



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: Box 57 PO Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 258

August 2011

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday August 16 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: USA: What Will Action on the New Debt Ceiling Mean? 9 am. See p2
10-Minute Speaker: Rod Kelly Bearings for a Clandestine Operation

- **Keynote Speaker: Mark Poynter Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia**
Topic: Forest Myths A professional forester for thirty years, Mark believes that the public hysteria that surrounds Australian forestry today is largely irrational. More p4.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Interest groups are not only for our wise men, but also for our even wiser ladies...”

It is this Club's many active groups that make it the vibrant organization that it is. The monthly general meeting is the hub, but our interest groups, functions and activities are organised to create opportunities for our members to meet, discuss and hopefully form relationships with locals of like interests and experiences. In fact, two more groups have been added already this year; namely, New Technology, led by Geoff Wade, and Cycling, led by Noel Ineson. These are in addition to the Computer Mentoring Program organised by Ken Reed. The list of current interest groups, leaders and phone numbers is set out on each newsletter below these notes. Functions & Activities, coordinated by Geoff Bransbury and Robert Dun, has its own page, while the Noticeboard page has information about many other activities within the Club. If any member is not involved with these activities, I encourage you to contact the leader of the group of your choice and feel free to discuss their agenda and join in the fun. You will be pleased with the result.

Another interest group was foreshadowed at

our July meeting. It is a discussion group, led in the initial stages at least, by Barry Amond. The idea grew out of Noel Ineson suggesting a book group and Barry proposing the notion of reincarnating the former Senior Round Table. There are limitless numbers of very stimulating topics - each to be chosen by the group's members, which should provide much mental stimulus for participants. At the July meeting, the number who indicated their interest was way beyond our expectations. Two groups may need to be formed to allow all a chance to contribute to discussion. We wish the new group(s) well.

It should be noted that our social activities - including the music and opera, theatre and other interest groups - are not only for our wise men, but also for our even wiser ladies! This makes these activities more fun and joyful, as demonstrated by those lucky enough to attend the July Candlelight Dinner, and the many other past club functions.

Alan Farmer

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
Meetings 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

Group Leaders 2011

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

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
New Technology: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Communications: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Bike Riding: **Noel Ineson** 9589 5263
Tastes: **Peter McGregor** 9533 4760

NOTICEBOARD

Travel Insurance Reminder

Insurance is now available for Probus members and their partners on both Probus and private travels. This now covers pre-existing illnesses providing travellers have a letter from their doctor stating that they "are fit to travel". The premium for overseas travel is \$180 for trips of up to 90 days and \$120 for travel in Australia. Medical cover is up to \$100 000. For those over 80, illnesses that lead to cancellation prior to the travel commencing are not covered but any illness while travelling is covered. Full details are available on the Probus South Pacific website. This could be a major benefit to members who may otherwise be deterred from travelling due to pre-existing illnesses which in the past prevented them from getting travel insurance. Please read the fine print to make sure that you are satisfied with the extent of the cover.

New Discussion Group

The first meeting of the proposed new Discussion Group will be at 9.30-11.30 am on Friday September 16 at 25 Third St, Black Rock. It will commence by discussing terms of reference and then go on to discuss a subject which will be advised well before the meeting. In view of the number of our members showing interest, it may be necessary to impose a limit on numbers. Barry Amond

Music and Opera Groups

The next meeting of the Opera Group will be on Wednesday September 28. The Music Group will meet on Wednesday October 26. Barry Amond

Tastes

A big 'thank you' to those who have been kind enough to make suggestions of restaurants we should try – Vietnamese, Japanese, you name it. We hope to work our way through your suggestions this year and next to maintain the diversity of our program. PeterMcG

