

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. 305

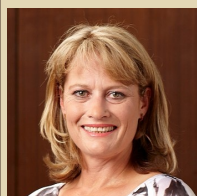
November 2015

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday November 17 The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Cr Felicity Frederico Former Mayor, Bayside

Topic: My Journey in Local Government

10-Minute Speaker: Ralph Butcher Ralph's War – Some Brief Stories



Felicity Frederico was first elected to Council in 2008, re-elected in 2012, and was elected Mayor of the City in 2014. Prior to joining council, Felicity has a strong marketing background spanning more than two decades. She has tertiary qualifications in both Tourism and Marketing. Felicity has worked for large multi-national and medium-sized companies specialising in developing and implementing Marketing Plans and Strategies.

Beaumaris Probus @ Port Fairy, 2015

*Below centre:
Robyn Farmer and
Louise Pound,
winner and runner-
up of the Putting
Competition for
2015; centre right:
Louise, Robyn,
and Elizabeth
Harford*



*Bottom centre: John
Bushby (Essendon
colours) adrift in the
Sahara; left, John
and Louise Pound at
work; right: Alan
Farmer and Paul
Crompton. Below:
Roger Wilson about
to hit the ball out of
sight (or out of
bounds)*



PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Office Bearers 2015

* President: Kevin McDonnell	9598 8209	* Vice-President: Geoff Bransbury	9589 1507
* Past President: Peter Harford	9592 6797	* Secretary: Alan Stevens	9597 0235
* Treasurer: Geoff Carlson	9589 4884	Auditor: Don Lobb	9598 5546
* Activities: Ken Beadle	9589 6120	* Assistant Functions: John Green	9580 6820
* Meetings: Geoff Wade	9588 2593	Assistant Meetings: Keith Ross	9589 3580
Almoner: Andrew Watson	9589 5913	Archive & Grapevine: Roy Petch	9589 5757
President's Table: David Robertson	9551 1930	Sommelier: Bill Green	9596 1548
Speakers' Recorder: John Bushby	9598 7113	Audio Visual: Paul Crompton	9583 1310
Projectionist: Philip Stewart	9589 3309	* Newsletter: Peter McGregor	9533 4760

* Committee Members

Interest Groups

Bike Riding: Noel Ineson	9589 5263	Bowls: Ted Montfort	9589 5949
Discussion: Barry Amond	9589 1143	Digital Technology: Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Investment: Peter Harford	9592 6797	Music/Opera: Barry Amond	9589 1143
PRISMS: Bill Davis	9592 5982	Tastes: Peter McGregor	9533 4760
Theatre: Tony Bowles	9598 7973	Wine Appreciation: Roger Wilson	9589 3907

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Kevin McDonnell

Up to the recent running of the Melbourne Cup, many of us were exercising our minds about the question: Will the RBA ease or hold rates at their current level? Monetary policy employed by central banks is based on the premise that movements in interest rates either encourage greater expenditure or reduce expenditure. The rationale is that decisions made by business and consumers are interest-rate sensitive. Recent comments by the RBA suggest that the linkage is not as strong as originally thought.

Unlike the Melbourne Cup, where once the race is over people know whether they are winners or losers, when it comes to interest rates movements, one is never too sure if you are a winner or loser in either the short and long term. When interest rates decline:

- People with mortgages are winners in the short term
- For those buying property, lower interest rates often translate to a larger mortgage; they may end up paying more for a property and be no better off
- Depositors are definitely losers by receiving less interest income. This is further compounded if inflation increases which has the effects of reducing the capital value of their cash deposit
- People selling property may benefit from higher prices for the property they sell, but when they re-enter the market end up paying more for their new property
- As for the economy, lower interest rates translate to a deterioration in the exchange rate which results in imports becoming more expensive
- and for those travelling overseas, they are losers.

