



# NEWSLETTER

Probud Club of Beaumaris Inc.

[www.beaumarisprobud.org.au](http://www.beaumarisprobud.org.au)

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**“In the 1920s and 30s, Major Shaw had a private airstrip on the estate at what is now Nautilus Street. He used to fly to and from his engineering factory at Fisherman’s Bend, sometimes even flying home to Beaumaris for lunch. The existence of this private airstrip was not widely known, and so sometimes there were reports to police of a possible air crash when he landed.” <sup>1</sup>**



**He was influential in selecting suitable sites for aerodromes, including Essendon Airport in 1921. (Moorabbin Airport was not established until much later in 1949). Major Shaw became the No. 3 commercial pilot’s licence holder in Australia and he was one of the first tenants of Essendon airport when it still had a grass runway.** [1. Sandringham and District Historical Society newsletter, April 29 2019]

## Next General Meeting:

**Tuesday September 15 @ 10 am via Zoom**

Speaker: Tim Harding

Topic: Major Harry Shaw – Magnificent Man and his Flying Machine

10-Minute Talk: Phil Maddox Introducing Kazakhstan

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Simon Appel**



As we enter September, we look to some relief from Covid-19 constraints (perhaps).

Thanks to Ken Beadle, the Committee at its last meeting agreed to confirm our desire to access the Banksia Reserve Pavilion in 2021, pending suitable costs and catering. We have written to Bayside City Council expressing our interest. The Council recently confirmed future joint leasing of the facility to the Beaumaris Football and Cricket Clubs with the actual management yet to be confirmed, possibly with the Beaumaris RSL. We eagerly look forward to a successful return to Banksia Reserve some time in the future.

I would like to draw your attention to the recent newsletters from Probus South Pacific (PSPL). These communications offer us many options of interest which I hope you are viewing, and even actioning. PSPL has also identified this year's Probus Day as October 1 so we intend to celebrate Probus Day 2020 at our October General Meeting.

### The Many Faces of Lockdown

*Below: Some of Lachlan McLean's model aircraft creations; while Grant Sabin savours his oysters from Tasmania – "a new delivery today," he says, "fresh and delicious, a wonderful way to survive lockdown."*

*Right: Paul Crompton and friend. "We have two families of doves in the garden that I often feed," he says.*

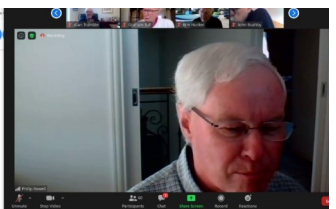
As you will be aware, our August General Meeting was a great success, thanks to the outstanding presentation from Ian Hore-Lacy. Members acknowledged his graphic updating of current nuclear power initiatives around the world; his informative presentation motivated many to hope that nuclear energy will in future be a consideration for our governments.

We thank Geoff Wade for his suggestions on upcoming topics on computer technology awareness for members of his group and look forward to more Discussion Group initiatives from Barry Amond. As always, Roger Wilson is persisting with wine tasting on Zoom!

I look forward to seeing you all at our General Meeting in a week or so and wish you a safe, happy springtime!

*Below: Geoff Wade, a devotee of marquetry, completes another work of art; Phil Rowell mid-way through his 10-minute Talk on a long-lost relative at Gallipoli*

*Also on Zoom, at the August 2020 Meeting, President Simon Appel oversees proceedings*





# NOTICEBOARD

## Discussion Groups

In August, a record 20 members took part in the two Zoom discussions. Meeting this way has become a successful substitute for the real thing!

This month, on Tuesday September 8 at 2.30 pm and Friday 11th at 10.30 am, the topic will be: 'How will technology and artificial intelligence affect our future lives?' All welcome. Barry Amond



Left: Barry Amond on Zoom surrounded by members as they solve many of the world's main problems

## Bridge

The regular games of Bridge continue apace each Tuesday with several other games organised throughout the rest of the week.



## Bike Group

Geoff Bransbury reports that bike group members still ride - but in twos. They are like strangers in the night and pass each other en route.

## Bayside Walks

Graham Ball

Now that Spring has sprung, a good walk now and again is worth considering to assist our circulation and breathing. Years ago, Bayside council produced an excellent, graphic and logistical guide to walking trails in our municipality. Ideally each walk is planned to be less than five kilometres and maximum duration of 1 hour (or less).



## Wine Appreciation

Roger Wilson

Our next meeting is Tuesday September 22 via Zoom at 2 pm. Each member will describe the bottle of wine details and naturally drink it by himself - as we did back in March 20. Rod Kelly will be drinking and describing a very special Talbot's Block 2013. [CLICK HERE](#) for more wine.

