



Newsletter

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



Issue No. 241

February 2010

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday February 16 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: The Global Financial Crisis: Is It Over? 9 am before the main meeting.

10-Minute Speaker: Alan Stevens - Enjoying Going To Work

Keynote Speaker: James Tomkins - One of the Oarsome Foursome

Topic: Rowing for Gold. A member of the original 'Oarsome Foursome', James will be speaking on his career in international rowing with particular reference to the Beijing Olympic Games.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The good fellowship enjoyed on these trips and at our many functions is what makes membership worthwhile

It was my great pleasure and privilege to induct three new members into our Club at our January meeting. I am sure you will all make them feel very welcome and extend the warm fellowship we enjoy. No doubt, their varied life experiences and backgrounds will certainly add to the mix that we currently possess. To Ian, Jim and Stan, I again say welcome and encourage you to participate as much as you are able in the variety of activities organized for our members.

Unfortunately, the proposed trip to Canberra to the Musee d'Orsay exhibition had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. It was just not viable. However, our Functions Co-ordinator, Alan Farmer, together with his assistant Robert Dun, have an excellent variety of activities planned for 2010. I encourage you all, particularly the newer members, to support these functions whenever possible. The good fellowship enjoyed on these trips and at our many functions is what makes membership worthwhile.

Our speaker at the January meeting was again of a very high calibre. Mike Ringham gave us a most interesting insight into an aspect of Test cricket that many of us had never considered before; and, continuing the sporting theme, I know our

speaker at the February meeting will be one of the highlights of the year. We are very fortunate that James Tomkins, Olympic rower and multiple gold medallist who represented Australia six times at the Olympics – and son of member Bruce Tomkins - will be our guest speaker. He is an outstanding athlete, as we know, but is also a very accomplished speaker.

On a much sadder note, we record the passing of Chris Butcher, much-loved wife of our member, Ralph Butcher, on Thursday January 28. Chris was a regular attendee at many of our functions with Ralph. She had been in ill-health for some time and we express our sympathy and thoughts to Ralph and his family at this time. **Geoff Wade**

In-coming Vice President, Alan Farmer, introduces new members Stan Ryding, Jim McGann and Ian Johnson at the well-attended January meeting



Office Bearers, 2009-10

President: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Vice President: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526
Past Pres: **Noel Ineson** 9589 5263
Secretary: **John Howe** 9598 2429
Treasurer: **David Robertson** 9551 1930
Functions: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791
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
Pres's Table: **Ken Lucas** 9584 5545

Group Leaders 2009-10

Investment: **John Brimage** 9584 6349
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

Recording Cricket History

Alan Williams

Mike Ringham, a retired Test cricket scorer, was Keynote Speaker for January. Throughout his career, he scored over 900 matches including 40 Tests, 135 other first-class matches and 400 district 1st X1 games. He recalled many interesting anecdotes, including the 1979 Test against Pakistan when Australia were 3/300 at tea on the final day, needing a further 82 to win when Safraz Nawaz took 7/1 off 33 deliveries in the last session!

Mike began touring with the Australian Test team in 1979 and soon found out that it was no holiday - with additional duties involving checking baggage, arranging and planning accommodation for the players (which could be tricky when some of the wives were accompanying the team). He said weather affects a lot of the games in England, but Mike tells us that the umpires would always wait until *after* lunch before calling off a game, if at all possible. His fondest memories of touring include standing on the green turf of Lords surrounded by a full house of spectators as both Test teams were being introduced to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

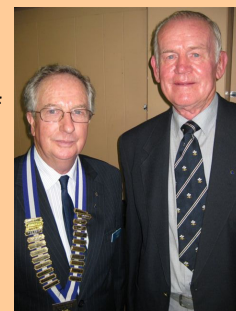
“...examples of the score sheets used for recording batting and bowling performances ... included every pertinent piece of information”

He started his scoring career with Essendon District in 1956 and progressed to first-class cricket by 1964. In all games, two scorers were required - one for each team - and they were required to compare notes frequently so as to ensure the accuracy of their work. He showed examples

of the score sheets used for recording batting and bowling performances which included every imaginable piece of information. Many were quite surprised at the level of detail that had to be recorded while the match was in progress. The statistics obtained from these records were used for player performance comparisons and in addition, on many occasions, radio and television commentators who used this information in their broadcasts to impress listeners with their knowledge of the game.

