



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

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9533 4760



Probus Bank details: BSB 063-144
Account No 10121288

Issue No. 283

November 2013

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday November 19 at The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: David Davis, Solicitor

**Topic: The Problems of Ageing
What You Should Do While You Still Have Control**

10-Minute Speaker: Brian Burton Thoughts About Remembrance Day

IT HAPPENED AT HOWLONG



Pic 1: David Robertson with Merri Bransbury, Dorothy Evans and Elizabeth Harford; 2 John Pound drives down the first; 2 Putting Competition finalists, John Pound, Geoff Wade; 4 Geoff Wade and trophy winner David Robertson



1 Judy Carlson, Margaret Wade and Yvonne Robertson arrive on the 10th; 2 Bill Green, David Robertson, Alan Farmer and Peter McGregor, mid-round; 3 Last year's winner of the Heirloom Trophy, John Pound, congratulates this year's winner, Merri Bransbury; 4 Merri Bransbury, Elizabeth Harford and Robin Farmer approach the 1st tee.

They call it golf because all the other four-letter words were taken.

Raymond Floyd

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Office Bearers 2013

* President: Peter McGregor	9533 4760	* Vice-President: Peter Harford	9592 6797
* Past President: Bruce Tomkins	9591 0076	* Secretary: John Howe	9598 2429
* Treasurer: Geoff Carlson	9589 4884	Auditor: Don Lobb	9598 5546
* Activities: Geoff Bransbury	0416294452	* Assistant Functions: John Green	95806820
* Meetings: Duncan Gibson	9585 3547	* Assistant Meetings: Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Almoner: Andrew Watson	9589 5913	Archive & Grapevine: Roy Petch	9589 5757
* President's Table: Alan Stevens	9597 0235	Sommelier: Bill Green	9596 1548
Speakers' Recorder: Alan Williams	9598 7550	Audio Visual: Paul Crompton	9583 1310

* 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: Barry Donaldson	9598 6446	Music/Opera: Barry Amond	9589 1143
PRISMS: Bill Davis	9592 5982	Tastes: Peter McGregor	9533 4760
Theatre: Robert Dun	9589 5456		

FROM THE PRESIDENT



PETER MCGREGOR

“... lies, damned lies and statistics”

Mark Twain's 'lies, damned lies and statistics' may have resonance with some but, like many members, I have a fascination with everyday but amazing facts and figures - for example, did you know that in 2014 more than 1.5 billion smartphone cameras will take nearly 1 trillion photos? That's hundreds of thousands of photos every minute! Collectively, we earthians upload three hundred million photos to Facebook every day; or, to put it another way, every two minutes we take as many photos as the whole of humanity in the 1800s (not too surprising given that the first crude camera didn't appear until 1836).

But China and the good old USA are probably the leading sources of gob-smacking facts. For example, according to *The Age* (9/10/13), China already boasts 696 five-star hotels with another 500 on the way, and five of the 10 tallest skyscrapers under construction worldwide are in China; while for its part the US spent \$3.96 trillion on terrorism in 2012 - despite the fact

that only three Americans have been killed in terrorist attacks each year since 2001. (Interestingly, it has been estimated that the number of Americans killed in terrorist attacks each year is about the same number crushed to death by falling television sets or furniture.) Our indefatigable Secretary and resident statistician, John Howe, a stalwart of the Club whose attention to detail underpins every monthly meeting, is known as a great collector of facts and figures - but even he may not be able to compete with some of the above; nevertheless, he has confirmed that the membership of Beaumaris Probust has an average age of 79.6, that there are 11 members under 70, 42 over 70, 53 over 80 and 11 over 90. To complete the picture, you may also like to know that we have 9 Alans, 8 Johns, a mere 5 Geoffs and 4 Bills and Kens; and that there are 38 of us living in Beaumaris, 28 in Black Rock, only 12 in Brighton, 11 in Sandringham and 10 in Cheltenham. Not as interesting, perhaps, as knowing that the *Mona Lisa* has no eyebrows; but not bad.

