



Newsletter

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

Reg No. A 001-6598G

Correspondence to Box 57 PO Black Rock VIC 3193



Issue No. 240

2010

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday January 19 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: No Meeting until February.

10-Minute Speaker: Barry Amond –Things We Need To Do

Keynote Speaker: Mike Ringham Mike is a retired Test Cricket scorer who toured with the 1979 World Cup and 1985 Ashes Tour teams. He will talk about his introduction to cricket and his progress through to the top level.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



"I believe that the degree to which pollution is affecting our lives should be of concern to us all"

We certainly live in challenging times and much has happened since our last meeting. Some of us journeyed to King Island for a most enjoyable three days organized by Robert Dun. A report of that trip is available and I encourage you all to read it and perhaps be encouraged to join us in future trips, such as the outstanding one planned for Canberra to see the Musee d'Orsay exhibition.

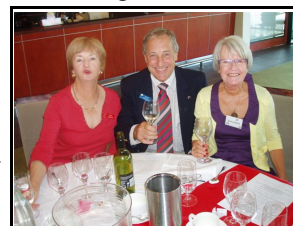
The President's Christmas Lunch - which this year was held at Southern Golf Club - proved to be a most enjoyable occasion for all. We must acknowledge the excellent arrangements by Alan Farmer and the presentation of the venue by the golf club. There were 100 members and partners and widows attending and, from all accounts, it seems that everyone enjoyed the experience.

On a wider front, the inability of our world leaders at Copenhagen to come to a definitive agreement regarding climate change and what should be done is worrying. I am fully aware there are many of us who are sceptical as to whether climate change is man-made or is part of a natural cycle of change; nevertheless, I believe that the degree to which pollution is affecting our lives should be of concern to us all and the fact that agreement cannot be reached on a plan of action is of some concern. Let us hope that 2010 will bring more

decisive action from the world's leading nations.

You will remember that at the AGM last March, I challenged the club to introduce at least 10 new members in the following 12 months. It gives me much pleasure to report that we have attained that figure and that our membership is now very healthy. I think this is indicative of the enjoyment we all receive from our involvement in Probus.

Finally, I wish you all a very successful 2010 and look forward to meeting with you again at our next meeting in January, when our guest speaker will be Mike Ringham, a retired Test cricket scorer. I am very confident he will have many fascinating cricketing stories of interest to tell us. **Geoff Wade**



Right: President Geoff Wade presenting 10- and 20-year pins to (left) Nick Caris and (right) Ralph Butcher at the November meeting; and at the 2009 President's Lunch at Southern Golf Club, Geoff Bransbury with wife, Merry, and Jacquie Spalding

Office Bearers, 2009-10

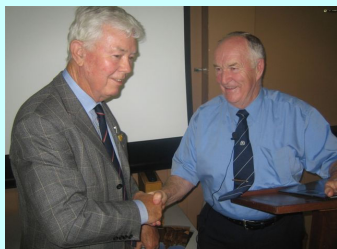
President:	Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Vice President:	Eric Slater	9589 3526
Past Pres:	Noel Ineson	9589 5263
Secretary	John Howe	9598 2429
Treasurer:	David Robertson	9551 1930
Functions:	Alan Farmer	9598 2791
Functions Asst:	Robert Dun	9589 5456
Meetings Co-ord:	Bill Green	9596 1548

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

A Wandering Scot



One ship's captain to another—Alan Nash thanks 'ancient mariner', Malcolm Bell

Malcolm Bell, a qualified Master Mariner or Ship's Captain, was born during the Great Depression on Bute, a very small island in the Firth of Clyde on Scotland's West coast. He spent a lifetime in shipping, from the paddle steamers connecting the island with the mainland, to the largest of liners on the North Atlantic. He was brought up with three siblings by a single mother on a pension of 28 shillings (\$A2-80) per week. "I am sure that many can relate to the unique lifestyle forced upon us by a war we were too young to understand", he said. After schooling and a short stint as a postman, he realized he wanted to go to sea. "I want to be a seaman - a captain," he announced and he soon had his way. After enrolling in Sea School, he soon received his indentures on a roll of parchment which contained a series of Thou Shalts and Shalt Nots. At a very young age, he was promoted to Chief Officer and completed a voyage which included plying the entire length of the great River Amazon and a number of West Indian ports with the final destination, New York.

