



NEWSLETTER

Probud Club of Beaumaris Inc.

www.beaumarisprobud.org.au

Reg No. A 001 - 6598G

Probud Bank Details: CBA BSB 063144 Account No. 10121288

Issue No. 363

February 2022



Archie 100: A Century of the Archibald Prize Probud @ the Geelong Art Gallery

Right: Barry & Margaret Amond are watched by Roy & HG

Below right: Janice Kirby; Geoff and Judith Carlson; Gail Seedsman and David Rand

Below Left: All aboard!



Next General Meeting: Tuesday February 15 10 am Black Rock Yacht Club

Speaker: James Tomkin, Chef de Mission, Tokyo

Topic: Things Olympic

10-Minute Talk: Paul Stephens On the Way to Timbuktu

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chris Renwick



Left: Entrance to Black Rock Yacht Club

It's a 'brave new world' with our move to our new home at the Black Rock Yacht Club. I, for one, am looking forward to this change and it will be great to be able to physically meet together once more. Dress, as usual, is 'smart casual' but pins and name tags are to be worn. At last, we will be able to formally welcome into the fold those members still waiting for their certificates, pins and badges.

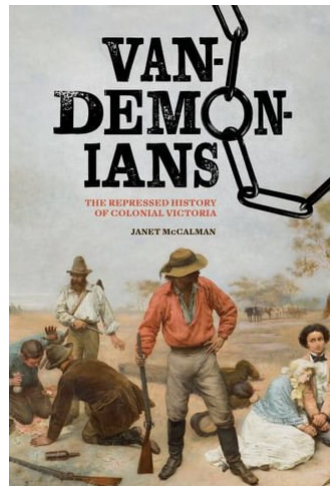
As a community, we continue to battle COVID; our lives are disrupted but Omicron appears less lethal than Delta. We seem to be over the worst but there is always the threat of new variants appearing! In any event, we have James Tomkins OAM, noted Australian rower and member of the International Olympic Committee and the Australian Olympic Committee, as our Speaker. He will talk on Things Olympic. As many of you know, James is the son of longstanding Probus member, Bruce Tomkins.

I encourage as many members as possible to stay for lunch. It will be good to sample the fare at BRYC in convivial surroundings with a great view of the Bay.

Our thanks should go to Ken Beadle for the cruise down to Geelong and visit to the Geelong Gallery and to Roger Wilson for the Pub Lunch at the Brighton Beach Hotel. Both were excellent events.

It's good to be getting together again as in the past. We look forward to an active Probus 2022 year.

"Most probably died without their neighbours nor even their children knowing about their convict past" (p8)



Our Stained Beginnings

Just when we smug Victorians thought we were all bred from blameless free settlers 'uncontaminated by the convict stain', along comes historian Janet McCalman to disabuse us of such comforting thoughts. While it is true that this state was not subjected directly to the evils of transportation (nor was South Australia), that's not to say there were no effects of the wholesale dumping of the criminal classes in other states; mainly New South Wales and Tasmania.

"Many of those transported were victims of a harsh legal system"

Intriguingly subtitled 'The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria', McCalman traces the lives of thousands of unsavoury (and other) characters who served their time in what was then called Van Diemen's Land but eventually made their way across Bass Strait to Canvas Town, Melbourne, and beyond. Scraps of information from people's lives, either from the workhouse, the penal system of Van Diemen's Land or the criminal records of Victoria paint a very different picture of many of those who founded the state in the first years of the nineteenth century. However, it is also true that those who left the most indelible record belonged to that class of unruly, unceasing offenders who frequented the courts and gaols. Although they were a minority of the population, their lives were writ large while most of the others worked, married, took up opportunities to prosper and disappeared into history.

Many of those transported were victims of a harsh legal system that sought to rid English society of the most disruptive - usually the poorest - elements of their crowded towns and impoverished countryside. The success or failure of Australia's convict pioneers can largely be measured by their capacity to establish and maintain a family, thus producing a family lineage. "It necessitates a household that can nourish and protect children so that in their turn they can produce their own offspring," McCalman writes. "... that is a test of the society and the economy in which they live, as much as it is a test of the individual." The many lives revealed in *Vandemonians* is a fascinating insight into, not just the beginnings of Victoria, but the colour and energy that founded Melbourne.

Peter McGregor

NOTICEBOARD

New Location



NOTE:
Our next General Meeting is to be held at the Black Rock Yacht Club
Dress: Smart Casual

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

The Groups are looking forward to meeting in person in February on Tuesday 8 at 2pm and Friday 11 at 10am. The main topic will be: 'Is Sport a Circus?'. In addition, members will once again grapple with the latest news on Covid as well as other current issues.

