



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: PO Box 57 Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 274

February 2013

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday February 19 at The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: David Dangerfield

Urological and Laparoscopic Surgeon

Topic: Your Prostate What Is It and What Goes Wrong?

10-Minute Speaker: Rod Murrell The Road to Mandalay

"The truth is, men are often known to be more indifferent towards their health when compared to the efforts of women, who proactively and publicly address their health issues. As a result, today the levels of awareness, understanding and funding for men's health issues, like prostate cancer and men's mental health, lag significantly behind other causes." Movember Australia website

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BRUCE TOMKINS



"I suppose it has always been thus"

What a month it has been! Cricket was interesting but I cannot recall as much controversy previously over selection policies, or comments by past players who think they know better. Tennis was excellent except for those screaming females! There is talk about trying to control it but I find it difficult to see any way of doing it. Some men also grunt, so how can a logical decision be made? It shows what a wonderful player Roger Federer is - he doesn't make a sound, he moves like a ballet dancer and he plays backhands with one hand. A shame he is beginning to fade.

I know one shouldn't talk of politics, sex or religion in public but isn't the political scene interesting on many fronts? With the announcing of the next election so early, one wonders what sort of sensible government we can have for the next few months. This will be exacerbated of course by legal action against at least

two sitting members and the resignation of others. There is also an issue with our State government—it should be out there on top but seems to lack positive leadership. I suppose it has always been thus.

Our Keynote Speaker for February should be of special interest to our group in particular, especially considering our collective ages. I wonder whether he will refer to that other expert on prostate problems, our PM's partner. There was a very good lead article on his comment in *The Age* which, after reasoned argument, finished with the delightful sentence, "That should give it the thumbs-up (sorry, Your Honour)".

Melbourne's weather has been pretty good; we missed the disastrous wind and rain on the north east coast. But Gill and I are going to Port Macquarie for three weeks holiday shortly. Hope we don't get another cyclone!

NOTICEBOARD

Subscriptions for 2013

Annual subs are now due and will be the same as last year: \$60 pa with a reduction to \$55 if paid before March 31. NOTE: It is ok to pay direct debit. See Probus banking details p3.

David Robertson

Opera & Music Groups

The Opera group will meet on Wednesday February 27 **at the early time of 6.30** to see Opera Australia's performance of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* with Teddy Tahu Rhodes in the lead role. Please let me know if you would like to see this most popular of operas.

The Music Group will meet Wednesday April 3.
Barry Amond

Probus Bikie Group

Noel Ineson

The next ride is Friday February 22. This ride starts from the Science Museum, Spotswood, and passes through the Yarra Riverside Park with great views of the bay, city and yachts, through the attractive Strand area, past the historic Timeball Tower, Shelly and Williamstown beaches to the outstanding Kororoit Creek wetlands which are normally teeming with water birds - pelicans, ibis, black swans, spoonbills and egrets - a round trip of 20 km. We are pleased to welcome two new members to our group - Treasurer, David Robertson, and Mev Connell both of whom enjoyed our January ride from the Abbotsford Convent along the Yarra past Dight Falls with its new fish ladder to Burke Road — a very scenic but more challenging ride than normal.

Discussion Groups

At the February meetings, the topic will be: 'Anti-discrimination and political correctness'.

Barry Amond

Investment Group

The group meets as usual 8.45-9.45 am before the General Meeting.

Topic: ASX's Growth Triangle: Europe, USA and China. Exhibits, Discussion

Please bring your share inputs. Barry Donaldson

Howlong Golf

Geoff Wade

Bookings for the 2013 Howlong Golf trip are now open. Dates for this year are Sunday 27 – Wednesday October 30 inclusive; ie. arrive on Sunday pm and depart am Thursday 31. It is OK to arrive on Monday am as we don't play golf until Monday afternoon. Deposit of \$10 per person (\$20 per couple) is payable on booking. A great time can be expected and non-golfing partners are most welcome. Full details from Geoff Wade, 9588 2593.

Digital Technology Group

Geoff Wade

The March meeting of the Digital Technology Group will be held on Tuesday March 5 at the home of Barry Amond, 25 First St Black Rock, commencing at 2 pm. Topics for discussion: smart TVs and Password Managers. Any new suggestions for topics for further meetings would be most welcome. Attendance sheet available at the February General Meeting.

Brighton Theatre Company

The first BTC performance for the year is *The Female of the Species* on Wednesday evening, February 27. Tickets should be available for collection at the February meeting.

Also, 24 seats for *Legally Blonde - The Musical* have been reserved for Wednesday, July 3, at 1 pm at the Princess Theatre.

