



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to Box 57 PO Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 255

May 2011

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday May 17 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: How & When will the USA recover its debt? 9 am before the main meeting.

10-Minute Speaker: Peter Harford The Drought and Our Use of Water

Keynote Speaker: Dr Beth Wilson Health Services Commissioner

Topic: The Older I Get , the More I Care about Health Services - Role of the Health Services Commissioner

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Beth advocates a sound work-life balance and the importance of humour, story telling and music

A recent Melbourne University magazine reported a projection that approximately 12 000 Australian centenarians will be alive and active by the year 2050. As a result, we may need to rethink our social institutions and infrastructure - construct more gymnasiums, art and music facilities rather than only 'aged accommodation'. No doubt, continuing education will be a booming growth industry. Our Probuss members may be a little ahead of the pack with our Advanced Digital Skills Program and our rich range of interest groups. For older generations, being able to use digital technology can be like a youth serum. It can become a late- life changer - a way of reinventing oneself. Hence, thanks must go to Ken Reed for his initiative and effort in co-ordinating our Club's 2011 Digital Skills Program. The provision of such a comprehensive range of possible skills for members is to be applauded. Thanks also to others who have volunteered to mentor for the program - I have signed up to learn new skills in this area and I encourage you all to consider doing so.

In an allied area, our Keynote Speaker at the April General Meeting , John Knight, told us about one Beaumaris venue for us to be able to explore other activities - a Men's Shed. Some of us professional or business people, who served our time in a 'paper shuffling' job, often welcome the opportunity to play with the tools of trades-people to demonstrate to ourselves and others that we could possibly have been 'good with our hands'. Now we have that opportunity. Our thanks to John for his talk and his inspired work to make these Men's Sheds a reality in our district.

Our Keynote Speaker for May superbly complements these ideas. We have the privilege of hearing from Dr Beth Wilson, a trained lawyer, who has been Victoria's Health Services Commissioner since 1997. Beth advocates a sound work-life balance and the importance of humour, story telling and music which can provide inspiration and continuing education. She has received many prestigious awards and, from all accounts, is a most engaging and entertaining speaker. Alan Farmer

Office Bearers, 2011

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Group Leaders 2011

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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
New Technology: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Communications: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Bike Riding: **Noel Ineson** 95895263

NOTICEBOARD

Digital Interest Group



The next meeting of the Digital Interest Group will be held on Tuesday June 7 commencing at 2:00 pm at 25 Third St, Black Rock (Barry Amond's home). The topic for discussion will be E-readers such as Kindle, E-Book, Smart Phones, I-pad, etc. The leaders of the discussion will be Bill Cruthers and Kevin McDonnell. If you are at all interested in attending, please record your name on the attendance sheet at the next (May) meeting. The next meeting will be on July 5 when the topic will be: Transferring Photos to CD/DVD (with leader, Paul Crompton) and August 8 with the topic of transferring LP albums to computer, CD and MP3 files. Leaders: Allan Taylor and Bill Cruthers. NOTE: Attendance sheets will be available at Probus meetings preceding these dates. Geoff Wade

DID YOU KNOW? The amount of technical information in the world is doubling every two years. There are 31 billion searches on Google every month. The first text message was sent in December 1992. Today, the total number of text messages every day exceeds the entire population of the planet. It is estimated that by 2013, a supercomputer will be built that exceeds the capacity of the human brain.

Theatre Group

BRIGHTON THEATRE COMPANY

A reminder that the second play for the year, *On Golden Pond*, will be Wednesday evening, June 8. DR ZHIVAGO At Her Majesty's Theatre on Wed, May 18 at 1 pm.



LOVE NEVER DIES

Still three seats available for the Regent Theatre on Wednesday, August 17 at 1 pm. \$60 must be paid by the June meeting. Allan Taylor

Music & Opera Groups

The next meeting of the Music Group will be at 7pm on Wednesday June 29. At the last Opera evening on April 27, we were thrilled by the Met's wonderful 2009 production of Bellini's *La Sonnambula*.

As usual, the music was beautiful - Natalie Dessay and Juan Diego Florez were superb in the leading roles.

Barry Amond



Bicycle Group

Our fourth bike ride on Friday May 27 is an attractive 20 km green return run from Mordialloc via Edithvale - Seaford parks and wetlands, past golf courses and on to the Patterson Lakes waterway. The riders will again assemble at the beachside car park near the Black Rock clock tower at 9 am. Paul Crompton has done a magnificent job rigging up his trailer to carry our four bikes from there to the starting point of the ride at Mordialloc. Please let me know if you would like to join our very enthusiastic group of riders. As a special bonus, a great discussion on the affairs of the day always takes place at morning coffee time. Please bring something for morning tea. Contact me on 0408397258 if you have a difficulty on the morning of the ride. Noel Ineson

New Members

Below: Brian Burton introduces himself while his proposer, Eric Slater, watches on. Below right: Proposer, Ian Gallagher, and President, Alan Farmer, present new member, Kevin Wood.



Investment Group

Agenda: portfolio review, the NBN, football TV, and new share opportunities for investment. 9 am before the main meeting. Barry Donaldson

Gambling is a voluntary tax for the mathematically challenged

Oscar Wilde

Reading about the evils of drinking recently, I decided to give up reading. Henry Youngman

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES



June

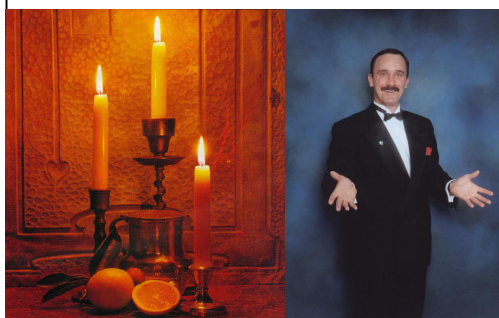
Point Cook RAAF Museum and Homestead
Wednesday June 8



We are very close to the numbers we need for this trip – just a few more required. The day will be of interest to everyone, so please feel free to encourage your wife, partner or friends to come with you! We will visit the excellent Aircraft Museum and the lovely old Point Cook homestead, where we will enjoy a Devonshire tea, a light lunch, and interesting surrounds. Two guided tours are part of the program. All this for \$50 - including a chauffeur-driven Mercedes taking us there and back! Bus leaves the Reserve Road Community Centre at 9.00 am sharp. Please pay at May meeting.

