



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: PO Box 57 Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 273

January 2013

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday January 15 at St Martin's Uniting Church, Beaumaris

Keynote Speaker: Ms Peta Knott Marine Archaeologist
Topic: Steam Tug *Wattle* and the Bay Steamers Maritime Museum

10-Minute Speaker: Wally Povey Macular Degeneration

Steam Tug *Wattle*

The 25-metre S.T. *Wattle* was built at Cockatoo Dock in Sydney in 1933-1934 to keep the dockyard workers employed during the Great Depression. She weighs 130 tonnes and boasts one of only three remaining examples of marine steam reciprocating engines in Australia. She was a Navy tug on Sydney Harbour for thirty years and after being de-commissioned in 1962 the *Wattle* was purchased by a maritime heritage group that went on to found Sydney Heritage Fleet.

In 1971 she was donated to the Victorian Steam Ship company as a tourist venture. In 2003, it was realised that the *Wattle* needed major restoration to stay in survey. A company of businessmen, Sorrento Steam, came to the rescue taking over financial responsibility



allow-

ing vol-
unteers

from the Bay Steamers Maritime Museum to carry out restoration – refurbishing the machinery, refreshing the woodwork, renovating the hull plates and restoring the grand old lady so she can continue steaming for decades to come.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BRUCE TOMKINS



**Happy
New
Year
to all
of you**

What a wonderful President's Lunch we had. I think it was a very pleasant and successful end to our year. The weather was good, the venue good with very good food and service. Sincere thanks go to Geoff Bransbury, firstly for his and others' selection of the venue, and also for his work as MC. Thanks also to Roger Leeming for his Christmas songs; and, last but not least, to Rod Murrell for his excellent quiz.

I hope you all had a good Christmas, as we did at Phillip Island with our daughter and family. The weather was good which made it easy to eat, drink or whatever took your fancy. I wish everyone a happy New Year and a good 2013. Wasn't it interesting that a date such as 12/12/2012 will not be repeated until 3001! What a summer season we are having: cricket, tennis, golf and all the other things we do. I went to the Test against the Sri Lankans at the MCG on the Friday. While it was thrilling to see

our Aussies bowl and field well, it was a shame it ended so early. I got home, had a cuppa with Gill and then we went and saw the enjoyable movie, *The Intouchables*. Quite a full day. We used to celebrate New Year's Eve with a few friends at a restaurant and then afterwards at one of our homes with a lot of food and drink. Sad to say, those days are past. This year – as we did last year – we are going to an early movie with our best friends, dinner at a home, out to look at the fireworks from a high point, and then probably home by midnight, sober and safe. We do become a bit more sensible as we age.

As I said before, Happy New Year to all of you and your families and also to our wonderful Probus Club. I look forward to seeing you all in January 2013.

NOTICEBOARD

Subscriptions for 2012

Subs are now due and will be the same as last year: \$60 with a reduction to \$55 if paid before March 31.

NOTE: It is ok to pay by direct debit. See Probus banking details on p3.

David Robertson

IMPORTANT!

The location for the next meeting (January only) is St Martin's Uniting Church, corner of Gibbs and Dalgetty Road, Beaumaris. Details page1. Lunch has been arranged at Sing Tao Chinese restaurant, South Concourse, Beaumaris, at 12:30 and will consist of two courses and a glass of wine for \$18.50.

Argentinian Gourmet Dinner

Where: True South, Beach Rd Black Rock

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 Argentinian wine): \$65 pp. There is *a limit on numbers*, so please confirm your interest asap. NB. Starting Time: 7 pm.

Payment by January meeting.

Peter McGregor

Tastes Wine List

Just for the record, the wines we enjoyed at Tastes during 2012 included: Tar & Roses Heathcote shiraz, Tim Knappstein Clare Valley shiraz, Wynn's Coonawarra cabernet sauvignon; Clos Pierre Yarra Valley pinot noir, Red Hill Estate pinot noir; Brown Brothers King Valley pinot grigio, Cape West Howe (WA) semillon sauvignon blanc; Pewsey Vale Eden Valley riesling; and NZ gold-medal winning Invivio sauvignon blanc. All for \$15 each.

Peter McGregor

"If you think Fred Astaire was the greatest dancer, try doing what he did backwards in high heels."

Hugh Jackman, 60 Minutes

Probus Bkie Group

Noel Ineson

The colourful business of cycling -

Noel and Wally Povey enjoy a break at Lysterfield Park (November 2012).



Our next ride is on Friday, January 25. The ride starts from the Burnley Park, Richmond, area

and follows the Yarra River closely past two glamorous cafes at Bridge Road and Barkers Road, over Walmer Street bridge and Collins bridge and past the Abbotsford Convent which is now an arts and cultural precinct. We will pass the very active Collingwood Children's Farm followed by Dight's Falls with its beautifully restored mill and water race. The trail runs along the east bank of Merri Creek, returning to the Yarra River at the delightful Fairfield boathouse for well-earned refreshments. We will then return to Burnley Park for a round trip of 20 km. This is an exceptional ride full of very attractive scenery and bustling with activity.

Digital Technology Interest Group

The Group will meet on Tuesday February 5 at 2 pm at Barry Amond's home, 25 Third Street Black Rock. Possible topics for discussion/demonstration will be 'Dragon Speaking' dictation program and voice activated SATNAV programs. An attendance sheet will be available at the January meeting.

Investment Group

NOTE: No investment meeting for January

Music & Opera Groups

The Opera Group will meet on Wednesday February 27 at the **special early time of 6.30 pm** when one of the most popular operas will be shown. Please let me know if you would like to come. The Music Group's first evening of the year will be on Wednesday April 3, a week later than usual.

