



Issue No. 357

August 2020

Ian Hore-Lacy is Senior Advisor at the London-based World Nuclear Association where he was previously Director of Public Information and Senior Research Analyst for over 16 years. He has a Bachelor of Science with honours from the University of New England and a Master of Science from University of Melbourne, both in biological sciences

France manages 58 nuclear power reactors throughout the country which produce more than 70% of its total electricity supply, the highest percentage in the world



Next General Meeting:
Tuesday August 18 10 am via Zoom
Speaker: Ian Hore-Lacy
Topic: Nuclear Power—Where Are We?

10-Minute Talk: Phil Rowell - Finding Great Uncle John

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Simon Appel



Oh dear! As we enter the new stage of lockdown, I am thinking of options for activities at home. I have cleaned the cars twice, the garden has never received so much attention, the windows are cleaned and the spouts are immaculate. I am walking often and have a very detailed knowledge of surrounding gardens, nature strips and cars. Now I will do it all again - and again!

What a wonderful response to Chris Renwick's excellent illustrated July presentation on the Burma campaign (see p6 for summary). Members recalled times with Brian Hambleton, our President of 1993, a gentleman with high courtesies and demeanour who participated in that battle. To read the coincidental acknowledgments from Members of their interactions with Brian was heartening; in particular, the responses from Lloyd Jenkins, Norm Griffiths and Ron Hunter. The comments from so many Members suggests consideration should be given for some more wartime memories.

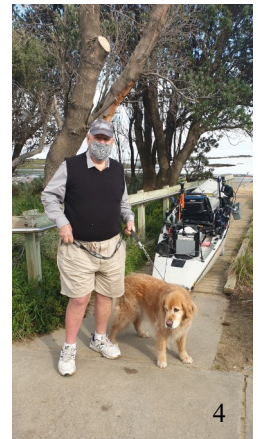
Throughout the past month, there have been many web interactions and several staying-at home options suggested by Members. Grant Sabin continues to provide his excellent drinking recommendations together with major historical events, including comparisons between present and past 'climate changes'. Geoff Wade has listed technology references (excellent summary) and Roger Wilson continues with amusing, serious and plentiful entertainment.

With great diplomacy, Jim Duggan has followed up a request from the Committee to schedule the Probus Bridge competitions so as not to clash with our General Meetings - which appears to have been accepted by all players. Ken Beadle has diligently researched some possible venue options for future 'real' meetings, including a 'what-if' for our annual Christmas function. We can only hope that life is back to normal by then!

This month's meeting on the 18th includes a presentation from Ian Hore-Lacy on the subject of nuclear power. I look forward to seeing you all on Zoom - what else is there to do?

Below left to right: How members are filling in their time during lockdown

- 1 Geoff Taffs inspects his vegetables at a community garden
- 2 Geoff Carlson about to walk the dog—prior to the Great Masking
- 3 Robert Kerr. What more can we say?
- 4 Roger on his morning walk after his recent knee operation



NOTICEBOARD

"I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down"



Lloyd Jenkins is threatening to join the Bike Group. "This is my new bike and I am in full training, mainly speed work," he says.

Bike Riders

Duncan Gibson

Plaudits to the regular riders for maintaining their dedication on winter mornings. Interestingly, the only casualty suffered in years was a tyre blowout on Jim Duggan's bike this month, happily within walking distance of his home. Special thanks to Ken Beadle our 'Pathfinder' and to those who bring jelly snakes for sustenance along the way.



Here they go again – masked up and social distancing

From left: Duncan Gibson, Ken Beadle, Jim Duggan, Robbie Kerr, Geoff Bransbury and Geoff Carlson

Photographs

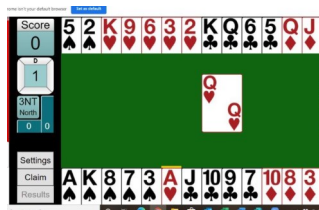
Please send me photographs showing what you are doing during the lockdown. Believe it or not, other members are very interested in what each other is up to and how we are managing in these uniquely straitened circumstances. Ed.

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

In July, the two Zoom meetings spent most of the time on the Covid-19 virus instead of the planned topic concerning the difference between news and opinion. This month: Tuesday August 11 at 2.30 pm and Friday 14 at 10.30 am - the main topic will be 'Black Lives Matter and Cancelling Culture'.

Probus Bridge



Ok. Your move. What card will you play?

