



Newsletter

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: PO Box 57 Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No 249

October 2010

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday October 19 at Beaumaris RSL

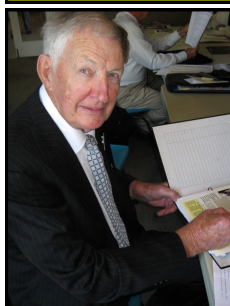
Investment Group: US Double Dip or Robust Recovery? 9 am before the main meeting. See also p2

10-Minute Speaker: Peter McGregor Amazing Facts

Keynote Speaker: Sgt John Woodward Moorabbin Police Station

Topic: Safe Living for Senior Citizens

FROM THE PRESIDENT



That's the way our club works for us and it makes me proud to be a member

Having been a Beaumaris Probud club member for eight years, I have come to realise that each member of our group is clever at *something*. As a result, when someone needs help - whether it be carpentry, computers, finances or other matters, there is always someone in the club who can help and is willing to share their skills and knowledge. The whole point of club membership is so that we can get together to share interests and help each other whenever the opportunity arises. That's the way our club works for us and it makes me proud to be a member. Our Andy Watson is a perfect example of our philosophy of caring for members. Invariably, he follows up any reports of members who are ill and asks us all to sign Get Well cards. Of course, he has been known to tell us the odd classic joke which never fails to amuse us but also gives us a feeling of well-being. I take a great deal of pleasure from seeing many guests introduced at club meetings because feedback tells us that they are always impressed with our format. It is important for us to remember that they are the source of future club memberships and we warmly welcome them. I would also like to draw to your attention how fortunate we are in having interesting guest speakers; such as Gaye Gay last month who was superb in giving us an insight into how live theatre is created. Also, from

within our own membership, Roger Wilson's great talk on franchising was most informative - though it's probably a bit late for any of us to think of starting such a business.

In conclusion, I am very pleased with the several 'helping hand' efforts of our club, sharing our many individual talents with others. I refer you to the words of 19th century Russian novelist, Leo Tolstoy: "If you want to do a good deed, do it now because time will pass and you may not have the chance again." Eric Slater

The prestigious Victoria Cup being clasped firmly by President Eric, elated captain of the winning team at this year's Beaumaris Probud Annual Golf Challenge at Southern Golf Club on the last day in September. No doubt, Allan's grin belies his sadness at not having the cup on his shelf at home See p2



Office Bearers, 2009-10

President: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526
Vice President: **Alan Farmer** 9589 2791
Past Pres: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Secretary: **John Howe** 9589 2429
Treasurer: **David Robertson** 9551 1930
Functions: **Geoff Bransbury** 9589 1507
Mobile 0416 294 452
Functions Asst: **Robert Dun** 9589 5456

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

Meetings Co-ord: **Bill Green** 9596 1548
Meets 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 Table: **Norman Griffiths** 9598 8575

Group Leaders 2009-10

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

NOTICEBOARD

Tastes: A Seafood Experience



As announced last month, we are off to a Seafood Dinner in November. We have been promised a range of classic seafood which will be matched with some excellent wines and is expected to be one of the highlights of our culinary year. (We are almost starting to feel sorry for those who don't like seafood!)
WHEN: Thursday, November 4th @ 7 pm (as usual)
WHERE: Theo's Greek Tavern, Station Street, is located almost opposite the Sandringham Station
COST: \$45 Selected wines available for \$15 per bottle
NOTE: To be assured of a place, you need to pay in full at the October meeting.

Music and Opera Group

The next Opera Night will be on Wednesday October 27 at 7 pm when Puccini's famous *Madam Butterfly* will be shown. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

33 members of the Music Group met on September 29. Among the DVDs played were Mendelssohn's first piano concerto played by the dynamic Lang Lang and the last two movements of Elgar's wonderful cello concerto.

Next month, the Probus Music Group celebrates its 10th anniversary and there will be a special evening on Wednesday December 1. Barry Amond

Theatre Group

MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

The last play for the year, *I Hate Hamlet*, is on Wednesday evening, November 24. Payment of \$16 must be made at the October meeting.

MARY POPPINS

The season continues through March, but the Wednesday matinees have been completely booked out, so it is very unfortunate that those who missed out in September will have to try to book privately for some other session. Sorry about that. Allan Taylor

Investment Group

This month, Convenor Barry Donaldson expects to lead discussion on members' personal advisers' opinions about the future of the world economy, US and Europe.

Computer Mentoring Program

Alan Farmer reports that the computers have arrived and are now installed at the Beaumaris Library ready for use. More details available at our monthly meeting.

