

NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

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Account No 10121288



Issue No. 285

February 2014

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday February 18 The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Mariam Issa*

Topic: From Somalia to Brighton

An inspirational story of one woman's epic journey

10-Minute Speaker: Keith Ross A View of the Car Industry

*Born in Somalia in 1968, Mariam now lives with her husband and five children in Brighton. Her story is of a rich but barely-known culture and of how, against the odds, she survived tradition, war, rejection – and a leaky boat. Despite her gender and circumstance, she gained an education and has gone on to thrive in her new country. Her life has been a series of new years: changing countries, changing cultures, changing roles and responsibilities. Author of *A Resilient Life*.



PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Office Bearers 2014

| | | | |
|--|------------|--|-----------|
| * President: Peter McGregor | 9533 4760 | * Vice-President: Peter Harford | 9592 6797 |
| * Past President: Bruce Tomkins | 9591 0076 | * Secretary: John Howe | 9598 2429 |
| * Treasurer: Geoff Carlson | 9589 4884 | Auditor: Don Lobb | 9598 5546 |
| * Activities: Geoff Bransbury | 0416294452 | * Assistant Functions: John Green | 9580 6820 |
| * Meetings: Duncan Gibson | 9585 3547 | * Assistant Meetings: Geoff Wade | 9588 2593 |
| Almoner: Andrew Watson | 9589 5913 | Archive & Grapevine: Roy Petch | 9589 5757 |
| * President's Table: Alan Stevens | 9597 0235 | Sommelier: Bill Green | 9596 1548 |
| Speakers' Recorder: Alan Williams | 9598 7550 | Audio Visual: Paul Crompton | 9583 1310 |

* Committee Members

Interest Groups

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Bike Riding: Noel Ineson | 9589 5263 | Bowls : Ted Montfort | 9589 5949 |
| Discussion: Barry Amond | 9589 1143 | Digital Technology: Geoff Wade | 9588 2593 |
| Investment: Barry Donaldson | 9598 6446 | Music/Opera: Barry Amond | 9589 1143 |
| PRISMS: Bill Davis | 9592 5982 | Tastes: Peter McGregor | 9533 4760 |
| Theatre: Robert Dun | 9589 5456 | | |

FROM THE PRESIDENT

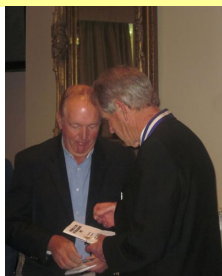


PETER MCGREGOR

“... many people .. do small things that make a huge difference...”

With two of our members heading off across Russia soon - one by train, the other astonishingly (until you know who it is) by motorbike - my mind has turned again to the world's largest country; and arguably the coldest! I say 'again' because as a student at Monash however many years ago I made the decision to major in Russian history. Largely because it was the one European country of which I knew least. What I didn't know at the time was that some of my lecturers were, or had been, members of the Communist Party and, no doubt, in the guise of pure objectivity, steered us towards references that are today regarded as at least suspect. Nevertheless, one of the remarkable stories of Russia that sticks in my mind concerns Maria Feodorovna, the wife of Tsar Alexander III. She helped save a life by altering a death sentence. Alexander, going through a long list of suspected traitors and criminals, had written clearly against one name, 'pardon impossible, to send to Siberia'. Maria changed it to, 'Pardon, impossible to send to Siberia'

and saved a life with a comma! The point of this story for us is that we have within our Probud organisation many people who do small things that make a huge difference. Unsung heroes, you might say. People who co-ordinate our interest groups. People who video keynote speakers so that absentees may share the experience. People who welcome members, open doors, pour cups of coffee or move furniture. People who select gifts for guest speakers. People who hand-deliver the newsletter; or proof-read it. Those who do all the little things that make our meetings run smoothly. And many more. The other day, one of our members fixed a small clock, a gift from a friend, that my wife was about to throw away; he also made our paper-shredder work again. Another expertly fixed someone's letterbox. Without wishing to inaugurate the Maria Feodorovna Award for Excellence, I do want to acknowledge those members who make this club the outstanding club that it is by doing the myriad of little things that make a big difference.



Left: At our January meeting, we were pleased to welcome new member, Geoff Cupples, whose illustrious career spanned many years' service with NAB; introduced by Merv Davidson (below).



