



Newsletter

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to: PO Box 57 Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 247

August 2010

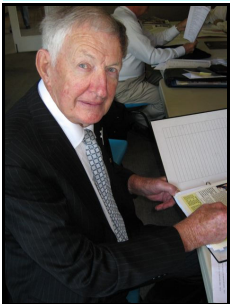
Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday August 17 at Beaumaris RSL
Investment Group: Time to Get Out? Or in? 9 am before the main meeting.

10-Minute Speaker: John Pound **Under Pressure:** Life in an Hyperbaric Chamber

Keynote Speaker: Keith Wehl **Alzheimer's Australia**

Topic: Where Did I Leave My Glasses? After losing a close friend to Alzheimer's disease following his retirement, Keith made a commitment to help improve public awareness about dementia.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been"
Mark Twain

"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been," wrote Mark Twain. I remember these words and smile to myself (adding a few more wrinkles) each time I attend a Beaumaris Probis Club meeting. Everyone has smiles reflecting our feelings of comfort and companionship with each other. There are approximately 1800 Probis Clubs throughout Australia. Calculate the number of smiles that creates! Guest speakers long and short contribute much to monthly meetings. If you have a special wealth of knowledge from your vocation which you could share with us as a 10-minute speaker, contact Alan Farmer; or you may know someone with a special interest who could be one of our Keynote Speakers. Please tell us. A few weeks ago a few of us enjoyed the great experience of the Flinders Ranges and Lake Eyre on a trip organised by Past President Geoff Wade - six glorious days in a part of Australia that everyone should visit, especially on such rare occasions as this when Lake Eyre is in flood.

Also, our recent trip to see the wonders of the Titanic Exhibition was a great success, followed by an enjoyable lunch in Lygon Street, organised by Geoff Bransbury. Geoff, Allan Taylor and Robert Dun are the enthusiastic members who propose the many and varied ideas for tours,

one-day trips, theatre concessions and other great activities. Currently they are thinking ahead to 2011 and urgently need your guidance and input. Please endeavour to give them your whole-hearted support. Finally, if you have a nose for news, why not be a 'roving reporter' for the club newsletter and contact Peter McGregor.

Lake Eyre Miracle A Report by Geoff Wade

On July 3, a team of intrepid adventurers from Beaumaris flew to Adelaide to join the Outback Spirit tour to witness the very rare flooding of Lake Eyre and the Cooper Creek. A few days later, we flew over Lake Eyre and, though it was an early start for some of us, the reward was a brilliant sunrise which added to the spectacle with reflections from the water in the lake....

continued p4

*The Lake Eyre Team:
President
Eric and Joan Slater, Ralph Butcher, Ros and Rod Murrell, and Margaret and Geoff Wade*



Office Bearers, 2009-10

President: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526
Vice President: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791
Past Pres: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Secretary **John Howe** 9598 2429
Treasurer: **David Robertson** 9551 1930
Functions: **Geoff Bransbury** 9589 1507
Functions Asst: **Robert Dun** 9589 5456

Meetings Co-ord: **Bill Green** 9596 1548
Meetgs Asst: **Duncan Gibson** 9585 3547
Almoner: **Andrew Watson** 9589 5913
Hon. Auditor: **Neil Jones** 9583 9315
Newsletter: **Peter McGregor** 9533 4760
Recorder: **Alan Williams** 9598 7550
Archivist: **Roy Petch** 9589 5757

Group Leaders 2009-10

Investment: **Barry Donaldson** 9598 6446
Music/Opera: **Barry Amond** 9589 1143
Theatre: **Allan Taylor** 9521 6180
Grape Vine: **Roy Petch** 9589 5757
Bowls: **Ted Montfort** 9589 5949
Prisms: **Bill Davis** 9592 5982
Art: **Paul Crompton** 9583 1310



Dark Intrigue in Canberra

Canberra lobbyist and Man for All Seasons, Ted White, with our very own Paul Crompton

