

PROBUS CLUB OF BALNARRING INC.

Established September 1985

April 2024 Newsletter

Next meeting: Friday, May 31st

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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PRESIDENT'S REPORT**April 2024**

Thanks to his family's support, Ted Gale was able to attend and present a wreath at the Balnarring ANZAC Service. We, along with many other services and sporting clubs, were well represented. The attendance at this very well-run event is a testament to the spirit of this community.

At our meeting on Friday, we were well entertained by a return speaker, Roger Gibson (Mining@ 2000 metres) who on this occasion, provided us with a large collection of African Animals photographs, along with some interesting anecdotes. It was pleasing to note that total of 24 member, and guest, Michael Andrewartha, stayed for the scheduled Pie and Chip lunch.

I would also take the opportunity to again thank Daryl, and Harold, for the organizing of the recent 'Goldfields Trip': it was well run, enjoyable, and a testament to the amount of work that they put in. I am happy to announce that Harold is keen to promote similar escape next year.

We are hopefully getting together a list of speakers up to July, but if you have any ideas in this very important aspect of our program, please let us know, as with last year, the Grand Final Holiday falls on our General Meeting Day, but we should endeavor to provide a Football Theme if possible.

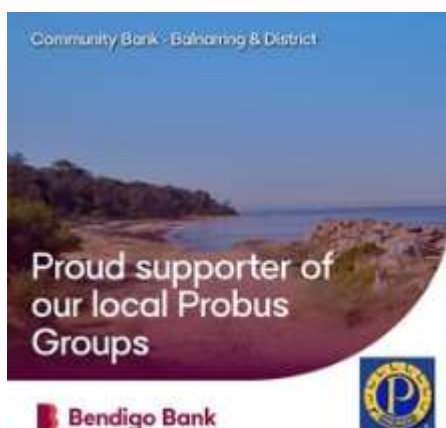
Also announced at this meeting was the possible creation of a club Facebook Page, or What's App option, to improve our commutation to Club Members, but also to the wider community in the hope to attract interest in our club's activities, and potential Membership.

Whilst it did not take -off last year, I would be interested in establishing a 'TECH Group' and also a 'Film Group', run on similar lines to our Book Group, using home streaming services.

And finally, I would highlight a passage in a recent article on Retirement which to me gave some relevance to Probus Club's

Quote: "Loneliness is the biggest epidemic in later life, it kills you but it also stifles your sense of meaning and purpose. The best way to avoid loneliness is to be more conscious of the importance of your family, and to build communities around you of people that you like, and like to spend time with" - QED.

Dennis

Inside this issue:**April theme: Water****President's Report****Anzac service photos****Welfare Report****Activities reports****Speaker notes****Photos from Goldfield trip
throughout the Newsletter****Floobydust**



Ted and son represent our club and lay our wreath at the Balnarring Anzac Day service.

Photographs by Daryl Cowen and Rob Walker

WELFARE REPORT

We were delighted that our only WW2 veteran, Ted Gale, was able to attend the Balnarring Anzac Day Service and lay a wreath on behalf of our club. Ted has been our representative for many years and was determined he would attend this year. He has had a couple of spells in hospital recently and is currently residing in the Waverley Valley Community Care Centre to be close to his family. Ted can be contacted on his mobile and would appreciate a call from his friends.

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

BIRTHDAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

APRIL

Warren Reedman 92

MAY

Frank Robertson 93

SOMERS LADIES PROBUS HAPPY HOUR

Happy Hour will be at the Somers Tennis Club at 5:00pm, on Friday, 31st May. 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.

FINANCE

Gentlemen, the annual subscription for our Probus Club was set at \$45 at the recent AGM. If you have not yet paid your \$45, please do so as soon as you can. My preferred method is by a direct transfer into our bank account. When you make the transfer, please let me know. If you prefer, you could pay me in cash or by cheque at the very next meeting.

Bob Anselmi, Treasurer.

Our bank account details are as follows:
BSB 633 000. Account No 150404721



Source: <https://favim.com/image/830065/>

April Speaker -

Roger Gibson – Animals of Africa

It was as if the Africa Velt had come to Balnarring when our guest speaker, Roger Gibson, presented his collection of images of African wildlife and talked about the magic of the Kruger National Park in north eastern South Africa.

The park is believed to be the largest national park in the world and is home to the animals for which Africa is famous - elephant, rhinos, zebra, leopard, hippos, wild dog, hyena, a range of smaller animals such as impala and springbok and many more.

The statistics of Kruger National Park are impressive: 20,000 square kilometres in area, the park is 300 kilometres long and between 40 and 80 wide.

Roger admitted that his favourite animal was the elephant

because of its intelligence and its caring nature for its fellows in the herd.

Roger was born and bred in South Africa and has returned many times since coming to Australia 29 years ago and is familiar with the national park and its animals.

His talk ranged widely and he was a wealth of information about the animals of Africa.

One interesting fact that appealed to me, is that no two zebras are the same even though their stripes look the same. When a baby zebra is born the mother hides the new born from seeing the rest of the group so that only his mother's stripes will be imprinted on its brain and he/she will be able to recognise its mother among all the other zebras by her stripes.

Tony Duboudin



Bikies Group, April—May 2024

Weather has, and will ultimately decide the frequency of our rides, and our transport options on the day. However, it does not affect the socializing. The five day a week call, provides many opportunities to socialize and converse over a hot coffee regardless of weather.

It appears that the cycle path from Davies Road to Bittern is almost complete, and the way is open for possible rides to Hastings.

