



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

Group Leaders 2009/2010

Investment :	John Brimage	9584 6349
Music/Opera :	Barry Amond	9589 1143
Theatres :	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
Transport:	To Be Announced	
Recorder:	Alan Williams	9598 7550
Archivist:	Roy Petch	9589 5757

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Next Meeting: 10 am Tuesday September 15 at Beaumaris RSL

Investment Group: 9 am before the main Meeting. Will focus on issues such as our Model Portfolio, the faltering recovery and contributions by members of the group.

10-Minute Speaker: George Fabinyi Three Best Opportunities

Keynote Speaker: Diagnostic Virologist Margery Kennett

Margery Kennett has worked as a diagnostic virologist since 1961 at Fairfield Hospital and, after the closure of Fairfield, at the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Topic: An Old Enemy and a New One – Both Challenges

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is quite inspiring to reflect on how our forbears opened up this area 150 years ago and the hardships they must have endured.

It is good to be back home after a wonderful four weeks in the north-west of Western Australia. With Allan and Margaret Taylor, Margaret and I enjoyed a wonderful time touring the Kimberley area. In our travels, we saw magnificent scenery and met some wonderful people. Even though there are many cattle stations throughout the area, the Kimberley area is one of the last relatively untouched areas of our great country. It is quite inspiring to reflect on how our forbears opened up this area 150 years ago and the hardships they must have endured.

I extend my thanks to Vice-President Eric Slater for standing in for me at the August meeting. I would also like to extend my personal welcome to Norm Griffiths and Alan Stevens who were inducted by Eric at that meeting. I look forward to getting to know them in the coming months.

On a more sombre note, we were saddened with the passing on August 20 of Roy Spalding having suffered a stroke the previous week. Roy had been a member for only about 18 months but in that time had made a valuable contribution by looking after transport arrangements when they were needed. He will be missed by all who knew him. We were also saddened with the news of the passing of two past members, Bob McKinnon and Ron Gluyas.

This year's President's Christmas Lunch will be held at the Southern Golf Club after many years at Victoria Golf Club. Our Functions Co-ordinator, Alan Farmer, and I met with the Functions Manager at Southern and arrangements are well in hand (there is a report in the Functions section on p3). I hope you will all join with Margaret and me to celebrate the Christmas season on December 11.

Our speaker this meeting is Margery Kennett who has many years' experience working with the World Health Organisation and will be able to give us an insight into polio eradication and the current situation with swine flu. I look forward to seeing you all at our September Meeting.

Geoff Wade

English Drinking Glasses : An art form in their own right



When it comes to glassware, Bill has an eye for quality

Bill Davis, our Keynote Speaker for the August Meeting, is an avid collector of English Drinking Glasses of the 18th Century. Bill gave an interesting address on the subject, including an excellent slide presentation accompanied by selected pieces from his collection to enable Members to examine and appreciate the beauty and craftsmanship of this art at close quarters.

An art form in their own right, these glasses were all hand made. As chance would have it, imperfections in the manufacture of the glass created a special beauty which was appreciated for its appearance and added to its unique character and, hence, value to collectors. In his address, Bill included many historical facts relating to the manufacture and composition of glass in general since the Roman period in the UK.

Venice had been the major provider of quality glasses to Europe and the world from the 13th century until, in 1675, George Ravenscroft produced a high quality glass which contained 33 per cent lead and which became known as 'English Glass of Lead' and marked the beginning of the English table and decorative glass industry.

English design features were developed through the 18th century, including unique stem formations with plain stems transforming to twist stems of various styles and techniques, together with the introduction of diamond and hexagonal facets in the latter period. Attention was also paid to decorating the bowls of the glasses with some magnificent examples of intricate engraving as illustrated in Bill's slide presentation.



The designs often replicated historical events of the time. These included famous battles, military regimental crests, Masonic symbols, commemorations of famous ships and bridges. Kings, queens and coronations were popular. Many of the design features incorporated in 18th century glasses were quite practical; for example, making the bases of the glass larger than the bowl to avoid chipping the bowl when placed together.

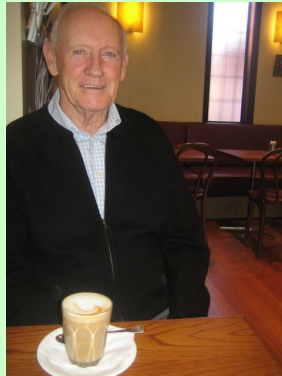
The technique of enamelling on glass was mastered by the Beilby family of Newcastle during the period 1760-1775. Surviving examples are valued at approximately \$80 000 each!

At the next meeting of the Prisms Group, forget about the whisky - just admire the glasses.

