



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

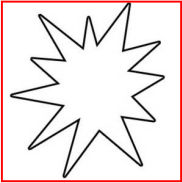
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Issue No. 264

March 2012



Next Meeting: 10am Tuesday March 20 at the Sandringham Club, Beach Road

Keynote Speaker: George Haddon, Cartoonist and Caricaturist
Topic: My Career as a Cartoonist

Investment Group: Decline and Volatility of Securities 9–9.45am before the main meeting.

Annual General Meeting

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Alan Farmer



How fortunate we are to have eleven foundation members still participating

We are indebted to those who formed our Club a quarter of a century ago on June 16, 1987, when a joint venture of Cheltenham and Beaumaris Rotary Clubs established a Cheltenham/Beaumaris District Probus Club. On October 8, 1987, a Cheltenham 'off-shoot' group separated, leaving two Clubs - Cheltenham and Beaumaris. Since then, foundation and subsequent members have ensured Beaumaris Probus Club continued to be successful and vibrant. Wise words of Brian Hirsch, President in year 2000, put succinctly why this is so: "Regardless of age, the most important qualification for membership of our club remains the ability and willingness to attend meetings, participate in the club's social outings and other activities and be prepared to make a contribution."

Continuing contribution is evidenced by the many past Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and other Committee members who contribute, then move on from committee but continue their involvement in a myriad of ways. Our 'perpetual motion' committee guarantees input of new blood, with exciting new ideas and innovations, while maximising ongoing participation of our wise,

experienced 'older buffers'.

Albert Schweitzer once eloquently described yet another of the precious functions which occur when appropriate. "At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." It is the existence and excellence of abilities which our members display in abundance that promises another quarter-century of dynamic fascination, fun and fellowship. Membership of the Beaumaris Probus Club is a privilege.

The enthusiasm and qualities of our members make it so. How fortunate we are to have eleven foundation members still participating. They are: Tony Avery, John Brimage, Merv Davidson, Jack Epstein, Les Hall, Graham Dunscombe, Ian McDonald, Alan Reith, Hugh Stevens, Allan Small and Colin Walker.

A special thankyou to those members for their quarter century of contributions.

Office Bearers, 2012

President: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791
Vice President: **Bruce Tomkins** 9591 0076
Past Pres: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526
Secretary: **John Howe** 9598 2429
Treasurer: **David Robertson** 9551 1930
Functions: **Menno van Ruyven** 9699 5506
Mobile: 0437 154 707
Meetings Co-ord: **Bill Green** 9596 1548
Meetgs Asst: **Duncan Gibson** 9585 3547
Ex-officio: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593

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: **Norm Griffiths** 9598 8575

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

Group Leaders 2012

Investment: **Barry Donaldson** 9598 6446
Music/Opera: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143
Theatre: **Robert Dun** 9589 5456
Grape Vine: **Roy Petch** 9589 5757
Bowls: **Ted Montfort** 9589 5949
PRISMS: **Bill Davis** 9592 5982
Digital Techn/gy: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Bike Riding: **Noel Ineson** 9589 5263
Discussion: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143
Tastes: **Peter McGregor** 9533 4760

NOTICEBOARD

The Sandringham Club



If you want to know where it is, here is a helpful map.
NOTE: Enter via Bamfield Street.

Howlong Golf

Bookings are now open for the annual Howlong golf trip (Sunday October 28 to Wednesday October 31). As there are vacancies, contact Geoff Wade to come and enjoy a few days of great golf and fellowship. A deposit of \$10 pp is required. Accommodation and golf is \$154 per room per night (twin share) for three nights and \$98 per room for Sunday night. Package price includes golf, continental breakfast and two drink vouchers per day. Contact Geoff on 9588 2593 or geoffmarg@bigfoot.com.au.

Members' Register

The 2012 edition of the Members' Register is now in preparation. Please check your entry and advise any changes/updates to Geoff Wade no later than March 31; also, if you want a new/updated photo.

