



NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

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Issue No. 281

September 2013

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday September 17 at The Sandringham Club

Keynote Speaker: Joe Szwarc Foundation House

Topic: Asylum Seekers: Problems and Solutions

10-Minute Speaker: Rod Kelly Waltzing Matilda

Arriving Without Authorisation

" Until very recently, immigration detention was not used solely as a risk-management tool. Instead, asylum seekers arriving without authorisation were detained for the entire time it took to determine whether or not they were refugees - regardless of whether they posed any health or security risks to community. This has resulted in thousands of men, women and children being detained unnecessarily for often very prolonged periods, causing considerable harm to already vulnerable people and resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars of unnecessary expenditure each year."

Refugee Council of Australia



Probus Club of Beaumaris Goes To Water

Full story page 3



PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Office Bearers 2013

* President: Peter McGregor	9533 4760	* Vice-President: Peter Harford	9592 6797
* Past President: Bruce Tomkins	9591 0076	* Secretary: John Howe	9598 2429
* Treasurer: Geoff Carlson	9589 4884	Auditor: Don Lobb	9598 5546
* Activities: Geoff Bransbury	0416294452	* Assistant Functions: John Green	9580 6820
* Meetings: Duncan Gibson	9585 3547	* Assistant Meetings: Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Almoner: Andrew Watson	9589 5913	Archive & Grapevine: Roy Petch	9589 5757
* President's Table: Alan Stevens	9597 0235	Sommelier: Bob Matthews	9583 9958
Speakers' Recorder: Alan Williams	9598 7550	Audio Visual: Paul Crompton	9583 1310

* Committee Members

Interest Groups

Bike Riding: Noel Ineson	9589 5263	Bowls : Ted Montfort	9589 5949
Discussion: Barry Amond	9589 1143	Digital Technology: Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Investment: Barry Donaldson	9598 6446	Music/Opera: Barry Amond	9589 1143
PRISMS: Bill Davis	9592 5982	Tastes: Peter McGregor	9533 4760
Theatre: Robert Dun	9589 5456		

FROM THE PRESIDENT



PETER MCGREGOR

“
never believe anything until it's been officially denied
”

Everyone knows that Probud is a non-political organisation; it says so in the constitution: “It shall be non-political and non-sectarian. It shall not endorse any candidate for public office and shall not take corporate action at any meeting with the intention of influencing the policies or decisions of government.” But, due to holiday commitments, this newsletter will be distributed to members just prior to a federal election – and politics has been in the air (and the media) for months, making it hard for anyone to avoid being political in one way or another without really trying. Accordingly, I would like to give all members the great benefit of some considered advice before voting, drawing on the ideas of those who are justifiably famous for knowing so much more about government, politicians and politics than the rest of us: indeed, who better than the amiable Jim Hacker from *Yes, Minister* and his permanent Secretary, the urbane but evasive Sir Humphrey Appleby? For example, on the nature of government, Sir Humphrey was wont to remind us, it “is not about morality, it is about stability; keeping things going and

preventing anarchy, stopping society falling to bits. Still being here [in office] tomorrow.” Above all, he believed that government was about principle. “And the principle is never act on principle,” he once said sagely; and, “if a job's worth doing, it's worth delegating”, a wise dictum not unknown in Probud circles. Jim and Sir Humphrey said so many things pertinent to our political leaders and institutions that I am very pleased to be able to take the opportunity to pass them on to you before you vote. It may be considered very political of me, but who knows, it might well change the course of future Australian political history. Did you realise, for instance, that “Things don't happen because Prime Ministers are keen on them. Neville Chamberlain was keen on peace”; or, “The first rule of politics: never believe anything until it's been officially denied.” Soon after you read this, we will have a new government in Canberra (of whatever persuasion) with, hopefully, a clear mandate to do what elected governments are supposed to do: namely, the near-impossible; govern in the interests of all.



It's 10 years of excellent Probud service for Tony Bowles and Alan Williams. Well done, boys.



Allan Cox and Ron Hunter receive their 20-year pins. Congratulations to both.

Please come and join us at Woodlands Golf Club (right) for the President's Annual Christmas Lunch See p5



Changes to the Constitution

At the Extraordinary General Meeting in August, the motion to approve the Proposed Revised Constitution (2013) as circulated to all members, moved by the Secretary John Howe, was carried unanimously.

