

PROBUS CLUB OF BALNARRING INC.

Established September 1985

March 2024 Newsletter

Next meeting: Friday, April 26th

at 10:00am Balnarring Bowls and Social Club



2024-2025 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

Peter Evans 0407 350 620

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 +

Col Randall + Bruce Margetts +

Stan Byrne + Col Saunders +

Ron Deane Ray McCutcheon

Daryl Cowen



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

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Inside this issue: February theme: *Fly*



Bendigo Bank



President's and AGM Report

Welfare Report

Activities reports

Remembering Big Boys'

Business in photos

Floobydust



I would like to thank all the members for the honor of being President of our Club for the past year. Normally the term is one year but due to a number of issues, and some problems related to our succession planning, the last six years have been completed under three Presidents, which will now as things stand be seven years.

It is impossible for anyone to run this club without assistance and support. For that my thanks go to Peter Cole, our Secretary, Rob Walker, whose has maintained his high standard Newsletter production, Rob Anselmi who has covered the Treasurer position, Bernie Poll, and his catering team who have created a new and successful lunch feature to our meetings, and Barry Gordon who provides considerable back-up when needed.

In addition, my thanks go to all those members who maintain a regular and vital part of our meetings, we hope they will continue in these roles

It was a great pleasure that one of my first roles as President was to confer on Daryl Cowen life membership for his service to the club over some sixteen years, covering all roles, including three consecutive years as President. Although now in a non-executive position, he has been a source advice to me, and his initiative in developing the "What Happens When" Seminar cannot go without a mention.

Regretfully Ray McCutcheon has relinquished his long held, and highly successful "Big Boy's Business" portfolio. As with many of our members, Ray and his wife have made a lifestyle change, which is offering him more challenges. Thankfully he will maintain his Membership Folder position.

At the start of the year, we had 65 Members. As a result of resignations and deaths, we lost 16 members, but were able to induct Four (Ted Keam, Robert Lusty, Frank Roberston, and Allan Comelli) making our active membership number now 53. Within those sixteen were Life Members Eric Kings, Jay Nagle, and Col Randall along with long time member Ian Tweedie.

Where to from here? It is apparent that there are two main issues that confront the club, that being membership, and succession planning, and to be brutally honest we have no clear answer or plan for either, but then we, and Probus generally are not alone in this.

One local club has made the decision to close unless an Executive Team can be nominated, and elected from the present membership. A second club had sent some members to another club, with a view to transferring their membership to that club. It is not my wish to go down either of those paths.

As Club President it has been my aim to make our meetings concise, informative and timely, provide a reasonable time socializing, and then an interesting and worthwhile speaker. And this must continue.

Outside of meetings we have a number of activities that are successfully run on a regular basis, Book Group, Garden Group, Happy Snappers, Wine Appreciation, Bridge and Dine-outs. And my thanks to those members who maintain their momentum.

In addition, because of our close affiliation with Somers Combined, and Somers Ladies through partners, or membership, we are able combine several outings and activities successfully.

The new committee will continue to promote these aims, and will work on any initiatives that could increase our membership. Also, it is important that we start to find replacements for both executive positions, and endeavor to increase the committee numbers



FURTHER NOTES AFTER OUR AGM

Whilst it was clear that my position of President was going to be extended, and was honored by this, it is tinged with some disappointment, as I believe that the management of any organization requires change to improve over time.



However, we are now set for the next Probus Year, and thankfully for me, have the existing executive team, and committee, plus now Peter Evans, who we welcome onboard. It is important to add that we can still count on Daryl Cowen for experience, with him remaining as Immediate Past President.

A great vote of thanks to our catering crew, John Copeland and Rob Oram, under the guidance of Bernie Poll for our Easter Tea and BBQ lunch. Also to both Harold Weber, and Ron Anderson, for their guidance in

the intricacies of Lawn Bowls during a session of 'Barefoot Bowls' post our lunch.

