



NEWSLETTER

Probus Club of Beaumaris Inc.

www.beaumarisprobus.org.au

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Issue No. 394

November 2024



TASTES
Oct 24
RSYLTC



Members enjoying the night with great company in a serene environment. *Above:* Club President Cathy Moore. *Right:* Head of Coaching John McCurdy. (Photos by Simon Appel)

Next General Meeting

Tuesday 19 November @ 10am Black Rock YC

Keynote Speaker: Dr Roly Wettenhall MPHA

Topic: Victoria's Yellow Stain—The Floating Prisons of Port Phillip Bay

10min Speaker: Jim Duggan

Topic: The James Webb Space Telescope

FROM THE PRESIDENT

David Rushworth



This is the last newsletter for 2024 & my thanks to all who have contributed to the running of the club this year. Special mention to the Committee for advice and suggestions.

A number of us travelled by train to Ballarat to visit the Clarice Becket exhibition at the Art Gallery, with lunch at Craig’s hotel (excellent) well organised by John Green who spent a lot of time counting heads and leading us onwards. A very good day enjoyed by everybody (*report p4; photos p7*).

We had the second visit to the Jayco factory; again a very interesting and well organised tour (*reports p4 and p6*). Our second fine dining event was held at Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club, with about 40 in attendance. We heard from the President of the club about its rich and varied history with exciting plans for the future. The club has over 4500 members which surprised a number of us. We also had a Q & A run by Derek with the Head Coach . A lovely & interesting night with good food and wine in an outstanding venue. Thank you Derek for organising it so well (*report p4*).

Our guest speaker for November is Professional Historian Dr Roly Wettenhall MPHA. His address is titled “Victoria’s Yellow Stain–The Floating Prisons of Port Philip Bay”. Our thanker will be Tom Glass. Don’t forget to book early for our Christmas Luncheon at Woodlands Golf Club on December 12.

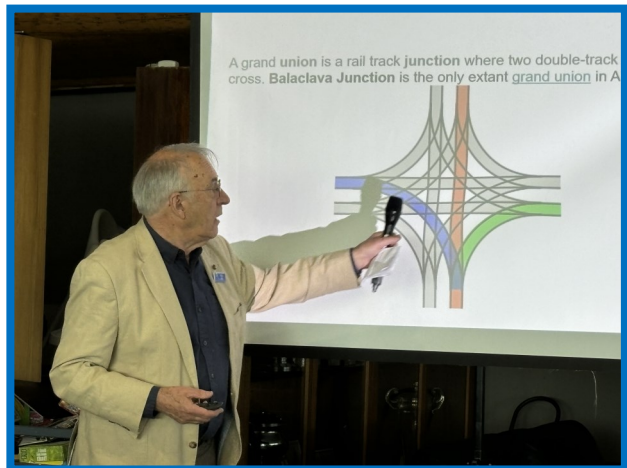
I look forward to seeing you on November 19.

Best Wishes
David Rushworth



Left: Keynote Speaker Captain Rob Anderson and “thanker” Graeme Keys (*report p8*)

Right: 10 minute speaker Member Dr Kevin Reed (*report p8*)



Left: Gus Bravo (left) and Richard Phillips (right) recipients of 10 Year Membership Pins awarded by President David Rushworth.

(photos by Simon Appel)

of Interest

DISCUSSION GROUP

Barry Amond

The last meeting of the year will be on **Tuesday 26 November at 2pm** when the main topic will be the US Presidential election result and the implications for Australia and the world. New members are welcome and should contact me by early November.

PRISMS

Geoff Wade

The next meeting of the PRISMS whisky tasting group will be on **Tuesday 3 December** at the home of Barry Amond.

Dan Link will be providing an American single malt. Others to bring a bottle will be Ken Beadle, Geoff Carlson and Tim Harding.

SUNDAY MUSIC GROUP

Barry Amond

Over 50 attended the two Sunday afternoons with a program of 15 video extracts of classical and 'jazz' performances. The next program is likely to be in the Autumn (*photos p7*).

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Geoff Wade

The next meeting of the Digital Technology group will be on **Tuesday 4 February** next year. Any member with a suggestion of an item for discussion, please advise Geoff Wade on geoffp.wade@bigpond.com

Leon Laragy



A few months until the 2025 season!!



