



PROBUS Newsletter

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.
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Issue No.329

November 2009

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday November 17 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: 9 am before the main meeting.

10 Minute Speaker: Don Lobb

Topic: A 10-minute Talk*

[*presumably, a very famous one!]

Keynote Speaker: Malcolm Bell, Master Mariner/Ship's Captain

Topic: A Wandering Scot

Born during the Great Depression on a small island in the Firth of Clyde on the west coast of Scotland, Malcolm estimates he has visited at least 54 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America and the Pacific. He has spent a lifetime connected with ships and shipping, both in Europe and Australia, and feels entitled to be called "A wandering Scot".

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Our guest speaker at the October meeting, Sherene Hassan, undoubtedly gave us much food for thought as she enlightened us with brief details of the Muslim religion and some of the difficulties she experienced growing up as a young Muslim woman in a (basically) Christian society. Her frankness and willingness to answer questions was much appreciated by all and she retained our interest throughout her talk. Sadly it is an unfortunate fact that there are many Muslims in the world who are *not* as moderate and her frustration and dismay in their actions was clearly shown. It is certainly a challenge to us all to try and live together peacefully, respecting each other's views.

This meeting will be the last opportunity to book for this year's President's Christmas lunch which will be held at Southern Golf Club, Lower Dandenong Road, Keysborough from 12 noon on Friday, December 11. Our Functions Co-ordinator, Alan Farmer, and I have been arranging with the staff of Southern for a truly memorable lunch in the true Christmas tradition. The venue has been changed this year to provide some variety to our venues. We recognize that the location is a little further away than the Victoria Golf Club - but if any member feels he would have difficulty getting there, please contact me so that we can make arrangements for assistance. I would encourage all members to attend this function which is traditionally one of our most popular. Certainly, Margaret and I look forward to welcoming you and sharing a happy occasion with you. As this meeting will be the last before Christmas, Margaret and I wish you all a very happy time with your family and friends and look forward to a prosperous and happy 2010.

Geoff Wade

The President's Christmas Luncheon



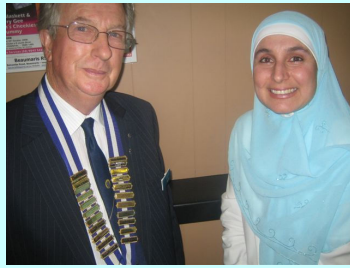
Southern Golf Club, Keysborough.

Friday, December 11 at 12 noon, including the usual Christmas turkey as well as traditional plum pudding. A drink and nibbles will be served on arrival; coffee and a chocolate after the meal. There will be a raffle—and a quiz for the more intelligent of us to negotiate.

Cost: \$55 pp, including drinks. Payment required at our next meeting, please.

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a challenge
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Sherene Hassan says she and other Muslim women wear the hijab, not because it is obligatory, but by choice



Woman of Faith

Allah is one and the same God as in Christianity and the Jewish faith

Undaunted in facing a group of grey-haired non believers, traditionally garbed, petite Sherene Hassan - our Keynote Speaker for October - spoke eloquently of her attitudes and beliefs as a modern Australian-born Muslim. Why *The Age* selected her as one of Melbourne's 100 most influential people quickly became obvious. One of the first points she made was that she and other Muslim women chose to wear the hijab as a symbol of their faith, not because it was obligatory. She said that many Muslim women today choose to discard traditional dress.

Sherene spoke of her early childhood and young adult experiences to present something of the complexities of living within her faith. This faith was tested in many ways. Being selected to play Mary in a junior school nativity play and general acceptance amongst her friends was an early indication that prejudice possibly did not exist and was supported later in her teaching career when a young pupil reported having "baby Jesus' mum" as a teacher.

The reversal of this situation was highlighted in the 9/11 attack on New York which caused considerable backlash, particularly in Adelaide where Sherene, her husband and four young children were living at the time. Antagonism from shop assistants, passing motorists and many others made her seriously consider her beliefs. However, she decided that denying her faith and perhaps changing her appearance was not the answer. Encouraged by many supportive letters following the publication of her article in the press regarding the complexities of the situation many Australian Muslims faced, she followed her chosen path. A meeting with Waleed Aly, noted Islamic commentator encouraged her to become the first woman member of the Islamic Council of Victoria. There are now three.

There is no clearly defined hierarchy in the Muslim faith which is made up of an estimated 1.2 billion people spread over a wide range of countries which has resulted in many different interpretations of the Koran as the basis of the teachings. Allah is one and the same God as in Christianity and the Jewish faith. The principal tenets are the preservation of life, justice and equality which, if faithfully followed, lead to another life in Paradise. The original text forbids killing or suicide; however, some fourteen centuries ago after years of persecution, slaughter and slavery by pagan Arab tribes, this was modified to permit retaliation to defend oneself or one's family. The problem is that the original work was written in Arabic and today's Korans have been translated into other languages, often slanted with each translator's interpretation to justify one's position. The problem is compounded when these views are exploited by a media seeking shock news headlines.

