



PROBUS CLUB OF  
Ballarat Gardens

[Reg.No. A0057149B]

Probust Club of Ballarat Gardens Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

March 2024

◆ Friendship ◆ Fellowship ◆ Fun

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Website: <https://probustballaratgardens.org.au>

## GENERAL MEETINGS

Second Tuesday of each month – Masonic Centre, 616–620 Barkly Street, Ballarat.

### GUEST SPEAKER

We enjoyed sharing some of the Ballarat Historical Society photos with Kevin Williams, and listening to his fascinating commentary.

**March meeting** No guest speaker as it is the AGM

**April meeting** Nurse Next Door home care services

**May meeting** The Vintage Brass presenting memories through music

For details on future guest speakers, contact **Wendy** who welcomes suggestions and/or contacts she can make for extra variety in presentations.



**Next meeting: Tuesday, 12 March 2024, 9.30am arrival for a 9.45 start**

**COMMITTEE MEETING** – Thursday 21 March 2024, 9.30am.

### NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the **April** newsletter is **Saturday 23 March**, with publication **Monday, 25 March**. Please email copy to [pbgnews@gmail.com](mailto:pbgnews@gmail.com).

### BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS FOR MARCH

Lyn D, Yvonne G, Therese G, Peter H, Jim H, Virginia S



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My year as president of the Ballarat Gardens Probust Club has been an enjoyable one. I now realise that it was one of the best things for me to do personally, and I hope members have been happy with my doing so.

The Probust motto of 'Fun, Fellowship and Friendship' is one reason that I have included a joke in the opening of our meetings – to get the atmosphere in the right vein.

With the assistance of all committee members and activity leaders, I believe that we have had a very successful year. I cannot find the words to express how I feel regarding the wonderful people on Committee who have been an exceptional group to have worked with. Thank you Team! However, thank you does not adequately express my feelings to you all for your support.

The inclusion of many special social outings, activities and the quality of guest speakers has been outstanding. My thanks once again go to members who have been pivotal in organising these events.

Finally, we have some key positions yet to be filled on Committee, and I am hopeful that, when it comes to the crunch, members will respond and keep our club viable.

Yours in Fun, Fellowship and Friendship

Geoff

### WELFARE

We wish all members who have been in hospital and those who are not well a speedy recovery.

Remember that it is also important that your committee is kept up to date with any health issues.

You can be assured of complete confidentiality, so please let Marion or Ray, our Welfare Officers, know.

Contact: **Marion** or **Ray**

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Just once, I want the prompt for username and password to say, 'Close enough'.

'Your call is important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo.'

### MORNING TEA ROSTER

Volunteers are still required to assist with morning tea. Please add your name to the form on the table.  
Contact: **Therese** if you are unable to attend on the day.

### CLUB ACTIVITIES

#### MEETING DAY LUNCHEON

Lunch after the **March meeting** will be at **12.30pm, Flying Horse Bistro, Bray Raceway, Bell Street Ballarat.**  
**REMEMBER:** if you intend going, you must sign the luncheon form on arrival at the meeting.  
Contact: **Geoff H** for more information

#### COLOURING GROUP

The colouring group will meet on **Tuesday, 5 March, returning to Golden City Hotel, 427 Sturt Street, at 12.30pm. \*\*Note change of venue.\*\***  
Lunch and colouring – an enjoyable combination. All welcome  
Please let me know if you are going to attend a session as I need to notify the venue. The morning of Colouring would be enough.  
Contact: **Esma P** for further information.

#### CRAFT GROUP

There will be no Craft in March.  
Contact: **Chris R; Esma P**

#### TRADING TABLE

Support for our trading table has many benefits, besides getting items at bargain prices. All proceeds go towards special things for our members. As well as books, please continue to bring along any items considered saleable. Take advantage by remembering to bring some loose change to the next meeting!  
Contact: **Carel Y**

#### DINE-OUT

For our February Dine-Out, eight Probus members enjoyed a delightful dinner at the Nerina Tavern. Unfortunately, we were not able to book out the venue which seats about 200. There were a couple of other people there, but we were last to leave at 8.15. We all had a very enjoyable meal that had an American flavour to it. The conversation was lively, the staff were great and the venue was fabulous. For **March** we are off to **Oscars Hotel**, located at **18 Doveton St South**, Ballarat. We will meet there at **6:30pm, on Wednesday, 20 March.** Featuring a modern Australian menu, as well as a handful of pizzas, there is sure to be something for everyone. Join us for dinner, where there will be no washing dishes (unless you forget your wallet 😊) and enjoy a wonderful night out with a great group of friends. If you need further information, call **Robyn** on her mobile, or by email.  
**Please note:** After 9 years, March will be the last Dine-Out that I will organise, so I just wanted to again send out a big thank you to everyone who has come along and been part of a wonderful journey. A lot of fun has been had, new discoveries have been made, as well as regularly visiting some places that are always a guaranteed success. The level of chatter and laughter never ceases to amaze me, and I look forward to participating in Dine-Out, created from a different aspect. *Robyn*

