



NEWSLETTER

Probud Club of Beaumaris Inc.

www.beaumarisprobud.org.au

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Probud Out and About

More information on p3



*Above: 1. Robyn Farmer adjusts her Virtual Reality headgear
Above 2: This headgear is always used for safety training before workers actually go on site*

Right: Part of the Training Complex at the Victorian Tunnelling Centre



Next General Meeting:
Tuesday April 19 10 am
Black Rock Yacht Club

Keynote Speaker: Lloyd Jenkins
Topic: The Lark Task Force

10-Minute Talk: Martyn Pickersgill
They Sailed with Captain Cook

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jim Duggan



Thank you for the honour of serving as president for the coming year. I hope - and I suspect you do too - that the year ahead is the 'calm after the storm' of the turbulent period we have just been through.

The online meetings were nobody's ideal, but we were lucky to have them available and they did enable the club to keep going when so many businesses and, I suspect, clubs were unable to do so. Who knows what the club's position would be now if we had not had this modern facility?

Online meetings did make me appreciate the value of personal contact. The club's aims and objectives are, inter alia, fellowship, acquaintance and social interaction. (Apparently some people are able to fall in love online.) But I think most of us would prefer to establish our close personal relationships in the old fashioned way.

All this coincided with the search for a new home. I think that search has been most successful and the new location at the BRYC is terrific. I hope you do too. It's a fine facility with a wonderful outlook. Some may be disappointed with the increased cost of lunch but the costs of caterers' inputs have risen sharply. I believe we would be facing a similar increase no matter where we were located.

I want to welcome particularly our newer Probus members. Getting to know existing members can be difficult for new arrivals in an organization; and without personal contact, it is impossible. I would welcome ideas whereby the energy and fresh eyes of our newer members can be employed. I would ask the more senior members to make an effort to get to know our recent arrivals.

All in all, I think we have reason to look forward to the year ahead. If you have any ideas or you think we could do better, I'd love to hear from you.



Above right: our 99-year old George Montgomery lines up his next shot



Right: Winner of the 2022 competition, Ian Marchment, gets his hands on the much-prized trophy; also organiser, Geoff Bransbury and President Jim Duggan

Other pics show members inside the Croquet clubhouse watching the formalities; and Peter McGregor on the Spit Roast serving Barry Amond



Croquet and Spit Roast

The event on March 25 was a great evening. The competition winner was Ian Marchment but our 99 year old champion George Montgomery (above) made the semi-finals! Peter McGregor cooked us beef on the spit and we had very tasty desserts.

Thanks to Jennie Bowles, Nova Ball and Derek Skues for helping with the croquet, Peter for acting as chef and our special helpers, Leon and Michele Laragy, Ian Marchment, and Tony Bowles.

Geoff Bransbury and Ken Beadle

NOTICEBOARD



Probus Bikers

It wouldn't be a Probus newsletter without the obligatory photo of our intrepid bunch of bikers riding to some remote area and back
L to R: Duncan Gibson, Robert Kerr, Geoff Bransbury, Ken Beadle and Derek Skues.

Email Change of Address

Please note that Tony Hardy's new email is: ajh2242@gmail.com

Digital Technology



Geoff Wade, at left, leading the group in discussion about some of the latest technology

The group met at Barry Amond's house on March 10

and discussed a wide range of topics which included a demonstration of the Google Docs suite of free programs as well as the new Windows 11 operating system.

Next meeting: Tuesday May 31 at Barry Amond's, 1 John St, Beaumaris, commencing at 2 pm. An agenda will be sent to interested members a few days before.

Geoff Wade

Victorian Tunnelling Centre

Alan Stevens

In March, 13 members of Probus attended the Victorian Tunnelling Centre in Chadstone to learn more about the training of personnel for tunnelling operations. The tunnelling unit is 180m long and at the front is an 80 tonne cutting head which can progress at a rate of 9 metres per day. The training rooms used Virtual Reality headgear for safety training before workers actually go on site. If a safety incident does occur underground there are small container-like Safety Booths which can hold 20 people and contain oxygen for 58 hrs.

[Photos by Alan Stevens]

Birthday Boys – April

PHILLIPS, Richard 2/4	STEPHENS, Paul 6/4
ETTERSHANK, Gerald 6/4 **	
REYNOLDS, Brian 7/4	DAVIDSON, Merv 9/4
WILSON, Roger 10/4	OPIE, John 14/4
FISHER, John 15/4 *	STEVENS, Alan 17/4
TOOGOOD, Bob 19/4	ROSS, Keith 23/4
PHILLIPS, Stan 28/4 *	STOCKDALE, Geoff 30/4

[** 90th *80th]

Discussion Groups

The discussions in March on indigenous peoples around the world addressed their treatment after settlement by other nations. Members of the Tuesday group even had time for a photo! (See right)

The next meetings are at the usual times in May when the topic is to be: Entertainment. Barry Amond



Pub Lunch

We had such a wonderful lunch and company at our last Pub Lunch at The Bridge Hotel, Mordialloc, that it was unanimous we should return.

