

NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

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Issue No. 292

September 2014

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday September 16 The Sandringham Club
Keynote Speaker: Ian Henderson ABC TV Newsreader
Topic: Behind the News

10-Minute Speaker: David Seedsman Winter in Italy

Ian Henderson has been presenting the 7 pm news bulletin on week-nights in Victoria since 1992. He started with Leader Newspapers, News Limited's network of Victorian local papers, where he completed a cadetship. He joined the ABC in 1980 where he has reported at home and abroad, anchored state election coverage on television, presented the weekly current affairs program *Stateline* as well as the 7 pm news. As a correspondent for ABC TV in Europe, he reported on the fall of the Berlin Wall and the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990.

During the 2009 Victorian bushfires, Ian Henderson anchored national coverage from various locations affected by Black Saturday. He also hosted the national memorial service for bushfire victims, "Together for Victoria", which was seen around Australia and the world. Ian has also hosted the ABC's ANZAC Day coverage on television and the Melbourne Press Club's annual Quill Awards. He is a keen golfer and a long-suffering supporter of the Melbourne Football Club.



At left: Ken and Margie Beadle lead Probus members on a tour of Melbourne Water's wetlands centre and the Eastern Treatment Plant. At right: George and Anya Fabinyi, and John Smyth, wait for their suckling pig



In this issue, President Peter Harford (p2) urges new members to become involved in the wide range of social activities we offer – for example last month, a visit to Melbourne Water's wetlands centre at Edithvale and the huge Eastern Treatment Plant; also our gourmet Tastes night which featured roast suckling pig!



PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Office Bearers 2014

* President: Peter Harford	9592 6797	* Vice-President: Kevin McDonnell	9598 8209
* Past President: Peter McGregor	9533 4760	* Secretary: Alan Stevens	9597 0235
* Treasurer: Geoff Carlson	9589 4884	Auditor: Don Lobb	9598 5546
* Activities: Ken Beadle	9589 6120	* Assistant Functions: John Green	9580 6820
* Meetings: Geoff Wade	9588 2593	Assistant Meetings: Keith Ross	9589 3580
Almoner: Andrew Watson	9589 5913	Archive & Grapevine: Roy Petch	9589 5757
President's Table: David Robertson	9551 1930	Sommelier: Bill Green	9596 1548
Speakers' Recorder: Alan Williams	9598 7550	Audio Visual: Paul Crompton	9583 1310
Projectionist Philip Stewart	9589 3309	* 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 HARFORD

“.....this is not an issue that we currently have to face....”

Earlier in the year Secretary, Alan Stevens and I attended a Probud District Meeting along with representatives from a number of other clubs. It was clear at this meeting that many clubs suffer from falling membership and they have difficulty obtaining new members. Thankfully, this is not an issue that we currently have to face and, indeed, it could be said that we are almost at capacity.

At our last meeting, membership stood at 123 and we have had a continuous flow of new members being introduced at our monthly meetings over the past year or so. While this is good, it is important that new members are made welcome by existing members, and that they are introduced to other members so that they become truly involved in the club by participating in our activities.

For monthly meetings, we are continually trying to obtain a variety of keynote speakers reflecting a range of interests, occupations and careers that will, above all, interest our members. Suggestions for speakers are always welcome.

At our last meeting Geoff Wade was the 10-minute speaker but commented that he needed much longer. I believe there is the scope for the Keynote Speaker to come from within our membership. We usually obtain 10-minute speakers from within our own membership base and I invite recent new members to volunteer to give one of these talks. This is a particularly good way of communicating to other club members your own experiences, interests and views. Our Vice-President Kevin McDonnell is the contact point for this activity.

We also have an excellent range of activities and functions to attend, many of which involve being accompanied by your spouse. It is very important to the club that our spouses are actively involved in our social activities; and we should be mindful that ill health and advancing age makes it more difficult for some members to attend our monthly meetings. Our Almoner Andy Watson helps us to stay in touch with these members and as they also receive our monthly newsletter are aware of our ongoing activities. If you are aware of any members that Andy should contact, please let him know.



