



Newsletter

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.
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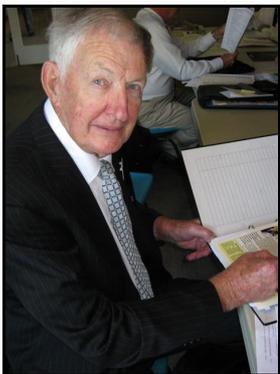
Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday May 18 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: What to do about the downturn 9 am before the main meeting. See Notebook p4.
10-Minute Speaker: Noel Ineson My First Love

Keynote Speaker: Ms Anita Nayar Consul General for India

Topic: Blow Hot, Blow Cold Behind the spectacular growth of China, there lurks another giant: India is poised to have a major influence on the lives of all Australians. A summation of the present-day situation and the potential for the future of Australia-India relations. Ms Nayar will happily answer your questions.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Personally, I have enjoyed many of these outings and urge all members to keep a close eye on our social calendar”

Dear friends, are you missing out? Thanks to our enterprising organisers, we have so many interesting and varied activities, such as some intriguing dinners, music evenings, daily bus trips and lunches, live theatre nights, overseas and in-Australia tours. The list is exciting and educational. We are a vibrant club. Personally, I have enjoyed many of these outings and urge all members to keep a close eye on our social calendar. Don't miss out!

The recent visit to the zoo was a very pleasant experience, quite unlike forty years ago when we went along with our children to view so many animals and birds constrained in cages. Nowadays, it is truly 'a walk in the park'. We also had a great luncheon at Moonee Valley Racing Club afterwards. One-day outings like this should appeal to many members seeking a pleasant day out without any driving hassles.

I am off to Bright and surrounds on May 17 with some fellow Probians and friends, so I will be absent from our next meeting. Alan Farmer, Vice President, will occupy the chair. But I would like to welcome two new members, John Pound and Don Cameron. Sadly, John

Lawson, a former eight-year member passed away on April 28. We will miss his cheery Scottish accent and bright personality. A big thankyou to Stan Ryding, a new member, for his interesting talk concerning the history of his family's involvement in the manufacture of model trains. Also, I would like to express our appreciation to Joe Joyce – what a great talk he delivered to us on the mining of diamonds in various parts of the world. I believe we struck gold with these two speakers.

Our guest speaker for May is Ms Anita Nayer, the Indian Consul-General in Melbourne. Ms Nayar joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1984 and was appointed to Hong Kong. Since then, Ms Nayar has served in Beijing, Delhi, Tel Aviv, Budapest, Singapore, Mandalay (Myanmar) and Melbourne. She has been Consul-General here since 2007, a period in which tensions amongst Indian students here have risen. But it is also a time when trade and relationships between India and Australia have expanded. It promises to be an interesting and informative session.

Eric Slater



Office Bearers, 2009-10

President: **Eric Slater** 9589 3526
Vice President: **Alan Farmer** 9598 2791
Past President: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
Secretary: **John Howe** 9598 2429
Treasurer: **David Robertson** 9551 1930
Functions: **Geoff Bransbury** 9589 1507
Functions Asst: **Robert Dun** 9589 5456
Meetings Co-ord: **Bill Green** 9596 1548

Group Leaders 2009-10

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
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

A Girl's Best Friend

Joe Joyce dazzling members with his slide presentation on the search for diamonds



'Diamonds are Forever - If You Can Find Them' was the intriguing title of the comprehensive Power Point slide and video presentation given by Keynote Speaker for April, Joe Joyce, a diamond exploration geologist. Majoring in both geology and physics at Sheffield University, Joe accepted a job from De Beers as a diamond exploration geologist based in Australia. While they are indeed rare, he said, in fact the distribution of diamonds is widespread and they are found on all continents. Over more than 30 years, Joe's work has entailed searching for sites for development by De Beers, the world's major global diamond producer. Based in Toronto, he was responsible for exploration in Canada, North and South America, Russia, Africa and also Australia—mostly in the far north-west of the continent.

Their existence is not always apparent as they have been covered by natural changes over the centuries

Composed of carbon formed under extreme pressure at a depth of more than 150-200 km below the earth's surface, diamonds are the hardest known mineral substance and are extremely durable. They are found in distinctive rocks called kimberlites, which were forced to the surface by deep volcanic activity millions of years ago. Geologists such as Joe spend vast amounts of time and money

searching for signs of these host rocks, or kimberlites, named after the famous mining area of Kimberley in South Africa. Their existence is not always apparent as they have been covered by natural phenomenon over the centuries including glaciers, lakes, erosion and further volcanic surges. During his lengthy career, Joe Joyce has explored for diamonds in some of the most inhospitable places in the world including piranha-infested rivers in Venezuela, Baffin Island in the Arctic Circle, and an 80 million-year-old crater in the Kalahari Desert.

