



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: PO Box 57 Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 270

September 2012

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday September 18 at The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Garry Bradd Former Principal of Black Cabs

Topic: No Easy Answers – Key Issues in the Taxi Industry in Victoria

Garry has been one of the most influential players in the Victorian taxi industry.

10-Minute Speaker: Bill Green My First Game

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bruce Tomkins



At this time of the year, I am always reminded of that humorous piece of poetry - I cannot recall the author, but he was obviously one of the great exponents of the English language and grammar, probably someone from one of the colonies, like Ogden Nash:

*Spring is here, the grass is ris
I wonder where the birdies is.*

.... 'four seasons in a day', is still very true.

It always brings on good feelings when it is apparent that a normal Melbourne winter is coming to an end with some sunny, less than freezing days. The grass does start to 'ris', together with the weeds, azaleas and so on; and we remember that good sunny warm weather is not too far away. Blossoms appear and are lovely but then, as happened a week or so ago, it changes to freezing again with gale force winds and most of the blossom disappears. But the leaves come quickly and the trees begin to look lovely again. It also becomes possible to walk along the waterfront and enjoy not having layers of warm

clothing on; even, sit in the sun and read or just watch people, yachts, dogs, children (as Gill and I have done a few times). There is no doubt that that famous saying in Melbourne, 'four seasons in a day', is still very true. But, we know it is getting better. One problem in the coming summer could be the bushfire danger after a couple of years of traditional Melbourne weather with lush growth. We will all have to be careful. Then, of course, there are the footy finals. I hope Melbourne Storm win this year! There is some sadness in our home because the Pies lost but then my team, the Hawks, are on the way. The 2012 Olympics are over - didn't our paralympians do so much better than their able-bodied compatriots? There must be some lessons there - maybe the ability of our coaches, but surely the commitment and effort of the able-bodied. It will be good to see Roger Wilson back and to hear his reasoning on this. I hope he had a wonderful trip.



Office Bearers 2012

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**



NOTICEBOARD



Tastes

In the interests of ethnic diversity and our constant search for flavour (and great wines), we are to visit a local establishment specialising in wood-fired northern Indian cuisine.

Owner/chef Sunni at *Zaika* invites us to sample a comprehensive banquet he is preparing for us.

Where: 459 Balcombe Road, Beaumaris

When: Thursday October 18 Cost: \$40 pp.

Gold-medal winning Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc and/or a Heathcote shiraz: \$15.

Time: 6.30 pm 6.30 pm 6.30 pm 6.30 pm 6.30 pm



"It takes a lot of money to look this cheap..."

Dolly Parton

Investment

The Investment Group meets immediately prior to each monthly meeting at The Sandringham Club at 8.45 am.

Howlong Golf

Numbers for the Howlong golf trip have now been finalised and we have a total of 35 going. Full details of the trip will be distributed at the October meeting; ie. two weeks prior.

Probus Victoria Golf Challenge

The Probus Victoria Golf Challenge for 2012 will be conducted at the Cranbourne Golf Club on Monday November 19. The competition is a 4BBB Stableford and is open to all paid-up Probians. Registration is at 8:00 am prior to an 8:30 am shotgun start. Prizes will be awarded to the winners, runners-up and nearest the pins on all par 3s as well as the straightest and longest drives. Prizes consist of the Annual Perpetual Trophy plus substantial cash prizes from Trade Travel and APT as well as individual personal trophies. Entry fee is \$55 per player which includes golf and lunch. Entries close on 17 October. If interested, please contact Geoff Wade.

Next Month: The need for problem gambling reforms

Digital Technology Group

The October meeting will be held Tuesday October 2 at 25 Third Street, Black Rock, at 2pm. It is hoped that the topic for this meeting will be The Use of Smartphones with some of our members assisting others on their uses and abilities. If you have a smartphone and don't know how to use it or are thinking of getting one, come along. An attendance sheet will be available at the September Probus meeting.