“Many were quite surprised at the level of detail that had to be recorded while the match was in progress”

Born in England in 1935, Mike lived in the Croydon district which was the site of three RAF stations during WW2. It was during a period of quarantine, suffering from a bout of scarlet fever, that he discovered cricket while listening to the radio, and enjoying the lucid commentaries of famous broadcasters such as John Arlott. He was determined to be involved in the game in one form or another and so, at the age of 13 years, his career as a scorer began - which lasted for the next 50 years. As a boy he managed to get tickets for one of the early post-war Aus/Eng Tests where he saw England dismissed for 52 and then Morris and Barnes score an opening partnership of 117. Bradman came to the crease and lasted two balls. A most disappointing day! In the 1950s, Mike left England, crewing on the Liner *Himalaya*. One cruise terminated in Australia where he decided to stay, became an Australian citizen and joined Ansett Airlines.



Geoff and Mike

Monthly Profile

Allan Small

You can easily find Allan every Monday morning after 10 am on the first tee at Victoria Golf Club



Allan is one of our key Probus Newsletter 'posties', one of a number who distribute to people who otherwise wouldn't receive it. These folk are an important link in the Probus network. He says he has had a pretty ordinary life, "like most people, I suppose," he says. You be the judge.

Born in 1920, he knew what he wanted to be early in life: a draughtsman. However, he seems to have done a lot of very different things on the way to his goal and afterwards. "There was no way I could go to university in those days," he recalls, so he became a fitter and turner and worked at nights to complete a Diploma of Mechanical Engineering. But soon after, he found himself in the navy as an 'electrical artificer' and having to be trained in electrics.

During the war, he was stationed firstly at Thursday Island surveying Torres Strait and later on cruisers *Shropshire* and *Hobart*. After the war, he joined the Cyclone company in Adelaide and stayed for 19 years.

Allan is a bit reluctant to admit it, but he isn't a great lover of our traditional sports such as football and cricket. He reckons he would probably have been killed if he had tried to play rugby as a youngster in Sydney, being somewhat small in stature. Other sorts of sports appealed to him. He had enjoyed yachting earlier in his career but it was his second wife who told him, "If you want to mix with my friends, you will need to play golf." So he did and is now a member of Victoria Golf Club. Today, Probus and golf are the last bastion of the male species, he says, both of which give him a great deal of enjoyment. His eldest son is what some would call a 'geek', he says, installing all the latest whiz-bangery on his computer and that has led him to a fascination with computers - especially downloading music. Allan reckons he has 20 000 tracks downloaded; everything from Annie Lennox to Wagner's Ring Cycle and much of the popular music of the 40s to the 80s. He also goes regularly to symphony concerts and operas, and spends a lot of time listening to music and even speculating about the origins of the universe. While he lists astronomy as an interest, it's more the philosophy behind space that excites him: the make-up of the universe, for example, and how it all began. He has so many questions.

One other thing we do know for certain about Allan is that he is a bit of a ladies' man. He can often be seen in local restaurants with at least one lady, but usually more, in tow. "They are my dinner parties," he says. Again he is a bit of a philosopher. "When you get to my age, most of the men have died and it's only the lovely ladies who are left."

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Alan Farmer & Robert Dun



Views of Point Nepean

February

Tour of Point Nepean National Park is Tuesday, Feb 23

This is a Combined Trip with Beaumaris Bay and Ricketts Point Probus Clubs. Ian Jones of Ricketts Point Club is the tour leader. Transport by Rowville Coaches. It should be a delightful trip.

Pick-up time: 8.30 am. at Beaumaris Community Centre.

March

The Masterpieces from Paris Exhibition in Canberra has been cancelled – insufficient interest from Members.

April

Melbourne Zoo and lunch at Moonee Valley Racecourse Wednesday, April 21



Come and say hello to Dokkoon's baby and all the other residents of Melbourne's fabulous zoo.

