happy - which is why the work of our energetic master of activities and happiness, Geoff Bransbury, is such a key role in the club, enriching the lives of so many of our members. Trips to inspect the internal plumbing of the desalination plant in Gippsland, for example; or to see the Hidden Treasures of Afghanistan at the Museum in June; or the famous associations surrounding historic 'Mooramong' - the opportunities Geoff provides all of us for fellowship and enrichment are a significant component of the success of our club and the web of happiness it generates.

*A very busy day at the July meeting as (from left) we welcome new member, Jeff Sturrock; Ted Montfort receives his 20-year service pin, and stalwarts Bill Green and Alan Trumble are awarded 10-year pins*



*Our recent excursion to the historic South Gippsland Railway*



# NOTICEBOARD

## Investment Group

Members will meet as usual 8.45-9.45 am before the General Meeting.

Topic: Portfolio and exhibits discussion

NEXT MONTH: Sam Gray, Investment Adviser, UBS Wealth Management: Hybrids in Your Portfolio?

## Bikie Group

Our next ride is a local 20 km run on Friday August 23, starting from the Black Rock beachside car park. The ride follows the Bay Trail past Half Moon Bay and Red Bluff with views across the bay from the top of the cliffs, a very attractive route which passes through Sandringham, Greenpoint and Dendy Street beach, past Middle Brighton Baths to North Point for coffee, before returning to Black Rock.

Noel Ineson

## Digital Technology Group

No meeting in September. Next meeting, Tuesday October 1, 25 Third Street, Black Rock.



*Another successful meeting in August of members of the Digital Technology Group. Here Barry Amond is demonstrating an app on his Kogan tablet*

## Howlong Golf 2013

This is the final call for nominations for the golf trip to Howlong October 27-30. If you have not already booked and would like to join us, please contact Geoff Wade no later than the August meeting.

***Golf is a game invented by the same people who think music comes out of bagpipes.***

## Probus Vic Golf Challenge

To be held at the Cranbourne Golf Club On Monday November 18. The competition is a 4BBB Stableford event with registration at 7:45 am and shotgun start at 8:15 am. Cost is \$60 per player which includes lunch and trophies. We have entered teams the last two years and it would be good to do so again. If you are interested, please contact Geoff Wade. Entries close October 17.

## New Address:

Allan Taylor, 47/52-70 Centre Dandenong Road, Dingley, 3172, phone 9551 6250

## Theatre



*King Kong* Wednesday November 20 at 1.00 pm - stalls seats at the Regent theatre. Arrangements can be made to catch a lift from street level to the stalls level of the theatre, if necessary.

*King Kong* takes audiences on a thrilling adventure from the bustling streets of 1933 New York to the last uncharted place on earth, Skull Island. A Melbourne-only Australian production.

Payment is required no later than the September meeting. \$80 per seat.

Robert Dun

## Warning

Next month's newsletter will be distributed quite a bit earlier than usual – because of holiday commitments. Please make sure all submissions are with the editor by the start of the last week in August.

Ed.

## Music and Opera

Barry Amond

Next Music night: Wednesday September 25.

Opera group will meet on Wednesday October 23.

## Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

At the August meetings, both groups will finalise their discussion on 'A Plan for Australia'. The Friday group will revert to the 2nd Friday for future months.

## From the Treasurer

The functions desk at our monthly meetings is often very busy - and this is what we want. However, please note, in future:

- Receipts will be issued for ALL cash paid and should indicate amount and function or event.
- Receipts will NOT be issued for cheques unless requested. It is helpful, if the function for which the cheque is to apply, is noted on the back of the cheque. We would encourage you to make payments direct to the club's bank account by online transfer. Details of the account are included in the masthead, front page of the Newsletter each month.

BSB: 063 - 144

Account No: 10121288

Name: Probus Club of Beaumaris Inc.

When paying online, please include a description of the function or event. If there is insufficient room for a full description – you may be paying for several events – please email me with the details at :

grc44@bigpond.net.au. My phone numbers are in the Members' Register and Newsletter.

Geoff Carlson

# FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

## PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

**August Wednesday 21 and 28 (and Tuesday October 1)**  
**Guided Tour of Desalination Plant and Lunch at "The Killy"**

**8.30am**

**NOW FULL**

Please pay now if you haven't already. Cost: \$60

NOTE: Bus leaves SHARP at 8.30 from Community Centre. Please be early as we can't wait - we MUST be at the plant on time! Return to Beaumaris at 4.00 - 5.00pm.

