



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: PO Box 57 Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 272

November 2012

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday November 20 at The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Geoff Bransbury Senior Motorcyclist Extraordinaire

Topic: The Motorcycle Diaries

Six months and 27 000 kilometres on the road from Patagonia to LA

10-Minute Speaker: Brian Burton Remembrance Day

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bruce Tomkins



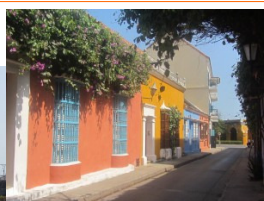
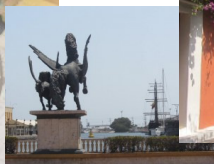
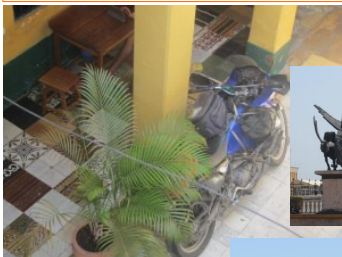
"...this is an important part of keeping in touch in an enjoyable way."

Gill and I had a great meal and a great time at the last Tastes dinner. The venue was good, the service was very good and the food was an excellent example of the best in Indian fare. The wine – including a Red Hill Estate pinot noir, a Heathcote shiraz – was also very acceptable. Both of us had a wonderful time with excellent conversation at our table. Thanks, Peter, for the effort you put in.

Gill is a member of Victoria Golf Club so she happens to know a lot of the ladies who are members' wives. At a bridge day there recently, one of the ladies said to Gill how much she had enjoyed the night, how good all the Club members are and how much she enjoys the variety of club activities she and her husband participate

in – because, she said, all the men are excellent. This was very heartening to hear as it shows what a good Club ours is and what a fine job each of our activity organisers do. I am reminded of what I found on first attending as a guest of Allan Williams – it is very efficiently run, has active leaders and good guest speakers; and, most importantly, very friendly and welcoming members.

We must all try to remember what the aims of Probus are and make sure our Club continues as it has done since I have been a member. While many of us do not want to participate in every one of the various outside activities, we should try to get to as many as we can because this is an important part of keeping in touch in an enjoyable way.



Snapshots from Geoff Bransbury's trip of a lifetime

Office Bearers 2012

President:	Bruce Tomkins	9591 0076
Vice-President:	Peter McGregor	9533 4760
Past President:	Alan Farmer	9598 2791
Secretary:	John Howe	9598 2429
Treasurer:	David Robertson	9551 1930
Functions & Activities:	Geoff Bransbury	0416294452
Meetings:	Bill Green	9596 1548
Asst Meetings:	Duncan Gibson	9585 3547

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

NOTICEBOARD

Investment Group

Barry Donaldson

Meets as usual at 8.45 am before each meeting.

Topic: Centro class action details - led by one of our new members, Dick Kirby. Also, current exhibits, portfolio and watch list poll.

(Performance-Drug-Free) Bikie Group

Our next ride is on Friday November 23. We will be exploring the many interesting bike tracks through the very popular Lysterfield Park, home to the State Mountain Bike Course.



We will drive there along Heatherton Road and up Reservoir Road to the car park alongside Lysterfield Lake. North of there we will visit two charming small lakes that comprise the Monbulk Retarding Basin, before returning for our coffee break. Noel Ineson

This year, December has 5 Saturdays, 5 Sundays and 5 Mondays. This only happens once every 824 years.

Music & Opera

Barry Amond

The Music group will meet on Wednesday November 28 at 7pm. Please let me know if you wish to come along. On October 24, a large audience of 35 was delighted with the Berlin Philharmonic's performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

Theatre

Robert Dun

As in previous years, we hope to get tickets to the 2013 series of four performances by the Brighton Theatre Company. While program details are not yet available, the likely cost will be approximately \$80 per person for the four performances. Those who want tickets are requested to contact me.

Gourmet Tastes

Peter McGregor

When: Thursday February 21. We will have our own private room in Beaumaris, a superb bay view and an Argentinian chef with a real flair for food. All-inclusive cost (including drinks): \$65 pp. There is *a limit on numbers*, so please confirm your interest asap. NB. Starting Time: 7 pm. More details at the November meeting.



