

NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001- 6598G

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Probus Bank Details: CBA BSB 063-144

Account No 10121288



Issue No. 297

March 2015

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday March 17 The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Geoff Bransbury

Topic: Chasing Serendipity: From Vladivostok to London By Motorbike

No 10-Minute Speaker: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ADVENTURE PLUS: The intrepid adventures of our very own Geoff Bransbury as he crosses two continents from East to West – by bike. For the full story over the long six month journey, google 'dopey old bloke' and prepare to be amazed!



Probus Croquet 2015

Glimpses of the hugely successful 2015 Croquet & Spit Roast gala afternoon at Sandringham. Below left: organiser, Ken Beadle, presents the winner, Keith Ross, with the prestigious trophy. Below: Carol Ross and Helen McGregor inspect the spit



Left: Keith Ross vs Jenny Cleland in the 2015 Croquet Grand Final watched over by referee Jenny Bowles (centre)



PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Office Bearers 2015

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| * President: <i>Peter Harford</i> | 9592 6797 | * Vice-President: <i>Kevin McDonnell</i> | 9598 8209 |
| * Past President: <i>Peter McGregor</i> | 9533 4760 | * Secretary: <i>Alan Stevens</i> | 9597 0235 |
| * Treasurer: <i>Geoff Carlson</i> | 9589 4884 | Auditor: <i>Don Lobb</i> | 9598 5546 |
| * Activities: <i>Ken Beadle</i> | 9589 6120 | * Assistant Functions: <i>John Green</i> | 9580 6820 |
| * Meetings: <i>Geoff Wade</i> | 9588 2593 | Assistant Meetings: <i>Keith Ross</i> | 9589 3580 |
| Almoner: <i>Andrew Watson</i> | 9589 5913 | Archive & Grapevine: <i>Roy Petch</i> | 9589 5757 |
| President's Table: <i>David Robertson</i> | 9551 1930 | Sommelier: <i>Bill Green</i> | 9596 1548 |
| Speakers' Recorder: <i>Ron Hunter</i> | 8599 2269 | Audio Visual: <i>Paul Crompton</i> | 9583 1310 |
| Projectionist: <i>Philip Stewart</i> | 9589 3309 | * Committee Members | |

Interest Groups

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Bike Riding: <i>Noel Ineson</i> | 9589 5263 | Bowls: <i>Ted Montfort</i> | 9589 5949 |
| Discussion: <i>Barry Amond</i> | 9589 1143 | Digital Technology: <i>Geoff Wade</i> | 9588 2593 |
| Investment: <i>Barry Donaldson</i> | 9598 6446 | Music/Opera: <i>Barry Amond</i> | 9589 1143 |
| PRISMS: <i>Bill Davis</i> | 9592 5982 | Tastes: <i>Peter McGregor</i> | 9533 4760 |
| Theatre: <i>Tony Bowles</i> | 9598 7973 | | |

FROM THE PRESIDENT



PETER HARFORD

This will be my last message for the Newsletter. I want to say that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as President of Beaumaris Probus for the last twelve months. I am continually impressed by the large number of talented individuals we have in our club. There is a depth of talent that ensures our success; a wide cross section of skills and capabilities and a large number of professional people skilled at organising and managing many functions and activities. I have felt this support personally such that my main roles of chairing the general meeting and committee meeting seem relatively small compared with what is done by others. Throughout the year, Past President Peter McGregor has always been present with advice where necessary, as has Vice President Kevin McDonnell. Secretary Alan Stevens and our Treasurer Geoff Carlson have perhaps the most crucial roles and both exhibit the characteristics of solid support and capability that can be relied on to deliver. Ken Beadle and John Green, Functions/ Activity Coordinators, have kept us busy with activities which have been well supported the members. It was very sad when Robert Dun passed

away through the year. Initially, I had a concern that his enthusiasm for Theatre might be difficult to cover; however, Tony Bowles has willingly undertaken the task of organising future events. There are many others who we rely on to contribute to our operations such as Barry Amond, Geoff Wade, Philip Stewart and Paul Crompton. Noel Ineson and his Bicycle Group; David Robertson and Keith Ross. Bill Green, Ron Hunter, Lloyd Jenkins and Alan Williams; and there are others whose support has contributed to the club's success throughout the year. And last but not least, our stalwart Almoner Andy Watson who keeps tabs on the health of our members and also lightens monthly meetings with his jokes. There are a lot people working very hard for our club and I wish to sincerely thank all of them for their personal contributions and support.