**September Friday 6**  
**Hamer Hall Aperitivo Tour**

**SOMETHING SPECIAL**

A 'behind-the-scenes tour' of the refurbished Hamer Hall. Canapés and a glass of sparkling wine. Cost: \$25. Meet: 10.45am in front of Hamer Hall. Tour starts 11am. Need at least 25 people to get the \$25 price (otherwise \$30). Register now at the Functions Desk! Please pay \$25 pp at August meeting.

### September

### NEW

### November

***Mooramong*, Ballarat & New Eureka Museum**  
**Wednesday November 13 and Thursday 14**



*Right: Mooramong*

*Below: Museum of Australian Democracy*



### Tall Ships Festival, Morning Tea Tour



**Monday September 9**

Special Invitation from RYCV. Beaumaris Probus has been invited to a special morning tea tour of THREE TALL SHIPS that will arrive in Williamstown.

NOTE: Room for only 15 people. After scones, jam and cream there is a 2.5 hour tour of the ships.

Cost of the tour: \$66. As a bus is not economical with only 15 passengers, we will either train or share cars. Need to arrive at 9 am at the latest. Please book and pay for your place at the August meeting.

### Gourmet Tastes

**Thursday September 26 7pm**  
**Argentinean Suckling Pig**

WHERE: To be held downstairs in the brewery itself at True South!

One place only left. Please someone – grab it!!

Whole roast suckling pig the Argentinean way, to be followed by dessert and coffee. Drinks not included but at True South's (reasonable) prices. Price \$50. Please pay at August meeting



### Mystery Tastes

**Thursday October 17**

We are currently negotiating with two or three local restaurants to find the best venue for the last Tastes for 2013. As soon as discussions (and tastings) have been completed, you will be advised of all the details. Please put this event in your diaries. 6.30 pm. Our final gastronomic outing for the year.



A very [interesting and varied trip](#) over two days. Visit the historic National Trust Homestead, *Mooramong*, at Skipton on Wednesday 13 and [stop overnight](#) in Ballarat to enjoy a nice dinner. After breakfast, a visit to the new Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (MADE) as well as [other sights and lunch](#) at *The George*.

*Mooramong* was once a successful sheep and cattle property owned by the Mackinnon family. It became [the stuff of legend](#) in the 1930s when Scobie Mackinnon married silent screen star Claire Adams. A video is available to [tickle your interest](#). Please ask at the Functions Desk!

Beaumaris Bay Probus did this trip in March this year and [they all loved it](#). The trip includes coach travel, two lunches, a 3-course dinner, accommodation at 3.5 stars Ballarat Mid-City Motor Inn overnight, a cooked breakfast, tours and [even a wine tasting](#). Cost: a very reasonable \$281 pp (if 30 passengers). Single supplement \$35. There will be a refund of \$30 if we have 40 or more. Please register now. Cut off must be by end September. We need 30 guests. Why not bring your friends?



## November

**Annual Night races and FABULOUS Buffet at Moonee Valley's *Legends***  
Friday November 29



It's on again - and the good news is that the price is the same as last year! The bus picks us up from the Community Centre (around 5 pm) and takes us to Moonee Valley for a great evening. In recent years, it has been regarded as a Night to Remember!

NOTE: The buffet at the *Legends* is amazing, with everything to choose from: seafood, roast, Asian and more. We leave the legends at 10 pm. You DON'T need to love horse racing to enjoy this evening, so please come. No excuses! Cost: \$60 (Bus and buffet.) Drinks not included.

## December

### Friday 13 President's Christmas Lunch

Christmas seems to come earlier every year!

This year we are pleased to advise we will try a new venue, Woodlands Golf Club. Other Probus Clubs have given excellent reviews and, of course, we have several Woodlands Members who ensure we receive VIP treatment. Details later but register now!

