

PROBUS CLUB OF BALNARRING INC.

Established September 1985

May 2023 Newsletter

Next meeting : Friday, May, 26th

at 10:00am Balnarring Bowls and Social Club



2023-2024 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Dennis Paskins 5983 2952

VICE-PRESIDENT

Vacant

TREASURER

Bob Anselmi 5989 2523

SECRETARY / PUBLIC OFFICER

Peter Cole 5931 3610

SPEAKERS

Alan Rae 0412 387 441

PAST PRESIDENT & WELFARE

Daryl Cowen 5983 5321

NEWSLETTER

Rob Walker 5983 5159

GENERAL MEMBERS

Barry Gordon 0476 033 078

Bernie Poll 0490 85 5610

KEY ROLES (Non Committee)

Membership Ray McCutcheon 0412 128 195

Webmaster Roger Price 0403 592 195

Morning Tea Carlo Orlando 5983 2099

LIFE MEMBERS

Eric Kings Jay Nagl+

Ron Deane Col Randall

Ray McCutcheon Stan Byrne +

Col Saunders + Bruce Margetts +



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Inside this issue:

All the club news including our president's report, welfare, club activities and speaker notes.

This month:

Welcome to Cuba

 Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Balnarring & District

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT**May, 2023**

This month's meeting will mark the start of our second year at our new home at the Bowls Club., The move has been a much-needed improvement to our meeting surrounds, and atmosphere.

This also relates to the ability of all members to hear, and fully participate at meetings. It is hoped that the gremlins that have been presently impacting our sound arrangements have been fixed.

It is interesting to note that our guest speaker at that meeting in May 2022, was to be a representative from Peninsula Health, to speak on Aged Care Planning, who regretfully pulled out, along with some of her co-workers, at later times.

Some years ago, this club hosted a Forum, involving a number of disciplines, and profession, under the Title. "What Happens When" it was very well attended and provided a wealth of information to a large gathering.

Since that time another important Government initiative has been developed named 'Advance Care Planning'; the focus is very much on the same important issues that we could, and will face. It is certainly time for us to renew our efforts to provide such a speaker.

The committee has tasked Past President Daryl to review the values contained in both options, and provide a presentation that would suit our needs.

So that is Health. I am afraid Wealth did not receive a positive response, so we will concentrate on Happiness. It is great to see that Ray McCutchan has returned to his BBB Portfolio, and has already established a number of interesting site visits.

Dine-Outs whilst favored, are proving to be difficult to manage, and then be affordable. Restaurants are very loath to take risks on large walk-ups, with costs reflecting this, perhaps it time for a different approach.

Dennis

WELFARE REPORT

Dear Members

Our sincere condolences to John Howard and his family on the passing of Margaret who was an active supporter of club activities for over 30 years.

With Winter approaching quickly please remember to have your Covid booster and flu injections. These are very serious diseases and having the vaccines is the best way to avoid or minimize the outcome.

If you or your partner has a serious illness or accident please let me know. The information is kept confidential unless you

authorize its publication either in the newsletter or at a general meeting.

One support the club does offer is transport to medical or other urgent appointments and I have a list of members willing to assist and can be contacted as per the phone number on the first page. If you need transport to our monthly meetings this can also be arranged.

Keep safe and warm

Daryl Cowen

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yes, it is that time again, subscriptions are now due.

Your payment of \$40 can be made in cash or cheque at the next meeting OR through the Bank directly, details on page 1. PLEASE ENSURE YOU GIVE YOUR NAME. Cheques can be posted to our PO Box.212, Balnarring 3926

Our preference is for direct transfer to the bank account.

Bob Anselmi 5989 2523



Source: <http://www.clker.com/clipart-cuban-military-man.html>

BIG BOYS' BUSINESS

We are potentially back in business with a proposed visit to the National Steam Centre in Ferntree Gully Road. The only drawback is that we would need to visit on a Sunday to see their machinery all fired up and operating. Further, they only fire up the machines on the last Sunday of the month.



To make the visit viable I am proposing that we make it at an outing where members could bring their families including grandkids. There is a picnic area on site so if the weather was mild we could take advantage of their facilities. If the weather was inclement we have the option of deferring the date and/or having lunch at a family bistro. Please discuss with you family and come to the next meeting ready to indicate your support.

Potential dates are 25th June or 30th July.

Ray McCutcheon

0412 128 195



Source: <https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/ItsCuban>

Paul Mercurio May Speaker

Politicians often try to avoid direct questions, not our local State MP for Hastings and our May speaker Paul Mercurio.

He started by simply saying he would answer 10 questions any topic and exceeded that promise.

