



# NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: Box 57 PO Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 263

February 2012

**Next Meeting:** 10 am Tuesday February 21 at Beaumaris RSL

**Keynote Speaker:** Jennie Hill  
**Topic:** New Ways of Thinking

**10-Minute Speaker:** John Pound

How to Find a Grey Nurse Shark in a Railway Bridge

**Investment Group:** Stuart Graham Lachlan Partners 9 am before the main meeting. See p2

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Alan Farmer*



***This essential re-definition of reality assists us to live in peace and harmony within our society***

Are all men (where *man* embraces *woman*) created equal? Clearly, they are not. A visit to a maternity hospital should disabuse anyone of that belief. Each human being is unique, neither the same nor equal. If we were, we would be wasting resources and time with academic examinations, olympic games and footy matches - as we would all perform equally. There would be no gods, queens, prime ministers, dictators, popes, or paupers- for these would be elitist not equal. If anyone could, then all could, perform a quadruple bypass operation, be champion golf players - and perfect husbands. Beauty contests would be out, but horse racing and pokies could continue. Even those great philosophers and prophets of the past (Plato, Socrates), missed 'discovering' the modern notion of equality.

Our modern civilised society has redefined its citizens as equal. In politics - at least since Abraham Lincoln - our laws have proclaimed that one citizen's vote, value, rights - and responsibilities - equals any other's. This

special redefinition of reality and equality is an essential unique component of our free, democratic society. But if we take it out of the political, legal context it becomes absurd. It seems we do not have words in the English language that adequately convey this concept that equality on one attribute does not mean sameness on others. For example, 6 oranges and 6 apples are equal in number but are not the same. They are equally valuable fruits, but may differ in colour or weight. We are lucky that humans are in fact unequal, but fortunate to live in a nation where political philosophy and practice has modified the definition of inequality to mean all citizens are equal under the law.

This essential redefinition of reality assists us to live in peace and harmony within our society. Not all nations share this democratic philosophy or practice. Perhaps there are some implications here for immigration policy.

Meanwhile, vive la difference!

### Office Bearers, 2012

President: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791  
Vice President: **Bruce Tomkins** 9591 0076  
Past Pres: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526  
Secretary: **John Howe** 9598 2429  
Treasurer: **David Robertson** 9551 1930  
Functions: **Menno van Ruyven** 9699 5506  
Mobile: 0437 154 707  
Meetings Co-ord: **Bill Green** 9596 1548  
Meetgs Asst: **Duncan Gibson** 9585 3547  
Ex-officio: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593

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: **Norm Griffiths** 9598 8575

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

### Group Leaders 2012

Investment: **Barry Donaldson** 9598 6446  
Music/Opera: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143  
Theatre: **Robert Dun** 9589 5456  
Grape Vine: **Roy Petch** 9589 5757  
Bowls: **Ted Montfort** 9589 5949  
PRISMS: **Bill Davis** 9592 5982  
Digital Techn/gy: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593  
Bike Riding: **Noel Ineson** 9589 5263  
Discussion: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143

# NOTICEBOARD



*President Alan addressing the January meeting at St Martin's Uniting Church in Beaumaris*

## Investment Group

YE12 [PIGS– Merkosy]

Barry Donaldson

ASX200>4300?

+US GDP – China's

less volatility

Members are asked to give careful consideration to the above equation prior to our February meeting.

**"Only buy something that you'd be perfectly happy to hold if the market shut down for 10 years."**

Warren Buffett

Stuart Graham: A brief overview of the USA's slow recovery. Europe's stagnation and its effect on our stock-market. The remainder of time will be spent reviewing our portfolio indicating whether to buy, sell or hold; plus other opportunities short and long-term.

**"If you don't follow the stock market, you are missing some amazing drama"**

Mark Cuban

## Digital Technology Group

The March meeting of the Digital Technology group will be held on Tuesday March 6 at Barry Amond's home, 25 Third St Black Rock, commencing at 2 pm. The topic for discussion had not been determined at time of writing but will be announced at the February Probos meeting.

Geoff Wade

## Theatre Group

BRIGHTON THEATRE COMPANY

Tickets for all four plays for 2012 will be available at the February meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please arrange for somebody to collect them. We also have a list of members who were on a waiting list and who may be interested in attending any of the plays if a ticket-holder cannot attend.

