

PROBUS CLUB OF BALNARRING INC.

Established September 1985

June 2023 Newsletter

Next meeting : Friday, June, 30th

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 +

Daryl Cowen



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 Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Balnarring & District

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT**June 2023**

It was a privilege to make the presentation of Life Membership to Daryl Cowen on behalf the present Life Members, and by a cclamation all Club Members. As his secretary over his three years as President, I was fully aware of how much of himself he put into the maintaining of the Club during those, what are now termed as the COVID Years. My thanks to Ray McCutcheon, Ron Deane , Eric Kings & Col Randall for proposing this award.

Regretfully this month I report the death of another long-term club member, Ian Tweedie. Ian's funeral was well-attended, and followed by a fitting farewell at the Bowls Club, where he was a life member. Harold spoke on our behalf at the ceremony, and will pay tribute to Ian at this month's meeting.

On a different subject, it is clear that we, along with other clubs are very concerned about Membership decline. One reason for this could be, is that the Probus concept, and our activities are becoming irrelevant to any potential member. Should this be true, then we Probus Clubs should strive to provide activities that are more relevant to this day and age.

Whilst I have no documentary evidence, Balnarring Men's average age is 81 and I would make an assessment that the age range of other clubs would now be 75, to 85. Whilst their general activities are more than catered for, there are at least two not provided for which t are providing much discussion and angst. They are; Planning a long future, and Navigating in the digital age.

The committee does not have the complete answers, but along with at least two local clubs, is proposing to hold a Seminar titled "What Happens When" which is at an early stage of planning with a projected date of 10th October 2023.

Agree or not the digital age is here to stay, banging a package of frozen sausages at a digital reader , and demanding a check-out person, is an exaggeration, but not unrealistic when you have to navigate sign-on procedures, renewals and, Identification Documentation. My list could go on.

So, the proposal is to commence a Group under the title TECH Group, which did not have great start, but it will be re-started, hopefully no later than September when we will host a meeting, to coordinate a program, and perhaps appropriate title.

Yours in Probus

Dennis

VALE IAN TWEEDIE

Ian and Joan Tweedie came to live in Kentucky Road, Merricks on the Mornington Peninsula in 1988 and in 1994 to Balnarring. Ian followed his father into dentistry and with Joan raised three children.

Ian found that he was living across the road from his old tutor from University just after WW2, one Grevis Howe while Joan discovered an old school friend in Marj Howe. It is a small world!

Ian came into the Balnarring Probus fold in July 1989. The enjoyment that Ian got from the Probus fraternity for 34 years was only exceeded by the enjoyment that members received from knowing a very popular member in Ian. He was active, a committee member 1990/91 and Newsletter editor for two years 1991/93. He led the SNOOKER group for at least 15 years and with Joan enjoyed our long trips and, of course, our social functions.

Members remember fondly his oft repeated expression delivered rather loudly when someone forgot something or got a date wrong - "Read your bloody newsletter"

Ian was an enthusiastic and successful bowler with the Balnarring Bowls Club, served in various roles and was granted life membership. After the funeral Ian's life was celebrated at his beloved club for several hours.



VALE - IAN TWEEDIE (continued)

During Covid, Men's Probus met a few times at the Balnarring Bowls Club and last year we moved there. Ian came to me and said "Good move Harold, that Balnarring Hall had no atmosphere". It was a pity that his health meant he could not attend our subsequent meetings at the Bowling Club as often as he would have liked.

To my mind, Ian was the model member, active, taking an interest in other members, ensuring we got a laugh and enjoying a red or two whenever the opportunity arose.

Vale our friend.

Harold Weber

WELFARE REPORT

Good news that Dan Hourigan is slowly recovering after a lengthy stay in hospital and after care and we look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.

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

BIG BOYS' BUSINESS

We had two very successful outings in June.



Nine members visited a Siemens Railway Signaling facility in Port Melbourne where they manufacture both Mechanical and Electronic equipment to ensure complete safety on our railways.

The underlying guide to railway equipment is total FAIL-SAFE operations on our rail systems. It is a matter of record that accidents on our railways across the country from signal failures are extremely rare. Our host explained the remarkable detail that goes into the design of trackside

equipment that makes our rail transport so incredibly safe.

We have had two groups visit the Gray-Nicholls cricket bat factory in Cheltenham. Our Guide Justin, a most impressive man, is responsible for their interface with the elite sportspeople across cricket, tennis, soccer and hockey. As you would expect he was a marvelous communicator and very personable.

A consistent theme from both visits was the incredible dedication of their employees. Both organisations boasted employees with in-excess of 40 years' service and their wish to continue with their employer.

Ray McCutcheon

0412 128 195

Photos: Ray McCutcheon



FINANCE

A message from the Treasurer:

Many thanks to all those who have paid their yearly subscription. And that's most of us.

To those who have not yet done so, I would like to see them paid in as soon as you can manage it. Thank you in advance.

My preference is for subscriptions to be paid by direct transfer to our bank account. When you do so, please include your name and the word "subs".

One member's subscription was paid in the name of Tsavo Pty Ltd. I have no idea who that was. If it was you, please get in touch.

Bob Anselmi.



Friendly Fire by Kudelka in The Australian

<https://www.kudelka.com.au/2011/04/friendly-fire/>

May Speaker - Eric McKenzie

It was rather like having a father talk to you when Eric McKenzie, president of Rotary Club of Hastings Westernport, was the guest speaker for our May meeting.

Eric pointed out that Hastings Rotary Club was behind the foundation of Balnarring Probus Club way back in 1985.

He chided our club for not having a meeting address on our website and used this omission to emphasise the importance of communication.

Having delivered this gentle admonishment, Eric then proceeded to give a fascinating run down of the achievements of Rotary on the international stage.