Bike Group

We were most fortunate to have had a beautiful day in July for our coastal ride at Williamstown. Starting from the Timeball Tower at Port Gellibrand, we rode through expansive wetlands enclosing a series of beautiful lagoons teeming with bird life - sacred ibis, black swans, ducks, swamp hens - then around the delightful Cherry lake and back to Williamstown beach for a relaxing coffee and tasty focaccia on the open terrace at Sirens café. On our next ride, **Friday August 19**, we will retrace this route, excluding Cherry Lake, but include the Altona beachfront with its jetty and boating activities. Newcomers are most welcome to join our group of nine enthusiastic riders. Noel Ineson

Investment Group

The Investment Group will be considering the effect of rebalancing our Top Selection portfolio at the close of

last financial year and the progress of the Balanced Top Selection portfolio for this financial year. Also, the likely effects on the world economy of the USA taking action to increase its borrowing limit (indebtedness) on August 2 – a matter of major concern. John Brimage

Theatre Group

Love Never Dies

A reminder that this show is at the Regent Theatre on Wednesday, August 17 at 1 pm. Also, the third Brighton Theatre Company play for the year, *Blithe Spirit*, is on Wednesday evening, August 31 at 8 pm. Allan Taylor

Howlong Golf

This year's Howlong golf trip (October 23-27) is fully subscribed and confirmed with Howlong Golf and Country Club. Details of competitions and activities will be provided just prior to the trip. Although, all places are currently taken, if you would still like to come, get on the waiting list as late cancellations are always a possibility. Geoff Wade

Probus Victoria Golf Challenge

This event will be held on Friday November 18 at the Drouin Golf and Country Club. Competition is a 4BBB stableford medley, open to all Probusians who have a handicap. Entry fee:\$55 and includes golf and lunch. Registration prior to 8am for a shot-gun start at 8:30. Interested members should contact Geoff Wade to arrange for team entry. Entries close October 28.



New Technology Group

The September meeting of the New Technology Group will be held on Tuesday September 6 at Barry Amond's place, 25 Third St Black Rock, commencing at 2 pm. The topic will be "Downloading music from the Internet", led by Alan Small. An attendance sheet will be available at the next meeting. Geoff Wade

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of cars in China increased twenty fold (to an estimated 270 million cars and bikes). NOTE: There will be more cars in China in 2030 than in the entire world in 2000.

Guardian

"A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him."

David Brinkley

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury & Robert Dun



September

Yarra Valley Railway
Friday September 23

Tour full. The final cost is \$55 – those who have paid will receive \$9 refund. Those who still have not paid, please do so ASAP as we need to verify our numbers and pay. (This trip is a joint Beaumaris Probus Club trip organised by Beaumaris Heights), If you are interested in going on this trip, please put your name on the waiting list.

Bus leaves Community Centre at 9.00 am. Returns around 4.30.

October

Night Races at Moonee Valley
Friday October 7

A bus will take us to and from the Night Races. We will enjoy a sumptuous smorgasbord dinner at the "Legends" which has a fabulous view of the track and with all the comforts as well. No sitting in a cold stand! You can, of course, place a bet or two if you like – but in addition there is also entertainment. You don't have to be a racing enthusiast to come as this will be a great evening. We need at least 40 to make this trip viable. Perhaps bring a friend?

Cost: \$55 which includes the dinner and the bus. Please register your interest. Payment now or September meeting.

November

Boutique Brewery Tour and Lunch
Tuesday November 22

This suggestion received some considerable interest when presented to the meeting. The intention is for our chauffeur-driven Mercedes to



take us to a few of the excellent boutique breweries to taste their wares and have a good lunch. More details next month. Please register your interest to give us an idea of numbers.

November

West Coast of Tasmania
Sunday November 13 - Friday 18

Strahan – including Macquarie Harbour, Sarah Island and the Gordon River cruise – can be described as one of the most remote places in southern Australia. Located on a spectacularly beautiful harbour 298 km

west of Hobart and 41 km from Queenstown, Strahan lies on the edge of the unspoiled beauty of Macquarie Harbour. One of the last outposts of civilisation on Tasmania's wild West Coast, it is surely one of the most secluded yet exotic places in Australia.

