



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. 383

November 2023



Presidents Christmas Lunch - Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron



Wednesday 13 December 12.00 for 12.30

Come join President Rod at this year's Christmas Lunch. We will have a welcome drink, canapes and two course lunch, plus free raffle, and special entertainment. This year, drinks will be capped at two bottles of wine plus one of sparkling water per

table. Extra drinks at own cost at reasonable club prices. This approach is seen as fairer for those who don't drink, or don't drink much!

Our entertainment this year is unique. We have a brilliant local 13-year-old pianist. He has performed a solo piano recital of his own composition and will perform with the Melbourne Youth Orchestra at the Recital Centre. He will perform a short and varied collection and will accompany our choir singing of a few well-known carols. Seating arranged. Cost is \$84.00 pp. We hope most members and partners will come.

Don't miss out!!

Click here to book

[A registration form for President's Christmas Lunch - Beaumaris Probud](#)



Next General Meeting

Tuesday 21 November @ 10am Black Rock YC

Keynote Speaker: Ian Marchment

Topic: Air Defence during WW2 from Darwin and Horn Island

10-Minute Talk: Derek Skues

Topic: Derek of Arabia

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rod Hammond



This being our last newsletter of 2023, I can report that the 2023 budget has been revised and used to prepare a budget for 2024 which has been approved by Committee. Both show a small deficit mainly due to the one-off items of upgrading the website and the IT projection equipment. We remain in a financially sound position with a cash buffer of over \$6K. Despite increased costs and inflation, the annual membership fee will remain unchanged. My thanks to the amount of time and expertise put in by our Treasurer John Hewison, ably assisted by Geoff Carlson.

Sad to report that Ian Martin has passed away aged 87, having been an esteemed member for nine years. The Committee sadly accepted the resignation of Bruce Tomkins for personal reasons. Bruce, together with Alan Farmer, was instrumental in the formation of the Bridge Group.

On a rainy day with nothing else to do, Rod Murrell analysed our membership profile. Unsurprisingly our average age is 82. More interesting is that only 38% live in Beaumaris and Black Rock. Is the "tyranny of distance" (Geoffrey Blainey) reducing the average attendance at our monthly meetings to around 50%? Or is it the declining health/mobility of members in the higher age brackets? Many able members can provide transport - you only have to ask!

Our guest speaker last month was Don Riddington, and the topic was his English Channel swim. In 2013 at the age of 68, Don was the oldest Australian and third oldest worldwide to achieve this. We were impressed with his huge mental and physical stamina. (*see report p7*)

This month our own Ian Marchmont will enlighten us on little known facts on the air defence during WW2 from Darwin and Horn Island. In particular it is the story of Australia's first fighter squadron of Kittyhawks defending against the Japanese advances. Ian's interest is no doubt stimulated by the fact that his father was part of the action. Looking forward to seeing you all at the December President's Lunch.

Rod Hammond



Leon Laragy giving his 10 Min talk on "A Convict's Youth". (*report p7*)



Guest Speaker
Don Riddington
(*report p7*)

Photos by Alan
Stevens



Induction of Fred Hofmann (L to R: Proposer Geoff Stockdale, Fred Hofmann, President Rod Hammond).

Birthday Boys – November/December

RATTRAY, Ken	8/11	FLUDE, Peter *	10/11
RUSHWORTH., David	10/11	CARIS, Nick	14/11
GIBSON, Barrie	27/11		
NEAVE, Colin *	1/12	TAFFS, Geoff	2/12
ROWELL, Phil	3/12	STEWART, Philip	5/12
BERNHARD, Stan **	6/12	TICKNER, Geoff *	17/12
CARLSON, Geoff	18/12	GAMBLE, Aub ***	21/12
SOLOMON, John	22/12	BRANSBURY, Geoff	28/12
WALLACE, John	31/12		

* 80th

** 90th

*** 102

Congratulations!

of Interest

Wine Discovery

Grant Sabin

Here are the wines for the next discovery session. A selection of South American reds, to be hosted by Grant Sabin at 2pm on **Wednesday 8 November** (the day after the Melbourne Cup) at 7a Holyrood Street Hampton.



