

# NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001- 6598G

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9533 4760



Probus Bank Details: BSB 063-144  
Account No 10121288



Issue No. 296

February 2015

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday February 17 The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Bruce Mathieson Captain of Industry  
Topic: A Business View of the Hotel Industry

10-Minute Speaker: John Pound Operation Market Garden

The Bruce Mathieson Family own 25% of ALH Group which consists of over 330 hotels and 520 retail outlets across Australia. Woolworths own the other 75%. ALH Group was formed from combining Bruce Mathieson Hotels in Victoria, the MGW Hotels Queensland partnership with Woolworths, buying ALH Group on the sharemarket in 2004 and buying Taverner Hotel Group in 2006; plus purchasing a number of other hotels separately over the last seven years. As well as being the biggest hotel owner in Australia, ALH Group employs nearly 16 000 staff, with total annual turnover in excess of A\$3 billion. It provides a range of entertainment options – bars, bistros, gaming machines, wagering, accommodation, function rooms – and BWS and Dan Murphy retail liquor outlets. Bruce Mathieson is Director of the ALH Group.



**“Bruce Mathieson owned 35 hotels in Victoria in 2000 when he formed a joint venture with Woolworths – at the invitation of its then chief executive Roger Corbett, who wanted to use Mathieson’s expertise to expand Woolworths’s reach into the Queensland retail liquor**

INVESTMENT GROUP 8.45 AM BEFORE FEBRUARY MEETING

★ This month a review of investment conditions since November and a discussion on 'Investing for the different phases of retirement'. Regardless of their source of income most members of the Club need to consider the best way of handling their investments as they grow older. It has been said that there are three main phases: active, sedentary and frail and it might make sense to adopt a different strategy for each! Chairman: Barry Amond

# PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

## Office Bearers 2015

|   |           |  |           |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| * President: <b>Peter Harford</b>         | 9592 6797 | * Vice-President: <b>Kevin McDonnell</b> | 9598 8209 |
| * Past President: <b>Peter McGregor</b>   | 9533 4760 | * 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>Alan Williams</b>  | 9598 7550 | Audio Visual: <b>Paul Crompton</b>       | 9583 1310 |
| Projectionist: <b>Philip Stewart</b>      | 9589 3309 | * 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 |

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



## PETER HARFORD

We have just concluded another summer holiday on the Mornington Peninsula interrupted by the occasional trip back to Melbourne to keep things in order – and to attend Probud. This year the weather has been much milder leading to fewer visitors, campers and caravans in our area and a reduction of crowding and traffic around the streets and boat ramps. As a result, it appears there have been more early returns to home than was the case in previous years. But the usual summer television amusements have gained more of our attention with the seemingly never-ending games of Australia versus India versus England and the ongoing series of Big Bash games. I try to avoid the latter to ensure peace on the home front.

The tennis also held some interest for us with a variety of good games to attract our attention and the much improved performances of our local

Australian players was welcome – watching them felt more obligatory than in previous years. However, the screaming, shrieking and grunting of some players is hard to put up with. Despite this, the great skills of the top players are obvious and never ceases to amaze me, as one who admits to being totally bereft of ball skills. The bottom line is that Melbourne is very lucky to host the cricket and the Australian Tennis Open. It gives us a great opportunity over a good deal of the summer to showcase our city and its facilities to a large number of overseas visitors and a much larger television audience in Australia and throughout a large number of countries around the world. We should feel very proud of our city, its facilities and our ability to host and manage events that are at least equal to those in other much larger cities in the world.



Mike Rosel took members through the career of an unlikely Australian war hero



Evidence – if any proof was needed – of just how hard the Functions Desk works at our monthly meetings

# NOTICEBOARD

## Investment Group: 8.45 am

Chairman: Barry Amond: A review of investment conditions since November and a discussion on 'Investing for the different phases of retirement'.

## Bike Group

Our next ride is on Friday February 27. As usual from the Black Rock beachside car park at 9 am, driving to the Science Works Museum car park at Spotswood (Ref. M56B1). The ride from there is along the river bank, Jawbone marine sanctuary and around Cherry Lake, returning to Williamstown beach for coffee. This ride is full of interest including shipping, sailing clubs, the Timeball Tower, a large bird sanctuary and the Kororoit Creek coastal park. The return distance is 25 km. Noel Ineson

## More Interest Groups?

Peter McGregor

It has been suggested that the addition of a wider range of interest groups would add variety to the options available to members. All we need is someone (you!) to step forward and offer his services. How about:

- A photography club
- A walking group
- A film or book club
- A wine club
- A coffee club.

Or maybe there is some other activity you think we should offer. If you have any good ideas and are prepared to offer your time, let us know.

## Digital Technology Group

Geoff Wade

The Digital Technology Group will meet next on Tuesday April 7. Topic: How to prepare a blog led by Geoff Bransbury. Thereafter, Tuesday August 11 and Tuesday October 6 at 25 Third St, Black Rock.

