

PROBUS CLUB OF BALNARRING INC.

Established September 1985

November 2023 Newsletter

Next meeting : Friday, November, 24th

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

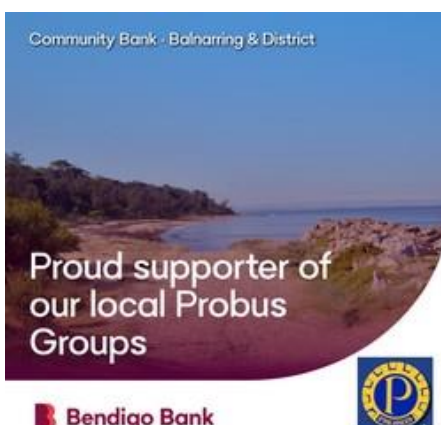
Eric Kings	Jay Nagl +
Ron Deane	Col Randall +
Ray McCutcheon	Stan Byrne +
Col Saunders +	Bruce Margetts +
Daryl Cowen	



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

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Inside this issue: October theme: Birthdays



President's Report
Welfare Report
Our usual activities reports
Notice of:
Christmas Lunch
Eric King's 100th photos
Floobydust



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 2023

From all reports it was a memorable moment in the club's history when Founding and Life Member Eric Kings was able to celebrate his 100th birthday along with present club members. He, along with family and friends followed up with a party at the Flinders Yacht Club on the following evening.

The celebration of our Annual Christmas Lunch following our General Meeting, will signal the end of our activities for 2023. We must now start planning for both the completion of this 23/24 year, and more importantly the Probus year 2024/25. With our Membership standing at 57, with average age of 80, it is an important and challenging future to navigate

Decreased membership, and aging is not confined to our club, and Probus South Pacific are endeavoring to reach out nationally through TV advertising to encourage retirees to take up the Probus Ideals.

The most important aspects of any Probus Club, are the range of activities that they offer, and the provision of interesting speakers at the meetings. Without those, members lose interest in both the club, and in attending meetings. Also, without these it is very hard to encourage new members.

As with many organizations, it is difficult to obtain members to volunteer for Club positions, but an added difficulty is that you, in volunteering, should have a time horizon, especially those in Executive positions.

So where does that leave the Balnarring Men's Probus Club? In the coming year, we have some very competent, and enthlasia activity organizers. We must make every effort to introduce a range of speakers, and would view the entire club membership as "Speaker Finders". Whilst the fact we are a Men's Club reduces our membership horizon, it should also be seen as an asset.

Have a great Christmas and I wish all members and families a happy and healthy New Year.

Dennis



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Source: <https://wordsandtoons.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/pinata-disability-cartoon.jpg?3fw=450>

By: Chuck Ingwersen Wordsandtoons.com

November 24th General Meeting and Christmas Lunch

Attendance at the November general meeting will be optional.

The Christmas Lunch will start at 12: 00pm.

SOMERS LADIES PROBUS HAPPY HOUR

Due to the Men's Christmas Lunch, being on the same day, the November Happy Hour is cancelled.

The Christmas Happy Hour will be on Friday 13th December at the home of Jan Angwin. As usual please bring a plate to share and your own drink.

WELFARE REPORT

I'm happy to report that our Founding President and Life Member, Dr Eric Kings, is recovering well in Beleura Rehab after a fall. The rumour that he ate too much of his four 100th birthday cakes is only a rumour! We wish Tony Duboudin all the best for his back operation next month

