



PROBUS

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.
Reg No. A 001-6598G
Correspondence to Box 57, PO Black Rock, 3193

Office Bearers 2009

President:	Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Vice President:	Eric Slater	9589 3526
Imm/Past Pres:	Noel Ineson	9589 5263
Hon Secretary:	John Howe	9598 2429
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Group Leaders 2009

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Music/Opera :	Barry Amond	9589 1143
Theatres :	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
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Issue No. 236

August 2009

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday August 18 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: 9 am each month.

10-Minute Speaker: Rod Murrell Experiences in the Field

Keynote Speaker: Bill Davis *Those Wonderful English Drinking Glasses of the Eighteenth Century.* The talk will cover the history of glass up to the discovery of English lead glass in 1672; followed by the development of English drinking glass design, decoration and their manufacture during the eighteenth century – the period of most interest to glass collectors. Bill will exhibit several examples from his collection.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



"It was indeed a privilege to hear from someone as intelligent as Michael who has personally been involved in Iraq...."



I am writing this following our July meeting when we were privileged to have the US Consul-General in Melbourne, Mr Michael Thurston, address us. I know that Members were very impressed with his most informative address regarding the difficult and complex work that US troops and civilians are currently doing in Iraq, endeavouring to bring the various factions together to create a functioning nation. It was indeed a privilege to hear from someone as intelligent as Michael who has personally been involved in Iraq.

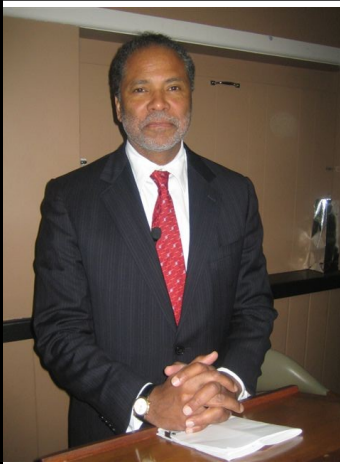
Lunch at the RSL is an important matter. Your Committee met with the caterers after lunch at the last Meeting and had a frank discussion with them. There were a few problems revealed and I believe our deliberations went a long way towards resolving them. The Committee was of the opinion that the quality and quantity of food served was very good but we discussed ways to speed up the serving time in future. We are also trying to resolve the problem of instant tea and coffee not being available within the set price of \$15.

Membership is always on our minds and it was very pleasing to be able to induct two new Members at the July Meeting. (Their details for inclusion in your register are on page 4.) The Committee also approved two more new Members and Vice-President Eric Slater will be inducting them at the August meeting. Our membership is certainly looking very healthy and we have several more visitors seeking to join our club. I urge you to make them welcome when they attend our Meetings in the near future. However, by the time you read this, Margaret and I (together with the Taylors) will be relaxing in the sun cruising along the Kimberley coast off NW Western Australia. The Kimberley area is one of my very favourite regions in the world and I encourage you to visit it if you have not already done so - it is truly magical.

My best wishes for a successful meeting on August 18. I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Geoff Wade

Left: Ray Trimmer and Jack Hillman receive their 20-year pins from President Geoff at the July Meeting



Working for Dialogue and Reconciliation

The task of the team was to get dialogue and reconciliation between Council Members from the various districts, most of whom had not spoken or co-operated with each other for over two years.

It was a privilege to have Michael Thurston, US Consul General to Melbourne, give the Keynote Address at our July meeting on the theme 'Perspectives from the Front'.

Michael spoke firstly on some of the key issues facing President Obama during his first six months as President; for example, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Middle East, China, North Korea, and the need to renew dialogue with Russia, and the current economic position in the US.

He also spoke of the importance of the U.S/Australian friendship to the Obama administration, mentioning the large number of phone discussions and meetings already shared between President Obama and Prime Minister Rudd, particularly at the G20 meeting on our support in Afghanistan. At the very time Michael was speaking of the partnership, Operation Talisman Saber was under way in Queensland and the Northern Territory, in further demonstration of the strength of the US and Australian alliance and our defence co-operation.

and current context of engagement in Iraq, the history and role of the Provisional Reconstruction Teams(of which he was the team leader), the synergies between the military and diplomatic activities, and signs of progress in Iraq.

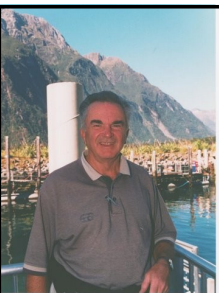
Michael and his team in Iraq worked as civilians and said he found that, because of this informal approach - and not being military personnel - it was easier to be accepted by local communities. He also mentioned their resilience and the determination of the local people to be active in the rebuilding of their communities

Michael spoke to a series of slides that gave us a visual sense of the Diyala province where reconstruction was working. His team had modified the techniques started in Vietnam, in which the major problems involve trying to tie local governments to central governments. During the Saddam Hussein regime, the districts were not allowed to work autonomously; it was: conform to the regime or be shot. As a result of Saddam's overthrow, there was little or no co-operation within the various districts and clans, more often because of the distrust between the Shiites and Sunnis. The task of the team was to start dialogue and reconciliation between Council Members from the various districts, most of whom had neither spoken nor co-operated with each other for over two years. The task was to encourage community groups to commence work from the grass roots in order to improve co-operation with the Central Government and thereby to begin to rebuild infrastructure, education and medical services throughout the country.

