



# PROBUS Newsletter

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

## Office Bearers 2009/10

President:	<b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593
Vice President:	<b>Eric Slater</b>	9589 3526
Imm/Past Pres:	<b>Noel Ineson</b>	9589 5263
Hon Secretary	<b>John Howe</b>	9598 2429
Hon Treasurer:	<b>David Robertson</b>	9551 1930
Functions:	<b>Alan Farmer</b>	9598 2791
Functions Asst:	<b>Robert Dun</b>	9589 5456
Meetings Coord:	<b>Bill Green</b>	9596 1548
Meetings Asst:	<b>Duncan Gibson</b>	9585 3547
Almoner:	<b>Andrew Watson</b>	9589 5913
Hon. Auditor:	<b>Neil Jones</b>	9583 9315
Newsletter:	<b>Peter McGregor</b>	9533 4760

**Issue No. 328**

**October 2009**

**Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday October 20 at Beaumaris RSL**

**Investment Group:** Before the main Meeting @ 9 am (see p4).

**10-Minute Speakers: Geoff Bransbury & Rod Kelly**

**The Story of Twelve Hands: Lessons from amateur winemakers**

## Group Leaders 2009/2010

Investment :	<b>John Brimage</b>	9584 6349
Music/Opera :	<b>Barry Amond</b>	9589 1143
Theatres :	<b>Allan Taylor</b>	9521 6180
"Grape vine" :	<b>Roy Petch</b>	9589 5757
Bowls :	<b>Ted Montfort</b>	9589 5949
Prisms:	<b>Bill Davis</b>	9592 5982
Art:	<b>Paul Crompton</b>	9583 1310
Transport:	<b>To be announced</b>	
Recorder:	<b>Alan Williams</b>	9598 7550
Archivist:	<b>Roy Petch</b>	9589 5757
President's Table:	<b>Ken Lucas</b>	9584 5545

**Keynote Speaker: Ms Sherene Hassan Islamic Council of Victoria**

**Topic: My Journey as an Australian Muslim Woman**

Sherene is Vice-President of the Islamic Council of Victoria, is heavily involved in inter-faith dialogue and is one of the spokespeople for the Islamic Council of Victoria. In 2005, she was elected chair of the Jewish Christian Muslim Association Conference Committee.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



*At the time of writing, our thoughts are being directed to people in Indonesia and Samoa who have suffered as a result of earthquakes and a tsunami - and severe flooding in the Philippines*

At last we have had some decent rainfall and our sadly depleted water storages have had good inflows. A week of rain at the end of September has given us some relief, although only time will tell whether it is just temporary.

Those of us who participated in our annual Howlong golf trip were wondering what our weather would be like as we left - it was a frigid weekend in Melbourne - but, in fact, we were blessed with fine weather each day. A full report of the three days will appear elsewhere (as a flyer at the next Meeting) and I would sincerely encourage all who enjoy golf to join with us next year in the second week of October. It is a great time of fellowship and pleasant golf for golfers - and even for partners who simply wish to enjoy the beauty of the location. (This year, there was even a special award to non-golf-playing partners!)

At the time of writing, our thoughts are being directed to those people in Indonesia and Samoa who have suffered as a result of earthquakes and a tsunami, and severe flooding in the Philippines. We never know what tragedy may strike next and we must rank these events alongside our own tragedy of Black Saturday earlier this year. Our thoughts are with the survivors as the death toll mounts.

Our Keynote Speaker this month is Ms Sherene Hassan, Vice-President of the Islamic Council of Victoria, who will be speaking on her journey as an Australian Muslim woman. She will also be touching on the beliefs and practices of Muslims, as well as current issues in Islam (for example, the role of women in Islam). I am sure we will find this a very topical subject from an interesting perspective - in light of the unfortunate friction that appears to exist between Muslims and the Western World.

This year, the President's Christmas Lunch is scheduled for Friday December 11 at Southern Golf Club. Margaret and I look forward to welcoming you all on that day.

**Geoff Wade**



*John Wallace (top) and Harold Warren (below) receiving their 20-year pins from President Geoff*

## Old Enemies and New Ones

In 1918-1919, more deaths were reported [from influenza] than the total number of deaths in World War I.



