



COMBINED PROBUD CLUB OF AUBURN

Edition 223.....

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.March - 2024

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The Auburn Newsletter

A monthly record of the activities of The Combined Probud Club of Auburn



The Ides of March - One of the more violent annual general meeting change-overs!

President's Notes

Dear Fellow Probudians.

Well the time has just about come: at the March meeting I will be handing over to the very capable Peter Matthews who will be our President during 2024-2025.

I am very pleased to tell you that all Committee positions have been filled. Unusually both our new Treasurer and Vice President are relatively new members. This reinforces the need to continually bring in new people which both refreshes and provides impetus for the Club. So, if you don't feel able to actively take on a position to help run the Club, don't feel guilty, just recommend us to a younger friend, neighbour, son, daughter or two!

My thanks to the many members who have either been recognised in earlier newsletters and/or are named in the Annual Report. This will be sent to all members, along with the financial statements before the AGM which is on March 4th. Formalities will be short and there will be a speaker as usual, so I hope to see you there.

I have been told that members enjoy my Notes which I have tried to make both interesting and fun. This last report was going to be brief but once I started writing, I'm afraid that my iPad got carried away.

I have been a member of Auburn probus since the first year of the Club. In the early days, my first Caravan and Camping trip (now called Getaway) was to Swan Hill; my beautiful little dog had just died and I was feeling very down but by then it was too late to book a cabin, however I was able to grab a motel room next to the caravan park where everyone else was staying. It was the best thing that I could have done and I remember at the first evening get together around the bbq asking “is it always as good as this?” and was assured that it was. It went uphill from there.

Books have always been a huge part of my life, and I am now looking after our Wednesday group, with fantastic support from the Balwyn Library, (your rates at work). I also enjoy collecting one or two extras from the swap table. Please stop me.

Other favourite activities include amazing day trips - the best way to meet other members, walking through parks and gardens you often can't see from your car, dine outs, and previously, a great fav: movies at the Palace with sandwich lunches to follow. I have also so enjoyed the amazing range of speakers who have given their time for us, all merely rewarded with a bottle of something tasty.

As you can tell, I love being a member of this vibrant Club.

I look forward to supporting the new Committee under our next President and I am sure that the Club will remain in good hands in 2024 which is also our 20th anniversary.

So, as this is my last report as President, may I take the opportunity to thank you for your goodwill and support and to send you all my best wishes and my usual message-stay safe.

Carole Williams



March Speaker

The Honorable Peter Gurry

‘The Man Behind the Tie!’

I was principal of the A school in Madang in 1970 to 1972. Mary and I ventured into New Guinea with a five year old boy, Anthony, and a ten month old baby boy, Michael. After 53 years my memory will certainly need a USB prompt. Be careful about quitting work too early. Consider reducing the work load and involvement gradually rather than taking a complete stop! Advice from a 90 year old! I cut back gradually and did testing work with ACER until a year or two ago! I look forward to filling in the details:

Treasurer's Report

David Brown

Sadly/gladly this will be my last report as Treasurer!

As usual a couple of one-liners to hopefully get you smiling. This time two quotes from a past and present celebrity.

From Mark Twain: **Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence in society.**

From Dolly Parton: **The way I see it if you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.**

At the time of writing our account balance stands at a healthy \$8,759.00, with of course no subscriptions received as yet until after the AGM when the 2024 fees are set. The 'books' for 2023, with blood sweat and tears, have been prepared and by the time you read this will be in the hands of the Auditor, club member, Peter Brown.

As I depart the 'Treasury benches' here are a few ways that some members could adopt that would be of great assistance to our new Treasurer!

- Be careful not to pay for an activity twice!
- If for whatever reason you receive a cheque from the Club, pay it into your bank immediately!
- Learn a new skill by finding out how to use EFT (electronic funds transfer) to pay monies into the club (*if necessary get help from a trusted family member, close friend or bank officer*)
- When paying by EFT clearly identify who is paying and the activity involved.
- When using EFT it's a good practice to send an email to the Treasurer (and cc the event organiser) to advise them of your payment.

And to finish up:

Two women neighbours met at the local coffee shop. Eyeing the jewellery around her friend's neck, one said: "What is in that locket? Is it a memento of some sort?"

"Yes", replied the other woman. "It's a lock of my husband's hair".

"But your husband is still alive!"

"I know, but his hair has all gone".

Yours financially ... and finally, ... David Brown

Vice President's notes

Peter Matthews

The following members are on roster duty for the March Club meeting, **Jan Macfarlane, Ian Macfarlane and Vic McCrea.**

Please be at the Club by 9.30am to assist with the preparation. If you are unable to attend on the day you are on duty, please arrange for someone else to fill your spot.

