



Newsletter

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to Box 57 PO Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 252

February 2011

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday February 15 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: 2011 - A One-horn bull? 9 am before the main meeting. See p2

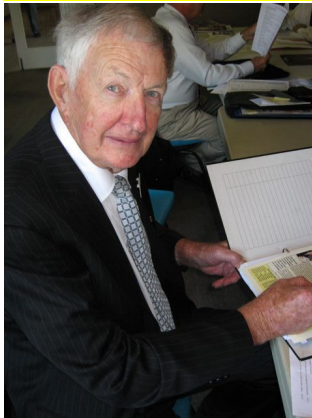
10-Minute Speaker: Geoff Bransbury **Easy Rider:** Crossing India by Bike

Keynote Speaker: Dr Eric Bird

Topic: The World's Coastal Landforms

Dr Bird is a Principal Fellow in Geomorphology in the University of Melbourne and a Scientific Director of Geostudies Pty Ltd. He is a consultant to United Nations agencies on coastal management.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It makes me appreciate our way of life that we mostly take for granted

Over a long period of time, I have enjoyed reading our national Probus magazine *Probus News*, the officially recognised publication for the purpose of informing Probus club members which is published quarterly for members in Australia. I have been very impressed with its scope and content, especially information it contains reflecting how wide its influence is over thousands of people who gather together from all over the world and exchange peaceful ideas and experiences. It makes me appreciate our way of life that we mostly take for granted. In contrast, as we see and listen to or read the daily news, I feel deeply for the many people on the other side of the world who are subject to dictatorships and corrupt states whose lives are threatened by practices I would like to think we would not tolerate. I am confident that, if we were threatened in any way, the Beaumaris Probus Club could form a regiment at least a hundred strong which would be a formidable force indeed. (Perhaps we could call on one of

our last keynote speakers, Capt Brian Burton, to lead us into the fray!)

More and more, one of the great things I appreciate about Probus is that we and our partners have the opportunity to mix and socialise with so many friends in a variety of settings - meals together, cups of tea and coffee, discussions with our special visitors and a wide variety of trips and excursions. Fortunately, we have so many talented people within the club who go out of their way to make sure our events are enjoyable for all who care to participate.

Special thanks to Geoff Wade for our last meeting at St Martin's Uniting Church Hall featuring his friend, Graham 'Smokey' Dawson, who gave us a few of his entertaining tales about some of our cricket greats and his part in broadcasting sporting events to the community. We look forward to another year of such informative and challenging speakers.

Office Bearers, 2011

President: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526
Vice President: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791
Past Pres: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
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

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

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

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

NOTICEBOARD

Members' Register

The new Members' Register is now in preparation. It is hoped to distribute it no later than the April meeting. Now is the opportunity to update your details, advise any changes and even have your photo updated. Many of the members' photos are old and of lesser quality. If you would like your photo updated, please provide a copy to Geoff Wade or arrange with Geoff or Peter McGregor for a new photo to be taken.

2011 Subscriptions

NOTE: Your subs will be the same as last year: \$60 with a reduction to \$55 if paid before March 31. Please note our banking details at the bottom of page 1 for those who wish to pay by direct debit.

David Robertson

Investment: Will This Bear Market Turn in 2011?

Australian stocks in receipt of substantial international revenues - eg Resmed, Cochlear, Brambles - will exhibit static EPS. Commodity stocks should remain strong, with exports subject to China's inflation. Stock purchases favour resources, fuel (gas, electricity) and food. The Reserve Bank may be more moderate in interest rate increases in 2011/12. The effect of the floods will temper internal growth, but infrastructure replacements will stimulate the economy subject to organization efficiency and capacity restraints. One estimate: \$6-8 billion - housing, commercial property, infrastructure, schools, contingencies. Barry Donaldson

New Member



» J A LAING (John & Helen) »

201 Tramway Pde, Beaumaris 3193. 9589 2825, thelaings2@bigpond.com
Born Dundee 1942. Importing. Horse racing & breeding, winemaking, travel, football. [Club '11]

Members' Mobile Phone numbers

We would like to include members' mobile phone numbers in our members' register. If you would like to have your mobile number listed make sure you include it on the list available at the February meeting.