By bus at 8.45 am from the Community Centre, arriving at the Zoo around 10 am, followed by a guided tour from FOTZ (Friends of the Zoo) for one hour. On completion, members can visit the animals of their choice, wander in the beautiful gardens and soak up the atmosphere. At around 12.45 pm, it is back on the bus and off to a three-course lunch at Moonee Valley Racecourse, returning to Beaumaris at approximately 4 pm.

Cost: \$54.00 (\$32 plus Zoo entrance \$22)

Note: Friends of the Zoo have free entry. This trip will be offered to Beaumaris Bay and Ricketts Point Clubs, so please book early. Payment at March meeting.

THE ZOO

The zoo is set among flower gardens and picnic areas. Many of the animals are now organised in bio-climatic zones: African rainforest featuring gorillas, mandrills, pigmy hippos and parrots; Asian Rainforest with tigers and otters; and the Australian Bush with kangaroos, emus, koalas, echidnas and endangered hairy-nosed wombats. Popular exhibits also include the Butterfly House, the great flight aviary and the Trail of the Elephants.

May

Bright Monday, May 17–20

Based at the Best Western High Country Motor Inn. It is a combined trip with Beaumaris Bay and Ricketts Point Probus Clubs.

Departure from Community Centre at 8.30 am. via Yarra Valley and Healesville to lunch at Mansfield. Afternoon journey continues via Powers Lookout to Whitfield and on through the King Valley to Myrtleford at the foothills of Mt Buffalo Range. A short tasting stop at Michelini Wines on the way to Bright and dinner in the motel restaurant.

Day 2 involves an exploration of the historic town of Beechworth. A local guide will board the bus to provide an informative commentary through the town. Returning to Bright via Yackandandah to see its original historic buildings. Dinner at the motel restaurant.

Day 3: visit Mt Beauty in the Kiewa Valley, underneath Mt Bogong, the highest peak in the Victorian Alps. A light lunch of sandwiches and tea/coffee along the way. In the afternoon, there is a visit to the Alpine Discovery Centre to learn about the Kiewa Hydro-Electric Scheme. The tour continues with a visit to the scenic Rocky Valley Dam and Wallace Hut, the oldest remaining mountain hut in the Bogong High Plains Alpine National Park, then back to dinner at the motel.



The Milawa area is famous for not only its wines, but also its great olives, cheeses and mustards

On the journey home on day 4, there is a stop at Milawa Cheeses, the Olive Shop and Milawa Mustards followed by a stop at Brown Brothers Winery for a tasting—before returning to the Community Centre at about 5 pm.

Cost: \$585 pp (twin share) for 25 passengers
\$540 for 30 passengers.
\$510 for 35 passengers
Single supplement \$120.

Deposit of \$100 to be paid by February Meeting.
The balance to be paid by March Meeting.

June Our Famous Mid-year Candlelight Dinner

One of the most popular events on the Beaumaris Probus calendar, more details about this not-to-be-missed night out will be provided in future newsletters.

IT'S YOUR CLUB

The best committee in the world can't make a club into something that the members don't want it to be. On the other hand, every member can make a very important contribution by doing things in an effort to make this the best club it can be: for example, at monthly meetings, make a point of engaging another member that you do not know—or do not know well—in a friendly conversation. This will give everyone a much warmer feeling than anything the committee can do. Adapted from Essendon City Probus newsletter

NOTICEBOARD

Music Group 2010



The first Music Evening of the year will be held on Wednesday March 24 at 7 pm at the usual venue of 25 Third St, Black Rock. The Opera Group will meet on Wednesday April 28.

Barry Amond

Howlong Golf 2010



Our annual golf trip to Howlong this year will take place from Sunday 10 to Wednesday 13 October. Bookings will open at our next meeting (February 16) and a deposit of \$40 per couple will be required to confirm the booking - \$20 room deposit and 2 x \$10 competition costs. The motel is fully booked for the four nights and the cost, payable to the motel on arrival is \$80 per room per night which covers accommodation, golf, continental breakfast, and meal voucher for the bistro in the club each night. Further details will be issued closer to the event.