Left: President Peter Harford welcomes Bayside CEO, Adrian Robb, to the August meeting to talk about the challenges facing local councils; Below: members take in the address and wait to ask their questions



NOTICEBOARD

Investment Group

9 am before monthly meeting as usual.

Dr Phillip Stewart will conduct a session on Investing in the Mining Sector - Tricks and Traps

The mining sector, especially junior or mid-size companies, can offer the possibility of spectacular gains. However, fraud aside, it is beset with many potential traps. This presentation seeks to enhance understanding of how a mining project develops, to highlight several potential pitfalls to be aware of when assessing a potential investment - and some thoughts on when to buy (or not to buy!).

Bike Group



[Photo: Duncan Gibson]

Probus Riders pictured at Southbank following a coffee break at the Rive Gauche ('Left Bank') Cafe. We welcomed Roger and Margaret Wilson to our group for a 26 km ride

Our next ride is on Friday September 26. We will all assemble as usual at the Black Rock beachside car park at 9 am and drive to Head St. Brighton - Melway 67 C5. The ride is from there along the attractive beachside trail through St Kilda, Middle Park, Port Melbourne and Beacon Cove to the Westgate Park. On return we will enjoy a coffee at the historic coffee shop in Armstrong St. - an easy ride of 22 km. The remaining 2014 bike rides are Oct 24, Nov 28.

Noel Ineson

Music and Opera

The Music Group will meet on Wednesday September 24 at 7 pm. Please let me know if you would like to attend. The next Opera Group evening is Wednesday October 29 and the final Music Group meeting for the year will be on Wednesday November 26. Barry Amond

Discussion Groups

Groups will discuss 'Crime and Punishment' at both meetings on September 9 and 12. August discussions on 'America' came at the time President Obama made the decision to help those in northern Iraq. Just when we were thinking that their role as guardian of the Free World might have come to an end! Barry Amond

Digital Technol-

The final meeting October 7 com-



ogy Group

for 2014 will be Tuesday mencing at 2 pm. The

program will be a review of items discussed during this year including an update and looking ahead to 2015. An attendance sheet will be available at the September general meeting.

Directory change:

Les Hall has moved and his new address details are:
12/10 Waterford Park Ave
KNOXFIELD 3180
Phone: 9763 9566

Corrections

Address for Mev Connell:
51 Huntingtower Crescent,
LANGWARRIN VIC 3910
Note: Email address for Dick Kirby:
dick.kirby@bigpond.com

Tastes

Our next gourmet outing will be a Spanish Night on the first Thursday in November.



Where: The Concourse,
When: Thursday 6.30 pm

Grange, North Beaumaris
November 6

Cost: Yet to be determined. Carefully selected wines will be available as usual @ \$15 per bottle.

Theatre

Robert Dun

20 seats have been reserved for *Strictly Ballroom*, the Musical on Wednesday March 4 at Her Majesty's. Price: \$75 pp (stalls).

We have 20 seats reserved to see *The Lion King* on



Wednesday, May 6, at 1 pm at the Regent Theatre. Cost: \$70 per seat, a saving of \$30.

The Lion King is Disney's brilliantly re-imagined landmark musical by acclaimed director Julie Taymor. Disney's beloved film, a spectacular theatrical experience, has won over 70 major international awards. A breathtaking production; glorious colours; stunning effects and unforgettable music.