During the limitations imposed by the unfortunate lockdown, it is pleasing to note that between 15 and 20 players have 'enrolled' each week and played via the online site 'bridge-base-online'; and several have formed their own table to play on other days.

Pedant's Corner

A little bit of unsolicited grammatical guidance

Use of the apostrophe: one President's Report is different from two (or more) Presidents' reports. NOTE: Apostrophe appears immediately after who or what 'owns' thing/s or object/s following. Only exception: its; e.g. the dog wagged its tail.

Nouns and Verbs: Practice/practise, licence/license.

A good way to remember is to notice that 'practice' ends with a block of ice, a thing (a noun); hence a doctor's practice, driver's licence or music practice. All the others use an 's'; hence, practising, licensed which are actions (verbs). Ed.

Hope everyone is practising social distancing!



Mystery Photo

Look closely at the lady in this photo and see if you can identify her. She has a close connection to our Club. Clue: The photo is 60 years old. Answer on p6.

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 increase it to the size you need. Ed

Cancellation

Roger Wilson

Pub Lunch August 21 is cancelled in response to new restrictions.

Wine Appreciation August 13 is cancelled.

Covid-19 Update

How to find cases by postcode: [CLICK HERE](#).

Go to Victoria, go to table of postcodes with most cases, click on View All Postcodes in small letters at bottom of that table.

Barry Amond

STOP PRESS: AN IN MEMORIAM TO ERIC SLATER WILL APPEAR NEXT MONTH

Birthday Boys – August

BEADLE, Ken 3/8	WADE, Geoff 8/8
MONTGOMERY, George 11/8	DUGGAN, Jim 24/8
MARCHMENT, Ian 19/8	CADMAN, Richard 24/8
HEWISON, John 25/8	DAY, Bill 25/8
GRIFFITHS, Norm 29/8	WIGG, Bob 31/8

Profiles

Peter Sherman

Peter was born in Melbourne and went to school at Malvern Grammar. His family moved to London for a few years when he was 13 where he attended an English Public School, Mill Hill. He returned home four years later and attained his matriculation before heading off to Melbourne University to complete a Bachelor of Laws. He practised as a lawyer with BHP before leaving the Law behind at the age of 28 to move into Investment Banking where his work consisted of equity capital raisings and mergers and acquisitions for major blue chip companies.

After undertaking a post-graduate course at Harvard Business School, he worked in broking as a Partner with AC Goode & Co until it closed late in 1988, when he moved into Private Equity with a firm he helped establish. Peter has spent the last 20 years involved in financial advisory work for medium-sized companies being involved in general advisory work, raising equity capital and assisting in mergers and acquisitions.

Peter has been actively involved in community work in the Brighton area as a member of the Brighton Rotary Club for over 40 years, including as a Past President. He was also a member of the Brighton Council, Chairman of the Liberal Party Balaclava

Electorate Committee, and helped found several not-for-profit charities as Chairman of the Brighton Recreational Centre and Chairman of BayCISS, a not-for-profit welfare agency in Bayside.

Peter has been active in sporting activities playing all rather poorly, he says, 'but with great endeavour'; including skiing, tennis, golf (member at Kingston Heath GC), gym and jogging (ever more slowly as the years have passed). These days, he enjoys the more sedentary pursuits of Bridge (with the Probus group) and reading. One of his consuming passions is the Collingwood Football Club where he has been a member of the coterie groups over many years. Peter has been married for over 50 years to Vera with three children and seven grandchildren ranging in age from 3 to 22 years.



A happy Peter winning an annual golf event at Kingston Heath

Lachlan McLean

He was born in Melbourne, if only because his mother came to Melbourne to have him from Narrandera where his father was an instructor with the RAAF. He attended Cheltenham State School from Infant grade to 6th grade after which the family moved to Queensland and he attended Yeppoon State School until 1955. Coming back to Melbourne and living with his grandmother, he attended Moreland Central School, first, and then the new Brighton High School when the family finally all moved back to Melbourne. This was followed by Scotch College from 1957 until 1960.

Lachlan left school to work at the Housing Commission and joined the CMF, serving for eight years, and was recruited into ASIO where he served for 15 years (including two years in Darwin) until superannuated out on medical grounds at age 34 - he had suffered a stroke followed by pulmonary embolus and DVT in the calf. With his father an airline pilot, he had always had a hankering to learn to fly and when his health improved in 1981, he attended Schutt's Flying School at Moorabbin and passed all the required ground subjects (including Navigation) but failed the medical and was told that he would never be able to obtain a Private Licence. He then bought a half share in an Auster and was taught to fly it by qualified friends.

