

PROBUS CLUB OF BALNARRING INC.

Established September 1985

MARCH 2023 Newsletter

Next meeting and AGM: Friday, March, 31st
at 10:00am Balnarring Bowls and Social Club



2022-2023 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Daryl Cowen 5983 5321

VICE-PRESIDENT

Vacant

TREASURER

Harold Weber 5983 1757

SECRETARY / PUBLIC OFFICER

Dennis Paskins 5983 2952

SPEAKERS

Peter Cole 5931 3510

PAST PRESIDENT & WELFARE

Brian Bailey 5931 3521

NEWSLETTER

Rob Walker 5983 5159

GENERAL MEMBERS

Rob Oram 5931 3797

DINE OUTS

Bernie Poll & Brian Bailey

KEY ROLES (Non Committee)

Membership Ray McCutcheon 5983 1092

Webmaster Roger Price 0403 592 195

LIFE MEMBERS

Eric Kings	Jay Nagl
Ron Deane	Col Randall
Ray McCutcheon	Stan Byrne +
Col Saunders +	Bruce Margetts +



Newsletter editor: Rob Walker rob50walk@gmail.com ph: 5983 5159

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AGM

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Time to get down to business

AGM

Oh and a free

AGM

BBQ

AGM

 Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Balnarring & District

Probust Club of Balnarring is sponsored by
the Balnarring and District Branch of Bendigo Bank

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March, 2023

Gentlemen,

I encourage all members to attend our Annual General Meeting next Friday, 31st March when a new committee will be installed. This is therefore my last message as President. Whilst the term of President and committee is normally one year, due to extraordinary reasons, including Covid-19, the same committee has served three terms. It has been my honour to serve the club as President and I thank my fellow committeemen and all members who assist in many different ways to make our club function. I thank retiring committeemen **Brian Bailey**, **Rob Oram** and **Harold Weber** for their extended commitment to our club.

The past year has been one of change with the move to the Balnarring Bowling Club being the most significant. We have been made very welcome and the ability to have regular light lunches after each meeting has been appreciated. The grant to our club of a large size TV by the Balnarring & District Community Bank has enabled us to enhance our audio-visual presentations. Our recent purchase of a laptop computer will assist our presentations further and enable us to keep all club records and history in one place. Whilst the upload is not completed, our thanks go to **Rob Walker** as the co-ordinator of this project.



I must congratulate **Harold Weber** on organizing a wonderful trip for 28 members and partners to the RACV Inverloch Resort in late February. We found the large villas excellent for socializing and a special thanks to everyone who helped feed us on two evenings. We were very pleased to celebrate the 65th Wedding Anniversary of **Kevin and Judy Sack** during our stay especially during our final meal in the Radius restaurant. Congratulations!

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and hope you will stay for the free BBQ afterwards and welcome the new committee.

Daryl

WELFARE REPORT

Dear Members

I am unaware of any welfare issues.

Brian Bailey Welfare Officer

SOMERS LADIES PROBUS HAPPY HOUR

March Happy Hour has been cancelled due to construction work at the Somers Tennis Club.

It will resume in April.



Photo by Tony Duboudin 'Enjoying the BBQ on the deck'

TECH GROUP

Last week saw the formation of a new Interest Group, tentatively called the Technology Group. The format of this group is still evolving but we believe that there exists a need for a forum that could discuss a wide range of technical issues facing our members. These could include:

- Safety on the Internet
- The changing environment of the telephone-fibre to the home" should we upgrade?
- The economics, advantages and pitfalls of EV ownership.
- Their own life experience in this developing technical world.

- Home Energy- Solar

The scope of the forum is wide open. I would encourage members to suggest topics that would be of interest to them or a preparedness to lead a discussion. It may be that you have a friend outside the club who would like to raise a topic. You do not need to be an expert on the topic but are just looking for guidance. I will leave a sheet at the meetings where you may list suggestions.

Lastly, can you think of a catchy name for the group?

Contact: Kevin Sack

Our Life Members



ERIC KINGS was Founding President when the club was formed in September 1985. In his 100th year he lives in Somers by himself, with a bit of outside help.

Hopefully he will be able to attend a couple of meetings this year. He is an AFL fan who hopes his team, Richmond, will win many games and make the finals again.



COL RANDALL joined the club in January 1989. Now 97, until recently he was living in Balnarring and now lives with his son Scott and family in Geelong. He enjoys the company of his grandchildren and their families who live nearby. Friends can keep in touch with his new contact details to be advised in the members address list to be published next month.



