



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: Box 57 PO Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 261

November 2011

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday November 15 Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: Guest speaker, Rod Thomas , Pattersons Securities 9 am . See p2

10-Minute Speaker: Alan Nash The Return of the Rat!

Keynote Speakers: Dr Brian McDonald & Dr Rodney Syme

Topic: Palliative Care and Voluntary Euthanasia

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Alan Farmer



Death and Dying

Birth and death are part of life. Some are born and die quickly and painlessly, others slowly and agonisingly. Those facing death have little time or inclination to discuss dying, while the living remain choked with grief, unable to express their emotions and helplessness in the face of inevitable death. They concentrate on supporting their loved one's wishes in their last hours of life. Strangely, many facing imminent death reach an acceptance and serenity rarely available to those who remain. Sometimes the dying can even comfort the living.

more openly? Is there any way we can make death and dying easier, less heart-breaking and more comforting for our dear friends by acknowledging the reality that pain of death is part of life?

At our November meeting two medical specialists , with many years experience of working with dying people, will each present facts and information on a few of the many ways by which we may alleviate some myths, mystery, ignorance and misery associated with dying.

Dr Rodney Syme, President of Dying with Dignity, Victoria and **Dr Brian McDonald**, Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine, will each speak for around 20 minutes. The remainder of the session will take the usual form of questions to the speakers.

As this is such a sensitive topic, personal stories or opinions will not be accepted during questions. However, discussion of the topic after the formal meeting is appropriate; indeed it is encouraged.

"Is there any way we can make death and dying easier..?"

Death is such a tragedy. After the draining experience of losing a loved one, few wish to revive memories of grief and anguish. No wonder dying is a taboo subject. But, death and dying are fundamental parts of life - like birth, eating, sex, raising children and other social or biological processes. Would it help to have much more formal education and media discussion on the topic - as we do with those other far less important aspects of life? Can we help one another very much by discussing it

Office Bearers, 2011

President: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791
Vice President: **John Bushby** 9598 7113
Past Pres: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526
Secretary **John Howe** 9598 2429
Treasurer: **David Robertson** 9551 1930
Functions: **Geoff Bransbury** 9589 1507
Mobile 0416 294 452
Functions Asst: **Robert Dun** 9589 5456
Meetings Co-ord: **Bill Green** 9596 1548
Meetgs Asst: **Duncan Gibson** 9585 3547

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: **Norman Griffiths** 9598 8575

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

Group Leaders 2011

Investment: **Barry Donaldson** 9598 6446
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
Digital Techn/gy: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Communications: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Bike Riding: **Noel Ineson** 9589 5263
Tastes: **Peter McGregor** 9533 4760

NOTICEBOARD

Dopey Old Bloke

Geoff Bransbury leaves next month for the ride of his life. He leaves for Buenos Aires December 3. Hopefully, his bike will be waiting for him when he arrives. He rides to Patagonia for Christmas then north to Santiago where wife, Merry, meets him. Then north via Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, a boat to Panama and on through Central America and Mexico to USA. Home April or early May from San Francisco. Members may follow his blog (fancy name for a diary on the Internet) at www.dopey.adventurers.com.au. Or Google *dopey old bloke*. Send messages on the blog and see where he is on a live map. Email: gbransbury@gmail.com. "Would love to hear from you and will try and reply," he says. Good luck, Geoff, from all of us!



NOTE: With Geoff away on his great adventure, from December 2011 Menno van Ruyven will be taking on his Functions & Activities duties.

Opera Group

On Wednesday November 30 at 7 pm the Opera Group will see the second halves of both *Romeo & Juliet* and *Daughter of the Regiment*. The first halves were shown at the last opera evening in September. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to see these impressive productions. Barry Amond

Theatre

BRIGHTON THEATRE COMPANY

The final play for the year, *Kimberly Akimbo*, will be staged on Wednesday, November 23, at 8 pm. As mentioned in the last newsletter, I have opened a booking sheet for the 2012 season of four plays; but currently, 37 of the likely maximum available 42 seats have been reserved. Bookings will be finalised at the November meeting. Allan Taylor

Electric Vehicles

For all members interested in this subject, I have a copy of a DVD that tells the story of General Motors Electric Vehicle the **EV-1**. It is a fascinating story about the rise and fall of the electric car from the early days in the 1900s; then jumps to the EV-1 built in the 1990s and the vain attempt to prevent it (as well as a number of brand-new Japanese vehicles) from being sent to the crusher and destroyed. Paul Crompton

"The farther backward you can look, the further forward you can see."