A new roster request form will be circulated at this meeting to cover meetings in the new Probus year. The date for our April meeting falls on Easter Monday. The Secretary has contacted the Bowls Club to arrange another date which will see the April Club meeting being held on the 15th April. The committee meeting will take place on the 12th April.

Club Section

2024 Committee

President - Peter Matthews
 Vice President - Peter Gibbs
 Past President - Carole Williams
 Secretary - Robin Gilchrist
 Treasurer - John Lagzdins
 Outings - Jan Lester
 Speakers - Tony Smythe & Neil Hookey
 Web Master - Mike Pavey
 Newsletter - Don Porter
 Membership - Sandi Fitzpatrick

2024 Activity Convenors

Armchair Travel - Shirley Fenemore
 Brew & Chew - Ian Phillips
 Canasta - Thelma Bourke
 Dine Out - John & Maureen McIntosh
 Footy Tipping - Mike Pavey
 Mahjong & Sew/Sew - Barb Richards
 Golf & Cycling - Gary Jackson
 Movie Goers - Norma Griffiths
 Tuesday evening Book Club - John Curry
 Walking - Jenny Marshall
 Wednesday afternoon Book Club - Carole Williams

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.

Due date for newsletter articles	Date of monthly meeting
Thursday, 22 February 2024	Monday, 4 March 2024
Wednesday, 27 March 2024	Monday, 15 April 2024
Wednesday, 24 April 2024	Monday, 6 May 2024
Wednesday, 22 May 2024	Monday, 3 June 2024
Wednesday, 19 June 2024	Monday, 1 July 2024
Wednesday, 24 July 2024	Monday, 5 August 2024
Wednesday, 21 August 2024	Monday, 2 September 2024
Wednesday, 25 September 2024	Monday, 7 October 2024
Wednesday, 23 October 2024	Monday, 4 November 2024
Wednesday, 27 November 2024	Monday, 9 December 2024



February Speaker Summary

Professor Kate Burridge.

We were very fortunate to have Professor Kate Burridge as our Guest Speaker at our February meeting. Unhappily we encountered a problem with our USB images being shown on the screen. Our clever technician, Mike Pavey, tried very hard to make the system work but to no avail. Thank you Mike for sending out the images to all members later that Monday afternoon. Kate went ahead without the screen images and delivered her usual presentation with full confidence and class.

We were delighted to have Kate as our Guest Speaker for a second visit. She is such a great speaker so, if she has a third topic, we will recommend Kate be invited back to Auburn Probus for a third visit some time in the future!

Kate refrained from using bad language but gave us examples of personalities using it in the past. She explained that sexist bad language has no tolerance in our modern world. She felt that there is more freedom with bad language on our modern TV with radio presenters being more nervous about their delivery. We thank Kate for another wonderful guest speaker visit, you were “Bloody Marvellous.”

Members will note that Kate is working on a special Podcast, simply click on the link below, followed by a click on ‘open link’ (if required) and her article will open.

Probus members can contact Kate or Helene Thomas directly or mention your interest to Peter Gurry if you prefer that avenue.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10D8kN_KwqUB40O3IUjdTQXN-jhFu-tq/view?usp=drive_link

Membership

Noelle Brennan

Attendance for February Meeting: 88, Apologies: 16, No Response: 27,

Total Membership: 131

New Members: Lindsay & Barbara Butler Resignation: Liz Hyde Visitors: 3

Recent Death: Bern Connell

Birthdays for March:

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

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

Please ring apologies to Sandi or Laurice

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 Wednesday
Sew and Sews	3rd Friday
Tuesday Evening Book	2nd Tuesday
Walking	2nd & 4th Monday
Wed Afternoon Book Group	2nd Wednesday

Travel Section

Outings

Jan Lester

A reminder for those who have paid for our Outing to Pentridge Prison on Saturday 2nd March, we will all meet in the playground area inside the prison walls at 12.15pm then proceed to our lunch venue. Guided tour is at 2.30pm.

Car parking is available under the shops/cinema.

A PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Victoria Mantynen, a singer from Performing Arts Australia will celebrate, in song, the life of “ the forces sweetheart” Dame Vera Lyn. She will entertain us with classics as well as a few extra surprises whilst being accompanied by her pianist on the grand piano.

Afternoon tea will be provided after the show.

Sunday 21st April at 2pm at Renaissance Living 932 Riversdale Road Surrey Hills

The cost is \$25.00 per head.

Friends and family welcome

Ample untimed parking is available on both sides of Riversdale Road.

Payment EFT direct to Probus bank account (preferred) or at March and April meetings.

FLINDERS RANGES

A 9 day coach tour to Flinders Ranges 23rd August - 31st August 2024.

There are still a few spaces available. If you are interested, please come and see me at the Outings desk where an Itinerary will be available.

Suggestions for any outings are always welcome.

