



PROBUS

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

Issue No. 224

July 2008

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday July 15 at Beaumaris RSL

Keynote Speaker: Percy Cooper **Easy ways to protect yourself from identity theft**

Identity theft is a rapidly-increasing crime via the illegal use of credit cards, Centrelink and dividend payments. Percy Cooper is a forensic accountant and popular speaker at seminars and dinners.

10-Minute Speaker: Roy Petch EVE OF GRIK - A LUCKY LADY
Investment Group: No meeting this month.

— Office Bearers, 2008 —

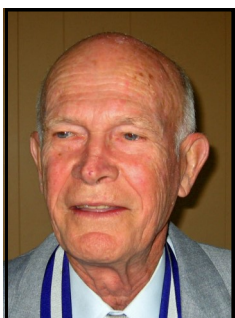
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|------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| President: | Noel Ineson | 9589 5263 |
| Vice President: | Geoff Wade | 9588 2593 |
| Imm/Past Pres: | Bill Davis | 9592 5982 |
| Hon Secretary | Roy Petch | 9589 5757 |
| Hon Treasurer: | David Robertson | 9551 1930 |
| Functions Coord: | Alan Farmer | 9598 2791 |
| Functions Asst: | Robert Dun | 9589 5456 |
| Meeting Coord: | Don Lobb | 9598 5546 |
| 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



The passionate enthusiasm for a hobby was recently demonstrated by our own Garth Epstein, master of philately, in his most interesting talk on The Evolution of Miniature Sheets at our February monthly meeting. This raises the thought that many of our Members probably have hobbies that they are passionate about. Sharing their passion with other members through the medium of, say, an item in the newsletter (or even a 10-minute talk) would be much appreciated by Members. Presentations of this nature are great talking points (as Garth can testify) and lead to a better understanding of where we each are coming from, thereby improving relationships between Members.

I strongly encourage each of you with hobbies to put pen to paper for the benefit of both yourself and Club Members; and with the encouragement of our Newsletter editor, Peter McGregor, we can continue to create an outstanding publication. Please chat to Peter about this as he is only too happy to help if you would like some guidance on the presentation which could include, for example, a sketch or photo where

relevant.

Finally, we welcome back our intrepid overseas travellers and partners, including Barry Amond, Tony Bowles, Robert Dun, Rod Murrell, Paul Prior, Ken Reed, Barbara Davis. After their 21-day jaunt to Scandinavia and Russia, we look forward to hearing all about their great adventure.

Keynote Speaker: Puffing Billy



Our June guest speaker, Don Horsburgh, a retired RAAF Squadron Leader, has been involved with the Puffing Billy Railway re-construction and promotion for the past 17 years.

The history of the Victorian Rail Network began in 1854 when a train line was built between Melbourne and Sandridge, later known as Port Melbourne. By 1872, 5000 miles of track had been laid throughout Victoria. The government planned some narrow gauge lines, primarily to provide transport of timber and produce to the markets, including Moe-Walhalla, Colac-Beech Forest, and Ferntree Gully-Gembrook.

During the period of the 1914-18 War, it became very popular to travel to Ferntree Gully and ride the train to Gembrook, travelling on flat-bed trucks and on the roof of freight cars. By 1918, passenger carriages were introduced and Puffing Billy had arrived. In the following years, attempts were made by the government to electrify the line but protesters objected and the system was closed down because of landslides and track disrepair. In 1955, the Puffing Billy Preservation Society was created, enabling a large group of volunteers to take over the organisation and promotion of the railway. The steam locos have been sourced and restored from various sites including one found in a Beaumaris park. From November to Easter, fire protection includes a fire trolley following five minutes behind every train, with diesel engines replacing steam on extreme fire danger days. In 2007, 250 000 passengers rode on Puffing Billy, 80 000 of which were interstate or overseas tourists and the numbers are still growing !

Alan Williams



David and Yvonne on safari in Kruger National Park, South Africa

MONTHLY PROFILE

David Robertson

David has been a Member of Beaumaris Probus since 2001 and has been our Treasurer since 2006. He worked with Hardie Trading for 28 years and Chemsal Trading for 15, mainly on the supply of chemical raw materials for the manufacture of rubber, plastics, paper and paint, as well as the tanning industry. (*Not* as in suntan!) He has three children and four grand children.

David is not fanatical about philately, but he does have albums and boxes full of stamps - and admits to having purchased first-day covers of Australian issues. He is active in the Masonic Lodge which he describes as a low-key men's service organisation that, despite the mystique that surrounds it, encourages participation from men of all denominations and backgrounds. He and wife, Yvonne, attend MTC performances each month, and a couple of operas a year. Not that many years ago,

David walked Cradle Mountain and Milford Sound. Since he went to Kenya on business in 1972 - to learn more about the pyrethrum industry - and other visits to Asia, America, and Europe including Moscow, he has become a travel enthusiast. His most recent trips were to Vietnam and Thailand. He is a regular visitor to Bali and is an active promoter of the island and its beautiful people. "Bali people are very different from people in the rest of Indonesia," he says. "And there is a lot more to do there than what tourists usually see and do." He cites the white-water rafting, the volcanoes, and the rice fields and does lots of walking, often staying in the hills with locals. However, he reserves special praise for the beautiful game-parks of South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania, and has visited Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. "That's worth going out of your way to see," David says.