While they are indeed rare, in fact the distribution of diamonds is widespread and they are found on all continents

Diamond exploration techniques today have become highly sophisticated in which changes in the magnetic field play an important part in detecting buried kimberlites. A range of exploration techniques have become available to diamond exploration geologists, from basic heavy mineral sampling through to airborne and ground geophysics and also remote sensing techniques (air photo interpretation, satellite imagery, and hyper-spectral scanning). Drilling and trenching are part of this process which use tests for characteristic minerals such as garnets, indicators of the possible presence of diamonds. Once the decision is taken by the company to conduct commercial drilling, the huge rigs can have drill bits 36 inches in diameter !

Joe completed his brilliant presentation with an almost raunchy video of exotic diamond jewellery worn by a bevy of beautiful girls, illustrating that, as the song goes, "Diamonds are a girl's best friend".

Alan Williams

MONTHLY PROFILE

Geoff Bransbury

Revving up for the adventure of a lifetime, Geoff settles into his Acquila on the nature-strip at Rennison Street

Geoff Bransbury took over in April as Functions & Activities Co-ordinator from Alan Farmer. These days, post-business, he has a bit more time on his hands which he spends playing golf at Victoria Golf Club and making wine as a hobby.

Geoff describes himself as a frustrated adventurer who is about to tackle something most people only dream about. He is going to ride a motorbike from Katmandu in Nepal, through northern India, to Bhutan. Why? "I've always wanted to do something like this, but never got around to it for all the usual reasons," he says. "Now I've got the time - and you only get one life." The idea came to him when his daughter, Lucy, living in Mexico City, told him about a young South African ex-lawyer who was riding a motorbike from New York to Patagonia. "I'd love to do that," Geoff replied and she said, "You should." So, in October, he will set off as part of a group of 12, riding 1950s Royal Enfields (the Royal Enfield factory in the UK closed in the 1950s but India is still making them) 1500 - 1800 km across the sub-continent for three weeks, booking ahead but staying in cheap accommodation and eating local food. Before committing himself, Geoff checked to see that he wasn't joining a wild group of Hell's Angels or Comancheros, only to find that they were a group of ordinary people like himself, just wanting to achieve something challenging before it's too late. Why ride a bike across India? "Riding a bike, you get to feel the landscape - much more than in a car." His research tells him it will be hilly but there are also lots of flat areas.



But Geoff says he has a really Big Goal which also involves riding a motorbike. He had ridden an old 500 cc Matchless around Europe when he was 18 - which was quite a while back - so first he bought a cheap 250 cc Acquila 'to get his bike legs back' and then he also decided that an Advanced Riding Course as a refresher was probably a good idea. That was Part One. Part Two was to join the group to ride across the northern regions of India in October, covering 150 - 200 km a day. His ultimate goal, Part Three, is to ride alone from Vancouver to Patagonia over a period of three months next year. Why alone? In the first place, his wife, Merry, is no adventurer and wouldn't be seen dead on the back of a bike; but also, Geoff says, "I don't know anyone who wants to come with me." (It's not too late if anybody feels inclined to join him!) The great thing about being on your own is that you do things when you want to, he says. For those of us who don't feel the urge to join him, Geoff says he hopes to set up a blog so we can follow his adventures. [Short for 'web-log', a blog is a way to share your thoughts, photos and experiences with friends around the world, on the internet or via your mobile phone.] Something for all of us to look forward to, Geoff!

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Geoff Bransbury & Robert Dun



June

Candlelight Dinner

At Vincent's, 468 Beach Road,
Beumaris
Wednesday June 23 7.00 pm

Enjoy a 3-course meal and excellent company at our mid-year Candlelight Dinner. You may also win the free raffle. Selected wines @ \$15/bottle (as done at Tastes), or by the glass from the restaurant. There will be plenty of choice on the menu and Vincent's is known for its tasty food at reasonable prices.



To add some atmosphere to the evening, we have been able to arrange for Jo Abbott, a very accomplished female accordionist and vocalist, from Belle Musette to roam the tables and sing and play some beautiful continental music for us. It promises to be a sensational evening.



Jo Abbott (centre) with her talented Belle Musette group

Belle Musette, was formed in 2002 by musicians who possess a wide range of experience and a love for the music of Paris from the earlier part of the last century. As a radio presenter on PBS-FM so accurately said: "French music tugs at the heart strings."

Please come and enjoy the company of fellow members and their partners and friends as we expect this to be a memorable evening.
Cost: \$40 per person – but you need to pay at this (May) meeting. You won't get better value anywhere else!

July

Titanic Exhibition and Italian Lunch in Carlton

Wednesday July 21

Not only see this blockbuster exhibition at the Museum but also enjoy a 3-course Italian lunch (with tea or coffee) at a top restaurant in Carlton!

A hundred years later, the tragedy still resonates



..... *Titanic continued*

The exhibition sounds amazing. See 280 priceless objects rescued from the sea plus full-sized reconstructions of the Grand Staircase and part of the hull, cabins and more.

Also, you are issued with a unique *Titanic* boarding pass and you will find out who you were and whether or not you survived! After the exhibition, you should have time to see either the IMAX on the discovery of the *Titanic* or visit the Museum itself (included on your ticket).