Geoff Wade

Opera

On Wednesday September 26 at 7pm, the group will be entertained by the Opera Australia production of *The Mikado*. This is an opportunity for members who are hesitant about 'grand' opera to join our regular attendees.. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Barry Amond

Music

The Music Group will meet on Wednesday October 24 and again on Wednesday November 28. It is hoped that Beethoven's very famous 9th Symphony will be played on one of those evenings. Barry Amond

Discussion Groups

At their August meetings, the two groups aired their views on many alternative future jobs but came to no conclusions. In September they are grappling with 'Retirement and the Ageing Population', a subject dear to us all.

Barry Amond

Bicycle Group

Our ride this month starts at Port Melbourne beach. We ride on the bike path alongside the Light Rail to Spencer Street, travel down South Wharf, across the Webb pedestrian bridge and down North Wharf promenade to the boating hub at Docklands Victoria Harbour, returning with a coffee break at the *Polly Woodside* precinct. This is a wonderful opportunity to observe a dynamic new suburb in the making by the best possible means available --- on a bike!

Noel Ineson

Leaders 2012

Almoner: **Andrew Watson** 9589 5913
 Archive & Grapevine: **Roy Patch** 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
 Computer Mentoring: **Ken Reed** 9583 5858
 Digital Technology: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
 Discussion: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143

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

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury
Robert Dun



October

VERY SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Guided Walk of Melbourne plus Lunch

Wednesday October 17



An entertaining guide to amuse and educate us on a leisurely stroll through Old Melbourne. All reports are very positive – please join us! We visit some hidden lanes (eg Graffiti Lane), China Town, *Hotel Windsor* and other historic buildings. Walk starts at Federation Square and ends at Melbourne's oldest hotel, *The Imperial*, Spring Street, for lunch.

Meet in Fed Square, under The Eye at the Visitor Centre at 10.20 (the walk starts at 10.30). If going by train, catch the 9.35 from Sandringham which arrives at Flinders Street at 10.03.

Cost: \$25 (excludes train)

November

ONLY A FEW PLACES LEFT

Night Races at Moonee Valley

Friday November 16



This is a terrific evening out – whether or not you are interested in horse racing. Last year, everyone had a fabulous evening including dinner at Moonee Valley's *Legends* bistro. The view of the track under lights is nothing short of stunning - and the food was just amazing. Our bus departs at 5pm from outside the Community Centre, Reserve Road, and leaves Moonee Valley at 10pm. No driving, no problem.

Cost: \$60. Please pay (preferably) at the September meeting but at the October meeting (at the latest).

Melbourne-NZ-Melbourne Cruise

Even although the Probus Cruise Special Offer has closed, it is highly likely that there will still be an opportunity for members to make a decision to come

December

President's Christmas Lunch

Wednesday December 12

Please register now for our Annual President's Lunch - perhaps the most important function in our Probus calendar! This year, it is at *The Beaumaris*, Beach Road, Beaumaris, 12 for 12.30.

A two-course Christmas lunch plus coffee. Drinks are included to a reasonable float. Free raffles with great prizes and more!



IMPORTANT NOTE: Change of Date

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the date of the President's Christmas Lunch has been changed – from Tuesday December 11 to Wednesday the 12th.

Cost virtually the same as in past years at \$57pp.

We look forward to your company.

Please pay no later than November meeting

February 2013 LIFE - BE IN IT!!

New Members' Call To Action: Start the New Year by coming on one of our wonderful Probus day trips!

We try to visit interesting places and always have a great day. You are cordially invited to join us and, if you like, bring a friend! C'mon – Be in it.

Wednesday February 20

We kick off the year by visiting the Kellybrook Winery and the excellent *Bridges* Restaurant.

A delightful area only a little over an hour away in the Old Yarra Orchard belt. There is also an art gallery and nursery to see.

Details next month – but even though it's a long way off....please put it in your diary for next year; that is, if you have one yet!



with us - and benefit from the attractive price for the 13-night cruise departing March 16 - and join about 10 cabins of passengers from our Club and several other local Probus Clubs.

Robert Dun

10-Year Pins

At the August meeting, 10-year pins (right) were awarded to Bob O'Brien and Geoff Wade. Well done and congratulations, guys!