Paul won Hastings, an ultra-marginal seat at the last state election, for the Labor Party with 51.3 per cent of the vote over Briony Hutton.

Most of the questions to Paul were about his pre-political life, particularly as an actor and his role in the 1992 hit musical film *Strictly Ballroom*.

Paul said he was grateful for the opportunity that *Strictly Ballroom* gave him and admitted that he was still living in the glow of the film.

He had a distinguished career as a dancer after studying at the Australian Ballet School in Melbourne before film fame. He went on to be the principal dancer with the Sydney Dance Company, a position he held for 10 years.

Paul spoke of his father, a character actor, boxer and boxing commentator. He also touched on his grandfather's involvement with the Sicilian mafia in 1950s in Milwaukee and the impact it had on his father who grew up in a tough environment.

Paul described himself as "the sort of bloke who wants to help people."

He said that the Port of Hastings was under-utilised but pointed out that there were not enough homes to accommodate any extra workers that would be attracted to the area by any port development.

Paul said working to improve public transport on the peninsula, primarily bus services, would be one of his key focuses as local MP.

Paul made a favourable impression on his audience and handled all questions openly and certainly did not try to duck any issues.

Tony Duboudin



Carnival dancers in Santiago de Cuba. Photograph: Alamy

Source: **The Guardian**

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2018/oct/25/10-best-ways-to-dance-music-cuba-festival-biennale-salsa>

BOOK CLUB

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

Despite a bitterly cold night, members nestled in the comfort of the Gittins snug on Tuesday 9th May when Tony Duboudin led our discussion on Helen Dunmore's novel. "Exposure".

Dunmore is a prolific author: fourteen prize winner novels with a specialisation on the Cold War. This latest novel is set in the 1960's. Despite a multifaceted plot line the essence of the book is as follows.

Set in London, November 1960 the cold war is at its height. Spy fever fills the newspapers, and as usual, the political establishment knows how and where to bury its secrets. When a highly sensitive file goes missing, Simon Callington an Admiralty Department worker is accused of passing information to the Soviets, and arrested. His wife Lily, a Jewish German relocated to England, suspects that his imprisonment is a cover-up and that more powerful men than Simon will do anything to prevent their own downfall. She knows that she too is in danger and must fight to protect her children. But what she does not realise is that Simon has hidden vital truths about his past, and may be found guilty of another crime that carries with it an even greater penalty. The English class system is all embracing and while Simon is just a low operative his immediate and higher manager exhibit all the disdain they

assume their higher status deserves. Dunmore clearly understands and employs this to great effect. For example the God Like status accorded the Harley Street surgeon who attends Simon's immediate boss Giles who took the file but ended up in hospital unable to return it.

Three of our group were living in London at the time and each vividly recalls the ongoing media spy frenzy as claims of spying, blackmail and sexual proclivities were headlining the daily press. Each day was alive with daily suggestions of intrigue, forbidden love, dark secrets and misdeeds. There were other cultural changes with youth boldly asserting itself via Barnaby Street, the Beatles and a challenge to long-held conservative codes of procedure.

Most members enjoyed "Exposure". Despite being marketed as a spy novel, they agreed it was more a novel about relationships, particularly broken ones. Only one member picked the author's disclosure of the denouement she included in the Prologue!

Most scored about four and recommend it.

The next meeting hosted by Bart Bartholomew will be on Tuesday the 13th of June when members will review "Khaki Town" by Judy Nunn.

Contact: Dan Hourigan 0407 754 774

HAPPY SNAPPERS



A small group shared their photo adventures of Architecture at our May 8th meeting with some very interesting shots. Max also treated us to another short 3D show of Dubrovnik.

Our next meeting will be on and NOTE THE NEW DAY TUESDAY June the 13th at 2PM. Back to the old time and place, 96 beach Hill Avenue Somers. The subject will be LIVING CREATURES, meaning "anything alive" except Plants. Being such a broad subject leaves it "very open". So let's get the imagination moving.

No 2 Dollar donation either please as was in the past. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits. But I have no objection if you choose to bring a plate of something.

Contact Max Hem 5983 5274 or
Peter Gerdson 0407 321 048



Source: <https://www.daynews.com/cartoon-of-the-day/2013/03/no-cigar-15576>

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, Warren Reedman, Vernon Tansley or John Wilkinson.

Group Contact is Tony Duboudin on 5983 2551

SOMERS LADIES PROBUS HAPPY HOUR

Happy Hour for May has been cancelled due to building works at the Somers Tennis Club and should resume in June



Bikies Group, May 2023

With Autumn providing a disappointing start weatherwise, along with a number of competing social events, we have still managed to complete regular rides, and our interesting coffee stops.