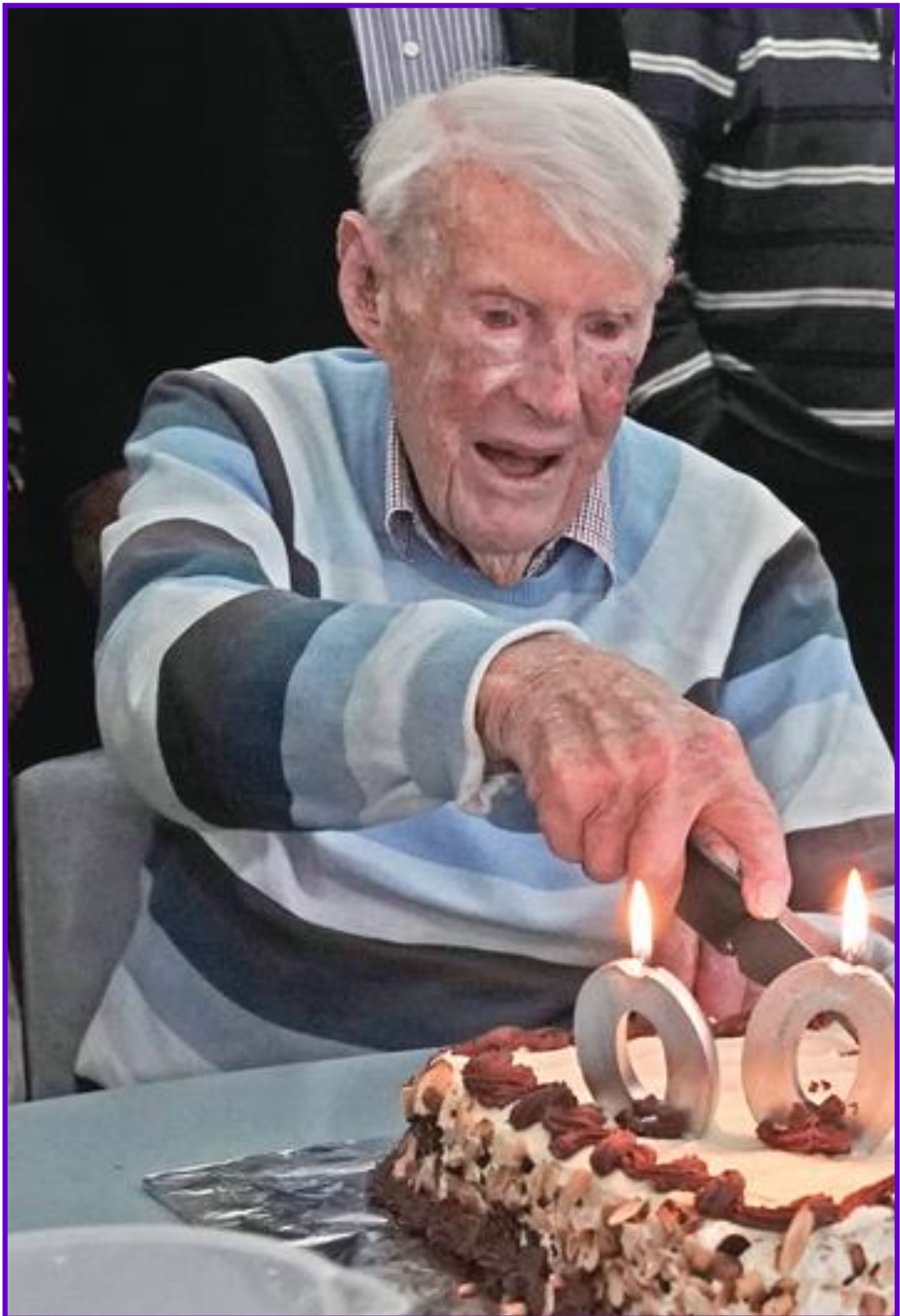
If you or your partner has a serious illness or accident please let me or President Dennis know. The information is kept confidential unless you authorize its publication either in the newsletter or at a general meeting.

We have a group of members who are willing to offer transport to medical or other urgent appointments. I can be contacted as per the phone number on the first page to arrange a driver.

If you need transport to our monthly meetings this can also be arranged.

Keep safe and enjoy Christmas and the New Year.