The Wonder of Wonthaggi

Thank you to all those members, wives and friends who made the journey to look over the impressive desalination plant near Wonthaggi in recent weeks. A total of 136 people - 65 from Beaumaris and 71 from other clubs - were privileged to inspect our very expansive (and expensive) water insurance facility. The 150 billion litres of water it is designed to produce each year means Melbourne is drought-proofed well into the foreseeable future and its 26 000 square meters of turfed roof plus 100 000 plants around the 263 hectare site ensure it blends perfectly into the local environment. 6 000 tonnes of concrete, 1200 kilometers of electrical cabling and 84 kilometers of pipeline at a cost of \$3 billion to build and a tidy \$5.7 billion to run over 30 years make it one of the great man-made wonders of the Australian built environment.

Photo: Rod Murrell



Left to Right: Ian Johnson, Ian Gallagher and Peter McGregor at the desal plant

NOTICEBOARD

Investment Group

Members will meet as usual 8.45-9.45 am before the General Meeting. Topic: Portfolio, Exhibits, Reviews

Music & Opera

The year's final Music Night is Wednesday November 27 at 7pm. Please let me know if you would like to come along and see and hear some of your requests. In October, the Opera Group enjoyed our own Opera Australia's performance of *Carmen* staged on Sydney Harbour earlier this year. Rinat Shaham was outstanding in the title role.

Barry Amond

Discussion Groups

Both groups are discussing China at their November meetings. It is hoped discussion will help develop a greater understanding of the country most likely to continue having an immense influence on Australia and the world.

Barry Amond

Howlong Golf Results

Howlong Country Club Trophy: David Robertson (41)
 Runner-up: Bill Green (40)
 Bill Gillingham Putting Trophy: Geoff Wade
 Runner-up: John Pound
 Warburton Heirloom Trophy: Merri Bransbury 10+
 Runner-up: John Howe 6+.

Beaumaris Bikie Group

Docklands, Friday
 25/10/13

*Ken Beadle on the left
 and Helene Knight on
 the right. How many do
 you know in-between?*

Photo: Duncan Gibson



Our next ride is Friday November 22 starting at 9am from the Black Rock beachside car park. After driving to Altona, we will park at the Apex Park (Melway map 54 D12). Our ride is from Altona to Williamstown and back. It is as flat as a tennis court with gorgeous beach views, a look at the Williamstown Rifle Range, ibis rookeries and the occasional pelican. This is a nice relaxing ride in contrast to a very challenging ride last month on the Capital City Trail around the Melbourne Central City environment.

Noel Ineson



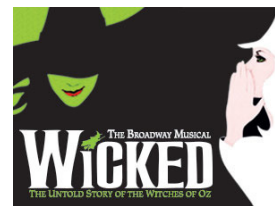
What's He Doing?

See p4 for details of this activity in February. Come and join the fun.

Theatre

Robert Dun

Future activities include: *King Kong*, *Empire Spiegelworld*, *Wicked*, and *Les Mis*.



Wicked is returning to Melbourne, Wednesday May 14 at 1pm. \$56 per seat. The untold story of the Witches of Oz – how two unlikely friends grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda, the Good. The winner of 35 major awards, it has a stellar Australian cast. Payment required by the March meeting.

A reminder that if members or others wish to attend the four performances put on by the Brighton Theatre Company, it is important that their names are on the list. At this stage, the 2014 dates and cost are not known but this information should be available at the next meeting as well as all performance dates.

NOTA BENE: 15 seats have been booked for *Empire Spiegelworld* for Tuesday evening March 18 at 7.30 in the Spiegeltent on the Crown Rooftop. The seats are 'A Reserve' in row E and the cost is \$62 each with payment required by our January meeting. The show will be rather different from our usual offerings and may not appeal to all our members but it certainly promises to be an interesting experience.

New Member

Please give a warm welcome to our most recent new member, Bruce Kaplan. We hope he and wife, Norah, quickly find themselves at home and are able to join in our wide variety of activities.



◀ B KAPLAN (Bruce & Norah) ▶

22 Cowper St, Sandringham, 3191. 0438 270 542. easyedit@optusnet.com.au
 Born Winnipeg Canada 1942, Journalist, editor. Movies, theatre, travel, international politics, cricket. [Club '13]



Tastes 2014

Our regular program of food and wine nights will continue next year. We will re-visit the Roast Suckling Pig event with priority being given to those who missed out the first time. There will be a Vietnamese night, our annual Japanese banquet and, possibly, a night of French cuisine. Ooo-la-la!