July

Mid-year Candlelight Dinner Tuesday July 5



Warren Jackman (above) is an accomplished sleight-of-hand close-up magician. His comedy magic floor show is funny, witty and slick but never blue! His razor sharp one-liners will leave you laughing and maybe even bewildered. One of Melbourne's best corporate entertainers, he once managed to ace tennis great John Newcombe, extract \$20 from former Treasurer Peter Costello and even once made Lindsay Fox laugh.

If you haven't registered already, please do ASAP as this is one of the key events in our Probus calendar. The three-course dinner this year is, once again, at the Beaumaris RSL. We have an entertainer who will roam the tables... a magician and comedian who will both amaze and amuse us all. Drinks are not included

but the RSL prices are very reasonable. Please arrive at 7.00 pm. \$45 pp. Please pay by the June meeting.

August

Still a work in progress. We had intended to organise a tour of the Anaesthetic College and Museum in St Kilda road; however, due to renovations this cannot now take place until 2012. More at the May meeting.

September

Yarra Valley Railway Friday September 23



Come on a scenic tour of the countryside on the Yarra Valley Tourist Railway. Of course, we will also have a two-course lunch at the Upper Yarra RSL. This trip is a joint trip organised by Beaumaris Heights Probus. Cost: \$65 pp – but if we have 40 on the trip, there will be a \$10 refund!

Please book early if you are interested in this trip as it is shared with four other local clubs.

Geoff Bransbury & Robert Dun

Members' Choice

Don't forget our members' choices trips in October and November. Please let us know your selections.

First, October: Moonee Valley night races
Facilities at Moonee Valley are excellent and under cover. Going by bus would enable us to relax and have a drink. Even if you're not a racing enthusiast, this will be a great night out!

Then in November: A micro-brewery crawl
Please let Geoff Bransbury know which boutique breweries you are interested in visiting – there are dozens scattered throughout Melbourne and suburbs (eg Black Rock, Moorabbin, Docklands, Healesville, Red Hill and many others.)



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

At the April meeting, Keynote Speaker, John Knight, former Mayor of Bayside, informed us about the ever-expanding phenomenon known as Men's Sheds. The Australian Men's Shed Association has over 505 sheds established Australia wide, with more on the drawing-board. It brings together groups of men using their talent and various skills of woodworking and cabinetmaking in a local workshop or shed environment. Men with other skills and backgrounds including plumbers, sheet-metal workers, welders and engineers from all trades are also encouraged to join. A Men's Shed, such as at 36 Bonanza Rd. Beaumaris, is fitted out with tools and power equipment for members to make various products for use in their family home or in the community, such as stages and sets for local theatre productions, or toys for children. While they are enjoying old-fashioned mateship, they often discuss, over a cup of tea, men's problems including health and wellbeing, or physical and mental illnesses that may need to be addressed. In John Knight's words, "Men usually don't talk face to face; they talk shoulder to shoulder".

Alan Williams



John Knight at the April meeting



A hive of industry at the Beaumaris Men's Shed.



"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."

Albert Einstein

A TASTE OF ITALY

A Night at La Svolta
Hampton Street, Hampton

Dateline: Thursday, May 5



THROWING BRICKS THROUGH BANK WINDOWS
Eric Slater once threw a brick through the window of the CBA bank in Armadale. It was not done with any criminal intent - he was just doing his job as a builder under contract with the CBA specialising in the securitisation of banking premises and this was the only way to get rid of a large plate of glass. In the 1980s, bank robberies had become so prevalent that bank security included an armed guard outside the Black Rock branch of the CBA. Eric's company was asked to refurbish many of the suburban branches, removing all the existing counters and replacing them with counters equipped with hi-tech barriers including bulletproof screens. All doors and windows and bank managers' offices had to have bullet proof materials. The whole operation had to be well-planned - timing was crucial, as the work could not commence before the end of trading on Friday. All the old furniture and equipment was taken out and the new installation had to be completed in time for open of business on Monday morning. No golf that weekend, said Eric, but the biggest losers were the robbers.

Alan Williams

Eric relates his carpentry adventures for the Victorian banking system



The best way to illustrate the pleasure experienced by all those who attended the May Tastes night at La Svolta in Hampton is to say that no-one wanted to go home! Apart from the excellent food - prosciutto, polenta, calamari, bruschetta and an assortment of antipasto, not to mention the pizzas, the penne, orchiette and the meatballs - the lively conversation that prevailed throughout the evening conveyed the real spirit of the group. Discussion ranged from Osama bin Ladin, The Wedding and the republic to travel experiences. Alan Stevens is going St Andrew's in Scotland for a Left-handers World Golf Championship and Norman Griffiths is going to Adelaide for an army reunion. Another group was discussing nuclear power. Great night.



Just some of the fun

TRUE SELFLESSNESS

Sometimes when I reflect back on the wine I drink, I feel shame. Then I look into the glass and think about the many workers in the vineyards and all of their hopes and dreams ... If I didn't drink this wine, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. Then I say to myself, "It's better that I drink this wine and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver..."

Boynton's Wine Newsletter Summer 2011