It was also great to welcome Alan Comelli as our latest new member at the General meeting prior to the AGM

Your Management Team 2024/25

President - Dennis Paskins; Secretary - Peter Cole;
Treasurer - Rob Anselmi; Newsletter Editor -
Rob Walker; Immediate Past President - Daryl Cowen
and; General Committee Members - Bernie Poll,
Barry Gordon, and Peter Evans.

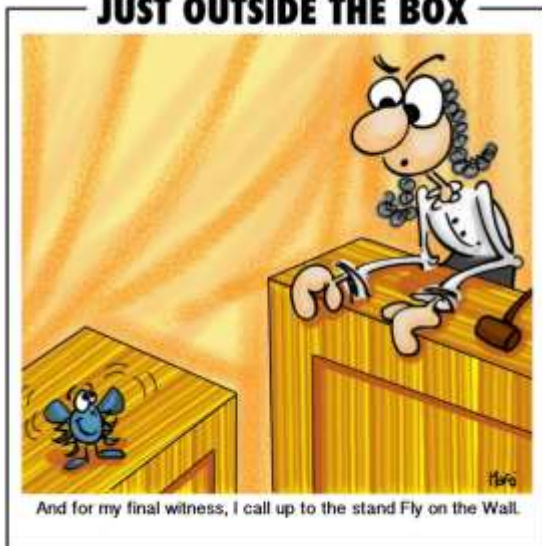
It should be noted that there are still vacancies within the Committee.



Dennis



JUST OUTSIDE THE BOX



And for my final witness, I call up to the stand Fly on the Wall.

Copyright www.justoutsideoftheboxcartoon.com

WELFARE REPORT

Norm Dewar and Peter Cole have recovered well after recent falls requiring short spells in hospital and are able to drive again. Many thanks to several members who assisted Norm with transport for several weeks.

Ted Gale is currently in Peninsula Hospital having tests and we wish him all the best. We hope he will be able to represent us and lay a wreath at the Balnarring Anzac Day Service.

If you or your partner has a serious illness or accident please let President Dennis or me 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.

Daryl Cowen



BIG BOYS' BUSINESS

Big Boys Business is no more!

After over 8 years and some 45 visits,

Ray has relinquished this role.

Thanks so much for your dedication and all those memories.

Job well done!!

BIRTHDAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

MARCH

Geoffrey Willshire	94	Harold Weber	85
Peter Gerdson	80		

February Speaker -

Simon Brooks

Our speaker for February was Simon Brooks, our local mayor, who gave us an informative talk on the workings of the Shire. His background is in construction and this is his second time he has been on the council.

The main issue facing the Shire is the cost shifting from both the State and Federal governments together with the 8th year of rates capping. At least 22 local government areas are trading insolvent with our shire possibly only one year off. However we want an effective council under huge CPI pressure. Each year the council consults with ratepayers on discretionary spending and is reviewing the outsourced services like roads, infrastructure and most services.

Simon answered many questions including:-

- The move from management committees of halls, sporting areas etc over the past few years to shire management has not been fully successful! Simon advised of the employment of a small team of carpenters for quick fixes
- A bike path in Somers has finally been constructed after

15 years. Simon explained the lack of money for too many projects

- Simon could not answer the rationale of installing 4 light towers at Stone Pavilion Reserve which have very little use.
- Simon commented on the problems with working with Vicroads on maintenance and speed limits. To change a speed limit the Shire must detail a case to Vicroads. The plan is to have a review of contracts looking after pot holes with more council control.
- Simon advised that the Shire CEO is responsible for all day to day operations but reports to the Council. Where necessary, expert advice is sought but sadly the Local Government Act has been degraded over the years.

On Behalf of Members, Ray McCutcheon thanked Simon for his forthright information and answers to our questions.

Daryl Cowen



Bikies Group, January - February 2024

The recent spate of dry warm weather has encouraged a number of riders, and attendees, on our rides to coffee destinations. In addition, we had our first and a successful fish & chip evening at the Tulum Store, and with them being confident of obtaining a Drink Licence, this could possibly be a regular occurrence.

Now we are into Autumn, we will all be faced with more adverse weather conditions, and with members planning to leave for warmer climes, regretfully our numbers will reduce, already one of our number has headed north; he will be missed.