## April 2014

### Overseas trip to Sabah, Borneo and Brunei

Sunday April 27 - Sunday May 4 (8 days)

Already we have received some 12 expressions of interest. This trip looks a winner so please seriously consider coming. We need 20 to confirm the trip. (We have NOT offered this trip yet to other clubs.) It has received fabulous reviews from other Probus groups and is excellent value. NOTE: this is a trip especially organised for Beaumaris Probus and is NOT a 'public' trip; hence we need a minimum number of 20. If you wish, please bring your friends along too – they are most welcome. We think it is amazingly good value! Only \$2434 pp. twin share (\$440 single supplement). See the July newsletter for more details and highlights of the trip. If at all interested, email or phone John Green johnfgreen@gmail.com or 9580 6820 or Geoff Bransbury, brans@iinet.net.au or 0416 294 452. Payment of a deposit of \$500 pp is required no later than our November meeting.

**Number of wild camels in Central Australia: 750 000**

## The Shape of Things to Come

Institute of Energy



### Leadership in Energy

Melbourne University's Professor Mike Sandiford opened his talk highlighting how man, not nature, is shaping this planet. Australia mines and exports 800m tonnes (300m coal, 500m iron ore) of minerals each year compared to the natural erosion of 100m tonnes of rock each year into our rivers. Today there is the serious issue of servicing our energy demands whilst not adding pollution. Last year, 32 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide were emitted into the atmosphere. There is also the problem of providing energy to the millions of people in Asia who currently live in Third World conditions. Improving energy technologies such as micro-wind and solar-power will be the key for these people. In the meantime, the use of fossil fuels (oil, coal, gas) is stabilising at about 87% for energy production in Australia. Alternative measures can only provide a part solution: geothermal is not renewable and wind power is renewable but variable and new technologies are still required for energy storage. 'Next generation' nuclear power which uses 90% of the fuel and has minimal waste may be a possibility. However, as coal-powered electricity usage is tapering off and providing lower profits, there is a dilemma as how to pay for the infrastructure to deliver electricity. This may make it even more difficult to build a viable business case for nuclear power. Gas power looks to be the most likely for the near future.

Alan Stevens

### UNDER AUSTRALIA

"If we include potential shale resources, there could be as much as 400 years' worth of gas.." Shell Australia

### Blazeaid



Paul Crompton told us about how BlazeAid started as a result of the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. One farmer, Kevin Butler, and some volunteers re-fenced his property in the Kilmore area to keep his sheep from entering the nearby highway. The work, which would normally take months, was completed in a week. He then started BlazeAid to help other people needing assistance from fire and flood damage. Today, camps are set up in areas of greatest need and once work is completed they move to a new location. So far, more than 17 000 km of fences have been completed and volunteers (such as Paul) are continuing to provide support for farmers affected by fire and flood in many states through this work.

Alan Stevens

# Probus Club of Beaumaris

# Events Calendar

*\* Denotes a cost involved*

Tuesday August 13	2 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday August 16	10 am	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday August 20	8.45 am 10.00 am	Investment Group General Meeting	Sandringham Club
Wednesday August 21		Brighton Theatre Company	<i>Echoes</i>
Wednesday August 21	8.30 am	Day Trip: Desalination Plant*	
Friday August 23		Bike Ride	
Wednesday August 28	8.30 am	Day Trip: Desalination Plant*	
Friday September 6	10.45 am	Hamer Hall Aperitivo Tour*	
Tuesday September 10	2.00 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday September 13	10.00 am	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday September 17	8.45 am 10.00 am	Investment Group General Meeting	Sandringham Club
Sunday September 22		Russian Ballet*	
Thursday September 26	7 pm	Gourmet Tastes*	True South
Friday September 27		Bike Ride	
Tuesday October 1	8.30 am	Third Desalination Trip*	
Tuesday October 1	2.00 pm	Digital Technology	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday October 8	2.00 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday October 11	2.00 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday October 15	8.45 am 10.00 am	Investment Group General Meeting	Sandringham Club
Thursday October 17	6.30 pm	Mystery Tastes	
Friday October 25		Bike Ride	
Sunday October 27– Wednesday 30		Annual Howlong Golf*	
Friday November 8	10 am	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday November 12	2 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Wed/Thursday November 13-14		Mooramong*	
Monday November 18		Probus Golf Challenge *	Cranbourne GC
Tuesday November 19	8.45 am 10.00 am	Investment Group General Meeting	Sandringham Club
Wednesday November 20	1 pm	<i>King Kong</i>	Regent Theatre
Friday November 29		Annual Night Races*	Moonee Valley
Friday December 13		Annual President's Lunch*	Woodlands GC