November 2013

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

November

Mooramong and Ballarat

Wednesday 13 Thursday 14 Bus leaves Community Centre Reserve Road at 8.30am. You may prefer to come by taxi rather than leave your car on street. We are now staying at the 4-star Ballarat Lodge. If you want to come to the Sound-and-Light Show (10pm at Sovereign Hill – Cost: \$45pp) please let me know now. Geoff Bransbury 0416 294452 if any questions.

Annual Night Races and Buffet To Die For - at Moonee Valley's *Legends*



Friday November 29

We have one bus full and nearly enough for a second bus - 8 more required to cover costs – which shows how popular this event is! If you want to come, please call Geoff NOW on 0416 294452.

Bus leaves Community Centre, Reserve Road, at 5 pm. Leaves Moonee Valley at 10pm. Home by 11.00pm
Cost: \$60 (Bus and buffet. Drinks not included.)

December

President's Annual Christmas Lunch

Friday December 13



Woodlands Golf Club
Melway 87 J10

Canapés, two-course lunch; also
free raffles and some very special
entertainment.



Cost: \$55
White Street, Mordialloc
Ample parking

We have well over 100 coming but if you haven't registered, please come! Let's have a record number.
Time: 12 for 12.30.

NOT TO BE MISSED



February 2014



SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
Social Croquet and BBQ (or Pizza) Evening
Friday February 28

We have booked out the Sandringham Croquet Club (opposite the Sandringham Club on the foreshore) for a fun evening from 4pm - 8 pm on Friday February 28. Tony and Jenny Bowles will show us how to play and will officiate. No special skills required other than the desire for a few laughs and good time.

We will have either a barbecue or pizzas (still to be decided). In the style of Tastes, President Peter will organise carefully-selected wine (per favour of the Fine Wine Manager at Dan Murphy's) to be available at \$15 a bottle. Quality wine only. Sadly, numbers must be limited to approximately 50.

Please register ASAP.

Cost: \$20pp which includes croquet and food.

March

Phantom of the Opera, Ballarat, at the fabulous
Her Majesty's Theatre

Wednesday March 5

SEE NL ATTACHMENT



Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat, will become the Paris Opera House for a while for a special performance of *Phantom of the Opera*. A stunning cast and orchestra has been assembled to bring this epic show alive. We have reserved 16 seats. We suggest either travel by train or car and stay overnight. We have tentatively reserved hotel rooms at the Heritage on Lydiard but best to secure them by registering immediately! Room and breakfast is approximately \$200 per couple and the show only costs \$40 pp. The show starts at 7.30 pm so a light pre-theatre dinner may be the best option – you decide. See poster attached. If you would like to come, please register now at the Functions Desk and pay for tickets ASAP.

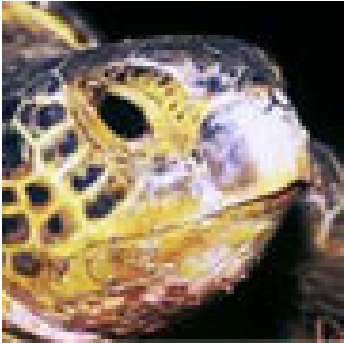
Functions & Activities continued

April

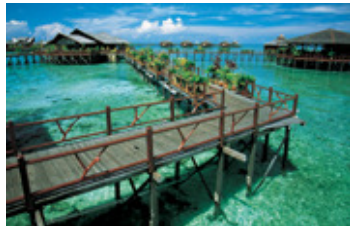
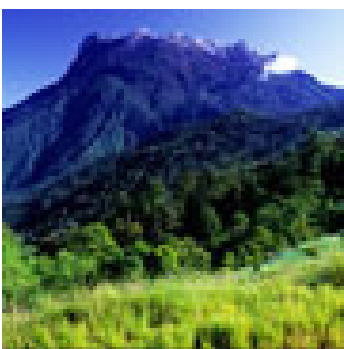
Sabah, Borneo and Brunei

Sunday April 27- Sunday May 4 (8 days)

We have the maximum number (38) who have now expressed interest and most have completed forms. There are still a few to confirm. Therefore, if you are interested in coming, please let us know as there may still be places available.



The cost of this trip is only \$2434 pp twin share (\$440 single supplement).



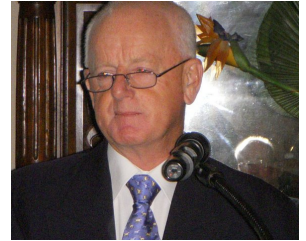
IMPORTANT: Travel Insurance.