NOTICEBOARD

Investment Group

Members will meet as usual 8.45-9.45 am before the General Meeting.

Topic: Hybrids Guest Speaker: Sam Gray, Adviser, UBS Wealth Management

"With a debt-like security, you certainly don't get the potential upside that the equity can have, but the downside is shown to be less. When combined with equities in a portfolio, these securities can mitigate some of the volatility in returns, whilst still providing a stable income stream..."

James Gerrish, analyst.



Demystifying Desalination



What an interesting excursion to the desal plant - followed by a hearty lunch at the famous "Killy" pub. A most enjoyable trip!

This desalination plant is huge and the whole area has been beautifully landscaped. Completely hidden from view, the roof is the largest turf roof in Australia and the pipeline linking the plant to Cardinia is now invisible. There is no sign of any land upheaval. It is all most impressive and most Probus members were amazed by the sheer scale of the place.

Music and Opera Groups

Barry Amond

The program for the next Music Night on Wednesday September 25 at 7 pm will include the Bruch Violin Concerto, Schumann's Piano Concerto and the 1812 Overture. The Opera Group will meet on October 23.

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

The two groups will have a final discussion on 'A Plan for Australia' at their meetings on Tuesday September 10 at 2 pm and Friday September 13 at 9.30 am.

Theatre

King Kong Wednesday November 20 at 1.00 pm.

King Kong takes audiences on a thrilling adventure from the bustling streets of 1933 New York to the last uncharted place on earth, Skull Island. A Melbourne-only Australian production. The final date to decide to attend and make the payment of \$80 per seat is at our September meeting. See last newsletter. Robert Dun

Bikie Group

Our next ride is on Friday September 27 starting at 9 am from the Black Rock beachside car park. It follows the new Bay Trail to Charman Road via Mentone beach promenade and across Mordialloc Creek for coffee at Doyles Bridge Hotel and back. This is not a demanding ride (20 km) having only gentle slopes and a short 'off bike' climb.

Why do we have a bike group? Because riders love both the exercise and the camaraderie. "Every time I climb onto my bike I become that skinny smart arse teenager once again."

Noel Ineson

Digital Technology

Geoff Wade

The next meeting of the group is Tuesday October 1 at 25 Third Street, Black Rock, at 2 pm. The main topic for discussion will be Social Media – including Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. If you are a regular user of any of these, please come along and join in the discussion and help those less literate in these forms of communication. An attendance sheet will be available at the September general meeting.



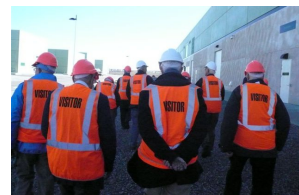
As a matter of interest, writes Geoff Wade, Robyn Farmer was the 2000th visitor since December and so members were all given a small tasty cupcake to celebrate the occasion. Smiles all round.

Essentially, the plant comprises 29 buildings with a production capacity of 150 billion tonnes of water per year; about a third of Melbourne's needs. Currently it is in 'standby' mode as no water is required at this time. There are two underground tunnels 15 metres below the seabed of about 1.5 km in length, each diameter 4 metres. The inlet and outlet structures are located 20 metres below the sea surface. The water transfer pipeline is 84 kms to Cardinia 1.9 metres in diameter. The cost of the plant was \$3.5 billion, the total running cost over 30 years an estimated further \$5.7 billion.

Geoff Bransbury

[NOTE: Facts about the desalination plant can be found at www.aquasure.com.au and is well worth reading.]

Your taxes at work: Merry Bransbury shows us what it means to be 'hands on', while the boys from Beaumaris Probus Investigate where all the money went



BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

Sherlock Holmes was actually French, the can-can was English and the (world's) first restaurant served English food in Paris.

- Jonathan Conlin; *Tales of Two Cities*

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

September Friday 6 Hamer Hall Aperitivo Tour

Please meet at 10.45am in front of Hamer Hall. Tour starts 11am sharp. Tickets handed to you there.

September Thursday 26

Gourmet Tastes

Special Argentinean Suckling Pig

Time: 7 pm at True South, Beach Road, Black Rock. Dinner to be held in the brewery itself.

Cost: \$50 (Drinks not included). Please pay now if you haven't already!

September

Tall Ships Festival, Morning Tea Tour

Monday September 9

Two tickets still available.

