



**Issue No. 355**

**June 2020**



## Life in a Time of Coronavirus



*Top (left to right): Garry Sebo and Peter Loncraine staying clear of each other at golf; Graeme Keys looking across the bay for ships on the water; Robert Kerr with his bike and helmet about to go on a ride with the Probus group, and Ken Rattray illustrating how he has used the time to have a good clean-up*

*Right above: Norm Griffiths, one of our active retirees, self-isolating. Wake up, Norm!  
 Left: Ian Marchment working on his family history  
 Above: Alan Farmer watching his garden grow and Ian Johnson at play with his model railway set*

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
 2 pm Tuesday June 16 on Zoom**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Keith Ross



I feel a bit like Nellie Melba because this is my second time writing a last piece for the Newsletter as President.

When Roger Wilson surprisingly invited me to nominate for the position of Vice-President in 2017 - and he was persistent and persuasive - I succumbed and found the past 28 months to be interesting, challenging and most enjoyable. I would like to thank Roger - and also you, gentlemen - for the honour. The amalgam of our varied backgrounds contributes to what is undoubtedly one of the most effective and fulfilling units within the entire Probus organisation. Given the opportunity to visit other Probus clubs and speak to others over the telephone, I can report that our club compares most favourably; our newsletter (Peter McGregor) and website (Geoffrey Bransbury) are at benchmark level. Not just on my watch but due to the consistent and ongoing efforts of all.

One of the most daunting tasks of President is to identify and recruit a range of guest speakers who garner the varied interests of our body of members. Based on feedback, I believe we hit the mark and I thank each of them for their contribution. But let us not forget the other key feature of our meeting, the 10-minute talk; what a patchwork of experiences they have presented over the same period, from vintage outboard motors to Faberge eggs. Pre-Covid-19 we were very busy with all the Interest Group activities, the Functions and visits organised by Ken Beadle and the Pub Lunches by Roger Wilson; a variety of events surrounding our major social occasions such as the mid-year Candlelight Dinner at Sandringham Yacht Club and, of course, the excellent Christmas Luncheon - both organised down to the last detail by Ken Beadle. Although we have missed the 2020 Candlelight Dinner, the President's Christmas Luncheon is well and truly on the agenda! (Until the beginning of this year, Tastes, of course, continued to lead us on our culinary journey culminating at the highly popular event at the Brighton Yacht Club.) Now, sadly, those meetings and activities seem to belong in the distant past, but I believe we are on our way out of this crisis.

Where to in the year ahead? The standing challenge for each President and, indeed for the club itself, is to maintain its membership base. During the year, we lost friends and recruited new members, ending the year at 122 members. This is a fair outcome but we need to continue actively recruiting ensuring the ongoing viability of our club. Whilst no date is set for the resumption of physical meetings, our dedicated team is already on the job planning for when restrictions are lifted. My job was made easy being supported by a team focused on the singular goal of making our club the best it can be. That is not to say we agreed on everything; far from it, but once discussed, we moved on. I could run through each member who has made a contribution but suffice it to say thank you for your support. Please remember that

they need support and even some respite after being at the coal-face for several years. Don't wait to be asked to volunteer! However, let's not stop at Committee. We have need of a number of facilitators and assistants at each event and meeting. My special thanks to Philip Stewart for presentations and Paul Crompton for videos, both of whom regularly put in a significant but generally unacknowledged effort.

Finally, a few special mentions.

Welfare: What a job Alan Stevens does. I am amazed at his awareness and involvement in all matters pertaining to our members' wellbeing. Finance: Geoff Carlson; as much as I tried to disrupt his fastidious housekeeping, he kept our financial situation on the straight and narrow and we remain well placed. Reality Check: Noel Ineson for keeping us grounded with his tall tales. Roger Wilson: We all know that with Roger, what-you-see-is-what-you-get; total commitment, total honesty. Roger moves off committee this year, but his involvement continues through the Pub Lunches and Wine group. The year has been anything but boring with minor aspects such as three venue changes and four (or was it five?) caterers. Nevertheless, with our strong committee structure, our club simply got on with the job. Thanks are also due to Vice-President Simon Appel and Geoff Wade for doing the spade work in respect to the location of meetings; and thank you, Roger, for twisting my arm to undertake this journey.

To cover off this past four months, I look forward to the upcoming AGM via Zoom which will be a first for our club. While we hope a significant number will attend this 'virtual meeting', I know not everyone will be present. I am proud of how we collectively have reacted with the improved communications and the embracing of Zoom within the club to facilitate a number of activities and now the next AGM. From a purely personal point of view, the telephone calls and virtual meetings were all positive experiences that I will carry forward.

In conclusion, my warmest thanks to you - that is, the full membership - over this past period for all your support. It has been a pleasure and a rich experience that I have enjoyed immensely. My very best wishes to Simon as he assumes the role of President and a warm welcome to our new Vice-President, Chris Renwick.