After eight years of fun travelling around in the Auster (from the right-hand seat), he bought a half share with another partner in a 1942 Howard DGA 15 to continue his flying. Sadly, on take-off from Avalon in 1992, they crashed and the aircraft was totally destroyed by fire. Fortunately, both escaped unhurt.

Lachlan's interests include aeromodelling and travel, especially cruising - he and wife, Sue, have spent 330 days on cruise ships since 2005 and completed three European river cruises. He has a range of sporting interests having played footy with Old Scotch and in Darwin and cricket in Brighton. He rowed at school - also his son for Mercantile and Tasmania in the King's Cup - but now follows his grand-daughter's rowing career.



Right: Lachlan has a daughter, Catherine, living 200 meters down the street who is a piper in the Ambulance Victoria Pipes & Drums and a son in Tasmania.

Who Was Hugh Stevens? Part One

Some may not remember former Foundation and Life Member, Hugh Stevens, who died late last year; but many will. Not just because he was the inaugural editor of our manually-typed newsletter for more than ten years, but more particularly because he was a distinguished man of great erudition, spoke several languages and had a learned turn of phrase and a wicked sense of humour, once describing the early settlers in Beaumaris as 'pine ears'. His reports of talks and activities for his newsletter were always filled with amusing alliteration and literary allusions beyond the reach of many people; such as his summary of a talk to Probus in which he describes the journey of one lone yachtsman as 'in cabined, cribbed confinement', a nod to Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. The Club's history titled *From the Beginning*, written by Max Parsons in 2002, and which is on our website, is largely a collection of snippets by Hugh from his many newsletters.



He spoke several languages and had a learned turn of phrase and a wicked sense of humour

A good example of Hugh's unique approach to reporting appears early in the history in his report on one talk in late 1987: Fred's November address, he wrote, was a 'shear' delight. He pulled the wool over our ears about our ride on the sheep's back... infectious enthusiasm and deep knowledge of the wool industry brought him close to Nixon's philosophy: 'If you have them by the bales, their hearts and minds will follow.' Not long after, his report on a visit to a local production of *Two and Two Make Sex* described the theatre night as 'a therapeutic success' and that 'Parkdale's plush parterre proffered piquant, post-prandial production. Peeper-popping players pranced promiscuously; profuse, pertly provocative patter [which prompted] protracted Probian plaudits.' (Interestingly, the history recorded, the year concluded with a Christmas Ladies' Day smorgasbord lunch at the RSL, the first of many annual 'mixed' luncheons.)

During the next year, the Club visited the Nissan plant at Clayton which prompted Hugh to pen this cheeky (probably racist, now) verse:

There's a rittle bit of Nippon
To the east of Crayton Load,
Where they tly to impress the Aussie battler
Who'd lather stick with Ford.
They want to dlive a point home
In aggressive market mode:-
Rasers may be sharp but the power of the yen
Is mightier than the sword.

Then, after a talk by an engineer from the tunnelling group completing the Western Trunk Sewer, editor Hugh quipped that over the coming five years they will be 'taking the long and winding road to Werribee', and in the process depositing blue-stone chips under the surface of the MCG - not the 'first time that hard rock has filled the arena', he commented.

To illustrate the quality and humour of Hugh Stevens' unique style of reporting, we need to read the summary he published of a talk given by Ralph Butcher in 1989 about his father's missionary life in Papua New Guinea: 'His father, Ben, must have been one of those larger-than-life missionaries who helped to keep so much of the map pink in the days when a new guinea was as good as an old one. Ben knew that his two predecessors had been eaten, and yet he was willing to take the message to the head-hunters who had made both ends meat. Anyone who could build a 40-foot motor launch from jungle timber deserves a respected place in history and Ralph helped to keep that story alive. It is not clear whether the natives gave up cannibalism, but at least they say grace now.'

However, not everything that Hugh wrote was blindingly obvious, sometimes inserting classical literary allusions into his newsletter that only the scholarly could interpret; or reports, such as the summary of Beaumaris's visit to Ballarat, that requires very careful reading: "So it was the 'salivation army' which emerged in search of sustenance on the dusty streets of Sovereign Hill. Social Darwinism came into play, guiding nature's gentle-folk into the shingles bar of the timber hostelry, while the also-rans settled for a humble 'pine source' gazing at the 'soup herb' gardens of the simple cottagers." On another occasion he noted that the group had regaled themselves with 'honey, wine, cheese and chat until it was time to settle into our customary genteel feeding frenzy.'