July guest speaker, Ted White, became a chartered accountant by accident, having been offered a position with the leading firm of Edwin Nixon in Melbourne- the principal of which he regularly caddied for - finally led to the establishment of his own practice in 1971. His ambition was to gain specialised competencies over a range of industries and professions. To develop these, he had undertaken a wide variety of employment in fields as diverse as manual labour in Western Australia, time with Sun Valley Foods, plus a stint with Australian Carbon Black, to name but a few. His activities subsequently involved many other ventures including market gardens, electronic gaming machines, even some factory construction. Throughout his career, he was involved with the Australian Chemical Industry Council, the peak manufacturers' association, where he was active as a lobbyist. Early on, however, he detected the problem of the very bad press the industry was receiving as an important tariff hearing was proceeding. He traced this to undue influence being exerted on many junior members of the Press Club resulting in a steady stream of slanted reporting. A chance meeting in Canberra led him to learn that a very senior newspaper figure was actively involved and, indeed, had gained access to a yet-to-be-released confidential industry report. Somewhat mysteriously, a copy of this report was 'discovered' in Ted's motor vehicle, but subsequently followed by allegations of his stealing classified information. Obviously, he had been followed during his activities seeking to prove that confidential information was being passed to overseas companies. Many of us were left to wonder how one man could achieve so much. Alan Trumble

Committee Report



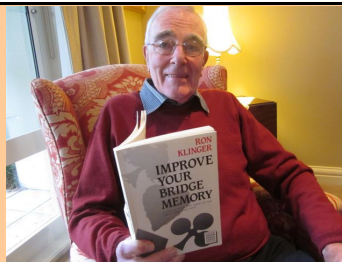
A section of the committee at work – From right : Secretary, John Howe, Treasurer, David Robertson, Functions C-ordinator, Geoff Bransbury, and (hidden) Meetings Assistant, Duncan Gibson ; President Eric Slater presiding

At the July meeting of your Committee, the key issue for discussion revolved around future Keynote Speakers. It was felt that speakers should represent a wide diversity of subjects – from health issues and current affairs to sports and those significant matters affecting the nation – and that priority be given to those who had spoken successfully to other Probus groups. The ability to speak well to a large audience was considered paramount. Subsequently, a sub-committee has met to consider the various inputs from members on possible subjects and speakers. The proposal adopted is: August - Health; September - Crime/Police; October - Local History/Business; November - Media/Theatre, and January, our own Antique Road Show. "We are committed to run a varied and interesting program, and welcome any suggestions on topics or speakers," says Secretary, John Howe. The committee also discussed ways to encourage as many members as possible to join their fellow Probians and stay for lunch after each meeting. There will be further discussion on this matter next meeting.

MONTHLY PROFILE

Alan Trumble

Alan at home boning up on the latest Bridge moves



Alan regularly assists us by writing reports when Recorder, Alan Williams, is away. See above. Many will remember him speaking to us a few years ago about his 50 years in the textile industry or 'rag trade'. During his time, he saw dramatic changes taking place in manufacturing industry in Australia and was rarely far from the action.

After his early apprenticeship as a junior selling fabric to retailers, principally up and down the industry's traditional home, Flinders Lane, he was promoted and had experience with a number of companies, some well-known, others not; mainly in women's wear: hosiery, knitwear, underwear, skirts, and sleepwear. He knew them all inside and out, eventually moving to sales with an agent and importer of textile machinery and raw materials, in a company owned by wife Jann's father, for nine years. He was involved in the importation of raw cotton from India and the United States and machinery from Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the UK. "It was," he says, "a very exciting time." The morning mail each day brought new products and developments; everything from new machines for carpet manufacturing to technological breakthroughs in hosiery (for example, seam-less compared with the traditional full-fashion stockings, the ones with the seam running up the back, as in days of

yore) - machines that could knit stockings in 15 minutes, then eight minutes and later four minutes, and finally in two. Recruited by one of his clients - Kayser - he moved to head their lingerie division in Melbourne but was beginning to feel he might have had enough of work as an employee. He decided to start his own small sleepwear company - Pedita Pty Ltd - as a volume supplier in Northcote, soon winning the account to supply an emerging retailer, Target. The business expanded rapidly employing some 400 people and acquiring his major competitor, Diamond Cut. Apart from being CEO, he was also President of the Textile Council, taking on Canberra over tariffs, a losing battle. "I began to see the writing on the wall, as it were," Alan says. "It was inevitable." Gradually he moved his manufacturing operation to China - which brought its own problems - and he merged his company with a Hong Kong/China-controlled company where they provided the premises and he the know-how. "It wasn't easy. Influence is often the way they do things there but it is necessary to understand both the temperament of the people and respect their country." The people Alan felt sorry for most were the Australian blue-collar workers who lost their jobs; 50-year old Italians and Greeks who had pride in their work and, all of a sudden, lost their jobs. He feels the major changes that were made in Australian manufacturing were made too rapidly. "It was very sad," he says. He retired in 2002.