"Money isn't everything... but it ranks right up there with oxygen"
 Rita Davenport

Golf Challenge



Above: Bill Green, Peter McGregor, John Howe, Allan Taylor

Above Right: Alan Farmer, Ed Hilliard, Geoff Wade and Eric Slater

Right: After the game



It is with considerable humility that we announce that the Great Annual Beaumaris Probus Golf Challenge between 'rivals' Victoria and Southern Golf Clubs has recently been completed at Southern and the winner is Victoria Golf Club by the moderate margin of seven (stableford) points. The weather was fine, the course was in good condition, the hospitality was warm and the rivalry fierce. Later, in the magnificent Southern clubhouse, the captain of the losing side, Allan Taylor, presented the winning captain, President Eric, with the prestigious Victoria Cup, which he accepted with a degree of dignity, not to mention some unfeigned magnanimity. It was generally agreed to meet again at the same time next year. May the best team win.

Four or Six of the Best?

No doubt, you will all be intrigued by the outcome of the straw poll conducted last month on whether this newsletter should be four or six pages. In fact, the four-page faction seemed to carry the vote by a small – but, some would say – significant margin. In fact, often, four pages is more than enough for the amount of information we have. But sometimes we may have to stretch to six. So, in future, the policy of this august newsletter is to be four pages –unless there is a demand for more space, in which case we will feel free to run to six. However, this month we have had a request from Paul Crompton to include his catalogue of DVDs of Keynote Speakers over the last year or so, which we are happy to include as a supplement. The result? We have a four-page newsletter, plus two pages. That makes six pages! We have also responded to suggestions about a different arrangement of items. What do you think of the new order? Please let us (that's the Royal Us) know. Ed.

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury & Robert Dun



November

Royal Botanical Gardens Cranbourne Wednesday November 17

This should be a lovely day. These gardens comprise one of Victoria's most precious areas of native bushland. It is a place where visitors can immerse themselves in Australian flora, landscapes, art and architecture. It features a gallery of exhibition gardens and sculpture and displays - all highlighting the beauty and diversity of our unique Australian landscape. Come and join us!

The Australian



Garden is 360 hectares of untouched heathlands, wetlands and woodlands. We will have a guided tour as well as time to enjoy the area and a two-course lunch as well as morning tea. The bus leaves the Community Centre Reserve Road at 9.30 am returning around 4.30 pm.

Cost: \$50.50 pp payable at October meeting.

Tour of Guide Dogs, Kew Friday November 5

Beaumaris Bay Probus is offering this trip to the Guide Dogs Centre in Kew. It includes morning tea and a buffet lunch at the Templestowe Hotel. Pick up at the Community Centre at 9.30 am, returning at 3.30 pm. Cost \$42.00 pp

December

President's Christmas Lunch Friday December 17 @ Victoria Golf Club

12.00 Welcome canapés and drinks, lunch at 12.30

This is our Not To Be Missed Annual Lunch. We are hoping



for a record attendance so please keep the day free! Come and enjoy a superb Christmas lunch with Probus friends and wives - lots of good company as well as a chance to win the quiz and raffle! Tables will be allocated as in previous years. Drinks are included up to a generous float.

This year, we have beaten inflation and kept the cost the same as for 2009.

Cost \$55.00 pp including drinks. Please register and pay now, or at November's meeting at the very latest.

February 2011

Kilmore Turf Cup 2011 Race Day Luncheon Package Sunday February 27 Something different!!! A day at the country races and a



scrumptious lunch in the Members. Sandy Bay Probus has asked us to join them for this great day in the country.

We catch the train from Sandringham which connects with Kilmore East train at Southern Cross. We are to be met at Kilmore East by a courtesy bus and driven to the Members Pavilion where we enjoy a three-course Race Day lunch. We will have a reserved table and seating and race book. Cost (excluding train fare): \$59 pp.

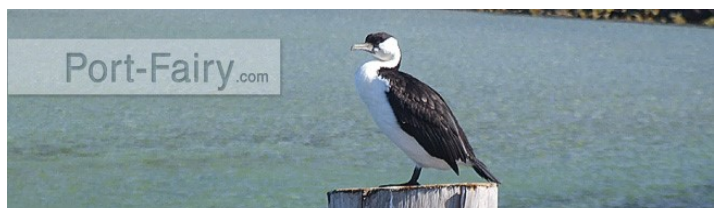
Numbers are limited so please register ASAP if you would like to come. Numbers are first-come-first-served.

March 2011

Warrnambool, Portland, Port Fairy Tuesday March 22 - Thursday 24

Travel by (free) train to Warrnambool where we will stay for two nights. We will tour Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum and Tower Hill reserve and see the spectacular Shipwrecked light and laser show. On day 2, we travel to Portland by coach to ride the tram, tour the wharf and surrounds, visit cape Bridgewater, and a Portland strawberry farm. We will spend some time at Port Fairy in the afternoon.