*Two of our stalwarts (mentioned in despatches above) – Geoff Wade and Geoff Carlson – using their lockdown time to play golf at Southern GC. But are they safe distancing? Get out the tape*





# NOTICEBOARD

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Next Monday (8/6) I will issue an invitation to our AGM via email to all, with a simple request that they accept the invitation. On Sunday or Monday 14/15th, we will issue a reminder email including:  
 1 meeting outline and housekeeping instructions  
 2 repeat of the meeting Identification Number (and Password).  
 Keith Ross

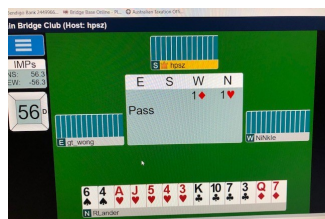
## Discussion Groups

Barry Amond  
 This month we are having another combined Zoom meeting on Tuesday June 8 at 2 pm. As well as a discussion of coronavirus, we'll share views on the best places to travel in Australia now that overseas travel is unlikely for some time.

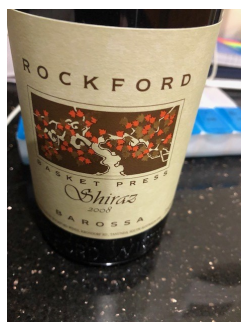
## Music Group

Barry Amond  
 We are thinking about experimenting with a music session via Zoom one afternoon later in June.

## Bridge Players



*In response to a request for a photo showing how he is spending the lockdown, here is Robert Lander's quirky contribution  
 Note who he is playing against*



## Wine Appreciation

Our next get-together - either on Zoom or in person - will be on Tuesday June 30 when we can also celebrate the end of the financial Year.  
 Roger Wilson

## Probus Bike Riders

Ken Beadle

The Beauty Bikers group has exercised weekly since lockdown started in mid March. By not using trains, maintaining a 2-metre social riding distance from fellow riders and standing in a circle for chats while drinking takeaway coffees at the turnaround points, we have observed government protocols and had regular exercise.



*Left to Right: Geoff Carlson, Duncan Gibson, Ken White, Rod Kelly, Robbie Kerr, Ken Beadle, Noel Ineson and Ian Marchment.*

*[Photo: Geoff Bransbury]*

## COVID-19 Death Rate per head of Population

United States: 77 times Australia's  
 Sweden: 100 times  
 Britain: 140

*George Megalogenis  
 The Age 30/5*

## WANTED

Photos of what you are doing at this self-isolating time. Some do crosswords, right, while others have more exotic pursuits. Please send pictures of a typical day in your life to:  
[peterb64@bigpond.net.au](mailto:peterb64@bigpond.net.au)  
 We will publish as many as we can next month. Ed.



## Noel's Corner



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

A reminder that to enlarge a picture or a page in this newsletter, simply hold 'Ctrl' button while scrolling the wheel on your mouse. That way you can blow anything up to the size you need. You may not even need your glasses! Ed.

## Birthday Boys – June

Garry Bradd 2/6	Robert Kerr 11/6
Graham Ball 14/6	Bill Davis 22/6
Ralph Butcher 24/6	Geoff Cupples 24/6
Alan Trumble 25/6	David Seedsman 30/6

# Profiles

## GRAHAM BALL

Living in a damp and dark home in East Malvern, Graham's formative years at school were at Lloyds Street State School and Malvern Grammar (now Caulfield Grammar). His learning was somewhat distracted by the fact that his mind and energy were concentrated on sports such as Aussie Rules, cricket, swimming, athletics, gymnastics and golf, obtain School Colours for swimming, athletics, and gymnastics. But his love of sport strongly affected his academic subjects; hence he failed to obtain the Intermediate Certificate - which meant he was taken out of school by his father who felt his time would be better served by joining the family business in a new Stafford Ellinson suit.



Known as M. Ball & Company, it comprised four stores with 40 years' experience in retailing men's and ladies' apparel, soft furnishings, home textiles, dress fabrics, manchester and haberdashery. To obtain full knowledge and understanding of the industry, he spent two years part-time at the Melbourne School of Textiles. Some 30 years later, he was running the business having overseen such dramatic changes as decimal currency and the introduction of Bankcard. During that same period, Graham concentrated on his sporting prowess in the game of golf, reaching a scratch handicap, winning Spring Valley Golf Club's championships and representing the state of Victoria as a junior state representative. His remarkable contribution of 67 years to the Club included 20 years of pennant, 26 years on the Greens Committee, 21 years on the Match Committee and 14 years on the Board, including being appointed Club Captain. During his time with Spring Valley, he was offered Life Membership and is now the longest-standing continuous member (69 years). A shoulder injury in a car accident at 18 years of age eventually took him out of the game he loved dearly; and his new sport is now golf croquet\* at the Sandringham Croquet Club where his wife is Club Captain and they both play Shield (Pennant). Happily married to Nova for 59 years, they have two children - son Rick and daughter Shelley, plus five grandchildren.