Digital Technology Interest Group

Geoff Wade

The April meeting of the Digital Technology Group will be on Tuesday April 3 at 25 Third Street Black Rock commencing at 2pm. The April meeting will include a demonstration of editing digital video to create a movie/dvd; as well as the usual updates.

Subscriptions for 2012

Your subs are now due and will be the same as last year; that is, \$60 with a reduction to \$55 if paid before March 31. NOTE: It is ok to pay by direct debit. See banking details p1.

David Robertson

Investment

Theme: The rate of decline and volatility of securities is improving but still unreliable. Review of our portfolio as a result of broking house inputs – investments with 3-5 year potential a consideration.

Barry Donaldson



Above: The problem with Europe

Music & Opera Groups

The Music Group will meet on Wednesday March 28 at 7pm. Please let me know if you wish to attend. The first Opera evening for the year will be Wednesday April 25, Anzac Day.

Barry Amond

Bike Group

Friday March 23 we will drive to the Maribyrnong River mouth for a very beautiful scenic ride along the river past Flemington Racecourse and Pipemakers Park to the Medway Golf Course and back. The Boat-house Cafe will be a welcome stopover on the return run. A highlight of our ride on March 2 was the long boardwalk over the wetlands at Koomba Park with the delightful regular sound of numerous croaking frogs.

Noel Ineson

Discussion Groups

The 28 members in these groups are now meeting on the second Tuesday at 2pm and the second Friday at 9.30am. In February, we had very good discussions on Climate Change/Global Warming and this month will do battle with Democracy, a very challenging topic! There is room in the Friday group for one or two more members. Please let me know if you are interested in exchanging thoughts on a range of interesting topics.

Barry Amond



Theatre

Annie - 30 stall seats have been reserved for the performance on Wednesday, July 11, at 1pm in the Regent theatre. Price: \$61 per seat. Payment for tickets must be received by our May meeting.

Sleeping Beauty – the Imperial Russian Ballet return to Australia with their classic masterpiece *Sleeping Beauty*. 24 seats on Sunday, August 26, at 2pm in Her Majesty's Theatre have been reserved. Price: \$79 per seat. Payment for tickets by our June meeting. There will be only three performances in Melbourne.

Robert Dun

"Just because something doesn't do what you planned it to do doesn't mean it's useless." Edison

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES



Menno Van Ruyven & Robert Dun

April

Historic Maldon

Thursday April 26

We join Beaumaris Heights on their HISTORIC MALDON trip

“the most intact historic street-scape in Victoria”



Depart 9am from Beaumaris Community Centre. Returning 5pm

Maldon is a town steeped in history. The National Trust declared it Australia's first Notable Town in 1966. It once had quartz reefs that were among the world's richest, attracting a population which built grand houses and a very busy commercial centre.

Cost \$51 pp (includes lunch)
More details at March meeting.
Book now and pay Menno.

Forthcoming Events

Robert Dun reports that he is just finalising details of a proposed joint venture with other clubs for a trip on Wednesday, June 20, to The Briars, Mornington, an historic homestead. The current plan is for a wine- and local produce-tasting at Crittenden's winery followed by a quality lunch at *Josephine's* restaurant adjacent to The Briars. After lunch, there will be an inspection inside The Briars including the collections, some of which date back to Napoleon.

Probable cost: \$60-\$65, depending on numbers.

COME AND JOIN US

May

Shared Tour to *Polly Woodside*

Wednesday May 23

COME AND JOIN US



The *Polly Woodside* was built in Belfast in 1885 by Workman Clark & Co Ltd and operated as a cargo vessel, carrying coal, nitrate and wheat between England and South America, and also visiting North America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

The *Polly Woodside* is among the best in the world as a surviving example of a late nineteenth century barque rigged, iron-hulled, ocean-going trading ship and was awarded the World Ship Trust Medal for achievement in the preservation of maritime heritage.

The *Polly Woodside* is a three-masted iron barque. The ship's registered gross tonnage was 678 tons. The hull length is 59 m (192 ft), overall length is 70 m (230 ft), beam 9 m (30 ft) and the estimated area of sail when all sails are set is 1110 sq metres (12,000 sq ft).