## Opera and Music Groups

Barry Amond

Music Group's first meeting of the year is Wednesday February 25 at 7 pm. The Opera Group meets on Wednesday March 25.



## Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

At our meetings on February 10 and 13, the Groups will discuss Rights & Responsibilities.



## BOOK NOW

Tzatziki? Yiros? Saganiki?

Dolmathes? Biftegia and Gyros? Spanakopita?

What more could you ask for?

Join us for this special night of Greek fare.

THEO'S: 66 Station Street Sandringham

Thursday March 19 6.30 pm Cost: \$40 pp.

## From the Treasurer

Geoff Carlson

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2015 ARE NOW DUE.

Subs remain at \$55 if paid before March 31.

NOTE: Payment by direct transfer to the Probus bank account is encouraged. See banking details on front/back page.

## Theatre

Tony Bowles

Unfortunately, we have been unable to raise the numbers required for *The Lion King* and had to cancel our booking. But, we have been able to book 12 seats for the musical *Mary Poppins* on Sunday May 24 at 2 pm at the National Theatre, St Kilda. Cost: Adults \$45; under 16 years \$33.

This is an excellent family show performed by the Cheltenham Light Opera Company. They are a very professional company and from past shows I know they will delight everyone. It is a show for young and old so spread the word to your friends with young children or come yourself. Tickets must be paid for by March 13. Record your name at the functions desk if interested.

## PRISMS 2015

Tuesday, 28 April at 3 pm at Davis residence

Tuesday, 4 August, at 2 pm at Amond residence

Tuesday, 8 December, at 2 pm at Nash residence.



Tastes: Going Greek

February 2015





# FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD  
Ken Beadle

## Social Croquet and Spit Roast

4 pm Friday February 20



**Members are advised that places are filling fast for our croquet evening. Currently, our numbers are up to 27 and our ceiling figure is 40. Following on from last year, it promises to be another wonderful social occasion. No special skills required. Payment of \$30 no later than Friday February 13 would be of great assistance.**

**Remember: no heels - flat soles are a must.**

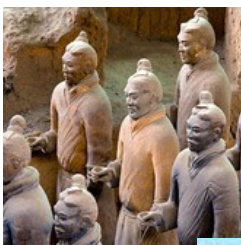
## New Islamic Museum of Australia

Tuesday March 24

We have an opportunity to visit this new museum at Thornbury which was only opened in April, 2014. It may be of interest to know that the man who was the driving force behind the venture was recognised in the last Australia Day Honours; and it is his sister, Samira, who operates the modern middle eastern café. We travel independently to the museum — though some will share — arriving for a 10 a.m. start. Upon arrival, we will have morning tea followed by a guided tour, a Q & A session and a banquet lunch.

Cost: \$40 per head (payment no later than March 17 would be greatly appreciated).

**RATED FIVE STARS BY TRIP ADVISOR**



## 2015 China Trip

Final arrangements have yet to be settled; however, members are advised that the intention is to leave Melbourne early October for a trip of approximately 14 days. We would visit Shanghai, Guilin, Xian, three days cruising on the Yangtze River and finish at Beijing. I hope to arrange a trip along these lines to coincide with a packaged tour, details of which will be set out in an accompanying brochure. I am yet to receive a firm price but it should be available by the time of our meeting on Tuesday February 17. Again, I remind those who propose to come to ensure their passport is valid beyond April, 2016, and give some thought to travel insurance. It is anticipated that our travel agent will require a deposit in the not-too-distant future and it is highly recommended that your travel insurance covers the refund of the deposit should you have the need to cancel your booking.

John Green

## Murray River Cruise

John Green

**6-day Mighty Murray River Discovery Cruise  
Sunday September 13.**

A bus would take us from outside the Beaumaris Library to the airport where we board our flight to Adelaide. Later that afternoon we are taken by bus to Murray Bridge where the cruise commences. The *Proud Mary* vessel has 18 cabins each of which accommodates two people. Friday pm, the coach takes us back to the airport and upon arrival in Melbourne we are met by our coach to return us to the Beaumaris Library.

Cost: \$2530 pp twin share (single: \$3615). All fares and meals on the boat are included.

## WORLD TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

**#1 FRANCE (85 MILLION VISITORS)**

**#2 UNITED STATES (69.8 MILLION)**

**#3 SPAIN #4 CHINA #5 ITALY**

**ASIA'S BEST PERFORMER: THAILAND (26.5M)**



Left: Frank Lloyd Wright's home

Below: Our own John Fisher in full flight on a favourite subject: buildings



## Great Buildings of the World

Lloyd Jenkins

Once again 'one of our own' demonstrated the depth of talent within our club. John Fisher called upon his experience as an architect to support an interesting presentation about buildings. Ten minutes can be a limiting time - sometimes the speaker is caught only halfway when the 10-minute bell goes. But John had prepared himself nicely. His timing was perfect, yet he delivered plenty of information that informed and entertained. We visited places such as Dubai to view the world's tallest building; and the home of architect Frank Lloyd Wright built over a waterfall – then to the island of Rhodes where a hospital from the 14<sup>th</sup> century is still in use. Finally to Detroit to see a fine and huge railway terminal that has been empty for 34 years due to the collapse of car manufacturing in America. And on John went, with zippy commentary in a splendid 10-minuter. The excellent photographs were his own and there he was – in most of them – to prove it. His camera must have a self timer!