Wine Appreciation

Roger Wilson OAM

We have now organised our end of year lunch at **The Lobster Cave Beaumaris** on **Friday 15 December** at 12 noon where we will have some nice wines from our members to complement the Seafood Lunch at The Cave.



PS The Fazio lunch on November 28 has now been cancelled

Discussion Group

Barry Amond

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 13 February**.

In October, Grant Sabin joined us to discuss Climate Change and Global Warming. He presented us with some compelling statistics on warming and we discussed the likely impact, good and bad, on our lives as well as measures being taken to control it.

PRISMS

Geoff Wade

The Next meeting of the PRISMS whisky tasting group is scheduled for **Tuesday 5 December** at the home of Barry Amond, 1 John St Beaumaris commencing at 2.00 pm. It is likely that we will have up to 2 vacancies for new members of this group in 2024. Any member who is interested in joining us from early next year is invited to contact Geoff Wade at geoffp.wade@bigpond.com or 0416 257 683 for further details.

Our first meeting next year will be on **Tuesday 2 April**.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Geoff Wade

The Digital Technology interest group will hold its first meeting for 2024 on **Tuesday 6 February** at the home of Barry Amond, 1 John St Beaumaris commencing at 2.00 pm. We are always inviting new members to this group where we discuss digital matters at a fairly low key - nothing too technical.

Enquiries to Geoff Wade at geoffp.wade@bigpond.com or 0416 257 683 are most welcome

Travel Group

The Travel Group meets on **Friday 10 November** at our home **Unit 1, 35 Alfred Street, Beaumaris** at 2.00 pm.

This meeting will begin with a presentation from *Qantas* Captain (Tim Appel, our son) on the internal ructions at *Qantas*, and examples of the obligations on the flight skipper!

This will be followed by Stuart Ingram, owner of *Destination HQ* at Beaumaris Concourse. Stuart will cover the options for short and longer travels, together with useful "hints" on travel bookings.

All Members and partners, are welcome to Travel Group gatherings. I assume current Travel Group Members will attend (an apology from Barry and Margaret Amond is noted).

To facilitate catering, if not a current Travel Group attendee, **please contact me** if you wish to attend this interesting information afternoon.

Simon Appel 0417 600 419
sappel81@gmail.com

Activities



Fine Dining at the Melbourne Club

Wednesday 15 November
6.30 pm

Join us for this special event at the Melbourne Club. Those who attended in 2021 will remember what a memorable evening it was.

We will have drinks in the beautiful garden followed by a three course dinner in one of the exquisite rooms. We will have an after dinner speaker. Drinks are included. We will also arrange an optional “chauffeur driven Mercedes (bus)” to take us to and from the Club from three pick up spots. Drinks will be served on the bus to get us in the mood. The bus fare and details will be advised soon by email.

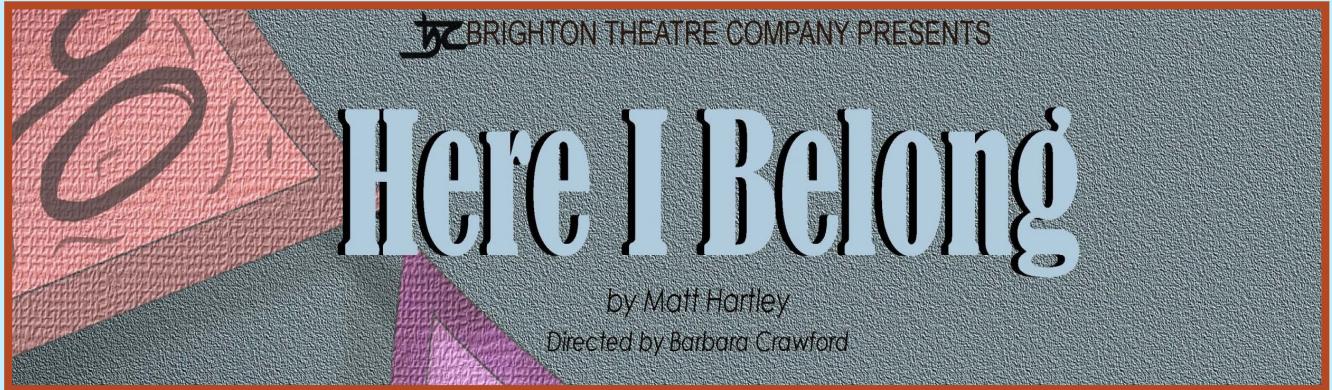
The cost for this special fine dining event at the Melbourne Club is \$140.00pp Maximum 60 Members and partners.