Keynote Speaker, Steve Ager, with (from left) John Knight and John Howe and (above) Martin Joyce



In the interest of balance, we should note that airlines other than Qantas operate with A380s

NOTICEBOARD

Investment Group

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

Topic: Probus and external portfolios; comments on stock risks and drivers. Barry Donaldson

NOTE: EVERYONE PLEASE BRING A PEN TO COMPLETE A BRIEF SURVEY

Opera and Music Groups

Barry Amond

The Opera group will meet on Wednesday March 5 and the Music Group on Wednesday March 26.



Some of the 40 members of the Opera and Music Group at their 12th Annual Party. The meal was followed by watching a miscellany of musical items in the studio. Including Andrea Bocelli and Dudley Moore.

Discussion Groups

At their meetings on Tuesday February 11 and Friday February 14, the groups will discuss 'Welfare'. They will meet again as usual on the second Tuesday and Friday in March. Barry Amond

Digital Technology Group

No meeting in March. Next meeting will be Tuesday April 1. Topics/equipment to be discussed will be advised at the March General Meeting. Geoff Wade

Men's Sheds (Shedders)

Australia-wide, Men's Sheds have gone from about 125 sheds in 2006 to almost 1000 sheds in 2013. Many sheds are open five days a week and do many things including bike repair, wood and metal-working, and provide a great social outlet to discuss health, and general well-being among men. Items made and repaired are given to needy organisations. Morning tea is a time to catch up and meet other members. There is a shed in Beaumaris which may interest our members (Leader: John Knight). David Robertson

New Member

►► G L CUPPLES (Geoff & Yolanta) ►►

3 Birch St, Mentone, 3194. 9583. Mob 0411 251 406. gcupples@bigpond.net.au
Born 1941, Fairfield. FASICD. NAB, self-emp consulting. Golf (VGC Capt/Pres/
Treasurer), AFL (MCC), MRC. [Club '14]

From the Treasurer

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2014 ARE NOW DUE
Subs remain \$60 pa discounted to \$55 if paid before March 31. Payment by direct transfer to our bank account is encouraged. See banking details on front page. Geoff Carlson

Howlong Golf Trip

The 2014 golf trip is scheduled for the period Sunday October 26 to the morning of Thursday October 30 at the Howlong Country Golf Club. Golf will be played on the afternoon of Monday October 27, late morning/afternoon of Tuesday October 28, and the morning of Wednesday October 29. A putting competition will be held on the Wednesday afternoon just before the presentation of trophies.

The Play-and-Stay package price (\$102 pp per night) includes accommodation, continental breakfast, golf and \$15 meal voucher. Dinner is available in the clubhouse although in the past we have had the Wednesday night dinner at a local hotel. Information flyer will be available at the February meeting and bookings are now open.

A deposit of \$10 pp is required at time of booking. Travel to Howlong on Sunday October 26 or Monday October 27 is at the discretion of each member. All enquiries to Geoff Wade (9588 2593).

Victorian Probus Bowls Association

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary of Probus Bowls – Annual Open Probus Bowls Day, Wednesday March 12, at Burden Park Bowling Club, Springvale. Play will be two games of 15 ends of TWO BOWL TRIPLES. Beaumaris will be represented by three teams of three players. Ted Montfort

Bike Group

Noel Ineson

This month's ride is February 28. We will assemble at the Hampton beachside car park opposite Linacre Road, Hampton, and ride along the attractive Bayside bike path from Brighton Beach to Middle Park, turning inland at Armstrong Street and through Albert Park to the Carousel Café on the Lake for morning coffee before returning to Hampton. This 24 km ride is full of interesting sights, bustling with activity - quite the opposite of the demanding January ride in light rain on the boardwalk through the fascinating Western Port mangrove wetlands and heath bushland.

Reminder:

- * Be patient and give cyclists at least one metre clearance when passing .
 - * Check behind before opening your car door.
- Bike Victoria

[Continued p5]

Kiwi Invasion

52 000 New Z'landers arrived in Australia last year
Total NZ population lost to Australia: 12%
Number living in Australia (to June 13): 648 200

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

February

Croquet and Spit Roast

Friday February 28

4.00 - 8.00 pm



Please try and arrive close to 4 pm as Tony and Jennie Bowles will be giving us croquet instruction. We will then have a no-pressure competition which should be great fun - plus plenty of time to relax and enjoy the company. NOTE: BYO. Please bring your own wine and beer plus an Esky if you need to keep drinks cold as there isn't any room in the fridge. Also, wear flat shoes for the croquet.