#### LADIES MORNING COFFEE GROUP

Meets on the **4th Thursday** of the month.  
On **28 March** we will meet at **10.30am, Wild Seed Café, Delacombe Town Centre.**  
April's coffee group is scheduled for Anzac Day, so that will be changed to **Thursday 2 May**, with the **May meeting being held 23 May** as normal. Venues to be advised. All welcome.  
Contact: **Carmen S** for all enquiries

*Ladies Morning Coffee Group in February at Mondegreen Cafe enjoying their first meeting of the year*



Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet. I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

## **10 PIN BOWLING**

With a few regulars away and Neil hosting for Geoff, the 8 bowlers and 3 spectators this month saw a great chance for a new champion to be crowned. The centre was quieter with no school children around and the lanes better lit, though they still play the music louder than we think necessary. A bonus was the 2-game price was only \$17. The bowlers were split into David, Bill, Neil and Ray playing 2 games with Vic, Karin, Dennis and Ann playing one on the adjacent lane.

From the first frame it was a very close competition between the men, with Ray out to an early lead with a spare and strike before the grand master Bill found his range with 2 spares and 2 strikes. Ray bounced back and was leading after seven frames. David had a couple of strikes, but failed to capitalise on them and Neil, even though handicapped by a sore knee, ended up with what he thinks his highest score of 107. Final scores for game one were Bill 133, David 124, Ray 122 and Neil 107.

The second game scores showed signs of tiredness with several missed opportunities to build a good score. In this game David, Bill and Neil had a good tussle and once again only a few pins separated them after 7 frames. Final scores were Bill 133 (again), David 126, Neil who cracked the 100 for second time and Ray 83. The single gamers also enjoyed a good tussle to see who would come out victor. Strikes were scored by Vic, Ann and Karin (with 2). Karin had a chance to tie the lead with her last two bowls: however, Vic survived to top the scores in a close finish with Karin. Ann was also disappointed with her last frame scoring only 3 and needing 6 pins to get to 100. The final scores for the one gamers was Vic 118, Karin 115, Ann 97 and Denis 93.

See you at the next bowling day **Friday, 15 March , Oz Tenpin Bowling**, 810 Norman St, Wendouree (corner Creswick Road) at **1.15pm for 1.30pm start**. Bowlers and supporters all welcome.

Contact: **Geoff H** for further information.

## **MENS COFFEE AND CHAT GROUP**

Meets on **1st and 3rd Tuesday** of the month, **10.00am** at the **Ballarat Yacht Club**. Next meeting **5 March**.

Contact: **Vic S**.



Hello everyone

The AFL Football season commences on **Thursday, 7 March, 2024**. This is about a week earlier than last year because the AFL has included an '**Opening Round**', so you'll need to **get crackin'**.

We've made some slight changes to the rules for this year. For a perfect score, that is a fully correct round, you will receive one bonus point. We've also decided to ditch the Joker Rounds as the feedback from the members was that they gave

too much of an advantage.

The Entry Fee will be the same as last year, \$25 per person. The prizes will be distributed as follows:

- First Prize – 50% of the prize pool
- Second Prize – 30% of the prize pool
- Third Prize – 15% of the prize pool
- Wooden Spoon – 5% of the prize pool.

The payments of \$25 should be made direct to the club's bank account. Details are on the last page of this newsletter.

Last year's participants are already on the Footy Tips system. **If you would like to join for this year, please follow this link:**

[https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/Probus\\_Club\\_Ballarat\\_Gardens\\_Footy\\_Tipping\\_Competition?p=Probus](https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/Probus_Club_Ballarat_Gardens_Footy_Tipping_Competition?p=Probus)

Attached to the February newsletter was a copy of this year's AFL fixture. Check out the opening round and subsequent rounds for the byes that follow. If you have any problems, please contact me

Cheers Peter D

## **PICNICS**

**Burrumbeet Ski Club rooms**  
**7 March, 11.00am.**

Contact: **Noreen and Kevin L**

## **GENEALOGY**

Contact: **Dorothy H**

## **WALKING GROUP**

The group leaves **every Friday morning at 10am on the dot**, from the cannons in front of **Pipers**, and meets up again inside Piper's about 11 o'clock for tea, coffee or whatever you fancy. We usually take an hour to recover and then head home for lunch. Some members just like to join us for coffee and a chat. There is no need to book in beforehand or apologise if you can't make it. Everyone is welcome.

