



# NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.  
Reg No. A 001-6598G  
Correspondence to: PO Box 57 Black Rock VIC 3193



## Issue No. 271

## October 2012

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday October 16 at The Sandringham Club

**Keynote Speaker:** DR MARK ZIRNSAK Chairman, Interchurch Gambling Taskforce  
**Topic:** Betting Your House On It - The need for problem gambling reforms  
Pokies are the primary form of gambling for 80% of those who turn up for counselling

**10-Minute Speaker:** Alan Stevens Lefties of the World Unite

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Bruce Tomkins*



*This all goes to show that interstate rivalries really count for little*

As I write this, the last week in September 2012 is ending. For a majority of Victorians, South and West Australians it is perhaps the most important week of the year - with the exception of those whose main interest is the Spring Carnival, the horses and the ladies that go to see them. Well, Sydney (South Melbourne) won, causing a great deal of disappointment down here. While I follow the Hawks and was disappointed for them, I was proud of the way the Swans played. And how about Melbourne Storm? It is interesting that a Sydney team won Melbourne's game and the Melbourne team won Sydney's game.

This all goes to show that interstate rivalries really count for little. Also, what is football? I agree with the purists; soccer is the closest to a 'world game'. Rugby Union, I think, comes next - an exciting, skilful game. Then comes Rugby League - which is Union with different rules and designed for very strong bull-

necked ball handlers. Then comes *our* game - which hardly anyone else at all in the world understands, yet each year an 'All-Australian' team is selected to play no-one. I remember returning to Melbourne, the second time after two stints working in Sydney, when our son was playing under-age AFL at school - and my wife Gill shouting at one stage early in the match, "Forward pass!" Oh the shame.

As Australians, we should be proud to have our own game and to be individuals. At least AFL followers don't have to put up with the shame of always being thrashed in Rugby Union by the Kiwis.

And how about the Euros beating USA on the latter's home turf?

Bring on the cricket!

"Over the past year, Victorians lost a record \$4.7 billion on all forms of gambling. Furthermore, of this sum, a staggering \$2.5 billion of it was lost on pokie machines alone. The social cost of such an addiction is enormous."

Dr Mark Zirnsak

#### 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&Activities:		
	<b>Geoff Bransbury</b>	0416294452
Meetings:	<b>Bill Green</b>	9596 1548
Asst Meetings:	<b>Duncan Gibson</b>	9585 3547

Probus Bank details: BSB 063-144  
Account No 10121288

# NOTICEBOARD

## Music

*Below: A page from Beethoven's manuscript*

The program on Wednesday October 24 at 7pm will include movements from Beethoven's marvellous *9th Symphony*.



*"...considered by some to be the greatest piece of music ever written.."*

Please let me know if you would like to attend. We will also meet on Wednesday November 28. Barry Amond

## Discussion Groups

As often happens, the two groups managed to have quite different discussions on 'Retirement' at their September meetings. In October, they will discuss 'Energy', a topic of immense importance to the world's future.

Barry Amond

## DID YOU KNOW?

By 2035, China will be using a fifth of all global energy - a 75% increase since 2008. Also, last year, China used as much crude steel as the EU, US and Japan combined and accounted for about 46% of global coal consumption; and a similar share of the world's entire aluminium, copper, nickel and zinc production.

## Howlong Golf

Our much-anticipated golfing excursion to Howlong is rapidly approaching. Details of the program including motel rooms, tee times etc will be distributed at the October meeting. If you have not responded to my email regarding dinner at the excellent Courthouse Hotel on the Wednesday night, please do so as soon as possible so as to be able to make all the necessary bookings. May the weather gods smile on us – and good golfing!

Geoff Wade

## Digital Technology Group

The group has met for its final meeting for 2012. Next meeting: Tuesday February 5, 2013. The topic will be advised in the January newsletter.

Geoff Wade

## Investment Group

The Investment Group meets immediately prior to each monthly meeting at The Sandringham Club at 8.45 am. This month, discussion will be around China and the status of our portfolio. Also, the impact of the PIGS bonds – designed to keep them afloat – QE3, the US election and China's falling imports. Will we reach 4500 by 2013?

