



NEWSLETTER

Probud Club of Beaumaris Inc.

www.beaumarisprobud.org.au

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The New Normal



When Vice-President, Simon Appel, thinks about self-isolating, the first thing that comes to mind is doing the washing up

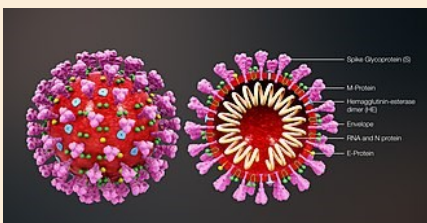


Alan Stevens using the time at home to practise Macro Photography



Right: President Keith Ross would have us believe he is spending all his additional spare time working around the house

Left: Peter Flude spends his spare time checking membership details



Below: Peter McGregor at Bridge



Left: Chris Renwick self-isolating in Port Fairy



Below: This is what a normal Committee Meeting looks like these days. [The bottom left corner is a picture of Ken Beadle trying to look inside his laptop.]

Photo: Alan Stevens



Left: Geoff Bransbury (and others) have nothing better to do but exotic jigsaw puzzles



Geoff Wade working on his latest marquetry project - a picture of a castle in the UK



This special edition brought to you by the coronavirus pandemic

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

* Office Bearers 2020

* Committee Members

* 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** 9598 2429

* Vice-President: **Simon Appel** 9585 6956
 * Secretary: **John Smyth** 0438 619189
 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



It's May 2020 already; doesn't time fly? In reflection today, I no longer have to be concerned about those very 'important matters' of 2019: did I really have to play a stroke round at VGC next Saturday, or will North Melbourne win another game this year? Maybe we should change the coach! Or that other major issue of what will Bill Shorten change when he becomes Prime Minister next Saturday? In a short 12-month period, we now face very different circumstances where none of my issues are a consideration as we continue to deal with the current COVID-19 situation and its restrictions. It's fair to say all of our life styles have changed - but it is not all negative. I find I am communicating more with family and friends, catching up on reading, tidying up the garden and watching a far more diversified range of television via Netflix and YouTube. Within the Club, we have spent time on Zoom, not only on Committee business but also attending the virtual Discussion and Wine Appreciation meetings. Both were most enjoyable, went overtime and I look forward to more such opportunities. The Bridge Group - 20 players, using a specific website - is going well each Tuesday morning. Where there is a will there is a way!

For most, things are getting better and I am confident we can see the end of the tunnel and that life may get a little easier soon, but for our Club I expect it will take some months more for our life style to return to what will be the New Normal. In the meantime, we need to maintain our level of communication, using the technology we have at hand to continue to support each other. Remember: communication is a two-way street. Don't wait for a call, make one! I also recommend that you visit the member profile page on our website as well as revisiting some of our past speaker videos. So, keep active my friends, both in mind and body. Stay safe, stay well.



Left: The President giving the impression that he maintains his busy work schedule during the lockdown



Right: Barry Amond showing how to re-arrange 1000 jigsaw pieces

Below: Grant Sabin says he has limited his drinking to one glass a day!



NOTICEBOARD

★ COVIDSafe App

Don't forget to download the government's app to your phone to help keep the community safe.

Bridge

Not only is the Bridge group continuing its weekly games online via www.bridgebase but some are even playing in-between times.

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

The two groups are again combining to have a Zoom video discussion on Tuesday May 12. The topic is 'Australia after the Virus'. On April 17, 10 of us managed to see each other on our screens as we discussed the virus using Zoom. Despite a few teething problems it was a great success. There were many different opinions on the government's financial package and the restrictions that had been imposed but there was general acceptance that the 'national cabinet' was doing a great job dealing with the problems confronting the world.



Above: Our regular discussion group in session via Zoom

Music Group

Barry Amond

Most of us recently have had more than enough time to listen to, or watch, our favourite music on radio or TV. Some years ago, I transferred dozens of CDs on to USBs. One contains over 90 albums of classical music, symphonies and concertos by the most well-known composers. Music is continuous once we turn on the stereo, the only problem being able to remember what a particular album is! The other USB has somewhat lighter music including jazz and musical movie soundtracks.