He painted a stark picture of shipboard life and the British and French colonies in West Africa which he visited in the late 1940s - before Harold McMillan's 'Winds of Change' blew through Africa, ushering in independence. He also frequented London just getting off its knees after the blitz

and visited the bombed-out port of Hamburg, and in 1950 saw Nagasaki five years after the atomic bomb. Observing the devastation, he noticed however that the dock areas were almost untouched because they were below the level of the blast that destroyed the city, built on a plateau. His arrival in Hong Kong in June 1950 coincided with the start of the Korean War; a number of previous voyages to mainland China also coincided with the communist take-over of that country by Mao. There were further voyages to the Mediterranean, calls to Spanish and Portuguese ports as well as trans-Atlantic voyages to the Great Lakes of Canada. Malcolm told of his experiences on passenger ships to Burma and his years on the Atlantic in the ships of Cunard White Star Line and his service as Navigator on the original RMS Queen Elizabeth.

He first visit to Williamstown was in 1952 to discharge a number of R class locomotives for the Victorian Railways and made a later visit in a deep-sea tug - which at that time, was considered one of the biggest in the world, but today is a mere tiddler. After a number of years travelling the world, he had two years' service as a constable in the Marine Division of the City of Glasgow Police. "By that time I realized I was a little too old for the force and the winters in Scotland were a killer", he recalled.

"My wife had seen a TV ad by one Googie Withers about immigration to Australia and when she mentioned it I jumped at the chance." Malcolm migrated to Australia in 1964, continuing his connection with the sea through his employment on the wharfs with P&O until his retirement in 1991. There followed a period as operations manager on the *Seacat*, the high-speed ferry service to Tasmania, and final retirement in 1993. It was a more than fitting end to an adventurous life at sea. Ed.

Monthly Profile: Ken Lucas



Ken with two of the great loves of his life – Barney, left, and Tweed, right

Ken joined the Dutch international company Philips at 17, starting as an Administrative Assistant (otherwise known as 'Office Boy'). He obtained his Accountancy degree studying at night school for five years, but then decided to change occupations within Philips from an Accountant to a Sales Rep, "Mainly because the job had a company car," he says, "and the only accountant who drove a company car was the Financial Director." Being a rep for the city of Sydney for three years turned out to be a good decision because it started a new and challenging career path, and soon after he was offered the position of State Manager for Tasmania. "It was there that I met my first wife, a widow with three young children. We then had two of our own and enjoyed a very happy family life with five kids."

After being promoted to the Head Office in Sydney, he was asked to spend six months in South Africa, then move to the UK and integrate the divisions of Philips and Pye - a company which Philips had just taken over. "This was a big

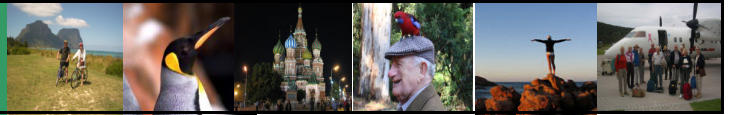
challenge for me but with some really fantastic staff we turned the corner and, after two gruelling years, it became profitable." The following year his wife became ill and wanted to return to Australia to be closer to her family.

He returned to Sydney but moved to Melbourne to integrate the Astor-branded products which Philips had taken over 18 months earlier. It was successful and he was made a Director several years later. However, in the 70s, after then-PM Gough Whitlam decided to increase the value of the Australian dollar and reduce tariffs rather drastically, the face of the manufacturing industry as it was virtually changed overnight. Local industry could not compete with a rash of cheaper imports and, one by one, businesses closed completely or became importers. "We battled as best we could but finally we closed all of our factories," Ken says. "As a result, our new MD decided that he no longer had a job for a 58 year-old person." After over 40 years with the same company, Ken said farewell and started his own business in Management Consulting and Personnel Recruitment. "I guess this must have worked as I almost doubled my salary."

Today, he enjoys golf at The Peninsula Country Golf Club, walking two loveable wire-haired fox terriers, gardening, 'playing around' with the computer, reading racy novels, occasionally dining out with wife, Rosalie, and friends, and Probus. Ken is also the person responsible for organising people for the President's table each monthly meeting.

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Alan Farmer & Robert Dun



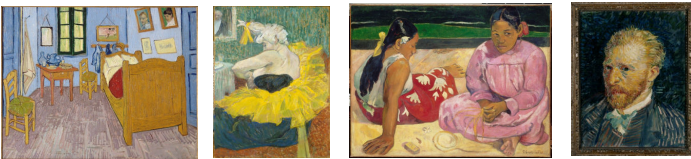
February

Tour of Point Nepean National Park :Tuesday Feb 23.