He pointed out that talking about Rotary in May was especially appropriate as Melbourne was hosting the Rotary International Convention at Jeff's shed 27-31 May when thousands of Rotarians will be packing the city.

Eric cited two examples of Rotary's impact on the world stage - winning a Nobel Prize for its work in helping to eradicate polio and having a Rotarian, astronaut Frank Bowman command the spacecraft that became the first object to circle the Moon.

Eric repeatedly came back to his theme that "one man can make a difference."

Locally, he said that Hastings Rotary had only a couple of major fund-raisers – the weekly market in Bittern Station car park and the collection of parking fees at the Emu Plains market held at Bittern Racecourse. These are lucrative sources of funds for Rotary's work, as well as helping the club's profile locally.

Eric is obviously a dedicated Rotarian who brings a great level of passion to his role as president and the promotion of his club.

Tony Duboudin



TimesCall.com

www.sawtoons.blogspot.com

Sam Wallace on: <https://moutevelyn.mailcommunity.com.au/opinion/2022-12-03/cartoon-preparing-for-fire-season/>

GARDENING GROUP



July can be a busy month for Gardeners: preparation for spring and summer plants (decorative or food producing); pruning deciduous plants; weed control – you get the idea. So our July meeting will be a full one.

We have one issue to resolve, finding a better day and time for our meetings as a number of us have conflicting commitments on our current date. I will send a survey later this week to members looking for a better day and time.

New members are welcome and anyone interested in our activity, please contact me so I can add you to our mail-out list.

Rob Walker 5983 5159



Bikies Group, June 2023

Winter has now certainly set in, and we are now into long pants. but with the exception of rain will endeavour to keep riding on a daily basis. Regretfully, some would say sensibly, some of our more active members have departed for the warmth of the North. Although, a report was received that they were in colder weather than us. We will be the Coffee destination, for those who may have other transport options.

If any member is interested in joining us, please contact Dennis Paskins 0409 480 306 or John Copeland 0414 543 742 (not available locally!!)

ALL WELCOME

Keep Riding

Dennis



WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

Five members came along to our wine tasting at Trofeo Estate on 14th June and we sampled some very interesting wines, with all except the sparkling white being matured in terracotta amphorae. The amphorae hold around 900 litres each and are imported from the Chianti region in Italy making the wine making process expensive but certainly worth the effort. It was refreshing to sample some wines that were not over-oaked or laced with sulphides.

Our next gathering will be held at Alan Rae's home at 34 The Promenade in Somers at 2:00pm on 12th July and the theme, in keeping with winter, will be fortified wines. New members are welcome to come along – just bring along a bottle of your favourite fortified and join in the camaraderie of our group whilst sampling some nice wines, and hopefully expanding your knowledge of wine in the process.

Rod Beet

0426 989 255

LUNCH OUT

Is this a mutation of 'Dine Outs'? Who cares? Whatever else it is, it is an opportunity to get together and share some good company over a fine meal.

The proposal is to lunch at 'Trofeo' on the 3rd August with a 3 course meal. The arrangements for this will be different to how 'Dine Outs' operated previously.

To get an indication of interest and numbers, a more details will be presented at our June meeting.

Harold Weber



BIRTHDAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

June 2023

John Sullivan 90

Brian Martin 80

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Big Boys' Business is once again organising Christmas in July at the Westernport Hotel, 12.30 pm on Wednesday 5th July. Two courses for \$26 and soup for an extra \$4.00.

The list will be available at the meeting on 30 June or please call me on 0412 128 195

Ray McCutcheon



Prepare for fire season by: Danny Zemp

<https://moutevelyn.mailcommunity.com.au/opinion/2022-12-03/cartoon-preparing-for-fire-season/>

FLOOBYDUST

So... Fire it is. I stumbled across a book while wandering lost in an internet scroll; it fired up (sic) the idea for this month's theme. I've included a link to it later in Floobydust, but let's warm up the section with Music.

MUSIC



Great balls of fire Jerry Lee Lewis

1:57

Fire on water

L.A.O.S.

4:29



Fire The crazy world of Arthur Brown
He was still performing in 2016 and just as 'crazy'.

2:43

Swamp fire

Duke Ellington

2:51



Chariots of fire Vangelis

3:44

Set fire to the rain

Adele

3:58



Ring of fire The Highwaymen
It was a toss-up between this version and the Johnny Cash original.
What the heck! He's singing it here anyway.

2:44

Fire and water

Free

3:53

That late '60s early '70s band some might remember.



Kiss of fire Louis Armstrong
Some good Latin American rhythm in this early track.

3:10

Firedance

Virginia Tour2009

3:02



Music for the Royal Fireworks, Overture Handel
Minnesota Orchestra with Stanislaw Skrowaczewski.

8:29

The Firebird

Stravinsky—YouTube Symphony Orchestra

12:15



Light my fire The Doors (live)
The full length version performed live.

9:22

And you can watch the short, single release version if you prefer.

2:53

[Click Here!](#)

FLOOBYDUST cont'd

If you want to explore our relationship to fire, take a journey.

“An excellent overview of why the history of humanity cannot be told without the history of fire. . . . An excellent book and strongly recommended for all audiences, especially those with interests in anthropology, geography, history, natural sciences, or the humanities.”—Choice

“Pyne weaves together with rare interdisciplinary skill science, ecology, and the arts and humanities to write the history of human involvement with fire in all its manifestations and meanings.”—American Forests

And yes, you can read it here.



TALKS

One to tease your brain and a little insight to an American New York volunteer firefighter.



Is fire a solid, a liquid, or a gas? Elizabeth Cox
A little teachy, but interesting.

A life lesson from a volunteer firefighter Mark Benzos



There's plenty more fuel, but I've run out of 'oxygen'; so the flames die for this month.