2010 Subscriptions

New subscriptions for 2010 are \$60—with a reduction to \$55, if paid before March 31. Joining fee remains \$30. Payment can be made by direct debit. Account details as follows: BSB 063-144 Acc No 10121288, or at our monthly meetings. Please include your name and record that it is for Probus subscription.

Apologies

Sincere apologies to all those who 'missed the cut' for our February Tastes evening, a Turkish Banquet. It just wasn't possible to cater for all those who wished to attend. Please pay promptly next time to be assured of a place.

Theatre

Allan Taylor

MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

Tickets for the first play for 2010 will be available at the Feb meeting. The second play, a comedy, *Chaim's Love Song*, will be on Wednesday, May 5 at 8 pm. Tickets at \$16 must be paid by the March meeting.

MAMA MIA

30 tickets have been reserved for the return season at Her Majesty's Theatre, Wednesday May 19 at 1 pm. Tickets @ \$59 must be paid by the March meeting.

MARY POPPINS

30 tickets have been reserved for Wednesday afternoon, Sept.8 at 1 pm at Her Majesty's Theatre. Tickets \$60.

WEST SIDE STORY

30 tickets have been reserved for Wednesday afternoon, Sept.22 at 1 pm at the Regent Theatre. Tickets \$65.

More China Facts

It is estimated that by 2025, 221 Chinese cities will have more than 1 million people living in them. Europe today has 35. By the same time, 170 mass-transport systems could be built; 5 billion square metres of road could be paved; and there will be 50 000 skyscrapers.



Adapting to the 21st Century

Barry Amond began his 10-minute talk by applauding a conservative attitude when standing up for our rights and condemning the deterioration of our society, as illustrated by the upsurge in anti-social behaviour and general lack of discipline. But, he said, that should not prevent us from appreciating the advantages in adapting to the New Age technologies of the 21st century and enjoying the benefits available to us all. He drew our attention to developments we should all embrace, including telephone and/or Internet banking, the use of credit cards and the use of direct debit for purchasing and payment of accounts, utilising ATMs for cash and the sad demise of cheques (apart from the odd occasion, if necessary). He extolled the great virtues of accessing the Internet for information on every imaginable topic including travel, famous people, and even financial reports—plus the advantages of email for corresponding world-wide (with photographs attached). He said it is even possible to organise a game of golf by email! Finally, he demonstrated the advantages of digital cameras and the merits of today's mobile phones which include camera, alarm systems and the technology to allow access to one's computer plus access to the news and sports of the day - all from a mobile telephone. Barry often uses his mobile to call his wife, Margaret, on her phone when he is lost in Southland! He suggests we should also travel around with an iPod attached to our ear listening to hours of music loaded from CDs, the Internet or other sources. Finally he suggested we should all 'get on with it' and adopt the many advantages available to us from modern technology - and avoid becoming 'grumpy old men'.

Alan Williams

Register Changes: New Members

◀◀ I C JOHNSON (Ian & Jill) ▶▶

18 Tramway Pde, Beaumaris 3193. 9589 3596. *eml. Born 1941
Melbourne BPharm, PHC, Pharmacist. Model railways, golf,
gardening, travel. [Club '10]
Email: ijohnpa18@bigpond.com.au



◀◀ J T McGANN (Jim & Carole) ▶▶

57 Cromer Rd, Beaumaris, 3193. 9585 1831. *eml. Born 1939
Liverpool UK
BA, GSM. Brit Army, Vice-Pres HR Nestle. Golf (Vic), football,
travel,
Beaumaris Motor Yacht squadron. [Club '10]
Email: jmcgann@bigpond.net.au



▶▶ S RYDING (Stan & Margaret) ▶▶

6 Victoria St, Sandringham, 3191. 9598 6947. *eml. Born 1928
Melbourne
Engineering, Scouts (group leader), Lions, golf [club '10]
Email: msryding@bigpond.net.au



Corrections:

Rod Kelly's numbers in the Registry are incorrect and should read –Tel: 9589 4837 Fax: 9589 4839

Keith Hardie's new address is: St James Terrace, 296 Warrigal Rd, Cheltenham. Delete the old email address.