Music Group

The next Music Evening will be on Wed March 30 at the usual time of 7 pm.

Barry Amond

New Address:

Les Hall's new address is les.va@bigpond.com

Theatre Group

BRIGHTON THEATRE COMPANY

Reminder: The first play is on March 9 at 8 pm.

DR ZHIVAGO



Only a few seats remain for the new musical featuring Anthony Warlow at Her Majesty's theatre on Wed May 18 at 1 pm. \$66 – to be paid by March meeting.

LOVE NEVER DIES

About half the seats remain for the AL Webber sequel to *Phantom of the Opera* at the Regent theatre on Wednesday, August 17 at 1 pm. Tickets: \$60.

Allan Taylor

Howlong Golf 2011



As promised in the January newsletter, bookings are now open for Howlong Golf 2011. This great four days of fellowship and golf will be held at the Howlong Golf and Country Club from October 23 to the morning of Thursday October 27. Due to its popularity, we have only 18 rooms available to us – bookings to be taken strictly in order of receipt and payment of the deposit of \$10 per head (\$20 per couple). If the activity is oversubscribed, we will have a waiting list. Please pay your \$20 deposit at the February meeting. If you genuinely cannot be at the meeting and want to book, ring or email to advise me and pay your deposit by the meeting date.

Geoff Wade



Functions & Activities



February

Kilmore Cup Sunday 27th

Details are available for the race-goers at our February meeting from Geoff Bransbury.

March

Warrnambool, Portland, Port Fairy (3 days, 2 nights)

Tuesday 22 - Thursday 24

Cost \$275 twin share (\$395.00 single)

Fantastic value and a great itinerary! The price includes all accommodation, all meals, entrance fees as well as the coach from Warrnambool/Portland/Port Fairy. We travel by train from Melbourne (train cost not included but free for Members with Seniors Concession!)

Train departure times etc. to be advised. **We have a good crowd going but still a few places left! Final deadline for payment - our next (Feb) meeting.**

April

Goulburn River Cruise Wednesday April 13

Cruising the Goulburn River from Nagambie. We will have a lunch, (possibly on the boat). Also, as time permits, we will visit Tahbilk Winery – to see their amazing cellars, and taste their wines– and/or the cheese factory. This is a joint Probus Clubs trip organised by Beaumaris Bay Probus. Coach will leave from the Community Centre. Price and other details should be available at our February meeting.

May

Tutankhamun Exhibition and Italian Lunch in Carlton.

Wednesday May 11



We only have a few tickets left , so please don't delay!

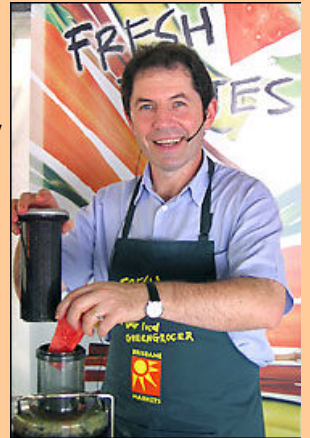
This exhibition has been seen by 7 million people world-wide, including some of our club members, who tell me it is excellent!

See Tutankhamun's golden coffinette and the crown found on his head...plus an amazing array of possessions. Also, learn about the latest scientific testing - and much more. Afterwards, we will have an Italian lunch in Carlton to relax and enjoy the company of fellow Probus Members, partners and friends. The restaurant is not finalised yet so costs are not firm. It is expected to be around \$60 including entrance ticket, coach and lunch.

Please register ASAP to avoid disappointment. It is strictly first-come- first- served!

August

Gabriel Gaté , born in France, is an Australian chef with an international reputation as an author, television presenter and cookery teacher.



**A Taste of New Caledonia
hosted by Gabriel Gate
6 nights - Friday August 5 to
Thursday August 11**

Gabriel Gate has offered to be available to discuss this fabulous trip with interested members at 9.30 am on Tuesday March 8. Location in/near Beaumaris (tba). Please register your interest ASAP if you want to attend this get - together.

