



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: Box 57 PO Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 259

September 2011

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday September 20 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: Buy cheap stocks or convert to cash or gold?. 9 am before the main meeting. p2

10-Minute Speaker: Rod Murrell Reminiscences of an RACV Member

- **Keynote Speaker:** Dr Peter Labb Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders)
Topic: Sudan: A surgeon's experience with MSF Peter Labb is a general surgeon who has been practising in the Beaumaris area for more than 30 years

FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Within this
plethora of
information
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messages
conflict*

"A little knowledge is a dangerous thing ..."

But, is a lot of knowledge worse? Within our living memories, opinion-forming sources of knowledge and truth were restricted to local paper, church, or radio. There was no doubt what was right. We judged information by our, albeit limited, knowledge. Information of diverse political or religious beliefs, cultural practices, racial sensitivities, ethnic cuisines, current science, research, a wide variety of industrial products, climatic or geographic environments, space exploration, computing, easy international air travel, 24 hour news, economic analyses – none of these were widely available in print, pictures, colour, and certainly not instantly.

Today, digital technology deluges us with such information. We are 'blessed' or 'cursed' with relentless advertising, as well as political propaganda and spin from companies, state and national governments, churches, even charitable organizations, through multi-media - newspapers, radio, TV, billboards, phones and even sky-writers!

Within this plethora of information many of the messages conflict. Danish philosopher, Kierkegaard, observed *"There are two ways to be fooled: one is to believe what isn't so, the other is to refuse to believe what is so"* How do we know what is correct, right or truth? There are various ways to know. We can deny new information. We can use long-held beliefs – even if they are prejudices we have inherited from our family, colleagues or friends. We can use emotions and accept what 'feels' right. We can be persuaded by the verbal or pictorial gymnastics of media messengers; or we can use our intelligence to follow rational arguments based on past and new objective evidence.

Despite this massive information overload, we fortunate people who live in a country with freedom of expression, religious beliefs and politics are able to maintain our long-held views. However, we are also well-placed, and would do well, to regularly REview our beliefs - that is, our PREjudices in the light of new knowledge.

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
Meetings 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

Group Leaders 2011

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

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

New Member



John Green delivers his two-minute speech to the August meeting after being inducted as a new member. President Alan Farmer watches on while proposer, Tony Bowles, listens attentively

◀ J F GREEN (John) ▶

17 Clare St, Parkdale 3195. 9580 6820. johnfgreen17@gmail.com
Born 1934, Melbourne. Customs Dept. Member VRC, MRC, MCC, RACV.
Golf (Woodlands). [Club '11]

Change of Address

Geoffrey Mottershead
Apartment 45 The Brighton on Bay
1 Asling St Brighton 9596 6911

Music & Opera Groups

The Opera Group will meet Wednesday September 28 at 7pm at 25 Third Street, Black Rock. If you would like to attend, please advise me; and the next Music evening will now be Wednesday November 2 to avoid clashing with the Howlong golf. Barry Amond

Discussion Group

The first meeting of the new Discussion Group will be on Friday September 16. Those members who have indicated that they would like to attend have been sent the agenda and reading material. Barry Amond

Howlong Golf Trip



All

is in readiness for the golf trip to Howlong, Sunday 23 - Wednesday 26 October (inclusive). There is a possibility of a late cancellation and so there may be room for another couple (or 2 singles to share). If you are not already booked and are interested in joining us for a great three days of golf and fellowship, please contact Geoff Wade (9588 2593) as soon as possible. Full details of tee times, room allocations and other important information will be distributed at the October meeting a few days before the trip.

Investment Group

Perform inquest on portfolios. We will seek as many coroners' autopsies as possible. Any experts?