Very few places left so if you're interested you need to register and pay ASAP. Don't miss out!!

[A Registration form for our Dinner at the Melbourne Club - Beaumaris Probus](#)



Functions & Activities



Brighton Theatre

Thursday 23 November at 8.00pm

HERE I BELONG - funny and moving. This play takes one woman's journey through 60 years of life in a small village in 1953-2013. It reflects the changing community through her ups and downs, culminating with her 90th birthday celebration and desire to finish life where she has lived it.

"A tour de force, thought provoking and powerful - glad we didn't miss this star performance" - Glusburn Institute Community, North Yorkshire.

Concession cost \$25.00 but please register and pay ASAP so we know numbers

[Booking form for Brighton Theatre - Beaumaris Probus](#) *Don't miss out!!*



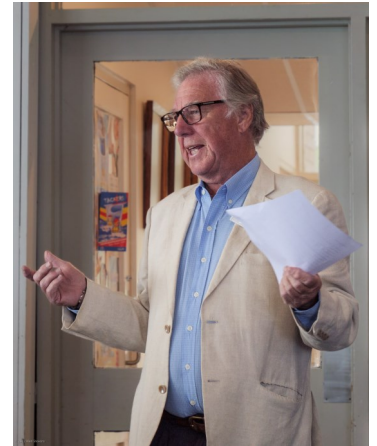
Sending you and your loved ones my cheerful and warmest wishes for a safe and happy Festive Season. Ed.

Identities



Above: Derek Skues receiving "The Order of the Boot" for 4th last in the Tipping Competition (Photo by Alan Stevens)

Below: Leon demonstrating "The Cat o Nine Tails" whip. (Photo by Alan Stevens)



Above: Keith Ross (back from Noosa) in his role as Meetings Co-ordinator. (Photo by Alan Stevens)



Pub Lunch @ the Brighton Hotel



Guest Speakers

Channel Champ

As you do (perhaps), Don Riddington took up swimming in his 50s, eventually becoming the oldest Australian and the third oldest person ever to swim the English Channel ten years ago at the age of 68. After three years' practice - mainly around the Brighton marina - in water temperature of 16 degrees, Don was ready to tackle the 33 km gruelling task (the equivalent of Black Rock to Tullamarine or 400 laps of an Olympic-sized pool). As he described it, he was looking for "something more exciting than accounting." A diagram of his swim illustrated how, rather than in a straight line from Dover to the French coast, the strong tides of 5-8 km forced him to swim a giant 'S' at 2-3 km an hour, probably a distance of twice 'as the crow flies' in just more than 19 hours. The duration of the swim was the equivalent of lasting from lunchtime to breakfast next morning, in a water temperature of 14 degrees and 5m bow waves, being fed every 30 minutes from the accompanying boat with an experienced pilot on board (@ £3600). Importantly, the strict rules of the swim demand that he never touch the boat or another person.