The next Meeting of the **Travel Group** will be on **Friday 22 November** and feature **Alan Stevens** presenting on his journey via Singapore to France and other European places.

Convenor: Simon Appel OAM



Wine Appreciation Group

Roger Wilson OAM

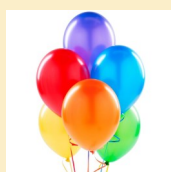
12 wine enthusiast members enjoyed lunch paired with a selection of Victorian red wines at the Steak Bank on October 31. Voting equal first was a 2017 Heathcote Tellurian Pastiche Shiraz and Sanguine Estate 2022 Progeny Shiraz, Heathcote. Third out of 12 bottles tasted was 2019 Domaine Asmara Shiraz from Heathcote.



(photo by Roger Wilson)

Birthday Boys – November/December

McIntyre, Stuart	6
Ratray, Ken	8
Rushworth, David	10 *
Flude, Peter	10
Vial, Roger	11



Neave, Colin	1
Taffs, Geoff	2
Stewart, Philip	5
Bernhard, Stan	6
Chandler, Neil	16
Tickner, Geoff	17
Carlson, Geoff	18 *
Gamble, Aub	21 ***
Solomon, John	22
Manks, John	26
Bransbury, Geoff	28
Wallace, John	31

* 80 * CONGRATULATIONS!

*** 103*** SUPER CONGRATULATIONS!!

FINAL Wine Appreciation Meeting for 2024 is at the Lobster Cave Beaumaris on **Friday 20 December at 12 noon**. Cost \$50 payable on the day. Choice of wines available.

Events & Activities



BALLARAT RAIL TRIP AND EXHIBITION

John Green organised a very successful train trip to Ballarat to view the Clarice Beckett paintings on display at The Art Gallery of Ballarat on Wednesday 2 October attended by 18 Probus members and partners. The timetable was managed with military precision.

Most participants caught the 9.15 am train from Sandringham and then changed trains at Flinders Street where they transferred to Southern Cross Station and onward to Ballarat. After a satisfying lunch at Craig's Royal Hotel in a private dining room we viewed the Clarice Beckett Exhibition and the Gallery's permanent collection of other significant Australian and European paintings.

Our return trip was very relaxed and provided an opportunity for many of us to get to know our fellow members and their partners, while others dozed off, returning to Sandringham before 6.00 pm after a very satisfactory day (*photos p7*).



Derek Skues

2nd Jayco[®] FACTORY TOUR



At the October meeting Tom Glass gave a very informative summary of the successful second visit of the Jayco factory by five members of Beaumaris Probus, which took place on 10 October, after the first visit in August, attended by another ten of our members. It may be worthwhile to arrange a further visit in 2025 for those who missed out this year (*more p6*).

Derek Skues

FINE DINING *TASTES* EXPERIENCE

Royal South Yarra LawnTennis Club



About 40 Probus members and partners attended the Fine Dining event at Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club on Thursday 24 October, with about 30 travelling in the chartered coach from Beaumaris, picking up passengers at Sandringham and Brighton Beach. Simon Appel and Bob Wigg provided refreshments along the way.

The event was held in the Norman Brookes Room where guests were welcomed by long time Tennis Club member, Derek Skues. The Club President, Cathy Moore, provided a history of the Club since its beginnings in Portland Place, South Yarra in 1884, its relocation to the present Toorak site in 1923 and the subsequent growth of the Club to the present 4,500 members. Cathy also provided an insight into its range of non tennis activities and the current management of the Dendy Park Tennis Club in Brighton. This was followed by an informative discussion with the head of coaching, John McCurdy. Everyone had a good time and look forward to a return visit.

Derek Skues

Events & Activities



PUB LUNCH
The Bridge Hotel Mordialloc
Wednesday 20 November
12 noon

Our last pub lunch for 2024. Cost \$37 pp including a pre dinner drink, choice of five main meals and coffee/tea after lunch. All welcome!

Please book and pay Treasurer John Hewison well before the lunch date.