Perhaps his greatest claim to fame - the envy of us all - is that not only is he a golfer and a member at Southern GC for 45 years, but he has had no less than three holes-in-one there. Can anyone beat that?

CANDLELIGHT DINNER

A group of 70 members and partners enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Beaumaris RSL on Tuesday evening, 10th June. Don Lobb and Eric Slater got the party under way, issuing everybody with vouchers for drinks from the bar and tickets for lucky door prizes to be drawn later in the evening. Attractive candelabras on all the tables set the mood, ably assisted by Andy Watson with a couple of his inimitable stories. The chatter and laughter indicated a joyful evening for everyone. An excellent *a la carte* menu encompassing fish, fowl and various meat dishes ensured everybody could make a suitable and enjoyable choice. In his welcoming address, President Noel requested feedback on the night from attending members. Everyone present thought it a very good night and great value.

Alan Williams



Some of us recently attended this superb Melbourne production. Yes, I said, "Superb". Pick it up *holus bolus* and transfer it to London or New York - it would stand with the best. We could detect no weakness (but perhaps we were lucky Magda Szubanski was not on deck! Some friends who attended on a different date said she spoiled the whole thing.) However, Marina Prior and Lisa McCune sang beautifully, as did the guys. The dancing and chorus work were marvellous such as "Sit down, you're rockin' the boat" which is still ringing joyfully in our ears. As for the original great songs and story, they date back more than 50 years, yet come up as fresh as a daisy. So much great enjoyment, and at a very special price just for us!

Lloyd Jenkins

Jock's Corner: On the *Forbes* list of richest people in the world, the No. 5 billionaire is from India. In fact, India has 36 billionaires.

FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

August 25-29 4-Night Murray River Cruise PS Murray Princess



Currently, there are two couples booked. Contact Robert Dun if interested.

September 24: Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong.

We have a very special opportunity to observe the vital role this laboratory plays in maintaining the health of Australia's livestock, aquaculture species and wildlife. It is one of the most sophisticated laboratories in the world for research on the safe handling and containment of animal diseases. This is achieved through a number of research programs to develop the most sensitive, accurate and timely diagnostic tests critical to the success of any maintenance and virus eradication campaigns. The public is not routinely allowed into this facility, but through the good offices of John Howe, we are indeed privileged to have access. His special assistance in arranging this visit is gratefully acknowledged.

Cost: \$40 pp includes luxury bus transport. Lunch and sing-a-long at Sphinx's venue in Geelong.

Departure: 9 am from Beaumaris Community Centre. Returns about 4 pm. All bookings and payment will be welcomed at the next meeting.

November 19: Corio Bay Cruise aboard MS Freedom and Geelong Tour

Tour includes: Geelong Town tour, lunch at Smorgies. One-hour scenic tour aboard *MS Freedom*. Luxury Bus travel. Departs Beaumaris Community Centre 9 am. Returns about 5 pm. Cost: \$56 pp. Firm bookings and payment would be welcomed at our next meeting.

2009

Two overseas trips, researched by Robert Dun, are planned for next year. These tours are very popular and are usually booked out by the general public well in advance, which is why we are arranging them now.

March 2-9: Lord Howe Island

It is essential for Members to *indicate their interest and firm intention* if they wish to join the Lord Howe Island trip, and to confirm with a deposit of \$300 pp by the July Meeting. Balance to be paid in full by the November meeting. (Note: Only 400 tourists are allowed on Lord Howe Island at any one time). The Lord Howe trip has been described as for those who are moderately fit and like to walk or swim, or for those who are happy just to sit and appreciate beauty.

The tour includes: Transport from Beaumaris to and from Tullamarine. Return economy class ex Melbourne, including pre-pay taxes (subject to any airfare variations). Return airport transfers on Lord Howe Island. 7 nights in a studio room at Leanda-Lei. Full buffet breakfast daily at Coral Cafe. Six dinners at local restaurants, including transfers and BBQ dinner. Ronnie's Ramble guided walk. North Bay picnic lunch. Chase n thyme tour. Guided nursery tour. Boat cruise around the island.

Cost: \$3089 pp (Single Supplement \$274)

Sept 3-20: Croatia and Slovenia, including Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Copies of the tour brochure will be available at the next meeting, or a copy can be emailed to you by Robert Dun at rbdun@bigpond.com.au. The tour:

- ☐ is a small group tour, maximum 25 people
- ☐ includes a 5-day chartered cruise of Dalmatian Islands
- ☐ is fully escorted by a professional tour leader
- ☐ is a First Class tour in English only
- ☐ is exclusive to the Australian and New Zealand market
- ☐ includes gratuities.