Contact: **Rhonda C**

## **OUTINGS AND TRIPS**

For more, go to Club News at <https://probusballaratgardens.org.au/blog/>

### **Portarlinton Ferry 30 January**

We had 7 members make an early start, catching the 6:55am train to Southern Cross, then a 500m walk, crossing the bridge to Docklands, where we boarded the 'Geelong Flyer' ferry and travelled to Portarlinton. The ferry section of our journey provided a completely different view of many of Melbourne's landmarks, including the main dock area where all manner of ships were being loaded/unloaded, sailing under the Bolte and Westgate bridges to mention just a few.

Our return journey departed at 4pm. Even though the afternoon breeze had built, with many white horses and choppy conditions, the ride was still incredibly smooth. A wonderful day was enjoyed by everyone. To those that thought the 6:55am train was too early, we all think you missed out on a fantastic day trip. Maybe next time??

### **Titanic Exhibition, Melbourne Museum, Tuesday, 26 March**

One of the most famous tragedies in modern history, the story of the Titanic and its ill-fated maiden voyage continues to enthral, educate and break hearts more than 110 years since she sank to the bottom of the ocean.

Collect your boarding pass and embark on a journey to explore the powerful stories of those who travelled and worked onboard the legendary ship.

This is the only exhibition in Australia to feature more than 200 real artefacts, recovered directly from the wreck site. 'Titanic: The Artefact Exhibition' focuses on the voyage's compelling human stories, taking visitors on a memorable journey through the events of that fateful night.

We'll arrive at Southern Cross at 9:05 am, (**7:39am departure Wendouree**). Trams #86 & #96 depart Spencer/Bourke Streets every 7 minutes, with both dropping off at Melbourne Museum front entrance.

**10:00am booking** for the Titanic display, allowing 1.5 – 2 hours for casual viewing.

**Lunch options in Lygon Street** include Egyptian, Persian, Italian, Pakistani, Turkish, Mexican etc, all within a couple of blocks of the museum. Return to the museum for a further look around, then tram back to Southern Cross.

**Train departs 4:39pm**, arriving **Wendouree 6:05pm**.

### **Seppelt Underground Tour, Tuesday, 23 April**

The Great Western winery was founded in 1865 by Joseph Best, with the excavation of The Drives commencing in 1868. Joseph Best discovered the ground on the site was made of a rock bed of decomposed granite, an easily dug, yet solid compound. He commissioned local gold miners to tunnel underground cellars to store his wines. These cellars are known to this day as 'The Drives'.

Initially consisting of only a 9-metre-deep shaft entry and a single Drive, successive owners of the winery continued to extend the hand dug Drives over a period of 60 years to cellar the extensive collection of famous wines produced at the property and store them at an optimal temperature of 16 degrees.

The Drives are a maze of tunnels which stretch under the vast property for an incredible 3kms, being the largest underground cellaring system in Australia and have the capacity to store 3 million bottles of wine! Underground tours have a duration of approx. 1hr 15 mins, and involve a total of 25 stairs, with 1 flight of 4, 1 flight of 9, and a further flight of 10.

Cost is **\$20 concession**, with a small wine tasting included. Lunch will be at the café at the completion of the tour. There are numerous wineries well worth a visit after lunch, prior to our trip home. Come along and make a day of it.

**Car pooling would be a great option, as the trip to Great Western is approx. 1hr 30 mins.**

Contact: **Geoff H.**

### **Creswick Probus Club Bus Trip, Thursday 14 March, Point Cook RAAF Base Museum and Flying Display**

**Cost of \$36** covers bus, tour and morning tea for 30 people. Price comes down if more people attend.

**9.00am pick up to be advised.** Bring picnic lunch. **If interested contact Shirley S.**

**Out'n>About** More photos and descriptions go to Club News at <https://probusballaratgardens.org.au/blog>  
**Australia Day picnic**



*Australia Day picnic at Eureka Stockade ... a cool day, but good company and lots of talking. Many wore red, white and blue: Carmen and Noreen made the most of Australia Day with their hats and flags.*

**Portarlington Ferry trip**



*Melbourne from the ferry*

*Our travellers and the Geelong Flyer*

*Delicious lunch at Portarlington's Pier Street Café. We were joined by Marion and Ray's son Steve, and grandson Tom.*



**March Picnic Thursday, 7 March commencing at an earlier time 11.00 am  
 Burrumbeet Ski Club rooms**

Val and Alan D. have kindly offered the Burrumbeet Ski Club rooms and facilities for the day. It is situated on the south side of Lake Burrumbeet, continuing on from Cuthbert's Road. Come along for a day of friendship and fun! Bring your lunch, or there is a barbecue available if you wish to barbeque. Please ring Noreen & Kevin L if you are able to attend.