[Click here to register](#)

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Woodlands Golf Club,
109 White Street, Mordialloc



Thursday 12 December
12 noon

- * Welcome drinks and table wine
- * Two course Christmas lunch
- * Christmas quiz
- * Christmas Carols

\$80 per head

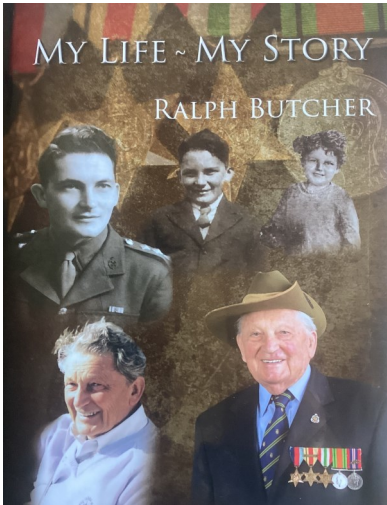
To register [click here](#)



(Car pooling required due to shortage of parking)

Members - crafted

Book review by Tim Harding



'My Life - My Story' by Ralph Butcher, 2015. 189pp.

I had the privilege of sitting next to fellow member Raph Butcher (1918-2024) at couple of our Probus lunches. Being a history buff, I was fascinated to hear his very lucid stories about technological change over the last 100 years, and especially his WW2 experiences in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Greece. (I suspect that Ralph was pleased that I knew something about the battles he had fought in).

Ralph wrote this book longhand aged in his nineties. It is most comprehensive, covering all aspects of his long life, and includes lots of interesting family and other photos. He was born in London in June, 1918, of English parents. His father was a missionary at Aird Hill in a remote and somewhat dangerous part of southern Papua New Guinea, where Ralph lived with his parents and sisters for six and a half years, using Australia

as a home base.

He was sent to boarding schools initially in Sydney and later London, where he completed his education later graduating from London University with a degree in optical science. This would later prove useful during the war when repairing gunsights, binoculars and rangefinders etc.

In the 1930s, Ralph and his friends became increasingly alarmed not only at the rise of Nazism but also the appeasement policy of the British Government and its lack of rearmament. When war was declared, he tried to enlist at Australia House, but was told he would have to travel to Australia at his own expense, then return to Europe to serve. Not a good idea, so he enlisted in the British Army. He rose from an NCO to the rank of Captain in charge of an anti-aircraft unit, where he was 'Mentioned in Dispatches'.

After the war he served with a unit established to receive UK Prisoners of War and assist them in their return to civilian life. This led to a change in his career towards later senior positions in human resources and training with BHP then CRA (Rio Tinto). He met and married an English girl, Christine Manning, who joined him on the ship repatriating him back to Australia.

Ralph Butcher joined Beaumaris Probus in 1989 and served as our President in 1996. He was previously Functions and Activities Officer and continued to attend some of our social events to near the end of his life. At the age 101, he was named Bayside Senior Citizen of the Year.

(This book is not available for purchase, but can be borrowed via Roger Wilson)



Real Eye-Opener

Tom Glass gave us an impromptu report on an excursion to the Jayco factory in Dandenong, the largest manufacturer of recreational vehicles in the Southern hemisphere has 900 employees. Jayco was founded 45 years ago by Gerry Ryan, starting in Cranbourne and employs a range of tradesmen including carpenters, welders, sheet metal workers, gas fitters, electricians and others. It was the second of two fascinating Probus trips to see how caravans, pop-tops, campervans, motorhomes and other vehicles are produced on our doorstep. Tom reported that the excursion was an eye-opening experience for all those in attendance.

Peter McGregor

PHOTO GALLERY



Ballarat Rail Trip and Exhibition October 2 (Photos by Paul Crompton)



Music Group on Sunday 20 October (left) and Sunday 27 October (right)



Wishing you and your loved ones health and happiness throughout the holiday season and the whole year through

Ed

Guest Speakers

An Adventurous Life

Our main speaker for October was **Captain Rob Anderson** who told us highlights of his colourful life at sea. He worked on offshore and specialist ships for many years but, he said, he grew up as a ratbag (his words). His father was a ship's master and sent him to Haileybury College, which he hated. Despite the regulations, he managed to escape to sea at age 15, becoming a deck-boy on a general cargo ship at four pounds a week, but was soon intrigued by the life he led. A turning point in his life was being confronted by a ship's captain who impressed him with the shiny buttons on his jacket. That was enough for him to decide to study to become a ship's mate - the next rung on the career ladder - which meant going to a navigational school in New Zealand; he was on his way. One of his early jobs was working for a salvage company for Lloyd's of London, recovering sunken ships. Sadly, however, he was sacked from that job by his father, but he needed sea-time to progress further, so he joined the sea cargo industry which meant a week in ports around the world, which he enjoyed. The next major change to impact his lifestyle was Malcolm McLean's invention of containers and the offshore oil industry in Bass Strait, which paid very well. However, being on small ships in dangerous and turbulent waters he encountered for the first time in his life something unexpected: seasickness. Nevertheless, his sea career extended to trips to Antarctica, piloting ships through Port Phillip Bay, Torres Strait and the Great Barrier Reef, usually bulk carriers, and forming a new association of pilots which meant buying a helicopter to assist their work. Eventually, when he failed a medical because he couldn't waddle like a duck, he realised it was time to retire, becoming an instructor at the Maritime Technical College as well as a civil celebrant. An astonishing story.