This wonderful tour includes 2 nights' accommodation, all meals and entry to the Maritime Village, Shipwreck Show and tram ride etc.



The approximate cost (to be confirmed later) is only \$270 twin share (plus \$120 single supplement) to and from Southern Cross station. Please register your interest with us immediately.

Tell Them They Were Wonderful



September's Keynote Speaker was Gaye Gay, Director of the Peridot Theatre Company, one of a number of non-professional theatre groups that operate in the suburbs. The actors are all unpaid but, Ms Gay said, the many productions are very professional indeed. Ms Gay reminded us that theatre is an illusion designed to 'feed and nourish our spirits'. To create the illusion requires the talents and hard work of many

people offstage in addition to the actors who present the play to the audience. After an evening at the theatre, should we meet with any of these unpaid actors who perform only for our pleasure and theirs, we should remember that the ultimate accolade is to tell them, "You were wonderful".

Alan Williams

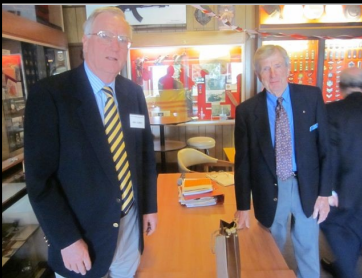
Word Origins

For those who have been doing a fair bit of *barracking* in recent weeks, you may be interested to know where this unique Australianism came from. You won't find its use anywhere else in the world. It started with cricket and the Sydney Cricket Ground back in the 19th century. The ground was built adjacent to the historic Army Barracks and it was customary, whenever there was a game of cricket, for the men and officers to congregate at that part of the outer and imbibe and heckle or encourage the cricketers as the day wore on. They were always very vociferous and enthusiastic and this was called 'barracking' because it was those lads from the barracks again - and so the word entered the vernacular. Ed.

Mr Franchise Comes to Town

Alan Williams

At the September meeting, Roger Wilson gave a 10-minute but forceful insight into the world of franchising, the result of his own experiences with the bedding franchise operation, Forty Winks, which he joined in 1987. Roger is passionate about the many successful businesses that have achieved considerable growth using the franchising strategy and he cites Harvey Norman, Bendigo Bank and McDonald's as amongst the best. There are currently 70 000 businesses in Australia operating under a franchise agreement turning over some \$130 billion annually. One of the very interesting examples is Gloria Jean's coffee, which was developed here in Australia and operates world-wide in 7000 outlets.



Ian Curry and Investment Group Convenor, Barry Donaldson

Shareholders United

Victorian Chairman of the Shareholders Association, Ian Curry, spoke to the Investment Group about some of his central concerns as a shareholder. He called for more open reporting to shareholders and deplored the fact that often executive remuneration was increased substantially at a time that the share price and dividends of a company were, as he described it, 'slaughtered'. He also discussed some of the implications of requiring 50% women on boards.



10-minute speaker, Roger Wilson, says he gets really excited about franchising

MONTHLY PROFILE

Geoff Mason



Ever the fishing enthusiast



Geoff had a long career in retailing, beginning with GJ Coles as a junior in sales in 1947. When he retired in 1987 at the age of 57 after 40 years with the same company, he began a small local handyman business which "kept me busy for a few years." He made the decision to join Probus in 1988 and, eventually, he came to the view that he should 'pull his weight' and soon became the Meeting Co-ordinator in 1995, President in 1997, Assistant Functions 2002-03, and Secretary 2003-05. What he loves most about the Beaumaris Club is the number of new people joining. "I'm thrilled to think that there are so many people coming into the club

with fresh ideas," he says.

Geoff has been a member of the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron for about 30 years. He says most of the activity at the club is about fishing; 99 per cent. A very passionate supporter of the Melbourne Football Club, his other main interest is bowls; he has been a member at Sandringham for 23 years, twice serving as President of Men's Division. Not so long ago, he managed to skipper the team that won the Probus Bowls annual competition from amongst 80 teams. Geoff says he has never been tempted to become a golfer, "I suppose because with four kids, I had no money and no time." He is proud of the fact that he was able to put his sons through Mentone Grammar and his daughter through Firkbank; and is pleased that he and his wife still maintain a strong association with them all. These days his primary recreation is travelling with Yvonne, his wife of 58 years: from Amsterdam to Budapest earlier this year, and then New Caledonia with Gabriel Gate recently. He says he has an ongoing love affair with Australia - including Broome to Darwin by land two years ago, a trip to Lake Eyre in 2009, Cairns to Cape York previously and, he hopes, from Broome to Darwin in 2011. Clearly, Geoff and Yvonne are busy living life to the full.