JAY NAGL joined the club in January 1999 and lives a quiet life in Somers with wife RITA. He still plays Contract Bridge each week with the group formed in 2011 with WARREN REEDMAN the other original members. He attends most monthly meetings and we always look forward to his "words of wisdom".

RON DEANE and MARCIA are enjoying their new apartment in Nellie Melba Village in Brandon Park.

Whilst he misses the weekly choir rehearsals, his closer proximity to Melbourne means he can attend more concerts. Ron joined the club in March 2003.

He hopes to attend a few meetings each year to catch up with his many friends



RAY McCUTCHEON and MARGARET are currently on the move from Somers to a unit in Peninsula Grange in Mornington. We wish them all the best in settling in. Ray joined the club in April 2003 and intends to continue for the time being, running Big Boys Business and as our Membership Manager.

BOOK CLUB

Book Group B meets regularly at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Hosted by Dennis Paskins, members met on the 14th. March when John Carter led our review of Amor Towles' follow-up novel "The Lincoln Highway" to his much acclaimed earlier success "A gentleman in Moscow" which the group thoroughly enjoyed in April 2019.

John had done some research and gave members an interesting account of how the Lincoln Highway was one of the first USA highways expressly designed for automobiles. Conceived in 1912 by Indiana entrepreneur Carl G Fisher and dedicated on 31st October 1913 it runs for 5454 K coast to coast from Times Square in New York City to Lincoln Park in San Francisco. Perhaps the better known, Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica in Los Angeles is 3940K. It was built in 1926.

The novel is set in June 1954. Towles' key protagonist Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His father has recently died and his mother abandoned the family to flee to San Francisco. As the bank has foreclosed the farm, Emmett's idea is to pick up his young eight-year-old brother Billie and head to California where they can start a new life.

But, when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm, the wily, charismatic Duchess and earnestly offbeat Wooly, have

stowed away in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan that will take the four of them on a fateful journey; in the opposite direction to New York City.

Over the next ten days, with exquisitely drawn characters, beautiful writing, and a real sense of moral integrity, Towles' tale is a multilayered story of madcap misadventures exposing human foibles and camaraderie in a variety of contrasting situations. One is consistently surprised at his ability to conjure up such an eclectic cast of subordinate characters; drifters who make their home riding the rails, larger than life vaudevillians, a failed priest as well as aristocrats of Upper East Side New York. This makes for storytelling of the highest order. Members rated his *oeuvre* as easily comparable with Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men"; Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn " and Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird". One member dashed out and bought copies to give to friends! Forget chocolates and the Easter Bunny; why not follow his example, buy a copy as an Easter gift for that special person. They'll surely thank you for it.

With member ratings from high 4s to 5, "The Lincoln Highway" is highly recommended.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 11th. of April when members will review the controversial "The Dark Emu" by Bruce Pascoe.

Contact: Dan Hourigan 0407 754 774

BIRTHDAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

March 2023

Geoffrey Wiltshire 93

Photo by Dan Hourigan

We've got lift-off'



Photo by Rob Walker 'Seagulls'

CONTRACT BRIDGE



We rotationally play at each other's homes every Monday afternoon. Sessions go for around three hours. If you are interested, please speak with one of our present regular players; Tony Duboudin, Jay Nagl, Warren Reedman, Vernon Tansley or John Wilkinson.

Group Contact is Jay Nagl on 5983 2551

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

Unfortunately, with business keeping me interstate for much of the time at present, I have been unable to organise a winery visit for our April meeting and it has been decided to cancel our next meeting scheduled for April 12th.



Our next meeting, therefore, will be on 10th May at a venue to be announced and the theme will be Merlot. I will provide further information once arrangements have been made.

Rod Beet 0426 989 255

HAPPY SNAPPERS



We met at the home of Peter and Faye Gerdson on Monday 14th at 2:00PM. Bryan Hill announced he will no longer participate in the group and we extend thanks for all his contributions to the meetings. The topic 'Flight' produced some fine photographs

The next Happy Snappers meeting will be on April 17 at 2:00pm to avoid Easter Monday at our spiritual home; Max's house. The subject is 'Reflections'

New members are welcome

Peter Gerdson

GARDENERS' GROUP



Our March meeting hosted our annual Tomato Taste Test at Rob Walker's house. We sampled a total of only five entrants this year due to the poor tomato season. Bob Chynoweth took 1st and 2nd with Billie's Pinkies and Somers Special respectively. Keven Sack, not to be totally outdone, took 3rd place with Cherry Romas



We also shared gardening stories and tips over Morning Tea. A visit to Crib Point

Community Garden combined with a visit to Willum Warrain has been planned for our April 21st meeting to be followed in May with a trip to Sages Cottage.

