



**PROBUS
CLUB** OF

**WARRAGUL
RANGES** INC.

Reg No. A0050924Z

Website: probuss.warragulranges.au

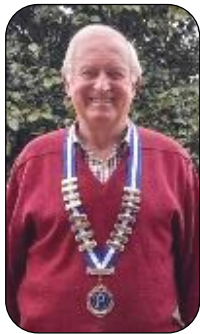
PO Box 356, Warragul, Victoria 3820

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Newsletter - Thursday February 22nd, 2024

Volume 19, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our first club event of the year - the annual 'Picnic in the Park' was very successful, despite the gale-force winds which developed toward the end. We had a great attendance, despite the threatening day, and this has been an encouraging feature of the past year. Almost all of our activities have had great support from our members with 90% plus often turning up regularly. This is a great credit to our organisers of course, and I know how much they appreciate your ongoing support. The Mont De Lancey day trip was well received too, and many enjoyed the 'Morning Melodies' show at the local Downtowner.

One challenge that may arise during this year is that the Golf Club here is going to be initiating some quite major remodelling of their premises, which includes the area of our monthly meetings. We were confronted with possibly having to search out new premises, if even for a few months. However, in recent talks, they have confirmed how much they appreciate our continued presence there, and they will do their very best to accommodate us in any way possible during this awkward period. A big thank you to the Golf Club.

Our activity groups are so vital to a healthy club, and we are so fortunate in having so

many; such a variety, and so well led. It's at these that you can really make friends with other members.

We're always looking to create new groups. If you have any ideas for a new group, let us know. And even better, volunteer to create and lead one.

Take care during these hot days and storms. You're very important to us.

Peter

Members are hereby notified that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

of the

Probuss Club of Warragul Ranges

will be held at the

Warragul Reception and Conference Centre
Sutton Street, Warragul

on **Thursday 28th March, 2023**

The AGM will follow the monthly meeting which begins at 10am

**Nominations for Office Bearers,
Committee Positions
and Items of Business should be received in writing by the Secretary by Thursday 22nd February, 2024.**

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary.

Next Monthly Meeting Date: Thursday 28th March, 2024

Please note: Copy deadline for next issue is Thurs 21st March

CLUB CONTACTS

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT:	Peter Gilbert
5644 3223 *	0490 080 676
VICE PRESIDENT:	Jan MacLean
* 0411 025 831	
PAST PRESIDENT:	David Belcher
5644 3169 *	0409 030 006
SECRETARY:	Alan James
5622 1867 *	0407 358 503
ASSISTANT SEC:	Frances Rush
* 5627 0762	
TREASURER:	Ken Ipsen
* 0408 240 477	
<u>COMMITTEE:</u>	
ATTENDANCE:	Val Hardy
5625 2413 *	0432 607 472
GUEST SPEAKERS:	Gary Rush
5627 0762 *	0419 552 991
HOSPITALITY:	Margaret Gleeson
* 5623 2289	
MEMBERSHIP:	Audrey Sayer
* 0428 348 570	
PUBLICITY:	Jenny Nogare
* 0412 730 527	
TRIPS:	Mick Nicholls
* 0408 682 704	
TRIPS ASSIST:	* Linda Williams
	* Jenny Neil
WELFARE:	Joy Ryrie
* 0408 595 864	
NEWSLETTER:	Chris James
5622 1867 *	0438 593 458

Please email newsletter contributions to: acjames@towerhillautomation.com



Ray Waters	Patricia Heffernan
Lester Mason	Mary Dorling
Jan Younger	Jennie Higgins
Lyndall Gilbert	Bev Wearne
Michael Nicholls	Geoff Fedderson

Extra congratulations to Jennie Higgins on earning an OBE.



GREETERS

Today
Margaret & Chris Brown

Next Month
Jenny & Frank Nogare

MORNING TEA ROSTER

If unavailable, please arrange replacement or contact Shirley Stephenson 0414 673 655

Today

Joan Grist	Lorraine Hamilton
Lyn Smith	Patsy Heffernan
Ron Henderson	Lynette Henderson

Next Month

Robyn Klemm	Howard Klemm
Evelyn Christie	Graeme Christie
Rosilyn Crowe	Louise McCullough

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker for February will be
Toni Arafas
from the
Stroke Foundation



Looking forward to hearing her talk on this very important subject.
Gary

ACTIVITY GROUP DETAILS

Book Group: Susan Kennedy



5625 1651 * 0408 251 651

West Gippsland Library on 3rd
Monday each month at 11am
BYO lunch & mug.

