



PROBUS

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

Issue No. 227

October 2008

Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday 21st October at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: The group meets @ 9 am prior to the main Meeting. **Toxic Debt:** In times of financial crisis such as this, all Members with investments need to be as fully informed as they can be on the causes of the problems in the current environment we find ourselves. *See more on page 3.*

Keynote Speaker: Professor Peter Sheldrake RMIT University

Professor Sheldrake will speak about the challenges of communicating with people who have grown up in different worlds - with special emphasis on China, Singapore and Japan. He provides a humorous but always insightful examination of what makes young people tick today.

10-Minute Speaker: Geoff Wade The Art of Marquetry

— Office Bearers, 2008 —

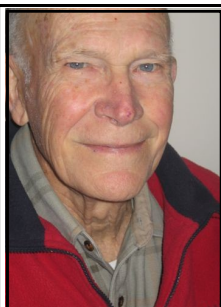
President:	Noel Ineson	9589 5263
Vice President:	Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Imm/Past Pres:	Bill Davis	9592 5982
Hon Secretary	Roy Petch	9589 5757
Hon Treasurer:	David Robertson	9551 1930
Functions Co-ord:	Alan Farmer	9598 2791
Functions Asst:	Robert Dun	9589 5456
Meeting Co-ord:	Don Lobb	9598 5546
Meetings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



We are very privileged this month to have as our guest speaker Peter Sheldrake, Professor of Business Entrepreneurship and Director of Business Relationships at RMIT University Graduate School of Business. Peter is a well known and much sought after lecturer to students at seminars in Singapore, China, Japan and other countries throughout this region.

We were delighted to have five members of the Ricketts Point Probus Club as our guests at the recent outing to the AAHL in Geelong. They were Peter (Secretary) and Betty Wolstenholme, Jim and Joyce Bromage and Daphne Armstrong. Our aim is to regularly have members from other Probus clubs join with us in future outings. This will lead to a widening of friendly contacts with other Probians and enrich our lives.

In September, we were delighted to welcome Tom Moorcroft into our membership and I encourage everyone individually to meet him and welcome him into our Club. We are all very sorry to hear that Bill Shepherd, one of our long-term (1989) Members has left our club and moved to a retirement village some distance away. Bill is a great raconteur and has entertained us in the past with several outstanding 10-minute talks. I can well remember his talk, "Is wine good for you?" where he consulted 90 surveys without achieving a clear-cut view on the issue. However, his trump card was a quote from Paul's letter to Timothy, Chapter 5, v23: "You ought to take a little wine sometimes as Medicine". This advice from such an authoritative, well-respected source augurs well for the success of our new dine-out group, Tastes!

AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY

Last month, some 40 Beaumaris and Ricketts Point Probians had a comprehensive briefing from our own John Howe en route to the AAHL in Geelong. This was in preparation for a guided tour of the complex structure of scientific activity which makes an invaluable contribution to animal, and, by extension, human health in Australia and the wider region. The laboratory is a micro-secure, air-tight facility which ensures no pathogenic or toxic substances can leak into the atmosphere. It must be fully-operational 24 hours every day and, to ensure security is maintained, all services such as electricity, gas, water, air supply and treatment are installed in triplicate to guarantee continuity. The tour was necessarily limited as access for visitors is restricted to the 'non-secure' top floor and the administration area. The central hub of the five-level building is used for research into animal, fish and plant diseases, while the other four levels are used for air-handling, micro security systems, waste collecting and sewage treatment. Primary research tasks employ a floating population of about 100 highly qualified Australian

and international scientists, and laboratory staff - who are outnumbered two to one by ancillary staff for animal handling, stores, catering, laundry and engineers whose input is crucial for strict maintenance of the facility. The excursion gave an insight into, perhaps, the world's leading science facility of its kind. (Members may remember a talk on the AAHL by Probian Dr Ian Parsonson in 2002. Ian was the Assistant Chief of this CSIRO facility in the 80s and a major contributor to its design and functionality.)

Roy Petch & John Howe

*Members and wives
await their guided tour of
the AAHL*



MONTHLY PROFILE

Noel Ineson



President, Noel Ineson, could be described as a man of many parts - mechanical and electrical engineer, business manager, management and engineering consultant, skier - Norway, Canada and local - tennis and squash player, bike-rider, wood-worker and avid traveller. For 25 years, he worked with Vickers Ruwolt; first as Chief Technical Officer, then as General Manager and, finally, 15 years as Managing Director. "It was a fantastic experience," Noel says. "Always complex, always a variety of challenges." The company was heavily involved in the Australian mining industry, manufacturing specialised machinery such as crushers and grinding mills, equipment, feeding machinery for the mining and quarry industries, and a variety of industrial machinery. Vickers was a major supplier to companies such as Rio and BHP in the iron ore provinces of the Pilbara.