Armchair Travel

Shirley Fenemor

Welcome aboard – In March David Hutt will be escorting us on a ‘European Odyssey’ North Sea to the Black Sea. Many of you will have experienced David’s trips before, he is a cyclist so hope you all have your lycras ready.

As usual this will be at Manningtree in Hawthorn on the 4th Wednesday – this time, being 27 March – at 7.30 pm.

New folk are always welcome – please ring me for any information you require.

Get Away

Colin and Barb Richards

Twenty-two Probus members set out for Bendigo on Monday 19th February in fine but very warm conditions. After a half way stop at Malmsbury and a visit to the Bendigo Information Office we arrived at the Tasman Holiday Park. We were fortunate to have use of the Games room for our BYO Barbeque and on our evening happy hours as well as our evening dinners.



Tuesday morning saw some energetic members walking either around the golf course or around Lake Weeroona followed by coffee at the Boardwalk Café. After lunch it was free time, some retail therapy such as the Hat Shop, a tour around the Great Stupa, and some of the other attractions in Bendigo.

Dinner was at the Botanic Hotel.

Wednesday morning started with a stroll around the Botanic Gardens both the old section and the Garden for the Future, all very spectacular. A highlight was lunch at Peppergreen Farm which supports people through education employment and social

inclusion. Some members even took a

ride on the historic talking tram. The local take away shop was raided for fish and chips and hamburgers for dinner in the games room for some. Sadly Omari Café in the Botanic Gardens was burnt down on the Sunday night prior to us arriving. Fortunately we were able to get a last minute reservation at the Boardwalk Café for Thursday’s group lunch.



Our final dinner was chicken and salad thanks to two of our ladies followed by various sweet delights. All in all a very successful and enjoyable Bendigo experience.

Sports Section

Walking Group

Jenene Marshall

11th March, no walk due to Labour Day. 25th March - Maranoa Gardens & Beckett Park Balwyn - Leader Lorraine Borley - Meet in car park off Iramoo Street, (behind Whitehorse Road shops) at 9:50 for a 10:00am start. Coffee at Focus - Mel. 46 F8.



The sun sets on Summer - 2024

Golf Group

Gary Jackson



February 2024 Golf results

Date	Weekly Winner	Longest Drive	Nearest the Pin	Best off the stick
6/2	Trevor Mackey Peter Matthews Gary Jackson	Gary Jackson	John Phillips Gary Jackson	John Phillips
12/2	Peter Matthews	Gary Jackson	Gary Jackson	Trevor Mackey
19/2	Tom Fenemor Peter Gibbs	Tom Fenemor John Phillips	John Phillips	John Phillips
Bendigo 20/2	Mike Pavey	Mike Pavey	-	Mike Pavey

In March we move to Ivanhoe Golf course, Vasey Street, Ivanhoe.

Tee off time is 10.08 for Tuesday's March 5th and 12th and Monday's 18th and 25th

Footy tipping

Mike Pavey 0418 890 815



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

Step 1

Go to <http://www.footytips.com.au> and “Join”, providing email address and password

Step 2

Join the Competition – **Auburn Probus Tipplers** (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 hands assistance to join will be available at the March Meeting.

Bike Group

Gary Jackson

February rides

Thursday February ^{1st} 5 riders commenced cycling from the Altona beach front on the Bay Trail south of Altona Meadows. With Melbourne’s city skyline in the background, we continued through Doug Grant Reserve and crossed Laverton Creek to the very large Cheetham Wetlands to Point Cook. Stopping for coffee at Sanctuary Lakes Shopping Centre before returning around Sanctuary Lakes and back to Altona. Thanks David.



Thursday February 15th. 13 riders and family members met at Thelma and Ian's camp site at Capel Sound. With bikes loaded we all travelled down to the former Quarantine Station at Point Nepean National Park. Before our ride, we enjoyed coffee from the onsite caravan at the Quarantine Station. 8 riders cycled from the Quarantine Station following the bike trail along Port Phillip Bay shoreline to the old Fort Nepean gun emplacements and tunnels with wonderful ocean and bay views. Some family members caught the shuttle bus that runs out to the Fort. Returning to our cars we all made our way back to the camp site for a great lunch prepared by our hosts. Thanks Thelma and Ian.





Fort Nepean



**Thelma & Ian Camp site
Capel Sound**

March rides

Thursday March 7th Meet at Yarra Bend Road Carpark

at 10 am (Melway ref P30- H120). Join the Merri Creek Trail and follow the Creek to Coburg Lake turning off to Pentridge. Some inclines on made trail along the way and downhill on return. We do need to cross a couple of main roads at lights. Approx 18 Kms. Leader - Christine Mavrodoglos 0428 858 522.

Thursday March 21st Meet at 10 am in the car park on the Yarra Boulevard (Melways 58 K1 or 2M J1). The route travels along the Main Yarra Trail, joining onto the Gardiners Creek trail, then following the Anniversary trail before picking up the Ferndale trail to Glen Iris Road for coffee at the Glen Iris Pantry. The route is undulating mainly on sealed bike paths. Approx. 20kms. Leader - Trevor 0408 285 382.