In March it is likely we will discuss the Stolen Generation, prompted by the editor's review in the last newsletter. There is room for one or two new members so please let me know if you would like to join our regular discussions on a wide variety of topics.

Wine Discovery

First session for the year is to be hosted by Bob Wigg at 2pm on Wednesday February 16 at Unit 2, 24 Cheltenham Road, Black Rock.
Theme: Pinot Grigio. Cost: \$20 pp.

Digital Technology

We are hoping to be able to meet in person at Barry Amond's house on Tuesday March 1 depending on the progress of the current trend of COVID. Confirmation either at the next general meeting on February 15 or by email to group members closer to the date.

Geoff Wade

Pub Lunch

Roger Wilson

Our next Pub Lunch is at Bridge Hotel Mordialloc at 12 noon, Thursday March 3.
Cost \$30 pp with drinks at bar prices. We are dining in the bistro this time! Choice of five mains. Plenty of off-street parking behind the pub.
More details [CLICK HERE](#)



Left: Roger and friends at the January Pub Lunch, Brighton Beach Hotel

Wine Appreciation

International wines @ Roger Wilson's place
Tuesday March 2, 2.00 pm

Birthday Boys – February

HARDY, Tony 2/2	SYMON, Graham 6/2
REHDER, Ingo 7/2	KIRBY, Dick 9/2
NAYLOR, Keith 15/2	CROMPTON, Paul 18/2
SEBO, Garry 21/2	McLEAN, Lachlan 25/2
COX, Allan 27/2	HARFORD, Peter 27/2

NEED A LIFT?

The walk to the Black Rock Yacht Club from the car park at the top of the hill (and back) can be quite challenging. To avoid this, you are invited to leave your car nearby at the homes of those such as Alan Farmer or Peter McGregor and accept a chauffeur-driven lift to the meeting. You will need to contact them and arrange times.
Or ring Keith Ross (0418 584 401) to arrange a personalised lift.

Footy Tipping Competition

I am delighted that the January Meeting endorsed the proposal for a Beaumaris Probus AFL Footy Tipping competition for the 2022 season.
Aim of Competition: To have some light-hearted fun by promoting good natured banter and bragging rights during our harsh Melbourne winter!
Registration of Interest
1. Please email me (leon.laragy@gmail.com) advising you wish to participate.
2. If you could also please indicate whether you believe there should be a fee to participate.
If you believe there should be a fee, please indicate the level of fee you feel would be appropriate for the whole season e.g. \$20, \$30, \$40 or \$50
Please email me as soon as you can.
For full details [CLICK HERE](#) Leon Laragy

Probus Golf: Murray Downs

John Pound

The trip features excellent accommodation, four days of golf, two days of competition and a putting competition. Also a top restaurant meal. Full details are on the Club website. [CLICK HERE](#)
Elson Trophy
This annual golf day was scheduled for March, but has been postponed to May.

Right:

A photo of the gallant bike group at Seaford Wetlands. It was a long ride to Frankston this week in humid conditions.



Annual Subscriptions 2022

Our annual membership subscriptions are due and payable on January 1 each year. It is now February and there are still some subscriptions outstanding.
Payment of outstanding subscriptions at \$55 for the coming year may be paid at our next general meeting or direct to our bank account, or by cheque/mail to John Hewison, Treasurer, 28 Arnold Road Brighton East 3187

Members' Page



Photos: Peter McGregor



Probus @ Geelong Art Gallery

Far Left: Lloyd Jenkins gets up close and personal with one of the Archibald exhibits

Middle: Howard Hoskins and Vivienne tune in to listen to the expert commentary

Left: Members admire 100 years of Archibald portraits

65 Years and Then This!

After driving for 65 years without more than a carpark scratch or two, I didn't expect to write my car off but I didn't see it coming, literally! I'll always remember being told as a child and as a learner driver to look right, then left and then right again. Easy, but not when you look right on a divided road like Boundary Road in Braeside and only see a large white SUV in the centre lane of three. Seatbelts and airbags saved us but we were taken by ambulance to Monash and spent hours waiting and being checked. Apparently, no broken bones.

Barry Amond



Letter to the Editor

A Great Australian

Sir,

In your review of *Bench and Book* by Nicholas Hasluck AM, (January 2022), you refer to the Bringing Them Home report published by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC). The authorship of that report was primarily the responsibility of Sir Ronald Wilson AC KBE CMG QC. The other author of the report was Mick Dodson, Social Justice Commissioner and a member of HREOC.