These days, Noel finds challenges in his woodworking hobby. His most recent pride and joy are, one, a beautifully-crafted jewellery box and an elegant coffee table (made from second-hand Oregon timber). But he also makes bookcases, work benches and other things for the family, and has always tinkered with home made toys for his children. "All sorts of gadgetry," he says, "such as train sets, go-karts, complex building blocks and a range of other things." With seven grandchildren aged between 8 years and 21, the list of future projects is likely to be endless.

Originally from Perth, he and wife Gwen have travelled to all the usual places, including several times to Canada - in particular, to visit the Rockies and travel up the Inside Passage to Alaska. His says a highlight of his travels was Crete, a beautiful island featuring all the attractions associated with Greece. In recent years, he has visited Tahiti, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan. As for Australia, he remembers with fondness crossing the Nullarbor towing a caravan, driving around the Kimberly, staying at El Questro and exploring the Bungle Bungles. "Not to mention camping and caravanning throughout Victoria with the children," Noel says. "Also down the east coast from Cairns and through the Flinders Ranges." He is looking forward to visiting Lord Howe Island with the Beaumaris Probus group in March.

Having recently recovered from a heart attack, Noel is well again and even talking about driving around the southern parts of England some time in the future.



Photos: Noel in his workshop (above); and recent productions, an elegant coffee table and jewellery box (right) all made from recycled timber

SEPTEMBER KEYNOTE SPEAKER: GM FOODS



Jason Major is Manager of the Gene and Nano-Technology Information Service whose task is to provide balanced and factual information to the public about gene and nano-technology. GNTIS is funded by the Australian Government and research agencies. At our last Meeting, he addressed Members on the science, applications and ethics of genetically-modified (GM) foods. His presentation

covered some of the basic science behind creating GM food, what crops are being trialled in Australia and why, and then he encouraged Members to participate in a discussion about some of the ethical issues.

Jason said that in Australia, GM cotton, modified to produce proteins to protect the plant against the caterpillar of pest moth species, has been grown since 1996 with the result of a vast reduction in the use of pesticides. Another development is the use of GM techniques to improve pastures and crops to make them more drought resistant, or more able to cope with salinity, and frost; and oilseed crops with better fatty acid profile (that is, more of the healthy fats and fewer bad fats).

Jason used four GM crops as case studies and the basis for discussion. Only one of these crops (cotton) was grown commercially; the others were in various stages of research. Members were asked to place themselves on a 'morality line' to show whether they found each example unacceptable or acceptable - or in between (that is, a fence-sitter). Members' different views and reasons behind them were discussed. Jason

said that one should not make blanket statements that GM crops are safe or unsafe, or should or should not be grown. He said that each GM crop had its own set of risks and benefits and, therefore, needed to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

One should not make blanket statements that GM crops are safe or unsafe, or should or should not be grown.

One case study cited was the creation of rice to contain vitamin A and iron to help supplement the diet of populations who lack these essential nutrients. An initial reaction was, "Why risk creating a possible adverse health reaction to a product that has been around for centuries?" Jason pointed out that GM rice is not a panacea, but just another tool that could help alleviate a problem. This gave rise to many questions from the audience, particularly concerning the possibility of potential serious health problems including cancer and other health issues that may be caused by eating GM foods - despite no robust evidence to support such a claim. Should we allow populations to suffer if we are capable of helping? Could the money be spent to help solve the initial problem another way?

As a result of the lively interchange between Jason and Members on the subject, before we knew it, the time was up and we were thanking him for his fascinating presentation.
Alan Williams



Jason Major answers our questions

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Alan Farmer & Robert Dun

2008

October Annual Beamaris Probus Golf Tournament, Howlong. October 27 to 29

All is in readiness for a great three days of golf. Details of the program, room allocations, tee times etc will be distributed at the coming Meeting. If you require a cart and have not yet rung the pro and booked one, DO IT NOW!

The pro's number is (02) 6026 5822. If you have any queries, please contact Geoff Wade (9588 2593).