"We lost twice as many people from the flu last year than we have lost so far from the pandemic..." Chris Kenny, *The Australian* 22/8/20

## More Unsolicited Pedantry

### Errors that commonly occur in the Media

Two words that sound similar are often confused: 'home' and 'hone'. I would like to home in on 'home' first; then, help you hone your vocabulary skills – or, if you like, sharpen your skills. Got it?

Others (mostly American misuse): 'momentarily', 'learnings', 'beg the question', 'literally', 'incidents/incidence', and 'etc' (*et – cetera*).

## Greetings From Noosa

Ken White has cruelly submitted some photos from his hideaway in Noosa for publication. However, in deference to those of us who are suffering under lockdown, I have decided not to publish them. "I don't want to gloat", he writes, "but you did ask for activities during lockdown. My wife and I escaped Victoria just before border closure and after two weeks in NSW we are allowed to spend the foreseeable future here in Noosa. We're not planning to rush back soon!" Thanks, Ken. Ed.

## Have Your Say

[CLICK HERE](#) to enter Opinions & Discussion on the website. Either make a NEW COMMENT or REPLY to Duncan Gibson's thoughtful comments on Ian Hore-Lacy's address on nuclear energy.

## Life in Lockdown - Try Netflix

John Smyth

In a selfless commitment to the welfare of members at this difficult time, your tireless Secretary has watched hours of television so as to be able to bring you his recommendations:

"*The Vikings* is a long series - in fact, five seasons - about a viking, determined to sail west to discover new lands and riches. A great adventure story but not for the faint-hearted (ie. violent)..."

.. The other (also long) series I enjoyed is called *The Outlander*. A young English woman returning to Scotland after World War 2, on a second honeymoon with her husband but is transported back 200 years through time. Some violence."

*Sour Grapes* A 90-minute chronicle of excess and deception dissects a fascinating case of fine-wine fraud and the con man who cheated investors out of millions. [from Graham Ball]

## Birthday Boys – September

INESON, Noel 1/9	SHERMAN, Peter 1/9
MANN, Andrew 2/9	READ, Mike 6/9
PETCH, Roy 13/9	MADDOX, Phil 14/9
JENKINS, Lloyd 16/9	MARTIN, Ian 21/9
WILMOT, David 23/9	WEARNE, Graham 24/9
PARKER, Warren 25/9	RENWICK, Chris 29/9

# Profile

## Graeme Keys

Keys grew up within the sound of the crowd roar at the Whitten Oval and unsurprisingly he has been at both Bulldogs winning Grand Finals: 1954 and 2016. He attended Geelong Road State School, Footscray High and McKinnon High.

In 1961, Graeme commenced a marine cadetship with the British Phosphate Commissioners. Two years later, Jill Wertheimer and Graeme first sighted each other when Jill commenced as Secretary to the Marine Superintendent, Captain Henderson, who was a guest at their wedding in 1969. They have two sons and four grandchildren. In 1965, Graeme joined Australian National Line and over the next fourteen years sailed and served as Third Mate of six ships, Second Mate of eleven, Chief Mate of four and Master of six. In 1981, following an opportunity to join the Port Phillip Sea Pilots partnership, the family (and Graeme) moved from Ringwood to Beaumaris where Jill was transformed from being the lonely wife of a sailor to the family manager of the disruptive domestic life of a ship's pilot.

### How Much is a Billion?

A billion seconds ago it was 1959.

A billion hours ago, our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.

A billion days ago, no-one walked on the earth on two feet.

Graeme loved the work and spent the next twenty-eight years happily boarding and disembarking from a variety of ships in open water - often in boisterous weather - and spending long hours on the Bridge, mostly at night in close co-operation with complete strangers, captains and crews from all over the world. As a Director of the Royal Humane Society, Graeme is in awe of those folk who spontaneously risk their lives to save the life of someone else. Graeme also had a long career in the RAN Reserve with many varied postings at sea and ashore. He has little sporting prowess, but thanks to an understanding wife, has spent much time happily - in words from *Wind in the Willows* - "messing about in boats."



*Graeme comments: 'Living in the past?'*

For more Profiles of Members  
[CLICK HERE](#)

## In Memoriam: Eric Slater

Apprenticed to the building industry after WWII, Eric's work took him to Gippsland renovating school buildings in need of repair and playing football for Boisdale on grounds that resembled cow paddocks. He once gave us a memorable 10-minute talk on his building activities which, on one occasion, involved him throwing a brick through the window of a CBA bank in Armadale; not with any criminal intent, he said. He was just doing his job under contract with CBA specialising in the securitisation of banking premises and this was the only way to get rid of a large plate of glass. The work had to be done after hours, starting late Friday afternoon and into the early morning. There were many times when he found himself being raided by police because he was in a bank after midnight with a wrecking hammer in his hand! After a series of robberies, bank security included an armed guard outside the Black Rock branch of the CBA. Eric's job was to install bullet-proof security windows that protected tellers in the face of hold-ups. No golf that weekend, Eric said, but the real losers were the robbers.