Listening to one's music in the background is great when doing other things (such as putting together an impossible puzzle); but watching the amazing variety of music on YouTube is even better. I am hoping the restrictions are lifted before November so that we can celebrate in a big way the 20th anniversary of our music groups.

For those who wish to access CONTACT, the newsletter of the Probus Club of Mississauga
[**CLICK HERE**](#)

Staying Connected

Self-isolation has been the way of life for many weeks now and we thought it was a good time to provide ideas to keep you busy and connected with others. To get you motivated, Probus South Pacific has set a challenge to encourage us to do as many of these activities as possible during the month of May. Join the

#PROBUSMAYCHALLENGE

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

Travel Group

We are planning a Zoom meeting for Wednesday May 13 at 2 pm. Members will receive an invitation via email including the link to the meeting. Guest Speaker: Alan Stevens - an exciting experience for us all, including for Alan!

Simon Appel

Your Committee

Despite the lockdown, your Committee continues its work, albeit via Zoom. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday May 19 at 2 pm. You will be notified of its deliberations and conclusions soon after.

Wine Appreciation

Roger Wilson

Our next meeting was to be at The Steak Bank but has been cancelled due to Covid 19. We may have to have another Zoom meeting in June, but this is yet to be decided.

Phone Change

In these strange times, nothing stays the same. Please note that Peter McGregor can only be reached on 0418 322 987. His landline has been disconnected.

Profiles

At the last Committee Meeting (virtual), a decision was made that our newsletter should run profiles of new, recent or lesser-known members in order for us to know more about those who are an integral part of our Club and subsequently should be added to the website profiles. So, for your interest, this month we feature profiles of John Hewison, Peter Loncraigne, David Wilmot and Garry Larkin. See pp 4 & 5.

Birthday Boys – May

Rod Kelly 1/5

Neil Jones 3/5

Barry Amond 4/5

Don Lobb 5/5

Kevin Reed 7/5

Brian Davey 10/5

George Fabiny 12/5

Ossie Obst 15/5

Bob Matthews 24/5

Member Profiles

Below: Helen and John Hewison on a cruise stopover at St Tropez

JOHN HEWISON

John was born and lived in Highett prior to marrying his childhood sweetheart, Helen, in 1969. After attending Highett High School (now Sandringham College) until year 11, he enrolled in the Australian Society of Accountants (ASA - now CPA Australia) and joined the Australian National Line (ANL) in 1964. Having completed his accounting qualifications, he decided that ANL and maybe accountancy wasn't his 'thing' so he had a string of career changes, morphing into the sales and marketing sphere - until joining the Brash group in 1975 in their wholesale businesses, spending 10 years in senior management roles.

John and Helen have two children, Sarah and Andrew; Sarah is an interior designer and has two children, Jack and Harry, to her first husband Steve, who tragically died about four years ago. Sarah re-married (to Aaron) last year. Andrew is a Financial Planner and MD of the family company; married to Joanna and they have two children, Summer and Oscar.

At the age of 36, John decided to depart corporate life as he was constantly away from home with two young children; it was too hard on the family and he had become tired of corporate politics. He then formed a consulting business which kept him busy until he encountered financial planning in 1985. He obtained a Diploma in FP, a Masters in FP and was appointed as a CFP and has since built a highly successful independent financial planning business which has six equity partners, 13 Senior and Associate advisers, manages around \$1.5 billion in client funds and employs 36 people. He is a Life Member and former Chairman of the Financial Planning Association and a former director of the Financial Planning Standards Board. He describes himself as 'semi-retired' but remains as Chairman of the company, Hewison Private Wealth. The rest of his time is taken up with golf (he is a member of, and regular early Thursday player at, Victoria Golf Club) and art (painting and drawing with oils and charcoal, with a focus on portraits), boating and fishing on the bay at his holiday house at Blairgowrie (mainly in pursuit of the elusive snapper), scuba diving and writing (including an autobiography, mostly for family purposes); not to mention his involvement with grandchildren. He is also proud of the fact that he is joint founder and Life Member of the Gunnamatta Surf Life Saving Club.