Barry Donaldson

Bike Group - Ride No 8

Our next ride on Friday September 23 will start at 9:30 am from the car park near the croquet club in Head Street, Elwood, pass along the beach bike path and Beaconsfield Parade to Armstrong Street, tour around the relaxing, attractive landscape at Albert Park lake and enjoy a coffee at the Park restaurant before returning to Head Street - a very entertaining route as it passes through one of Melbourne's recreation areas normally thronged with cyclists, joggers and walkers. Noel Ineson

New Technology Group

The October meeting of the New Technology Group will be held on Tuesday October 4 at 2 pm at 25 Third St, Black Rock. The topic for discussion and/or demonstration will be 'Downloading music from the internet'. Leader: Allan Small. This topic was to be covered at the September meeting but has been deferred due to unforeseen circumstances. There will be an attendance sheet on the table at the coming Probus meeting. Because of Melbourne Cup Day, there will be no November meeting of the group. The next meeting will be in February and details will be advised in the January newsletter. Geoff Wade

Headlines 2030

~~TASMANIA EXECUTES LAST REMAINING GREEN-IE~~

Children from two-parent heterosexual families bullied in schools for being 'different' – Tolerance urged

Melbourne schoolgirl expelled for not wearing burqa -- being Christian is no excuse, says school: Sharia law must be enforced

Castro dies aged 104; Cuban cigars can now be imported to US legally, but new President Chelsea Clinton has banned smoking

WHITE MINORITIES STILL TRYING TO HAVE ENGLISH RECOGNISED AS AUSTRALIA'S THIRD LANGUAGE

Japan announces it will no longer consume whale meat as whales are now extinct and the scientific research fleet is unemployed; an Australian tells Japan, cane toads taste like whale meat

Supreme Court rules punishing criminals violates their civil rights: victims to share responsibility for crime

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury & Robert Dun



September

Yarra Valley Railway

Friday September 23

Bus leaves the Community Centre, Reserve Road, at 9 am. Returns around 4.30 pm.

October

Night Races at Moonee Valley

Friday October 7

A bus will take us to and from the Moonee Valley Night Races. We will enjoy a sumptuous seafood smorgasbord dinner (plus other choices) 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 like. In addition, there is also entertainment.

You don't have to be a racing enthusiast to come as this will be a great evening! We need 40+ to make this trip viable and at present we are a few short. If you are coming, why not try to rope in a friend or two!

The bus leaves the Community Centre, Reserve Road, at 5.30pm. We will leave *Legends* around 10pm (which means we will miss the last race). Home around 11pm. Cost: \$55 including dinner and bus.

Payment: September meeting please.

November

West Coast Tasmania

Sunday 13 - Friday November 18

Sandy Bay Probus is organising this six day tour. It looks a great trip and excellent value! Travel on the Spirit of Tasmania in a twin cabin. 2 Nights at Strahan, 1 at Murchison Lodge. Gordon River cruise, and much more. Includes 3 dinners and 4 breakfasts. If interested, please register. Cost: \$950pp.

Bread, Beer and Other Mysteries

Tuesday Novem-

NEXT: Bread, Beer & Mystery Tour



ber 22

We're delighted to propose a unique day-trip that is bound to be of interest to most if not all. Please come! We are going to Woodend and Trentham. First, we will visit RedBeard Bakery at Trentham where there is a charming 150-year-old bakery making very special sourdough. We will have morning tea and a quick tour of the bakery. Nearby (almost next door) is Two Fat Wombats, an amazing shop, full of many bizarre things. Actually, it's indescribable, but well worth a browse. The place is owned by 'Rob' who is a real character. He has promised to open his eye-opening shop especially for us! (See pictures below left) After this, we travel the short distance to Woodend where we will visit Holgate BrewHouse at Keatings Hotel. We will have a light lunch of six small tapas plus country chips and have a beer-tasting of four of their special brews. (If we have time and the weather is OK, we will take a quick drive to Mt Macedon to the huge Memorial Cross...don't count on this bit though!) To cap off a great day, we will end the tour at True South Brewery in Black Rock – we aim to get there at 3.30 or so. Here you can purchase a 'beer tasting wheel' for \$15, if you wish. Or, take a peek at their brewery and relax with your fellow Probus members. We need at least 35 for this trip.

Cost: \$58 which includes the bus, bakery tour and coffee, beer tasting at Holgate and the light tapas and chips lunch!

Bus to leave at 8.30 am from Black Rock (Balcombe Road and Ebdon Ave junction, near petrol station). Free parking is available. A map will be provided. Bus will return around 3.30 pm.

Please register ASAP. Payment: October

December

President's Christmas Lunch

Friday December 9

This year our lunch will be at Royal Melbourne Golf Club. The lunch is a week earlier this year so as not to clash with The Masters at Victoria.

