



# NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: PO Box 57 Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 267

June 2012

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday June 19 at The Sandringham Club, Beach Road

**Keynote Speaker:** Steven van Ruyven      **Topic:** Living with Multiple Schlerosis  
Steven became aware of his affliction while married, a father and working in marketing.

**Investment Group:** PIGS Yield Poor Bacon. 9 am before the main meeting. More p2

**10-Minute Speaker:** John Laing      A Dash for Cash

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Bruce Tomkins**



***"...It is a shame that the art of letter writing is rapidly disappearing."***

I wrote a letter to an acquaintance recently with a pen on paper and with my right hand (I am right-handed) because I did not have his email address. It was the first actual letter I had written for a long time. I had a few difficulties at times getting the letters down correctly and even making it almost readable by me - but what about the poor recipient? It made me realise how little actual writing we do these days; most communication is by voice or by email.

In my first year of Engineering at Melbourne University, one subject most had difficulty with was Engineering Drawing where, as well as understanding projections, scales et cetera, we had to learn to print perfectly so that our drawings would look not just *good* but *very good*. This led to also writing script well and I used to be proud of my writing ability. But not now. I read last year that

HSC and uni students were expected to have some difficulty with their exams because the answers had to be written. Because their studies and mid-term papers were done on computer, it was expected a lot would really have difficulty because, like me, their writing skills had diminished. Most of us were once proud of our writing skills; but not any more, for most of us, and I think this is a great shame. Remember the copper-plate writing on certificates and the like?

Another aspect is that emails received have very little character, affection or subtlety. The written word can achieve these things much more easily than print. I know that because of the ability to use Spell Check, Deletion, Cut, Copy, Paste, Attach, Underlining and so on emails are so easy. However, I think it is a shame that the art of letter writing is rapidly disappearing.

### He's Back!

After nearly six months of travelling on his motorbike - from remote Patagonia to the wilds of Los Angeles - Geoff Bransbury has returned to familiar territory: Beaumaris and wife, Merry (right). "It's a funny feeling being home again after 5.5 months!" he says. "I'm back in my comfort zone and don't have to go anywhere or find a place for the night for Azulo!... It's wonderful seeing my home, family and all the familiar things again."



Welcome home, Geoff.

### Office Bearers 2012

President:	<b>Bruce Tomkins</b>	9591 0076
Vice-President:	<b>Peter McGregor</b>	9533 4760
Past President:	<b>Alan Farmer</b>	9598 2791
Secretary:	<b>John Howe</b>	9598 2429
Treasurer:	<b>David Robertson</b>	9551 1930
Functions:	<b>Menno van Ruyven</b>	9699 5506
Asst Activities:	<b>Robert Dun</b>	9589 5456
Meetings:	<b>Bill Green</b>	9596 1548
Asst Meetings:	<b>Duncan Gibson</b>	9585 3547

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

# NOTICEBOARD

## ● Theatre

Annie

Cancelled - insufficient response.

### The Imperial Russian Ballet performance of *Swan Lake*.

Sunday, August 26, 2.00 pm at Her Majesty's theatre. Of 25 seats reserved, there are still several available. If you wish to be included, let Robert Dun know and pay at the June meeting. Cost: \$79 per seat.

### Rogers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific* presented by Opera Australia.

At the Princess Theatre, the cast will include Lisa McCune, Kate Ceberano and Teddy Tahu Rhodes. After seven Tony Awards and sell-out seasons on Broadway and the West End, the Lincoln Centre Theatre's stunning production of *South Pacific* is coming to Melbourne for 10 weeks. 30 seats have been reserved for Wednesday, October 24, 1.00 pm. Please advise Robert if you want tickets. Payment is required by the August meeting. Cost: \$66.

## ● Discussion Groups

At their May meetings the two groups were supportive of the increasing role of females in society although there was concern about the problems faced by some children of working mothers. The topic for June is 'The impact of technology during our lifetimes and into the future'. Barry Amond

## ● Digital Technology Group

The Group will next meet on Tuesday July 3 at 2pm at Barry Amond's residence, 25 Third St, Black Rock. Kevin McDonnell will be session leader and will speak on the scanning of documents and photos into the computer. An attendance sheet will be available at the June Probus meeting. The following meeting (August 7) to be led by Peter Harford who will conduct a session on genealogy - sources of information and how to construct a family tree.

Geoff Wade

Robert Dun

## ● Music & Opera Groups



On May 30 the Music Group program included an extract from Easter Parade with Fred Astaire and Judy Garland. We also saw parts of a documentary about Kathleen Ferrier, the famous British contralto, who died at the age of 41 in 1953. The rest of the program included music by Beethoven, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff.

The Opera Group will next meet on September 26 and the Music Group in October.