Barry Donaldson

## The Bikie Group

Our next ride is on Friday October 26. A favourite ride with bikers is the Dandenong Creek path. For our 3rd ride on this path, we will start at the Port Phillip Bay end, ride along the South side of Patterson River, over the impressive flood gates at the Lakes and along the National Water Sports area to Dandenong Creek. After passing many playing fields and farms, we will return to the Patterson River shopping centre for a well-earned coffee break.

Noel Ineson

## Theatre

BRIGHTON THEATRE COMPANY

A reminder that the last play for the year is on Wednesday, November 14 at 8 pm Allan Taylor

## Next Tastes

Where: Zaika 459 Balcombe Road Beaumaris  
When: Thursday October 18 @ 6.30 pm NB:6.30pm  
Please pay by October meeting \$40 pp



Coming soon: Special Gourmet Tastes night.

## Change of address

Brian Reynolds has moved and now resides at 3/376 Balcombe Rd Beaumaris. 3193. His email and phone numbers remain the same.

## Leaders 2012

Almoner: <b>Andrew Watson</b>	9589 5913	Investment: <b>Barry Donaldson</b>	9598 6446
Archive & Grape Vine: <b>Roy Petch</b>	9589 5757	Meetings Co-ordinator: <b>Bill Green</b>	9596 1548
Assistant Functions: <b>Robert Dun</b>	9589 5456	Meetings Asst: <b>Duncan Gibson</b>	9585 3547
Audio Visual: <b>Paul Crompton</b>	9583 1310	Music/Opera: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9589 1143
Auditor: <b>Geoff Carlson</b>	9589 4884	Newsletter: <b>Peter McGregor</b>	9533 4760
Bowls: <b>Ted Montfort</b>	9589 5949	President's Table: <b>Norm Griffiths</b>	9598 8575
Bike Riding: <b>Noel Ineson</b>	9589 5263	PRISMS: <b>Bill Davis</b>	9592 5982
Computer Mentoring: <b>Ken Reed</b>	9583 5858	Speakers' Recorder: <b>Alan Williams</b>	9598 7550
Digital Technology: <b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593	Tastes: <b>Peter McGregor</b>	9533 4760
Discussion: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9589 1143	Theatre: <b>Robert Dun</b>	9589 5456

# FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury  
Robert Dun



## October

### Melbourne CBD Guided Walk - plus Lunch at the Old Imperial

Wednesday October 17

Come and join us on a very leisurely stroll through Old Melbourne - an entertaining guided walk to amuse and educate. All reports of this experience are very positive so please join us! We visit some lanes (for example, Graffiti Lane), Chinatown, the elegant Hotel Windsor and many historic buildings en-route. The walk starts at Federation Square and ends at Melbourne's oldest Hotel, The Imperial, Spring Street for lunch. Meet in Federation Square, under The Eye at the Visitor Centre at 10.20.

Walk starts at 10.30. (If going by train, catch the 9.35 from Sandringham which arrives at 10.03.)

Cost: \$25 (excluding train)

## November

### Night Races at Moonee Valley

Friday November 16



*The horses are nearly in their boxes! Get ready for a great night!*

Last year the food was terrific and if you don't want to watch the races below from the balcony looking onto the floodlit track, you can listen to the band or play the pokies or have another drink.

Bus leaves the Community Centre, Reserve Road at 5.00pm and leaves Moonee Valley at 10.00pm.  
Price: \$60. Please pay at very latest at the October meeting.

## December

### President's Christmas Lunch

Wednesday December 12



The President's Christmas Lunch, probably the most important function in our Probus calendar! This year, for a change, it will be held in the very heart of Beaumaris, at The Beaumaris, Beach Road. There will be a welcome drink, a sumptuous two-course Christmas lunch plus coffee. Drinks included. There will also be surprise entertainment this year – as well as the usual free raffles with great prizes and more!

Cost: \$57. We look forward to your company. Please pay no later than November meeting.

## February 2013

### Lunch at Bridges Restaurant and visit to Kellybrook Winery, Nursery and Gallery

Wednesday February 20

YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: Why not try one of our fabulous day trips? They are always enjoyable and it's great having the company of fellow members and partners. (Bring a friend, if you like.) We would especially invite new members (and others) who have *never* been on a trip to come along.



We will kick off the year by visiting the Kellybrook Winery and the excellent Bridges Restaurant. This is a delightful place only a little over an hour away in the Old Yarra orchard belt. There is also an art gallery and plant nursery to visit as well.