The trip will be holiday as well as a gourmet experience! A suite at the luxurious Ramada Plaza with views of the bay is waiting for you! Gabriel will be your host and Geoff and Yvonne Mason say he is a most attentive and charming host! There will be 3 Gourmet dinners and 4 unique lunches. Breakfast is included. There is wine and fine food tasting tours and guided visits to markets, and the Cultural Centre and Tribal Village. Also have a cooking lesson! There will be time for shopping or just relaxing in the sun and reading a book!

Should you wish to extend your stay, special rates are available. Alternatively, you may wish to extend your trip to a neighbouring island.

This is a premium trip with a celebrity host so sadly it is not inexpensive! The trip is especially tailored for Beaumaris Probus Clubs **and is NOT** open to the public. The minimum is 20 Probus Club Members or friends and the maximum is 30. Price for air fares/accommodation/ breakfasts and meals (as above), entrance fees/cooking lesson/tastings/transfers: around \$3 900 pp twin share (\$600 single supplement).

Register ASAP if interested in this trip and you would like to meet Gabriel Gate on Tuesday March 8 at 9.30 am.

Call Robert Dun on 9589 5456.





Bill Cruthers welcomes our newest member, John Laing, over a cup of tea at the January meeting in the St Martin's Uniting Church Hall, Beaumaris

Arrival of the Paperless Office?



Kevin McDonnell demonstrates how all those paper records can be stored in a memory bank container small enough to carry in your pocket

Did you know that all your documents— eg financial statements, even receipts - plus all those photos that you have managed to accumulate over many years, can all be scanned and stored in your computer and quickly retrieved as required? Our 10-minute speaker, Kevin McDonnell, introduced us to the new world of digitisation in a talk about scanning documents and photos. With computer digitisation, the necessity of storing large quantities of paper records is virtually eliminated. In addition, all this material can be stored in a memory bank container small enough to carry in your pocket. Kevin is confident that filing cabinets will become a thing of the past! It is possible that bookshelves will also become obsolete as various books from libraries, booksellers and elsewhere can now be downloaded from the Internet and stored in a hi-tech portable file with a capacity of 3,500 books, similar in size to our Members' Register. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, Kevin could not demonstrate fully the practicalities and mechanics involved in achieving these interesting outcomes, including his scanning technique for restoring all those old and damaged photos. Perhaps next time!

Alan Williams



40 Years on the Radio



Graham 'Smokey' Dawson, our January keynote speaker related some of the many interesting and amusing anecdotes collected during his 40 years as a most successful sports broadcaster on ABC radio. During this period, he broadcast a record 1 543 VFL and AFL football matches. His path to broadcasting began in 1970 as a cadet announcer with the ABC and, apart from a two-year interruption when drafted into the army during the Vietnam conflict, he has been involved in sports worldwide – including cricket in all its variants – football, and both the Commonwealth and Olympic Games. His colourful stories about his experiences and the characters he came into contact with were fascinating, including the time when Kerry Packer insisted on 6-ball overs to be played in limited over one-day cricket so as to increase the number of TV commercial breaks during the match. He also made some interesting comments on personality clashes between players and selectors over the years within the Australian cricket teams - some of which may have had some bearing on performances this summer! Graham also revealed in an amusing tale that he and the team did the broadcast of the Athens Olympics from a studio in Melbourne using only TV coverage as the source of their commentary. So, he had to keep a straight face when his neighbour asked him, "And how was your trip to Greece?" Alan Williams



Did You Know?

If the current US government taxed Americans 100% of their income in 2011, the tax receipts generated would not be nearly enough to balance the budget

Vale: Garth Epstein (1918-2011)

All those who knew him would agree that Garth was one of the true 'characters' of their acquaintance. He first joined Probus in 1991 and was a member of Victoria Golf Club for 35 years. He and wife, Val, went on every Probus trip and were inveterate travellers. Even in the last week of his life, he was still making plans to travel. He loved ballet and music and was also an avid collector of stamps. Brought up in the rag trade, his claim to fame was that the family business was responsible for introducing Levi jeans to Australia. Vale Garth.