Cards: Bruce Chaproniere



5623 3165 * 0407 541 347

Canasta on 2nd & 4th Monday
each month at Warragul RSL
1pm for 1.30 start. Cost \$3

Golf: Bob Humphreys



5625 1171 * 0407 095 847

Warragul Country Club each
Friday at 8.15am for 9 holes of
social golf. **No charge for Golf
Club golf members, otherwise
green fees apply.**

Movie Goers: Chris James



5622 1867 * 0438 593 458

Movie, dates & times will vary
according to cinema program.

*Please let Chris know if you
would like to be on the contact list.*

Scrabble: Bruce Chaproniere

5623 3165 * 0407 541 347



Meet at Bruce's home
77a Smith St, Warragul
on 1st and 3rd Wed of
each month.

Time: 1.30pm

Armchair Travel: Jan MacLean



* 0411 025 831

Sharing of members travel
photos and experiences.

Date: Friday March 15th

**Place: Jan MacLean's home
10 Selent Drive
Warragul**

Time: 2pm

*David Belcher's unique view of
New Zealand's South Island.*

Lunchtime Dining: GIRLS

Jan Pickburn

* 0438 744 062



Date: Tuesday 5th March

**Venue: The Family Hotel
65 Princes Way
Drouin**

Time: 12 noon

Please register on list at the meeting

All welcome, contact Jan if you need transport

Lunchtime Dining: GUYS

David Belcher

* 0409 030 006



Date: Tuesday 5th March

**Venue: Carvery King
1/34-38 Princes Way
Drouin**

Time: 12 noon

Please register on list at the meeting

Evening Dine Out: Lyn Smith

5622 2175 * 0417 503 760



Date: Thursday 7th March

**Venue: Neerim South Hotel
90-109 Main Neerim Rd
Neerim South**

Time: 6pm

Contact Lyn if transport required

Please register on list at the meeting

Garden Group:

Sue Page

* 0447 020 222

Lorraine Hamilton

* 0411 030 963



Date: Thursday 21st March

**Where: Beth Sibson
802 Bloomfield Rd
Nilma North**

Time: 10.30am

Cost: \$1 in the jar please

*Don't forget to bring your lunch,
a mug and a chair.*



NEW MEMBER



Heather McIntosh was inducted into the club by President Peter at our last meeting. Heather is looking forward to enjoying all of the benefits of being a Warragul Ranges member.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker for January was John Parker, who spoke on "The importance of geographical names ". As he has done before with us, he made it sound very interesting.

It was also fascinating to hear about his involvement with United Nations, along with many other things.

Gary Rush



WELFARE

We are deeply saddened by the passing of a loyal former member Denis Ferdinands on 31st January 2024.

Denis and Caryl had moved from Neerim South to a gated community in Officer to be nearer family members as Denis's health deteriorated. Denis was kind and gentle, always smiling, and a friend to all. Several Ranges members attended the funeral service in Springvale on 9th Feb.

We are thinking of Caryl and family members at this very sad time and send our love and support.

Ranges members may not have known what a great sportsman Denis had been in the country of his birth, formerly Ceylon, now known as Sri Lanka. He excelled in many sports, but his main sport was cricket. He captained the Sri Lankan cricket team in the late fifties and early sixties, starring as a fast bowler and batsman.

We continue to send our support and encouragement to members who are having ongoing health issues or caring for loved ones.

Take care,

Joy Ryrrie
0408595864



LUNCHTIME DINING

After great reports from the Evening Dine-out members recently, we decided to try out La Passion, in Queen St Warragul for our February Lunchtime Dining venue.

And what a great decision that was... 19 of us had a very varied selection of delicious dishes from which to choose and we all enjoyed our meals as well as each other's company, as we always do.

We will certainly be returning for lunch there again at some time in the next year.

Jan Pickburn

TRIPS

Puffing Billy & Car Museum



Friday 5th April 2024

This is a day trip to Lakeside Station in Emerald by coach. From there we board Puffing Billy for the 40 minute ride to Gembrook station. The Gembrook Motorist Museum is but a 50 metre walk from the station.

Depending on numbers, you will be split into groups with one group doing the tour and the others having a tea/coffee. Groups will change places at relevant points through our 1hr 50 min stop.

Then it's all aboard Puffing Billy for the trip back to Lakeside Station where we rejoin our coach for the drive home.

A morning tea & boxed lunch is included and we arrive back in Warragul around 5pm.