Daryl Cowen





NOT
OUT

**CONGRATULATIONS
ERJC**



Photographs by Max Hem



BOOK CLUB

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

Members enjoyed a lively meeting on 14th November at Dennis Paskins' home when Bart Bartholomew led the discussion on Jessie Burton's second novel "The Muse". The group had given very high ratings to Burton's first work in 2014, "The Miniaturist", an absorbing tale set in a very tightly Puritan-controlled society in 17th-century Amsterdam. Although their follow-up piece is also structured in the past, Burton has adopted two distinct contrasting periods in which to posit her extensive cast: the swinging 60s in London and Andalusia, Spain in the late 1930s during the upheavals leading to the Spanish Civil War.

Author Jessie Burton, is a former stage actress, who has published a number of short stories and non-fiction works for children. She has had essays in a number of international publications ranging from "The Wall Street Journal" to "The Spectator" and "Vogue".

Her latest piece is essentially set in the intriguing and often contested art world where values and reputations often rest on proving or contesting 'provenance' of controversial artworks. Alternating between the two time periods, Burton has created two young women as her key protagonists. Firstly, Odelle a Caribbean immigrant who's an aspiring writer and lands a job in 1967 in the prestigious Skelton art gallery as a typist working under the glamorous and enigmatic Marjorie Quick. Then, as a counterpoint, Burton has Olive Schloss, the daughter of a dubious international art dealer as her second main character. Odile, holidaying in Andalusia Spain with her father and wealthy mother meets local artist and counter-revolutionary. Isaac Robies. Olive is also a painter but one with more ability than Isaac, convinces him to pass her work as his, particularly when her father recognizes its potential value. The painting having then achieved international recognition gets lost till it surfaced in London as an inheritance item of a young man Odelle meets. When she suggests he bring it to the Skelton Gallery for assessment and province evaluation, Margerie Quick recognizes it. This provides the basis for Burton to begin to reveal the integrated relationship between the two time periods: a tale of love, ambition, identity, obsession, deception, and political upheaval.

The group agreed "The Muse" was a real page-turner. The plot and character development are credible, reflecting the author's considerable research of the two periods many of the group remember, particularly the London 60s. The writing was excellent. The group gave scores of 4 or more: It's highly recommended.

Once again Alan Rae will host the next meeting on 19th December, to review "Catch and Kill" by Roman Farrow. After a shortened discussion, this will be followed by our traditional end-of-year Xmas dinner with partners.

The group goes into recess but will resume at Dan Hourigan's home on 13th February 2024.

Contact: Dan Hourigan 0407 754 774



BIG BOYS' BUSINESS

BBB has finished its 7th year on a high note with a very successful visit to the Supreme Court of Victoria. The visit was threatened by the Optus fiasco that delayed train services to the city. Fortunately, we were able to get to Southern Cross Station in time to take a tram up Burke Street and arrive at the Court on time at 11.00am. While 2 of the courts were in session, we did manage to find a vacant court where our hostess was able to provide an hour-long comprehensive history of the Supreme Court from the mid 18 hundreds through to the present court in William Street. The discussion covered many aspects of the judicial system in Victoria, and we came away with a much better understanding of the Court system.



I have had to abandon our proposed social outing to The Dubliner this year but will reactivate it in the New Year. My neighbour has just reported on his Probus Club's recent visit where members were clamouring for a place to attend. Apparently, it really is a great night out and the Irish band has been expanded from 4 to 7 musicians!! Such is the support for this incredible venue. Please come to the January meeting ready to sign up for most enjoyable night out.

BBB is now in recess until the new year.

Ray McCutcheon 0412 128 195

October Speaker - Ian Risely

Napoleon used to say that every French soldier carried a marshal's baton in his knapsack.

Our November speaker, Ian Riseley, made the point that every Rotary member is eligible to become Rotary International President, a position he held in 2017-18.

There are some hurdles to cross first: the candidate must have been a club president, then a Rotary district governor and finally a Rotary director.

Ian fulfilled all these requirements and took up residence in Chicago, Rotary's head office, for the year of his presidency. He pointed out that one does not go to Chicago for the weather with its nickname of "the windy city"; winters can be brutal.

