



NEWSLETTER

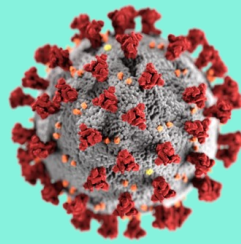
Probud Club of Beaumaris Inc.

www.beaumarisprobud.org.au

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President Keith Ross:

How things change. In my previous newsletter message, we were inexorably moving towards our AGM. But, over the month, everything has changed. What an understatement! I believe, we are now living under restrictions and regulations that none of us have ever experienced. We are unsure when life will return to what was the norm; that's if it ever will.

However, that's all very sombre and not the main purpose of my message this month. I simply note the background in which we now operate. Read on (p2)....

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

*** Office Bearers 2020**

* President:	Keith Ross	9589 3580
* Past President:	Roger Wilson	0418395946
* Treasurer:	Geoff Carlson	9589 4884
* Functions:	Ken Beadle	9589 6120
* Meetings:	Geoff Wade	9588 2593
* Webmaster:	Geoff Bransbury	9589 1507
* Newsletter:	Peter McGregor	0418 322 987
* Welfare:	Alan Stevens	0418 336 354
Sommelier:	Bill Green	9596 1548
Audio Visual:	Paul Crompton	9583 1310
Archive:	John Howe	598 2429

*** Committee Members**

* Vice-President:	Simon Appel	9585 6956
* Secretary:	John Smyth	0438619189
Auditor:	Don Lobb	9598 3589
Assistant Functions:	Graham Ball	9598 4125
Assistant Meetings:	Barrie Gibson	9589 3902
Assistant Meetings:	Graeme Keys	9585 7297
* Membership:	Peter Flude	9585 5550
President's Table:	Garry Sebo	9583 2582
Recorder:	Grant Sabin	9598 4768
Projectionist:	Philip Stewart	9589 3309
Photographer:	Alan Stevens	0418 336 354

*** Interest Groups**

Bike Riding:	Duncan Gibson	9585 3547
	Ken Beadle	9589 6120
Discussion:	Barry Amond	9515 0725
PRISMS:	Bill Davis	9592 5982
Wine Appreciation:	Roger Wilson	0418395946
Golf:	John Pound	9521 8252
Travel:	Simon Appel	9585 6956

Digital Technology:	Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Music/Opera:	Barry Amond	9515 0725
Tastes:	Geoff Bransbury	9589 1507
Bridge:	Alan Farmer	9598 2791
Wine Discovery:	Grant Sabin	9598 4768
Theatre:		

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Keith Ross



From p1

It is pleasing to report that, in these difficult times, we as a club - through the Committee and the various interest group co-ordinators - have moved on, with a focus on continued involvement throughout 2020 and planning for the future. How fortunate we are with such modern technology that allows us to communicate verbally and visually and - equally, if not more importantly, participate in activities. Simply put, we must learn from and join the younger generation in the world of wi-fi.

I can report that your Committee is focused on the simple goals of:

Maintaining a link with Members through Continuous Communication, and
Planning for the New Normal. Full summary p4.

Our first step is to establish a common platform for facilitating effective communication, not simply for the benefit of the Committee, but the general membership including the various sub-groups. Having achieved that goal, we can then look to developing activities that may interest members via the internet. As you are aware, we have initiated a system of regular contact calls via Committee Members: to check on the well-being of members, as well as to keep you informed about general activities and pass on updates of events within the club. I would like to add that communication should not be a one-way street - we can all look up anyone on our membership register via the website and make a telephone call to another member. Let's support each other through this 'stay indoors' period. I am sure the various interest group co-ordinators will also contact their participants on matters pertaining to the group.

As previously advised, we have cancelled all functions for the foreseeable future. However, note, the traditional President's Christmas Luncheon is still on our schedule, so keep Friday, December 4th, free! Barry Amond has the discussion group up and firing via email and I understand he is about to Zoom ahead in the near future! Where there's a will there's a way. The Bridge group has moved to run its card-playing weekly schedule via the internet. (How on Earth do they send signals to their partner?) Wine Appreciation and PRISM groups face a challenge, but I am sure they will also find a way! As for golf, John Pound has already set the date for Murray Downs in 2021 and is even taking bookings! Watch out; John may also put out an internet challenge.

