



COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF **AUBURN**

Edition 222.....February - 2024

The Auburn Newsletter

A monthly record of the activities of The Combined Probud Club of Auburn
*Hello and welcome to the new look of our newsletter, new, not because it is better,
but because it is different, and at our age different is cool.*



President's Notes

Dear Fellow Probudians. I hope you all had a survivable Christmas and a happy New Year. At least with the AO being held here in Melbourne, I thought that my late nights watching TV were over. Ha! Have enjoyed the tennis, except for the loud grunts and shrieks, the endless ball bouncing and the colours of some of the clothes, but perhaps I am being too picky. Well Summer has finally arrived - I think. Although it has not been too hot, our gardens still need some TLC so keep on tending, watering, feeding and that goes for the plants as well.

Some of our interest groups met during January as many of us don't go away over the summer but prefer to travel later on.

As we consider our travel plans for 2024, we have received information from Probud South Pacific that Collette, the international and domestic tour company, is now a sponsor and offers a \$100 discount per person off every tour. To investigate please go to www.collette.com/en-au/landing-pages/partners/probus

I have not travelled with them, but their tours look varied and interesting.

We will have the pleasure of Inducting three new members at the February meeting which is the last before our AGM on March 4th.

I look forward to seeing you there after what I am certain will be the beginning of a month full of interesting activities, and another very successful year for our Probud Club.
Stay safe and active.

Carole Williams

Really Useful Tip # 4: The new clear plastic tops on Woolworths' milk are recyclable - unlike the blue ones which weren't. Just remember to unscrew the top *before* you try to remove the seal from top of the milk. [Some of us didn't.]

February Speaker

Professor Kate Burridge.

“What’s so good about bad language”



Change in language is something natural, constant and unavoidable, and all aspects of English (sounds, words and grammar) are constantly on the move. The clues to where they are heading lie in the variation we find in everyday speech. Often these clues lurk in the linguistic features that many of you probably regard as wrong, bad or sloppy linguistic pinpricks such as funner, youse, between you and I, mischievious, gotten, yeah-no, to verse, snuck and so on. Many of them will drop by the wayside (you’ll probably be relieved to know!), and some will remain variation. But there will also be a number that catch on and eventually make their way into the repertoire of Standard English in the future.

To draw on my favourite garden metaphor today’s weeds may well become tomorrow’s cherished garden ornamentals.

Treasurer’s Report

As usual a couple of puns to hopefully get you smiling now that the gloss of the new year of 2024 might have slightly worn off.

What does the man with no hair sing on New Year’s Eve...? *Bald Lang Syne!*

My resolution for 2024 ...

is to buy Bitcoin in 20]].

Our Club finances have reduced somewhat since my last report as we have had to pay for our Christmas Lunch. The total cost was \$6250. This was partly covered by the \$3800 paid by members and a City of Boroondara community grant of \$1500.

Thanks to all members for heeding my plea in my December report. Unlike last year no one has paid their fees for 2024/25!! That’s good as they are not due yet (1st April) and your Committee have not yet set the fees for the next Probus year.

To finish up

My New Year's resolution is to procrastinate.

I'll start tomorrow.

Yours financially

David Brown

Vice President’s note

Members rostered for the Club meeting on the 5th February are:

Ann Rusden Gary Israel Eril Hudson

If you are unable to attend the day you are on duty, please arrange for someone else to fill your spot.

Club Section

General Information

Notice is given of the Annual General Meeting to be held at our Club on 4th March at 10am. Nomination forms for committee members close on the 5th February. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary.

Mike Pavey our Webmaster will email to members the Agenda, Minutes, President, and Treasurer's reports.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Jeny Matthews

Secretary

CLUB DIARY: The Club Diary is held by the Vice President Peter Matthews. The diary lists all Club activities for the whole year. All Organisers and Convenors must contact Peter to let him know the proposed date of activities planned for verification thus ensuring that there are no clashes of activities.

CONVENORS are responsible for the Interest and Activity Groups which are the soul of the Club and are there for members to participate in and enjoy. If any member is interested in finding out more about any Group, you are encouraged to contact the Convenor of that Group to find out more about it.