Barry Amond

Leaders 2013

Almoner: **Andrew Watson** 9589 5913
 Archive & Grapevine: **Roy Petch** 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



Fortunately, Geoff found hospitable local people to help him through the odd dramas such as his sprained ankle, lost passport, and a missing part from his bike affectionately known as 'Azulo'

Our Intrepid Bkie

Alan Williams

Keynote Speaker, Geoff Bransbury – complete with motor bike – travelled from the far south of South America through 16 countries to finally arrive in the USA six months and 27 000 km later. With limited Spanish vocabulary and some US dollars he set off, using wi-fi skype, GPS and Spot Traveller to find his way and keep in touch with Merry and the family at home. Fortunately, he found some hospitable local people to help him through the odd dramas such as sprained ankle, lost passport, a missing part from his bike – and that was before he got started in Buenos Aires! Other problems such as bargaining with 'dodgy' Peruvian police and border crossing delays of 2-5 hours at every frontier did not distract him from the magnificent scenery. He enjoyed the trip so much he is planning the next one already; *adios* South America - *hola* Russia and Mongolia next year.

Don't Forget Remembrance Day

Alan Williams

Brian Burton spoke passionately about enhancing the observance of the debt we owe our fallen servicemen and women. Anzac Day in Australia attracts far more attention than Remembrance Day on November 11th. He believes that the two should receive more equal recognition; in fact, the number of Australians killed in action in WWI battles in France outnumbered those sustained by our forces in the disastrous campaign at Gallipoli by 7 to 1. He would like to see recognition of all theatres of war where Australians have served and paid the supreme sacrificeLest We Forget.

Discussion Groups

During 2012, two groups each met eight times and discussed a variety of topics. There are 15 members in each group and they meet on the second Tuesday and Friday of most months. We decided on two groups so that everyone had enough opportunity to contribute. I chair the two-hour meetings and a week or so beforehand distribute short articles from newspapers and the internet.

Topics in 2012 were: Global Warming, Democracy, the Impact of Technology, Future Jobs in Australia, the Role of Females in Society, Retirement and the Ageing Population, and the Future of Energy. Since few of us have in-depth knowledge of the topics, the discussions have tended to be general in nature with some interesting diversions and my main role has been to try and give everyone a chance to put their views. The discussions enable us to learn about each other as we draw on experience gained during our diverse careers. In one group, backgrounds include insurance, the law, retail, banking, HR (personnel) and engineering. It has been clear though that some of us have watched *Grumpy Old Men* on TV as we have not always agreed that modern 'progress' is beneficial.

According to feedback, many members are enjoying the format and believe it should continue into the new year. Possible future topics: Medical Treatment for the Aged, the Commercialisation of Sport, local Bayside Issues and further discussion on population. When there is a 'technical' subject, one member is asked to assume the role of 'expert' to ensure the topic is given full justice. We might also experiment with a debate and alternative chairmen. Meetings provide another opportunity for members of the Club to enjoy mental stimulation and fellowship. The first meetings for 2013 will be: Friday February 8 at 9.30 am and Tuesday February 12 at 2 pm. As usual, members will receive reading material before their meeting.

Barry Amond

Above: 20-year pin presentation to Noel Ineson by President Bruce Tomkins



Scenes from the President's Christmas Lunch at 'The Beaue'



Feverish checking of raffle ticket numbers

Office Bearers 2013	
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**



WE WERE HOAXED! (Last Newsletter)

It is perfectly true that December 2012 had 5 Saturdays, 5 Sundays and 5 Mondays. However, this occurs more often than every 800-plus years. The last one was in December 2007 while the next will take place in December 2018. In fact, any month that has 31 days will have three consecutive days that occur five times in the month. This is a version of earlier equally spurious chain messages.

See: www..Hoax-Slayer



FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury

Robert Dun



February

Lunch at *Bridges* Restaurant; visit to Kellybrook Winery; also a Nursery and Gallery
Wednesday 20



The bus is nearly full. Please register ASAP if you want to come. We have great reviews about *Bridges* Restaurant and the Winery is a delightful place only a little over an hour away in the Old Yarra Orchard belt. There is also an Art gallery and Nursery as well. Bus leaves the Community Centre at 9.30, returning by 4.30. Cost: \$57

March

I regret to announce that the visit to 'Mooramong' has been postponed. Due to events out of our control. Our apologies.

March Mystery Tour Wednesday March 20

This is Something Very Special -
Revolutions, Scandals, Mysteries.

Remember Jacqui, the amusing and entertaining English woman who charmed and entertained us at Point Cook and again in Williamstown? If you weren't there, you really missed something! Or, someone. But you now have a second chance.

We have booked Jacqui for a special outing. Exactly where we're going must remain a closely-guarded secret for now but it will include a walk in or near the City and a lunch.

Have faith! This will be a great outing. Guaranteed! Cost: \$25-\$35. We will travel by train to the CBD.

Please come and join your fellow Probians on this unique Mystery Tour. NOTE: We need 30!

Theatre

24 seats for *Legally Blonde - The Musical* have been reserved for Wednesday, July 3 at 1.00 pm, at the

Princess Theatre.

"All singing, all dancing cast ... about knowing who you are and showing what you've got".



The show has after win-
awards, in-
sical 2011
and after
years on West End . It is described as 'Australia's biggest new hit musical', and currently running in Sydney. Payment no later than the April meeting. Cost: \$70 .

come to Australia
ning seven major
cluding best mu-
(Olivier Awards).
three triumphant

URGENT REQUEST

PLEASE SUBMIT TO
ME ASAP SUGGESTIONS OR
IDEAS FOR DAY OR EX-
TENDED TRIPS. WE ARE
ALWAYS LOOKING FOR
NEW PLACES AND IDEAS!
GB