Winston Churchill

Discussion Groups

30 members have joined the two discussion groups. The first topic, 'Our fractured society', was prompted by the riots in the UK in August. The groups are next going to discuss 'Australia's future population'. As one would expect both groups have enjoyed airing robust and diverse views. Barry Amond



Lost

Bob Aubrey has lost his hearing aid. He thinks it could have happened at the last Probus meeting. Perhaps someone has picked it up not knowing whose it was. If you *have* found it, please contact Bob or someone on our committee.

Investment Group

This month's guest speaker at 9.00 am (before the main meeting) will be Rod Thomas from Patersons Securities. Topic: Will the agreed greasing provide better than 50% lubrication to Europe's bearings? All welcome. Barry Donaldson

A Passion for Bikes



Jells Park,
Wheelers Hill



Our next ride - Friday November 25 - commences at the Eastern end of Waverley Road. After passing through the popular Jells Park, we will take the Blind Creek path which runs close to the Knox shopping centre, then alongside Stud Road, turning left at the Dandenong Creek path to return to Jells Park for a chat and coffee at Madeleine's. **Come on!!** Join us and experience the wonderful passion of our group.



Q&A:

Q: Who is responsible for payment of the ambulance service if called to a Probus Club meeting or activity?

A: Probus insurance would cover ambulance fees if an ambulance was called to respond to an accident resulting in injury to a member – but not in response to an illness.

Q: Should members receive receipts for monies paid for fees, trips and activities?

A: All members should receive a receipt for monies paid to the club.

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury
Robert Dun



Pictures from our visit to the Moonee Valley Night Races

NOTE: To avoid disappointment, REGISTER NOW for February & March trips, even though it might seem a long way off (the zoo trip in particular has limited spaces still available).

November

Beer, Bread and Mysteries Trip - Cancelled
Regrettably, we haven't the numbers. Pity. Sorry to those who registered. You will receive a refund.

December

President's Christmas Lunch
Friday December 9



Location Royal Melbourne Golf Club, Cheltenham Road, Black Rock. Your last chance to book. There are over 100 coming but there's still time to book! There will be canapés and a drink on arrival, then a two-course lunch and coffee. Of course there will be our annual quiz and complementary raffles. Cost \$60 pp. which includes drinks. Please arrive at 12.00 for canapés, followed by lunch at 12.30. Seating will be arranged as usual.

Must pay by November meeting.

February 2012

Ferry ride to Williamstown, historic walk and a hearty lunch
Wednesday February 22

We have a great day lined up to kick off the year! We take the 9.20 train from Sandringham to Flinders Street where we board the 10.30 ferry at Southgate to Williamstown. It is an interesting 50-minute ferry trip. We will be met by Jackie, our guide, who will take us on a leisurely stroll around some of the interesting places in historic Williamstown. (NOTE: Jackie was our guide on our Point Cook Homestead tour earlier this year. If you were there, you would remember her. She tells a great yarn and oozes charm - which all the boys, especially, lapped up.)



Then a delicious two-course lunch at *Banque* on the seafront followed by a short walk to the station to catch the 3.32 train back to Sandringham, arriving at 4.40 pm. There may also be time to visit the famous, award-winning Queen's Cupcake Shop!

Cost \$ 50 includes ferry, historic walk and lunch. Train not included (\$3.30 on Seniors Daily Concession) Please book now and pay in January.

March

Werribee Zoo and Mambourin Sensory Gardens and Italian lunch
Wednesday March 28

This tour will book very quickly so book early to avoid disappointment. The bus leaves from the Community Centre at 9.30 am. We aim to be home around 5 pm.



First we visit the Mambourin Sensory Gardens at Werribee to see the gardens and have morning tea. This amazing garden oasis was created in 1997 by those with disabilities. Then it's off to a delicious two-course lunch at the Italian Social Club.

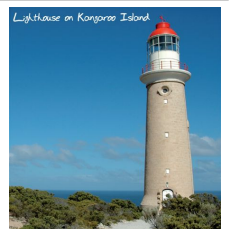
After lunch, we visit the Werribee Open Range Zoo where we board a shuttle bus for our Safari Tour. We also have time to explore the many walking trails (hopefully not meeting the odd stray lioness!)