Robert Dun

February 2013

Leaders & Activities 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
Digital Technology:	Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Discussion:	Barry Amond	9589 1143

Investment:	Barry Donaldson	9598 6446
Music/Opera:	Barry Amond	9589 1143
Newsletter:	Peter McGregor	9533 4760
President's Table:	Norm Griffiths	9598 8575
PRISMS:	Bill Davis	9592 5982
Sommelier	Bob Matthews	9583 9958
Speakers' Recorder:	Alan Williams	9598 7550
Tastes:	Peter McGregor	9533 4760
Theatre:	Robert Dun	9589 5456



Left: Marine archaeologist
Peta Knott

Below: ST Wattle on the bay



Back from Decay

Alan Williams

Marine archeologist, Peta Knott, presented a detailed history of the 80-year old steam tug *Wattle*, built at Cockatoo Dock in Sydney in the Depression. This heritage vessel began its life as a naval tug operating around Sydney Harbour. Some 50 years later, the *Wattle* came to Melbourne and, after restoration, went into service as a tourist pleasure boat. After many years on Port Philip Bay, she fell into a state of disrepair and was decommissioned. In 2009, a group of steam enthusiasts in Sorrento paid \$1 for the now rather decrepit vessel - rusted and covered in barnacles - and they were determined to restore it to its former glory. So far they have spent over \$400 000 on the project, not including the many hours contributed by volunteers. Peta Knott's visual presentation highlighted the enormous effort these one-day-a-week workers have made in rescuing and transforming this historic vessel. They plan to have *Wattle* restored to survey level by 2015. Of course, more volunteers would always be made most welcome!



Above: Allan Small and Warwick Andrews quiz Peta Knott

INTERESTING FACT:
The Australian continent is drifting northwards seven centimeters per year – the same rate at which fingernails grow. A collision with India is not expected for some time.

February 2013

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**

A Horrible Affliction: Macular Degeneration

Having lived with the condition for 18 years, Wally Povey is an authority on a major cause of blindness or visual impairment which often affects older adults, macular degeneration. It results in loss of vision in the very centre of the visual field. If detected early enough, medication or laser surgery can slow or even reverse the symptoms; unfortunately no known cure is available as yet for the 'dry' form which manifests itself by distorting some objects, creating effects such as wobbly lamp posts. Also, while one's peripheral vision may remain unaffected, it is possible that an object directly in front - such as an approaching car - cannot be seen. Lacking vision in the central field is a handicap which Wally seems to be handling with courage.

Alan Williams

Those Magnificent Men on their Flying Machines



Not exactly flying, but this (above) shows intrepid Probus riders 'inspecting' the fish ladder recently installed at Dight's Falls on the Yarra, to help fish heading upstream. 14 riders participated.

Sommelier

A brief word of thanks to Bob Matthews, our long-serving sommelier who month-in month-out makes sure we have an appropriate gift at hand for each of our keynote speakers. Well done, Bob.



Golf News

The friendly rivalry between Southern and Victoria Golf Clubs will again be put to the test on February 14 in a 4-ball competition at Southern.



Alan Farmer proudly displays the unique trophy he created for the occasion, the famed Victoria Cup



FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury

Robert Dun



February

A VERY SPECIAL OUTING

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

Bus to leave Community Centre at 9.30, and returning by 4.30 pm.

March

IMPRESS THE GRANDCHILDREN

Tour of one of the famous Sea Shepherd's whaling protest ships
Wednesday March 20



One of Sea Shepherd's whaling protest ships is scheduled to be at Williamstown in March. Note: There are four Sea Shepherd ships and it is unknown which one will be in Melbourne at any one time. We are booked for a tour of the ship and a brief talk. If the ship is still at sea (anything can happen), we will still have the talk and look around — plus a walk around some of the special places in Williamstown that we haven't seen before!

We will travel by train. Fish and chips for lunch. This will be something to remember. Cost: \$35 (excluding train). Please join us!

See the beautiful Dandenongs in full colour as we puff along the tracks in our own special restaurant car

February 2013



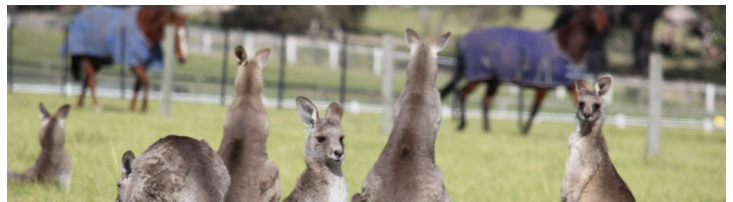
April

A FASCINATING DAY

Living Legends Retired racehorses and Woodlands Historic Park
Wednesday April 17



This trip comes highly recommended by other clubs. We will see retired champion horses - e.g. Fields of Omagh, Might and Power, Rogan Josh and others - and wander through the magnificent gardens and historic homestead. See countryside as seen by the early settlers and enjoy a hearty two-course lunch!



The bus will leave the Community Centre at 9.00 returning at 5.00 pm. Cost: \$63
A leisurely day for everyone! Come join us!

May

BY REQUEST

Lunch and Afternoon Tea on Puffing Billy
Wednesday May 15

See the Dandenongs in full colour as we puff along the tracks in our own special restaurant car, nibbling on a gourmet light lunch of cured meats, smoked salmon, pate, mushrooms, seasonal roast vegetables, cheeses, breads, olives and aioli. We will spend time at Emerald Lakeside Park and, on the return trip, have scones with jam and cream, tea/coffee!

NOTE: Wine, beers and soft drinks available at reasonable prices. We will travel to Belgrave and back in shared cars (volunteers required). We've negotiated a very special price of \$55 which includes lunch, Devonshire tea and ticket. Amazing value! Numbers are limited so book now to avoid disappointment.