This trip has had excellent reviews from other Clubs. Bus leaves Community Centre at 9.30, returning by 4.30. Cost \$57.

**DID YOU KNOW? Al Capone's business card said that he was a used furniture dealer.**





### Taxis: That Was Then, This is Now

Our Keynote Speaker for September, Garry Bradd, entered the taxi industry as a part-time taxi driver in 1967, before becoming a principal of Black Cabs and Cabcharge, and then President of the Victoria Taxi Association from 1987 to 1992. He described in great detail the major challenges that face taxi operators today by comparing the significant differences in the social climate and culture between then and now. In the 60s, most of the taxi operators were owner-drivers. Most social functions such as dances and restaurants closed before 12 midnight. Hotels closed at 6 pm, eventually changing to 10 pm. Violence in the industry was rare. The industry was financially strong, a great small business. Drivers - under TRB control - were well trained. Vehicle standards were high with a 'new-car-every-four years' policy and it was a small cottage industry, co-operative-based.

Today, the public expects an on-demand 24/7 service; the government expects the taxi industry to replace public transport off-peak; the taxi industry takes short cuts to survive; good drivers move out and, inevitably, poorer drivers move in. "Public servants, lacking any business knowledge, try to run the industry," says Garry, "and our politicians are hopeless." He also has little confidence that Allan Fels' Taxi Inquiry will result in any improvement; in his view, things will get worse in the industry before they get better.

### NOTICE TO ALL BOWLERS

Victorian Probus Bowls Association  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Open Bowls Day  
Two Bowl Triples  
ALL DAY EVENT: 2 GAMES -15 ENDS

Wednesday March 13 2013  
10.30am start

Teams can consist of Men, Ladies or Mixed  
Entry Fee - \$66 per team of three, includes lunch,  
morning tea and afternoon tea

For more Information contact: Ted Montford  
9 Erowal St. Beaumaris 9589 5949  
montfort@aapt.net.au

### Coffee Fact

As far as coffee is concerned, the Chinese consumer - who drinks on average 4 cups per year - has a long way to go before s/he catches the US consumer who consumes 600 per year.

*Fat Prophets, September 2012*

### TRUE OR FALSE?

SEE ANSWERS BELOW

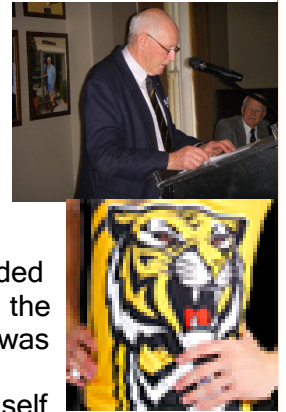
Below are a few of the contributions sent to the Editor from time to time. Your task is to decide whether they are True or False:

- ☐ It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open
- ☐ Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors
- ☐ Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated
- ☐ The microwave was invented after a researcher walked past a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket
- ☐ Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance

[www.themediadesk.com]

### Those Were the Days

When Bill Green was growing up, he was a Carlton supporter but, as a young footballer, given the chance to play for Richmond, he grabbed it with both hands. While playing for Heyfield, a couple of scouts (including Jack Dyer) decided he was worth pursuing. After that, the only way to get them off his back was to sign the ubiquitous Form Four; which he did, and soon found himself in the first 18. In his first game (against Melbourne), he was picked to play on their Best & Fairest from the previous year (1952); but he reckons he acquitted himself OK. He also said he was lucky because his boss at the Land Titles Office agreed to let him leave half an hour early to train! While at Richmond, he rubbed shoulders with Jack Dyer, Tommy Hafey and Mopsy Fraser – who later became his most feared opponent when Bill moved to play for Moorabbin in the VFA. Although Bill says he was afraid of him even when he was on the same side.



### NEXT MONTH - DON'T MISS IT

The Motorcycle Diaries - Geoff Bransbury will relate and illustrate his nine-month Great Adventure in the wilds of South America. Not to be missed!

Also: Brian Burton on Armistice Day



*The Port Douglas sub-branch of Beaumaris Probus in session:  
Left to right: Vice President Bev Read, CFO Helen McGregor,  
Secretary Peter McGregor and President Mike Read*

ANSWERS: False True True False False False