The inquiry which led to the report commenced in 1995 and was released in 1997. During that two-year period there was very extensive community consultation. Evidence was heard in person from over 500 people. Public hearings were held in all States and Territories. Written submissions were received from 600 people. Submissions were sought from all Australian Governments.

The report estimated that 100,000 children were removed from the custody of their parents or carers. In 1995, I was a public servant in Canberra and was consulted on the terms of the inquiry and the affairs of HREOC. I got to know Ron Wilson, as he was happy to be known, in that context. Like many others, I had enormous respect for him.

I am confident that Ron would have been extremely upset to think that what was said in the report

could imply that the author of the book's father, when a Minister, was responsible for 'genocide'. In my view, for various complex legal reasons, that could not have been the case. I think that your reference to Ron Wilson being excoriated - that is censored (sic) severely - is both incorrect and unfair. The role of HREOC was to examine the policy of removing children from their families and carers, and assess the effect of the policy and that is what they did. The heading of your article is also misleading as many children were removed from a family environment, damaging thousands of them. There is no myth.

The Ron Wilson I knew was a great Australian, remembered fondly by many. When he died in 2005, the then President of HREOC, John van Doussa QC said the Bringing Them Home report "told the stories of indigenous Australians whose lives had been deeply affected by child separation policies". While providing a comprehensive and compelling history, the report's recommendations were forward-looking and directed at healing and reconciliation for all Australians. The report later led to the apology to the Stolen Generations.

It is therefore difficult to reconcile the statements made in the book review in the newsletter with the facts of Bringing Them Home. It is also hard to see why it is relevant for the newsletter to include a review of a book, presumably limited to just one aspect of its content, that reflects personally and adversely on a great Australian who is now dead. Yours sincerely, Colin Neave

Visits & Activities

Victorian Tunnelling Centre



Rescheduled for Wednesday March 2

Holmesglen Institute has established the VTC to train workers in underground construction and tunnelling for employment on major projects. On our guided one-hour tour around the VTC, we will see a replica three-lanes-wide mined tunnel; a replica TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine); and a full size TBM cutter head, the same size as the Metro Tunnel TBMs. We will also experience virtual and augmented reality programs of working underground. VTC is located at the Drummond Street campus in Chadstone (Melways 69G4). We will travel by car - when registering please indicate if you are willing to car pool or if you would like a ride. Meet outside Building 1 at 10.30am for a safety briefing and the issue of hard hats and hi-vis vests. After the visit, we will have lunch at the nearby Matthew Flinders hotel (Melways 69G1) Cost: \$10 pp (covers the tour and a donation to the Holmesglen Students' Benevolent Fund). The maximum which can be accommodated by Holmesglen is 15. New registrations now please; payment by all no later than Wednesday February 23.

For booking form [CLICK HERE](#)

John Pound displays some of the dinner fare last year

Tastes at Royal Brighton Yacht Club Tuesday February 22 6.30pm

Final call! A great social event.
Great food, great location.

We have the venue to ourselves. Excellent value as they have held the price for us again at \$55 pp for a three-course dinner which includes a bottle of wine per couple (or 2 singles). Casual dress code. Seating is not arranged so sit anywhere you like. Why not sit with some new friends? We hope new members and partners will come.

Please book and pay ASAP. (Books must be closed by Friday 18).

Booking Form [CLICK HERE](#)

Annual Bowls Night

38 attended the Bowls Night at Sandy Bowls Club in November. The winning team was Barry Amond, John Smyth, Ian Marchment and John Pound (substituted by Louise in the final). Report and photos are on the website.



Social event - Croquet and Spit Roast Dinner Friday March 25 4.30 pm-9.00 (approx)

It's back! This is one of our Club's best annual events which has been 'on hold' since 2019. The venue is the beautiful Sandringham Croquet Club on the foreshore opposite the Sandringham Club.

Park in the car park or side streets. We start with a special but brief Croquet comp. It is followed by a FABULOUS spit roast dinner cooked by Master Chefs Peter McGregor and Geoff Bransbury - and the desserts are something to behold!

Croquet is optional - play if you want but come anyway for the dinner! (We will provide a special meal if you don't eat meat). Arrive at 4.00 - 4.30 to have a practice at croquet, helped by those who know how! Ends around 9.00 pm. BYO drinks, glasses, ice and a hat! Just \$35.

Maximum number 40 - so hurry!