True South, Beach Road, Beaumaris

Last month's Northern Indian Tastes at Zaika was a roaring success – thanks for the kind comments and to all those who participated.

"It's hard to learn from history...It's even harder to learn if you know no history..." Geoffrey Blainey

Subscriptions 2013

David Robertson

Details to be put to the November meeting:

Subs for existing members [the same as this year]:

\$60 - but if paid by 31st march 2013 - \$55.

New members 2013: \$45 joining fee, up on last year to cover the increased cost of badges + \$55 annual.

Total: \$100

NOTE: subject to approval at that meeting.

Lloyd Jenkins' new email address: dljencon@tpg.com.au

Amendments to Probus Constitution

Probus South Pacific Limited is proposing changes to our constitution (last changed in February 2008) based on their five-yearly review. The proposed amendments are attached to this newsletter. At the November meeting, Secretary John Howe will move, on the recommendation of your Committee, that each of the amendments be accepted, together with slight modifications to 8(a) and 9(a).

Leaders 2012

Almoner: **Andrew Watson** 9589 5913
 Archive & Grapevine: **Roy Patch** 9589 5757
 Assistant Functions: **Robert Dun** 9589 5456
 Audio Visual: **Paul Crompton** 9583 1310
 Auditor: **Geoff Carlson** 9589 4884
 Bowls: **Ted Montfort** 9589 5949
 Bike Riding: **Noel Ineson** 9589 5263
 Computer Mentoring: **Ken Reed** 9583 5858
 Digital Technology: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
 Discussion: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143

Investment: **Barry Donaldson** 9598 6446
 Meetings Co-ordinator: **Bill Green** 9596 1548
 Meetings Asst: **Duncan Gibson** 9585 3547
 Music/Opera: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143
 Newsletter: **Peter McGregor** 9533 4760
 President's Table: **Norm Griffiths** 9598 8575
 PRISMS: **Bill Davis** 9592 5982
 Speakers' Recorder: **Alan Williams** 9598 7550
 Tastes: **Peter McGregor** 9533 4760
 Theatre: **Robert Dun** 9589 5456

Howlong Highlights 2012



Each year in October, an enthusiastic contingent of Probus members and wives travels to northern climes on the Murray River to participate in three or four days of golf, fun and fellowship. This year, with average temperatures hovering around 30 degrees each day, there was an additional challenge to the golf – but the fun and fellowship was undiminished. After all, golf only takes about four hours with plenty of time for all the other activities: shopping trips to nearby Albury, visits to wineries and olive groves, cappuccinos in Rutherglen; not to mention pre-dinner drinks and chat in the gazebo beside the pool. All under the watchful supervision of Commandant Geoff Wade.

“If I had to choose between my wife and my putter; well, I’d miss her...” Gary Player

This pilgrimage and ‘religious’ festival is approaching its 20th year – a remarkable achievement.

Many participants use the annual event as a starting (or concluding) point for visits elsewhere – Canberra, Jamieson, Bateman’s Bay and even the Gold Coast come to mind. Some stop for breakfast at townships such as Euroa along the way. Others simply explore the local area and take home ample supplies of extra virgin olive oil, tapenade, sangiovese, shiraz, port, muscat and tokay. Believe it or not, some even come to wander around used and antique bookshops!

This year – after almost a decade-long absence – the group included Jeanette Gillingham (and daughter, Giselle). Fittingly, Jeanette won the Howlong Country Club Trophy with 41 Stableford points. Awards of golf balls and bottles of wine flew in all directions. Even the ladies who don’t play golf were acknowledged.



Right: Referee John Pound oversees the first of the putting contestants in the draw, Helen McGregor and Giselle Lang

The large crowd in the marquees was treated to a dazzling display of putting as contestants strove to win the Bill Gillingham Memorial Putting Trophy



2012 Results

Monday:

Men’s best 9 holes: Paul Crompton - 27 points,
Runner-up: Peter Harford - 26 points
Ladies’ best 9 holes: Margaret Howe - 26 points,
Runner-up: Carole McGann - 17 points

Tuesday:

Ladies’ Longest Drive: Merri Bransbury
Ladies’ Nearest the Pin (5th hole): Merri Bransbury
Men’s Nearest the Pin (8th hole): Peter Harford
Men’s Nearest the Pin (17th hole): Paul Crompton
Ladies’ Secret Seven: Jeanette Gillingham
Men’s Secret Seven: David Robertson