We know that our club is successful but I believe the main reason is because of the excellent contributions made by such a large number of very good people.

Thanks again all.

NOTICEBOARD

Investment Group: 8.45 am

Rob Wilkinson: The pros and cons of ownership and incomes from domestic properties, including leased factories/businesses and rented holiday homes. Chairman: Barry Amond

Digital Technology Group

The next meeting of the Digital Technology Group will be held on Tuesday 7 April at 25 Third St Black Rock commencing at 2 pm. Geoff Bransbury will lead the group to explain how he prepares, sends his blog when travelling. An attendance sheet will be available at the March Meeting. Please record your intention to attend. Geoff Wade

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

At their meetings on March 10 and 13, the Groups will discuss 'The Impact of Technology on Society'.

Opera and Music Groups

Barry Amond

At the Opera Group's meeting on Wednesday March 25 at 7 pm there will be an excellent English production of one of Gilbert and Sullivan's major comic operas. The Music Group will meet again on Wednesday April 29.

ΤΑΣΤΕΣ



Book immediately!

Not too late to join us for

our Greek banquet!

Where: Theo's Greek Tavern Station Street Sandringham

When: Thursday, March 19

Time: 6.30 pm

Wines: Selected by the Fine Wine Manager at Dan Murphy's – available @ \$15 per bottle

NEXT TASTES: Moroccan surprise

Members' Directory 2015

The 2015 edition of the Members' Directory is about to be prepared. If you would like any of your details amended or updated please advise me by March 31 so that the register may be updated and produced for distribution late April. I will be available at the next meeting to take photos to better reflect your current appearance and handsomeness. Geoff Wade

New Member

Call To Arms! Expressions of Interest

We are always looking for members to step up to the plate and give us a 10-minute burst on a subject of special interest. Your stories, ideas and personal experiences would be welcomed by in-coming Vice President, Geoff Bransbury.

L A McLEAN (Lachlan & Sue)

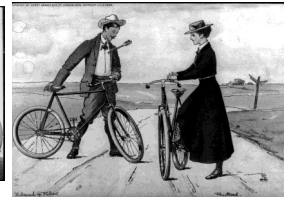
13 May St Hampton 3188.

9598 4406. lachan-

sue@optusnet.com.au

Born 1943 Melbourne. 15

yrs ASIO, 8 yrs CMF. Aviation, all sports. [Club '15]



Above: New member, Lachlan McLean, after his 2-minute life story, with proposer, a few select-

Ian Maskiell, right, and ed photos illustrating his passion for aviation

Bike Group

Noel Ineson

We were most fortunate to have had a beautiful day last Friday for our coastal ride in the Williamstown area. Starting out from Scienceworks with 12 very happy chatty riders, we rode along the mouth of the Yarra through this very historic area, along the coast past Port Gellibrand and into the extensive areas of off shore volcanic rock. We passed through a series of beautiful lagoons with a variety of bird

Birthday Boys - March

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tony Avery 10/3 | Bill Baker 9/3 |
| John Bushby 20/3 | Mev Connell 11/3 |
| Bill Cruthers 17/3 | Alan Farmer 24/3 |
| John Howe 13/3 | Martin Joyce 19/3 |
| Graeme Keys 8/3 | Ian Maskiell 27/3 |
| Ted Montfort 24/3 | Alan Nash 6/3 |
| John Pound 6/3 | Brian Simpson 10/3 |
| Bruce Tomkins 16/3 | Ken White 29/3 |

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

Ken Beadle

Croquet and Spit Roast

We were again blessed with fine summer weather for this great event when 32 players competed for the Beaumaris Probus Croquet Trophy. In a hard-fought final, Keith Ross overcame a spirited challenge from Jenny Cleland to run out our 2015 champion. Many thanks to Jennie and Tony Bowles and members of Sandringham Croquet Club for giving us instruction and umpiring the tournament. Thanks also to Peter McGregor, Chef de BBQ, whose roast beef was 'to die for'; and all the other Probus members and partners who assisted in making the event a success.

