



Newsletter

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.
Reg No. A 001-6598G
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Issue No. 246

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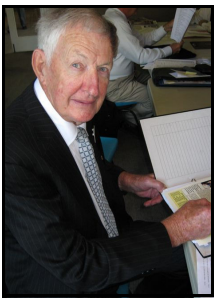
Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday July 20 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: Time to sell some stocks? 9.00 am before the main meeting. See p4
10-Minute Speaker: John Bushby, Barrister Legal Loopholes

Keynote Speaker: Ted White

Topic: Submarines Supervision and State Security Ted is a chartered accountant with an interesting background in many fields. He has been involved in training strategies for a German submarine construction consortium and a lecturer in the Law Faculty of the University of Melbourne. It promises to be a very interesting talk.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



"Your support makes all our efforts worthwhile"

In recent years, there has been much discussion about possible developments and changes to the Beaumaris RSL Sub-branch property, changes that would have had a significant effect on the Probus Club of Beaumaris and its operations. A wide range of ideas was canvassed—including a move to the Beaumaris Hotel site on Beach Road. Now, in the RSL's June newsletter, a set of clear directions for the future has been provided. It is intended to rebuild the clubhouse on its existing site, with two stages of construction, ensuring that the premises are operable at all times. Work should commence early 2011 with the completion date estimated to be mid-2012. It is interesting to note that the RSL committee has rejected joining other sports clubs, largely because of uncertainty surrounding perpetual lease options on council land, as well as a strong desire of all members to remain on the current site. Obviously, if this plan eventuates, there will be adjustments made to our tenure which will have to be resolved soon.

I urge all members to maintain their support of the club and the work of the committee by actively participating as fully as possible in the functions and activities that are organised on your behalf and for your benefit. Your support makes all our efforts worthwhile.

This year's recent Candlelight Dinner at Vincent's was an outstanding success, following on from the success of previous years. Our special thanks to Functions and Activities Co-ordinator, Geoff Bransbury, for his huge organising effort, including co-opting the musicians.

At our June meeting, we were treated to another interesting guest speaker, Paul Carolan, a teacher of Chinese at Melbourne Grammar, who spoke on the topic of Understanding China Today. Also, Jim McCann's 10-minute witty talk on growing up in Liverpool was a gem. I am hoping it will encourage other members to give us the benefit of some of their life experiences, no matter how ordinary they may seem. Talking to a group of your friends for ten minutes is one way to make a contribution and be involved with your club. Why not speak to Vice-President, Alan Farmer, and volunteer your services? Your fellow members will be pleased you did and - who knows- you may even enjoy it!

By the time you read this, I will have returned from a trip to see Lake Eyre in flood—with several other Probus members—and hopefully will have much to report on our experiences.

Eric Slater

Office Bearers, 2009-10

President: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526
Vice President: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791
Past Pres: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Secretary: **John Howe** 9589 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



Revolution expanding into smaller towns is local factory employees saving travelling time by sleeping in the building amongst the machinery – no health and safety concerns in China!.

The prosperity that many city dwellers now enjoy has not spread to all country areas as yet

In a country where 700 dialects were spoken, an important first step after Mao was to consolidate the language; today Mandarin Chinese is the national language and is used in schools and all communications. Education is considered of prime importance in China, with all children studying English from primary school, and students from many of the wealthier families often furthering their education in Western countries including Australia. Paul suggested that Chinese children are usually one to two years ahead of the same age Australian school children in mathematics.

Not surprisingly, in spite of severe traffic problems throughout China, everybody wants to drive a car and the need for additional infrastructure is growing with planned major road systems and an additional 110 airports to be built across the nation. To achieve this sustained growth, the continued supply of resources including iron ore and coal is vital. Paul said that the Chinese market for other commodities (including food) will continue to escalate with a population increasing by 9 million each year. As an example of China's impact, he asked us to imagine the requirement of wool if 1.43 billion women in China wished to knit just one woollen sock! And the future? In his view, Communism will wither away and the new leaders will be a completely new generation: well-educated, and an elite class. In one generation, most Chinese will have gone from Mao jackets to Italian suits!

Alan Williams

From Mao Jackets to Italian Suits

Our Keynote Speaker for June, Paul Carolan, is a teacher of Chinese language at Melbourne Grammar School. His topic, Understanding China Today, included a presentation of graphs covering most facets of the Chinese economy, illustrating the phenomenal growth achieved since 1978. Paul studied Chinese at Melbourne University in the 1960s and has maintained his interest in China through cultural studies and his teaching duties, visiting the country on 15 occasions; on some of these visits, accompanied by school students travelling on excursions.