Regardless, of your transport option the coffee mornings has the ability to air views and highlight many local problems.

I will continue to circulate with our usual meeting times along with a destinations weather permitting

ALL WELCOME

Keep Riding
Dennis



BOOK CLUB

Dan Hourigan led discussions at the Tuesday 12th March meeting at Peter Gerdson's home when "The Dictionary of Lost Words" by London born, Adelaide based author, Pip Williams was reviewed. The author has also published travel articles, book reviews, and poetry.

In "The Dictionary of lost words" Williams has combined her considerable talent for historical research with powerful storey telling. In 1901, the word "bondmaid" was discovered missing from the Oxford English Dictionary. Using a fictionalised chief protagonist she's named Esme, Pip Williams has constructed an intriguing novel about the girl who stole it. Based on true events surrounding the development and publication of the First Oxford Dictionary the author cleverly posits the fictional Esme as a motherless young girl who spends her childhood beneath the sorting table in the Scriptorium, a garden shed where her father leads a team of lexicographers who are gathering words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. When the slip with "bondmaid" falls under the table Esme grabs it and hides it in a box under the bed of her friend Lizzie, a servant in her father's home. Esme then begins to collect other words from the Scriptorium that have been misplaced and/or discarded by the all-male lexicologists.

Over time, Esme realises that some words are considered more important than others and that words and their meanings relating to women and their experiences often go unrecorded resulting in linguistic inequality-the idea that not all words are equal. She begins to collect such words for another dictionary: "The Dictionary of Lost Words"

In this fictionalised account of true events set at the time of the women's suffrage movement and the Great War, Williams reveals a lost narrative hidden within the lines of this famous word history being written by men. This setting provides for Williams to introduce a strong cast of other female protagonists into the story to emphasise the secondary role of women in society where language and the power of words has shaped and reinforced their lesser status.

As one group member commented, at first glance this might have been seen as just another "ladies" book and not of interest to male readers. But he added not so, quite the con-



trary. While yes, its true female readers have strongly endorsed it, the majority of this all male group wholeheartedly enjoyed it too; according to it as one of the best novels it has had. One member who read it again for the second time said he admired and enjoyed it even more on his second reading. The majority admired the writing and the author's ability to meld the wide cast of her characters into a well-defined and believable setting, strongly evocative of the era.

Most gave scores of 4.5 and a strong recommendation to all, men and women, who appreciate writing and enjoy a great read.

Finally, it's of added interest "The Dictionary of lost Words" has been adapted into a well admired theatrical play. After acclaimed performances in Sydney it's currently enjoying a similar successful run here in Melbourne.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 9th. April when the discussion will be on "Sanctuary" by Judy Nunn.

Contact: Dan Hourigan 0407 754 774

HAPPY SNAPPERS



I will be unavailable on Tuesday 9th April, so we will meet on Tuesday 16th April at Coolart at 12:00pm for a Picnic lunch (new Barbeques) and family is welcome. Afterwards we will explore some various photography techniques and filters etc.

I was delighted this month to see so many razor sharp bird, dog and butterfly etc. shots; the main reason being selecting a much faster shutter speed. To my mind this has been the single largest improvement in our boys work.

So we can meet at 12 noon at Coolart for lunch and session after?

Contact Max Hem 5983 5274 or
Peter Gerdson 0407 321 048

wonderful material trophy for the event – our first trophy.

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

GARDENING GROUP



Full of anticipation and excitement, we met on Tuesday, 27th February for our annual Tomato Taste Test. Faye Gerdson had located a



A total of 15 different tomatoes were sliced, plated and tabled for the 8 discerning palates of our group and Faye Gerdson had the highest score for her small tomatoes while Barry Gordon took the honours for large tomatoes – they were grown at Coolart Community Garden.

All in all, a fine morning with a big thanks to our organisers (Faye & Peter Gerdson) and adjudicators (Maree Orlando & Peter Gerdson).

Our next meeting will be a visit to Garden World with details to be circulated later this week.