WHERE: The Sandringham Croquet Club is hidden in the bushes right opposite the Sandringham Club. There is parking on the foreshore (but a fee if you don't have the Bayside sticker). Otherwise, park in the streets opposite (Abbott Street or Mildura Street). We will have a spit roast with roast potatoes cooked by our President, and salads prepared by volunteers – AND dessert etc. Quite a feast! (Let us know asap if you have special dietary requirements.) PLEASE PAY NOW. \$25 pp

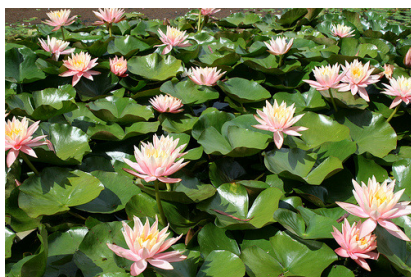
March

Blue Lotus Gardens, Yarra Junction

Friday March 7

9 am sharp

A JOINT TRIP WITH BEAUMARIS BAY



These beautiful gardens are one of Victoria's best-kept secrets. There are literally thousands of water lilies and lotus, including the largest lotus in the world, plus attractive ponds and meandering paths. We will, of course, have a lunch. Bus from Community Centre.

NOTE: the trip is full – but we may book a second bus. Please put your name on our Wait List. Cost: \$52. Please pay now, especially since this is a popular trip and more want to come.

April

Sabah and Brunei Trip Briefing

Wednesday April 2

A special briefing for those going on the Sabah trip. Briefing will be held on Wednesday April 2, 10.30 am, @ Cheltenham Golf Club.

Entrance to Cheltenham Golf Club is from Victor Ave, off Weatherall Road.

The suggestion was made by Alan Nash to change the date but this became too hard so it is still April 2. Apologies to Alan.

Congrats to John Green who skilfully negotiated the removal of the 2% credit card surcharge! Well done, John. Worth shouting him a drink on the trip!

Ashcombe Maze and Gardens, Sculpture Expo, Montalto Vineyard and Olive Grove AND MORE!

Thursday April 3



Not to be missed! A varied and interesting trip to the Mornington Peninsula awaits. First, a cup of tea or coffee on the summit of Arthur's Seat, followed by a visit to Ashcombe Maze – which is very special. The gardens are lovely; you can meander there for a while. Then, gourmet sandwiches before visiting the Sculpture Exhibition at Montalto – where you have a choice: either walk around the exhibition (one of the best in Australia) or wine-tasting. May not be time for both. Tastings at a refundable \$5 (if you buy wine). AND a scenic drive home!

Coach leaves the Reserve Road Community Centre (Library) at 9.30 sharp, returning approximately 5 pm Cost: \$60. Please pay no later than March meeting.

NOTE: Please advise us when registering if you want to do wine-tasting. (We need to advise Montalto.)

Geoff Bransbury

Australian Population by Religious Affiliation

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|--|------|
| Christian | 61% | No Religion | 22.3 |
| Non-Christian | 7.2 | Buddhism | 2.5 |
| ISLAM | 2.2 | Hindusim | 1.3 |
| Judaism | 0.5 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013) | |

Functions & Activities continued

Theatre 2014

Brighton Theatre Co: *As Bees in Honey Drown*
February 26, 8 pm.

All theatre performances are arranged at group discount prices, subject to the required minimum number of starters:

Sunday May 11 at 2 pm The Russian Imperial Ballet
Don Quixote at The Palais.

Payment: \$75 per seat must be received by March 5.

Wednesday May 14 at 1 pm: *Wicked* at the Regent Theatre. Payment: \$65 per seat must be received by March 5.

Wednesday July 30 at 1 pm *Les Miserables* at Her Majesties Theatre. Payment: \$60 per seat must be received by May meeting, May 20.

Wednesday August 27 at 1 pm: *The King and I* at the Princess Theatre. Payment: \$66 per seat must be received by our June meeting.

Please indicate your desire to attend, on the sheets provided at our February meeting.

Robert Dun

NOTICEBOARD from p3

Travel Insurance

Probus South Pacific have published the access fee structure for the Probus Travel Insurance on Probus website: http://probussouthpacific.org/probus/files/Prous_Travel_Insurance_Access_Fees_161213.pdf. Details of the fee structure will be included in the Travel Insurance packs and all documentation, plus Information will be included to explain how to create your own quote by using the pricing matrix; ie. age, destination and duration.

Next Tastes: May Day

Our annual Japanese banquet will be held at Okami restaurant in Hampton Street, Thursday May 1. Perhaps our most popular Tastes event of the year.

Keynote Speaker: March

Farming versus Fracking
The CEO of Lakes Oil will talk to us about the hi-tech search for coal seam gas and oil in Gippsland.

A Remarkable Achievement

The world poverty rate fell by 80% from 26.8% in 1970 to 5.4% in 2006.