YOUR NEWSLETTER reports on the activities of the past month and announces future activities for the coming months, convenors are encouraged to submit articles and photographs covering both facets of past and future events. General members are also invited to submit articles of interest along with comments on attended activities.

This is important for the new and regular members to know about activities of interest.

Members may also ask for expressions of interest for new activities.

New groups can be started if activity support is strong enough.

This is your Newsletter so having your say will strengthen your Club.

Any number of groups can be supported: Book-Sewing-Walking-Travel etc, etc. limited only to the available convenor and meeting space in individual homes. News items must be submitted to the editor up to eleven days prior to the next club meeting date. Show interest and strengthen our club.

Membership:

Noelle Brennan, Assistant: Maureen McIntosh

It has been suggested that members wear their name badges on outings.

Please ring apologies to Noelle or Maureen

Birthdays for February

Shirley Campbell, Neil Hookey, Suzie MacFarlane, John Curry, Tony Smythe, Mike Pavey, Meg McLean, John Hutchins, John Hudson, Lee Phillips, Venita Mitchell, Janie Piret.

Please note new phone number for Bernard Coburn

Birthdays for March

Betty Collins, Keith Creed, Ina Creed, Barbara Edwards, Ann Rusden, Judith Tymms, Helen Rennie, Ann Alexander, Susan Hutchins, Ian Macfarlane, Eileen Toohill, Ronda D'Paul, Jenni Williams,

The following people will be inducted at our next meeting.

- a. Lindsay Butler
- b. Barbara Butler
- c. John Lagzdins

Regular Activity Days This Month

Armchair Travel	4th Wednesday
Brew and Chew	4th Wednesday
Canasta	1st Tuesday
Cycling	1st & 3rd Thursday
Dine Out	3rd Monday evening
Golf	Every Monday, except public holidays & meeting days
Mah-jong	Last Thursday
Movie Group	3rd Tuesday
Sew and Sews	3rd Friday
Stitch 'n Knit	2nd Friday
Tuesday Evening Book	2nd Tuesday
Walking	2nd & 4th Monday
Wed Afternoon Book Group	2nd Wednesday

Travel Section

Outings

Jan Lester

This year's Outings calendar begins with something a little different, an outing on a SATURDAY for lunch followed by a guided tour of H Division in Pentridge Prison. Parking (at own cost) is available under the shopping centre, and I will meet you in the playground area at the back of the shops and inside the prison walls at 12.15pm before walking a short distance to North & Common restaurant for a 2-course lunch at 12.30pm. After lunch, at 2.30pm, we will be given a 90-minute guided tour of the famous H Division.

Saturday 2nd March at 12.15pm. \$69.00 pp which includes 2 course lunch and tour.

Payment can be made at the next meeting or by EFT to Club's bank account no later than Thursday 22nd February to enable final numbers to be advised to venue.

Please advise Jan any dietary requirements.

N.B. No refunds will be given if cancelling after final numbers advised.

Numbers are limited, so "first in, best dressed" applies.

Other Outings in the pipeline for 2024 include:

- a. A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon
- b. Parliament House and lunch
- c. Werribee Rose Garden, (and maybe Zoo)
- d. Flinders Ranges

Please come and see me if you have any suggestions for an outing.

Get Away

Colin and Barbara Richards

Getaway Group - Bendigo 19th - 23rd February 2024

The following 24 people have confirmed bookings for the Bendigo trip:

Couch, Griffiths, Howard Smith/Edwards, Jackson/Lester, Keane/Phillips, King, Mackey, Matthews, Mavrodoglos, McIntosh, Pavey, Philips (Ian), Richards, Tyrrell

Please contact us promptly if you have booked and your name does not appear above.

Itineraries will be emailed to you all soon. If you have any queries relating to the trip, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Armchair Travel

Shirley Fenemor



We are off again on February 28 at 7.30 pm, Manningtree – 20-26 Manningtree Road, Hawthorn. Parking available in the forecourt.

Trevor Mackey will present on their recent West Australian trip with APT, travelling from Broome to Perth returning to the east coast on the Indian Pacific to Sydney.

New folks are always welcome – ring me on the number above if further information is needed.