Howlong Country Club Trophy: Jeanette Gillingham - 41 points; Runner-up: David Robertson - 40 points cb

Wednesday:

Men’s Longest Drive: John Pound
Men’s Nearest the Pin (2nd hole): Peter McGregor
Ladies’ Secret Seven: Jan Goodwin
Men’s Secret Seven: John Pound

Bill Gillingham Putting Trophy

Geoff Carlson; Runner-up: Bill Green

Warburton Heirloom Trophy: John Pound - +3;
Runner-up: Peter Harford - +2 cb

The final of the Bill Gillingham Putting Competition – an all-Southern affair – was keenly contested over ten holes (twice round the circuit) by Geoff Carlson and Bill Green, with Geoff eventually having the upper hand. It is worth mentioning that several of the play-offs included a hole-in-one. (OK; it was only a matter of a few feet in each case.) Jeanette Gillingham was on hand to present the crystal trophy to Geoff.

More Howlong Highlights



It's very hard to imagine a more relaxing setting than the vistas of the Howlong Country Golf Club



Right: Helen and Peter McGregor watching the finals of the 2012 putting competition from the luxury of the corporate box. Below: Some of the spirited action.



"If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt." Dean Martin

Howlong Dinner 2012

By reputation (and review), the *Kitchen* restaurant at Howlong's Courthouse Hotel is focused on quality produce, so it was no surprise that this was the venue for the final official occasion for Beaumaris Probus' visit to the town. The quality was obvious from the menu which included wagyu rump steak, salmon, rib-eye and crepinette of chicken for mains; and the wine list featuring some classic drops of the local area. By which time, however, many had devoured prawns, freshly-shucked Coffin Bay oysters or a range of tasty entrees too exotic to describe. Later, some even went as far as tackling one of the desserts such as panna cotta and rhubarb preserve – before being bundled into the hotel's mini-bus for the 5-minute drive home.

At 24, numbers were down slightly on previous years – due in large part to some one-off circumstances – but the supply of dips and cheeses, nibbles, rough red and white, and stories around the day's events (hard luck tales, most of them) was sufficient to maintain an extremely high level of conviviality in the poolside gazebo. See below.



This year's putting competition was closely refereed by Paul Crompton and John Pound who were responsible for laying out the 'course' - changes were made after each round – and took charge when anomalies arose (not that there were many; if any). The only problem, as in past years, was that seating arrangements for spectators were less than adequate – in the afternoon heat during more than 90 minutes of intense rivalry and no drinks waiters – it meant that if anyone vacated a chair for two seconds (or less), it was snapped up immediately by chair-snatchers amongst the gathered throng. Seems there might be an opportunity next year for some entrepreneurial chair-renter!

Below: Merry Bransbury and Elizabeth Harford



Above: This year's winner of the prized Howlong Country Club Trophy, Jeanette Gillingham, receives her award from Geoff Wade. Left: winner of the Bill Gillingham putting competition, Geoff Carlson

LAND FACTS

- Only 11.3% of Australia's agricultural land is wholly or partly owned by foreigners
- 91% of water entitlements are fully Australian owned
- Victoria has the lowest percentage of whole or part foreign ownership at 0.8%

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury

Robert Dun



December

LAST CHANCE!

President's Christmas Lunch
Wednesday, December 12.

Cost: \$57



This year the President's Christmas Lunch is at the *Beaumaris*, Beach Road. We will, of course, have our usual raffles with great prizes and more. Please pay at November meeting.

We look forward to your company.

Time: 12.00 for 12.30 pm.

February 2013

Lunch at Bridges Restaurant and visit to Kellybrook Winery, Nursery and Gallery
Wednesday, February 20

Cost \$57

This will be a great way to start the New Year - nice lunch, some good wine, an attractive location.



We have been getting great reviews about Bridges restaurant. This is a delightful place only a little over an hour away in the Old Yarra orchard belt. There is an art gallery and nursery to visit as well. Bus leaves the Community Centre at 9.30, returning by 4.30.

NOTE: We would especially love those members who have never been on a trip to come along.

Please register now and put it in your diary.

"This is a delightful place only a little over an hour away in the old Yarra orchard belt."

March

A TOUCH OF HOLLYWOOD

Mooramong
Monday March 4

Somewhere a little different. A special day is being arranged to open this National Trust Homestead in the Western District...just for us!

