



PROBUS

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

Issue No. 230

February 2009

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday 17th February at Beaumaris RSL

Keynote Speaker: William Kininmonth

Topic: Global Warming by Humans - Fact or Fiction?

Mr Kininmonth - one of a number of climate change skeptics - was head of Australia's Bureau of Meteorology National Climate Centre until 1998 and is suspicious that the science and predictions of global warming through human activity extend beyond sound theory and the evidence.

10-Minute Speaker: Peter McGregor Myths, Scams and Hoaxes

Investment Group: 9 am before the main Meeting. See Noticeboard (p4).

— Office Bearers, 2009—

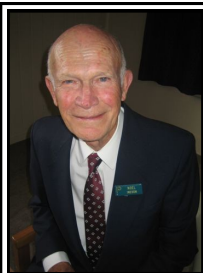
President:	Noel Ineson	9589 5263
Vice President:	Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Imm/Past Pres:	Bill Davis	9592 5982
Hon Secretary	Roy Petch	9589 5757
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Meetings Asst:	Eric Slater	9589 3526
Almoner:	Andrew Watson	9589 5913
Hon. Auditor:	Neil Jones	9598 3158
Newsletter:	Peter McGregor	9533 4760

Peter's email <peterb64@bigpond.net.au>

— Group Leaders —

Investment :	John Brimage	9584 6349
Music/Opera :	Barry Amond	9589 1143
Theatres :	Allan Taylor	9521 6180
"Grape vine" :	Keith Beyer	9888 3152
Bowls :	Ted Montfort	9589 5949
Prisms:	Bill Davis	9592 5982
Art:	Paul Crompton	9583 1310
Transport:	Roy Spalding	9589 5608
Speakers' Corner:	Alan Williams	9598 7550
Archivist:	Keith Beyer	9888 3152
President's Table:	Bill Green	9596 1548

FROM THE PRESIDENT



"Brian was a buoyant personality, completely genuine and loveable at all times....."

Noel Ineson

Make sure you don't miss William Kininmonth's talk on climate change. He is a supporter of the view that carbon dioxide does not have a major impact on climate and that the proposed abatement measures are unnecessary. He is the author of the book, *Climate Change: A Natural Hazard*.

Excellent planning by our Meeting Co-ordinators, Don and Eric, resulted in a much-improved layout of chairs and tables for our January meeting at the Mentone RSL. This augurs well for us continuing to use this facility in January when the Beaumaris RSL is not open. The fascinating and absorbing talk with screen projections by Paul Crompton on the Ansett story was greatly appreciated by those who attended the meeting. A check on our membership shows that numbers have remained fairly constant during the year with the induction of six new Members making up for losses. Geoff Wade is currently preparing a new membership recruiting brochure for distribution to assist in our drive for new Members.

The club has suffered a special loss with the passing of Brian Hambleton. Brian was a buoyant personality, completely genuine and loveable at all times. Who else could stand aside at a doorway in deference to lady or man with such grace and charm? His parade-ground voice, overlaid with rich aristocratic cadences, was so memorable. He was one of Nature's gentlemen.

In closing, I look forward to enjoying a new Probus year with you all.

VALE

We are deeply saddened to report the death of Brian Hambleton, yet another Foundation Member. Until his health slowed him down, Brian was a consistent presence at Club activities, was a long-term Member of Committee, serving as Meeting Co-ordinator 1991-1992, and then as President in 1993. A Major in the British Army in Malaya where he was awarded the MC, friends describe him as being a wonderful person with a great sense of humour who loved his golf. Rest in peace.



10 Years of Service

At the January Meeting, Alan Nash was awarded his 10-year pin which included seven years as Functions & Activities Co-ordinator and a level of organising ability and commitment to detail well above expectations.