Paul described the period from 1900 to 1978 in China as the Chaotic Era. With the rise of Communism in 1949, China went through some very destabilising times including the Cultural Revolution which took place from 1958 to 1969 when thousands of citizens were killed or displaced. In 1976, Chairman Mao died and the change of leadership brought Deng Xiaoping, a quiet reformer, to power. This ushered in the era described by Paul as China's Industrial Revolution. Starting from a very low standard of living in 1978, a spectacular economic growth rate has been achieved over the ensuing years. However, the prosperity that many city dwellers now enjoy has not spread to all country areas as yet. One interesting facet of the Industrial

MONTHLY PROFILE

Paul Crompton

Paul has a passion for painting and sketching, this time a fishing boat at work at Biceno, Tasmania



Paul Crompton is the member who each month produces the DVDs of our Keynote Speakers' talks. We have him to thank for being able to view any monthly presentation we may have missed. More than that, he spends a vast amount of time making this service available to us - and he loves doing it. "It keeps the mind working," he says. "I'm always looking for a better quality image."

But Paul has many other remarkable talents. For 26 years, he was Project Manager with Ansett, responsible for the construction of large facilities such as an engine overhaul workshop - the biggest in Asia at the time - and a high-tech computer centre that was capable of resisting the effects of kamikaze-like attacks, as well as the Tamworth Flying College that cost \$50m-plus and took seven years to build. In fact, his interest in buildings began at school in England where his passion for scale drawing and painting in water colours led him to study architecture. What he enjoyed most of all was producing perspective drawings, plans and elevations, long before the days when modern computers made the task very much simpler.

Arriving in Australia as a young man, he began working for a paint company while studying architecture at RMIT, and eventually moving to the Public Works Department. Before long, he was involved in designing display equipment and exhibitions for the Department of Trade, producing the fine detailed sketches of interiors that illustrated how a finished exhibition would look. This is not very different from one of the things he most enjoys doing today - as a member of a 'Dads Army', making the sets for the Mordialloc Theatre Group. In one recent production, the group had to make seven different sets and fit them on the stage. Because he sometimes finds it difficult to get inspired around home, he says, he takes off regularly, sketching and painting old shacks, boats and cityscapes and has completed 50-60 views around Melbourne, some of which he has sold. On a recent trip to Charters Towers, he spent three days drawing and painting historic buildings; and in Orange, NSW, in March, he completed sketches of a 1920s glider - what Paul describes as "an over-grown hang-glider; a wood and canvas kite held together by cables." He plans on a second painting; that is, if he has enough time in between regularly renovating at home and building the odd bathroom and kitchen in his daughter's house!

Some will remember Paul's keynote address on the sad rise and fall of Ansett (Jan 2009) - and his part in it!



FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury & Robert Dun

July

Titanic Exhibition and lunch at Notturmo Café, Carlton Wednesday July 21 .

We have a full bus, which is great! The bus will leave at 8.00 am—YES, 8.00 AM! - from the Community Centre, Reserve Road (as we have been told to arrive at 9.15 and this is peak time). Please don't forget to set the alarm clock as the bus can't wait...!

After the exhibition and before lunch you may be able to visit the Imax, depending on the show times (cost \$14.50) or visit the Museum (incl on the ticket) or take a walk in the gardens or just relax over a coffee.

We will return around 4.00 pm.

August

Tramboat Cruise on the Maribyrong Wednesday August 11



A delightful cruise up the Maribyrong with interesting commentary followed by lunch at the Anglers Tavern. The Tramboat is a uniquely-built vessel, fully enclosed and heated cabin but with an open upper deck.

This trip is a joint trip with other Clubs and is organised by Beaumaris Bay. Register and pay us as normal.

There are still seats available at the time of writing, but if you are interested, we suggest you phone us BEFORE the meeting to register – as there may NOT be seats available by our meeting date. Call Geoff on 9589 1507 if you wish to register.

Cost \$54.00. Payment at our next (July) meeting

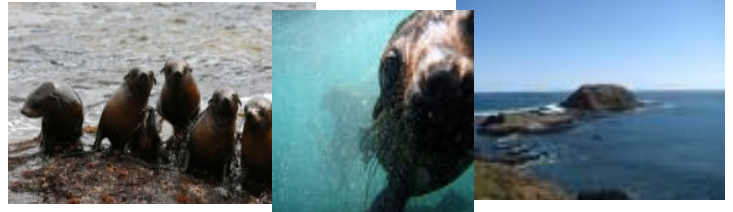
September

National Vietnam Veterans Museum plus several other Phillip Island attractions Wednesday September 15

We will have a guided tour of this excellent museum and it's memorial garden. There is a vast display of weaponry on display: a Bell Sioux helicopter, a fully-armed Cobra Gunship, Centurion tank, Howitzer, a Canberra Bomber (under repair) and many vehicles amongst 25,000 other items. There are also photographs and some extremely emotional letters and other items.

Perhaps the highlight is a superbly-produced Light & Sound show that presents the story of our involvement in the Vietnam war. Lunch is at the Phillip Island RSL where we will have a two-course lunch plus tea/coffee.

Before driving home, we will have a brief scenic tour of Phillip Island's attractions and (time/weather permitting) may visit The Nobbies and/or the Chocolate Factory.



Please register your interest ASAP and make payment at the August meeting at the latest. Cost: \$60.00

Trips for 2011

2011 is approaching fast and we are considering what longer trips to offer next year.