[PBMcG]



GARRY LARKIN

Garry is a very happy-go-lucky vineyard owner who spends a fair bit of his time at Main Ridge overlooking Port Phillip Bay where he has five acres - 1.2 acres of pinot noir - his grapes going each year to nearby Bellingham Winery at Arthur's Seat.

After primary school in Bentleigh and 6 ½ years at St Bede's in Mentone, Garry was recruited by a friend to Buckley & Nunn in Bourke Street as a junior cadet for 2.5 years, mainly in menswear, then two more jobs in the trade - Charles Lux Menswear in Prahran for four years and then 11 years with H. B Anderson in Capitol Arcade, learning everything about running a business before going into his own business in 1979, a very successful cleaning business, Status Cleaning. His business specialised in Commercial and Industrial Cleaning for 37 years until his retirement in 2016 when Garry took representative roles in the Cleaning Industry to help others.

Unfortunately, after 51 years of a wonderful marriage, Garry's wife, Kerry, passed on in 2019. Living in Brighton, Kerry and Garry travelled extensively; some of their favourite overseas places were Paris, the Dordogne area in France, Barcelona and New York. Garry has two sons Jonathan and Patrick and three grandchildren.

On the sporting front, Garry was a great swimmer - in fact, a State junior champion - representing Victoria with The Olympic Swimming Club, where he became a Life Member, and water polo with Powerhouse, surf lifesaving at Point Lonsdale and for a number of years a daily Iceberger at Brighton. Garry has been a golf member at Kingston Heath for nearly 50 years and, more recently, a member at Sorrento Golf Club. A keen cyclist, Garry once rode his bike for the Les Twentyman Foundation from Melbourne to Sydney for the Olympic Games in 2000 for charity and still regularly rides his bike locally.

Garry says, "I have had a wonderful life so far with plenty more experiences to come, God willing."

[RBW]

Right: Garry Larkin at his Main Ridge vineyard



Member Profiles

Right: a recent photo of Peter Loncraine

PETER LONCRAINE

One thing that can be said about Peter is that he has had an interesting life. Born in Hong Kong during the Japanese occupation of the island in July 1942, where both his parents were living and had married before the occupation. His father joined the HK Voluntary Defence Corp, was captured by the Japanese and interned in the infamous Shamshuipo camp. When the war ended in 1945, the family were repatriated back to England where he boarded, first at prep school, Kingwell Court. He then went on to Seaford College in Petworth, Sussex, leaving school at 17 to join his father in business. For a short time in 1959, he went to Koln, Germany, living with a German family and attending Koln University to learn German. After 12 months Peter returned to England, working in his father's business until 1963 when he emigrated to Australia as a £10 Pom. Only intending to stay the compulsory two years, he was living in Sydney when he met his future wife, Yvonne, in 1964. She came from Melbourne, so he left his job with QANTAS and moved to Melbourne in January 1965, working briefly with Wormald in Port Melbourne and then 16 years with General Motors Acceptance Corporation, leaving in 1981 to go into his own business.



His first business was a licensed grocer which he says he 'endured for four years' and couldn't wait to get out. He had always had an interest in pubs and knew a couple of people who were in them and decided (in good Aussie parlance) 'to give it a go'. His first venture was the Southern Cross Hotel in Market Street, South Melbourne, and he was there for five years, after which he then bought a pub in Garfield which he had for a further five years (and started playing golf). When he sold that, he bought Khyatt's Hotel in Brighton, running it until he sold it and semi-retired in 2000; but with a taste for pubs and to help out his youngest daughter and husband, he bought the freehold of the Main Hotel in Bairnsdale and kept it for 14 years. Living in Melbourne, the Loncraines lived in Brighton all their lives - having had three houses in that time - until his wife passed away. He now has an apartment in Hampton.

Peter has four children - a son who lives and works in Port Douglas - and three daughters: one lives in Lake Tyers, one in Brighton and one in Sandringham. He has seven grandchildren. He says his only sport now is golf – he has been a member at Victoria Golf Club for 25 years and plays two or three times a week, including the Monday boys where he has been a regular ball winner – but he used to ski and play tennis and squash. His other interest is following Richmond in the AFL. [PBMcG]

DAVID WILMONT

David Wilmot, who was inducted into the Club in one of Probus' first Committee Meetings conducted on Zoom, was born at Murray Bridge in South Australia, educated in accounting in Adelaide and later Corporate Governance and Business Administration at Swinburne. He now lives in Brighton and has been in the Bayside area for 50 years, has been married to Judy for 49 years and have four married children and 11 grandchildren.