Accordingly, Thursday April 28 at 12.30 pm at The Bridge Hotel is the next Pub Lunch. [CLICK HERE](#). Cost: \$30 pp payable to the Treasurer in advance please. Excellent choice of meal from a selection of five (plus bonus drinks as per last time). RW

Wine Appreciation

Roger Wilson

The next Wine Appreciation get-together is booked at The Steak Bank, North Road, Ormond.

A selection of five different types of juicy steaks, which will be complimented by members bringing one of their favourite bottles of red wine.

When: Thursday May 5 @12 noon.

Always a great annual occasion for our group.

Wine Discovery

The group's next meeting will be at 2 pm on Wednesday April 13 hosted by Paul Stephens at Unit 6, 18 North Road, Brighton. I should tell you it took Paul and me some time to find five different Beaujolais wines. We only managed to procure one at Dan's. So that tells you something!

Grant Sabin

Tastes – Little Vietnam

504 Hampton St Hampton

Tuesday May 24 at 6.30 pm

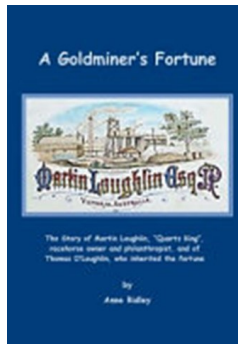
Superb, authentic, fresh Vietnamese food that makes you feel you are in Vietnam! This award-winning restaurant is as good as it gets! Cost: \$45 (plus wines at Tastes price - \$15 per bottle)



Bún Bò Nam Bộ

Please register and pay now. [CLICK HERE](#) for booking form for Tastes at Little Vietnam 504 See also p5

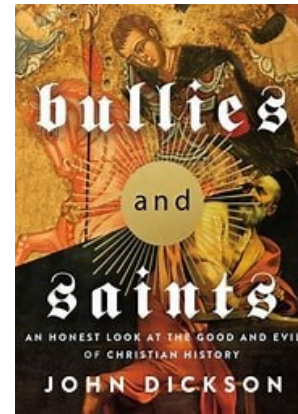
Book Reviews



Striking It Rich

When gold was discovered in Victoria, Martin Loughlin (1833-94), a poor, young Irishman, who had survived shipwreck off Newfoundland, together with his cousin, joined many thousands of diggers heading to Ballarat to make a fortune. After selling shares in his claim near a rich strike for £1,000, he never looked back. By the mid-1850s he invested his profits in deep-lead mining and became one of a small minority who both made and maintained a fortune. Anne Ridley traces the history of the goldrush and the development of industrial mining in Victoria as Martin purchased grazing leases that held good prospects for mining and the Ballarat Stock Exchange grew to finance good investment opportunities. An innovative entrepreneur, Martin successfully built a portfolio of mines, mostly around Ballarat. He never married and eventually took up residence in Craig's Hotel. He was keenly interested in thoroughbreds and a spectacular punter of his string. He was one of a small minority - who made significant profits from racing and after Ballarat, entered his own horses in races in Warrnambool and Melbourne – with considerable success, winning trophies which included the Grand National and Steeple, and the Melbourne Cup and a Caulfield Cup. Significant proceeds were donated to various charities as his fortune grew, as did Martin's support of Ballarat institutions, the Catholic church and schools and organisations associated with Irish culture. By the time of his death, Martin had become one of the richest men in Victoria - despite some losses in the financial crash of the 1890s – and left behind grazing properties in several States and investments valued at ~£250,000.

Kevin Reed



A Checkered History

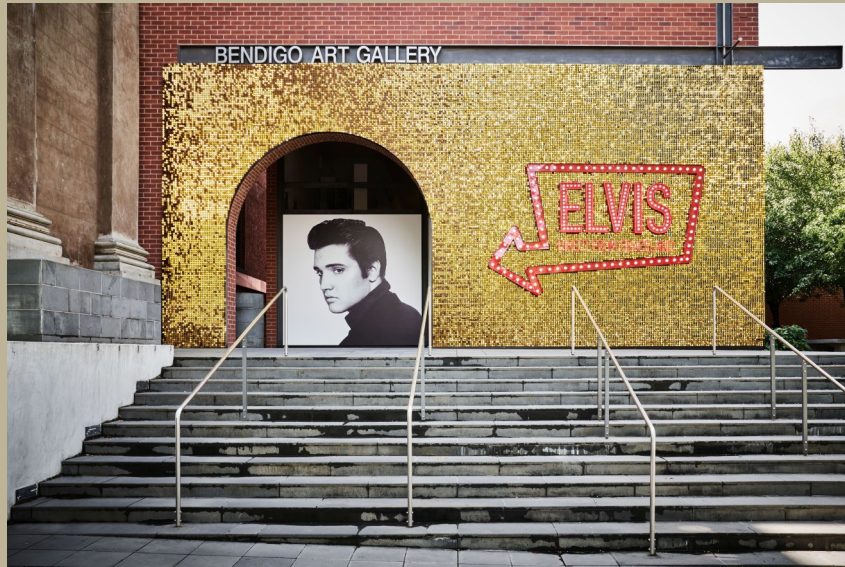
Saints and Bullies An Honest Look at the good and evil of Christian History
By John Dickson