Eric was one of Probus' most loyal members who, with his wife, Joan, participated fully in a wide range of activities in the Club – from the first days of Tastes, the Discussion and Music Groups, to the annual golf

trip to Howlong. He had been a member since 2002 and President in 2010. A rabid Collingwood supporter, Eric loved all sports – football, cricket, table tennis, snooker, golf - joining Victoria Golf Club in 1986 where he participated in many activities, including Friday dinners, trips to Mildura and the Murray and, of course, the Monday Boys. An eminently practical man who helped me solve many little niggling problems at home, Eric was a gentleman of the highest order. Peter McGregor

*Left: Eric and Joan (who is currently in care) were inseparable - despite the fact, Eric said, that she hated football*



## Hugh Stevens: Part Two

To read the history of our Club is to be overwhelmed by Hugh Stevens' mastery of language and insight, describing Telecom (later, Telstra) as 'a pyramidal structure grouping the discrete copper wiring from the individual houses into ever heavier tributary looms until they reach the trunk lines which link our cities'; or the Club's excursion to Walhalla where 'we mused in the sunshine about the lives of the miners who had eviscerated the surrounding hills in a flurry of oresome pickwork.'

He even managed to inject humour into his report on the AGM: 'As magic, the number of supplicants exactly matched the number of vacancies, so we were spared the invidious rivalry which dogs those who suffer under democratic regimes.' Furthermore, 'Ron Hunter accepted the brunt of the Exchequer with the grace that only a Scotsman and an Actuary could muster if wearing the same hat at the same time. The rest of the Committee renewed their vows without the expense or concomitant obligations of a second honeymoon, so we can look forward to another year of fun-filled festivity, fact-finding foci, far-flung forays and fortified fellowship, all overlaid with economically rational governance, packaged to please the most pernicky partaker.'

But a key feature of all Hugh's reports on Club trips was the lunch, often because he was always waiting anxiously for it. Sometimes, however, he didn't merely refer to it but included in the newsletter a full culinary review of which food critic John Lethlean would be proud. 'The chef wielded his well-deserved wooden spoon on the culinary table and produced a flash in the pan of epic proportions,' he wrote. 'The soup of the day was a miscellany of its forbears, parading under the banner of minestrone and veiled with an abundant suffusion of herbs.' In Hugh's view, 'the overall distinction of the meal

owed much to the quality of the diners, which once again proved that the value of outings is the fellowship they engender.'

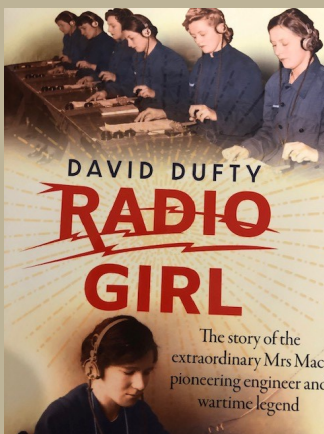
Sometimes, it was the morning tea that impressed him, as when he wrote: 'Nearly forty really naughty clearly haughty culture vultures went [by bus] to view a Rhododendron Garden at Olinda. On arrival we ... were led into the refreshment area and thirty-something breakfasts somewhat grudgingly made room for the interloping scones and cream.....'

On another occasion, 'there was a felicitous face at every window as our luxury road liner pulled away from the Community Centre' and 'a brief stopover at Kallista for morning coffee where a few of the more self-indulgent fell victim to the lure of scones and cream.' From there, the group headed for De Bortoli's amongst the vineyards. 'The meal was good value,' Hugh wrote, 'although there were a few *sotto voce* speculations regarding the tensile strength co-efficient of the beef, but such concerns were allayed by the revelation that the cutlery had not been sharpened for some time.'

After one Keynote Speaker's talk to the Club on the railways of Europe, Hugh observed: 'Ben claims not to be a puff-puff-buff, but the lilt of his voice and the glint of his eye betrayed more than a passing fancy for the tame monsters wrought of steel and wreathed in steam.' Then, after Shirley Murray spoke to Probus about Hollywood and Fred Astaire, Hugh commented, 'Nobody has ever accused Fred of having two left feet, but some uncharitable critics have suggested that his ambidexterity did not reach his tonsils and his detractors implied that his acting was subject to patches of dry rot.' All of it, classic Hugh Stevens and there is much more to be found in the Club's history on the website.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## What I Am Reading



"A smart girl from a poor mining town who loved to play with her father's tools, Violet McKenzie became an electrical engineer, a pioneer of radio and a very successful businesswoman. As the clouds of war gathered in the 1930s, she defied convention and trained young women in Morse Code, foreseeing that their services would soon be sorely needed. Always a champion of women, she was instrumental in getting Australian women into the armed forces."