In his view, the main ingredients of success were focus and determination, concentrating the whole time on his next feed, rather than the distance yet to be travelled. As the wind picked up, it meant swimming at 48 strokes per minute for 16 hours. To strengthen his resolve, he kept in mind the wisdom of his mother who forbade him from ever mentioning the words 'cold' or 'pain'. Fortunately, the entire swim was captured on video, showing him struggling in choppy waters and, eventually, staggering up the French beach and being greeted by friends and supporters. Amazingly, in recent weeks, Don was invited back to swim the Channel again as part of a small relay team - which he completed successfully.

Leon Laragy

Bill Dedicoat's life ran somewhat in parallel to the life of Queen Victoria, but, sadly, he lived at the other end of the social spectrum, being subjected to frequent beating, lashes and imprisonment, both in England in his youth and in Australia after he was transported to Van Diemen's Land. Our 10-minute speaker, Leon Laragy, gave an entertaining portrait of a young, uneducated man who constantly found himself at the butt of the justice system in the 19th century. He witnessed daily horrors, such as the bull-baiting, cock-fighting, bare-knuckle fighting, murder and animal barbarity that was commonplace at that time in the UK, always finding his way into trouble of one sort or another, resulting in him having to run away from the various masters to whom he was assigned. Eventually, arrested for stealing a waistcoat he had innocently been asked to look after, he was sentenced to transportation for 10 years in 1839, living the rest of his life in Australia where he often experienced 100 lashes on the triangle and drifted into a career of bushranging. A sad tale of someone who never had a chance in life.

Peter McGregor

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc

* Office Bearers 2023 -2024 * Committee Members

*President:	<i>Rod Hammond</i>	0438 571 912	*Vice President:	<i>David Rushworth</i>	0438 010 181
*Past President:	<i>Simon Appel</i>	0417 600 419	*Secretary:	<i>Garry Sebo</i>	0419 340 565
*Treasurer:	<i>John Hewison</i>	0419 357 203	Asst Treasurer:	<i>Geoff Carlson</i>	0408 568 971
*Asst Secretary:	<i>Leon Laragy</i>	0410 327 587	Functions:	<i>Geoff Bransbury</i>	0416 294 452
*Functions Asst:	<i>Kevin Reed</i>	0419 565 520	Functions Asst:	<i>Howard Hoskins</i>	0432 868 952
Webmaster:	<i>Geoff Bransbury</i>	0416 294 452	*Meetings:	<i>Keith Ross</i>	0418 584 401
Meetings Asst:	<i>Barrie Gibson</i>	0435 454 057	*Membership:	<i>Roger Wilson</i>	0418 385 946
Newsletter:	<i>Vivienne Fry</i>	0411 207 553	Newsletter Asst:	<i>Peter McGregor</i>	0418 322 987
Welfare:	<i>Alan Stevens</i>	0418 336 354	Archive:	<i>John Howe</i>	03 9598 2429
Auditor:	<i>Robert Lander</i>	0435 930 082	Recorder:	<i>Peter McGregor</i>	0418 322 987
Projectionist:	<i>Geoff Cupples</i>	0411 251 406	Audio Visual:	<i>Paul Crompton</i>	0491 147 389
Photographer:	<i>Alan Stevens</i>	0418 336 354			

* Interest Groups

Bike Riding:	<i>Ken Beadle</i>	0412 286 617	Golf:	<i>Garry Bradd</i>	0418 107 800
Digital Technology:	<i>Geoff Wade</i>	0416 257 683	PRISMs:	<i>Geoff Wade</i>	0416 257 683
Discussion:	<i>Barry Amond</i>	0407 877 539	Wine Appreciation:	<i>Roger Wilson</i>	0418 395 946
Tastes:	<i>Geoff Bransbury</i>	0416 294 452	Travel:	<i>Simon Appel</i>	0417 600 419
Wine Discovery:	<i>Grant Sabin</i>	0419 595 757	Tipping:	<i>Leon Laragy</i>	0410 327 587
Pub Lunch:	<i>Roger Wilson</i>	0418 395 946	Sunday Music:	<i>Barry Amond</i>	0407 877 539