"Norm was excommunicated for the wanton practice of concretus interruptus"

Almost every time Hugh put pen to paper, there was a twinkle in his eye; for example, his description of the Club's visit to the Reserve Bank's note printing branch on the outskirts of Melbourne: "On the forty-sixth anniversary of D-Day a heuristic horde of hardcore hedonists set off for a pilgrimage to the temple of mammon. The note printing branch of the Reserve Bank is at Craigieburn and the coach meandered through parts of our metropolis rarely glimpsed by genteel eye. Our attention was drawn to captivating features of the new Remand Centre which took longer to consummate than the Taj Mahal, thanks to the BLF. They regularly withdrew their members at the crucial moment until Norm was excommunicated for the wanton practice of concretus interruptus.'

Ever the teacher, his vast knowledge played a significant part in everything he wrote. But he did not wax eloquent about everything he saw on Club trips, excoriating one of the Club's monthly bus excursions: 'The coach was filled with the expectant clamour of sybarites at bay as the track became more serpentine and the quarry more elusive. After a couple of false scents we rounded a bend and there came into view an overgrown duckpond flanked by a gentle sloping absence of trees, the whole vista imbued with delicate shades of brown, framed by lofty Cyclone mesh, garnished with copious coils of barbed wire. This amenity would doubtless elicit a sonnet from a poet if he were sufficiently in need of a drink or a wash, but we did not tarry and soon wended our way to Arthur's Seat.'

Peter McGregor

Want to know more about our Club's history?
Written by Max Parsons (1987 -2002), it's on the website! [CLICK HERE](#)
Also, Newsletters from 2008 2020 [CLICK HERE](#)

The Last Word

Tennis Anyone?



The Battle of Kohima has been described as Britain's greatest battle ever

The Battle of the Tennis Court was part of the wider Battle of Kohima that was fought in North East India from April 4 - June 22, 1944, during the Burma Campaign of World War II. At our July meeting on Zoom, Vice President Chris Renwick gave us a comprehensive introduction to what was called 'The Forgotten War', in particular the British four-month struggle against the Japanese from Tiddern in Burma to Imphal and Kohima in India. The British were led by Lt-Gen William Slim, Australia's 13th Governor-General. His leadership brought about the greatest defeat the Japanese ever suffered which ultimately resulted in their withdrawal from Burma. The Battle of Kohima has been described as Britain's greatest battle ever.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the video of Chris' Renwick's keynote address on our website.



Left: Scottish Rail's response to Covid-19 - an attempt to promote the wearing of face masks. [Supplied by Alan Stevens]

Bushfire Benefit

Ever the activist, Geoff Bransbury has once again demonstrated his resourcefulness and service to others by taking up the cudgel on behalf of those unfortunate people deeply affected by the tragic fires in East Gippsland in January; specifically in Cann River and Mallacoota. Through the auspices of the Neighbourhood Watch network, Geoff and NW Chairman, Phil Lovell, raised \$3800 to assist in the purchase and delivery of 40 containers for much-needed storage for many of those who have felt forgotten by the rest of the community. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full story which Geoff told in his 10-minute talk on Zoom at our July meeting.

Right: Geoff Bransbury and Phil Lovell on-site for the delivery of the containers



Photo Mystery

A few weeks ago, the Amonds celebrated their 60th anniversary. Recently they were watching an episode of *Escape to the Country* (UK) featuring a small place called Lee Bay on the north Devon coast. In the background was the hotel where they honeymooned in 1960. See photo p.3

More for Lexophiles

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
When chemists die, they barium.
I stayed up all night to see where the sun went,
and then it dawned on me.

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

* Office Bearers 2020

* Committee Members

* President: Simon Appel	9585 6956
* Past President: Keith Ross	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: Chris Renwick	0419 927 536
Assistant Secretary: Garry Sebo	0419 340 565
* Assistant Functions: Graham Ball	9598 4125
Assistant Meetings: Barrie Gibson	9589 3902
Assistant Meetings: Graeme Keys	9585 7297
* Membership: Peter Flude	9585 5550
Auditor: Robert Lander	0435 930 082
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
Wine Discovery: Grant Sabin	9598 4768

Golf: John Pound	9521 8252
Digital Technology: Geoff Wade	9588 2593
Music/Opera: Barry Amond	9515 0725
Tastes: Geoff Bransbury	9589 1507
Bridge: Jim Duggan	0432 150 675
Travel: Simon Appel	9585 6956