If you are interested in history or Christianity, this is a book for you. It speaks equally to Christians and sceptics, a lively and readable account of the history of the Church across two thousand years. It challenges the assertions of both those who would whitewash the evil in Christian history and those who would expunge its good. John Dickson is a qualified historian. He details the complexities of the past with scrupulous even-handedness. He articulates just how much of an image problem the Church has - there is an issue in every century. But he also shows how it has uniquely contributed to history as its hospitals, schools, reformers and advocacy for human dignity demonstrate. Dickson grapples honestly with the Church's checkered moral history, from the crusades to the child sex abuse scandals.

This book is deeply insightful scholarship and definitely worth a read.

Chris Renwick

Visits & Activities



Elvis: Direct from Graceland Exhibition Bendigo Art Gallery Wednesday May 11

We will catch the 10.06am train from Southern Cross arriving in Bendigo at 12.07pm. and walk (20 minutes) or bus to the Art Gallery "Basement on View" cafe for a 12.30 pm lunch.

Our tickets for the exhibition are for a 2 pm entry.

Return trains depart Bendigo at 3.26 and 4.01pm. Seniors and Pension Card holders can use their free VR vouchers to obtain tickets from Sandringham or any other staffed railway station.

Alternatively you can use your MYKI card to pay the \$24 return fare.

Cost for the visit is \$25 (entry ticket). All other costs are at your expense. Please register [HERE](#) and pay now to ensure we are able to secure tickets for all registrants. (A gallery limit applies).

Candlelight Dinner – Wednesday June 15 at 6.30 pm At Sandy By the Bay (Sandringham Football Club)

One of our two major Club events and the first since 2019.

We will have a two-course dinner with wines, beer and soft drinks included plus free raffle and some special entertainment.

There is an elevator, parking in foreshore car park.

Seating will be allocated. Dress code - jackets for men.

Cost is \$80 pp. Please register and pay asap. We hope you will come.



[CLICK HERE](#) for registration form for our Candlelight Dinner.

Tastes – Little Vietnam 504 Hampton St Hampton Tuesday May 24 at 6.30 pm See p3 [CLICK HERE](#) to book



The Last Word



Guest Speaker, Colin Neave AM

Advising Government

Simon Apel

Colin Neave AM, our Keynote Speaker for March provided an interesting coverage of the workings of the ombudsman services in Australia. Colin was the Commonwealth Ombudsman from 2012 to 2017. He is President of the Administrative Review Council and Chairman of the Commonwealth Consumer Affairs Advisory Council. Appointed Member of the Order of Australia in June 2005 for service to public administration and to the banking and finance industry, particularly through dispute resolution, Colin served as the Chief Ombudsman of the Financial Ombudsman Service, Chairperson of the Legal Services Board of Victoria, Australian Banking Industry Ombudsman and Vice Chair of the Australian Press Council.

Australia has Federal and State Ombudsmen. It is the Federal Ombudsman's role to deliver advice to Government.

Colin said that nobody is above the law and there is a need for the Ombudsman to be independent. He emphasised the need to be a good listener. Industry experience is a valuable Ombudsman asset. Colin gave some examples of the work, including that of the Financial Ombudsman working in the NAB case, involving collateral taxes where some \$180M was refunded to account holders. In Colin's view, the ombudsman service is a most valuable resource for both Australian business and consumers.

Rain in Lismore

March 2022

"... in 1893, this region (southeast Queensland and the Northern Rivers) flooded from 1st to 4th February, then again on 18th February, then again on 10th and 11th June. And that was after terrible flooding early April 1892...terrible flooding again in 1898... a wet decade back in the 1890s.

If governments considered the historical record from the beginning, and were serious about flood mitigationplanning would at least consider dredging river mouths and building dams - and I would add better long-range weather forecasts. Instead, we are told to lament climate change and close-down coal mines. Missing from the popular stories about recent 'unprecedented' rainfall along the east coast of Australia is any assessment of the actual rainfall data....

impression is that the volume of rain falling over any one 24-hour period has been increasing, along with the number of extremely wet days. this narrative is not supported by the evidence..."

Dr Jennifer Marohasy, Climate Change Sceptic

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

* Office Bearers 2021

* Committee Members

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 * Functions: **Geoff Bransbury** 0416 294 452
 * Webmaster: **Geoff Bransbury** 0416 294 452
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 * Welfare: **Alan Stevens** 0418 336 354
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 * 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** 0407 877 539
 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