Let me know if you would like to be included in our group messages or would like to join any of our activities.

Rob Walker 5983 5159

Photos by Peter Gerdson



Bikies Group, March 2023

Again, with the exception, of important social, and other sporting activities, the recent period of fine riding weather meant that we able conduct rides on most days available. and an opportunity to expand our destination range to include coffee stops at both Crib Point, and Hastings.

We continue our rage about the conditions of the local bike-paths, now made doubly pointed by the newly laid bike path extension that now provides an excellent ride from Bittern Station into the Heart of down-town Hastings.

Would continue to encourage all riders of bikes, on bike-paths, and roads, to wear high visibility clothing. While lights are great, they need to be relevant. Recently, I was nearly blinded by a bike's head light obviously on the opposite side of the road, however he had no rear red light.

Let's give the motorist a chance.

If you interested, we could put you on the "Bike," group information email list for advice on meeting points and destinations. Contact John Copeland on 0414 543 742 or Dennis Paskins at verdenp@bigpond.com.



ALL WELCOME

SPEAKER NOTES—Dean Graham: SES

When a storm or flood hits, the community turns to the State Emergency Service (SES) and its hundreds of willing volunteers to turn out to help clear the damage, clean up and make areas safe.

Our February speaker, Dean Graham from the SES in Mulgrave, explained in more detail the role of the SES.

He said that there were only 160 full time paid staff in the entire organisation of which he was one and it relied on hundreds of volunteers who willingly turned out in an emergency to help the community.

Dean made the point that it was not always possible to get assistance immediately given that the SES relies almost entirely on its volunteers and at times of a major emergency, people may have to wait some time for the SES to arrive.

He said that his role as community resilience co-ordinator was to visit schools and other organisations educating people on

how to prepare for emergencies.

One piece of advice is well worth remembering, particularly relevant this summer, is that you should never drive through floodwaters. He said that people probably did not realise that as little as 15 centimetres can float a small car with potentially disastrous consequences.

Another major concern, particularly this summer, has been the danger from grassfires. This has been caused in part by the amount of rain we have had which fell on already saturated ground in October and November making it hard, and in some case impossible, for local council to keep grass down.

Dean said that a key to minimise the impact of a natural disaster was to draw up a written emergency plan for flood and fire. He urged everyone to draw up their own plan.

- Tony Duboudin

BIG BOYS' BUSINESS

Ray McCutcheon continues hi home moving activities.

In the meantime, there is a number of visits being explored with none yet finalised.

Daryl Cowen



INVERLOCH TRIP 2023



Above: 'Cape Liptrap Lighthouse'



Below: 'Diner at Harman Winery—Day 2'



Top: 'Salad and quiche for dinner'

Bottom: 'Inverloch Beach'

All Inverloch photos by Tony Duboudin



Some people just don't get gardeners!



Photo by Tony Duboudin 'President Daryl lays down the law at the BBQ'

FLOOBYDUST

There's no theme for this month's small section. The first 2 videos owe acknowledgement to Bernie Poll who shared the 'Hey Jude' clip.



'Hey Jude'

Paul McCartney, Elton John, Sting, Phil Collins

6:25

'All You Need is Love'

Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton, Rod Stewart, Joe Cocker

4:09



'Safety Dance'

Men Without Hats

2:44

'Safe Harbour'

Fleetwood Mac

2:28



'Back Cymbol' on 'SAFE JAZZ'

Joukje Turunen

3:21

'Safe (Part 1)'

Daniel Casimir

7:09



So, we've come to an abrupt end for this month's Floobydust—short and sweet with just a hint of *safety*. A parting offering: who would have thought—a song list curated by 'The Safety and Security Hit Chart'?



SAFETY RESOURCES AND PLANS

After our talk last month, I decided to include links to some resources mentioned in it.

SES Home page



Create an Emergency Plan

CFA Home page



The following links both have sections dealing with plans to face fires:



- Before and during a bushfire
- Fires in the home