Sandy Bay Probus is organising this five-day tour. It looks a great trip and excellent value. Travel on the *Spirit of Tasmania* in a twin cabin. 2 Nights at Strahan, 1 at Murchison Lodge. Gordon River cruise, and



much more. Includes 3 dinners and 4 breakfasts. If interested, please register. Cost \$950 pp.

December

President's Christmas Lunch
Friday December 9

This year our Christmas lunch will be at Royal Melbourne Golf Club. The lunch is a week earlier this year to avoid clashing with The Masters at Victoria Golf Club. We will, of course, have our usual complimentary raffles and quiz (maybe a little easier this year.) Please reserve the date in your diary! Let's have a record crowd. There will be canapés and a drink on arrival followed by a two-course lunch and coffee. Cost: \$60



Cost: \$60 pp which includes drinks.

YOUR SUGGESTIONS PLEASE

We are already thinking of next year! Please give us your ideas for day trips and extended trips. All your suggestions very welcome.



Australia's Royal Flying Doctor Service

Alan Williams



Left: Annette Allison, Simone Davidge and Tony Bowles. The many visuals supporting Annette's address were via the projector operated by Simone

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is the oldest and most comprehensive aero-medical service in the World. Public Affairs Manager, Ms Annette Allison's impressive presentation at the July meeting traced the history of this unique Australian icon, founded by the Presbyterian Church's Rev John Flynn who was very concerned at the lack of proper healthcare available to people living and working in the Australian outback areas in the 1920s. At his behest, the first operational flight of the Flying Doctor Service, in an elderly bi-plane provided by Qantas, took place in far west Queensland on May 17 1928. The network expanded over time to encompass the whole of Australia, from Christmas Island in the west to Lizard Island off the east coast and the fleet of aircraft has grown to 53 modern planes, including the latest jet aircraft costing \$6m (and another million to equip it to RFDS standards), capable of crossing the country in three hours. Today, the fleet averages some 24 million kilometres per year on emergency flights, servicing approximately 758 patients per day. Pilots are required to learn other skills specific to the job, such as day and night landings and take-offs on remote and sometimes primitive air strips – or on sealed and unsealed roads, if better facilities are unavailable. All RFDS aircraft are fitted with the necessary equipment (and nurses) to provide patients with whatever care they need (including life support systems if required), whilst flying between accident sites or country hospitals, to major city hospitals. On any day, passengers may be babies in humidicribs, heart attack patients, or victims of road or industrial accidents. When, after the Bali bombing, the injured were too numerous for the resources of the Darwin Hospital, the RFDS flew them to various capital city hospitals throughout Australia, fulfilling the grand vision of John Flynn and continuing a noble tradition, "From the furthest corner, the finest care."

Albert's Return

Vice President
John Bushby and
July 10-minute
speaker,
Brian Burton



Our July 10-minute Speaker, Brian Burton, showed off his artistic talents as an actor in entertaining us with a dramatic reading of a humorous monologue made famous by the late Stanley Holloway. The story told of a visit to the zoo by the Ramsbottom family, including young Albert, who is unexpectedly and unfortunately eaten by Wallace, an aging lion, but later regurgitated - which was a great disappointment to his father who was obliged to return the payment he had collected from the insurance company. Brian's stage delivery, complete with the appropriate English working-man's dialect and accents, embellished the story with memories of similar theatrical performances from a bygone era.

Alan Williams

Journey to the Archibalds Keynote Speakers

Our August speaker, Mark



Above: Lunch at Healesville Harvest. Above right: Ben Quilty's portrait of Margaret Olley, Winner of the Archibald Prize 2011

Poynter, will make the case for his view that environmental policy in Australia is largely determined by misguided populism which, ironically, will lead to serious degrading of our forests. In September, local retired surgeon, Dr Peter Labb, will tell us about his recent experiences with Medicins Sans Frontieres in war-torn Somalia.

"Over the past 200 years, the forested area of Europe has grown from 10 per cent to approximately 30 per cent..."
Patrick Moore, founder of *Greenpeace*