He made the theme of his presidency: Rotary Making a Difference and his role involved a great deal of travel visiting the many Rotary projects world-wide.

Ian said he was particularly proud of the Rotary project to eradicate polio. Now there are only two countries in the world – Pakistan and Afghanistan – where polio is still endemic.

He also talked about Rotary projects in Sri Lanka and Guatemala and recalled laying a wreath at Villers Bretonneux in France at the Australian war memorial there.

Ian made the point that small projects or donations by Rotary also made a big difference such as a microscope for an Indian health centre and equipment for a laboratory in Montserrat in the Caribbean.

Ian, who has been a charter member of Sandringham Rotary since 1978, certainly highlighted the humanitarian work undertaken by Rotary around the world.

Tony Duboudin

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP



The Wine Appreciation Group spent a very pleasant afternoon at Alan Rae's home on the 15th November sampling five examples of the Riesling varietal – three from Australia and one each from Germany and France. All five exhibited the fruitiness that Riesling is noted for and opinions were split over which was the best, but all were very suitable for a warm summer's day and would be perfect matched with spicy food.

As the festive season approaches and our priorities focus on celebrating with our families, our group is going into recess for a couple of months with our next meeting on February 14th crossing to the "dark side" with a visit to a local brewery for a beer tasting. Further details on the actual venue will be notified in a future edition of the Newsletter.

Anyone with a preference for the amber liquid is welcome to join us in February and experience the pleasure of lively conversation and a few glasses of wine beer.

Rod Beet 0426 989 255



Bikies Group, November 2023 and beyond

Whilst we have had some good weather days, and many of our personnel have returned, it has been a stop-start month, with only a few days when we were able to join a ride and break for coffee.

Also, this month, our co-leader did a magnificent job in organizing a CHAOS Silo Trip, which provided them all with a very positive experience. Then co-leader Dennis underwent a surgical procedure taking him out for at least two weeks. Hopefully look forward to more consistency in the coming months.

You are never quite sure what is in store during a ride. Bittern Probus Club ride occasionally to Stony Point Jetty; they never get past the 202 Coffee Stop. As a result, they were able to witness the landing of a 140-kilogram tuna, which if they were able would have made the owners a small fortune in Japan (picture available).

ALL WELCOME



Keep Riding

Dennis

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 1360

HAPPY SNAPPERS



We gathered at Max's place on Tuesday afternoon, 14th November. The theme for this month was open with a great variety of photos on display. Amongst the many stories these photos elicited, there was some critical analysis of photos and exploration of techniques to improve them.

Happy Snappers will break over Christmas and reconvene early next year.

Contact Max Hem 5983 5274 or
Peter Gerdson 0407 321 048

GARDENING GROUP



On Wednesday, 22nd November, we will have gathered in the café at Sages Farm and Cottage to energise ourselves before a self-guiding tour with a particular focus on the rose collection. Unfortunately, a guided tour was unavailable.

Our Christmas break-up will be at Peter and Fay Gerdson's on Wednesday, 6th December, with shared fare from all our members.

Have a great Festive Season everyone

Rob Walker 5983 5159

FLOOBYDUST



It's my party *Leslie Gore*
Here she is in Melbourne, 25 years after release of the single.

2:58

Happy Birthday

Stevie Wonder

4:45



Birthday *The Beatles*

2:44

Happy Birthday 'Greetings Prelude' *Stravinsky*

1:09



Never grow up *Taylor Swift*
At a slight tangent, but a great song with an attitude to ageing.

5:03

Happy Birthdays

Victor Borge

9:25



And a great segue to Eric's cakes below ... Not a bad song either.
Cut the cake *Average White Band*

4:18

Graphics sources

[Balloons](#)

[100:](#)



Daryl referred to a plenitude of cake to commemorate Eric's 100th.

The three cakes here represent three important aspects to Eric's life as well as combining to indicate "100":-

- a very keen Richmond supporter
- a very keen Golfer
- a Dentist surrounded by lolly teeth
- a great source of income!

Photograph by Daryl Cowen