The RBA has for some time considered the Aussie dollar over-valued, negatively impacting on exports. Interest rate policy by the RBA has been designed to lower the exchange rate. Surprisingly the deterioration in the exchange rates has not translated to significantly higher prices for imports and as a consequence inflation has not increased substantially as would have been expected. Increased costs have in part been absorbed by the importers in the form of lower margins and lower purchase prices from the manufacturer. There is, however, a point where costs will flow through in the form of increased consumer prices. The assumption that lower mortgages for consumers always translate to an increase in spending by them rather than in savings and that business will borrow additional funds merely because interest rates are lower is fundamentally flawed. Economists' modelling tends to use the caveat Ceteris Paribus (meaning "All other things being equal") as one of their assumptions. One could argue that there is a paradigm shift and what worked before may not work now.

Photos: Ian Maskiell

*Right: Secret men's business - the President, Vice-President and newsletter editor in deep discussion
Below: Members at work and play, including the functions table in full swing taking bookings*



NOTICEBOARD

★ Investment Group: 8.45 am

Dr Peter J. Woodford, Geologist, Stockbroker
(with JB Were) and Resources Analyst.

Topic:

A Near-50-Year Trip Down Resources
Investment Memory Lane.

Music Group

On Wednesday November 25, we will celebrate our 15th anniversary at the special early time of 6.30 pm. Who would have imagined at our first evening in November 2000 that we would have another 100 evenings and would experience music by over 80 composers and enjoy 30 operas? Barry Amond

Last Chance for Tastes



Those who have been to Portugal will recognise these delightful little pasteis de nata (custard tarts) - which will be served with your tea or coffee at Madeira. Not to mention the special wine experience we have in store for you.



Where: Madeira restaurant
325 Bay Street Brighton

When: Thursday November 26 6.30 pm

Cost: \$45 pp

Carefully selected wines available @ \$15 a bottle
Book and pay immediately!

From the Treasurer

At the November meeting, Treasurer Geoff Carlson will put a motion regarding our club's Joining Fee and Subscriptions for 2016.

Subscriptions for existing members:

\$70 (discount of \$5 if paid by January 31, 2016 - \$65). Subscriptions are due and payable January 1.

New members in 2016:

A Joining Fee of \$60. Subscriptions to be paid pro-rata on a quarterly basis:

Where a person joins during quarter ending:

March 31, 2016 payable in full \$65
(ie \$70 less discount)

June 30, 2016 three quarter \$53

September 30, 2016 half \$35

December 31, 2016 quarter \$18

Geoff Carlson, Treasurer

Bike Group

Our November ride on Friday 27th will be a re-run of the outstanding 22 km ride we enjoyed two years



Lost? What looks like a moment of temporary confusion on a recent ride as members of the Beaumaris Probus Bike Group recover their sense of direction

Paparazzo: Duncan Gibson

ago at Westernport, three km of which included a boardwalk through attractive mangrove wetlands to Jack's Beach, returning to the Pelican Point Cafe in Hastings for coffee. This ride will start at the Tyabb Recreation Park car park and follow the trail south to the coast at Hastings, then continue along the coastline to the boardwalk. Noel Ineson

Theatre

Tony Bowles

The Sound of Music We are trying to get tickets (min 12) for a matinee performance at The Regent on Wednesday June 1. Please put your name down. Price to be determined. (tba at next meeting).

Brighton Theatre Company

has just announced next year's program. We have applied for 26 tickets.

Dates:

Wed 2 March *Bette and Joan*

Wed May 25 *Over My Dead*

Body Wed August 31 *Blood Brothers* Wed No-

vember 16 *Other People's Money*

Cost: \$76 (for 4 performances). Great value!

We have 26 going. If you would like to join us please let me know and pay the treasurer. Bookings close November meeting.



Bookings still open for Singing in the Rain.

