



Newsletter

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.
Reg No. A 001-6598G
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Issue No. 245

June 2010

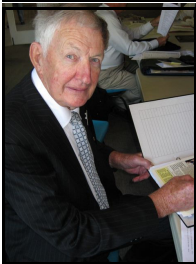
Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday June 15 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: Do we buy green bananas and wait? 9 am before the main Meeting. See p4
10-Minute Speaker: Jim McGann I Remember

Keynote Speaker: Paul Carolan Teacher of Chinese language at Melbourne Grammar

Topic: Understanding China Today Paul will give a brief introduction to Chinese history, its influence on the development of today's China and therefore its relationship with Australia. He will also examine the current position of China in the world and comment on its foreseeable future. Questions and discussion to follow.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would like to encourage more members to join our many functions and activities

I have just confirmed my belief that we have in Victoria, the most wonderfully varied scenery with fascinating places to visit within a few hours' drive of Melbourne. Our four-day trip to Bright and surrounds was packed with exciting points of interest in the 'high country'. Robert Dun's flair for organisation was outstanding. He tells you more about this trip later in this newsletter (p4). Following from my last report, I would like to encourage more members to join our many functions and activities. As I have found, they are so enjoyable. In the near future, we have nine lucky people going on a unique trip to see Lake Eyre in flood, starting on July 3. Places on this trip have been much in demand and it should be quite fabulous. We hope they enjoy their experiences and when they return, tell us of their many adventures!

My special thanks to Vice President, Alan Farmer, for his support at our May meeting while I was away. I have had reports that it was a great success, in particular, with our May Keynote Speaker, Anita Nayar, Consul General for India, providing an informative and

challenging address about Australia's on-again-off-again relations with India since the era of the White Australia policy.

I would ask you all to ensure to make a point of approaching new members at each of our meetings to make them feel welcome. Also, please invite guests who may like to become new members of our club and hear our range of excellent speakers. At present, I am busy contacting guest speakers for the coming months. However, as I look through some of the profiles of our members, I am convinced that we have many members who would make compelling speakers at our meetings. Please give some thought to making a contribution.

This month, we look forward to learning more about another fascinating country, China, from our Keynote Speaker, Paul Carolan. **Eric Slater**

Acting President. Alan Farmer, presenting Garth Epstein with his 20-year pin



Office Bearers, 2009-10

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Investment: **Barry Donaldson** 9598 6446
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Framework for Co-operation

Consul General for India, Ms Anita Naya receives thanks and a gift from Paul Crompton



Both countries are now aware that each have much in common and that they must work to build a framework for co-operation

Keynote Speaker for May, Consul General for India, Ms Anita Nayar, began her address by speaking of the history of links between our two countries, including the possibility of a genetic connection between some tribes in India and aboriginal people dating back many thousands of years. Also, when famine struck the first settlers at Sydney Cove, it was ships carrying food from Bengal that helped allay the shortages. Later, many people of Indian origin came to work as labourers and camel drivers. Despite very good relations when India achieved its independence in 1947, during the Menzies years the relationship deteriorated and trade diminished. During the Cold War period, relations cooled even further.

Today, Ms Nayan is confident that Australian and Indian relations will improve despite the current problems with the Indian student program. She believes the prime reason for this unpleasantness was the significant changes made to the Work-Related Immigration Policy, including a relaxation of the screening of applicants in India - with the result that the Australian system for obtaining immigration visas was

continued...

considered the easiest in the world. Not surprisingly, the Indian student population in Victoria jumped from 2 000 students in 2002 to 50 000 in 2008! Not all were genuine students; their numbers included those whose applications to the USA and the UK had been rejected and who only had to complete a cooking or a hairdressing course to be guaranteed permanent residency in Australia. A fiasco, Ms Nayar said, which contributed to the social problems of overcrowded accommodation and difficulties in obtaining reasonable employment - other than driving taxis, low-paid cafe workers, cleaners and other after-hours employment. As a result, many came into contact with delinquents who roam our streets looking for soft targets to rob and assault. Many of the perpetrators of these violent attacks were from different ethnic groups, but the main focus of the Indian media was to highlight the racial aspect. Our post-war White Australia Policy, long since dismantled, has not been totally forgotten or forgiven in India. Ms Nayan added that the failure of the Victorian Government to admit there was a problem, despite all the evidence to the contrary, did not help. A more strict policy is now in place and successful applications have dropped by 90%!

Many of the perpetrators of these violent attacks were from different ethnic groups

However, the Consul General said, both countries are now aware that they each have much in common and that they must work to build a framework for co-operation. A study is currently underway as a first step towards a Free Trade Agreement that, if successful, would benefit each country by as much as \$40 billion.

Alan Williams

MONTHLY PROFILE

David O'Loughlin

Waiting to tee off on the 1st at Victoria Golf Club at the usual time, Monday morning

In 1976, similar to recent times, Lake Eyre was in flood and a group of adventurers set off from bayside Melbourne to make the most of the unnatural occurrence. There was Jon Olsen (the painter), Vincent Serventy (environmentalist), our own David O'Loughlin who was responsible for the boat, and some others. David's photos show his friends surveying the remote landscape and the many thousands of pelicans that nestled on several of the recently-created islands. David supplied the boat because he was in the boat business - and before that, the car business - and he had met these people through mutual friends.