**Total Cost is \$95 pp
(depending on numbers)**

**A deposit of \$50 pp is required by 15th
March 2024 to secure the tickets**

Morning Melodies

**This is a popular function with Seniors at
The Downtowner in 2024**

- The **March** offering is **Thursday 7th at 10am**, which features Tony Worth. We have done a tentative booking for 12 spaces but need to confirm that at the 22nd February meeting.

Total Cost is \$10 pp for the show

Payable at the venue on the day

- There is also a Seniors Lunch on offer **from \$17**

Our 2024 Grand Tour is to Bright

Mon 31st September to Fri 4th October



A full itinerary sheet will be available at the February meeting, but while we will be based at the Bright Chalet for the five days, we will be doing day trips each day to various tourist destinations in the area.

A full cooked breakfast will get us up and moving each morning in Bright, with a smorgasbord style dinner each evening. Lunches will be at our own expense.

Cost will be \$740 pp

**1st Deposit of \$150 due by 26th April
2nd Deposit of \$200 due by 27th June
final payment by 22nd August**

**NB: We need to get (and maintain) a minimum of
30 participants for this trip to remain viable.**

Fish 'n Chips with Mega Trivia Quiz

Following on from the success of the F&C Mega Quiz last year, we'll do it again this June. Full details in the March Newsletter.

**All TRIPS payments preferably to
Bendigo Bank (Trips Account)
BSB 633-000 Acc No 155405608
[Be sure to include your name as payee]**

PICNIC IN THE PARK - THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1st

The temperature was fine, but the wind was rather cool, so Ralph and Alan very kindly organised a couple of large tarps on the walls of the rotunda to stop the wind, which made for a very pleasant evening.

As usual, we shared some delicious food, and the best of company for a couple of hours.



Many thanks to Margaret for arranging the array of cold meats (Ham, Chicken and Corned Beef), and to all those who provided a salad or dessert.

As usual, the variety was amazing, and very yummy!



MONT DE LANCEY & KURTH KILN BUS TRIP

On a fine sunny day, Thursday 8th February, 40 members undertook a day trip to the historic home site of Mont de Lancey (near Wandin). Starting off right with a morning tea at the site (thanks again Val Hardy for your magnificent fruit cakes) we did a cash refund of \$5 for each participant because having over the minimum 30 members, the cost per person was significantly reduced.



After a short film on the settlement in the area, we split into two groups. One group toured through the house while the other group went to the small church on the site to witness a “wedding”. The latter was great fun with our members participating in the performance. At least there was no bigamy involved, as the Neil’s who posed as the marrying couple have been married for almost six decades (Diamond Anniversary is in March).



▲ *Wedding party: Our Guide (and Celebrant), Matron of honour Jenny, Groomsman Graeme, Bride Jenny and Groom Geoff, and Best Man Nugget.*

Touring through the house, the rooms were very small as was typical in that era, but all were well presented with lots on nick-nacks and story boards explaining how each room was used.



Between the church and the homestead, we also got to look around in the huge blacksmiths shop. Everything had to be made on site and by hand, there being no Bunning’s stores at the time.



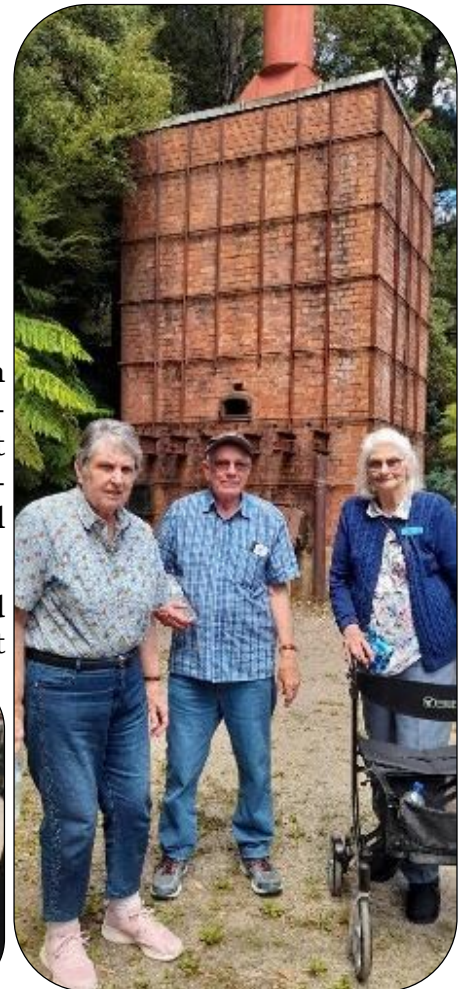
MONT DE LANCEY & KURTH KILN BUS TRIP cont.