For booking form
[CLICK HERE](#)

Right: Would-be Master Chefs

Concession Travel in Victoria

Victoria's free public transport voucher system changed on January 1 this year to an opt-in system. Specifically, you have to register (once only) with Public Transport Victoria to continue receiving free travel vouchers annually. [CLICK HERE](#) for the link.

Alan Stevens

The Last Word

A Bay To Be Proud Of

Ray Lewis OAM provided members with a unique history lesson on Port Phillip Bay, starting with his disappointment many years ago that there was no respectful recognition of the origins of the Black Rock Clock Tower we all know. Ray took steps to install the plaque so that this Beach Road icon is now suitably recognised.

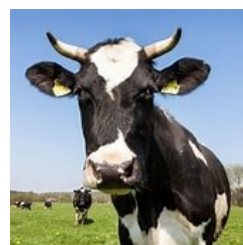
He followed with a short history of Port Phillip Bay from the Ice Age - including the mega-fauna and meanderings of the Aboriginal people when the Bay was dry land. Ray's slides showed mapping of Port Phillip Bay and Corio Bay some 1,000 years ago with a sandspit near the Heads with rivers across the current bay area. This followed from large silt deposits flowing down the Yarra River. Evaporation eventually exceeded the run-ins drying out the land. There was even a waterfall at the Heads! He then described the erosion of the cliffs around the Bay. Half-Moon Bay cliffs, in particular, he said, have been damaged by water erosion with flooding tides including the collapse of Table Rock six years ago. Finally, Ray described the world-famous fossils found on the shorelines and foreshore rocks. He surprised many of us by stating that Port Phillip Bay is recorded as the cleanest body of water, of that size, anywhere in the world. He urged the need to care for the Bay and to preserve this global benchmark. Simon Appel



[CLICK HERE](#) for video

Agricultural Powerhouse

Kevin Read presented an absorbing description of developments in agriculture in southeast Australia since it was explored by Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor General of New South Wales, who called it 'Australia felix'. He firstly described the Pastoral Era (1824 through 1930) which developed genetic sheep improvements and the introduction of mechanical sheep shearing. Then, descriptions of the pasture improvements to 1980 which corrected mineral deficiencies, established seed ecotypes of introduced species, introduced microbial inoculation of seed and the conservation of fodder as hay/silage, and the introduction of the hay-baler.



Kevin said that the Modern Era (1980 - 2022), has witnessed continuing intensive activity in agriculture with the breeding of new plants, direct-seeding and nitrogen fertilisers. Electronic livestock and grazing management were also introduced. He concluded with impressive statistics that Victorian pasture currently contributes 29% of the nation's needs overall. This includes 62% of dairy, 40% lamb and 21% beef. Simon Appel

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

* Office Bearers 2021

* Committee Members

* President: **Chris Renwick** 0419 927 536
 * Past President: **Simon Appel** 9585 6956
 * Treasurer: **John Hewison** 0419 357 203
 * Functions: **Geoff Bransbury** 0416 294 452
 * Webmaster: **Geoff Bransbury** 0416 294 452
 Assistant Meetings: **Barrie Gibson** 9589 3902
 * Newsletter: **Peter McGregor** 0418 322 987
 * Welfare: **Alan Stevens** 0418 336 354
 Recorder: **Simon Appel** 9585 6956
 Audio Visual: **Paul Crompton** 9583 1310
 Archive: **John Howe** 9598 2429

* Vice-President: **Jim Duggan** 0432 150 675
 * Secretary: **Garry Sebo** 0419 340 565
 * Assistant Treasurer: **Geoff Carlson** 9521 0024
 * Assistant Functions: **Ken Beadle** 9589 6120
 * Meetings: **Keith Ross** 0418 584 401
 Sommelier:
 * Membership: **Peter Flude** 0405 127 271
 Auditor: **Robert Lander** 0435 930 082
 Projectionist: **Geoff Cupples** 0411 251 406
 Photographer: **Alan Stevens** 0418 336 354

* Interest Groups

Bike Riding: **Ken Beadle** 9589 6120
 Digital Technology: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
 Discussion: **Barry Amond** 9515 0725
 Tastes: **Geoff Bransbury** 0416 294 452
 Bridge: **Peter McGregor** 0418 322 987
 Wine Discovery: **Grant Sabin** 9598 4768
 Pub Lunch: **Roger Wilson** 0418 395 946

Golf: **John Pound** 0414 251 292
 Visits: **Ken Beadle** 9589 6120
 PRISMS: **Alan Nash** 9589 2934
 Wine Appreciation: **Roger Wilson** 0418 395 946
 Theatre: **Graham Ball** 9598 4125
 Travel: **Simon Appel** 9585 6956