Discussion Groups

At their meetings on Tuesday November 10 at 2pm and Friday November 13 at 9.30 am, the groups will discuss Modern Germany. Barry Amond

Birthday Boys – November

Nick Caris 14/11	Ian Gallagher 6/11
Bill Green 26/11	John Laing 26/11
Ken Rattray 8/11	Allan Small 24/11
Barry Podger 21/11	

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

November

NEW

Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL) Parkville facilities
Wednesday November 18

We will make our own way to the CSL site at 45 Poplar Road, Parkville (Melways 29 D11) and meet in the main foyer at 9.50 am for 10 am registration. Car parking is available on site, alternatively take the Upfield train or No 55 tram to Royal Park station. After the tour, you will have the option to have lunch at a local hostelry, Naughton's, in Royal Parade (Melways 2B B5) at your own expense. A maximum of 25 visitors can be accommodated so register now by email to Ken Beadle - and by November 13 (latest). There is no charge for this visit.

CSL is one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies with major manufacturing facilities in five countries. Our visit will commence with an address on the company's worldwide manufacturing facilities and current research by Dr Vincent Cheung; to be followed by a tour of the Poplar Road laboratories to witness the manufacture of influenza vaccines for the winter 2016 campaign.

December

President's Christmas Lunch
Friday December 4

This year's lunch will again be held again at the Southern Golf Club, Lower Dandenong Road, Braeside (ref Melways 88 H8). Cost: \$60 pp - includes canapés, two-course lunch and drinks to a generous limit. 12 noon for 12.30 pm. Not to be missed - our final marquee social event of 2015. Register now. Payment is required by November 27. NOTE: Please advise Ken Beadle of any dietary requirements and table seating requests by December 1.

February

NEW

RAN West Head Gunnery Range
Wednesday February 17



Above: Members of the Flinders Community Organisation in front of the 72mm gun at West Head Gunnery Range

Visitors to the Westernport shores or Flinders will be aware of the Naval Gunnery School barrages which disturb seabirds and people throughout the year. An exclusive morning tour of the facilities – including anti-aircraft machine gun firing (by others) is being finalised. Further details will be advised in the next newsletter. A maximum number of 30 visitors can be accommodated.

Register early to secure your place. There is no charge for this visit.

March

Annual Croquet Challenge Competition/
Spit Roast
Friday March 18

This event is scheduled for later in the year than previously to avoid potential heat exposure. Thanks to Jenny and Tony Bowles, we once again have been able to book the Sandringham Croquet Club (opposite the Sandringham Club) for a fun evening from 4-8 pm on Friday, February 28. As before, Jenny and Tony, with other croquet club members, will show us how to play - no special skills required. Last year's competition was won by Keith Ross after a hard-fought final and the handsome trophy will again be up for grabs. The greens accommodate a maximum of 40 players, so register and pay early to ensure your place in our first social event in 2016. Cost: \$35 pp - includes croquet and all food. Note: BYO drinks. Peter McGregor will again be the Chef de BBQ. Registration by March 11 (latest).



Green



November 2015

The Joys of Teaching in China

John Bushby

Our 10-minute speaker for October, Mal Carter, certainly experienced an interesting period during 2004 whilst teaching in China. In Nanking, he taught at a university situated in an Imperial Palace that dated from the Ming Dynasty. Having to cope with less-than-luxury accommodation, major language difficulties and local customs (including embedded bribery), helped make his stay memorable.



Even today, there are more than 430 million owners of bicycles in China
For those interested in reading some Chinglish, [click here](#)

Mal's description of the traffic confronted on his daily commute as many thousands of bicycles made the journey horrendous provided perhaps an insight into what we can expect of Beach Road in future. Also, the frightening personal consequences of having a traffic accident in China through to bizarre public holiday arrangements underlined yet again how grateful we should be for living in Australia.



Carmageddon in China

The Big Thirst

There are currently 962 Australian companies exporting wine to China

The Age 17/10/15

Travel 2016

Princess Cruises is offering a 13-night return cruise from Melbourne to New Zealand (departure date: March 22), visiting seven places including Auckland and Wellington. Fares range between \$1849 and \$2949 twin share pp. Travel is aboard the *Golden Princess* (carrying capacity 2600); its inaugural cruise was in 2001. You are invited to indicate your interest on the booking sheet at the functions table.