*Margery Kennett suggested that many people confuse the flu with just a more severe common cold*

Margery Kennett, a diagnostic virologist, was Keynote Speaker for September on the subject of Viruses: Two Challenges. From 1961, she worked at Fairfield Hospital and, after the close of Fairfield, at the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. In recent years, she was the Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Biosafety, and Australia's National Polio Reference Laboratory. Particularly since HIV/AIDS has emerged, she has been involved in raising awareness and preparing guidelines on biological safety in laboratories in Australia and other countries.

The two challenges Margery referred to are the ongoing battle to eradicate the poliomyelitis disease world-wide and controlling the periodic influenza outbreaks including the recent H1N1 virus - the so-called Swine Flu (even though no trace of this strain has been located in any pigs so far). The A virus infects birds primarily and can also infect other domestic animals as well. Shifts occurring in the virus when it mutates from animal hosts to humans give rise to pandemics. Margery suggested that many

people confuse the flu with just a more severe common cold. "But one of the most serious epidemics of influenza occurred in 1918-19," she said, "with many more deaths reported than the number of deaths in World War I."

Local outbreaks of influenza occur every two to three years; some can be severe, others less so. Since 1933, scientists have worked to discover vaccines to provide protection from the various strains as they occur. At the Victorian Infectious Diseases Laboratory in Melbourne, new detection methods to identify and facilitate responses in a matter of days (rather than months previously) have been developed. They will be watching the Northern Hemisphere winter H1N1 influenza experience, analysing its likely future effects for Australia. "Fortunately, we now have a vaccine ready for distribution," she says.

Ms Kennett gave us some interesting information on the eradication of polio in Australia. After the extensive outbreaks from 1937 to 1956, vaccines developed by Salk and Sabin have reduced locally acquired polio cases since the late 60s and the last case reported was in 1972. In 1988, the World Health Organisation, in partnership with Rotary International and UNICEF, began eradication initiatives to reduce the numbers of children contracting the polio virus world-wide (about 350 million annually). By the end of 2003, 415 million children in 55 countries were immunised. With the result that this year the number of polio-infected children has been reduced to 969.

Unfortunately, political problems in countries such as Pakistan, Nigeria, India and Afghanistan have impeded the work, but hopefully the barriers to success caused by ignorance will be overcome and the world's children will be free from the polio paralysis disease.

Alan Williams

## Monthly Profile

Ian Parsonson

*For someone who knows so much about viruses and animal health, it may be hard to understand why Ian rates this large caulie amongst his finest achievements*



Members will recall Margery Kennett's surprise (during her Keynote Address in September) to see someone in the audience she recognised and who, she said, knew more about her subject than she did. That 'someone' was our own Ian Parsonson.

Ian had a distinguished career in veterinary science - that is, after his war service, joining the air force on his 18th birthday and flying in everything from Tiger Moths to huge Lancaster bombers as a navigator, finally upgrading his skills just in time to be in the UK for D-Day and the end of the war! On returning home and feeling the need to make a career choice, he chose to study at Sydney University to become a vet. He had grown up used to daily contact with animals, especially cattle, regularly milking the family cows. He first worked in a practice, then began his own. "It was hard work," he says. "24/7, especially during calving season." But it was all straight breeding, before the days of careful selection of the best bulls to produce quality

stock and well before today's modern age of artificial insemination. Not to mention gene technology.

Ian always had a drive to improve the quality of herds and soon found himself establishing relationships with people in animal health research laboratories in Melbourne, such as the CSIRO. Before long, he was approached to join the CSIRO's Fertility Division, thereafter completing a PhD at Cornell University. Returning to Australia, he found himself appointed Officer-in-Charge at the Parkville Research Laboratory, his expertise in viral diseases and the cause of infertility attracting the attention of Denver University where he and his family moved for two years. Returning to Melbourne, with his colleagues he played a major part in the planning of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong where he was later appointed Assistant Chief and was awarded an AM in 2003 by Governor John Landy for outstanding services to veterinary science.

The author of two books - *The Australian Ark: A history of domestic animals in Australia* and *Vets at War: A history of the Australian Army Vet Corps (1909-1946)* - he notes that diseases, such as TB, have been eradicated from flocks through Australian research. He maintains a keen interest in vet science, "though mainly the historical side these days. If it's not written up, it will be lost," he says. But among his other interests, he has an enthusiasm for growing Australian orchids, assorted flowers, an out-of-control bonsai and vegetables such as broad beans.

# FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Alan Farmer & Robert Dun



## October

### Mornington Peninsula Wineries Experience

Wednesday October 28

The bus leaves Beaumaris Community Centre at 9.30 am for the Morning Star Estate; then on to the Willow Creek winery. Next to the Tuck's Ridge winery for lunch. There is an additional exploration and tasting at the Box Stallion winery - and home to Beaumaris in the luxury coach.

The Morning Star Estate is set in 22 acres of exquisite gardens and 30 acres of vines. The century old mansion, enjoys panoramic views of Port Phillip Bay. This Estate specialises in Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Cab Merlot.

Willow Creek produces three different ranges of wine. Their Tulum Range wines are made from fruit grown on the property. Their second range of wines, The Originals, are sourced from the best fruit across the Peninsula. The third, WCV Range, also from fruit across the Peninsula, is ideal to drink now.

Lunch at Tuck's Ridge Winery, a one-course meal. (Note: all drinks are to be purchased by Members.)

Then the Box Stallion Winery. It is one of the Mornington Peninsula's most innovative winemakers and producer of several varietal wines: including sauvignon blanc, pinot noir, chardonnay, shiraz, arneis, moscato, dolcetto, gewurztraminer and tempranillo. Cost: \$56 pp.

Note: We have offered places to friends and members of Beaumaris Bay and Rickett's Point Probus clubs in an attempt to ensure we have sufficient numbers to run the trip for our Members who wish to avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity. You may like to invite your friends (who may not be members) to join you on the trip. If so, please contact us no later than the October Meeting. Payment should be made at, or before, our next Meeting.

## December

### President's Christmas Luncheon

Southern Golf Club. Friday, December 11 at 12 noon. Lunch will include the usual Christmas turkey dish as well as the traditional plum pudding. A drink and nibbles will be served on arrival; coffee and a chocolate after the meal. A quiz will be provided for the more intelligent of us to negotiate. The Cost is \$55 including drinks. Payment at our next Meeting please. [Pics from 2008 lunch below]



## 2010

Other trips and activities under consideration for next year:

### Canberra Art and other Activities



The Beaumaris Art Group and our Club could combine for a trip to Canberra, probably in April, with the purpose of viewing the famous Musee d'Orsay Post-Impressionists' Exhibition; but would include other places of interest. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as the Musee d'Orsay (in Paris) is being renovated and the exhibition is touring special parts of the world. Canberra is included in their itinerary for the first few months of 2010 only.

There are also five other possible trips being explored for 2010. They are based on staying at one motel for 3 nights, except the Traralgon trip, which is for 1 night only. They have been chosen to be shorter, not too strenuous, and cheaper than other proposals.

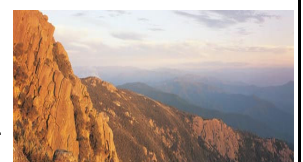
**#1.** 3 nights based in Hamilton, staying at the Bandicoot Golden Chain motel (breakfasts and dinners provided).  
Day 1 Via Geelong, Colac, Camperdown, Mortlake.  
Day 2 Visit Halls Gap, Grampians National Park, Boroka Lookout and the Brambuk living Cultural Centre (lunch included).  
Day 3 Penola, Mt Gambier and Port McDonnell, Cape Northumberland.  
Day 4 Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Colac, Geelong, and back to Beaumaris  
Cost \$470-500 twin share; single supplement \$105

**#2.** 3 nights based in Yarram  
Yarram, Wilson's Promontory, Tidal River, Tarra Bulga National Park, Port Albert Maritime Museum, Inverloch, Wonthaggi, and Phillip Island. Estimated cost \$370 pp.

**#3.** 3 nights based in Yarram (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 Cattleman's Hut, Over Buckland and Kiewa Valleys, Mt Beauty, Beechworth and Yackandandah. Estimated cost \$500 pp.

Mt Buffalo (right)



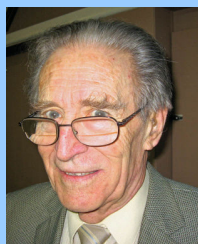
**#5.** 1 night based in Traralgon.  
Travel to Traralgon via Latrobe Valley power generation facilities. Next day: visit Walhalla before returning home. Estimated cost: \$250 pp.

Please indicate at our next Meeting if any of these trips are of interest so that appropriate planning may go ahead.