Alan Nash receiving his 10-year pin for dedicated service from President Noel

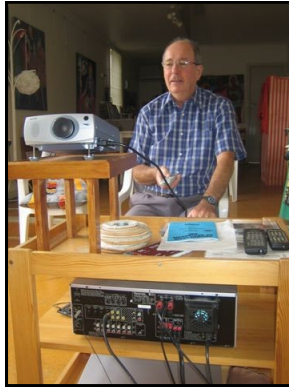
[Picture: Barry Amond]



MONTHLY PROFILE

Barry Amond

Barry at the helm of his sounds and sights system



The first thing to know about Barry is that he loves Probus. "It's been marvellous," he says about his time in the Club since 1996. He was Treasurer for two years and then President, and was the first Chairman of the Investment Group. He and wife, Margaret, have been on most of the overseas trips, many of the day trips and theatre visits and, of course, are a mainstay of the Music and Opera Groups.

Barry first came to Australia in the 60s as an actuary, of which there were only about 100 in the whole country at the time. "Being an actuary is working with the probability of events occurring in the future," he says - which led him into working with, first, insurance companies and then, later, superannuation schemes for government agencies in Australia, as well as corporations such as Myer. But it is his other interests, perhaps, that define the man. While he describes himself as 'non-musical', he has a passion for opera and music which began in his school years when his class visited London to see a rugby match, afterwards going to see a Mozart opera at Sadler Wells. That was it; a flame was lit that continues today - despite the fact that he plays no musical instrument and cannot sing. By way of emphasis, he adds, "I'm no music buff and Margaret hates me trying to sing."

However, Barry spends a lot of his time looking for new music experiences for the Club's Music and Opera Groups which he hosts for Members and wives. One of

his main sources is the Ovation Channel on Foxtel. The groups meet in Margaret's studio at home every month or so to watch and listen to selected musical highlights - he has had as many as 48 people at one time - much of which Barry has recorded on his hard disk. A projector, an overhead screen and strategically-placed speakers are all part of the (some would say 'unique') experience.

Also, as one of those do-it-yourself kind of people who have the confidence to tackle any task around the home, Barry has always liked solving practical problems himself without feeling the need to call in an outside expert. "It's not just the money saved," he says. "It's the feeling of knowing I can do it myself, inside or out in the garden." To the point where his children used to call him 'Mr Fixit'. He just loves making things - from furniture to dolls' houses to a puppet theatre for Margaret to use for workshops at Beaumaris Art Group (where he is Treasurer). The other thing he loves is sport - from pennant tennis in his youth, hockey and rugby, to golf (at VGC) these days. He even supports the Demons!

But there's more. His eyes light up as he tells the story of his pioneering days with computers in the 60s when he was with a major UK life office. Using a huge computer that occupied an entire room, he once wrote a program that took all night to run but in the end came up with a complete spreadsheet of premium rates. "It was like magic," he says gleefully. "From that time on, instead of actuarial students doing hundreds of time-consuming manual calculations, computers could do them." It's the sort of thing that gets Barry excited.

The Rise and Fall of the Ansett Empire



Passenger aircraft were to continue to improve until the first 727 arrived in 1964, which introduced jet travel to domestic passengers

Paul at home with one of his Ansett memorabilia

January's guest speaker, Paul Crompton, was an Ansett executive at the time of the infamous pilots' strike in 1989, a six-month period which had an enormous effect on both the community and the company. His presentation was of particular interest to Members, as many would have used the services of Ansett during the years 1931-2002 and included slides of vehicles and aircraft in that period.

Reginald Myles Ansett began a taxi service in Hamilton, expanding to other country centres in Victoria and SA. He had to overcome obstacles placed in his path - including Government regulations on carrying paying passengers in competition to the Victorian Railways - so he gave his passengers a free ride and charged them for the oranges supplied on the trip! In 1933, he learnt to fly a Tiger Moth and graduated in 1936 to an 8-passenger aircraft, flying out of Essendon Airport in 1937. During World War II, the company expanded dramatically, building component

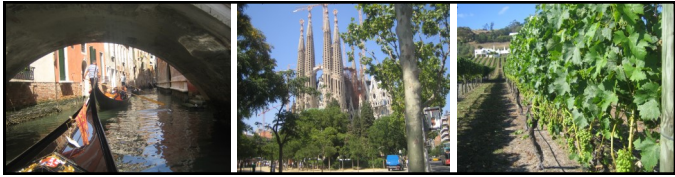
manufacturing facilities and workshops converting buses for his growing fleet of Pioneer coaches. By the end of the war, Ansett employed 2000, flew DC3 aircraft, operated buses built by Ansair, and was planning a chain of tourist hotels and resorts. In 1949, Ansett Transport Industries was the largest hotel operator in Australia. But by this time, the airline industry had become more competitive with the introduction of the government-subsidised TAA.