At our July meeting, we will present some possible trips for your consideration. We will provide trip itineraries, as well as suggested dates and approximate costs. We will ask for feedback as to whether or not you would SERIOUSLY consider going on one or more of these trips. We are not asking for a commitment yet - we're just trying to gauge interest. We would also appreciate any other suggestions.



- 1 Cruise on the Rhine from Amsterdam to Budapest, 17-day APT tour: March, June, August or November.
- 2 Treasures of Turkey, 15 days, May.
- 3 American major national parks (and even the Wild West). 16 days, luxury coach, May, June. Could include Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and such things as Custer's Last Stand (Little Bighorn, Montana).
- 4 Outback Queensland Adventure, 16 days Brisbane to Cairns, by 4WD Mercedes luxury coach, either March or September. Via Roma, Carnarvon George, Longreach, Mt Isa, Adel's Grove, Karumba, Undara Lava caves.
- 5 New Zealand 19-day coach tour, both islands.
- 6 Best Of Echuca/Murray River country - 4 nights. The date could be very flexible and arranged to suit, but quite possibly April.

...continued on p4

Living in Liverpool



Jim McGann, our 10-minute speaker for June, was born on January 26th, a coincidence which may have influenced him to come to Australia in his later years. He told of his early life in Liverpool, its history and his insights of this very famous city on the west coast of England. His father, a seaman,

was known as a 'hard man', a colloquial term for a tough guy, and was at sea most of the time. The rest of the family lived in a dockside suburb in quite comfortable housing compared to some residences that were less than perfect. Most employment in Liverpool was linked to the sea. Many were involved in sea duties with the Royal and Merchant Navies or worked as dock workers or shipyard employees. Many of these sailors lost their lives during World War 2, in the Battle of the Atlantic in particular. A vital seaport, Liverpool was a major target for German bombing raids causing thousands of casualties and extensive damage.

As Jim informed us, Liverpool was just an unexceptional small village until, in 1207, King John established a port on the site to enable him to ship his soldiers and supplies to Ireland. Further development took place from 1699 as a result of the escalation of the Slave Trade and Liverpool became a major staging post between Africa and America. This sad and appalling enterprise expanded to 45 000 slaves per year and the Slavers, many of whom lived in Liverpool, brought trade and wealth to the town. From these infamous beginnings, the city soon became the major port of departure for migrants from Europe, Ireland and the UK travelling to the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. However, some travellers stayed in Liverpool rather than continue their journey and the city's population became multicultural with several different religious backgrounds. But, as Jim recalls, any intolerance was soon overcome by good humour and the ability to laugh at the differences!

Alan Williams

Functions & Activities *continued from p3*

Other Clubs' Trips

We have been asked by Sandy Bay Probus whether any of our members would like to join them on the following:
Monday August 23 - Friday 27 5 day/4 Night Trip to Eden and the Sapphire Coast. Cost \$699 (40) or \$799. Payment required at July meeting.

Wednesday August 25 - day trip to Woodlands Historic Park to see the Living Legends (retired racehorses) plus historic homestead and gardens. Cost: approx \$50-\$55 depending on numbers.

Please contact Robert or Geoff if you are at all interested.

Word Play

A hangover is the wrath of grapes. Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play. Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion. What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead give away.) In democracy your vote counts—in feudalism your count votes. - *Mississauga South Probus*

NOTICEBOARD

Bank Account details: BSB 063-144 Acc No 10121288

Theatre Group

MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

The fourth play for the year will be *The Wisdom of Eve*, based on the Oscar-winning film *All About Eve* on Wed evening Sept 22. Must pay by August meeting. \$16.

MARY POPPINS

14 tickets were sold for the Wed matinee on Sept 9.

Tickets available at the August meeting.

WEST SIDE STORY



30 tickets have been reserved for the Wed matinee at the Regent Theatre on Sept 22 at 1 pm. \$65 must be paid at the July meeting.

Note: I will be away for the July meeting. David Robertson will collect money for bookings. We need 12 starters to get the concession price.

Allan Taylor

Change of Address:

ralphdbutcher@bigpond.com
duncangibson@bigpond.com

Investment Group

July: "Will European sovereign debt negate China and SE Asia growth and depress our share prices? Do we sell some stocks now?" General discussion.

NOTE: At the September meeting, Ian Curry, President of the Victorian Shareholders Association will speak.

Barry Donaldson

Opera & Music Groups



Next Opera Group meeting will be on Wed August 25 at 7 pm. The Music Group will meet on Wed September 29.

Barry Amond



Tastes

Next month, the Tastes group is going Indian— and local. A great comprehensive banquet menu has been carefully selected that will *not* have you breathing fire and jumping into the nearest horse-trough. The wood-fired cuisine is Northern Indian style. Owner/Chef Sunni presiding.

Where: Zaika 459 Balcombe Road Beaumaris

When: Thursday, August 5

Time: 7 pm

Cost: \$35 pp

Wines: Semillon Sav Blanc, Verdelho, Shiraz, Cab Sav

Important: You must pay in full at the July meeting to be assured of a place for this special night.

More Did You Know?

A typical lead pencil can draw a line that is 56 kms long.