Alan Williams

Monthly Profile Bill Green

Bill recently relaxing over a café latte in Hampton Street



When we arrive for our monthly Meetings, the smiling face at the door is Bill Green, our very reliable Meetings Co-ordinator. Bill went to Melbourne High School but later, somehow found himself playing football for Heyfield in Gippsland - from where he was recruited by the Richmond Football Club. In his two seasons with the club, he mixed with the likes of Roy Wright, Des Rowe, Max Oppy, Geoff Spring and his close friend, Tom Hafey. A torn ligament saw him miss 10 weeks which ended his senior career. "No second chances in those days," he says. He played for Moorabbin in the VFA for five or six seasons - which included a premierships - and that was where he first met Ken Reed, one of his opponents who was playing with Williamstown. Later, he went on to coach Parkdale.

It was the Richmond Football Club that arranged a job for him at the Titles Office in Queen Street. He started as a

junior and, as he tells it, "the only way to get promotion was to wait for someone ahead of you to die"; although the later arrival of the Cain Government saw a welcome change to promotion on ability. Eventually, Bill became Manager of Administration with 350 people under him, but he retired at 55 because he reckoned he "had gone about as far as I could go" and didn't fancy hanging around to be subjected to an early death. It was also the time that some computers were being introduced - but his superiors had always told him, "You don't need to know anything about computers."

Bill has been a member at Southern for 46 years where wife, Lyn, also plays. He golfs twice a week and is the one responsible for running their Monday Boys competition. Despite the reference in the Members' Register, Bill makes no claim to be a gardener; his Brighton-on-Bay apartment just doesn't allow it. Instead, he is the barman for the complex's Happy Hour each Friday at 5 pm and he says he is becoming more and more experienced. At first there were only six people to serve; today it's more like 50. He says he has lost his enthusiasm for travel, though he still has a hankering to go back and see Germany.

It was Ken Reed's continual pestering that finally overcame his resistance to joining Probus - and he's glad he did. "I really enjoy it," he says, "especially as the longer I'm in the Club, the more involved I get." Bill has been a Member since 2003.

FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Alan Farmer & Robert Dun

October

Mornington Peninsula Wineries Experience Tour

Wednesday October 28

This springtime tour of the Mornington Peninsula wineries promises to be an energising and stimulating experience for all who partake. The Peninsula is a treasure trove of boutique wineries and we have selected three beautiful wineries to explore, as well as a fourth winery as our lunch venue.



The itinerary is: The bus leaves Beaumaris Community Centre at 9.30 am to visit the Morning Star Estate, and then to the Willow Creek Winery before lunch, followed by the Tuck's Ridge Winery for a one-course luncheon. After lunch, there is a further exploration and tasting at the Box Stallion Winery. Finally, we are chauffeured on a scenic drive in our luxury coach on our return to Beaumaris to end a delightful and satisfying day.

The cost for all this is only \$56 per person. This includes the luxury bus tour with delightful views of the Peninsula, tastings at the three wineries - Morning Star, Willow Creek and Box Stallion, as well as lunch at Tuck's Ridge Winery, and a relaxing, scenic drive home to Beaumaris.

Payment should be made at our next Meeting to ensure a place on the tour.



Payments may be taken by our October meeting, but only if there are any places left.

If after our next Meeting, we have insufficient numbers, we will need to offer places to our friends and members of Beaumaris Bay and Rickett's Point Probus clubs. This would allow them to enjoy the fruits of Spring and ensure we have sufficient numbers to run the trip for those of our Members who wish to avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity.



All pictures from the Willow Creek website
www.willow-creek.com.au

November

King Island Tour - from November 30 to December 3.

This trip is fully booked, but as it is so popular, Robert Dun is keeping open a wait list. Final Payment: required by our September meeting.

December

Annual 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. Cost: \$45 for the meal, plus drinks.

There will be a straw poll at the September Meeting to gauge the wishes of Members in respect to the cost of the drinks. Proposition 1: the restaurant to offer unlimited drinks. They have offered to provide this service for a charge of \$25 per person, making the total cost \$70 under this proposition

Proposition 2: Our past procedure has been to add an additional \$10 to cover drinks. This way, drinks are made available at the table and served as required by the staff – so there is no fuss with money, change or taking orders by Members or purchasing at the bar during lunch, with no interruptions and no extra costs. Under this procedure the total cost would be \$55.

Proposition 3: Some have expressed the wish to manage their own drink purchases from the bar during luncheon. Under this scheme, the cost of the house wine is \$17 per bottle or \$4.20 per glass, and a jug of soft drink is \$10. A pot of beer is \$4.20 per glass. Those wanting this system say that, provided they do not share drinks with others at their table, they do not have to pay for any other person's drinks. Under this procedure the cost would be \$45– plus payment for drinks consumed on the day.