Contact Geoff on 0416 294 452 if you want to come.

This is a special morning tea tour of THREE TALL SHIPS due to arrive in Williamstown.

Scones, jam and cream followed by a 2.5 hour tour of the ships. Cost: \$66 (as charged by RYCV)

A bus is not economical so we suggest either train or share cars. We need to arrive at 9 am at the latest.

Those who have registered will be contacted soon to finalise arrangements. Please pay now.



October

3rd Desalination Plant Tour and Lunch

Tuesday October 1

Bus leaves Community Centre at 8.30 sharp.

PLEASE be there around 8.15. Return 4- 4.30 pm.

NOTE: Staff at Library in Reserve Road are upset that we (and other clubs) have been parking all day in their small car park. To avoid their wrath, please park on Reserve Road (please observe all 'No Standing' areas) or in side streets nearby.

Italian Tastes at The Parlor

Thursday October 17

40 Weatherall Road, Cheltenham
The Parlor is a casual Italian-style café/restaurant with great charm. A review on *Urban Spoon* describes

The Parlor as having delectable food, great ambience and friendly staff.

Add to that - good company and a good price. We are in for a great evening..... Why not come along?

Cost: (food only) \$45. Wine is at The Parlor prices.

Time: 6.30 pm.

Numbers limited.



November

Mooramong and the New Eureka Museum, Ballarat

Wednesday November 13-Thursday 14

We still need a few more to come but we are getting close. If you have registered, please try and entice a friend either in or outside the Club to come along.

We visit the historic National Trust Homestead, Mooramong at Skipton, stopping overnight in Ballarat for a nice dinner. On Thursday, after breakfast, we visit the new Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (MADE) and have lunch at The George. The trip includes coach travel, two lunches, a three-course dinner, overnight accommodation at Ballarat Mid-City Motor Inn (3.5 stars), cooked breakfast, tours and even a wine tasting.

Cost: \$281 pp. Single supplement \$35.

Please pay now or NO LATER than October Meeting. A video is available to tickle your interest! Please ask us at the functions desk!

April 2014

Sabah, Borneo and Brunei



Sunday April 27 - Sunday May 4 (8 days)

Already we have received some 19 expressions of interest. This trip is organised for Beaumaris Probus and is NOT a publicly available trip - but if you wish, please bring friends along. They are most welcome.

The cost for this trip is only \$2434 pp twin share, (\$440 single supplement). Amazingly good value! For full details, see August newsletter.

If interested, email or phone John Green

johnfgreen@gmail.com or 9580 6820

or Geoff Bransbury, brans@iinet.net.au or 0416 294452

Payment of a deposit of \$500 pp is required no later than our November meeting. Please complete the booking form which is available from John or Geoff.



FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Continued

November

Annual Night races and Fabulous Buffet

Friday November 29 Moonee Valley @ *Legends*



Yes, it's on again - and great news....the price is the same as last year. Bus from the Community Centre (time to be advised later but around 5 pm) and takes us to Moonee Valley for a simply terrific evening. For the past two years, this event has been regarded as A Night To Remember. The buffet at *Legends* is amazing with everything conceivable to choose from... Seafood, Roast, Asian and more. Leave at 10 pm. You DON'T need to be a horse racing enthusiast to enjoy this evening, so please come. No excuses.

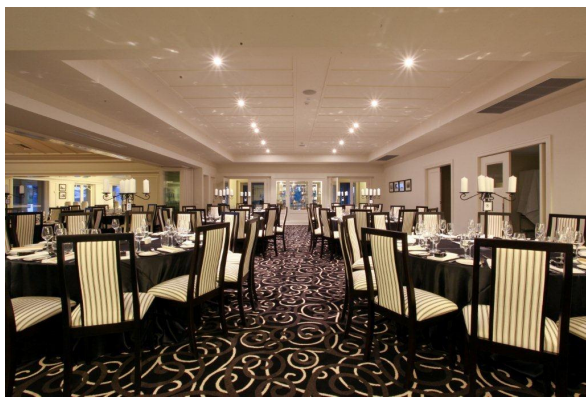
Cost: \$60 (includes bus and buffet)
Please pay ASAP – latest at October meeting.

