



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: Box 57 PO Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 256

June 2011

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday June 21 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: US Economic News Not Good – Is China Next? 9 am. More p2

No 10-Minute Speaker: New Members' Segment

Keynote Speaker: Gabriel Gate Celebrity Chef and TV Presenter

Topic: Tour de France – Gabriel will talk about the Tour de France and his experience in presenting SBS's Taste Le Tour every year for the past seven years . More p2.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



What we do know is that change is on-going and will continue.

Thanks to Beth Wilson for her humorous and thought-provoking presentation at our May Meeting. Further thoughts are that ever since God created or Nature's Big-bang produced our universe 14 billion-plus years ago, change has been a constant and eons of unending changes have filled our universe with uncertainty. They are many and varied and beyond our meagre human ability to comprehend. What we do know is that change is on-going and will continue. Who could have predicted, let alone prevented, the devastation unleashed upon Japan on March 11 by the tsunami resulting from the enormous earthquake in the Pacific Ocean. We feel sadness for the thousands of Japanese and their families who were killed, maimed or otherwise affected. We hope fervently such disasters will not be repeated. But history tells us that they probably will.

We Probus members are of an age when we can recollect the many disasters that have occurred within our lifetimes. We can expect more cataclysmic events - volcanic

eruptions, bushfires, floods, and cyclones; tornadoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Two things can be said with certainty, namely: life is uncertain, and change is constant. The earthquake that caused the tsunami was reportedly nine kilometres deep beneath the Pacific Ocean, 180 km from Japan's coastline. The power and energy inherent in that disaster alone - and others such as the recent volcanic eruptions in Iceland, Indonesia, Hawaii - put the puny efforts of human beings into perspective. It is surprising that some have the stunning arrogance to think we humans can compete with the omnipotent power and energy exemplified by one ocean wave of God or Nature. We have the privilege of being in a relatively benign geological region, and the luxury of living in a politically peaceful and stable nation, far from the civil strife, and war-torn and weary nations of the northern hemisphere.

We should count our blessings, celebrate our good fortune and enjoy our Probus activities.

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
Meetgs 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

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

Group Leaders 2011

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

☐ Gabriel Gate

Gabriel will speak about the Tour de France and his experience in presenting Taste Le Tour every year on SBS for the past seven years. Gabriel is just back from visiting the 21 regions of this year's Tour with a film crew and discovering the gourmet specialities of each region.



☐ Music & Opera 🎵 🎵 🎵

The next meeting of the Music Group will be at 7pm on Wednesday June 29. Barry Amond

☐ Bicycle Group



Our fifth ride on Friday June 24 will be 20 km along the main Yarra trail from Burke Road through Bulleen Park and Yarra Valley Park to Westerfolds Park at Lower Plenty and return. This is a very beautiful area which is bound to excite the senses and lift our spirits. Remember to bring something for morning tea. If you have a difficulty on the day of the ride, contact me on 0408397258. Our fourth ride in May was enjoyed by eight enthusiastic riders. We were delighted to be able to welcome three newcomers - Jennie Bowles, Geoff Carlson and Martin Joyce. The ride started near the Mordialloc creek and passed through attractive and spacious parklands, golf courses and wetlands to Patterson Lakes where Duncan Gibson, our trail-blazer, had located an ideal shop for morning coffee and a chat. Members and their partners are welcome to join our group.

Noel Ineson

☐ From the Treasurer

Current membership: 112 (plus 3 Life Members). Total: 115. Note: We have recently purchased a new digital projector at a cost of \$1000 for use at our monthly meetings.

David Robertson

Modern Times

"One of the painful things about our time is that those who feel certainty are stupid, and those with any imagination and understanding are filled with doubt and indecision. "

Bertrand Russell

☐ Theatre Group

Love Never Dies

1 pm at the Regent Theatre, Wednesday, August 17. All tickets now sold. Payment of \$60pp should be made ASAP, but by June meeting at latest. Allan Taylor

☐ Investment Group

This month's topic: Economic news from the US is not good – will China be next? 9 am before the main meeting. Also, we have invited Scott Young of FIIG Securities Limited to speak on equity derivatives. All members welcome.

Barry Donaldson

☐ Change of Address

Please note change of address:

Fay and Ron Hunter
Apt 312, THE GEORGE,
15 George Street
Sandringham VIC 3191

Phone number: 8599 2269

Mobile phone remains 0402 03 1966.

☐ Digital Interest Group

The next meeting will be on July 5 when the topic will be: Transferring Photos to CD/DVD (with leader, Paul Crompton) followed by August 8 with the topic of transferring LP albums to computer, CD and MP3 files. Leaders: Allan Taylor and Bill Cruthers. NOTE: Attendance sheets will be available at Probus meetings preceding these dates.

Geoff Wade

Flying Cane Toads

Indian Myna Birds

You could say these pests are a bit like the weather – everybody complains but no-one does anything about it. Until now. Here is your big chance to make a difference.

One of the world's worst feral pests, Myna birds have virtually taken over the gardens of Melbourne and other cities, driving away native birds. If you would like to know more about this obnoxious backyard invader that is a threat to our wildlife and what can be done about it, speak to Peter McGregor or Google

www.mynabirdsactiongroup.com.



FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

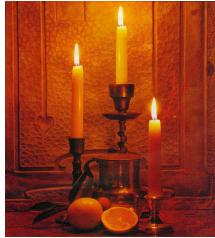
Geoff Bransbury & Robert Dun



July

Mid-year Candlelight Dinner
Tuesday July 5

This is your last chance to register for our very special annual Candlelight Dinner! We will have a 3-course dinner at the Beaumaris RSL, raffles and a magician to entertain our tables. Drinks are not included but the RSL prices are very reasonable.