Allan Taylor

## Directory Change

◀ R LEEMING (Roger & Julie)

26 Ardoyne St, Black Rock 3193.

9533 1213, rogerleeming@netspace.net.au

Born Leeds, UK 1947. MA (Cantab), FAIM. CEO & Chairman Pilkington Aust.

Theatre, golf, roses, exercise. [Club 12]



## Music & Opera



*Annual Music Party, 2011*

Our 10th annual party was blessed with good weather and forty-five people had dinner in the garden before the usual program of lighter music. The Lang Lang performance of Chopin's *Grande Polonaise* at the 2011 last night of the Proms ended the evening on a high note. Earlier, Ralph Butcher had an impromptu swim before going home to change and return in good health.

NOTE: The Music Group will meet on Wednesday March 28 (not 29 as previously announced).

Barry Amond

## Bike Group

Friday March 2: This month we will drive to the very popular Jells Park at the Eastern end of Waverley Road. From there, we will enjoy the great scenery along the Dandenong Creek path as we ride the 18 km return trip to Koomba Park past lakes and wetlands teeming with bird life – to finally enjoy a coffee back at Jells Park Teahouse. We enjoyed a beautiful day for our January ride to Westgate Park with group numbers swelling to 14 for the first time.

Noel Ineson

## Tastes

We wish to announce a special start to the 2012 Tastes Food & Wine year. We are pleased to have been able to negotiate a unique Japanese banquet that we think will have great appeal to members and make our first Tastes night out for the year something to remember.



**WHERE: Okami Japanese Restaurant**

**530 Hampton Street Hampton**

**WHEN: Thursday March 8**

**7 pm**

**COST: \$35 pp**

Payment at or by next meeting: Pay treasurer, Peter McGregor or by direct debit (A/C details p1).

**"A bank is a place where they lend you an umbrella in fair weather and ask for it back when it begins to rain"**

Robert Frost, American farmer/poet



# FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Menno van Ruyven



## February

Ferry to Williamstown  
Wednesday February 22

A brief resume: We will take the 9.20 am train from Sandringham to catch the 10.30 ferry situated near the Langham hotel at Southbank. Tickets have been prepaid. We will meet our guide Jackie at the Williamstown pier who will take us on a fascinating historical walk of Williamstown. A delicious two-course lunch has been arranged for us followed by a short walk to the station to catch the 3.32 train back to Sandringham, arriving at 4.40 pm. The cost includes ferry, historic walk and lunch. Train costs not included. You will need your Myki. We have 28 Beaumaris members and are happy to host three Sandy Bay members and seven from Beaumaris Heights. See Menno for more.



## May

Shared Tour to *Polly Woodside*  
Wednesday May 23

With Beaumaris Bay by Ventura Bus picking up at 9.30 am at the Beaumaris Community Centre and returning about 3 pm. Cost: \$45 pp.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

This year's **Candlelight Dinner** will be a very special occasion! It will be in July again – but the date and location are yet to be finalised.



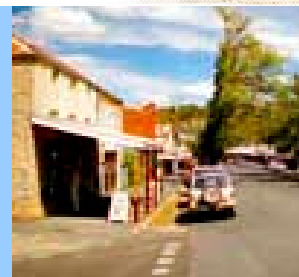
## March

Werribee Zoo and Mambourin Sensory Gardens  
Wednesday March 28

This tour has been arranged by Sandy Bay Probus. The tour is full with 21 of our members booking. Please pay at the February meeting.

## April

Historic Maldon  
Thursday April 26



Depart 9 am from Beaumaris Community Centre.  
Returning 5 p.m.  
Cost \$51 pp (includes lunch)  
More details at February meeting.  
Book now and pay Menno.

## From the Dopey Old Bloke

See more pictures above from Geoff Bransbury's blog as he continues his 2012 adventures in South America.



Geoff writes: "Two months and 9000 km on the clock got me to Santiago where I met Merry. Since then, I've become an old softie....nice hotels, decent meals, drivers in private cars...the works! No more.....The odyssey starts again on February 8 as I head up through Chile to Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Central America, Mexico to USA. Final stop Seattle or Vancouver! Thanks to all those following my blog. I love the comments. Stay with me!"