Alan Trumble

Monthly Profile

Duncan Gibson*

*Duncan and one of his treasures—
a 1917 outboard*



Most of us know Duncan as our Assistant Meeting Co-ordinator - one of the people who greets us at the door each monthly meeting. Raised in country towns where the focus was on farming, sport and robust outdoor activities - none of which interested him (apart from fishing and messing around in boats when he lived at Echuca on the Murray River) - the family moved to Melbourne in 1960. He found employment as a trainee Property Surveyor on behalf of the insurance business (Lloyds of London and local underwriters who specialised in heavy industry). "Surveyors are the eyes and ears of desk-bound insurance workers," he says, "who may never get to actually see the assets they agree to insure." Australia in the 1960s was home to many more categories of manufacturing industry than today, he notes, and he was attracted to the outdoor nature and technical variety of the work.

"This took me to most parts of Australia and the Asia-Pacific region; to mines, mills and large commercial properties of all types," Duncan says. He continued (with several employers) until retirement at 67, his last being with the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority which services enterprises such as hospitals, schools, rail and

road assets and similar public infrastructure. All a long way from messing around on boats; but wait...

While his disinterest in agriculture disappointed his father, a sheep farmer, he understood his son more than he was given credit for at the time. "One day, he brought home an old outboard motor, something that I never ever dreamt of having," Duncan records. With a small plywood boat he already had, he journeyed many miles up and down local rivers. "From that time onward, I rarely spent idle time at home," he says. "That outboard motor required constant tinkering and schoolboy pocket money did not go far; so I had to fix the thing myself, in the course of which I made many mistakes and also learned much. One mistake proved fatal for the motor. The propeller and drive shaft came adrift and, as far as I know, still rest at the bottom of the Campaspe River." He has maintained a lifelong interest in such motors, collected quite a few and, more recently, on a trip to the United States, acquired another, manufactured in 1927. "In perfect working order," he says, "a tribute to manufacturing standards of the time."

Wife, Janette, is a Williamstown girl - where they lived before moving to Beaumaris in 1971. These days, Janette and Duncan like to travel and eat out, enjoy their hobbies and adult children, three grandsons, and gentle sailing on the Gippsland Lakes. Probus provides an opportunity to make new contacts, he says, while the social program helps him keep in touch with old-established friends.

[* See Postscript p4]

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Alan Farmer & Robert Dun



2010

Canberra Art and other Activities Trip - March 22 to 26

The Beaumaris Art Group and our Club plan to combine for a trip to Canberra with the prime purpose of viewing the Musée d'Orsay Post-Impressionists' Exhibition, but includes other places of interest, viz:

Day 1. Luxury bus tour to Canberra.

Day 2. Mt Ainslie Lookout; the Museum of Australian Democracy (i.e. Old Parliament House); National Portrait Gallery; Australian War Memorial; Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; Pool of Reflection; Roll of Honour; Anzac Hall.



Day 3. The National Gallery of Australia. Exhibition of *Masterpieces from Paris*: Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cézanne and beyond. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity occurs because the Musée d'Orsay is being renovated and will tour in Canberra until Easter 2010.

Day 4. Canberra Sightseeing: The National Museum of Australia and Cockington Green.

Day 5. Return trip to Beaumaris.

The tour itinerary is not prescriptive. Members are free to attend any/only those places they wish; for example, it is possible to visit the post-modernist exhibition every one of the days if so desired.

Accommodation: Novotel Motel (4½ star) All breakfasts and dinners included.

Cost: for 40 people - \$910 pp (35 - \$939; 30 - \$975) All prices based on twin share. Single Supplement \$290. Deposits (\$100 pp) will be required by January meeting to ensure bookings.

Time to confirm is very short, so those interested need to vote with their wallets or chequebooks, and pay deposits as soon as possible.



More Proposed Functions & Activities 2010

Five other possible trips have been chosen to be short, not too strenuous and cheap. They are based on staying at a motel for three nights, except the Traralgon trip, which is for one night only. There will be a straw poll at the next meeting to gauge your interest in these trips.

1 3 nights based in Hamilton

Motel with breakfasts and dinners.

Day 1 Travel via Geelong, Colac, Camperdown, and Mortlake. Day 2 Visit Halls Gap, Grampians NP, Boroka Lookout and Brambuk Cultural Centre, lunch included. Day 3 Penola, Mt Gambier and Port McDonnell, Cape Northumberland. Day 4 Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Colac, Geelong, Beaumaris. All prices based on twin share

Cost: \$470-500 per person pp, single supplement: \$105

2 3 nights based in Yarram

Yarram, Wilson's Promontory, Tidal River, Tara Bulga NP, Port Albert Maritime Museum, Inverloch, Wonthaggi, and Phillip Island. Estimated **cost:** \$ 370 pp.

3 3 nights based in Yarram and as for #2 but Walhalla instead of Phillip Island. Estimated **cost:** \$370 pp.

4 3 nights based in Bright

Visit Mt Buffalo National Park, Falls Creek Alpine Village including Wallace's Cattlemen's Hut, over Buckland and Kiewa Valleys, Beechworth, Yackandandah and Mt Beauty. Estimated **cost:** \$500 pp.

