

PROBUS CLUB OF BALNARRING INC.

Established September 1985

December 2023 Newsletter

Next meeting : Monday, January 29th

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

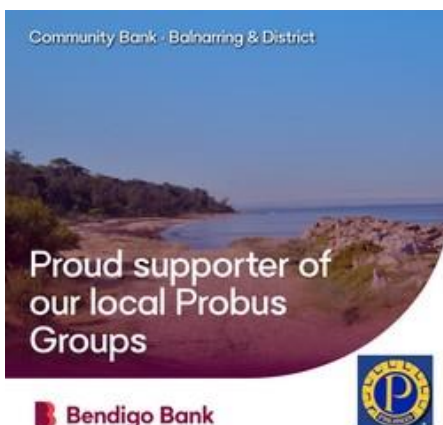
Eric Kings +	Jay Nagl +
Ron Deane	Col Randall +
Ray McCutcheon	Stan Byrne +
Col Saunders +	Bruce Margetts +
ERRYDaryl Cowen	



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

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Inside this issue: December—Christmas/New Year



President's Christmas message

Eric Kings' Tribute

Christmas Lunch Photograph collage

Activity groups' final reports and photographs

Floobydust



Thanks to the great work by Daryl, his team, and our caterers we were able to finalize our 2023 activities with a fine Christmas Lunch that was enjoyed by 80 members and guests. I would though wish to review our Carol singing abilities in future events.

Our editor is very keen to provide the club members with a Christmas edition, not for my literary contribution, but am sure it will include some very entertaining, a relaxing musical arrangement.

Hopefully all of you are now looking forward to your Christmas activities, which will include family members, whilst this may not be the case for everyone, we would hope that those will find suitable and festive arrangements.

On behalf of myself and the committee, I would wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas, and we look forward to a peaceful and active Probus New Year.

With "Australia Day" falling on our next scheduled meeting day of Friday 26th January 2024, the committee has decided to reschedule this meeting to the following Monday the 29th January 2024, when we could schedule our customary BBQ picnic at Coolart

Whilst finalizing this message, I have received the sad news that Eric Kings died at 3am on the morning of Monday 18th of December 2023. He will be cremated with a Memorial Service to be held early next year.

Dennis



VALE Dr. ERIC WILLIAM KINGS OBE (27/10/1923-18/12/2023)

In his professional life Eric rose to the top of the dental profession in Australia after studying trauma dentistry in Canada. With his twin brother Stan he shared a highly successful dental practice in Collins Street. He was dentist to Royalty during visits by the Royal Yacht Britannia whenever that vessel came to Australia. During WW2, after completing his degree, Eric joined the RAAF ending the war as a Squadron Leader. His war time duties included visiting bases across Australia tending to the dental health of servicemen.

Eric excelled at sports. He had a single figure handicap on the golf course and came close to playing VFL football for Richmond in his early years as a rover. He played very competitive tennis and was still playing at the age of 90 until he ran out of members from his regular playing group. When he stepped up to the snooker table, he was near unbeatable even into his 90s.

Eric, had for many years been a member of Melbourne Rotary Club and was approached by Hastings Rotary Club in 1985 to form the Probus Club of Balnarring. Eric was elected the Founding President and was the last of the 43 Foundation Members, awarded life membership for his guiding hand and contribution to our club.

Eric will be remembered as a loving family man who served Australia and the people of Melbourne. He was a kind, highly gentleman who will be missed by his Probus friends in particular.

Personal Reflections by Ray and Margaret McCutcheon

Margaret and I had the privilege of hosting Eric at our home every Friday evening for a meal for the best part of 3 years since Beryl, his wife of 80 years, became very frail and died.

Personal Reflections by Ray and Margaret McCutcheon (cont'd)

When you spend between 3 and 4 hours with someone each week in a social setting over such a long period you cannot help but learn so much about them, their achievements, their family and their character.

Every week Eric would relate a story about events in his life and there was never any repetition. He should have committed these anecdotes and memories to writing. If published, such a book would have been a best seller!

Rolly, our dog, also looked forward to his visits as there was invariably a biscuit in Eric's pocket.

Eric and Beryl were incredibly proud of their extended family. Their home displayed many photographs of family members and groups covering four generations of very high achieving individuals. They have all inherited the same attributes that made both Eric and Beryl such incredibly special people.

Eric's passing has left an enormous gap in our lives. We will miss his incredible friendship, his generosity and most of all his wonderful sense of humour.