David has had a varied business career, is a registered Tax Agent and is a 50+ CPA Member. His career highlights include Group Finance Manager and Company Secretary at Spotless Group; GM Commercial International Division of Elders IXL; CFO DHL International Middle East Region based in Bahrain for five years; Corporate Secretary, Yarra Trams and other senior roles in finance and corporate governance. The last 15 years of his working life until retirement in 2017 was spent with the Blythe Family Group in various roles. His other activities over the years have revolved around organisations relating to his children's activities - school and sport - and more recently professional- related bodies and also as a Director and Company Secretary of Whitelion Youth charity which supports young people at risk.

In addition to his impressive business career, David has had extensive travel experience both as a Four-Wheel-Drive Club member and an enthusiastic tourist to all parts of the world. "There are not many spots in the world that Judy and I have not visited," he says; "most recently Antarctica." David has been four wheel driving for over twenty years all over Australia with the Range Rover Club of Victoria (driving a Toyota), journeying to areas such as Cape York, the Canning Stock Route, the Pilbara and the Gibb River Road in WA. David and his convoys have camped in tents, campers on the back of trailers and in more recent times in his van. [RBW]

To access another 47 profiles on the website [CLICK HERE](#).
More next month



Right: David on a recent trip to New Zealand

Members' Page

Wine Appreciation Report

Roger Wilson



Left: Variation on a theme: our group of enthusiastic wine-tasters gather round Zoom to discuss their latest selections

In a 2-hour meeting via Zoom, 12 of our 14 members presented details of their chosen wine. In contrast to the sharing meeting we normally have, each member described details of their wine as they tasted it.

Guest, President Keith Ross, also joined us to present his selection, a 2012 Shiraz from Mt Langi Ghiran in the Victorian Pyrenees near Ararat. A highlight of the meeting was member Garry Larkin giving us details of his 1.2 acre vineyard at Main Ridge where he grows pinot noir on 750 vines.

Another Cruise Drama

Our newest member, David Wilmot, is the latest member to experience much more adventure than originally planned. Sailing from a port in South America - on board the *Ocean Adventure* - the cruise had 136 Australians out of a total of 196 passengers, visiting such places as Drake Passage via the Weddell Sea, South Georgia, all of which David describes as 'spectacular'. The adventure, however, didn't end well; the ship could not dock in Chile or Argentina and three weeks later finally got to Montevideo in Uruguay where it was anchored for a week followed by an expensive chartered flight back to Melbourne at a king's ransom ticket price, only to face 14 days' hibernation in a hotel. Some adventure. [RBW]

DID YOU KNOW?

The total weight of the world's ants is equivalent to the total weight of every person on Earth

China produces more pigs than all other countries combined

The average heart beats about 100,000 times per day

Women blink twice as much as men

Below: Isolation Games

Our resident outboard motor tragic, Duncan Gibson, writes: "Extended time on my hands leads to some strange outcomes. Looking to tidy up outdoors I was inspired to use parts of a busted lawnmower (handle) and clothes dryer tube to 'invent' a new storage rack for an outboard motor. But is it art??"



Book Review

Macquarie by Grantlee Kieza

I have read this very well-written story about the so-called 'father of Australia'. I'm sure that any of our members with an interest in our history would find it a really good read. Described as 'A lively and engaging portrait of a towering and complex figure of Australian colonial history who is credited with shaping Australia's destiny'.

Jeff Sturrock

Below: Alan Steven's magnificent photo of a blowfly on a lemon tree



If the schools are closed for too long, the parents are gonna find a vaccine before the scientists...

Noel's Corner

Last night I got so drunk that when I got to the bottom of the stairs I took off my shoes, coat, top, trousers and underwear. Then I crept upstairs very quietly so as not to wake the kids or my other half. It was only when I got to the very top I realised I was still on the bus home.