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR FRIDGE OR NOTICE-BOARD

October

Visit to Latrobe Cottage and Government House

Thursday October 9

We will make our own way to Latrobe Cottage, corner



Latrobe Cottage was the home of Victoria's first governor, Charles Joseph Latrobe. The prefabricated building was shipped from Britain and built in 1839

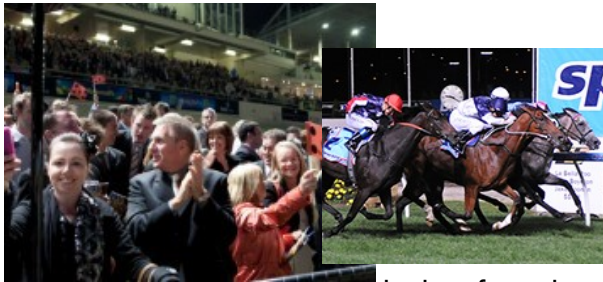
of Birdwood Avenue and Dallas Brookes Drive (Melways 2 LA1) for the tour starting at 10.30 am and then continue to nearby Government House.

Cost: \$13 pp. Closing date for registrations/payment: September 22. Lunch will be voluntary after the tour at the Botanical Gardens café at own cost.

November

Night Races

Carvery Buffet at Moonee Valley Legends
Friday November 21



We leave by bus from the Beaumaris Community Centre, Reserve Road, at 5 pm for Moonee Valley Racing Club for a great evening.

This year, the buffet is centred on Christmas fare with a choice of three meats, vegetables, salads as well as Indian-style curry, Malaysian stir-fry and pastas. Complimentary soft drinks and race books will be on the tables on our arrival. Tote facility in the room – but you don't have to bet to enjoy the evening. There is musical entertainment from 7.30 pm. We will leave *Legends* at 10pm and return to the Community Centre by approximately 11pm.

The response from our local clubs is considerable and a second coach has been booked. Please ensure your inclusion for this great night out by registering and paying soon. Cost: \$60 includes bus and buffet - drinks not included.

Full payment is required by November 7.

December

President's Annual Christmas Lunch

Friday December 12

This year's lunch will be held at Southern Golf Club,



Lower Dandenong Road, Braeside (Melways 88 H8). Cost is unchanged from last year at \$55 per head for canapés on arrival, two-course lunch and drinks to a generous limit.

Time: 12 for 12.30 pm.
Not to be missed - our final marquee social event of the year. Book now.



Dopey Old Bloke

Left: Geoff Bransbury in Greece; Right: France at last



Probus Overseas Trip

Further to my paragraph in our last newsletter, I have had little feedback about an overseas trip in 2015. Accordingly, after discussion with members' wives, I would welcome any suggestions at all. Type, range, destination and price of tours are virtually endless. Alternatively, I can choose a location and provide specific details in relation to duration and cost.

John Green

Wetlands Centre and Eastern Treatment Plant



15 members and partners enjoyed a beautiful spring morning at Melbourne Water's local facilities. At the Edithvale Wetlands Centre - an outstanding bird education centre - Sharon gave us an overview of wetlands inhabitants including life-sized displays of different types of migratory and local birds and their calls; and excellent viewing of resident birds in the wetlands. This recently-opened centre is open to the public free on Sundays from 1 pm to 5 pm and is well worth a visit with your grandchildren.

At the Eastern Treatment Plant, the many facets of sewage treatment processes were explained by Yvonne, using excellent interactive displays before we toured the facility in our minibus. Ken Beadle

From East to West Across Russia

Margaret and Geoff Wade journeyed across Russia in style in late May. They were greeted on the departure platform by a brass band and a welcome glass of champagne. The journey from Vladivostok to Moscow on the Golden Eagle Express (a luxury private train 50% owned by ATP) with their own dining, lounge/bar and kitchen cars plus staff and carriage attendants all for 57 passengers, including 36 Australians, was very enjoyable; although it appeared the decorations and furnishings of the dining car in particular dated back to the era of the czars! Twelve days and 10 651 km later, they arrived in Moscow after passing through large cities with magnificent cathedrals and villages with interesting wooden, unpainted houses and their own vegetable gardens. They dined with locals in Mongolia, rounded Lake Baikal - the largest fresh-water lake in the world - and crossed the 1.6 miles long Amur River bridge. Arriving in Novosibirsk, they toured a magnificent opera house, and the following day visited Yekaterinberg, the town where Nicholas Romanov, the last czar, and his family were brutally murdered. A highlight, Geoff said, was how much he enjoyed meeting up with 'real Russians' along the way - but I don't think many of us would have travelled on that train!