5 1 night based in Traralgon.

Travel to Traralgon via Latrobe Valley power generation facilities. Next day visit Walhalla before returning home. Estimated **cost:** \$250 pp.



NOTE: Please be prepared to indicate by straw poll at our next meeting if any of these trips interest you so that appropriate planning may go ahead.

Golfing Goodwill



As a symbol of the goodwill that exists between Proburs members of Victoria Golf Club and Southern Golf Club, Geoff Wade, David Robertson, Allan Taylor and Bill Green have been invited to play in the December Guest Day (12/12) at Victoria Golf Club by John Howe, Alan Farmer, Eric Slater and Peter McGregor. No doubt, the keen rivalry that was on display at Howlong earlier in the year will be in evidence again.

Geoff Wade, Eric Slater, David Robertson and John Howe ready to do battle, under the tight supervision of David O'Loughlin at Howlong



A Labour of Love

Brian Reynolds



In a great talk by Geoff Bransbury and Rod Kelly, we were given a wonderful overview of their hobby of wine-making entitled The Story of Twelve Hands referring to the three couples involved in this venture who worked on the tiny one-acre block on the Mornington Peninsula near Moonah Links. The project started in 2001 when they planted 300 pinot noir vines. They now produce approximately 600 bottles of wine each season. Their first vintage was in 2004 and was eventually awarded a bronze medal.

As the story unfolded, it was clear that the amount of work involved was extraordinary; Geoff is the vigneron, and Rod the guru on the mechanical side. They stressed that the project is a labour of love, a hobby, nothing more, as they do not sell the wine produced - it is all for personal consumption only.

Getting to their first vintage wasn't all plain sailing with many problems to overcome; for example, how to extract a post-hole digger that wouldn't stop drilling until it had buried itself up to its shaft. Also, the loss of many vines in 2007 due to a severe frost, and finding a way of covering the vines with netting other than by manual labour. The nets are essential to protect the grapes from flocks of birds - apparently they enjoy a tippie too!! Rod developed a machine to do this and so saved hours and hours of back-breaking toil. (It should be mentioned that during all this, the three ladies were joining in the work and rapidly became jacks - or should that be Jills - of all trades.) In 2008, 250 shiraz vines were planted which are expected to come to vintage around 2011.

Once picked, the grapes are packed into 25 kg boxes and taken to Geoff's garage in Beaumaris where they are processed - quite a complicated exercise. The pH level has to be constantly monitored, the fermentation has to be controlled and converted to lactic acid, the skins are kept constantly wet day and night, SO₂ added to protect the wine from oxidation and the barrels regularly topped up before the final stage arrives of bottling, sealing and labelling the wine. Well, not quite the final stage, because they are then faced with the arduous task ofHAVING TO DRINK IT. Such is life.

Rod (left) and Geoff (right) do their 10-minute illustrated talk on amateur wine-making during a special extended 20-minute session at the October meeting



Q: The country with the youngest population?

A: India; 50% are under 25 today. By 2015, there will be 550 million teenagers in India.



Kevin McDonnell (left) and Roger Wilson (right), two of our most recent inductees, being warmly welcomed by President, Geoff Wade, at the October meeting

NOTICEBOARD

Postscript: Thankyou

Most of us know Duncan Gibson as Assistant Meeting Co-ordinator - one of the people who greets us at the door each monthly meeting. But perhaps he should be better known as the person who, single-handedly, solved the chronic problem of our faulty sound system - there have been few (if any) complaints in recent times.

Howlong 2010



The dates for next year's event will be the second week in October (10 - 13) inclusive (Sunday night to Wednesday night) with golf on Monday afternoon, Tuesday mid-morning and Wednesday morning. The experiment of conducting the putting competition Wednesday afternoon in lieu of Tuesday afternoon was deemed very successful and will continue next year. We have booked all 25 rooms in the motel and would like to see as many as possible who have an interest in golf attending. There are separate competitions for wives and there is plenty to do for those who do not play golf (eg visit wineries, Chiltern craft and antiques, etc.) It is an enjoyable, friendly few days. Cost is reasonable at \$80 pp/night for accommodation, golf, continental breakfast and dinner voucher to value of \$16.50. Great value! Bookings open in February.

Theatre

MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

The last play for 2009 is on Wednesday evening, Nov. 25. Tickets can be collected at November meeting.

The dates for the 2010 theatre season are:- Feb.24, May 5, July 7, Sept.22 and Nov.24.

An indication at the November meeting of those interested would be appreciated, so a block of seats for the whole season can be reserved.

JERSEY BOYS

30 tickets (@\$61 ea) have been reserved for this musical based on the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. The Princess Theatre, Wednesday afternoon, March 3, at 1 pm. Must be paid for at the November meeting.



Mamma Mia! returns to Melbourne with their 10th anniversary tour

MAMMA 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 are priced at \$59.

MARY POPPINS

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

Allan Taylor