November Corio Bay Cruise and Geelong Tour Wednesday November 19

We have currently 22 confirmed (paid-up) members for this tour. We need 35 to make it viable. We have made a tentative approach to Ricketts Point and Beamaris Bay Probus Clubs to ascertain whether some Members may be interested in joining us. To join the tour, payment is required by the October Meeting. Luxury Bus travel to Geelong. Departs Beamaris Community Centre 9 am. Return: 5 pm. Cost: \$56 pp

December President's Christmas Luncheon Victoria Golf Club. Friday December 19

The famous annual Christmas Luncheon featuring special gourmet turkey and traditional Christmas plum pudding will include pre-luncheon drinks and wines or soft drinks at table. There will be Door Prizes of boxes of chocolates. Garth Epstein has generously offered a very special LARGE bottle of wine as an additional special Christmas Door Prize. There will be brief bursts of entertainment interspersed between courses. It promises to be another magnificent Beamaris Probus Annual Luncheon.

Cost: \$56 pp. Please confirm your bookings by payment as soon as possible – preferably at our October Meeting.

2009

March 2-9 Lord Howe Island

Tour includes: Transport from Beamaris to and from Tullamarine; return economy class ex Melbourne, including pre-pay taxes (subject to airfare variations). Return airport transfers on Lord Howe Island. Seven nights in a studio room at Leanda-Lei. Full buffet breakfast daily at Coral Cafe. Six restaurant dinners at local establishments - including transfers and BBQ. Ronnie's Ramble guided walk. North Bay picnic lunch. Chase 'n' thyme tour. Guided nursery tour and scenic boat cruise around the island. Cost: \$3089 pp (There may be some minor addition to the cost due to airfare surcharges).

Additional Activities

***Jock's Corner: Rickett or Ricketts?**

The Editor is struggling with the appropriate punctuation for Ricketts Point. Can anyone help? Who was Rickett /Ricketts?

Thank you for assisting with the planning for next year's activities by completing the Suggestions Sheet at the August General Meeting. This enabled us to provide you in September with a questionnaire listing activities in which you could be interested for 2009. Analysis of the data indicated the following were the most popular:

1. **DAY TRIPS** Port of Melbourne Puffing Billy
Peninsula Wineries Eureka Tower
HMAS Cerberus Flinders Yarra Tramboat Cruise

2. **LOCAL OVERNIGHT TRIPS** Grampians Tour
RACV Inverloch King Island Tour

3. **OVERSEAS TRIPS** Tahiti Princess Cruise
French River Cruise (Spain/ Portugal)
Japan in Autumn (November)

POSSIBLE COMBINED LOCAL PROBUS CLUB FUNCTIONS and ACTIVITIES in 2009.

We were fortunate to host five members of the Ricketts Point Probus Club at our September tour of the CSIRO Animal Health Laboratory. This proved to be a highly satisfactory arrangement and opened the possibility of combining our efforts more systematically in the future, not only to provide stimulating and enjoyable activities for our Members, but also to extend our friendships to other local Probus Club Members. In addition, it is hoped that such combinations could avoid the necessity of cancelling some of our activities - eagerly supported by some, but in insufficient numbers to be financially viable.

Preliminary discussions have been held between the Function Coordinators of the Ricketts Point, Beamaris Bay and our own Beamaris Probus Clubs. A tentative proposal has been discussed for trial, possibly in May, 2009, whereby each of these three clubs share a Day Tour. The number of places available would be divided between the three clubs. This would be a pilot run; if it works to the satisfaction of each club, the arrangement could be repeated.

We would appreciate it if you would consider the proposal and indicate your views at our October General Meeting so that, if it meets with general approval, we may take it forward for our planning for 2009. AF & RD

INVESTMENT GROUP :Toxic Debt From page 1

In times of financial crisis such as this, all Members with investments need to be as informed as they can be on the causes of the problems and current environment in which we find ourselves. Therefore, we have set up a panel of previous leaders of the Investment Group to lead discussions which may contribute to a better understanding of our present situation and the way forward. The panel will be introduced by President Noel, followed by a former leader, an expert in the financial field, telling us just how the toxic debt of sub-prime mortgages was able to be sold to financial institutions in the USA and around the world. We will also consider the nature of the current environment and the role of cash and value shares in our portfolios, led by panel members experienced in those fields. Urge all Members to rise early and attend this meeting in order to better weather the current threat to our financial viability. John Brimage, Convener.