Finally, you will be interested to know, that as a symbol of our resilience I noted a few familiar faces on the Bayside bicycle path on Friday. (I wonder who they could be?) Life moves on and so do we!

Stay safe, stay well.

NOTICEBOARD

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

Attempts to have an online discussion using emails have not been very popular and are ponderous. A far better idea is to use video conferencing and later in the month it is hoped that some of us can use Zoom for that purpose. We also need to try and avoid talking endlessly about the virus by choosing more light-hearted topics. Ideas are welcomed!

Music and Opera Groups

Barry Amond

What a shame we can't keep meeting at Beaumaris Library. In the meantime, it is worth turning to YouTube which has an amazing amount of music of all kinds. Russian prodigy, Elisey Mysin, is worth finding. At age 9, he's now playing more delicately!



For those without smart TVs capable of receiving YouTube or Netflix, it's worth considering purchase of one as they are so relatively cheap, even at Aldi sometimes!. Similarly, if you don't have Foxtel it's worth looking for a good entry deal as there is so much to watch including the Arts channel which shows classical music every Sunday night as well as other genres all day long. During the day we switch the radio between the ABC's Classic FM and 3MBS. It's a nice background to our riotous lives.

Why Soap Works

At the molecular level, soap breaks things apart. At the level of society, it helps hold everything together. For more information on this fascinating topic [CLICK HERE](#).

Birthday Boys – April

Richard Phillips 2/4	Gerald Ettershank 6/4
Paul Stephens 6/4	Brian Reynolds 7/4
Merv Davidson 9/4	Roger Wilson 10/4
John Opie 14/4	John Fisher 15/4
Alan Stevens 17/4	Bob Toogood 19/4
Keith Ross 23/4	Stan Phillips 28/4

Bridge Group

Jim Duggan



To find out more or to join the group, contact Jim Duggan 0432150675 or John Schmoll 0419526075

After four years of steady growth and improving skills – we now have more than 30 members from both Beaumaris Probus and Victoria Golf Club - the Bridge group came to a sudden halt with the virus shutdown. We tried to organise games in members' homes but, after advice that playing cards was just about the most ill-advised thing you could do at a time like this, the idea was abandoned. What about playing online? Enthusiastically embraced by all, it has proved to be an ideal way of spending time in custody as well as maintaining contact with friends. In the last week of March, VGC member John Schmoll organised players into tables online and the Virtual Bridge Club was inaugurated. It has been so successful that I would expect it to continue when we are able to resume playing in the conventional manner. Come and join us.

Register

The Register of members' details has recently been updated with some new addresses, phone numbers and email addresses and is now available on the website in the Members section. If there are any further amendments please advise Geoff Wade at geoffp.wade@bigpond.com

Golf News 2021

John Pound



Murray Downs Golf & Country Club is the number 1 golf course on the Murray River, and one of Australia's leading golf courses, located in one of the most scenic segments of the river country

As this years' major golf trip has been cancelled - and just about everything else - we have booked our 2021 trip, again at the Murray Downs Resort in Swan Hill. The dates are April 13/14/15 with the usual format of three nights' accommodation, two days of golf plus a putting competition for all, with plenty of prizes for nearest-the- pin and longest drive each day. Those interested should contact JP on jaypound@hotmail.com to ensure being kept informed as we move to detailed planning.

Summary of Committee Meeting, Friday March 20, 2020

Our goal is to maintain a vibrant and viable club throughout and beyond this difficult period.

Committee.

Firstly, the deferral of the AGM impacted the transition to the proposed Committee structure for 2020. As a consequence, Keith Ross will continue as President and Simon Appel will continue as Vice President for the interim period. However, be assured Keith and Simon are working to effect the changeover as soon as a practical solution can be determined.