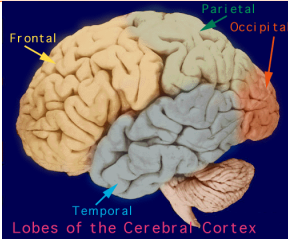
With Beaumaris Bay by Ventura Bus – pick up at 9.30am at the Beaumaris Community Centre; and returning about 3pm. Contact Menno immediately.
Cost: \$45 pp.



Candlelight Dinner

This year's candlelight dinner will be a *very special affair*, celebrating our 25th anniversary. Further details to follow - please put it in your diary (3/7/12).





President Alan introducing Jennie Hills to tell us about our brains

Thinking About Thinking

Jennie Hills began her keynote address on the topic New Ways of Thinking by challenging the audience to think of an apple. Members were then asked to reveal their first associations for that object - answers were many and varied, including apple tarts, fresh crisp taste, and computers. The conscious part of the brain (situated in the front area), she explained, uses the limitless capacity of the long-term memory (situated in the back area) to make connections; and we could have spent hours accessing all the many connections. No two brains are identical; therefore, responses to questions or circumstances differ - causing confusion, for example, where witnesses' perceptions of events such as accidents, crime scenes and the like vary. The front (or thinking) part of our brains has limited capacity and requires regular oxygen and glucose to operate effectively, but attention to lifestyle including regular physical exercise, diet control, non-smoking and brain activity such as card games and crosswords are important for brain health; also, writing reminder notes helps stabilise information in the long-term memory. Jennie Hills' presentation was bright, upbeat, informative and certainly thought-provoking!

Alan Williams

March Ride: After riding along Dandenong Creek and the 18 km return trip to Koomba Park past lakes and wetlands teeming with bird life, the Bike Group enjoyed a coffee at the busy Jells Park Teahouse

Photo: Duncan Gibson



New Members

◀ J R KNIGHT (John & Helene) ▶

6 Hardinge St, Beaumaris 3193. 9589 1627. mob. 0429 177 872

knightjr@bigpond.net.au. Born Melbourne 1938. DipBusStud. Accounting & business. Bowls, golf, Men's shed, Civic Affairs [Club '12]



▶ K L LANSLEY (Keith & Rae) ▶

24 Mary St, Beaumaris 3193. 9589 2793. klan-sley@bigpond.com

Born Murwillumbah 1938. PhD, MA, BA, Dip PE. Golf, bowls, gardening, travel, dining, theatre, Apex, Rotary. [Club '12]



From Wood Waste to Wonder

John Pound is a remarkable woodcarving hobbyist. His creative and artistic skills were apparent in the wonderful examples of his work displayed for us to admire during and after his talk in February, including a beautifully carved shark, a stingray and an eagle. We were shown photographs of odd pieces of timber (see above) - including a red gum girder from an old railway bridge weighing 25 kilos and rough timber packing cases for importing truck engines - used to create the exhibits. With a circular saw, an arbortech attachment on an angle grinder, numerous chisels and gouges - plus many hours of sandpapering and polishing with organ oil - he created these remarkable *objets d'art* for us (and others) to enjoy.

Alan Williams



By Water to Willie

Up a lazy river.... Yes, that's us, heading for lunch at Williamstown..... Under the Southbank footbridge, the Sandridge Bridge, Queens Bridge, Kings Bridge, Spencer Street Bridge, Seafarers Bridge, Charles Grimes Bridge, the spider-web-like Webb Bridge, Bolte Bridge and finally West Gate Bridge. What fun.

In 1981, an estimated 54 per cent of the world's people lived in extreme poverty. By 2005 this had fallen to 25 per cent. According to the World Bank, by 2015 it will be less than 15 per cent. *The Age 19/7/11*

Thanks to Geoff Goodwin

POLITICIANS AND NAPPIES ... THEY SHOULD BE CHANGED REGULARLY AND FOR THE SAME REASON