Islamic Museum of Australia

Tuesday March 24

Where: 15A Anderson Road, Thornbury (ref Melways 30B4)

Cost: \$40 - includes tea/coffee on arrival; a guided tour of the five permanent galleries; a talk on Islam; a Q&A session on Islam; and finally lunch.

Payment is required no later than 17th March. Please advise Ken Beadle of your interest in car pooling.

Galleries of Remembrance and Shrine

Wednesday April 22.

In 2015, it is timely for a visit/revisit to the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne's most iconic landmark. We will make our own way to the Shrine by car or train, meeting in the new Visitor Centre at 10.50am for a group tour of the Shrine and its precincts at 11am. Following the 40-minute tour, we will visit the newly-opened Galleries of Remembrance. These Galleries are situated within the brick foundations and contain over 800 objects, such as photographs, uniforms and works of art illustrating the fascinating experiences of Australians at war and in peace-keeping operations, from the Boer War to present day. There is no cost for this visit; however, the Shrine welcomes donations. At approximately 1 pm, we will meet at the nearby Observatory Café for lunch (at members' own cost). Please register now so that numbers for the guided tour can be advised to the Shrine management.

Hamilton & Western District Monday to Wednesday, April 20-22



A three day trip: two night's accommodation, dinner at the Bandicoot Motor Inn, Hamilton. On the first day we will visit the Museum of Democracy and the Fine Art Gallery in Ballarat en route for Hamilton.

Tuesday, we travel through Coleraine to Harrow, which claims to be the oldest inland Victorian town. We will be transported back to the 1940s era for their 'you must remember this' fully guided tour of Harrow. On the third day we visit Campe's Motor Museum before leaving Hamilton for the Grampians and home, stopping at Ararat for lunch. Cost: \$475 pp twin share (\$76 single supplement) covering coach travel, accommodation, all meals, all admissions and local guides.

Registration and payment required by March 20.
NOTE: Starts and finishes at the Beaumaris Library, Reserve Road.
[With Beaumaris Bay]
More Activities p5

China Trip

Arrangements are in hand for our trip to China with Air China non-stop from Melbourne departing at 9.40 pm Monday, October 5, and arriving Beijing 6 am local time on the Tuesday. A non-refundable deposit of \$400 is required payable to Destination HQ by Friday, April 10 so that the travel agent can arrange for the seats to be reserved. Balance of the total cost is required no later than Friday, May 29. The price quoted for our 14 day trip is \$3888 per person twin share and the single price is \$5263. All land accommodation is at the Sheraton chain and includes breakfast daily. A visa will be required to enter China and the travel agent can arrange this at an approximate cost of \$120 pp. Suitable travel insurance is strongly recommended to cover the refund of all costs should cancellation be necessary. My information is that premiums vary significantly. Return: departing Shanghai 7 pm Sunday, October 18, non-stop to Melbourne and arriving 9 am Monday.

John Green

Operation Market Garden

The Airspeed AS.51 Horsa was a British World War II troop-carrying glider used for air assault by British and Allied armed forces



At our February meeting, John Pound's remarkable skill was to compress the description of the huge Arnhem Airborne Offensive into Holland in 1944 into a tidy 10-minute package. Code-named Operation Market Garden, the logistics are staggering: 2 500 towed gliders with 1 500 fighter planes as support. Picture a continuous stream of towed gliders, 20 planes wide and 150 kilometres long. Our own Colin Meade, aged 20, was a pilot in the operation, towing a wooden Horsa glider carrying one third of the troops which landed on the ground after the tow was released. Of 40 000 Allied troops in the whole operation, more than 15 000 were killed, wounded or captured. By comparison, Allied losses on D- Day were 12 000. The enormous Arnhem invasion, on which the film *A Bridge Too Far* is based, largely failed. John's photographs added to the sense of excitement during this really excellent presentation, enhanced by Colin Meade's involvement. Colin's health does not allow him to attend meetings now but it was a delight to see him in his old position on this occasion, a loyal member for 26 years.