In a talk he gave to Beaumaris Probus several years ago, David spoke about being part of the early history of open air car yards. After studying at RMIT, he had accepted a position as a book-keeper in a car yard. In those days, the company he worked for was prepared to accept a cow (or anything) as a trade-in; including blocks of land. "In fact," he says, "we gained some free publicity in the press when they photographed a customer arriving with a horse float to trade in his horse on a horseless carriage." In 1960, he purchased a property opposite Dendy Park on the Nepean Highway and opened a Honda agency which he called Park View Car Sales; a couple of years later, he founded Park View Marine on part of the property, an agency for Caribbean and Bertram boats. He retired from business in 1984.

In his earlier talk, he gave some insight into why used car salesmen got such a bad reputation. He told stories of how some employed a professional tyre-groover to recut the tread patterns half an inch deeper to restore the car to its road-worthy condition and turned back speedometers to whatever mileages it was thought buyers would consider believable. David emphasised, however, that these (and other) apparently 'shonky' practices were legal at the time. He also had some hair-raising adventures with boats. On one occasion, for example, he decided to test a timber cabin-boat he had received as a trade-in, taking his two sons out on the bay - only to discover it had a major leak, not a result of spray as he first thought. By speeding up, he noticed that some of the water filling the boat spilled out, so he headed for the shore flat out, just managing to run it up the boat ramp before it sank! He also managed to sink a boat in a 50-mile race on the Gippsland Lakes, clinging to the orange marker before people realised he was in trouble. These days, David spends his time playing golf at Victoria Golf Club two or three times a week and playing tennis at the Black Rock Bowls Club with a group of friends. He is also one of our vital *network of posties* who hand-deliver the newsletter to several other members.

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury & Robert Dun

June

Candlelight Dinner - At Vincent's Wednesday June 23. 7.00 pm

We've a great crowd of nearly 80 coming but we can still fit you in so if you're NOT registered, please do so at our June meeting or sooner! The evening will feature Jo Taylor, from Bell Musettes, an accomplished female accordionist who will roam around the tables playing and singing French, continental and gypsy songs! We will have a three-course meal plus coffee. Selected wines available at \$15 per bottle inc corkage. There will be plenty of choice on the menu and Vincent's is known for really tasty food at reasonable prices. Last day for payment is June meeting. Great value at only \$40.00 per person



You may also win the free raffle!

WHERE: Vincent's is at 468 Beach Road, Beaumaris.

July

Titanic Exhibition and Italian lunch in Carlton Wednesday July 21

Everyone who has seen this Exhibition says it's excellent! We also have a three-course Italian lunch planned in Carlton afterwards (at Cafe Notturmo). This exhibition is much more than just a display of artefacts. The aim is to make each of us feel the emotion of the time. You are given a unique boarding pass - you will find out who you were and what happened to you! There are over 280 priceless objects on display that were rescued from the sea plus full-sized reconstructions of the Grand Staircase, part of the hull, cabins and more.

The bus will leave at 8.00 am from Community Centre, Reserve Road (as our time spot starts at 9.30). After the exhibition and before lunch you can visit the Imax (cost \$8.00) or visit the Museum (all included on the ticket). We will return around 4.00 - 4.30 pm.

We only have room for another 14 – so please hurry! Register and pay at June meeting.
Cost: entrance, lunch and bus – \$58 pp.



August

Tramboat Cruise on the Maribyrrnong Wednesday August 11

A delightful cruise up the Maribyrrnong with interesting commentary followed by a one-course lunch at the Anglers Tavern. The Tramboat is a uniquely-built vessel, with fully-enclosed and heated cabin but with an open upper deck. This trip has proved very popular with other Clubs. This trip is a joint trip with other Probus Clubs and is organised by Beaumaris Bay. Register and pay as you normally do. Payment by July meeting



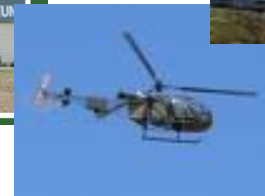
Cost: \$54.00

September

National Vietnam Veterans Museum Plus other Phillip Island attractions

This day will have something for both the boys and the girls! The Vietnam Veterans museum will surprise and enthrall you and (probably) your wife and partner, too. It is a place for reflection on the events of our longest war. There is a vast display of weaponry on display, including a Bell Sioux, a fully-armed Cobra Gunship, Centurion tank, Howitzer, a Canberra Bomber and many vehicles, amongst 25 000 other items. There are 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 Vietnam. "It really is an emotional ride through time," Geoff Bransbury says. "After the museum and weather-dependent, we will visit the Nobbies and/or the Chocolate Factory. We will, of course, have a nice lunch!"



Date: tba

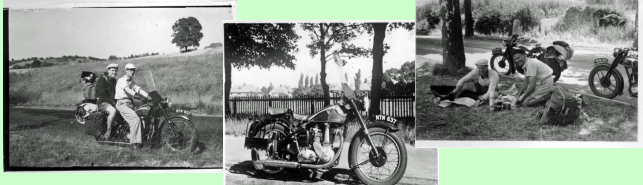
Cost: to be finalised at next meeting—please register your interest now.