NOTE: Please arrive at 7.00pm. Cost: \$45.00 pp.
Please pay at the June meeting.

August

Tour of historic Toorak, visit to Toorak House and gourmet lunch
Wednesday August 10

Toorak House, a classic residence in St Georges Road was once home to the Governors of Victoria.



".....[I]t was only fitting that when Governor Sir Charles Hotham (1854-55) arrived in gold-rich Melbourne, he should expect to reside in a posh house among the elites and not in a colonial pre-fab of constricted conviviality. Toorak House was leased and improved at great expense and, for the next 22 years — through five administrations — served as Victoria's Government House. Sir Charles spent sleepless nights there while mismanaging the Eureka Rebellion...."

Domain July3 2010

Our visit includes morning tea. A chauffeur-driven Mercedes will also take us on a tour of the fine houses of Toorak, with a commentary. We will then enjoy a 2-course gourmet lunch at the Observatory Café in the Royal Botanical Gardens

Cost: \$55

Please register now and pay by July meeting

September

Yarra Valley Railway
Friday September 23

Come on a scenic tour of the countryside on the Yarra Valley Railway. We will also have 2-course lunch at the Upper Yarra RSL.

This trip is a joint trip organised by Beaumaris Heights Probus. Cost: \$65. (If we have 40+ on the trip, there will be up to \$10 refund!)

Please book and preferably pay now to secure a seat.
This trip is shared with four local clubs and there is a limit on the numbers.

October

Night Races at Moonee Valley
Friday October 7



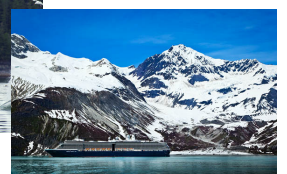
A bus will take us to and from the Night Races. We will enjoy a sumptuous smorgasbord dinner at the Legends restaurant. There is a fabulous view of the track but with all the comforts as well. No sitting in a cold stand! You can, of course, place a bet or two if you wish. There is also entertainment. You don't have to be a racing enthusiast to come as this will be a wonderful evening.

[Thanks to Geoff Goodwin for this suggestion.]

The cost is \$55 which includes dinner and bus. Please register your interest immediately.

2012

Would you like to cruise Alaska in 2012?



Robert is considering an Alaskan Cruise for May/June next year. Would you be interested?

Please let us know by visiting our desk and putting your name on the sheet. If we have enough interest, we will provide further details. Why not be in it!

"I am always ready to learn although I do not always like being taught."

Winston Churchill



Dr Beth Wilson and her Stress Balls

A Clean Bill of Health

Beth Wilson, a lawyer by profession, who has served as Victoria's Health Commissioner for the past 14 years, is working tirelessly to improve the quality of health services in our state. In her address at the May meeting, her anecdotes demonstrated her ability to handle the many complaints she receives with commonsense, compassion, and on occasion, with an acute sense of humour. Such tact often avoided acrimonious argument developing. She described some actual complaints about poor practice including major errors in surgery - for example, replacing the wrong hip - to rudeness and inattention by nurses. Sometimes, patients experienced a clear lack of compassion or understanding by administrators in the hospital bureaucracy. With her legal background, she reminded us that under the Privacy Act, our medical records belong to our medical provider but this should never be used as an excuse for secrecy or lack of care and support for people with health problems, or their families. However, she said, we are entitled to copies (but not the originals). In spite of the seriousness of many of the issues she faces, Dr Wilson still manages to inject humour into each situation. This came through strongly during her bright and informative presentation. Alan Williams



The Problem of Water

Alan Williams



Formerly with Yarra Water, Peter Harford has made a study of droughts in Australia and our response to living with these ongoing conditions. Peter reminded us that Australia has a long history of droughts, but changes in our water management practices have enabled us to cope with the situation, in spite of the demands of increasing population; for example, in 2010 our water use per head had reduced to half 1982 consumption levels. Factors affecting our usage have included: the introduction of water pricing in the late 80s, government-imposed restrictions impacting on garden watering, combined with more drought-tolerant plantings. But also, new housing estates are being developed with smaller gardens. In the future, Peter believes we will require the desalination plant to supplement our natural rainfall in drought or rain shortfall periods but the size and cost of this facility is far in excess of our needs. There is no doubt, he says, that the price of water will continue to increase.

After his brief (10 minute) stint, Peter was apparently besieged with queries about this very topical subject—to the point where some members of the Committee have suggested placing him on the list of potential Keynote Speakers as soon as there is a vacancy. Even President Alan Farmer – on his world travels – has put him on his Stand-By list for 2011/12. (Word travels fast!) Peter has much more to tell us about our water supply and water quality in Melbourne. We look forward to hearing him again in the near future.

Email from President Alan Farmer 28/5/11

".. We had a fantastic trip in Turkey. Very exhausting but well worth it. I have a quite different view or understanding of the nation now a highly westernised and sophisticated country Its history is mind-boggling. It was certainly one of the most important cradles of civilisation...."

Alan and Robyn will be home June 12. Vice-President John Bushby has recently returned from South America and Geoff Wade is soon heading home, also from Turkey.

DID YOU KNOW?

The world's existing oil fields are declining so sharply that in order to stay where we are today in terms of production levels, in the next 25 years we will have to find and develop four new Saudi Arabias...

International Energy Agency

New Members

Now that we have your full attention, we would just like to remind you that it is everyone's responsibility to bring new members into the club. Perhaps someone from your golf club or your community? We need new members to keep our club strong.



"A market is the combined behavior of thousands of people responding to information, misinformation and whim."

Kenneth Chang