PLASTICS R US



Geoff Goodwin's 10-minute talk was an interesting calendar of events covering the history of the plastics industry. It had its beginnings in 1862 with chemist, Alexander Parkes, creating *cellulose nitrate* - known as guncotton - which evolved over time into a more stable product in sheet form for the development of material used in x-rays, CTs, and MRI film. From the late 1800s to the early 20th century saw many more plastic

products perfected including celluloid, rayon and cellophane. Bakelite was created in 1904 in America and used widely for telephones, radios, lawn bowls and 78 rpm records. A flurry of activity in chemical research during WW2 produced such products as perspex for aircraft canopies, polystyrene, nylon for clothing and even parachutes, as well as various vinyls utilised in coatings, clothing and fruit juice bottles. Various epoxies that we use every day in glass reinforcements have come on the market in recent times, auto panels, adhesives, and combined with carbon in golf club shafts. New plastics include silicone, *sulphures* (derived from sulphur), lycra, and Kevlar bullet-proof vests. Ominously, Geoff concluded by pointing out that most plastics are oil-based which makes them vulnerable to price hikes now and in the future.

Alan Williams

Next month: Stan Bernhard - A Life in the Media

Coffee Facts

Australia imports virtually all its coffee, about 45 000 tonnes of dry green bean per year. More than a billion cups of coffee are consumed in cafes, restaurants and other outlets in Australia each year – an increase of 65 per cent in the past 10 years.

Cappuccino is the No 1 coffee beverage sold in cafes, though upper income consumers (especially young women) favour café lattes. Coffee consumption per capita has doubled over the past 30 years in Australia, from 1.2 kg to 2.4 kg per capita; tea consumption has fallen 60 per cent in the same period to 0.9 kg per capita. Every 20 kg of roasted beans drawn from the ovens is worth \$500 wholesale; by the time that same weight reaches the cup, it is worth \$7 000.

World coffee market: farm gate value US\$10 billion; retail over US\$50 billion. [Source: *The Australian*, 13/9/08]

Newsletter Network

Quite a few Members help with the distribution of our monthly Newsletter, including the following:



David O'Loughlin, Allan Small and Alan Reith, about to hit off for their usual Monday morning game at Victoria Golf Club. Hugh Stevens was interstate at the time. Others in this essential VGC network of unofficial posties include Bob Matthews, George Montgomery and Merv Davidson.

NOTICEBOARD



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Group

At last, we meet again on Wednesday, 22 October at 7.30 pm at 25 Third St, Black Rock. Please let me know if you would like to attend the 31st meeting since we started eight years ago. If you haven't been before, do come along and enjoy a free classical music concert (with a \$2 donation for tea/coffee and nibbles). Wives and partners are very welcome.

NOTE: The Opera Group will meet on Wed 19 Nov. BA



New Member

T L MOORCROFT (Tom & Shirley) 4 Seaview Cres, Black Rock, 3193. Phone 9598 8359. *eml. Born 1923 Aspendale Master Builder. Woodworking, fishing, golf, bowls, travel [Club '08]

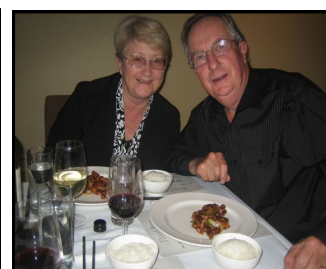
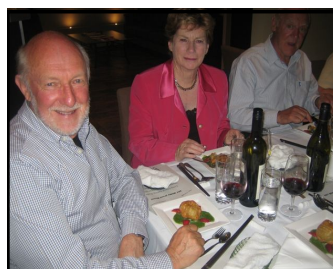
Directory Change

Ken Watson's new email address is kenneth.c.watson@bigpond.com

Health News

We were saddened to hear that Alan Reith recently suffered a stroke - but the good news is that he is now recovered and on the way back to full health. We all wish him the very best.

TASTES



Ken Rattray, Bev Kermond and Alan Farmer (left) and (right) Vice President, Geoff Wade, and Margaret enjoying the first Tastes night out at the Peninsula

The first outing of the *Tastes* group on Thursday October 2 at the Peninsula Asian restaurant in Hampton Street proved to be a great success. Most of the 23 diners expressed enjoyment of the set menu of courses which included Steamed Assorted Dumplings, Duck Sang Choi Bao and Mandarin Beef; and there was a general appreciation of the two selected wines sampled - 2005 Crawford River Dry Red (100% Cabernet Sauvignon) and a Pinot Grigio from Red Hill Estate. On the basis of this success, the next Big Night Out is being planned for the first Thursday in February. More details next month.