We ate our delicious boxed lunch in the gazebo and under the trees of the site, thanks to the efforts of the volunteer staff who carted 40 chairs into the garden just for us.



Then it was back on the bus for the short drive to Kurth Kiln where the last surviving charcoal kiln that was critical to the civilian population during WWII. They burnt the charcoal in burners attached to the cars that provided carbon monoxide to power their cars because petrol was rationed for the military at that time.

As is typical in many small rural communities around Australia, local volunteers at the Kiln had done a first class job of presenting this little known history to the generations that never had to live with the shortages in wartime.



GARDEN GROUP

On Thurs the 15th Feb, 26 members visited the garden of Marg Phillips. We were so lucky with the weather after the terrible heat and wind we experienced earlier in the week.



During the six years that Marg has lived there, she has put so much time and work into establishing her beautiful garden.

The garden is dripping in roses, magnolias, azaleas and lovely maple trees, which was a beautiful setting for our group to meet and enjoy lunch and a cuppa.

We all enjoyed a chat in the sunshine.

Thank you Marg for sharing your garden with us, a very enjoyable day was had by us all.

Sue Page



▲ What happy little vegemites our Garden Group are!

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

At the first meeting of our travel enthusiasts Lester Mason based his presentation on a Bowls tour that he and Gwen did in 2011. They were part of a select group of Australian bowlers who played matches against their English counterparts, and had a great time doing so. Beginning at the Royal Windsor club they were transported and billeted at 8 different clubs. Lester's photos included picturesque English villages, historic cathedrals, small churches and lovely views of the English countryside. As well as fish and chips from the Magpie cafe! It was a unique view of a memorable holiday.



In March David Belcher will present an equally unique view of New Zealand's South Is.

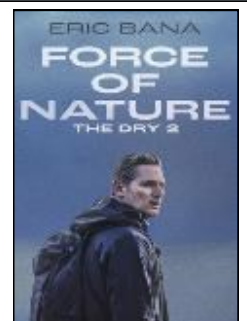
Jan MacLean

MOVIES

Force of Nature: The Dry 2 was the chosen movie this month. An intriguing storyline that kept us all guessing until the end.

After the movie, we all enjoyed a cuppa & a chat together at a nearby café.

Chris James





WARRAGUL RANGES PAST PRESIDENTS

2006 – 2008
RUTH JONES

2008 – 2009
BARRY DAVIS

2009 - 2010
RUSSELL BROWN

2010 - 2011
PETER MYERS

2011
GEOFF CLYNES

2011 - 2013
MICHAEL SAYER

2013 - 2014
VAL HARDY

2014 - 2015
MAX YOUNGER

2015 - 2016
ALEX MENTIPLAY

2016 - 2017
PAT McPHIE

2017 - 2018
RALPH CHESTERFIELD

2018 - 2019
JENNY NEIL

2019 – 2020 – 2021
BOB DAVIDSON

2021 – 2022
CHRISTINA JAMES

2022 – 2023
DAVID BELCHER

2023 – 2024
PETER GILBERT

Smile!

My grandfather invented the cold air balloon.
... It never really took off.

Did you know, that in 3,026 years from today,
life will either be really good or really bad.

... It'll be 5050!

What do you call a 200 kilo alcoholic?
A heavy drinker.

I went to visit a psychic today.
I knocked on the door and she called out,
"Who is it?" So I left.

My wife texted me "I love u".
I said that's my favourite letter, too.

Fun Fact!!!

Did you know that the word 'nothing'
is a palindrome? Backwards it spells 'gnihton',
which also means nothing.

I'm writing a book on all the things
I ought to be doing...
It's an Oughtobiograpghy.

Teacher: If you multiplied 50 by 8
and then divided by 4, what would you get?
Student: The wrong answer.

People have always named their children
after expensive things, eg Mercedes, Dior,
Chardonnay etc. next year, watch out for
Electricity, Gas and Diesel.

Car Dealer: "This car had just one careful owner."

Buyer: "But look at it, it's a wreck!"

Car dealer: "Well yes, you see,
the other seven owners weren't quite as careful."

My wife just stopped and said,
"You weren't even listening, were you?"

I thought to myself...
"That's a pretty strange way
to start off a conversation."