## Members' Register

The 2012 Members' Register should be issued at the April meeting. So that this deadline can be met, members are requested to advise Geoff Wade of any changes to their details as recorded. Also, some members' photos are perhaps out of date. If you would like an updated photo - to better reflect your current handsome appearance - please advise Peter McGregor or Geoff Wade so that a new photo can be arranged. Please contact Geoff Wade no later than the March meeting (March 20). Thankyou for your assistance.



*Our January Meeting:  
John Simpson from the RACV*

*He says that manoeuvring in  
and out of busy roundabouts can  
be quite hazardous today*

## Keeping Us On the Road Longer

**“...new skills and knowledge are required when negotiating complex multi-lane road systems and junctions..”**

The RACV's John Simpson travels to various clubs with a most interesting presentation illustrating the problems that can be incurred by ageing car drivers in particular. His graphs, showing road deaths across the age categories over recent years, indicate that over-70s are the second most vulnerable group; an alarming statistic! John emphasised several important areas to consider, including the need for older drivers to be familiar with new road rules that are constantly being upgraded. We should be aware of new signage and road markings and, especially, rules regarding overtaking across unbroken lines and merging into traffic on or off freeways and toll roads. Today, new skills and knowledge are required when negotiating complex multi-lane road systems and junctions. Manoeuvring in and out of busy roundabouts can be quite hazardous – not to mention avoiding the ever-increasing numbers of cyclists and errant pedestrians. It is increasingly a test of reflexes and judgment. Apart from updating our driving skills, John said we should upgrade our vehicles to the latest affordable models – for safety. Any car we buy should have a minimum of six airbags and ESC\* technology (now mandatory on new cars sold in Victoria). Importantly, as we get older, regular eye-tests and medication checks have become critically important.

(\*Electronic Stability Control, for the uninitiated like me - I had to Google it. Ed.)

Alan Williams

A mafia don recently passed away. During the well-attended service to honour the departed, the priest asked everyone to stand for a minute's violence.

Thanks to Alan Kermond



*At St Martin's Uniting  
Church in January:  
Geoff Wade singing the  
praises of new member  
Roger Leeming - another  
addition to the Southern  
GC contingent*

## Beer, Balls and Cow Paddocks

From his early life in Ivanhoe, Eric Slater always wanted to play football – in any competition at any age level. On return from service in the RAAF during WW2, he started an apprenticeship in building which took him to the country working on school buildings in need of restoration. Arriving in the Gippsland town of Boisdale, he signed with the local football team - the best way to gain acceptance in the community. The games were always rough and tough, sometimes on grounds resembling cow paddocks; but Eric enjoyed the atmosphere and thought it a lot of fun. What he particularly appreciated was the support from the fans - local men and women - gathered around the fence, cheering them on in a picnic atmosphere, with cups of tea and a few beers during the game and after with the players. (Six o'clock closing did not seem to affect the team celebrations after a tough game, he said.) Eric concluded with the comment that his wife Joan hates football – but he still loves her !

Alan Williams

## Howlong Golf

This year's trip is scheduled for Sunday October 28 - Wednesday 31 inclusive. We have 19 rooms booked (19 couples) and we look forward to three great days of golf fun and fellowship – Monday afternoon, Tuesday late morning and Wednesday morning, with the putting competition on Wednesday afternoon. The cost is \$154 per couple per night for three nights (Monday - Wednesday) including your accommodation, continental breakfast, golf and two drink vouchers per day. Normal room rates apply for the Sunday night as the package applies only to three golf days. Bookings open at the next meeting (February 21) and it is strictly on a first-come first-served basis. A deposit of \$10 per person (\$20 per couple) - which covers cost of competition prizes - is payable at time of booking. In the event of the trip being oversubscribed, a waiting list strictly in order of booking will be maintained in case of cancellations.

Geoff Wade



*David Robertson and  
friends still savouring  
David's hole-in-one*

*Right: The Sandringham  
Club, Beach Road*

## IMPORTANT:

See attachment to the newsletter on proposed new premises



## Subscriptions for 2012

Your subs are now due and will be the same as last year; that is, \$60 with a reduction to \$55 if paid before March 31. NOTE: It is ok to pay by direct debit. See banking details p1 in the newsletter.

David Robertson