We will, of course, have our complimentary raffles and quiz. (A little easier this year!) Let's have a record crowd. Please reserve the date in your diary! Canapés and a drink on arrival – followed by a two-course lunch and coffee.

Cost \$60.00 pp. which includes drinks (up to a reasonable float)

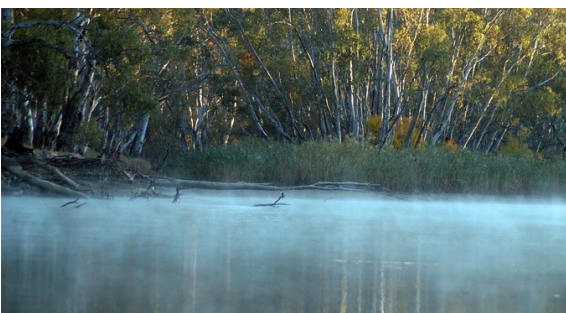


Logging Our Native Forests?

The underlying theme of professional forester Mark Poynter's talk was how emotionalism often conquers reality. 30 years of experience in the forest industry has provided him with the necessary background and statistical evidence to support his assertion that the conservation movement misrepresents the actual situation in Australia's forests. The battleground is the logging of old growth forests where, for instance, Victoria has 670 000 hectares of which 50 hectares are logged last year. The point that is often overlooked is that within old growth forests are trees reaching the end of their life that can quite safely be harvested with a replacement planted. Recycling of forests is an 80 to 100-year term - a perfect example is the Black Spur forest near Healesville which was devastated by fire in 1939 and is now a magnificent stand of tall trees. In fact only .02% of Australia's old growth forests were logged last year.

Mark Poynter's real concern is that organisations such as The Wilderness Society, Greenpeace and The Australian Conservation Society (with funding of \$70 million), supported by sections of the media - most notably the ABC and the *Age* - have developed 'journos activists' who distort certain events to their advantage. As an example, one photo widely used purporting to show clear-felling was in fact clearance and salvaging of a bushfire-ravaged forest; however, subsequent photos, taken over a 6-8 year period which show the area slowly regenerating, have never appeared. The Institute of Foresters (operating since 1935) maintains that Australia's timber industry can be sustained at its current level, drawing as it does mainly on plantation forests and the salvaging of end-of-life old-growth forest timber. This poses the key question that if Australia has the sixth highest native forest cover in the world - together with the fact that we are in the top five consumers of wood products - should we not be utilising our sustainable resources to meet demand rather than rampantly devastating the forests of poorer countries which are currently supplying our rising imports?

Alan Trumble



Toorak House in August



Geoff Bransbury and others climb the stairs to the top of Toorak House.

Lunch at the café-Botanical Gardens: Peter and Elizabeth Harford, Peter McGregor and Geoff Bransbury



Raising the Dead

In 1968, at the height of

USNS Glomar Explorer (T-AG-193)



the Cold War, a Russian submarine armed with three nuclear-armed missiles and six torpedoes, explodes and sinks 750 miles north-west of Hawaii. After 15 months, the US Navy locates the sub at a depth of 16 700 ft, the equivalent of 17 Eureka Towers. The ship employed to lift the sub is called *Glomar*, 620 ft long (weighing 55 000 tons), 40 metres longer than the MCG arena. It has a hollow centre with retractable doors. Howard Hughes is appointed to manage the project which involves lifting a load of 8 000 tons. Our 10-minute speaker, Rod Kelly, fascinated all members at the August meeting with an amazing array of facts and figures about a little-known episode over 40 years ago that resulted in the recovery of nuclear-tipped torpedoes, key information on Russian submarine manufacture, operating manuals and the bodies of six sailors - at a cost of \$800 million (in today's money: \$4 billion).

Probus Victoria Golf Challenge

Friday November 18 at the Drouin Golf and Country Club. 4BBB Stableford Medley open to all Probian who have a handicap. Entry fee (includes lunch): \$55. 'Shot-gun start' at 8:30 am. Interested members should contact Geoff Wade to arrange for team entry. (Two teams to date - it would be good to have another one or two teams.) Entries close October 28.

24 % more Americans now believe in hurricanes, says national poll