PROFILE - JAN MacLEAN



I was born in Yallourn and grew up there. After finishing High School, I was awarded a teaching student-ship which enabled me to go to Melbourne University. During this time, I met my husband-to-be, Don, and we

married as soon as I finished my studies.

Don was a teacher at Moe High and we lived there for 3 years before moving to Belmont. My memories of that period were of playing lots of tennis whilst pregnant with our third child, going down to the beach at Torquay with the children after school, and following Polly Farmer and Doug Wade in the Geelong Football Club.

Having learnt piano from an early age, and being involved in school choirs and musicals, I joined the GAMA singers in Geelong, then when we moved to Hamilton I joined the Lydian Singers. There I had the chance to learn the pipe organ. I remember that while Don was doing corrections and baby-sitting the kids in the evenings, I'd go and practise in the big bluestone Presbyterian Church. It was spooky finding my way to shadowy back door, but once in, I'd be in another world, learning to coordinate my feet with my hands, and enjoying the sounds of that beautiful organ.

By this time Don was eligible to apply to become a principal. Back then, you made a list of where you were willing to go, and if there was a vacancy you'd be sent there. When we heard it was Hopetoun High we had to look up the map to see where it was - in the middle of the Mallee! Having survived a mouse plague in Hamilton, we arrived there in a dust storm and heat wave!

However, the welcome was as warm as the weather, and we spent a very happy 6 years there. I returned to teaching French and choir - part time. That led to taking on the job of Musical Director of several productions that involved the whole school, staff and students. It was all done after school hours, and was very rewarding.

With what spare time we had, we played Saturday tennis on concrete courts in 40 plus degree heat, and also night tennis, but in thankfully, much cooler conditions.

Our next move was to Horsham, and another mouse plague! But here were beautiful cool grass courts, and a lovely golf course where we took up the game. I also resumed pipe organ playing, part-time teaching, and trained the Horsham City Christmas Choirs. And of course ferried the teenage kids around to their activities.

Don had taken up the position of Assistant Regional Director for the Mallee-Wimmera, which after 6 years, led us to Warragul in 1984 where he became Gippsland Regional Director.

Soon after arriving here I founded the West Gippsland Chorale which I'm delighted to say is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year with big collaborations in August with the Heidelberg Choral Society and Orchestra (Brahms Requiem).

A huge honour in December, when we will be joining the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (Handel Messiah), both in West Gippsland Arts Centre.

In our retirement we were fortunate enough to have had several overseas trips, as well as regular visits to see our growing grandchildren. We've tried out a number of beautiful Australian golf courses, and walked in some lovely bushland areas. All this despite Don having had kidney failure, then thankfully, a kidney transplant.

Don unfortunately died just before we were both about to join Probus. I don't know what he would have thought of me taking on the role of President of this club at this late stage of my life, but I'm sure he would have been the super supportive person that he was during the whole of our time together.

I know that he would have shared the honour I feel in being nominated for the position. I'll try to do my best to continue to foster the tradition of fun and friendship for which our club is renowned.

MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
31 <i>Happy Easter</i> 					1 8.15am Golf	2
3	4	5 12 noon Lunchtime Dining	6 1.30pm Scrabble	7 6pm Dine Out	8 8.15am Golf	9
10	11 1.30pm Cards	12	13	14	15 8.15am Golf 2pm Armchair Travel	16
17	18 11am Book Group	19	20 1.30pm Scrabble	21 10.30am Garden Group	22 8.15am Golf	23
24	25 1.30pm Cards	26	27	28 10am Probus Meeting	29 8.15am Golf	30

April

Golf	Each Friday morning
Lunchtime Dining	2nd
Scrabble	3rd
Evening Dine Out	4th
Cards	8th
Book Group	15th
Scrabble	17th
Garden Group	18th
Armchair Travel	19th
Cards	22nd
Probus Meeting	WEDNESDAY 24th

Note date change as Thurs 25th is ANZAC DAY (public holiday)

Smile!

A patrol car driver was covering a quiet beat out in the sticks when he was amazed to find a former lieutenant on the police force was covering the beat. He stopped the car and asked, "Why, Johnny, this wouldn't be your new beat out here in the sticks, would it?"

"That it is," Johnny replied grimly, "Ever since I arrested the judge on his way to the masquerade ball."

"You mean you pinched his honour?" asked Pat.

"How was I to know that his convict suit was only a costume?" demanded Johnny.

"Well," mused Pat, "That's life, and there's a lesson in this somewhere."

"That there is," replied Johnny.

"'Tis wise to never book a judge by his cover."



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