

# 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. 295**

**January 2015**

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday January 20 2015 The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Mike Rosel

Topic: The Unknown Warrior  
**The Search for Australia's Greatest Air Ace**

10-Minute Speaker: John Fisher A Few Buildings I Like

## The Unknown Warrior

During three years of WWI combat, pilot Alec Little was credited with 47 victories and his medals are displayed in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra: DSO and bar; DSC and bar; Croix de Guerre. Yet, Alec Little is virtually unknown to most Australians. In pursuit of greater public recognition, Mike Rosel decided to write Little's larger-than-life story for general readers, after accidentally discovering the tiny Sopwith Pup in which Little had scored his first victories over the Western Front in 1916.

Robert Alexander Little, one of two sons of a Canadian medical bookseller, was born in Melbourne in 1895. Keen on flying, he applied unsuccessfully to join Australia's infant air force of four pilots and while still a teenager decided to go to Britain in 1915. In London he spent a hundred pounds on flight training before volunteering to join the Royal Naval Air Service. Surviving early clashes with senior officers unhappy with the young colonial's attitude and after a score of crashes and forced landings in training and early service, Little eventually became a consummate fighter pilot. He pushed his luck and his aircraft to the limit. Aviation historians particularly recall his solo fight in 1917 against eleven German aircraft; and a later combat in April, 1918, when his controls were shot away, the fuselage cracked, and on crashing, he was thrown out. With aircraft circling and firing at him (one came within 30 feet), he fired back with a revolver. A month after this near-miraculous escape, his meteoric and ill-fated combat career ended on the night of May 27, 1918, when he was shot through the hips in solo pursuit of German bombers and was found dead the next morning in the wreckage of his Sopwith Camel. He was only 22.



*Mike Rosel, aircraft enthusiast and author*

# 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

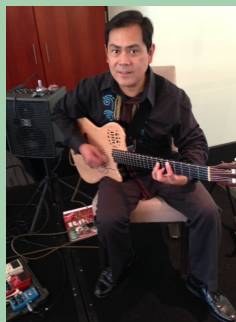
What a good President's Lunch we had in December – a very pleasant day and a successful end to our Probud year. The weather was beautiful and the members' feedback we have received about the venue has been excellent. The room was large with plenty of space for all of us, especially as the attendance of 115 was well up on last year, which is very pleasing. The food and service were both very good. It is a venue well worth considering again for next year.

Sincere thanks go to Geoff Wade for organising the venue and thanks to our two tireless Activity Coordinators, Ken Beadle and John Green, for their work in organising the event. Also thanks to Ken for carrying out the Master of Ceremonies role.

I trust everyone has had a lovely Christmas with family. It is a great time of the year, especially seeing the very young children experiencing the joy of the occasion. As usual, at our lunch Elizabeth produced another great meal. Later in the day, we gathered with others in the family for a further round of gift-giving. However, we missed the presence of two of our children living overseas in the USA and UK; but with today's technologies – such as Skype – we are brought a lot closer together.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year and also a safe and relaxing holiday season together with good health and a prosperous 2015. I look forward to seeing you all in January.

Left: Assorted pics from the very successful President's Christmas Lunch at Southern GC.  
Right: Members at morning tea – Geoff Cupples and Barry Donaldson (main picture)





# NOTICEBOARD

## YOUR ATTENTION: The Sandringham Club – Changed Parking Conditions 2015

Please be aware that the south side of Mildura Avenue adjacent to the Club is now 2-hour parking only; the opposite side is still 4-hour.

## Bike Group

Noel Ineson

Our first ride for 2015 will be Friday January 23. At our last ride, we agreed on a very relaxed ride around the bay. I suggest we assemble as usual at the Black Rock beachside car park at 9 am and ride along the bike path to the Bridge Hotel at Mordialloc for coffee and return from there, a distance of 18 km. This may not be long enough to clean all the Christmas festivities out of our systems so we could also perhaps agree to go a further 10 km return to the Edithvale Wetlands or even more! Newcomers are very welcome to join our group. A spare bike (as new) is available to regain the feel for those who haven't ridden since they were a teenager.

## Digital Technology Group

The Digital Technology Group will meet on Tuesday February 2, Tuesday April 7, Tuesday August 11, and Tuesday October 6 at 25 Third St, Black Rock. Topics to be discussed on February 2 will be advised at the January General Meeting and an attendance sheet will be available.