Centurion exhibit as part of a parade, Geelong NSW
Photograph courtesy of the Geelong Post

My First Love

Noel Ineson's 10-minute tale of love began in December 1950 whilst working as a young Development Engineer at the Mt Isa copper mine when he received a letter from Vickers Armstrong Engineering in the UK - in response to his application for a position - inviting him to come to Newcastle-on-Tyne and join the company. He left Australia in January 1951 and found himself working on the shop floor of the Vickers factory beside the locals - known as 'geordies' - manufacturing a diverse range of products such as tractors, various marine engines and parts, and doing fit-outs on aircraft carriers. Noel had some humorous examples of the Geordie dialect which is based on Old English and still used in the Tyne-side region today. He obtained lodgings with an elderly couple who soon introduced him to black pudding - he was obliged to acquire a taste for this unusual 'delicacy' because of the extreme shortage of meat products in post-war England. But he was later forced to move on to new lodgings after lighting a nice warming fire while the landlords were out one evening—which managed to dislodge more than 60 years' accumulated soot from the chimney and distribute it all over the carpets and furniture. During his time in the UK, he purchased a BSA motorbike and travelled 3,335 miles around Europe with friends, visiting many well-known tourist attractions including the Swiss Alps. He and his friends also went on a special expedition to Ireland to buy steak which they hoped to enjoy back home; unfortunately, the weather turned unseasonably hot on the return trip and they had to douse their steaks in vinegar to make them passably edible! But love? It seems Noel's 'First Love' was his BSA motorbike which made all these rare adventures possible.

Alan Williams



Bus Bash to Bright

The trip had 42 participants with members and friends from Beaumaris, Beaumaris Bay, Beaumaris Heights and Sandy Bay Probus Clubs. It offered an excellent range of sights and experiences in a historic and scenic part of Victoria - and in delightful autumn weather, including light morning frosts and sunny days. We had a most enjoyable day in the Beechworth area, highlights of which were a re-enactment of the trial of Ned Kelly in the original courthouse where it happened and our President, Eric, donning his judicial wig and red gown, endeavouring to keep us all in reasonable order so as to deliver his verdict to the prisoner: "Guilty". We were driven around Beechworth by Pat, local historian, who was able to point out several interesting features to us. While many of us had been in the area before, we gained some new insights from the knowledgeable commentary provided. But, just as any army marches on its stomach, so it is for our Probus Clubs: the trip included wine tastings on both the first and last days, and also cheese, olive and mustard tastings, quite apart from the delicious meals at our motel. From the comments afterwards, the trip was greatly enjoyed by the entire group .

Robert Dun

NOTICEBOARD

Bank Account details: BSB 063-144 Acc No 10121288

Tastes

For those who missed out on the last great Tastes night out (and for those who didn't), the next one will be the first Thursday in August somewhere in Beaumaris. Be in it.

Eating out, Portuguese style



Investment Group

At the May meeting, financial advisor, Bruce Lanyon (left) gave a very upbeat talk on the outlook for Australian stocks and shares. "There are always downturns," he said, "followed by sustained upturns." He suggested that Oil Search, Flexigroup, Customers Limited and Seek, were worthy of a close look. At

the June meeting, at 9 am, the group will hear from Richard Kirby who is a Company Director and a Fellow of Chartered Accountants—as well as Immediate Past President of the VGA – on whether the global macro picture is a resistance to buying stocks with record low P/Es. Should we buy green bananas and wait for price growth? Barry Donaldson

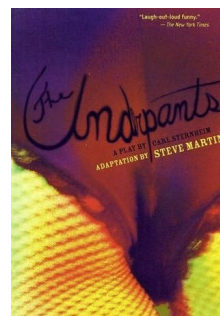
Theatre

MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

The third play for 2010 is the comedy *The Underpants* – adapted by Steve Martin from a play by Carl Sternheim – Wednesday evening July 7. Tickets will be available at the June meeting.

MARY POPPINS and WEST SIDE STORY (see May Newsletter)

Allan Taylor

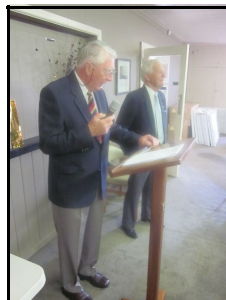


Change of Address

Noel Ineson's new email address: nhineson@bigpond.com
Duncan Gibson's: duncangibson@bigpond.net.au

Correction

The phone number in the 2010 Members' Register for Alan Stevens is incorrect; it should be 9597 0235.



New member, Don Cameron, giving an impressive two-minute account of his background and experience –including time in the financial industry, Chairman of Brighton Grammar School and serving for eleven years on the vestry at St Andrew's Church – while close friend and proposer, Graham Symon, watches on

Did You Know?

Women's hearts beat faster than men's
People who study laughter are called gelotologists
No piece of paper can be folded more than seven times
More people are killed by donkeys annually than die in plane crashes