Consul General Michael gave us ample evidence that the process of rebuilding civil society in Iraq was headed in a very positive direction.

Ian Gallagher

Michael then addressed four central themes: the historic



Monthly Profile **Rod Murrell**

Just to prove he has been almost everywhere, here is Rod standing on the balcony overlooking New Zealand's famous Milford Sound

Rod was with the Shell Company of Australia for 45 years - starting in 1949, as many young people did, in the humble mailing room. After completing his accountancy studies, he found himself working in Accounting, Personnel, and later Industrial Relations and Superannuation, including a stint as Depot Auditor for Queensland. "The mere fact that I had such a multiplicity of careers within Shell was perhaps my major achievement," he says, starting in Brisbane, moving to Melbourne, to Sydney and back to Melbourne. One major experience he recalls was his time in National Service at RAAF Amberley, his first opportunity to 'break away from the apron strings of home.' But he must have been some kind of surfer during all those years because he says he still gets withdrawal symptoms if he can't get back to Queensland each year; particularly around Burleigh Heads. He and Ros know the Newell Highway like the back of their hand as they have traversed it four times a year for yonks to spend time on the beach. ("The water's

too cold down here," he confesses.) His other great love is cycling. "I've always had a bike - I love to get on a bike and blow away the cobwebs"; though in his youth it was motorbikes. Despite the fact that Ros's father wasn't too impressed to see his daughter astride Rod's machine. Nowadays, it's walking. He says he and Ros usually walk between 5 and 10 km four to five times a week.

But the Murrells are also inveterate travellers, off globe-trotting to faraway places at the drop of a hat. There are mounted photos around the walls of Rod's study evoking memories of places they've been to in 55 countries, including China, Vietnam, India, Pacific islands, NZ, UK, Cambodia, Europe, North and South America, and many countries in Africa and the Middle East. Then there's golf. He says he is very envious of those who play golf in the area on the sand-belt courses while he has to negotiate the traffic on his way to Mount Waverley; but there's a simple explanation. "When you join a club and make friendships, it's very hard to leave," he says. Probus is pretty much the same. "Leaving Vermont, I joined Probus to meet people in this area. It has been one of the great experiences of my life, having made so many friends. I value it highly." Rod was President of the Club in 2005.

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Alan Farmer & Robert Dun



August

Bushfire Area, Kinglake District Wednesday August 26

Cost: \$42 pp. Pick up at Community Centre 9.30 am; and return approximately 3.30 pm

We have a combined tour with the Probus Clubs of Beaumaris Bay to a bushfire-ravaged area. This has been arranged at the request of local residents who are keen to have tourists back visiting their towns. The tour will have a commentary from a local guide (who will be donating his payment from *Quinces* to a local area of need.) Lunch will be at the local hotel.

As this is a combined event, places may be limited, so a waiting list may be needed for late entries. First in, best dressed applies

October

Tour of Wineries on the Mornington Peninsula.



A com-

prehensive tour of cool climate wineries around the peninsula — including lunch and wine tastings at selected wineries — is in the process of being organised. Most of the region's vineyards - a unique maritime wine region where the vines thrive in a cool climate - are small family operations. Main varieties are pinot noir and chardonnay ; but, there is also some pinot grigio and shiraz.

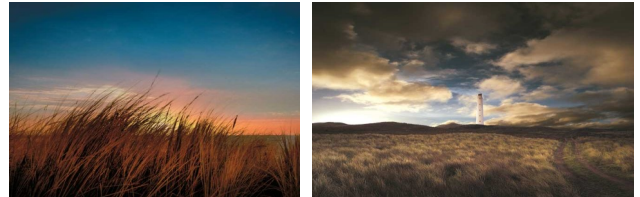


November

King Island Tour - three nights from November 30 to December 3. This trip is fully booked but Members may wish to add their name to the waiting list.



Good food and panoramic views are a feature of King Island



Cost: \$1055 pp twin share. Deposit: \$150 pp.
Final Payment due by September Meeting.

2010

As Members will recall from our last Meeting, the New Zealand proposal fell through; similarly, there was little or no interest in Turkey. However, a trip on the Ghan (to or from Darwin) seemed to be of some interest. We will now pursue this line of inquiry.