In 1957, Ansett took over the struggling ANA company and the two-airline policy was born. Passenger aircraft continued to improve until the first 727 arrived in 1964, introducing jet travel to domestic passengers.

The struggle for ownership of Ansett began in 1973 with several companies interested in a takeover of Ansett and its 40 subsidiaries. Eventually, TNT (Sir Peter Abeles) and News Corp (Rupert Murdoch) were successful. But Abeles and Murdoch resigned five years later and the company became Ansett Holdings - 50% owned by Air NZ - which began selling off its non-core assets (including Hayman Island for \$61.5m, which had cost \$300 million). After a series of problems due to poor decisions by Air NZ and ageing aircraft, the business was haemorrhaging money. In September, 2002, Air NZ offered Ansett to Qantas for \$1! The offer was refused - a black day indeed for the company and Australia.

Alan Williams

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES



Just a reminder about upcoming events:

March 2009

We kick off the new year with an eight-day tour of Lord Howe Island, March 2 - March 9. This is now booked and all are looking forward to their Island experience.

April 2009

Sadly, the three-day trip planned for April 27-29 to the RACV Inverloch Resort has had to be cancelled. Despite much interest beforehand, only twelve people paid the required deposit. The absolute minimum to make the trip viable was 15. Thanks to all those who showed interest.

May 2009

A day trip, possibly to Eureka tower and lunch/ tour of Williamstown is under discussion as a combined trip with Ricketts Point and Beaumaris Bay Probus Clubs. We hope to have firm arrangements in the near future.

June 2009

Candlelight dinner, Tuesday June 10, 7 pm for 7.30 pm, Furphy's Restaurant, Beaumaris RSL.

July 2009

Visit to Port of Melbourne

August 2009

Tour of wineries on Mornington Peninsula



October 2009

Pics: Red Hill Estate

King Island tour - 3 nights.

November 2009

Alan Farmer & Robert Dun

Japan 'Autumn Leaves' tour - 14 nights.

Colourful leaves(koyo) are to the Japanese autumn what cherry blossoms are to spring.



February 2009

TASTES

The first outing for 2009 for the *Tastes* group was again a huge success with 30 people enjoying the superb Greek fare offered by *Theo's Greek Tavern* in Station Street, Sandringham. For only \$40.



The menu included

You will notice that all the pictures are out of focus, probably because the photographer had too much Water Wheel shiraz!

saganaki, kroketes, louraniko, lamb souvlaki, calamari, gyros and biftekia; roughly meaning grilled goat's cheese, sausage, calamari and white bait, spit-roasted lamb, beef rissoles. But there was more. The owner and chef, Theo (and Mrs Theo), sprang a surprise and provided complimentary Greek sweets and desserts with our tea and coffee!

Two interesting Victorian wines were sampled - a 2004 Water Wheel (Bendigo) shiraz, a brilliant deep purple in colour with some strong berry and vanilla characteristics and a soft richness on the palate - as well as a Delatite riesling. Nobody seemed to mind paying \$15 for them.



From left: (The arm of) Don & Barbara Lobb, Geoff & Margaret Wade, Alan Kermond, half of Ken Rattray, and Helen McGregor with the Lobbs

The tasting

notes provided for the riesling drew surprised comments from several people: "Waxed apple, quince, some petrol...." However, fortunately, nobody in the group actually reported that the wine tasted like petrol! (Although, one wag noted that he was having trouble in distinguishing whether it was leaded or unleaded.) The riesling was a popular choice on the night so we can only assume that, if there was a hint of something inorganic, it was overwhelmed by the other beautiful flavours.

Several suggestions were made for the next in the series of dine-outs which have been noted. It is expected that the next *Tastes* experience will be in May.

Below: pictures of people having a great time



Golfers of the World Unite

Stand proud you noble swingers of clubs and losers of balls.....

A recent study found the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year.

That means, on average, golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon. Kind of makes you proud. Makes you almost feel like a hybrid!

Winning Isn't Everything!