Dashing  
ro

Australian He-

*Burj Khalifa, is a skyscraper in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It is the tallest artificial structure in the world, standing at 829.8 m*

## Birthday Boys – February

Allan Cox 27/2      Paul Crompton 18/2  
Peter Harford 27/2      Dick Kirby 9/2  
Lachlan McLean (new member) 25/2  
Gary Sebo 21/2      Hugh Stevens 26/2  
Graham Symon 6/2      Ken Watson 15/2  
Apologies to Vice-President Kevin McDonnell whose birthday was missed last month (16/1).

Alec Little died in battle in 1918 aged 23



Our Keynote Speaker for January, journalist and author, Mike Rosel, provided an illustrated presentation of the Alec Little story that captivated us as he took his audience through the career of an Australian war hero who has never received due recognition. Mike's recent book, *The Unknown Warrior*, will correct that situation. Born in Hawthorn in 1895, he attended nearby Scotch College. After missing out on joining the fledgling Australian Air Force at the start of World War I, Alec Little joined the Royal Naval Air Force [ there was no RAF ] and became an ace fighter pilot with 47 individual air combat victories – despite one report from his training period noting, "He has a trick of landing outside the aerodrome."

## Mike Rosel has turned our minds to a vital period in Australian history

~~Alec Little still holds the record for 'Australian' fighter pilots in all theatres of war but, because his career was not with an Australian force it has not achieved prominence in the records here. Mike also revealed a different interpretation of the term 'dashing fighter pilot.'~~ The engines of the open cockpit aircraft were lubricated with castor oil and the fumes would have had an inevitable effect upon the pilot. A built-up urgency upon landing compelled a rapid dash by the pilot to relieve the situation. Alec Little died in battle in 1918 aged 23. A poignant photograph of the burial scene at Beauvoir-Wavans in France particularly took our attention. Mike Rosel has turned our minds to a vital period in Australian history and the Alec Little story is far too important to remain hidden.

## "He has a trick of landing outside the aerodrome"

Lloyd Jenkins

## Believe it Or Not

Who would have thought that the name of our capital city, Canberra, apparently derives from an aboriginal word 'ngambra', which in the local Ngunnawal language means 'tits'. David Hunt, *An Unauthorised History of Australia*

# Probus Club of Beaumaris

# Events Calendar



|                       |         |                             |                              |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tuesday February 10   | 2 pm    | Discussion Group            | 25 Third Street Black Rock   |
| Friday February 13    | 9.30 am | Discussion Group            | 25 Third Street Black Rock   |
| Tuesday February 17   | 8.45    | Investment Group            | Sandringham Club             |
|                       | 10 am   | GENERAL MEETING             |                              |
| Friday February 20    | 4 pm    | Croquet & Spit Roast        | ★                            |
|                       |         | Sandringham Croquet Club    |                              |
| Wednesday February 25 | 7pm     | Music Group                 | 25 Third Street Black Rock   |
| Friday February 27    |         | Bike Ride                   |                              |
| Tuesday March 10      | 2 pm    | Discussion Group            | 25 Third Street Black Rock   |
| Friday March 13       | 9.30 am | Discussion Group            | 25 Third Street Black Rock   |
| Tuesday March 17      | 8.45    | Investment Group            | Sandringham Club             |
|                       | 10 am   | GENERAL MEETING             |                              |
| Thursday March 19     | 6.30 pm | Tastes: Going Greek         | Theo's ★                     |
| Tuesday March 24      |         | Islamic Museum of Australia | ★                            |
| Wednesday March 25    | 7 pm    | Opera Group                 | 25 Third Street Black Rock   |
| Tuesday April 7       |         | Digital Technology Group    | 25 Third Street Black Rock   |
| Friday April 10       | 9.30 am | Discussion Group            | 25 Third Street Black Rock   |
| Tuesday March 13      | 2 pm    | Discussion Group            | 25 Third Street Black Rock   |
| Tuesday April 17      | 8.45    | Investment Group            | Sandringham Club             |
|                       | 10 am   | GENERAL MEETING             |                              |
| Tuesday April 28      | 3 pm    | PRISMS                      | The Davis Residence          |
| Sunday May 24         | 2 pm    | Mary Poppins                | National Theatre, St Kilda ★ |

Probus Bank details: BSB 063-144  
Account No 10121288

★ Payment required