The decision will be made by majority vote at the Meeting, with the President having a casting vote, if necessary.

2010

Among other trips and activities under consideration for next year, we are exploring the possibility of joining with the Beaumaris Art Group for a trip to Canberra with the prime purpose of viewing the Impressionist Exhibition which is touring parts of the world, starting in Australia. Canberra is included in their itinerary for the first few months of 2010. I would be pleased to hear from any Members who may be interested in a trip to Canberra early next year, the primary purpose of which is to view this remarkable exhibition which is only made possible because the Musee d'Orsay in Paris is being renovated.



An Outback Experience



Our 10-minute Speaker for August, Rod Murrell, could have extended his talk for much longer as he had many stories to tell about his travels around outback Queensland in 1962. At the time, he was employed as a Depot Auditor for the Shell Oil Company and was obliged to make periodic excursions into the far reaches of the state to every town which had a depot managed or owned by the Company.

He was provided with a VW Beetle with extra fuel tanks built into the rear of the cabin enabling him to travel the considerable distances between towns on very rough, unmade, and at times flooded, roads.

It was not uncommon when travelling 200 kilometres or more to sight only one or two other cars during the whole journey. When this occurred, they would stop and discuss the weather and the road conditions ahead. Times were tough; on his return, his expense account was analysed by his superiors and any frivolous expenses such as the buying of newspapers would be deleted.

His experiences in the outback pubs – where he was obliged to dine and stay during his month or longer trips – were most interesting, including the story of the pub at the end of a rough unmade road with no other buildings in sight that had a collection of every beer that was available anywhere in Australia! Rod met some great characters along the way including Fred from Winton, and the 'tough guys' who opened 44-gallon drums with a pick through the lid rather than use a spanner on the bung! Thankyou Rod for your interesting and amusing anecdotes.

Alan Williams

More Fun in the Sun: Howlong Golf Trip

All is in readiness for the annual Howlong golf trip, from September 27 to October 1. All Members are booked in from Sunday night to Thursday morning, except for those who have indicated otherwise. If you intend to arrive Monday morning or leave early (Wednesday afternoon), please let me know so that I can adjust the bookings. It is preferable that any changes be done centrally rather than individually. Six carts have been booked for the three days so if you want/need a cart, again, let me know so that I can advise the Howlong Pro.

Full details of events, tee times and room allocations will be distributed at the September Meeting.

Geoff Wade

Induction

Acting President at the August meeting, Eric Slater, found himself fully occupied—inducting first Alan Stevens (at left) introduced by John Howe, and then Norman Griffiths (right).



NOTICEBOARD

Music Group

The next Music Evening will be Wednesday, September 23 at 7pm. Please let me know if you would like to attend.
Barry Amond

Theatre

MORDIALLOC THEATRE COMPANY

The fourth play for the year, *Minifields & Miniskirts*, will be on Wednesday evening, September 16. Tickets not yet collected will be available at the September Meeting. The fifth and last play, *Àllo Àllo*, will be on Wednesday evening, November 25. Tickets at \$14 must be paid by the October Meeting.

HIGH SOCIETY

The Cheltenham Light Opera Company's production of this Cole Porter musical will be on Sunday, October 11 at 2 pm. Tickets for the 16 starters will be available at the September Meeting.

JERSEY BOYS

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

Tastes

As previously announced, our next outing will be the first Thursday in November (the 5th) and will be a Japanese banquet. Please speak to Geoff or Peter if you have any special requests, such as: No raw fish! Cost: \$30. Full payment is required at the October Meeting.

Kinglake Trip - A Report

"It was a cold and windy day when our group - with the members of the Probus Club of Beaumaris Bay— left on a trip to Kinglake...." So begins an informative report by Tony Bowles on the recent trip to the bushfire areas. Copies will be distributed at the September Meeting— because of time constraints, it was not possible to include it with this newsletter. A very good read—make sure you get a copy!

New members

◀◀ N E B GRIFFITHS (Norman & Gilda) ▶▶

14 A Eliza St Black Rock 3193. 9598 8575 *eml. Born 1937 Sydney
BE (Civil), Emp reinsurance, construction eng, ARA. Golf, fly fishing
[Club '09]



◀◀ A B STEVENS (Alan & Patricia) ▶▶

52 Harold St, Sandringham, 3191. 9598 0235. *eml. Born 1948 Melbourne Dip Mech Eng, F.I.E. Aust, Management with PBR, Golf, reading, cooking, wine, travel, keeping fit & healthy. [Club '09]



Vale - Roy Spalding

We were all saddened by the death on Thursday August 20, of Roy Spalding. Roy joined our club in February last year and was a regular attendee at our Meetings and functions. He undertook to arrange transport when required for guest speakers.

Our sympathies go to Jacquie and her family at this time.