Our January 10-minute Speaker, Paul Prior, presented an amusing story about the excitement - or lack of it - created by his win in the C-Grade Foursomes Championship played at Metropolitan Golf Club during the year. First, he explained to us the intricacies of playing four-somes golf, and then how he and his partner progressed successfully through the quarter finals and the semis to play in the final match,

which they won on the 16th hole. As they strolled victoriously back to the clubhouse, they discussed what the celebrations might be, including the possibility of champagne all round! Their two opponents declined to join them and went home early. When they arrived at the bar - thinking, perhaps, that the President or Vice-President or Captain or some appointed Committee Member may be waiting there to congratulate them on their meritorious victory - they found two lonely barmen in attendance in an empty room. So, Paul and his partner decided a coffee would suffice.

Arriving home, he found his wife, Elizabeth, and their son working on a new computer. Elizabeth asked him about his day. Proudly, Paul responded, "We won!!" She only replied, matter-of-factly, "That's good, dear," and went back to the computer. However, his daughter-in-law showed a little more enthusiasm, so he asked her, "How about a drink?" to which she replied, "A cup of tea would be nice." At a later date, the Club did present the deflated C-Grade Foursomes winners with a nice china plate - but no champagne.

Alan Williams

Howlong Golf

Bookings are now open for the Howlong golf trip, 28 - 30 September inclusive.

A \$70.00 per couple deposit (\$35 single) is required with booking and must be paid by the March meeting.



*Approach to the 10th tee,
Howlong Country Club*

Unfortunately, we have been unable to obtain all 25 rooms this year, so early bookings are necessary. If it is your intention to travel to Howlong on the Sunday (27/9) and require accommodation for that night, please indicate at the time of booking.

Geoff Wade

NOTICEBOARD

Subscriptions for 2009

Subscriptions for each year are approved by Members at the November meeting of the preceding year. As a result, Treasurer, David Robertson advises that subscriptions for 2009 are \$50.00 with a reduction to \$45.00 if paid before March 31. Joining fee is \$30.00. These fees are the same as for last year and can be paid by direct debit.

Account details: BSB 063-144 Acc #10121288

Include your name and say that it is for Probus subs.

Music & Opera Groups

The Music Group will meet on Wednesday, March 25 and the Opera Group on Wednesday, April 29.

Just another reminder that these nights are for Probians, their wives and partners. BA

THEATRE GROUP 2009

Allan Taylor

Mordialloc Theatre Company

We have 59 starters for the first play on Wed. Feb. 18, 8 pm at 64 Parkers Rd, Parkdale. Tickets available at Feb. meeting. The remaining plays for which we have a block booking for 60 people are:

Wed. May 6 - *Rabbit Hole* - a poignant and often funny drama. Payment by March Meeting.

Wed. July 8 - *Murdered to Death* - a hilarious spoof in the best Agatha Christie tradition.

Wed. Sep 16 - *Minefields & Miniskirts* - Australian womens' experiences of the Vietnam War.

Wed. Nov. 25 - *Allo Allo* - based on the BBC series.

Miss Saigon

The Cheltenham Light Opera Company's first musical for 2009 at the Alexander Theatre, Monash University on Sunday, May 17 at 2 pm. 30 tickets reserved at \$35. Payment by March Meeting.

New Member

▶▶ J L BUSHBY (John & Hanife) ▶▶

25 Arkaringa Cres., Black Rock, 3193. Ph: 9598 7113.

*eml Born 1945 Narrandera. LL.B, Dip Crim.

Barrister-at-Law.

Football, cricket, golf, reading, films. [Club 2009]

Email: jlbushby@bigpond.net.au



Investment Group

Our convenor, John Brimage, in action at a Meeting last year

This month, the investment group will be reviewing our model portfolio, the market movements since Nov 08 and the type of investments preferred in the current recession. We also have had some inquiries from newer Members on the best sources of financial advice and management. The matter of the Government safety-net for self-funded retirees has also been raised as a possible topic for discussion. JB.



FOOTNOTE - The answers to practice quiz questions in President's Lunch 2008 report were: Tashkent; Reginald Dwight; Monaco; Capt Ricketts (probably); sugar; making films. (What were the questions again?)