Sports Section

Footy tipping

Footy Tipping 2024	
Mike Pavey	
	 <p>The AFL Home & Away Season starts Thursday 14th March. The tipping competition will again be run for members, family, and friends for a bit of fun. No expertise required. The cost will be the same as last year, \$30.00 for each player. Members who took part last year will be able to use logins and passwords they used last year. Those who have not entered in previous seasons, please consider for a bit of fun over the footy season. New contestants will need to set up online, but it only takes 4 Easy Steps The competition uses the ESPN Footy Tipping App To Set Yourself Up</p> <p>Step 1 Go to http://www.footytips.com.au and Join Step 2 Join the Competition – Auburn Probus Tippers (Important) Step 3 Pay \$30 into Club Probus Bank Account Step 4 Start Tipping If more information or assistance is required, contact Mike Pavey On-hand assistance to Join will be available at the February and March Meetings.</p>

Golf Group

Gary Jackson

Golf to restart in February at Wattle Park Golf Course, 1012 Riversdale Rd Surrey Hills

Tee off time for Tuesday February 6th at 9.32 am, and Mondays at 10.12 am on 12th, 19th and 26th.

If you intend playing, please let me know.

Walking Group

Jenene Marshall

12th February - Alphington - Leader Chris Tyrrell - Meet in View Street Alphington, near Alphington Park at 9.50am (Melways 31 C12). Coffee TBA.

26th February - Heidelberg - Banyule Flats Reserve (Warringal Park). Meet in car park, right turn off Beverley Road (Melways 32 C4). There is an oval, children's play area (Possum Hollow). Coffee at take away coffee shop (if open) or the Greenery Garden Centre (they have a new area for coffee now).

I have 24th June, 22nd July, 26th August and 9th September available for Volunteers to plan and lead a walk for 2024.

Bike Group

Gary Jackson

January Ride

Thursday January 18th. 16 riders and family members travelled to Tom and Shirley Fenemor's Somers holiday home where 9 riders kicked off our first ride in 2024 with a short ride to Balnarring for coffee then returning to enjoy a sumptuous lunch prepared by our hosts. A great day enjoyed by all. Thanks again to Tom and Shirley for hosting this annual activity. Well done.



February Rides

Thursday February 1st Meet at Norfolk Café, 139 The Esplanade Altona (Melways 54 H11) at 10am (just east of the Altona pier). We will ride west along the Bay Trail south of Altona Meadows and skirting the Cheetham Wetlands, on flat sealed paths shared with pedestrians, to Point Cook Road. We then ride into Point Cook and around Sanctuary Lakes. As the coffee shops look better in Altona we will return to Altona Beach, mostly the same way. Around 22 km on very flat terrain.

Attention Non-Riders: If the weather is fine/sunny we will 'coffee' at Norfolk Café. (around 11.30) but, if the weather is 'dodgy', there is no interior seating there, we will go to the nearby 'Rockabye Candy' corner Queen and Pier St, and sit inside.

David Brown

Thursday February 15th. Meet at our camp site, C 11 Capel Sound at 10.30am. The easiest way to get there is to follow Eastbourne Road to the end where it meets Point Nepean Road, turn right and then left into the Foreshore at the sign B section. Go past the first 2 camp sites on your left then turn left, travel about 100 metres and look for the Flying fish. We will then go for coffee, and travel to Point Nepean for our Ride. Leader Ian Bourke.

Indoors Section

Mahjong

Barbara Richards

Welcome to 2024.

Our first mahjong date is Thursday 29th February and will be held at Barnsbury, 27 Barnsbury Road, Deepdene

Canasta

Thelma Bourke

Canasta this month will be on Tuesday February 6th at 7:30 in the 1st floor lounge at Applewood, 15 Tram Road Doncaster.

Sew'n' Sews

Barb Richards:

Our first official day for 2024 is Friday, 16th February and will be held at Barnsbury, 27 Barnsbury Road, Deepdene.

I will look forward to seeing you on the day.

Tuesday Evening Book Group

John Curry

For our February meeting we agreed to share with each other our thoughts on the various books which we read over the Christmas break. We will review “Gulliver’s Wife” by Lauren Chater at our February meeting.