Indoors Section

Mahjong

Barb Richards

Due to Easter in March and Anzac Day in April, our next Mahjong date will not be until **Thursday 30th May** at 10.00 am at Eril Hudson's home at 4/645 Burke Road, Camberwell. By that date we will certainly be looking forward to some mahjong games again.

Canasta

Thelma Bourke

The next canasta will be Tuesday March 5th at 7:30 pm at Applewood 1st floor lounge. Please note, to access the entry gates press #8888 and say you are there for Thelma Bourke's canasta night.

Sew'n' Sews

Barb Richards

Our Sew and Sews group will meet this month on Friday 15th March at 10.00 am at Noel Garraway's home at 43/20, 26 Manningtree Road, Hawthorn.

Tuesday Evening Book Group

John Curry 0417 581 126

At our February meeting each member spoke about the books they had read over the holiday break. There was a very diverse range of reading.

At our March meeting we will review "Gullivar's Wife" by Lauren Chater. A novel based loosely on Gullivar's travels and the battle in England to have midwives recognized against opposition from surgeons.

We acknowledged that Bernard Coburn was not able to continue membership of our group and we thanked him for his contribution over many years.

The group has vacancies for another two members. We meet at Athelstan monthly every second Tuesday evening for dinner and discussion.

If interested please contact John Curry.

Wednesday afternoon Book Group

Carole Williams 9816 1117

This month we read "The Storied Life of AJ Fikry": a quirky tale about an initially sad bookshop owner who finds a small girl left in his shop and ends up looking after her all her life. Although the child is very bright, the group thought that she would have been closer to 4 years old rather than the 2 in the beginning of the story, but perhaps we were being picky. Nevertheless we all enjoyed the book.

Our next endeavour is "everything i never told you" by Celeste Ng (deliberately no capital letters) described as an 'exquisite novel about a Chinese-American family living in 1970s small town Ohio.

Outdoors Section

Dine – Out

John Hutchins

We had 15 attend our dinner at the Box Hill RSL.

The next dinner will be on Monday 18 March.

A Dine Out has not been planned as yet.



BOROONDARA
SYMPHONIC
BAND
INCORPORATED

Booroondara Symphony Band

Colin Richards

Details of future performances can be found on the web site.

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 Phillips



The gentlemen of Brew and Chew met at Camberwell Library, on Feb 28 at 10.00 a.m. and following that each fourth Tuesday.

It has been pointed out that the title “Brew and Chew” is pretty meaningless to those who have been involved, and offers no information as to what goes on.

It is fair to say that, over time, B+C has evolved into a discussion group devoted to men’s interests, more talk than torque these days. Each month there is an email to the usual suspects with a reminder and usually a thought-starter (which is mostly ignored). It is fair to say that the group has moved on from its first draft title – “Basket-weaving for blokes” – and it’s focus on 85 ways to tie your tie – but

perhaps not far enough.

If in doubt, come along and find out: if lapsed, come back and stir us up.

Contact Ian Phillips - irp@alphalink.com.au

The Movie Group

Norma Griffiths

The first film for our Probus Year is on the third Wednesday the 20th of March
Mark it in your diary.

Members who have given me their names at the last meeting will receive an email about
9-10 days before the movie with details of the movie, the venue, the time and lunch.

Participants need to email or text me if they are joining us and indicate whether they want to
include lunch or not.

We meet at the cinema and then buy our tickets together.

New members should note to receive a discount join up to the cinema club on line at no cost
or pay as a senior.

Hope you will join us.

Smile Section

Cartoon of the month



Thought for the month

Much of the social history of the Western world over the past three decades has been a history of
replacing what works with what sounded good

Thomas Sowell

Addendum

Rotary promotion

Below is a copy of the promotion graphic for the LightWalker walking sticks which will be brought to Probus at the March meeting to see if any member is interested in purchasing one of them.

Richard Blakeman, a member of the Rotary Club of Glenferrie, will come along to the April meeting with a supply of sticks and will answer any questions from interested members.

I am also able to help if you have any queries.

John Hudson



Thank you for your support for this sales promotion to Probus members. The proceeds from the sales of the sticks will help build two toilet blocks and a supply of fresh water for the children at the Aladura Primary School in Buedu, Sierra Leone. Thank you again for your support.

Richard Blakeman

Past President 2017-18

Communications and

Public Image

Rotary Club of Glenferrie.



Vale Bernard (Bern) Connell



It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of a valued member of our club and an excellent, long serving editor of this newsletter.

I have taken over that task and I treat his legacy with respect and hope to maintain a small part of the history of the Combined Probus Club of Auburn.

Don Porter