Coincidentally the committee body will be strengthened by the inclusion of the following personnel into the management group

Chris Renwick AM	Vice President (Elect)
Gary Sebo AM	Assistant Secretary
Graham Ball	Assistant Function coordinator

AGM.

Despite much discussion and referral to *Probus South Pacific Limited* (PSPL), there is no easy way to facilitate the conduct of the AGM. We continue to confer with PSPL to facilitate a meeting in compliance with the now current limitation on meeting size and facilitation regulation. Our goal is to achieve transition within the most immediate time frame.

Meetings:

We envisage for planning purposes that no General Meeting will be scheduled within the next six months. Within the current guidelines, we plan for committee meetings to occur monthly. Clearly, all discussion on the location of future meetings has been deferred for the present time.

Life Membership:

The Committee received a report and recommendation from a sub-committee in respect to a nomination for a Life Membership award, submitted in January. After due consideration, the full Committee endorsed the recommendation and will move forward to the appointment of Mr Geoff Bransbury as a Life Member of the Club following confirmation at the next General Meeting.. Given the circumstances, we have advised Geoff of the committee decision. The Committee also decided to award John Brimage a *Distinguished Service Award* for his contribution to the club following his recent resignation. John was, of course, one of our founding members.

Functions:

Given the current situation, the Club has reluctantly decided to cancel all general and interest group events for the foreseeable future. This includes the upcoming Jazz / BBQ night, Murray River Golf trip and Pub Lunch functions.

Both from our own and the host function centre (SYC) perspective, the Club has decided that the midyear Candlelight Dinner will not take place in 2020.

Given the passage of time, the Committee has left in place the reservation for the President's Christmas Lunch to be held at the Victoria Golf Club on December 4, 2020. All payments for future events currently held by the Club will be refunded via EFT.

Please advise our Treasurer, Geoff Carlson, of your Bank BSB and Account Number.

Geoff Carlson email: grc44@bigpond.net.au

Communication: We are committed to remaining in contact with all members throughout the period ahead. It is our intention to maintain a monthly edition of our Newsletter and constant updates of our website, albeit without material from recent and upcoming club events. To do this we need your help.

Please forward to our editor any snippets or stories for him to review and incorporate over the months ahead. We may not have the opportunity to meet as a group, but we can share life events / interests through this medium. Contact Peter on his email: peterb64@bigpond.net.au

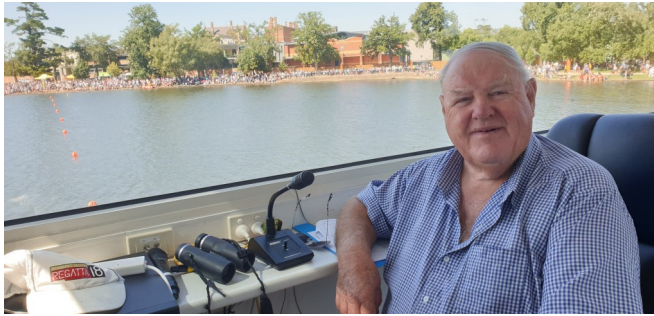
Similarly, it is important that we keep our website functioning and current. Interesting pieces or photos can be forwarded to our webmaster Geoff Bransbury at email: gbransbury@gmail.com

Health and wellbeing:

Whilst for obvious reason we cannot maintain physical contact with Members who may not be in tip-top condition, we can maintain communication. Therefore should you, or a member you know of, become unwell, please contact our Welfare Officer, Alan Stevens: absglobal60@gmail.com

With ever-increasing regulations minimising social contact it is, we believe, important that personal contact with in the Club is maintained. Therefore, we suggest this be done simply by picking up the phone and call other members to have a chat. All contact numbers are on the website.

Members' Page



Above: Roger Wilson, the voice of rowing commentating for over 50 years, in the Commentary Box at The Ballarat Schools Head of The Lake on Lake Wendouree, the last regatta for Roger for the season with the onset of coronavirus. With the APS Head of The River, National Rowing Championships, Kings Cup Regatta and now the Tokyo Olympics all cancelled, Roger has had to hang up his binoculars and microphone.