NBER Working paper No 15433



Steve and the Super Jumbo

John Brimage expressing Club members' appreciation of Steve Alger's excellent presentation on the A380. Note the gift of a magnum of shiraz that will be standard practice from now on

Our January speaker, Steve Alger, a Training Captain with Qantas, flew the first super jumbo to Australia in 2008. The A380 is the largest passenger aircraft in the world today, with a normal commercial payload of approximately 500 passengers with 25 crew including 21 cabin crew and 4 pilots on the flight deck. Although the plane weighs 571 000 kg (150,000 kg more than the older Boeing 747s) and uses more fuel, it is 20% more economical to operate because of the increased passenger accommodation. Steve illustrated the high sensitivity of the controls and explained that, apart from take-offs and landings, this \$400m plane can virtually fly itself - but, of course, with its computers and the weather conditions under the watchful eyes of the pilots. An A380 can fly on three engines or even two, providing it has attained a minimum height of 500 ft. Also, it is claimed the aircraft could be totally evacuated in an emergency in 90 seconds, although we hope they never have to prove it!

Alan Williams

Golf As It Once Was

Brian Simpson, Golf Professional at Victoria Golf Club for the past 40 years, reminisced on the history of golf professionals in Australia beginning in 1911 with the arrival from England and Scotland of a small group of professionals who formed an association. The group included Richard Taylor, the first professional to be employed by Royal Melbourne Golf Club, who was quite famous for the excellent hickory shaft clubs bearing his name which became collectors' items and would be valued today between \$500 and \$1000. Brian recalled caddies obliged to stand out on the practice fairway catching balls on the first bounce while the pros were warming up for matches that had to be completed with 36 holes on the Saturday as pro golf was not permitted on Sundays. Brian played with top players of the day including Kel Nagle, a very

pleasant companion who never displayed bad temper or poor sportsmanship. Another golfer he admired was Dan Cullen who from the age of 72 to retirement at 95, never failed to record a score lower than his age!



Brian Simpson inspecting a club from an ancient set with hickory shafts

February 2014

Probus Club of Beaumaris

Events Calendar

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Tuesday February 11 | | Discussion Group | 25 Third St Black Rock |
| Friday February 14 | | Discussion Group | 25 Third St Black Rock |
| Tuesday February 18 | 8.45 am 10 am | Investment Group General Meeting | Sandringham Club |
| Wednesday February 26 | 8 pm | <i>As Bees in Honey Drown</i> | Brighton Theatre ★ |
| Friday February 28 | | Bike Ride | |
| Friday February 28 | | Croquet & Spit Roast | Sandringham Croquet Club ★ |
| Wednesday March 5 | | Opera Group | 25 Third St Black Rock |
| Friday March 7 | | Blue Lotus Gardens | Yarra Junction ★ |
| Tuesday March 11 | | Discussion Group | 25 Third St Black Rock |
| Wednesday March 12 | | Annual Open Probus Bowls Day | Burden Park Bowling Club |
| Friday March 14 | | Discussion Group | 25 Third St Black Rock |
| Tuesday March 18 | 8.45 am 10 am | Investment Group ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | Sandringham Club |
| Tuesday March 25 | | PRISMS | 300 St Kilda St Brighton |
| Wednesday March 26 | | Music Group | 25 Third St Black Rock |
| Friday March 28 | | Bike Ride | |
| Tuesday April 1 | | Digital Technology Group | 25 Third St Black Rock |
| Wednesday April 2 | 10.30 am | Sabah Briefing | Cheltenham Golf Club |
| Thursday April 3 | | Ashcombe Maze and Montalto Vineyard & Olive Grove | ★ |
| Tuesday April 8 | | Discussion Group | 25 Third St Black Rock |
| Friday April 11 | | Discussion Group | 25 Third St Black Rock |
| Tuesday April 15 | 8.45 am 10 am | Investment Group General Meeting | Sandringham Club |
| Friday April 25 | | Anzac Day Bike Ride | |
| Thursday May 1 | | Tastes: Japanese Banquet | Okami ★ |
| Sunday May 11 | 2 pm | Russian Imperial Ballet: <i>Don Quixote</i> | The Palais, St Kilda ★ |
| Wednesday May 14 | 1 pm | <i>Wicked</i> | Regent Theatre ★ |
| Tuesday May 20 | 8.45 am 10 am | Investment Group General Meeting | Sandringham Club |
| Friday May 23 | | Bike Ride | |
| Wednesday May 28 | 8 pm | <i>Red</i> | Brighton Theatre ★ |