Nowadays, his interest is centred on his holiday shack at Mt Martha which he and Jann retreat to as often as possible. "A bit of the Dandenongs beside the beach," he calls it. He has been active in Rotary for 10 years and likes to play Bridge - once a week usually, but because his wife says he won't improve at that rate, he now plays twice a week.

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury & Robert Dun



August

Tramboat Cruise Wednesday August 11

All aboard! The bus leaves the Community Centre at 9.30 sharp! See you there!

September

Phillip Island and Vietnam Veterans Museum - cancelled

I regret we have nowhere near the numbers required, so the trip is cancelled. Refunds will be paid at the August meeting. Instead, we are pleased to substitute a joint trip with Beaumaris Bay Probud to HMAS Cerberus.

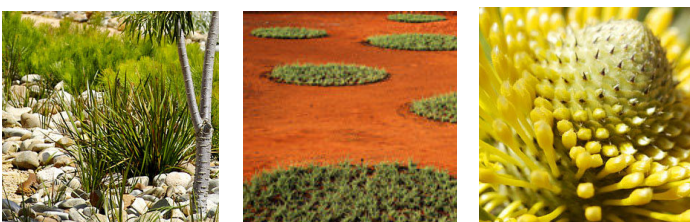
Thursday September 23



HMAS Cerberus at Crib Point is The Royal Australian Navy's largest training establishment. Opened in 1920, it is set in 1500 hectares. See a short video and view the many relics at the museum and stroll through the old chapel and beautiful gardens. Take the Windscreens Tour and view the pristine forest and surrounds. There will be a 2-course bistro lunch

Bus leaves at 9.30 am from the Beaumaris Community Centre and returns around 4.30 pm. Cost 48.50 pp.

November



Still a work in progress. Options include a visit to the lovely Cranbourne Gardens, a trip on the scenic Yarra Valley railway or a return visit to Kinglake after the fires. This latter trip may be proposed by Sandy Bay Probud. More next month

2011 Extended Trips Survey

Thanks to the 22 who responded. We had hoped for a greater response but it's not too late.... So, if you haven't responded or have suggestions, please contact Robert Dun or Geoff Bransbury. We need your input!

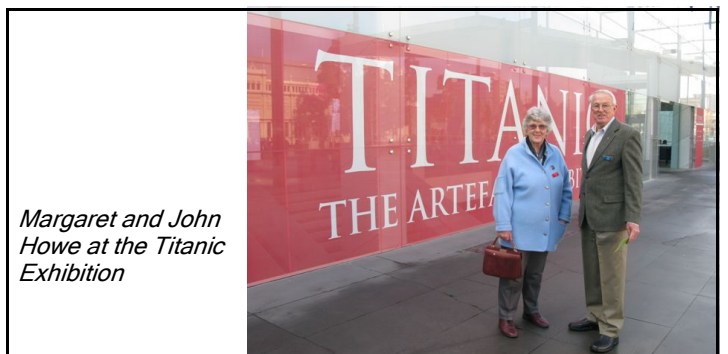
The overwhelming preference from those who responded is for the Rhine River cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest (or vice versa). The visit to Tasmania also received some interest. The other options received insufficient interest to take any further action.



As a result, Robert is investigating options for the Rhine cruise including perhaps extensions to Paris and Prague. The main preference seems to be a trip from Budapest to Amsterdam, approximately May 10, 2011. The intention is to contact those who expressed interest and provide more definitive information at our September meeting. If you have an interest in this fabulous trip, please contact either one of the above.