December

Annual President's Christmas Lunch

Woodlands Golf Club

Friday December 13



The #1 event of the Probus year – we hope everyone (and wives/partners) can attend. This year, we are pleased to advise that we will again try a new venue: the spectacular Woodlands Golf Club, ranked #12 in Australia; #5 in Melbourne (*Golf Australia*).

Other Probus Clubs have given excellent reviews and, of course, we have members of Woodlands in our club who will ensure we receive VIP treatment! We will have prizes and free raffles – and more. Canapes, a two-course lunch, tea/coffee and drinks - ALL INCLUDED. Same price as the past two years. Please register NOW and, preferably, pay also.

Cost: only \$55 pp.

Time: 12.00 for 12.30 pm.

Was Blind But Now I See



More than 50,000 Australians suffer from profound vision impairment, half of them due to retinal diseases such as macular degeneration. The former Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University, Professor David Penington, is Chairman of a research team creating a retinal implant known as the bionic eye. Bionic Vision Australia (BVA) is a collaboration between experts in ophthalmology, biomedical and electrical engineering, and numerous other sciences and surgical practices.

new high-density array implants with 256 electrodes and more are being developed

Previously Chairman of Cochlear for six years, David is uniquely aware of the technology that made this company so successful – that is, creating implants for patients with extreme hearing difficulties – and he hopes to replicate parts of this technology to assist with the development of the bionic eye. Beginning in 2010 with an Australian Research Council Grant of \$42m, the early tests were on animals. Last year, in a significant step forward, three human patients were fitted with a prototype with 24 electrodes enabling them to see light for the first time. This was hailed as a major advance and now high-density array implants with 256 electrodes and more are being developed to eventually enable the patient to read large print and recognise faces.

electric signals are sent from the retina to vision-processing centres in the brain

How does it work ? A camera mounted on glasses captures images and transmits to the retinal implant and processor which stimulates the retina. Electric signals are sent from the retina to vision-processing centres in the brain.

Even at the age of 83 years, David Penington is still a pioneer and believes the BVA has the technology to become a world leader in bionic vision devices. No doubt, their research will enable people with profound vision impairment to enjoy a better quality of life. We wish him every success.


Alan Williams

[Note: Professor Penington's Power Point presentation is now available on request. Contact Peter McGregor.]

“Let me be surrounded by luxury. I can do without the necessities.”
Oscar Wilde

DID YOU KNOW? Each year, more people around the world are killed by bees than snakes.

Probus Club of Beaumaris 2013 Events Calendar

Friday September 6	10.45 am	Hamer Hall Aperitivo Tour *	Arts Centre
Monday September 9	9.00 am	Tall Ships Festival*	Williamstown
Tuesday September 10	2.00 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday September 13	9.30 am	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday September 17	8.45-9.45 am 10.00 am	Investment Group General Meeting	Sandringham Club
Sunday September 22	1.30 pm	Russian Ballet*	Palais Theatre
Wednesday September 25	7.00 pm	Music Night	25 Third Street Black
Thursday September 26	7.00 pm	Gourmet Tastes*	True
Friday September 27	9.00 am	Bike Ride	
Tuesday October 1	8.30 am	Third Desalination Trip *	Fully booked; waiting list only
Tuesday October 1	2.00 pm	Digital Technology	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday October 8	2.00 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Friday October 11	9.30 am	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday October 15	8.45-9.45 am 10.00 am	Investment Group General Meeting	Sandringham Club
Thursday October 17	6.30 pm	Italian Tastes*	The Parlour
Wednesday October 23	7.00 pm	Opera Group	25 Third Street Black
Friday October 25	9.00 am	Bike Ride	
Sunday October 27—Wednesday 30		Annual Howlong Golf*	
Friday November 8	9.30 am	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Tuesday November 12	2.00 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third Street Black Rock
Wed/Thurs November 13-14		Mooramong*	
Monday November 18		Probus Golf Challenge*	Cranbourne GC
Tuesday November 19	8.45 -9.45 am 10.00 am	Investment Group General Meeting	Sandringham Club
Wednesday November 20	1.00 pm	<i>King Kong*</i>	Regent Theatre
Friday November 29	5.00 pm	Annual Night Races*	Moonee Valley
Friday December 13		Annual President's Christmas Lunch*	Woodlands GC

April 2014 Sunday April 27 - Sunday May 4 (8 days)

Overseas trip to Sabah, Borneo and Brunei *