[Graham explains that golf croquet is a simpler, more social modified version of the traditional game.]

## KEN WHITE



At 15, Ken was indentured to Qantas at Mascot for five years as an aircraft mechanic, continuing with training to become a LAME (Licenced Aircraft Maintenance Engineer). Towards the end of his apprenticeship, he commenced flight training at Kingsford Smith flight school at Bankstown and after 100 flight hours was very fortunate to be awarded one of the first Commonwealth flying scholarships which enabled him to continue on to qualify for a Commercial flight licence, as well as studying - the result of which was more night school.

Offered a job with Ansett Airlines to train as a DC3 Co-pilot, he moved to Melbourne and was a FO (First Officer) for about nine years before becoming a Captain on the Fokker Friendship. Over the next 17 years he flew many different types of airliner which included the good luck to be seconded to Air Vanuatu, Air Polynesia, and Ansett NZ. He was very involved in training and checking company pilots, until 1989 when the infamous industrial dispute arose between the pilots' union and the Hawke government. It didn't end well for either Australia or the industry, but it became obvious to him that he should leave Australia - he says, for Australia's good as well as his.

Singapore Airlines was expanding rapidly at the time but with a whole new fleet of aircraft, they had no idea how they were going to crew them, so were very pleased to be able to recruit a large batch of very experienced pilots from Australia. In Singapore, he flew the Airbus A310 on mainly regional routes and was involved in mentoring and training their junior pilots that were being trained to eventually take over from expat pilots. He was then promoted to 'the wonderful B747-400', flying literally to the four corners of the earth. Aged 60, he reached the mandatory retirement age, so after 45 years in the airline industry, he and his wife, Jenny, returned to Melbourne. Ken has four middle-aged children and seven grandchildren with another one on the way and enjoys gym, U3A, Probus, golf (played badly) bridge, bike rides, whisky, and most importantly, friends and family.

[Profiles continued p5]

For more profiles of Club Members [CLICK HERE](#)

# Profiles

## JOHN POUND

John reckons he has so far had a super fortunate life. He spent his early years in Ivanhoe deeply involved with the 1st Ivanhoe Sea Scouts (although a long way from the sea). At the age of 12, he took up sailing seriously at the Royal Brighton Yacht Club and won the Australian Championship in Cadet Dinghies in Perth in 1953, and runner up in Hobart in 1954. He then graduated to high performance off-the beach-boats, 14 foot skiffs, and then international 505s and was involved in many sports - pennant squash, scuba diving, bushwalking, tennis, and particularly, snow skiing. Now his main sport is golf at the Victoria Golf Club. Educated at Carey Grammar, he joined the family business of which, at that time, imported Renault vehicles. He worked in all sections of the business, including 18 months as a mechanic, while studying Accountancy at night school, eventually running the accounts side of the business for a number of years. He met his future wife, Louise, while sailing and decided to take a break from business in 1963 and travel to Europe with Louise for six months, sleeping for much of the time in a VW station wagon, and seeing a lot of Europe. He returned to Melbourne in 1964 and resumed work at the car dealership - which now had Volkswagen, Audi, and Subaru as franchises - becoming Managing Director on his father's retirement until the sale of the business. Shortly thereafter, John joined his brother in a business servicing Ford dealers throughout Australia on behalf of the Head Office, distributing point of sale material, and administering incentive programs. During this time John also completed a part-time three year course through Deakin University to gain a Diploma of Financial Planning.

In 1973, John sailed the Sydney Hobart race, experiencing a 70 knot easterly gale on the return trip across Bass Strait which made for a very interesting trip! Louise and John have had a number of overseas trips, including a voyage to Antarctica on a small Russian Icebreaker and a 300 km trek to 5,500 metres in Nepal. They have two sons, Damien and Anton; Damien, a Chartered Accountant who also competes on the International Senior Tennis Circuit and Anton, in a partnership developing housing estates. One of the things not everybody knows about John is that he is an expert woodworker.



*Left: Grant showing off his latest plaything*

*Right: John in his workshop and some of his labours of love*



## GRANT SABIN

Grant lived in Sydney in his earliest years with his mother and her family while his father was a POW. With his father staying in the Army after the war, the family moved around - in Brisbane, Port Moresby, London, Sydney and finally to Melbourne in 1956, just in time for the Olympic Games. McKinnon High School was his seventh school, after which he briefly joined a company of Chartered Accountants and then the Bureau of Meteorology as a cadet meteorologist. In 1965, as a qualified meteorologist he was posted to Sydney to provide forecasts for NSW and adjacent ocean waters. An early highlight was the task of establishing an observation station at Badgerys Creek, as an international airport was to be built there.