This is a combined trip with Beaumaris Bay and Ricketts Point Probus Clubs. It is being organised by Ian Jones of Ricketts Point Club, who will be the tour leader. Lunch will be at the Rye Hotel. Transport is by Rowville Coaches. Pick up time 8.30 am at Beaumaris Community Centre. Cost: \$55 p.p. Payable at our January meeting.

March

Masterpieces from Paris Exhibition - Canberra 5 days from Monday 22 to Friday 26.



This trip is organised by Beaumaris Probus and the Beaumaris Art Group. Details as per November Newsletter / or contact me or Barry Amond.

Cost from \$910 pp (Twin Share) for minimum 40 persons to \$1030 pp for minimum 25 persons. Single supplement \$290 pp. Deposit of \$100 pp to be paid by our January meeting. Final payment by Monday February 8.

April

We will conduct a straw poll at our January meeting to ascertain your interest in one of the following day trips:

- 1 Yarra Valley Railway
- 2 Western Waste-Water Treatment Plant at Werribee
- 3 Puffing Billy
- 4 Melbourne Zoo

May

Bright Monday, May 17–20

Based at the Best Western High Country Motor Inn. This is a combined trip with Beaumaris Bay and Ricketts Point Probus Clubs. Subject to confirmation from some of the attractions, the itinerary is as follows:



Panoramic view of Domaine Chandon in the Yarra Valley

- Departure from Community Centre at 8.30 am via Yarra Valley and Healesville to lunch at Mansfield. Afternoon is through King Valley to Myrtleford at the Mt Buffalo Range foothills. A short tasting stop at Michelini Wines on the

way to Bright and dinner in Motel restaurant.

- Day 2 features an exploration of the historic town of Beechworth. On return to Bright, travel via Yackandandah and see its original historic buildings. Dinner at the motel restaurant.

- Day 3, visit Mt Beauty in the Kiewa Valley, beneath Mt Bogong, the highest peak in Victoria. We pass Clover Dam on the way to Bogong Village for a light buffet lunch.

- In the afternoon, a visit the Alpine Discovery Centre to learn about the Kiewa Hydro-Electric Scheme. On the way back to dinner at our Motel, we visit the Rocky Valley Dam. On the journey home on day 4, we 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.

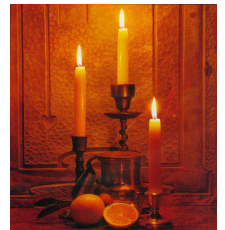
Cost: \$540 pp (twin share) for 30 passengers. \$510 pp for 35 passengers. Single supplement \$120.

Deposit of \$100 to be paid by February meeting. Balance to be paid by March meeting.

June

Mid-year Candlelight Dinner

More information about this very special occasion in the New Year.



King Island Dreaming: A Report

Robert Dun

24 Probus members, spouses and friends went on the four-day trip to King Island. Ten were associated with our Club and the rest were from the Beaumaris Bay Club. The participation of others was very successful with new friends made and all available accommodation occupied. This Bass Strait island is about 70 km long and 27 km at its widest, and with a declining population of 1600 people.

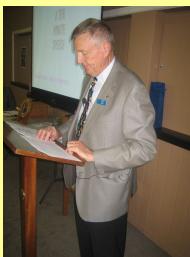
The weather was very good and not a single ship wreck occurred during our stay. There were very many small paddymelon kangaroos, wallabies, and fairy penguins. We also saw domesticated turkeys and peacocks that had gone wild in the bush. It is quite likely that there will be a significant reduction in their numbers in the next few weeks!! At the Currie wharf, we saw about 400 largish crayfish being unloaded from boat, flopping around on the deck vigorously. The trip was enjoyed thoroughly by us all. [NOTE: A full-page report on this trip will be available at our next meeting in January.]

We are reliably informed that these pictures represent (from left): Enjoying the view from Whistler's Point; the tallest light-house in the southern hemisphere at Cape Wickham; and morning tea and scones with King Island cream.



The Fine Art of Preparing a 10-minute Speech

When Don Lobb started to think about the 10-minute talk he had offered to do for the November meeting, he had no idea of a suitable subject - so he turned to the internet. What he found was 2.6 million entries for 'How to prepare a 10-minute speech', 3 million for 'How to deliver a 10-minute speech' and almost 6 000 10-minute speech topics. Next, he explored the range of possible topics. There were 550 million entries for the topic 'If Only', 235 million for 'What If', 81 million 'Tell Me Whys', 135 million for 'Do You Remember' and 157 million for 'Did You Know'. In the category of 'If Only', Don found that in the whole history of Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and even World Championships, the silver medallists are the most unhappy. Gold medallists are always happy, of course, and bronze medallists are just happy they won a medal; however, silver medallists are full of one regret: 'If only I had tried harder.'