At the same time, President Bruce inducted three new members: Wally Povey, who was introduced by Noel Ineson; Keith Ross, introduced by Jim McGann; and Dick Kirby, introduced by Barry Donaldson. Welcome aboard.



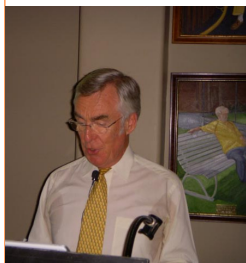
Grahame Dunscombe receives his Foundation Member certificate from President Bruce at the August meeting

TASTES GOES GOURMET

We are thinking about offering a Gourmet Tastes early in the new year. That is, something special that costs a bit more than our usual fare - which would open up some establishments that in the past we felt were beyond our resources. What do you think? Is \$65, \$75 pp too much? Let us know your thoughts.

Somewhere It Says Something About a Chicken?

Below: the gifted Roger Leeming in full flight



The title of Roger Leeming's 10-minute talk in August is a reference to a few lines from the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, a show that Roger is particularly familiar with, having played the lead in a production whilst a member of an amateur operatic company in England. They would meet once a week to plan and rehearse one show for the year and perform on stage for one week only. Roger's involvement included Production Manager and occasional leading man; his talented wife, Julie, was Musical Director. He talked to us about the emotional challenges in playing the different characters such as Professor Higgins in *My Fair Lady* as opposed to Tevye from *Fiddler*, a Russian Jew, living in poor and hazardous circumstances. Roger showed us how he had to create a Russian accent, walk tired, feel pain and frustration, and talk to God! Since coming to Australia, he has given up the theatre but can still sing a good song at a party. Alan Williams

It is said that if the population of China walked past you eight abreast, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction (Not sure whether it's true or not - and can't think of a way to find out. Probably untrue. Ed.)

Hearing Loss Problems and How to Overcome Them

Keynote Speaker, Sandra Godeassi, from Australian Hearing answers some of the many questions she was bombarded with



Alan Williams

Statistics show 80% of Australians in their advanced years will suffer some degree of hearing loss, so our Keynote Speaker, Sandra Godeassi, from Australian Hearing had a captive audience. Many factors can contribute to hearing deterioration including continued noise exposure from working in a particularly noisy environment. Even teenagers can incur permanent hearing impairment when exposed to high volume sound equipment. Sandra illustrated some of the new hearing aids now available plus assistive devices for TV, telephone, smoke alarms and doorbells.

Sandra said scientific hearing tests were essential in determining the cause and best way to combat the disability and should be repeated every two to three years for those over 65 years of age. While hearing loss is more common in older generations, children should be tested if there is the possibility of congenital deafness because the child's education and quality of life could be seriously affected.

Sandra's response to the few tricky questions she was not able to answer at the time:

1 Cochlear research into replacing /repairing the nerve is really far off; doing away with hearing aids a long way off, maybe decades.

2 High pitched sounds at concerts? If hearing aids were needed, then the high pitches are baffled in the hearing device for comfort.

3 Wax removal by audiologists? May be an option in the future, but depends on training/ skills, sterilising facilities and degree of difficulty for certain types of patients. Being reviewed but not implemented so far.

New Members

◀ R L KIRBY (Dick & Janice) ▶

9 Balcombe Park Lane, Beaumaris, 3193. 9589 5125.
dick-kirby@bigpond.com. Born Brighton, 1938, FCPA, Australian Sports Medal
Golf (LM Spring Valley, VGA), AFL, stock market investing, Past Pres Spring
Valley GC and VGA. [Club '12]

◀ W A POVEY (Wally) ▶

30 Eliza St, Black Rock, 3193, 9598 3944. wwpovey91@gmail.com
Born UK 1931. Photographer. Scuba diving, sailing, cycling
[Club '12]

◀ K W ROSS (Keith & Carol)

358 Beach Rd, Black Rock, 3193. 9589 3580. keith.ross@bigpond.com
Born Melbourne 1945. Auto industry. Golf, AFL.
[Club '12]