I will continue to circulate our usual meeting times for riders, along with a destination and potential arrival time, weather permitting.

ALL WELCOME

Keep Riding



Dennis

BOOK CLUB

At John Carter's home on Tuesday 9th April, Dan Hourigan led discussions when 'Sanctuary' by Australian author Judy Nunn was reviewed. The author is an internationally successful actor and scriptwriter for television and radio. Her three novels, "The Glitter Game", "Centre Stage" and "Araluen" were best sellers. In 2015 she was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to the performing Arts.

Essentially, "Sanctuary" is a fictitious account about nine refugees who, having survived a sinking at sea, land on a barren island off the coast of Western Australia. Despite all the accolades and praise accorded the novel, group members were unanimous in finding it uninspiring. The storyline offered the chance to tackle an important current issue particularly when three similar recent actual boat arrivals had occurred off the West Australian coast. But disappointedly Nunn chose to adopt a very formulaic approach in her character selections and plot development. The likelihood of two competent professionals, an English medical practitioner and his wife, a nurse, with British passports paying a people smuggler to take a dangerous boat trip to Australia beggared belief. And in proposing identities for the others in the group as comprising a gay male, a beautiful but sexually abused Yazidi female, a married couple, and a young child it seemed Nunn was just following a formula in her character selection. When the group was finally discovered the reactions of the townspeople who not only covered up their arrival but provided food and assistance until authorities finally discovered them seemed problematic at best. And, then Nunn introduced an unlikely love story to round off this contrived plot. With a rating of 2, 'Sanctuary' is not recommended.

Nonetheless, the group enjoyed a great night discussing a range of topics, sports, and current issues with a delicious 'Jubilee' cake for supper baked by our genial host.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 14th. May at Rob Atkin's home when Jon Fane's book "Apollo & Thelma" will be reviewed.

Contact: Dan Hourigan 0407 754 774

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



GOLDFIELDS TRIP

Three photographs taken at Anderson's Mill at Smeaton



WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

I have now returned from my overseas travels and it's time to reactivate the Wine Appreciation Group from its summer slumbers although I trust you've been sampling a few good wines during the recess.

For May, and as winter is rapidly approaching, I would like to have a meeting with the theme of big, bold reds with the varietal of your choice.

Date and venue will be advised early in May.

We are always looking for new members to join our group, so if you enjoy good conversation with a nice wine to accompany it, please contact me to find out more about the group's activities.

Rod Beet 0426 989 255 rodine@aapt.net.au



GOLDFIELDS TRIP

All Goldfield Trip photographs by Tony Duboudin including Dennis on page 2



Lunch at Taltarni Wines

Winemaker Robert Heywood explains how it's done at Taltarni Winery Avoca



HAPPY SNAPPERS



This month focussed on camera features and how they affected images taken. Because of weather, two members met at my place, instead of Coolart. The session opened some more options with camera settings for our photography.

There will be no May Happy Snappers – I have some medical appointments including a cataract operation. We will meet again on 11th June at 2:00pm at Max's house. The topic is 'Events and Gatherings'.

Contact Max Hem 5983 5274 or
 Peter Gerdson 0407 321 048

Source: <https://www.boredpanda.com/humorous-cartoons-the-crowbar-comics/>



Source: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/25-hilarious-comics-about-life-as-a-flight-attendant_n_5ab404cfe4b054d118e0f021

GARDENING GROUP



This month, we visited Gardenworld in Springvale where Adam gave an entertaining and informative talk, mostly around citrus, but covering many side-issues including soil suitability and preparation. It was a lively presentation with lots of questions to and from Adam resulting in a steady flow of 'prizes'. Many thanks to Adam and Gardenworld for their generosity with time and a number of give-aways.

This was followed by lunch in the on-site café which offered a wide variety of food and drinks. The comfortable environment and excellent company saw an hour and a half fly by. We agreed that there was too much for one visit and will return to explore another aspect of the complex maybe late this year.

We will meet again on Wednesday, 15th May at 10:30am with a venue to be arranged.

Contact me if you are interested in joining our group.

Rob Walker 5983 5159




















LUNCHES



May 31st - Pizza. \$10 cash including a drink from the bar.

FLOOBYDUST

I know that it's good to test the water before jumping in, but we'll through sense to the wind and jump straight in with four pieces that seemed to me to be essentials.

	Water music Select which part(s) you want to listen to on the right hand side	<i>Handel</i>		
	Smoke on the water	<i>Deep Purple</i>	6:14	
	Bridge over troubled water	<i>Simon and Garfunkel</i>	4:53	
	Deeper water	<i>Paul Kelly</i>	6:39	
	Waterwheel Contemporary, Improvisational jazz	<i>Oregon</i>	9:55	
	Take me to the water	<i>Nina Simone</i>	7:34	
	Water	<i>Gregory Porter</i>	10:02	
	You don't miss you water	<i>Taj Mahal</i>	4:25	
	Down by the water	<i>Abigail Lapel</i>	3:16	
	Water	<i>Esther Kaiser</i>	4:33	
	Washing of the water	<i>Peter Gabriel</i>	3:55	
	Flowing water	<i>Peking Opera Melody</i>	3:12	
	Water with the wine	<i>Joan Armatrading</i>	2:51	
	Jeus d'eau	<i>Ravel</i>	5:01	
	Rock me on the water	<i>Jackson Browne</i>	4:29	
	Backwater Blues	<i>Bessie Smith</i>	3:20	
	Madman across the water You think Elton John; I reckon this is a cracker version.	<i>Brandi Carlile</i>	7:27	
	Still water	<i>The Four Tops</i>	3:09	