Returning to Melbourne in 1969, he completed more study and lectured in meteorology in the Bureau's post-graduate training school. Then he was forecasting again while undertaking an MBA and later in the year married Ingrid, after which he was involved in the Bureau's international activities and the World Meteorological Organisation based in Geneva. "By that time in the early 80s", he says, "it was the Cold War and all that." However, meteorological data continued to be freely exchanged and still is.

In 1982, Grant became Manager of the Bureau's Antarctic operations at a time when there was talk of towing icebergs to the Middle East. Ironically, In January 1985, he went to work for the Meteorological and Environmental Protection Administration of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia based in Jeddah on the Red Sea. With his family - James, Mikala and Ingrid - he had a great expat life with lots of travel through the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the USA, a fantastic international school for the kids, great times with other expats, dinner parties, tennis, wind surfing, camping and more. He says coming back to Australia, eventually, was a culture shock; however, he continued his involvement with the Bureau's international activities and found himself working with a marketing research company and Ibis Business Information. His last position before retiring was Manager Aviation Weather Services, the highlight being on a panel that developed the Global Volcanic Ash Warning System.



# Probus Club of Beaumaris

## The Last Word

### Are You a Lexophile?

If so, you may enjoy the following:

You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish

To write with a broken pencil is pointless

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes

A girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, UCLA

I got some batteries that were given out free of charge

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress

Police were summoned to a day-care centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest

### More Travel Experiences

In May, 17 Travel Group members social distanced via Zoom at a lively meeting which included invited guest, President Keith Ross. (An exciting format to maintain contacts and have some fun!) The highlight was Alan Stevens' excellent slide show of the journey he and Patricia undertook travelling on the Mekong in Cambodia and Vietnam. It featured a remarkable collection of photographic shots of their experiences. Simon Appel



*Above: Alan about to disappear into one of the Viet Cong tunnels*

### A Non -Travel Experience

As a tiny sidelight on Mr Corona, today for us is day 25 of a 28-day cruise around Australia on the *Queen Elizabeth* that did not proceed. A few days ago it would have been Kangaroo Island, a place that could have done with 2000 visitors to spend some money. Instead, we went to Bunnings, next to our Woolworths supermarket and purchased a reading lamp. A highlight of the week, as it were. Bunnings reminded me of visits as a schoolboy with my father to the sale yards at Ballarat. All rails and corridors and charging animals. Lloyd Jenkins

## **PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.**

### **\* Office Bearers 2020**

\* Committee Members

* President: <b>Keith Ross</b>	9589 3580	* Vice-President: <b>Simon Appel</b>	9585 6956
* Past President: <b>Roger Wilson</b>	0418395946	* Secretary: <b>John Smyth</b>	0438619189
* Treasurer: <b>Geoff Carlson</b>	9589 4884	Auditor: <b>Don Lobb</b>	9598 3589
* Functions: <b>Ken Beadle</b>	9589 6120	Assistant Functions: <b>Graham Ball</b>	9598 4125
* Meetings: <b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593	Assistant Meetings: <b>Barrie Gibson</b>	9589 3902
* Webmaster: <b>Geoff Bransbury</b>	9589 1507	Assistant Meetings: <b>Graeme Keys</b>	9585 7297
* Newsletter: <b>Peter McGregor</b>	0418 322 987	* Membership: <b>Peter Flude</b>	9585 5550
* Welfare: <b>Alan Stevens</b>	0418 336 354	President's Table: <b>Garry Sebo</b>	9583 2582
Sommelier: <b>Bill Green</b>	9596 1548	Recorder: <b>Grant Sabin</b>	9598 4768
Audio Visual: <b>Paul Crompton</b>	9583 1310	Projectionist: <b>Philip Stewart</b>	9589 3309
Archive: <b>John Howe</b>	598 2429	Photographer: <b>Alan Stevens</b>	0418 336 354

### **\* Interest Groups**

Bike Riding: <b>Duncan Gibson</b>	9585 3547	Digital Technology: <b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593
<b>Ken Beadle</b>	9589 6120	Music/Opera: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9515 0725
Discussion: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9515 0725	Tastes: <b>Geoff Bransbury</b>	9589 1507
PRISMS: <b>Bill Davis</b>	9592 5982	Bridge: <b>Alan Farmer</b>	9598 2791
Wine Appreciation: <b>Roger Wilson</b>	0418395946	Wine Discovery: <b>Grant Sabin</b>	9598 4768
Golf: <b>John Pound</b>	9521 8252	Theatre:	
Travel: <b>Simon Appel</b>	9585 6956		