Geoff Wade

## Opera and Music

Barry Amond

Music Group will meet Wednesday February 25 and the Opera Group on Wednesday March 25.



## Discussion Groups

Our discussions will resume on Tuesday and Friday February 10 and 13 respectively. Please let me have your ideas for this year's topics.

Barry Amond

## Tastes: Spanish Night

Peter McGregor



Above: Scenes from our highly successful Spanish Night at The Grange in Beaumaris in November. More about the Tastes program for 2015 next month.

## Birthday Boys – January

Barry Donaldson 15/1 Jim McGann 26/1  
Tom Moorcroft 9/1 Jeff Sturrock 16/1  
Alan Taylor 16/1

## Investment Group

Note: No meeting in January – as usual

## Theatre

Tony Bowles

We have booked 24 tickets for the Brighton Theatre Company. I would like to thank those going for paying so promptly. Tickets will be sent to me shortly and I hope to hand out at the next meeting. The first play is called *Chapter Two* and is on Wednesday March 4.



Also, 20 seats have been reserved to see *The Lion King* at The Regent on Wednesday May 6 at 1 pm. Cost: \$70 pp. NOTE: there is a policy of no refunds. Please record your name on the booking sheet at the functions table.

## China Trip

John Green

Planning for our trip to China in October is proceeding. As of now, I have the names of 15 people who have expressed an interest. Trips which were being offered at very cheap rates require a deposit of more than 12 months in advance and payment for the full amount was required by December. I am confident that we can arrange an attractive trip at the right price.



## Prisms

Bill Davis

Our PRISMS dates for 2015 are:  
Tuesday, April 28 at 3 pm  
(@ Davis residence)  
Tuesday, August 4, at 2 pm  
(@ Amond residence)  
Tuesday, December 8 at 2 pm  
(@ Nash residence).



## Subscriptions 2015

Geoff Carlson, Treasurer

Annual subs are due and payable on January 1 each year. Subscription for the year: \$65 pa (discounted to \$55 if paid before March 31).

NOTE: There has been no increase in the net discounted amount as we again absorb increased costs and, thereby, return some of our accumulated funds to members. Payment by direct transfer to our bank account is encouraged. Bank account details are on the front and back pages (1 & 6).

# FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

Ken Beadle

## Social Croquet and Spit Roast Evening, Friday February 20

Thanks to Jenny and Tony Bowles, we once again have been able to book the Sandringham Croquet Club (opposite the Sandringham Club on the clifftop foreshore), spacious greens and clubhouse for a fun evening from 4pm to 8pm on Friday, February 20. Peter McGregor will again be Chef de BBQ. Jenny and Tony, with other croquet members, will show us how to play - no special skills required. The inaugural competition last February was won by Rod Kelly after a hard-fought final. The much sought-after trophy will again be up for grabs.



**NOTE:** Unfortunately, the club greens can accommodate a maximum of only 40 players, so register and pay early to ensure your place in 2015's first social event. Cost: \$30 per head, which includes croquet and all food. BYO drinks. Payment is required by February 13.



## New Islamic Museum of Australia Tuesday March 24

The Islamic Museum of Australia showcases the rich artistic heritage and historical contributions of Muslims in Australia and abroad. Fascinating stories, interactive displays and exquisite art exhibits provide an insight into Islam and its influence over the centuries.

Situated at 15A Anderson Road, Thornbury (Melways 30 B4), the museum was opened in April 2014 and has fast become a major attraction.

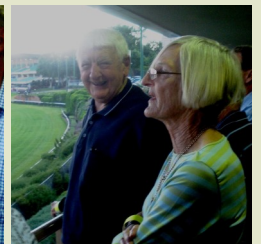
Our visit will include tea/coffee on arrival; a guided tour of the five permanent galleries; a talk, Q&A session on Islam; and finally lunch by *Masterchef* finalist 2013, Samira, at the modern middle eastern café.

We will make our own way by car to the gallery - there is plenty of parking space at the rear of the premises and in Anderson Road - and meet at the entrance at 10 am. Cost is \$40 per head, which covers museum entrance and guided tour, morning tea/coffee and banquet lunch. Payment is required no later than March 17.

## End of Year Celebrations

Two busloads of punters attended the night races, with both Beaumaris Bay and Sandy Bay clubs joining us for the outing. Rumour has it that our President made a profit on the evening! The Christmas lunch was held on a perfect summer day at Southern Golf Club. 113 members and their partners/guests enjoyed pre-lunch drinks and nibbles on the terrace overlooking the beautiful golf course.