Advertising her services as an Electrical Engineer, Violet opened the first Wireless Shop in George Street Sydney in the 1920s, built the first crystal sets and radios, taught young men and women Morse Code and was key to the building of an Australian code-breaking centre to track Japanese ships. Ed.



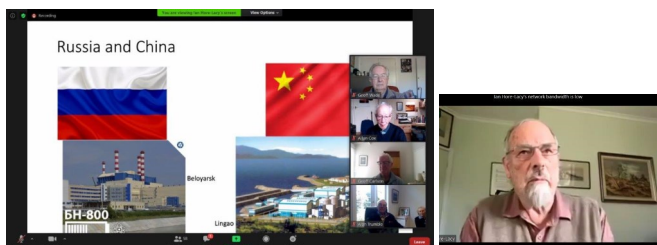
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## Left Behind in the Nuclear Age?

Keynote Speaker for August, Ian Hore-Lacy gave us an update on the current global use of nuclear energy to produce electrical power and where we're heading (or not). Members were all rather amazed at the advances that have taken place within the nuclear industry over the last 20-plus years.

Ian pointed out nuclear energy is the only reliable carbon-free way to produce power. He said that the countries leading developments in nuclear energy are Russia and China. In fact, China has just brought on-line it's 48th large nuclear reactor and Russia and China are also pre-eminent exporters of reactors; however, the USA is fast catching up. He said the emphasis today is on small modular reactors. Rather than build a large reactor on-site, these can be built in a factory and delivered where needed and as needed. Hence, the capacity of a power station can be built up over many years by simply adding extra modules.

Ian made a convincing case that there is no future sustainable energy production without nuclear. It was a great talk. To watch the video [CLICK HERE](#).  
Grant Sabin



## Gallipoli Revisited

*How a medal and a snippet of paper set Phil Rowell on a journey of discovery*

What started with a rare cleanout at home, resulted in the finding of a small case that led to a journey to Gallipoli on the 100th anniversary of the fateful landing. In an absorbing 10-minute talk, Phil Rowell explained how the discovery within the case of a medal and a snippet of paper set him on a journey of discovery, seeking to find out what happened to John, his great uncle.

What he knew was that John landed in Gallipoli with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion on April 25, 1915. He now knows that he died there but none of the 'how' or 'when'. One hundred years later, Phil retraced great uncle John's footsteps and found his name on a memorial at Lone Pine. He understands from a Red Cross file that his battalion landed safely and managed to get over the first ridge, but no other information of John. On returning to Australia, Phil went to the Canberra War Memorial to seek out John's name. He didn't find anything new but as he was leaving, John's Thompson's name was read over the loud-speakers. An uncanny coincidence. [CLICK HERE](#) for video.

Grant Sabin

*Left: Ian Hore-Lacy and his presentation on Zoom*

## PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

### \* Office Bearers 2020

\* Committee Members

* President: <b>Simon Appel</b>	9585 6956
* Past President: <b>Keith Ross</b>	9589 3580
* Treasurer: <b>Geoff Carlson</b>	9589 4884
* Functions: <b>Ken Beadle</b>	9589 6120
* Meetings: <b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593
* Webmaster: <b>Geoff Bransbury</b>	9589 1507
* Newsletter: <b>Peter McGregor</b>	0418 322 987
* Welfare: <b>Alan Stevens</b>	0418 336 354
Sommelier: <b>Bill Green</b>	9596 1548
Audio Visual: <b>Paul Crompton</b>	9583 1310
Archive: <b>John Howe</b>	9598 2429

* Vice-President: <b>Chris Renwick</b>	0419 927 536
* Secretary: <b>John Smyth</b>	0438 619 189
Assistant Secretary: <b>Garry Sebo</b>	0419 340 565
* Assistant Functions: <b>Graham Ball</b>	9598 4125
Assistant Meetings: <b>Barrie Gibson</b>	9589 3902
Assistant Meetings: <b>Graeme Keys</b>	9585 7297
* Membership: <b>Peter Flude</b>	9585 5550
Auditor: <b>Robert Lander</b>	0435 930 082
Recorder: <b>Grant Sabin</b>	9598 4768
Projectionist: <b>Philip Stewart</b>	9589 3309
Photographer: <b>Alan Stevens</b>	0418 336 354

### \* Interest Groups

Bike Riding: <b>Duncan Gibson</b>	9585 3547
<b>Ken Beadle</b>	9589 6120
Discussion: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9515 0725
PRISMS: <b>Bill Davis</b>	9592 5982
Wine Appreciation: <b>Roger Wilson</b>	0418395946
Wine Discovery: <b>Grant Sabin</b>	9598 4768

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