A memory of our club's last time with Eric at a celebration of his 100th birthday

Photos by Max Hem



Bikies Group, December and beyond

Not a great deal to report except to say our daily rides have been well supported at the coffee outlets nominated, although the transport mode has not always been on a bike. More recently the Electric bikes are returning, but injuries are still affecting some of our regulars; "back after Christmas" is the general answer, but we will, see?

Regardless the coffee morning has the ability to air our views, and solve many problems!!! Will continue to circulate with our usual meeting times along with a destination weather permitting

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

Angus & Phil

BY ANNIE TAYLOR LABEL



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Source: <https://kristianofurtado.wordpress.com/2013/01/02/its-new/25-funniest-new-year-jokes-resolutions-new-year-cartoons-one/>

By Annie Taylor Label

BOOK CLUB

Alan Rae kindly hosted the group's end-of-year meeting and Xmas dinner celebration on Monday 18th December.

The book for review was "Catch and Kill" by Pulitzer Prize winning author Rowan Farrow. Essentially this was his investigative 2017 report of sexual corruption and cover up by powerful interests in the film and TV industry in America.

Farrow, the son of actress Mia Farrow and Woody Allen served as a UNICEF spokesperson for youth, worked in Darfur in Sudan and, joined the Obama administration as Special Adviser for human affairs in Afghanistan and Pakistan. His predominant focus has been his investigative reporting on abuse and cover up by officials in positions of power and control.

In "Catch and Kill" he documents in extensive detail the myriad sexual encounters of Harvey Weinstein, founder of entertainment company Miramax and producer of many films like "Pulp Fiction" and "Shakespeare in love". He identifies over 80 young aspiring actresses who fell victim to his unsolicited sexual demands and rape. As a result of Farrow's published report, Weinstein was convicted in 2018 and sentenced to 23 years in jail.

Members accepted the seriousness of the issue and were amazed at how seemingly easy it was for these crimes against women to be covered up for so long. It reflects poorly on the media who have been aware of it and the readiness of the legal profession to devise ways to silence women affected, with contracts of non-disclosure and threats of protracted legal challenge if they went public. Ironically there are similar issues here in Australia (Alan Jones, the Catholic Church etc. come to mind) where victims of abuse who occupy lower positions feel it's not possible to 'go public 'and risk character assault and loss of employment.



This was not a happy read to end the year. While all agreed this kind of abuse needs to be brought out into the open, it's not for holiday reading and as a book got scored of 2.

The shortened discussion was followed by drinks and the Book Group traditional Xmas dinner celebration when member's partners joined for a sumptuous self-catered meal kindly hosted at Alan and Jazdia's home.

The group will be in recess in January but resume next on 13th. February 2023 at Dan Hourigan's home.

Contact: Dan Hourigan 0407 754 774



GARDENING GROUP



Not much to report—just a fantastic lunch at Peter and Faye Gersden's home. We shared fantastic food and even better company.

The Gersden garden was in fine form. Some highlights are included on our website.

We will meet again in February 2024; there's a lot to get stuck in to.

For now, have a great and safe festive season.

Rob Walker 5983 5159

[Click Here!](#)



PROBUS CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2023









Photos by
Tony Duboudin

You can find a few
more photos on our
website

[Click Here!](#)

FLOOBYDUST

An eclectic mix with a Christmas theme. There is a slight wink to a number of artist who died this year.

	Feliz Navidad	<i>Jose Feliciano</i>	3:28	
	Baby it's cold outside	<i>Ray Charles and Betty Carter</i>	4:11	
	A child's Christmas in Wales	<i>John Cale with Orchestra</i>	2:56	
	Driving home for Christmas	<i>Chris Rea</i>	4:03	
	Merry Christmas	<i>Ike and Tina Turner</i>	2:04	
	James Brown's funky Christmas album	<i>James Brown (18 tracks take how long?)</i>		
	O Tannenbaum	<i>Vince Guaraldi Trio</i>	5:09	
	O come, o come, Emmanuel	<i>Sufjan Stevens</i>	4:03	
	If you enjoyed this, explore his 42 song collection.			
	Mary's boy child	<i>Harry Belafonte</i>	3:10	
	Silent night	<i>Sinnaid O'Conner</i>	3:48	
	The Dame Edna Christmas experience		1:40	
	Have yourself a Merry little Christmas	<i>Renee Geyer</i>	2:57	



Fireworks on front page: <https://www.freepik.com/author/brgfx>

Both cartoons

Source: <https://www.gardenpondforum.com/threads/time-for-christmas-cartoons-jokes.20443/>