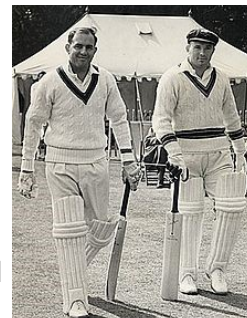
John Green

Port Fairy 2015 – Golf Report

Alan Farmer

Last month, eight Probians and their wives spent four utterly delightful days experiencing Port Fairy and its fabulous golf course. The organising and hosting by John Pound and his brilliant wife, Louise, ensured the golfers had an exhilarating time on the course, while the non-golfers enjoyed the treats and fascination of Port Fairy town. The fun began with a BBQ and did not stop until the final wave goodbye.
Speaking of Cricket

Ricky Ponting, former captain of the Australian cricket team, once said of our Keynote Speaker for October, Ken Piesse, that he “lives, eats and breathes cricket like few I know”. How apt. As Australian sport's most published living author, Ken has written, edited or published 70 books and edited more than 500 magazines on subjects from cricket to football to boating and business. Ken's passion was obvious as he took members down memory lane with references to many of Australia's best-known cricket personalities and their achievements. His lively talk was enhanced by the presence of legendary cricket great, Colin McDonald. [above]

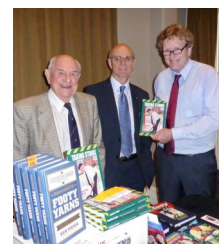
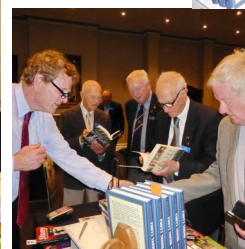


“Ken's passion was obvious as he took members down memory lane”

~~With another summer of Test cricket upon us, Ken~~ thrilled us with stories of past champions including: Bill Ponsford, Keith Miller, Clarrie Grimmett, Shane Warne, Brian Booth, Alan Davidson, Bill Lawry, Ian Meckiff, Lindsay Kline, Dean Jones, Neil Harvey and Colin McDonald himself. The humorous references to the nicknames of the various players and tall tales or true of their diverse antics on and off the field kept us enthralled. Ken also kept our football fans happy with memories of Tony Lockett, Laurie Nash, Trevor Barker, ‘Doc’ Baldock, the Fitzroy Football Club and the infamous disco at the St Kilda football ground. For just a while, we were back to the days when football was more than the commercial enterprise it is today. Congratulations to Ken for an enjoyable presentation.

John Bushby

Below: Colin McDonald autographs one of the books about him; right: Ken Piesse with Colin McDonald and President Kevin McDonnell



Wealth and Poverty

More people are richer and fewer people live in dire poverty than at any time in the past 250 years. Deaton, *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth and the Origins of Inequality* (2013)

Tuesday November 10	10 am Bridge Group	Victoria Golf Club
Tuesday November 10	2 pm Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday November 13	9.30 am Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday November 17	8.45 Investment Group 10 am GENERAL MEETING	Sandringham Club
Friday November 20	Night Races	Moonee Valley ★
Wednesday November 25	6.30 pm Music Group	25 Third Street Black
Thursday November 26	6.30 pm Tastes	Madeira ★
Friday November 27	Bike Ride	
Tuesday December 1	12.30 pm Wine Appreciation	Lobster Cave
Friday December 4	President's Christmas Lunch	Southern Golf Club ★
Tuesday December 8	1 pm PRISMS	The Nash Residence 112 Pellatt St Beaumaris

2016



Tuesday January 19 10 am GENERAL MEETING
St Martin's Church Gibb St & Dalgetty Rd Beaumaris

Wednesday	February 17	RAN West Head Gunnery Range
Friday	March 18	Annual Croquet Challenge Competition & Spit Roast Croquet Club ★

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