Barry Amond

## ● 25th Anniversary Dinner

Thank you for your very strong support - we are likely to have **A FULL HOUSE** on July 3. We will have a number of 'grand old men' plus partners and widows with us on the night re-living some very good times. For those who have not yet paid (all inclusive cost: \$55 pp), we ask that if possible payment be made by Direct Debit to Probus Club of Beaumaris (063 144 1012 1288). Please include your name and 'Anniversary Dinner' on the Direct Debit - Treasurer David Robertson will be forever grateful. Payment by cheque is fine too. Any special dietary requirements: please advise me soonest.

Menno van Ruyven

## ● Bike Group

**Friday June 22** : This month we drive to the Robert Booth Reserve at Dandenong North and then ride North on the middle Dandenong Creek Trail past the well-known wetlands reserve at Myuna Farm, the Corhanwarrabul wetlands and the Wildlife Lake to the magnificent parklands at Jells Park. After enjoying coffee at the tea rooms we will return south.

Noel Ineson



## ● Investment

Exhibits, asset classes, portfolio, financial reports.

## Leaders 2012

Almoner:	<b>Andrew Watson</b>	9589 5913
Archive & Grape Vine:	<b>Roy Petch</b>	9589 5757
Assistant Functions:	<b>Robert Dun</b>	9589 5456
Audio Visual:	<b>Paul Crompton</b>	9583 1310
Auditor:	<b>Geoff Carlson</b>	9589 4884
Bowls :	<b>Ted Montfort</b>	9589 5949
Bike Riding:	<b>Noel Ineson</b>	9589 5263
Computer Mentoring:	<b>Ken Reed</b>	9583 5858
Digital Technology:	<b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593
Discussion:	<b>Barry Amond</b>	9589 1143

Functions/Activities:	<b>Menno van Ruyven</b>	9699 5506
Investment:	<b>Barry Donaldson</b>	9598 6446
Meetings Co-ordinator:	<b>Bill Green</b>	9596 1548
Meetings Asst:	<b>Duncan Gibson</b>	9585 3547
Music/Opera:	<b>Barry Amond</b>	9589 1143
Newsletter:	<b>Peter McGregor</b>	9533 4760
President's Table:	<b>Norm Griffiths</b>	9598 8575
PRISMS:	<b>Bill Davis</b>	9592 5982
Speakers' Recorder:	<b>Alan Williams</b>	9598 7550
Tastes:	<b>Peter McGregor</b>	9533 4760
Theatre:	<b>Robert Dun</b>	9589 5456

# FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Menno van Ruyven  
Geoff Bransbury



Robert Dun

## August



**Wonders of Ancient Mesopotamia plus  
Three-Course Italian Lunch.**  
Wednesday August 15



This expo at the Museum features 170 extraordinary archaeological treasures from the British Museum. It is this year's 'blockbuster' exhibition and follows the success of Tutankhamen and Titanic. These are great exhibitions - not to be missed - even more special with a chauffeur-driven Mercedes and a three-course Italian lunch and coffee in Carlton.

Cost: \$65 (with Seniors Card) Great value!

We need at least 35 (bring a friend, if you like.)

Register ASAP. Payment latest at July Meeting.

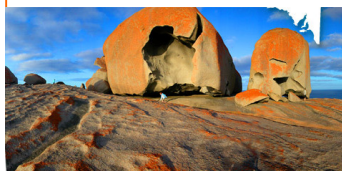
Thursday August 23

Beaumaris Heights Probus has a trip planned to the South Gippsland Railway. Cost \$54 (includes lunch). If interested see Geoff Bransbury

## September

**Kangaroo Island**

September 3-8



There are still places available for the Beaumaris Bay Club coach trip to Kangaroo Island. The trip is from Monday to Saturday with a three nights' stay on Kangaroo Island and one night at both Victor Harbour and Mannum. Also, a four-hour Coorong cruise, lunch at the delightful Coriole family winery at McLaren Vale and a visit to Hahndorf.

Cost: approximately \$1400 twin share or with a \$290 single supplement.

**CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?** In 2010, the Queen had 444 engagements averaging 100 handshakes a visit - a total of 44 000 handshakes for the year.

## Napoleon: Revolution to Empire at NGV

Friday September 14

VERY FIRST TIME SEEN IN AUSTRALIA. A unique exhibition - hundreds of magnificent objects of breathtaking opulence, beauty and luxury - paintings, drawings, engravings, sculpture, furniture, textiles, glass, jewellery, silver, fashion, armour and porcelain.



We have reserved 30 tickets and a guided tour at 10.30am. We will travel by train (or car if you prefer). Lunch is not included but of course there are plenty of places nearby should you wish to stay for lunch.