Cost: (2008 prices, expect about 10% increase for 2009) Main Deck \$7700 pp single, \$5900 pp double/twin. Airfares are not included. This popular tour must also be booked well in advance. At this stage, your very firm expression of interest would be appreciated by our next meeting to gauge whether we can arrange a tour. Perhaps we could take up all 25 places. (Currently, 10 Members are interested.)

Future Events and Functions

We are currently planning the events and functions for next year. We plan to have a selection to put before Members and wives in next month's Newsletter. We would appreciate your ratings and comments. Meanwhile, we foreshadow a trip to Japan in 2010 at either cherry blossom time or in autumn. What do you think? Please give us your feedback on this idea.

Alan Farmer & Robert Dun

Antarctica and Back



David Robertson's brave Antarctic adventure was much more laid-back than the travels of Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton who all went before him. No sledges and snowshoes for

him, however - David and wife, Yvonne, were able to travel in the luxury of a 747 jetliner. Flying time between Melbourne and Antarctica is four hours each way, and another four hours to tour the area. (Antarctica is huge - over 50% larger than the whole of Australia.) The weather was perfect for the flight with marvellous views of glaciers, pack-ice - some as thick as 20 metres - and mountain ranges that rise to 5000m. Unfortunately, the varied abundant wild life was not visible from the air.

Australia has three main stations in Antarctica: Mawson, Casey and Davis. Temperatures can drop as low as minus 60 degrees but the average rainfall is only 12% of the Melbourne average. It's the world's driest continent.

David had some interesting facts about famous explorers including the epic story of Shackleton's 1300 km journey by rowing boat, to remote South Georgia Island from Elephant Island, to rescue his stranded crew.

Alan Williams

[NOTE: Next month's 10-minute speaker is John Ragas.]

NOTICEBOARD

Directory Changes:

Two phone numbers were omitted from the new Members' Register:

Ed Hilliard's is 8319 5616

Fen Gerrard's is 9876 2629.

The new email address for Sheila (and John) Eden is smeden@optusnet.com.au; for Alan Kermond aj-kermond@live.com.au; for John Opie johnopie@optusnet.com.au; and for Ken Reed Reed_KV.1254@bigpond.com.

Neil Jones' new address is:

Unit 14 62-76 Cavanagh St Cheltenham 3192.

Functions and Activities Note:

December 19

President's Christmas Lunch at Victoria Golf Club

Annual Beaumaris Probus Golf Tournament

We still have a couple of vacancies for the Howlong Golf trip 26-29 October. If you are interested in enjoying three days of golf and fellowship on the delightful Howlong golf course, please see Geoff Wade and make your booking. Howlong Country Club Motel is able to provide only 17 rooms for Sunday night 26 October and it appears we have 18 couples who have indicated a desire to come on Sunday. If you have indicated that you intend to come on Sunday 26 October, please confirm with Geoff Wade ASAP so that we have our records straight. If we do have 18 couples wanting a room on Sunday night, we may need to seek a volunteer to book into the caravan park or motel up the road for one night. If you are prepared to do so, we would be pleased to hear from you. **GW**

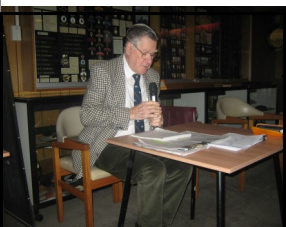
Wicked

Disappointingly, we had only eight starters for this, and as Ticketek requires a minimum of 20 to get the group price, we have had to cancel our reservation. Refund cheques will be available at the July meeting. **AT**

Vial of Life

The Club has purchased a further supply of Probus-endorsed *Vial of Life* sachets which will be available for distribution at the July meeting. The Committee strongly recommends that all Members carry this sachet - completed with personal medical emergency data - preferably in their wallets. Additional copies can be made available for partners if required. Please speak to a Committee Member as soon as possible if you wish to participate. *Vial of Life* could save your life.

Investment Group



John Brimage - in charge of the Investment Group

In April, the meeting of the Probus Investment Group saw a video on Alan Greenspan. Often regarded as the most important economic policy-maker since World War 2, he is famous for coining the iconic term 'irrational exuberance' in reference to the

share market, but was very often criticised for speaking in language that many ordinary people could not understand. When he didn't want people to know what he was saying, he was said to engage in what some called 'purposeful obfuscation'. In times of crisis or uncertainty, when the world was waiting for direction from the US market or The Fed, Greenspan would infuriate people with one of his classic stock phrases, "No comment." In May and June, the meeting heard from individual Members about their favourite stocks - those investments suited to what seems like a recovering market (Well, it did *then!* Ed). No meeting in July until the return of John Brimage from Up North.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

A man who is self-reliant, positive, optimistic and undertakes his work with the assurance of success magnetises his condition. He draws to himself the creative powers of the universe. **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

Jock's Corner: In this International Year of the Potato, nationwide statistics show that on average each person consumes 103 kg of potatoes a year; AND, the world's biggest recorded potato weighed 3.2 kg (in Germany,