Q: How deep are Australia's ports? Answer: see p4.



## Three Great Opportunities Which Shaped My Life



Born in 1927, George Fabinyi as a teenager was struggling to survive the invasion and occupation of his country, Hungary - first by the Germans from the west, then the Russians from the east. He emerged from the ruins to join the child relief program of International Red Cross, helping to care for more than a thousand orphaned and under-nourished children, while at the same time trying to catch up with his education at university in Budapest.

His first great opportunity came when he was nominated to study children's home management in Switzerland which was a haven in the middle of devastated Europe. Unfortunately, a political coup in Hungary creating a Communist State forced his family to escape through the wire and minefields guarding the infamous Iron Curtain, making it impossible for George to return home. Then, his second great opportunity - the discovery that Australia was prepared to admit some refugees amongst the many millions of displaced persons all over Europe to come to its shores - and they would even pay the transportation costs! The third? While travelling by ship to Australia, he met a young Russian girl named Anya who was running a makeshift kindergarten to care for the very many children travellers abandoned by their seasick parents. After five weeks at sea, they landed at Port Melbourne on Anzac Day 1951 and, one year later, Anya and George were married and, as he says, "lived happily ever after".

Alan Williams



*Some of the participants about to play*

### Howlong 2009

One of the features of playing golf at Howlong is how well everything works. The comfortable rooms, the first tee, the practice green and the dining room (not to mention the outside barbecue) are all within easy reach of each other - it's no hassle moving from one to the other. The other thing that makes it all work well is: Geoff Wade. The three days of socialising and friendly competition happen like clockwork because Geoff makes sure they do! But we should not forget the weather—packing the car with golf gear on a wet, windy and cold day in Melbourne only makes sense if one is driving north. While Melbourne froze, some Beaumaris Probiens enjoyed three days of golf fun and sun at Howlong. Mind you, both Robyn and Alan Farmer probably enjoyed it all a bit more than most this year —because they won everything in sight! (Almost.)



*Robyn and Alan collecting some of their many trophies at the presentation get-together. Some people are still in awe that Robyn had 44 stableford points on the Tuesday; while Alan had 27 points for nine holes Monday afternoon, and then followed up with a 7-up on Wednesday. A full report will be available on the 20th.*

## NOTICEBOARD

### Tastes

As you know, we are going Japanese this time—Thursday, November 5. The restaurant—in Were St Brighton—is a humble undistinguished little place: from Hampton St, at the first row of shops in Were St on the right-hand side, there is a Surf & Turf sign. The only thing that tells you it's a Japanese restaurant is the sight of Japanese people pouring in! Otherwise, believe me, it's undistinguished. Cost of Banquet: \$30. Time: 7.30 pm (later than usual). White and red wine for purchase. NOTE: try not to bring \$50 notes—correct change, if at all possible! Reserve your place by paying at the October Meeting.

### Opera Group

The next Opera evening will be on Wednesday November 11 at 7 pm. It will take the form of an opera gala with some of the most popular excerpts from a number of operas. More details at the October 20 meeting. BA

### Theatre

Allan Taylor

#### MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

The fifth and last play, *Àllo Àllo*, will be on Wednesday evening, November 25. Tickets at \$14 must be paid by the October Meeting.

#### JERSEY BOYS

30 tickets for the musical based on the life story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons have been reserved on Wednesday afternoon, March 3 at 1 pm. Tickets at \$61 must be paid before Christmas.

#### MAMA 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 priced at \$59.

### Investment Group

Meets 9 am before the main Meeting - all are welcome.

The focus will be on our Model Portfolio, the Telstra split, the Myer share issue. We are looking for members of the group to present items of interest saved on a USB stick as a contribution to the meeting. John Brimage

### Interesting Facts



How deep are Australia's Ports? Answer: Not very. The Port of Melbourne used to be the worst (11.8m) before the current project to deepen it to 14m by the end of the year. Then, Fremantle will be the shallowest (12.8) until its own project deepens it to 14.7m. Currently, Adelaide is 14.2m, Sydney 13.8m while Brisbane languishes at 13.5m.

**Next Month:** Don Lobb will be our 10-minute speaker. He is being very mysterious about his topic which he has titled, "A Ten-minute Talk." That's all he is telling us at this stage. Curious? See you at the November meeting.