Peter McGregor

Tales from the Junction

Kevin Reed's 10-minute talk highlighted the area he grew up in - Balaclava Junction - assisted by an aerial photo. The junction is unique in Australia - trams can turn in every direction. He lived next door to two-and-a-half acres of neglected scrub surrounding the 1857 mansion, 'Rosecraddock'. Originally of 20 acres, stretching from Hawthorn Rd to Kooyong Rd, it once sported the Melbourne Polo Club. Recently renovated, the beautiful landscape now opens onto Keeverell Rd. He described the evolution of Caulfield Central RSL (from Major-General Johnston's 'Yerangle') and a convent, 'Cambria' and its tower's role overlooking the Racecourse. The highlight of his presentation was the story of Irish PP, Fr O'Brien, a noted equestrian and racehorse owner who founded St Aloysius. To assist the church's completion, his family in Co Clare dispatched a promising gelding, Redeven, which he quietly trained, registered at the last minute and tipped parishioners about its debut. It won by a nose; the steeple was promptly completed.

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc

*** Office Bearers 2023 -2024 * Committee Members**

*President:	<i>David Rushworth</i>	0438 010 181	*Vice President:	<i>Tim Harding</i>	0419 103 721
*Past President:	<i>Rod Hammond</i>	0438 571 912	*Secretary:	<i>Leon Laragy</i>	0410 327 587
*Treasurer:	<i>John Hewison</i>	0419 357 203	Asst Treasurer:	<i>Geoff Carlson</i>	0408 568 971
*Asst Secretary:	<i>John Green</i>	0406 641 756	*Functions:	<i>Derek Skues</i>	0418 893 676
Functions Asst:	<i>Kevin Reed</i>	0419 565 520	Functions Asst:	<i>Bob Wigg</i>	0409 213 600
Webmaster:	<i>Geoff Bransbury</i>	0416 294 452	*Meetings:	<i>Graeme Keys</i>	0415 340 892
Meetings Asst:	<i>Simon Appel</i>	0417 600 419	*Membership:	<i>Roger Wilson</i>	0418 385 946
Newsletter:	<i>Vivienne Fry</i>	0411 207 553	Newsletter Asst:	<i>Peter McGregor</i>	0418 322 987
Welfare:	<i>Alan Stevens</i>	0418 336 354	Archive:	<i>John Howe</i>	03 9598 2429
Auditor:	<i>Robert Lander</i>	0435 930 082	Recorder:	<i>Peter McGregor</i>	0418 322 987
Projectionist:	<i>Geoff Cupples</i>	0411 251 406	Audio Visual:	<i>Paul Crompton</i>	0491 147 389
Photographer:	<i>Alan Stevens</i>	0418 336 354			

*** Interest Groups**

Bike Riding:	<i>Duncan Gibson</i>	0475 370 112	Golf:	<i>Garry Bradd</i>	0418 107 800
Digital Technology:	<i>Geoff Wade</i>	0416 257 683	PRISMs:	<i>Geoff Wade</i>	0416 257 683
Discussion:	<i>Barry Amond</i>	0407 877 539	Wine Appreciation:	<i>Roger Wilson</i>	0418 395 946
Tastes:	<i>Geoff Bransbury</i>	0416 294 452	Travel:	<i>Simon Appel</i>	0417 600 419
Wine Discovery:	<i>Grant Sabin</i>	0419 595 757	Tipping:	<i>Leon Laragy</i>	0410 327 587
Pub Lunch:	<i>Roger Wilson</i>	0418 395 946	Sunday Music:	<i>Barry Amond</i>	0407 877 539
Science:	<i>Grant Sabin</i>	0419 595 757			