Wednesday afternoon Book Group

Carole Williams

We meet on the second Wed of each month, January to December at Barnsbury. 2pm discuss the book, 3pm or before break for afternoon tea which we take it in turns to bring. This is a composite group of both Probus members and 3 others.

A small but dedicated group of book lovers met in January to discuss “The Sixteen Trees of the Somme” by Lars Mytting.

Set in Norway, the Shetlands and France, it is a complex but fascinating story covering several generations.

Group members felt that we were able to clearly visualise the three countries described in the story and universally did not like the character Gwen!

Wood and trees are integral to the story. At the Somme, the significance of the sixteen trees helps to answer Edvard’s questions about his identity and of those around him.

Whilst we enjoyed the book, I suggested that perhaps the story could have been cut down by about 20%.

Our February book is “The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin. I will have some spare copies of the book at the February meeting if anyone would like to take one and try us out. We borrow a kit from the Library, so there is neither charge nor hassle with buying or borrowing books from others.

Outdoors Section

Dine – Out

John & Susan Hutchins

Our first Dine-Out function for the year was dinner at the Box Hill RSL on 15th January and the maximum number of guests came along to welcome in the new year. Thank you to John McIntosh for looking after arrangements for this night out.

Dinner at the RSL has been very popular over the years and we have made a regular booking for the third Monday of each month.

We have not yet made any firm arrangements for any other Dine-Out functions but watch this space for details of future events.



Boroondara Symphony Band

Colin Richards

The concerts this year have moved up a level following the appointment of new conductor Giuliano Di Ienno. An average of eight members attended the concerts and we enjoyed some great music. There was always time to adjourn to the local cafe for coffee and a chat. The band will be performing at the Surrey Hills Music Festival on Saturday 24th February. Details can be found on the Surrey Hills Music Festival web site, mark this date in your diary.

Future Performances:

17th March 2.30 pm March Concert - Holy Trinity Kew

16th June 2.30 pm June Concert - Holy Trinity Kew

8th September 2.30 pm Annual Concert - Holy Trinity Kew

24th November 2.30 pm--November Concert - Holy Trinity Kew

Brew and Chew

Ian Philips



As this is the first commentary for Brew and Chew in this new year, it is perhaps appropriate to return to our roots and reflect.

The Brew part of our name was in response to a perceived enthusiasm for home-brew, driven from sampling some of Einhart's excellent product. It is clearly time that this aspect of our interest was revived. With the impending indexation of excise, the price of beer will increase yet again. It is reported that the beer tax will increase to over \$60 per litre of pure alcohol due to indexation on February 1. This means the excise on a pint will increase to about 90 cents. The price of a pint over the bar could be

\$15! In case you missed that, \$15! (In about 1956, I was drinking at Christmas in a city pub and my mate found a ten bob note on the floor – he said let's see how quickly this will last at the bar!). So, we will have to start saving empty long-necks again, assuming the PM does not seek to address both inflation and his sagging popularity by removing the excise altogether. After all, it never has been popular - Dr Johnson in his dictionary in 1755 defined excise as: "A hateful tax levied upon commodities ...".

As to Chew, at B+C the idea of shared recipes has never really taken off. Nevertheless, in the spirit of the Hogmanay, I will pass on here a recipe for Aberdeen Sausage – an appropriately Scottish item – from my mother's collection circa 1920's.

1 lb lean steak, 1 lb bacon, all the crumbs from loaf of bread, 1 teaspoon dry mustard, salt, pepper to taste, 2 eggs: mince steak and bacon, mix well together, boil for two hours, when boiled, roll in dried breadcrumbs.

Rather to my surprise, at NY it worked (after modification), such that someone asked where I had bought it!

However, it will not be on the menu when we meet at Camberwell Library, on Jan 24 (the fourth Wednesday, not the last) at 1000 hours, or, if you miss that, on Feb 28.

The Movie Group

As our club is having a get-together in Bendigo, there will be no film offered this month. At our February meeting I will take the names of people who express an interest and who will support a movie group.

Have a fun year in Probus.

Norma G

Smile Section



Cartoon of the month

Thought for the month:

Happiness isn't about getting what you want all the time
it's about loving what you have and being grateful for it.