More Fun in the



Sun: Howlong Golf Trip

All is in readiness for the annual Howlong golf trip, from September 27 to October 1. All Members are booked in from Sunday night to Thursday morning, except for those who have indicated otherwise. If you intend to arrive Monday morning or leave early (Wednesday afternoon), please let me know so that I can adjust the bookings. It is preferable that any changes be done centrally rather than individually. Six carts have been booked for the three days so if you want/need a cart, again, let me know so that I can advise the Howlong Pro.

Full details of events, tee times and room allocations will be distributed at the September Meeting. Geoff Wade

New Members

◀◀ F M COLLINGS (Frank) ◀◀

BELOW LEFT

20 Cowper st Sandringham 3191. Born 1928 Melbourne.
F.R.A.I.A.. Architect (McCarthy, Collings & Purtell). Painting (oils), yachting (RBYC) and golf [Club '09] Ph 9598 9287



◀◀ G E ETTERS HANK (Gerald & Beverly) ◀◀

ly) ◀◀ ABOVE RIGHT

1 Campbell st, Sandringham, 3191. *eml. Born 1932 Melbourne
PhC, M.P.S. Pharmacist. Fly fishing, golf, swimming, travel
[Club '09] Ph 9598 6585
Gerald's email: geeble@bigpond.com

Induction of New Members



From left: President Geoff and Vice-President Eric inducting new Members, Gerald Ettershank and Frank Collings. Mike Read, Frank's proposer is on the right.

Investment Group



At our July meeting, we were entertained by a screen show presented by Secretary, John Howe. He showed us his approach to the subject of energy saving in his own home by using the government rebate to have Solar Panels installed and connected to the grid. He has recorded the resulting savings over the period since installation which showed an impressive power cost reduction with an anticipated amortisation of his outlay over only a few years. He is now working on a solar hot water panel installation to provide further savings.

The video illustrations were recorded on a portable USB drive stick using MS Excell software, which makes such presentations by any of our Members relatively simple to provide. We invite Members wishing to use this method to present their pet projects or written material of interest (up to 20 minutes) at future Meetings.

We continue to review our Model Portfolio each month and at the July market close, we were showing a 36% gain. We would encourage all Members to come along and participate in forthcoming meetings.

NOTE: John Howe's one-page report is available as an attachment (August Newsletter email) or in hard copy at the August Meeting.

John Brimage

Tastes

~~There were 38 very happy people at our Asian Banquet at Thai Rani in early August. Those who have been hoping for a Japanese night can relax. The Team has been out researching and we are now in a position to announce that the Tastes outing for November will be in a Japanese restaurant in the area - but be warned: we are likely to be the only non-Japanese diners in the place!~~

Contacts: Geoff Wade & Peter McGregor

NOTICEBOARD

Theatre Group

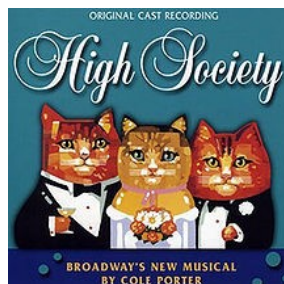
Allan Taylor

MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

The fourth play for the year, *Minefields & Miniskirts* will be on Wednesday evening, September 16. Tickets at \$14 must be paid at August Meeting.

CHICAGO

We have 24 starters— Wednesday September 9 at 1 pm. At Her Majesty's. Tickets available at August Meeting.



HIGH SOCIETY

The Cheltenham Light Opera Company's production of Cole Porter's musical will be Sunday 2 pm October 11. 20 tickets @ \$35 available at August Meeting.

Poster from 1998 Broadway production

Opera and Music Groups



Barry Amond

The Opera evening on Wednesday August 26 will break new ground. We will be starting at 6 pm (sharp) so that we can see the whole of a longer opera than usual. So that we don't all have to have an early dinner, a selection of savoury and sweet finger foods will be served during the interval at approximately 7.30 pm. The cost will be \$10 for this special evening.



The opera will be 'I Puritani' (The Puritans) by Bellini. The role of Elvira is sung by Anna Netrebko (pictured) who is now regarded as one of the world's greatest and most loved singers. Her performance in the second act is not only one of the longest exhibitions of an 'unsettled' mind in opera but is something opera lovers and those wishing to sample it will remember for a long time. Despite the 'puritanical' background the opera is full of lovely melodies and doesn't finish tragically!

The next Music evening will be Wednesday September 23 at the now usual time of 7 pm.

Corrections

Please note: Ian Gallagher's address in the Directory is incorrect. It should read 37A Fourth St, Black Rock, 3193. Also, please note Neil Jones' new address: 62 Cavenagh Street, Cheltenham, 3192.

Next Month's Keynote Speaker will be Marjorie Kennett

Newsletter editor, Peter McGregor, will be taking a break in Queensland from August 18 to September 8. Please make sure he receives all contributions by the latter date.



representing the World Health Organisation