Cost: \$33 (full pension card holders: \$29.50) or \$28 NGV Members. Train extra.

Final close-off by August meeting.

## November

### Night Races at Moonee Valley by popular request!

Friday November 16

We had a fabulous evening last year at the Legends, Moonee Valley. The food was amazing and the view of the track is stunning under lights. You don't need to be interested in horse racing as this is a great night out. Why not bring a friend(s)? Bus to and fro. Price yet to be confirmed. Register now. Admit it - you have no excuse. (Also, PLENTY of notice given!)

## 2013

### Cruise Melbourne- New Zealand- Melbourne

Arrangements are being made for a 13-night cruise from Melbourne-New Zealand-Melbourne on *Dawn Princess* commencing March 16, 2013. Wide variety of cabins available with approximate prices varying from \$1750 per person twin share (\$3300 single) for an inside cabin to \$2300 twin share (\$4400 single) for an outside cabin Category D, to \$2900 twin share (\$5600 single) for a balcony cabin Category BA. Deposit: \$200 pp.

Please indicate your interest to Robert Dun.



*The Dawn Princess is 260 metres long and will have 1900 passengers*



## No Substitute for Quality



*Above: President Bruce Tomkins and Frank Costa*

Frank Costa, successful business man and Past President of Geelong Football Club, began by relating the story of his success in growing the family green grocer's shop into the largest fruit and vegetable wholesaler in Australia. His business supplies many independent retailers and is also a major supplier to Coles and Woolworth, operating in a very tough and competitive environment. When asked to join the board of the Geelong Football Club – which at the time was in despair with no premierships for 44 years and \$10million in debt – he applied the same formula he used in his business, "The right people in the right place with the right values." He created a core group of seven board members with business backgrounds, not necessarily retired players, and recruited Brian Cooke from West Coast as CEO. Together they changed the culture in the Club, replacing 80 per cent of the officials and staff within the first 18 months – including 22 players from the playing list. The Football Department introduced new player incentives by creating player groups of seven who would discuss individual efforts and rate each other's performance after every match. Frank remained President for 12 years and led the Club into its most successful era, particularly over the past five years, a tribute to hard work and his philosophy that "There is no substitute for quality".

Alan Williams

Wife texts husband on a cold winter's morning:

"Windows frozen."

Husband texts back:

"slowly pour a bucket of lukewarm water all over it."

Wife texts back:

"computer completely stuffed now."

[AS]

## MYKI AMENDMENT

Members should note that our cautionary tale in April about MYKI refers only to those few account holders who top up *using the online payment system and subsequently do not use their card for three months*. Rest assured that any money added to your MYKI account through Metro stations' machines remains usable indefinitely. Your card will **not** be suspended after ninety days of inactivity. Sincere apologies for providing incomplete information which may have alarmed some members.

## De Lesseps' Dream



*Above: Don Lobb and the Suez*

Don Lobb sailed through the Suez Canal last year, a remarkable 190 km waterway. The canal was open for traffic in 1869 after 1.5 million labourers excavated 74 million cubic meters of sand. Designated 'the highway to India', it reduced sailing time between Northern Europe and India by about 10 days. Today's ships proceed both ways in convoys travelling for 14 hours to complete the journey (average charge: \$295 000 per vessel). Several pilots and escorting tugs travel with every convoy to avoid costly delays caused by collisions or other accidents which could affect the 60 ships using the facility every day. Don's photos showed the ferries and bridges that cross the canal and the stark difference between green plantations and trees irrigated by the Nile on one canal bank and the sandy wasteland of the Sinai Desert on the other.

Alan Williams

## Worst Drivers?

According to one British poll, the worst luxury car drivers on the road are: BMW drivers! Other drivers considered BMW drivers aggressive, rude, prone to road rage and tail-gating. Furthermore, BMW drivers were unaware of other drivers – and, apparently, lacked concentration.

*The Age 3/5*

## Worst Accident?

A Ferrari driver in Japan last year made an error changing lanes, ploughed into a crash barrier and caused a 14-car pile-up. Unfortunately for his insurance company, the crash wiped out eight Ferraris, three Mercedes and a Lamborghini Diablo. Total value: \$3.85 million.

## New Member

*New member, Mev Conville - introduced by Alan Trumble - giving us a two-minute potted history of his life*



**M CONNELL** (Mev & Brenda)

27 Cross Rd, Devon Meadows, 3977. 5998 2469.

mevjock@mevcon.com. Born 1936 Scotland. BSc. Entomologist, administration, Rotary, Parachute Regiment. Sailing, fishing. [Club '12]

## What Greek Crisis?

Australia currently exports more to Christmas Island than to Greece. It is also worth remembering the Greek economy is only a bit larger than the NSW economy. No problem.