Cost: \$60. Register now. Payment by February.

NOTE: From December 2011, Menno van Ruyven (9699 5506; mobile 0437 154707) will take over from Geoff Bransbury who will be riding his motorcycle in South America! See p2.

Six Day Kangaroo Island

Proposed trip to Kangaroo Island with Beaumaris Heights Bay Probuc Club in early September 2012: 6 days/5 nights. Estimate: \$1400.



Should Your Next Car Be an Electric Vehicle?



Above: The innovative Nissan LEAF shows its style

In his new all-wheel drive Lexus, illustrious President Alan probably didn't want to hear why he should have bought instead a Renault Fluance or a Nissan LEAF or even a Tesla for only \$190 000. But, nevertheless, Daryl Budgeon from the Australian Electrical Vehicles Association gave us all something to think about. EVs, he said, use energy stored in batteries; and with one moving part they are less complicated (compared with hundreds of precision-manufactured moving parts in internal combustion engines). They operate at lower temperatures and no lubrication is required; there are no filters to change, there is much less maintenance, far less heat is wasted on the cooling system, there is no gearbox, there are no exhaust fumes and less overall pollution - and the engine is more efficient (80% compared with the ICE's 20%). Who wouldn't want one? While an EV can't compete with driving to Sydney on a single tank of fuel, with most Australians living in urban areas (95%), most trips are short: over 95% of urban trips in Australia are less than 100 km. Daryl Budgeon made a strong case that before long EVs would be making a significant contribution to the quality of our life and the quality of our environment.

The Civility of Engineering

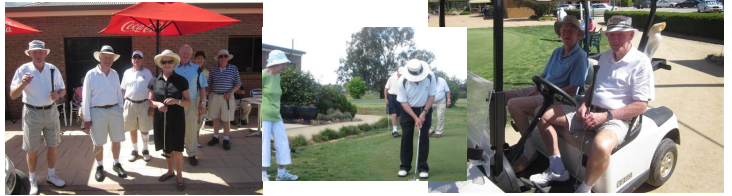
The famous Millau Viaduct over the Tarn Valley in Southern France



At the October meeting, Geoff Mottershead defined the work of civil engineers as making use of the great resources of nature for the benefit of mankind. Similar to architects, he said, they design structures that are meant to stay in one place rather than disappear into the ground. First, they inspect the site to see what's there; then they do the calculations and draw up plans, followed by providing advice on contracts and supervising the work. Finally, and importantly, they conduct maintenance and renewal - to keep things going at all costs. Geoff's specialty was railways, which are especially significant because railway is sometimes the only means of transport in some areas and just has to be kept going; and, unlike cars and road accidents, rail has by far the greatest potential for major catastrophe.

By 2035, China will be using a fifth of all global energy - a 75% increase since 2008.

Howlong Golf Trip 2011



Above left: Bill Green; Graham Symon and Judith Carlson; Gerald Ettershank and Alan Farmer (behind), followed by Helen McGregor and Paul Crompton. Centre: Eventual winner, Geoff Wade, begins his quest for the 2011 putting trophy. Right: David Robertson and Bill Green circumnavigate the green, hoping to gain an advantage over their putting opponents.

Yet another successful golf trip to Howlong was held late October. The weather was kind with fine sunny days and the only rain overnight Monday. As usual, some excellent golf was played and the major winners were Graham Symon who picked up the Howlong Country Club Trophy, Geoff Wade (Bill Gillingham Putting Trophy) and Robyn Farmer who took out the Warburton Heirloom Trophy. Other major highlights included John Pound's eagle on the 18th on Monday - which gave him 5 points and the win - and David Robertson's hole-in-one on Wednesday. Well done! Thank you to all who attended and joined in, making the trip so enjoyable for everyone. [For more, see separate report]



Left: a small section of the huge crowd of spectators. Above: Don Lobb putts while Graham Symon waits his turn

NOTE: We are booked for next year from October 28 until November 1. Bookings will open at the February meeting.
Geoff Wade

MORE 2030 HEADLINES

Australia Post raises price of stamps to \$18 and cuts deliveries to Wednesdays only

GLOBAL COOLING BLAMED FOR CITRUS CROP FAILURE FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR IN VICINDIA AND NEW SOUTH IRAQ

NOTE: This year we're going to experience four unusual dates. 1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11 .