Rob Walker 5983 5159

SOMERS LADIES PROBUS HAPPY HOUR

Happy Hour will be at the Somers Tennis Club at 5:00pm, on Friday, 26th April.

Join us for warm, friendly company with something to drink, a glass, nibbles and chat to share.



To cover venue hire, please bring \$3.00 pp.



LUNCHES FOR 2024



As per last year we will again be holding a lunch after each meeting . Our resident chef BERNIE POLL will be in charge, with varying dishes, with the exception of the Christmas Lunch in November where we will have outside caterers.
April 26th - Pie with chips and salad. \$10 cash including a drink from the bar.

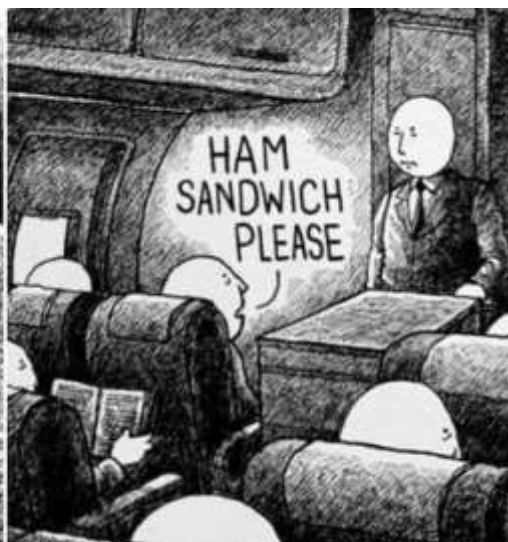
Our Annual BBQ



Photo credits

AGM and BBQ—Max Hem

Tomato Taste Test—Rob Walker



Selected from a four set panel
Source: <https://www.sadanduseless.com/hilariously-sad-comics/>



Big Boys' Business

THANKS
FOR THE
MEMORIES
RAY



FLOOBYDUST

FRUIT FLY IN MELBOURNE

Following my report of about fruit fly becoming widespread in Melbourne, I have made an Internet search but not found information relating to the Mornington Peninsula..I've included links for those who want to follow-up this issue.

Controlling Queensland fruit fly in home gardens	<i>Agriculture Victoria</i>
Queensland fruit fly host fruits for home gardeners	<i>Agriculture Victoria</i>
Bye Bye Fruit Fly	<i>Gardening Australia</i>
ShooFly: Fruit Flies	<i>Gardening Australia</i>

[Click Here!](#)
[Click Here!](#)
[Click Here!](#)
[Click Here!](#)

NOW FOR A LITTLE LIGHT RELIEF

Fruit fly inspired this month's theme and I had stretch the interpretation to include flight and flying as well as flies; not much classical music or Jazz about them.








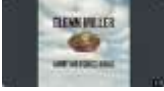






	Christine's tune	<i>Flying Burrito Brothers</i>	3:00	
	Flight of the bumblebee Cute animation with this version	<i>Rimsky-Korsakov</i>	1:54	
	Butterfly fly away	<i>Myley Cyrus</i>	3:09	
	Fly me to the moon	<i>Frank Sinatra</i>	2:27	
	Fly on the windscreen	<i>Depeche Mode</i>	5:19	
	Sydney on a 747	<i>Paul Kelly</i>	3:06	
	The best way to travel	<i>Moody Blues</i>	3:09	
	Flying home Classic late30s early 40s animation	<i>Glenn Miller</i>	3:13	
	I'll fly away In her Bluegrass genre - Included on the 'Brother Where Art Thou' soundtrack	<i>Gillian Welch</i>	3:57	
	Fly	<i>Sugar Rae</i>	4:12	
	We can fly	<i>The Cowsills</i>	2:19	
	Light flight Five outstanding musicians playing their Jazz/Folk fusion	<i>Pentangle</i>	3:21	
	Fly duet Featuring Natalie Dessay	<i>Offenbach</i>	3:28	
	When Magoo flew		6:33	

Image credit for front page Andy Warhol style 'Louie the Fly': By Thomas Fitzpatrick
Source: <https://www.behance.net/gallery/10337947/Louie-the-Fly>

Editor: Rob Walker