It is the only working farm owned by the National Trust.

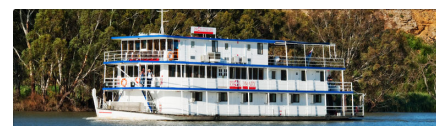


The homestead, built in 1875, was the home of Clare Adams, a Hollywood actress who starred in several silent movies. Come along and discover some of the fascinating stories of a Hollywood actress and her dashing Australian husband, Scobie McKinnon. Mooramong is working property, a nature reserve and offers B & B facilities so it may be worth checking out for another time! It should be a very interesting and enjoyable outing.

Price to be confirmed - but register your interest now.

May

Proud Mary cruise
on the Murray River
Monday, May 3-6



Two-night River Discovery Cruise

This trip is being organised by the Sandy Bay Probus Club. A total of four days, the cost per person is \$1035 (twin share). The trip includes two nights on board plus one night at a motel in Naracoorte.

Reminder: it may still be possible for members to join the Melbourne-NZ cruise on the *Dawn Princess* for 13 nights commencing on March 16.

☀ If interested, please contact Robert Dun.

Melbourne CBD Walk



Pics of the Probus visit to some of the gonzo graffiti in Hosier Lane in October



The guided CBD walk explored some of the history, high-lights and haunts of Old Melbourne



Many thanks to Geoff Bransbury for organising – as he does so often – such an interesting day-trip to the CBD on October 17, not to mention the pleasant lunch of calamari, pizza and hamburgers at the Old Imperial Hotel at the top of Bourke Street. All great fun!



The clubhouse at Panmure Golf Club, Scotland

What On Earth is WALG?

A chance conversation with a fellow Probian led Alan Stevens to a wonderful golfing holiday in Scotland and Ireland. In a lively talk in defence of all left-handed golfers, Alan Stevens reported on his recent unique experience at the 2012 World Championship of the World Association of Left-Handed Golfers in Scotland. Founded in 1979 by New South Welshman, Doug Crosby OAM, the WALG aims to encourage the game of golf (as if it needed encouraging!); in particular, left-handers throughout the world. Apart from Australia, there were representatives from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Finland, Japan, New Zealand, Uganda, USA, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Taiwan, and several other countries. Keenly-contested matches were played at Panmure, Scotsraig, Monifieth (established 1643) and Montrose, celebrating its 450th anniversary. While Alan didn't win any trophies, he made a lot of new friends. The next world championship is to be held in Belek, Turkey, in 2013. Left-handers take note.



Problem Gambling and Its Impact



Dr Mark Zirnsak from the Interchurch Gambling Taskforce painted a bleak picture of the impact of gambling in Victoria. About 1 in 5 Victorians gamble and people who play weekly lose on average \$7000-\$8000 p.a. Interestingly, the predominant age groups are 18-24 and 50-64 year olds. Problem gamblers are more likely to be people who have recently had a major negative event in their life (such as a major illness, legal difficulties, or divorce) and these people are five times more likely to experience poor health and have much higher rates of depression. Only 0.7% of all Victorians have gambling problems,

but while this figure might seem small, it equates to 29 000 people, each of whom affects the lives of a further 5 -10 people. Up to 28% of regular pokie gamblers in Australia have a gambling problem of which 1 in 5 never calculate the affordability of their habit, 1 in 3 never set a limit on their gambling and about 80% of regular gamblers admit they lose control of time and money when using an electronic gaming machine.

“Australians lose about \$200million p.a. to on-line poker and about \$600 million p.a. to on-line casinos.”

Mark suggested measures to curb problem gambling, which include restricting opening hours to from 10am to midnight, introducing a \$1 bet limit, and allowing gamblers to set enforceable limits. Importantly, he said, it was essential to prohibit political donations from the pokies industry. He also wants to give local communities the final say on gambling in their area. One further concern is online gambling: Australians lose about \$200million p.a. to on-line poker and about \$600 million p.a. to on-line casinos. Most on-line gambling sites are in tax havens where any money lost will never return to Australia to be used for social causes. In fact, problem gamblers face an enormous hurdle to break free from their habit, he said. It was a clear reminder to all of us to be on the lookout for any signs amongst our friends to see where help can be given. Alan Stevens