*Below:* Moonee Valley Night Races; and President's Christmas Lunch



*Above From Left: The Farmers, John Howe, John Smyth At Right: Lady President's table; and Ralph and Geoff*







*For the uninitiated, the aircraft below is a Sopwith Pup; while, at left, Richard Phillips speaks to members at the November meeting*



### What Is the Difference Between a Sopwith Pup and a Mosquito?

At the last meeting for 2014, Richard Phillips talked to us about the RAAF Museum at Point Cook where he is one of the volunteers and on the committee. Point Cook was first purchased in 1913 and flying commenced in April, 1914. Recently a display was held marking the 100th anniversary, including a replica of the first box-kite taking to the air. The Museum's role is to collect and display pictures and objects pertaining to the RAAF. The research facility has more than a million photographs in its archives; and 40,000 items relating to the Australian Flying Corps and the RAAF with 4 000 aircraft and associated memorabilia on display at any one time, including models of sea rescue craft. Four hangars house the airworthy planes, ranging from a replica Sopwith Pup to a Mosquito and static displays from a 1915 Maurice Farman to a F111-G.

Flying displays include the Victa, the Pup and a WW2 Harvard. Future plans include building more space to house the HS 748, the Caribou or the Bristol Freighter, which are displayed outside and are deteriorating; and purchasing a replica Spitfire to mount at the entrance. Two personal notes : Richard's father-in-law went to the USA and after training flew the Sikorski helicopter which is on display. Also, our own Les Hall trained at Point Cook before graduating to Sunderlands. A little bird tells me that a Probus day trip may be organised for 2015. Thanks Richard for a very interesting talk.

Ron Hunter

*Mal Cater introduces new member, Ross Brown, to members at the November meeting.*



### New Member

R E BROWN (Ross & Margaret)  
111 Sandringham Rd Sandringham, 3191. 9533 1914. browns111@optusnet.com.au.  
Born 1941 Swan Hill. Dip of Art, TPTC.  
Melbourne tourism, tree grower, Meals-on-Wheels, swimming, walking. [Club '14]

## Genetic Improvement and Modification of Animals.



*Above: Bernie Harford's address about genetics, selective breeding and the technology of artificial insemination*

Our Keynote Speaker for November, the former CEO of Genetics Australia, Bernie Harford, gave an illustrated talk on the technology of artificial insemination which is based on selective breeding. It involves performance testing of bulls and the widespread distribution of the semen of elite proven bulls to Australian dairy farmers. Gains of around 1% per annum are achieved by way of increased milk production and improved management traits. Bernie said that while there were some significant achievements made, there were clear barriers to further progress. In particular the low level of efficiency - less than 1% of cloned embryos survive to birth and the high level of development problems meant that the new technology could not yet be commercially applied. His point was that the public's non-acceptance of cloning and genetically modified animals was an issue that could not be addressed in the absence of a technology that was highly efficient and could deliver clear benefits to both consumers and the community.

**"...performance testing of bulls and the widespread distribution of the semen of elite proven bulls to dairy farmers...."**

In his view, further progress is not possible until there is better community understanding of the processes of early embryonic development.

Ron Hunter

Ever notice, the older we get,  
the more we're like computers?



We start out with lots of  
MEMORY and DRIVE  
then we become outdated,  
and eventually have to get  
our parts replaced...:)

### Christmas Fact

**Most of Santa's reindeer have male-sounding names such as Blitzen, Comet, and Cupid. However, male reindeers shed their antlers around Christmas, so the reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh are likely not male, but female or castrati.**

# Probus Club of Beaumaris

# Events Calendar

Tuesday January 20	Note: No Investment Group 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Friday January 23	Bike Ride	
Tuesday February 2	Digital Technology Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday February 10	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday February 13	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday February 17	8.45 Investment group 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Friday February 20	4 pm Croquet & Spit Roast	Sandringham Croquet Club
Wednesday February 25	Music Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday February 27	Bike Ride	
Wednesday March 4 Chapter Two	Brighton Theatre Group	
Tuesday March 17	8.45 Investment group 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Wednesday March 25	Opera Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday March 27	Bike Ride	
Tuesday April 7	Digital Technology Group	25 Third Street Black Rock

Probus Bank details: BSB 063-144  
Account No 10121288

★ Payment required

January 2015