Below: We've all heard about the stranded Aussie cruise ship passengers. Our very own Bill Cleland and wife Jenny were almost two of them! Setting out late February on what should have been a wonderful holiday, they picked up the cruise ship Norwegian Spirit on what was to be an 18-day cruise visiting Oman, Seychelles, Madagascar, Reunion, Mauritius and South Africa. After that they had arranged a safari. They did see Oman but that was it! The next 20 days was a sea cruise; they were not permitted off the ship anywhere. Worst of all, they ran short of wine. At least it was sunny! Eventually they landed in Cape Town and were stuck on board trying to arrange flights home. Bill wasn't happy.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE



Awarded to John Brimage on his resignation from Beaumaris Probus

To describe John Brimage as an active member of Beaumaris Probus Club is an understatement. He was a very regular attendee at meetings (rarely missed a meeting) and always had an intelligent and probing question for guest speakers. He co-ordinated the Investment Group from 2006 to 2010 and was a key figure in their 'investment' portfolio. He was a regular attendee at Howlong Golf with his wife, Barbara. He was a regular attendee at the music groups, discussion group and was a very active member of the Digital Technology group where he was very forthcoming with his extensive knowledge of all things digital. He was a long-term member of PRISMS and more recently the Wine Appreciation group. There were not many of our interest groups to which he did not belong. He may not have held any Committee positions during his membership, but he was as completely involved as any member of the Club could be.

Geoff Wade

"...globally, fewer than 0.3 per cent of all cars are pure electric, and across Europe, BMW says, customers don't want them.."

Bjorn Lomborg
The Australian 7/3/20



Corymbia ficifolia, commonly known as the red flowering gum, which adorns many Bayside streets at this time of year

Noel's Corner

I heard a doctor on TV say, to get through the boredom of self-isolation we should finish things we start and thus have more calm in our lives. So I looked through the house to find all the things I'd started but hadn't finished...so I finished off a bottle of merlot, a bottle of chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a bottle of wum, the remainder of Valiumun scriptuns, and a box of chocletz. Yu haf no idr how feckin fablus I feel rite now.

Probus Club of Beaumaris 2020

Book Reviews

Beyond Flavour

Beyond Flavour is a practical guide to blind wine tasting which will help wine lovers increase their knowledge and improve their blind tasting skills. The book offers detailed descriptions of the key attributes of major grape varieties and wine producing regions, and argues that assessing a wine's structure - acid structure in white wines and tannin structure in red wines - is a more reliable indicator of a wine's identity than the traditional reliance on flavour. *Beyond Flavour* includes analysis of wine style by country and region; descriptions of recent vintages for classic European origins; and tips for blind tasting exams. *Beyond Flavour* is an indispensable guide to blind wine tasting for wine students, professionals and others seriously interested in understanding why wines taste like they do.

Wine Girl

When Victoria James discovered the book *Wine for Dummies* during her bartending days in New York, she was hooked. "I found myself purchasing another wine book, and another wine book – and I eventually came across this word 'sommelier.' I Googled it, and I realised this could be a profession. You could drink wine for a living." So she took all the money she made from working in high-end restaurants to pay for wine classes, and at 21 – the legal drinking age in the US – she became America's youngest sommelier. Her fascinating book is about all the challenges she faced.

Please send your review of any books – or television shows – you think other members might find of interest. In the present circumstances, sharing such material will help us all to pass the time profitably. Ed.



Left: A tip for successfully working from home

DID YOU KNOW?

Bullfrogs do not sleep
Turtles can breathe through their rear end
Butterflies taste through their feet
People do not sneeze when they are asleep
There are more chickens on Earth than people
Only 10 per cent of the world's people live in the southern hemisphere

It was a quiet Monday morning in September 2053, when John awoke with a need to go to the bathroom. To John this wasn't just any ordinary day! This was the day he would open the last package of toilet paper his parents bought in the year 2020.

"The past two centuries have seen remarkable progress across the globe. Average life expectancy has tripled, from 26 to 72. Average incomes have grown tenfold...."

The Age March 7 2020