If you are intending to use the Probus insurance, through Probus South Pacific. The deal is that for \$275 per person, they will provide insurance cover from the time they receive the application until you return from overseas. However, you must provide a Fit to Travel Report signed by your doctor – signed within 21 days of the date of your application form and must be submitted with your application form for insurance. All blank documentation is available on line. If you have paid your deposit to Probus, we will hold it until you have completed this process before submitting it to the travel agent, but please do it soon! It is important that you let us know what you intend to do.

Enquiries may be directed to John Green.

For further details, ring ACE Insurance: 1800 815 675 or visit the Probus website: www.probusouthpacific.org

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT TO THIS NEWSLETTER WHICH FORESHADOWS A MOTION TO BE PUT TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING RE:SUBS Ed



Jim Bowler, above, and Makybe Diva, the best horse he ever saw

Of Horses and Handicapping

“..the current Australian racing industry’s integrity is of the highest level...”

Our Keynote Speaker for October, Jim Bowler, who joined the VRC in 1974, became Chief Handicapper in 1980 and handicapped a record 25 Melbourne Cups, wowed his audience with a wealth of behind-the-scenes information about Melbourne’s Spring Carnival, the racing industry, the horses and some of the more interesting people. Amongst other things - including the intricacies of handicapping - we learnt that thoroughbred racing is the third most attended spectator sport in Australia (with over \$15bn wagered annually), that Australia is third (after USA and Japan) for prize money offered and provides full or part-time work for over 270,000 Australians. Our first race-horses, it seems, came with the First Fleet in 1788 and the first race meeting was held in October 1810. After Flemington was founded in 1840, the very first Melbourne Cup was run in 1846. Jim believes that the current Australian racing industry’s integrity is of the highest level, becoming increasingly internationalised - and with it the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups, His tips? The best guide to the Melbourne Cup, he says, is the Caulfield Cup and other lead-up races of 2400 metres, but (he told members, several with pens poised) the horse to watch in the Melbourne Cup was Seville. There was so much more to Jim’s excellent presentation and interested members and those who were absent are urged to borrow the DVD. Alan Stevens



Left: Geoff Brearley who showed a video to demonstrate the “4 Steps for Life” should a spouse, friend or partner suffer an attack. He reminded us that over 70% of cardiac arrests occur in the home

CPR Demonstration

1. Call 000

Experienced operators can talk you through the procedure.

2. Open the airways

3. Pump the chest with the heel of your hand at 30 pumps/min

4. Breathe Mouth-to-Mouth for 2 breaths, then resume pumping

Alan Stevens

Probus Club of Beaumaris

Events Calendar

Friday November 8	9.30 am	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday November 12	2.00 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock

Wed/Thursday November 13/14	Mooramong	<i>Blood on the Southern Cross</i>	Ballarat
	Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (MADE)	*	

Tuesday November 19	8.45am 10.00am	Investment Group General Meeting	Sandringham Club
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Wednesday November 20	1 pm	<i>King Kong</i> *	Regent Theatre
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Friday November 22	Williamstown Bike Ride
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Friday November 29	5.00pm	Annual Night Races *	Moonee Valley
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Friday December 6	2.00pm	PRISMS	112 Pellatt St Beaumaris
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Friday December 13	12 for 12.30	President's Christmas Lunch *	Woodlands GC
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Tuesday January 21	10 am	General Meeting	Cheltenham Golf Club
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Tuesday February 4	2 pm	Digital Technology	25 Third Street Black Rock
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Thursday February tba	7pm	Tastes - Vietnamese Night*	Sandringham
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Friday February 28		Croquet and Barbecue *	Sandringham Croquet Club
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Tuesday March 4	2 pm	Digital Technology	25 Third Street Black Rock
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Wednesday March 5		<i>Phantom of the Opera</i> *	Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat
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Tuesday March 18	7pm	<i>Empire Spiegelworld</i> *	Crown Rooftop
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April 2014	Sunday April 27-Sunday May 4 (8 days)	Sabah, Borneo and Brunei Trip*
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Wednesday May 14	1pm	<i>Wicked</i> *	Regent Theatre
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Wednesday July 30	<i>Les Miserables</i> *
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“Soap and education are not as sudden as a massacre, but they are more deadly in the long run” Mark Twain