Cost (including entrance, lunch and bus): \$58.00 pp.
Please register now. Payment required at June meeting.

August

Tramboat Cruise on the Maribyrnong

Wednesday August 11



Cruise in style aboard a unique and extremely comfortable newly-built vessel, ideal for scenic catered cruises along Melbourne's waterways

A delightful cruise up the Maribyrnong with an interesting commentary followed by a delicious one-course lunch at the Anglers' Tavern. The Tramboat is a unique vessel with a 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, organised by Beaumaris Bay. Cost: \$54 pp.

Register and pay as normal. Payment by July meeting.

September

National Vietnam Veterans Museum



This nationally-recognised Museum is dedicated to the preservation and display of photographs, memorabilia, vehicles and aircraft that accurately detail the history of Australians in the Vietnam War from 1962 to 1972.

...plus other Phillip Island attractions..



STOP PRESS: Two umbrellas were left on the bus on the Zoo trip. Would owners please ring Geoff Bransbury.

Trains and Treasures

Alan Williams

Members were bemused as 10-minute speaker for April, Stan Ryding, preceded his talk by producing a variety of

artefacts from a large cardboard box, in the style of a stage magician pulling rabbits from a hat. Eventually, it dawned that these interesting items were pieces of a model railway collection. Stan's father was an engineer and watchmaker who had a factory in Bay Road, Sandringham, where he produced a variety of products over a period of 70 years, such as electric clocks of various designs, many of which had at least 100 components in their construction. When international competition became more intense, Stan said his father felt he needed a change of direction. He was lucky to have a friend nearby who was building model railway sets and who needed assistance in producing the wind-up motors for the locomotives, a very timely distraction. After some years, Stan's father took over the business, which had been producing the *Robilt* model railway sets since the war and which included the excellent models of the famed Spirit of Progress and also some freight trains - samples of which Stan presented for display. ('Robilt', founded in Melbourne by Ronslo Titchner in 1946, made a large range of clockwork and electric trains including rolling stock and accessories; metal construction and enamel finished. According to Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, "Due to wartime restrictions, stocks from the overseas firms (mostly Hornby) were depleted and Robilt produced naive but charming 0-gauge tin plate trains, rolling stock, and various accessories. As well as this, they made the quintessentially Australian locomotive, 'Spirit of Progress', Victoria's most well-known express train.") Recently, the ABC television's, *The Collectors*, was so impressed that Stan decided he should become known in future as 'a living treasure'.



Pictured above: (left) Stan Ryding in full flight and (right) some of his father's trains

President Eric Slater presents 10-year pins to Rod Murrell (far left) and Warwick Andrews (near left)

Life Expectancy

Often used as an indicator of human happiness, where does Australia stand in the rankings?

Britain: 79.3	US: 78
China: 73	Brazil: 72.5
Indonesia: 70.6	Russia: 67.6
Iraq: 68	India: 64.7
South Africa: 50.5	Somalia: 48.3
Australian women: 83.5 years (men: 78.7)	
[Women in Japan live longest: 86; women in Swaziland the shortest: 39.]	

Another Surprising Fact

Roughly half the people who have ever lived on Earth are alive today!

The Age 27/3/10

NOTICEBOARD

Howlong Golf - Sunday October 10 to Wednesday 13

There are still a couple of vacancies for the annual golf trip to Howlong in October. Deposit of \$40 per couple is required at time of booking. I will not be at the May meeting so if you want to come, please send me an email at geoffmarg@bigfoot.com.au as I will be in New Zealand from May 10-23.



Caddies and carts lining up to assist keen Probus golfers

Geoff Wade

Music Group



The next evening is Wednesday May 26 at 7 pm. **Please note the date.** If you wish to attend please let me know.

There will not be any meetings in June or July and the next Opera Evening is likely to be on August 25.

Barry Amond

Theatre Group

MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

The company's third play for 2010 is a rollicking comedy, *The Underpants* on Wednesday evening, July 7. Tickets at \$16 must be paid at the May meeting.

MARY POPPINS

30 tickets have been reserved for Wednesday afternoon, September 8, at 1 pm at Her Majesty's Theatre. Tickets at \$60 must be paid by the June meeting.

WEST SIDE STORY

Note: 30 tickets at \$65 each have been reserved for Wednesday, September 22 at 1 pm at the Regent Theatre. You must pay by the July meeting.

Alan Taylor



Investment Group



New convenor, Barry Donaldson advises that he has a guest speaker for the group this month. Bruce Lanyon has worked in the stock-broking industry since 1987, initially as an equity analyst who covered several industry sectors; then as a fund manager at Colonial

Investments. Bruce has lectured at the Australian Stock Exchange and has been at Smith Barney for eleven years, prior to which he worked for six years in corporate banking and seven years as a chartered accountant. Also, Barry will give his thoughts on Telstra's future share price - *with* an NBN deal, and without. Meeting details: See p1.

May Tastes Night Out



What a fabulous night at Madeira everyone had! Left: Jan & Geoff; Joan and President Eric negotiating lamb espetada