Lloyd Jenkins



All Above: John Pound after his 10-minute tribute to Colin Meade (right)

Guns Blazing

Insect Heaven

Earth belongs to the insects, not humans. By conservative estimates, there are 160 million of them for every one of us.

Nick Bolton, *The Australian*

No, not Aristotle; not Bertram Russell either, but a philosopher **did** come to see us at the February meeting. It was Bruce Mathieson - rugged, sharp as a tack, articulate, born raconteur. The Mathieson family have a 25 % holding in the ALH Group; Woolworths hold the other 75 %. With 16 000 staff, the group is the number one liquor outlet in the world and second gaming machine operator in the world. Bruce moved out of the world of engineering into the hotel trade, buying his first at Macedon;

"Control the greed," he said. "Share the successes, learn from failures and move on."

since then he has owned 914 of them. In 2000, a ~~joint venture with Woolworths~~ took off with all guns blazing and the ALH group grew from there. BWS outlets and the Dan Murphy chain are part of the group. Yet Bruce had hardly any schooling after the age of eleven. A reflection of his dynamic career, his business philosophy came through loud and clear: asset judgement, common sense, timing, and something we will call 'flair', although Bruce did not use those terms. He was as frank about the misses as he was about the hits. "Control the greed," he said. "Share the successes, learn from failures and move on." We were stunned to learn that a good many of Bruce's major deals have been based on mere spoken agreements, taken on trust as it were. Finally, his Monkey Nuts analogy: "When you reach into the nut jar, don't be like the monkey unable to remove his hand because he grabbed too many



Above left: Noel Williams, President Peter and our February Keynote Speaker, Bruce Mathieson, reminisce; and above right: Just what Bruce needed – another bottle of wine!

nuts. Leave some for others."

Lloyd Jenkins

Functions & Activities Continued from p4

Murray River Cruise

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

Cost: \$2530 pp twin share (single: \$3615).
All fares and meals on the boat are included.
Full details – see February newsletter

Probus Club of Beaumaris

Events Calendar

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 am | Investment Group | Sandringham Club |
| | 10 am | GENERAL MEETING | |
| Thursday March 19 | 6.30 pm | Tastes: Going Greek | Theo's ★ |
| Wednesday March 25 | 7 pm | Opera Group | 25 Third Street Black Rock |
| Friday March 27 | | Bike Ride | |
| Tuesday April 7 | 2 pm | Digital Technology Group | 25 Third Street Black Rock |
| Friday April 10 | 9.30 am | Discussion Group | 25 Third Street Black Rock |
| Tuesday April 14 | 2 pm | Discussion Group | 25 Third Street Black Rock |
| Tuesday April 21 | 8.45 am | Investment Group | Sandringham Club |
| | 10 am | GENERAL MEETING | |
| Wednesday April 22 | | Galleries & Shrine of Remembrance | |
| Friday April 24 | | Bike Ride | |
| Tuesday April 28 | 3 pm | PRISMS | The Davis Residence |
| Wednesday April 29 | 7 pm | Music Group | 25 Third Street Black Rock |
| Tuesday May 19 | 8.45 am | Investment Group | Sandringham Club |
| | 10 am | GENERAL MEETING | |

Below: Three Wise Monkeys?

Below from left: Secretary, Alan Stevens, talking to Jim McGann; the two Geoffs (Bransbury and Wade); Nick Caris, Graham Symon, Eric Slater et al



Photos: Ian Maskiell

**Probus Bank details: CBA BSB 063-144
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