Already there are some regulars who are planning to travel North, and who can blame them? But those who are left will endeavour to maintain the rides weather permitting.

If any member is interested in joining us, and perhaps wants the "feel": of an E Bike, please contact either Dennis Paskins 0409 480 306 or John Copeland 0414 543 742

ALL WELCOME

Keep Riding

Dennis



WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

The Wine appreciation Group had its May meeting on the 10th, the subject being MERLOT.

We tasted the following - Aldi (Made in Australia, but no other information); Taylor's from the Clare Valley/ Limestone Coast; Chateau Tanunda from the Barossa; and a local from Stumpy Gully. We considered that our local stood up well and voted it the best

We left with a print out of the history of the grape and a lot of other things about Merlot

Looking forward to our next meeting. If considering to come let Rod Beet know.

Rod Beet

0426 989 255

GARDENING GROUP



Sages Cottage was the destination for our May meeting. Nine in July; the venue and date to be announced.

of us gathered in the café at 10:30 am to meet our guide -

'The Rose Lady' for a tour of the rose and cottage gardens. The rose collection was surprisingly large and diverse including species roses and bred hybrids of interest. Despite drizzle and cool temperature, the hour passed very quickly, leaving us wanting more.



The retreat to the café for a late morning tea or early lunch provided some cheer and warmth. Our next meeting will be

We are looking at possible alternative days/times for our meetings as a number have other commitments on the third Friday of the month.

If you would like to come along, let me know so I can add you to our group email.

Rob Walker 5983 5159

BIRTHDAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

May2023

Frank Robertson	92
Graham Prittard	85



Check out this Cuban born artist through the link below

Source: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/how-cuban-cartoonist-drew-cold-war-mad-magazine-180961787/>

WURRAMBAL

This was a limb cut off from my neighbour's gum tree which landed in the position seen in attached photo.

As you can see, it looks like a Goanna. So I thought to myself, I will have a go at carving a head on this beast. I have never done any carving before so I thought it can't be that difficult.



I already had a chain saw and I bought a few carving bits and pieces and set to work after studying some goanna photos. I set it up under my carport and after a few weeks of hacking managed to produce a reasonable looking head. I gave it a few coats of decking oil and a friend down the road helped me put him back in the garden. God it was heavy.











It looks awesome when you drive in.

Bernie Gittens

FLOOBYDUST

CUBA What a journey!! A search for cartoons—99.9%+ political so not appropriate. Then the music (and dance) and food and... Well, we might get to food. Jump in and start.

Note: There are stories linked to most of the cartoons so click on the web address

	Pete Rodriguez	<i>Like It Like That</i>	4:25	
	Celina González	<i>Santa Bárbara</i>	3:31	
	George Gershwin	<i>Cuban Overture</i>	10:01	
	Dragon	<i>April sun in Cuba</i>	3:17	
	Dizzy Gillespie's	<i>A Night in Tunisia,</i>	7:51	
	Nachito Herrera	<i>From Bach to Havana and Bach - Classical Music Meets Cuba</i>	10:11	
	Santana	<i>Oye Como Va</i>	5:20	
	Sarah Willis	Sarahnade mambo (Based on Eine Kleine Nachtmusik by W. A. Mozart, K. 525)	6:34	
	Sarah Willis	Cuban Reunion - Mozart y Mambo One Year On - Music Documentary with Sarah Willis	26:01	
	Jimmy Buffet	<i>Havana Daydreaming</i>	5:43	

FLOOBYDUST



Gloria Estefan *Conga*

5:49

Orishas *Represent Cuba*
Cuban melodic and rhythmic rap?? Interesting

3:53



And for two 'Must include' items



Ritchie Valens *La Bamba*

2:36

Buena Vista Social Club - *Chan Chan*

4:40



Food.

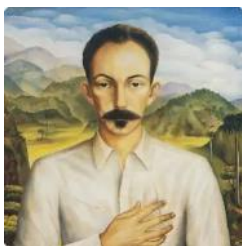
If you've gone through all those music clips, you'll be hungry so try a Cuban Sandwich



So take a look at how to make one.

You're probably in a hurry and don't have time to prepare the pork. Substitute regular Roast Pork—home roasted or bought. Won't taste the same but....

Art and Reading



Visit a series of online exhibitors of Cuban art and culture curated by Google

Chucho Valdés, Jazz Batá, and the Evolution of Afro-Cuban Jazz

[Click Here!](#)

02CUBAN-ANIMATION1-jumbo

This is a screen shot from a short computer animated video created in spite of considerable challenges.

If you want see it and learn a bit about it

[Click Here!](#)