Alan Williams

*Below Left: The Dining Room on the Golden Eagle Express;
Below Right: Margaret & Geoff pose in front of the steam train at Lake Baikal*



Bayside Council Faces Challenges

At our August meeting, Adrian Robb, Bayside City Council CEO, provided an informative insight into the operation of the Council and our ever-escalating rates and charges. For example, all road works, rubbish collections, parks and gardens work and foreshore maintenance are contracted outside the Council, he said; there are no longer any 'blue collar' workers in the 700 full- and part-time staff on the payroll. The range of questions from members left him in no doubt that ratepayers are looking for value for money in Council expenditure including the necessity and cost of challenges to VCAT decisions. Adrian agreed that some should have been avoided. Unfortunately, the reductions in government funding have increased the burden on residents - who provide 93% of the total funds required. He spoke of the many challenges in constantly trying to reduce expenditure, citing as an example the new system of hard rubbish collection which saves \$200 000 per year; however, many are opposed to it and want to return to the old system.

Alan Williams

Lessons Learned

Our friendly but combative Almoner, one Andy Watson, bails up CEO of Bayside Council, Adrian Robb, to get some definitive answers



Peter Harford's session with the Investment Group told the story of those speculative shares of the 60s and 70s - such as Poseidon and Tasminex - and the scurrilous manipulators who fleeced gullible investors. Peter's conclusions: Don't get caught in the euphoria of bull market runs. Stay focused on fundamentals and high-quality stocks. Be critical of analysts' work and look for connections between brokers and companies they review. Get a variety of views before acting.

Special Birthday and Anniversary Messages

As mentioned at the August meeting, it is possible to arrange for delivery of messages to those celebrating significant birthdays or anniversaries. The address is:

Awards and Culture Branch
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500 Canberra ACT 2600
Phone: 02 6271 5620

Or, this can be arranged through the office of your local member. On the occasion of their recent 50th wedding anniversary, Helen and Peter McGregor were amazed to receive celebratory cards from: The Governor-General and his wife and the Prime Minister and his wife; also, the Governor of Victoria, the Premier, and both of the local federal and state members of parliament.

Probus Club of Beaumaris

Events Calendar

Tuesday	September 16	8.45 am	Investment Group	Sandringham Club
	10 am		GENERAL MEETING	
Wednesday	September 24	7 pm	Music Group	25 Third St Black Rock
Friday	September 26		Bike Ride	
Tuesday	October 7	2pm	Digital Technology Group	25 Third St Black Rock
Thursday	October 9	10.30 am	Latrobe Cottage and Government House	★
Tuesday	October 14	2 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third St Black Rock
Friday	October 17	9.30 am	Discussion Group	25 Third St Black Rock
Tuesday	October 21	8.45 am	Investment Group	Sandringham Club
		10 am	GENERAL MEETING	
Friday	October 24		Bike Ride	
Wednesday	October 29	7 pm	Opera Group	25 Third St Black Rock
Thursday	November 6	6.30 pm	Tastes - Spanish Night	★
Tuesday	November 11	2 pm	Discussion Group	25 Third St Black Rock
Tuesday	November 18	8.45 am	Investment Group	Sandringham Club
		10 am	GENERAL MEETING	
Friday	November 14	9.30	Discussion Group	25 Third St Black Rock
Friday	November 21		Night Races	Moonee Valley ★
Tuesday	November 25	2 pm	PRISMS	The Nash Residence
Friday	November 28		Bike Ride	
Friday	December 21		President's Christmas Lunch	Southern Golf Club ★



Eastern Treatment Plant Tour