Titanic Exhibition

Geoff Bransbury writes that the Exhibition was a great success. "Whilst we had an early start, we managed to beat the crowds and finished up with a good Italian lunch in Carlton". Jim McGann discovered there was a James McGann on the crew list. As the crew was from Liverpool, perhaps there is a family connection?



Margaret and John Howe at the Titanic Exhibition



Legal Loopholes

Our 10-minute speaker for July, John Bushby, gave an entertaining address, largely on the lighter side of the law

John Bushby is a criminal lawyer with many stories to tell about the law and the ways that defence lawyers achieve justice for their clients. John's view is that loopholes don't often 'drop out of the sky' - 'the more research we do, the more solutions we find,' he says. He told one story of a man who was arrested for having a fake ASIO pass. But when he came to quiz ASIO people about their authentic passes, their answer was "can't say" or "can't tell you." Needless to say, because it proved impossible to either gather the required information or obtain a genuine ASIO pass, the client was freed for lack of evidence. John said that the Australian Federal Police 'haven't exactly covered themselves with glory' and he cited their handling of the case that allowed a group of young Australian drug-takers, loaded with heroine, to travel to a jurisdiction (Indonesia) where they knew they would be incarcerated under threat of the death penalty. He also told the amusing story of one defendant who was arrested and charged with sneezing on a police officer. However, the judge dismissed the charge when the officer in the witness box was not able to sneeze at will because "it just isn't possible to sneeze deliberately!" He referred to loopholes explored by Tony Mokbel who evaded justice by leaving the country and referred to the problems of obtaining forensic evidence on drug-taking. He saved, perhaps the best, until last relating the case under Justice Starke in which the defendant asked to be released because of the fact, as he explained, his wife was about to conceive; the judge released him.

...Lake Eyre Miracle from p1 Only about 50% of the lake is covered but we gained a good view of the southern part - which has a lot of water - and the Warburton Gutter through which the water flows across Lake Eyre. Our flight continued up Warburton Creek to Cowarie Station, where unfortunately, we did not see much bird life - apparently the birds are further north where there is plenty of food..... We flew across to Cooper Creek and followed it towards Lake Eyre and Maree. Cooper Creek has by now reached Lake Eyre and so more of the lake will be covered in water. We then flew over the punt which ferries vehicles across the creek and down over the area where the unique Lake Eyre Yacht club was holding its regatta for the first time in many years. Then back to Maree for lunch....



Interesting Facts

The cost of coffee beans in a single cup of coffee: 25 cents
Most lipstick contains fish scales
One in 20 people have an extra rib
There are six million parts in a Boeing 747



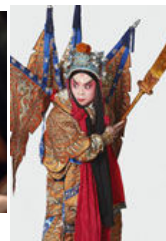
NOTICEBOARD

Probus Bank Account details: BSB 063-144 Acc No 10121288

Opera & Music Groups

The next meeting of the Opera Group will be Wednesday August 25 at 7 pm and the Music Group will meet on Wednesday September 29.

Barry Amond



Theatre Group

MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

The fourth play for the year, *The Wisdom of Eve*, based on the Oscar-winning film *All About Eve*, is on Wednesday evening, September 22. To attend, you must pay \$16 at the August meeting.

MARY POPPINS

14 tickets have been sold for the Wednesday matinee on September 8 at 1 pm. Tickets available at August meeting.

WEST SIDE STORY

Nine tickets have been sold for the Wednesday matinee September 22 at 1 pm. Tickets available August meeting.

Allan Taylor

Tastes



For lovers of seafood, there may be a unique dining opportunity later in the year. This would be a special seafood menu with matching wines— all within the bounds of reasonable cost. Please speak to either Geoff Wade or Peter McGregor if interested. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, perhaps?

Investment Group

September speaker: Mr Ian Curry, President, Victorian Shareholders Association

Barry Donaldson

2010 Howlong Golf

Sunday Oct 10 to Wednesday 13. Full details of this annual golfing Murray-side extravaganza will be available at September meeting.

Right: Colin Mead receives his 20-year pin from President, Eric Slater



Word Play

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.
A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
Practice safe eating - always use condiments.
Shotgun wedding - A case of wife or death.
A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.
Does the name 'Pavlov' ring a bell?

-with thanks to Mississauga South Probus