Of all the What ifs, perhaps the most intriguing is 'What if the Australian selectors - after Shane Warne's 1/150 in his first Test - had decided he wasn't up to it? If the selectors hadn't seen his potential, none of us may have seen (in Don's opinion) the best bowler of all time. Then there is 'What if Germany or Japan had won the Second World War?'; and in Don's case, what if he hadn't accepted the job transfer from Adelaide to Melbourne in 1968? Before he had finished his highly entertaining 10-minute talk, using selected visuals, Don gave us a wide range of curiosities such as the exact number of tennis balls used at every Wimbledon tournament (42 000), the five most popular pub names in the UK, a very odd statistic about the distance between one's wrist and elbow, and even Harry Houdini's history-making flying exploits at Diggers Rest in 1910. There isn't space to report on all the other (largely useless) information that Don expounded - such as where the term 'white elephant' comes from - but, trivialities aside, there was wide appreciation for his fascinating talk. Ed.

New Members

►► K L MCDONNELL (Kevin & Frederica) ►►

15 Cowper St Sandringham, 3191. 9598 8209 *eml.

Born Sydney 1946

B.Com, B.Bus, GDipAdmin, CPA, FCIS, General Manager.

Numismatics, Aust History, Share Investing, Golf. [Club '09]

Email address: keldon@bigpond.net.au



►► R B WILSON OAM (Roger & Margaret) ►►

35 Church St, Beaumaris, 3193, 9589 3907. *eml.

Born Melbourne 1944

MAIDC. Gen Manager Forty Winks.

Golf, football, gym, swimming. [Club '09]

Email address: rbwservices@bigpond.com



◄◄ W G SYMON (Graham & Jill) ◄◄

1 Hall St, Brighton 3186 9592 8076. *eml. Born 1933 Melbourne, Dip Eee, Chartered Engineer, CEO Engineering Co, corporate insurance, financial planner. Golf, skiing.



◄◄ I W SIMONDSON (Ian & Ro) ◄◄

11 Page St, Beaumaris, 9589 4218 *eml.

Born 1936 Melbourne.

FAII, FMBA. Insurance broker. Golf, travel.



NOTICEBOARD

Subscriptions for 2010

New subscriptions for 2010, approved at the November meeting, are: \$60.00 - with a reduction to \$55.00, if paid before the March 31. Joining fee is \$30.00.

Payment can be made by direct debit. Our bank account details are: BSB 063-144 Acc 10121288; or at our monthly meetings. Please include your name and record that it is for Probus subs. David Robertson, Treasurer

Tastes 2010 Geoff Wade & Peter McGregor

For this year's program of good food and wine experiences, we hope to offer you a taste of the Mediterranean (e.g. Lebanon), Turkey, Spain (hopefully) and India; and we may even re-visit some of the better places we started with in 2008.

Thursday, February 4 : Turkish Banquet

Ala Turc'a 409 Hampton Street Hampton 7 pm
Red and white wines @ \$15 per bottle (No \$50 notes!!)

Note: \$35 per head *must be paid at January meeting.*



Change of Address

- Bob Aubrey has moved to Greenwood Manor, 617 Lower Dandenong Rd, Dingley, Ph 9551 5676
- Keith Thompson has moved to Blue Hills Rise Retirement Village, Cranbourne
- Russell Welsh: joycewelsh@bigpond.com

Theatre 2010

Allan Taylor

MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

The first play for 2010 is *This Side Up* on Wednesday, Feb 24 at 8 pm. Tickets @ \$16 (note increase) must be paid at the January meeting.

Jersey Boys

At the Princess Theatre on Wednesday afternoon, Mar 3 at 1 pm. Tickets will be available at January meeting

Mama Mia

30 tickets have been reserved for the 10th anniversary return season at Her Majesty's Theatre on Wednesday afternoon, May 19 at 1 pm. Tickets: \$59.

Mary Poppins

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

Music Group 2010

Barry Amond



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.

Interesting Facts

- In 1999, there were 9000 Chinese students in Australia - last year, almost 130 000
- In 1999, 40 000 Chinese tourists visited Australia - in 2008, there were 356 000.
- 2009, more migrants came from China than NZ and UK



Treasurer, David Robertson, wishes to advise members that the contents of the fines tin in 2009 totalling \$53.00 was donated to the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal.