



# NEWSLETTER

Probus Club of Beaumaris Inc.

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

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## Inside the Middle East



*Peter and Margie have wandered alone in a 4WD camper around Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana; not to mention travelling in Syria. Privately they have paid for 20 primary schools being built in rural Myanmar. Last November, they took their two daughters and four grandkids to Myanmar to stay in farmers' houses in some of those villages. Their Powerpoint presentation is a real eye-opener.*

## Next General Meeting

**Tuesday October 20 @10 am via Zoom**

**Speakers: Peter & Margie Card**

**Topic: Syria & the Middle East:  
Understanding the Fighting**

**10-Minute Talk: Peter Loncraine –  
Great Australian Pub Crawl**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Simon Appel**



At the time of writing, the future looks very uncertain. I hope all Members had a **Happy Probus Day** on October 1. That celebration, the initiative of Probus South Pacific, resulted in excellent responses from Probus Clubs across Australia and New Zealand (including us). I hope all received our e-card.

What a wonderful history lesson we received from Tim Harding at our last meeting on Major Harry Shaw OBE, in company with Harry Shaw's grandson Tom Glass. Members will be interested to know that Tim and Tom have both applied for membership of our Club! We also acknowledge the excellent work of Paul Crompton and Geoff Cupples who carry out the editing of our Speaker videos. I recommend Members view the videos on our website, so expertly added by Geoff Bransbury. These key people conduct a complex task on our behalf and we acknowledge their expertise. Thanks also to our 10-Minute Speaker, Phil Maddox, who reflected on his time in Kazakhstan in 2003 and 2007. Well done Phil!

The Committee is working on some possible options for our President's Luncheon which is entirely dependent on Covid-19 restrictions. This function is likely to be quite different from previous times. At this stage, we are planning a catered Christmas 'event', probably at Black Rock House on Friday December 4. We also maintain our reservation at Victoria Golf Club which remains a remote possibility. Let's hope we can all be together. Further information to be advised.

Several interest groups continue with Barry Amond's planned Discussion Group meetings requiring everyone to do their homework. Also, Geoff Wade has forwarded the *Geeks 2 U* computer information to the Digital Technology Group and, of course, Roger Wilson continues email streams while consistently encouraging Wine Group participation (excellent vigneron learning for all of us). Not to mention the many members who participate in games of Bridge online every week.

I look forward to our October Meeting where we can at least SEE each other - better than nothing.

*Below: Some members have taken to picnicking on the foreshore during lockdown.*

*From left: Judith Carlson, Photographer Geoff Carlson (under the hat), John and Louise Pound*



*Below: One way to break the boredom of home lockdown is to do the daily crossword*



## The Many Faces of Lockdown

**For a piece of COVID wisdom**  
[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

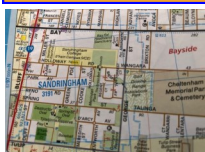
Geoff Wade

*Guess what? I found my Kazakhstani hat. Not sure if I have it on the correct way! However it doesn't matter because no one will know, except Phil.*  
Grant Sabin





# NOTICEBOARD



See dotted line (bottom centre)  
for start of walk

## ► Local Bushwalk

Last month, Graham Ball recommended that during lockdown we should take the opportunity to go on walks around the Bayside area. This month, there are no excuses; we have a map showing the exact location of a beautiful urban bush walk that few would know about. Park in Tulip Street and walk the nature trail that starts in the George Street Reserve (as marked) and continues through Merindah Park and back, exploring bayside bushland all the way. Enjoy.

## Zoom Connection

If you haven't yet installed Zoom on your computer/tablet/phone, it is very easy. On your computer browser type zoom.us and download the app. Similarly on your tablet/phone, go to Playstore (or wherever you get your apps) and search for Zoom, download and install. Once installed, follow the prompts to activate and you are ready to join your first meeting. To join, click on the link in the email invitation sent to you and follow the prompts to ensure you activate your camera and audio."

The need for rules is not disputed,  
As we all sit here fully muted,  
But, like when watching Dan on  
screen,  
I am inclined [ though sight unseen ]  
To yell things back in strong attack  
And wave my arms like Mr Bean.  
So, Mr Chairman, carry on,  
You are the rock we lean upon  
To keep good order, calm and clear.  
AND you can make us disappear.

Lloyd Jenkins  
(by request)

## Bike Group

Duncan Gibson

Probus riders have managed to keep up a modicum of activity within the mandatory 5 km travel zone by zig-zagging between Sandringham and Mordialloc. It has not been a lot of fun but one advantage has been the discovery of new watering holes (delicious!). We have also learned to ride against some mean winter winds. Regular riding must be doing us some good. All welcome to join us as the weather improves and the sap rises.

## Birthday Boys – October

GIBSON, Duncan 1/10	LARKIN, Garry 5/10
BRAVO, Gus 6/10	BEATY, John 8/10
LEEMING, Roger 11/10	HUNTER, Ron 16/10
JOHNSON, Ian 18/10	KERMOND Alan 23/10
McGREGOR, Peter 21/10*	[*80th]

## Wine Appreciation

Roger Wilson

Nine of our members joined a Zoom meeting on September 22 and we were delighted that President Simon also participated. Some great wines were tasted (unfortunately only individually!) Simon had a beautiful Eden Valley Riesling which was the only white wine. We had two international red wines (from France and Italy) and seven from all parts of Australia. Another great (virtual) meeting!

Next meeting: Tuesday October 27 - either Zoom or actual. We hope our Christmas Lunch meeting will be at *The Lobster Cave* on Thursday December 10.

## Music Group

Barry Amond

20th ANNIVERSARY



We had hoped to have a grand party to celebrate our 20 years since the group commenced way back in November 2000. However, we will have a Zoom meeting instead at 5pm on Wednesday November 18 for an hour with some music in the background and our own drinks while we look back over the 120 evenings of music, opera and jazz. I hope all those who have been part of this long journey over the years will celebrate with Margaret and me.

## Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

At their Zoom meetings in October, the groups are discussing: "Inequality and discrimination by age - from an economic and social point of view".

## More Netflix

Peter McGregor

An eight-part series, *Indian Matchmaking*, follows a Mumbai-based matchmaker plying her age-old trade based on astrology on the one hand and bio-data, on the other. Her clients are a bunch of upper caste, rich Indians and Indian-Americans trying to find someone to marry, not always with the most happy outcomes. A witty and engaging docuseries about modern young singles who in desperation turn to a centuries-old custom to find a mate.



## Sports Event 2020

There is a small prize for anyone who can guess at what famous recent event this photo was taken.  
[Answer: Next month]

# Profiles

## Phil Rowell

*Phil (right) and friends enjoying a drop or two after the game at Pebble Beach*



Phil went to school in the eastern suburbs, the first of his immediate family to have the opportunity to have a university education, meeting his wife, Sue, during the final two years at Melbourne University. They have two daughters and four grandchildren, moving to Brighton in 1979. A city-based litigation lawyer for 44 years and a partner for 30, his main areas of practice were asbestos litigation for a major product supplier and professional indemnity for most professions but particularly medical practitioners and private hospitals and insurance law.

Needing an outlet away from work and family to give some balance to life led him to being involved in senior voluntary roles in Brighton Little Athletics, Old Brighton Grammarians, Victorian Amateur Football Association, the Rotary Club of Brighton North and Rotary District 9800 as a member of the Board for a

number of years. He was also a successful umpire, officiating in the VAFA (Amateurs) for 10 years and was lucky enough to do a couple of A Grade Grand Finals as well as three interstate games. Today, Phil still continues in volunteering as the lawyer member of the Research Ethics and Ethics Committee of Bethlehem Hospital.

Since retiring from law at the end of 2017, he and Sue enjoy golf at Victoria GC, as well as interstate and overseas, in addition to spending time with his grandchildren. Until the pandemic, they travelled overseas and interstate regularly, always involving playing golf with good friends and feels fortunate to have had three VGC golf trips overseas in the past three years - from the west coast of the US playing the desert courses and finishing at Pebble Beach, to the southeast of the US playing in North and South Carolina and attending The Masters. The absolute highlight of his trips, he says, was going to Scotland playing 11 games in 13 days and finishing at The Old Course. Above it all, he says, is his personal goal of maintaining physical fitness, Pilates and gym sessions being an important part of his life; not to mention enjoyment of the occasional good pinot noir, especially from Tasmania. [MORE PROFILES.](#)

## Ken Beadle

Ken was born in Scarborough, Yorkshire, and won a state scholarship to Cambridge University, where he met Margie, graduating in Chemical Engineering. After university, he joined engineer-construction company Foster Wheeler in London, but newly-married relocated to New York for graduate training at head office. Ken specialised in oil refinery design and was appointed project engineer for the new BP Westernport oil refinery in 1965. He, Margie and year-old John came to Australia for two years to construct and commission the facilities where No 2 son, Tom was born.

Back in London, Ken's career blossomed and he became Manager of Engineering with a staff of 200 engineers and draftsmen and in 1973 returned to Melbourne as CEO of Foster Wheeler Australia. Ken and Margie and the family of now three boys - including Oliver - uprooted again and settled in Beaumaris. After three years including building a lubricating oil refinery in Adelaide for Mobil, project work completely dried up - causing the office to shut. By this time, the family were settled and happy Down Under so Ken sought new employment and the decision to stay in Australia was made - and never regretted.

Ken joined Johns Perry as GM of the Bernard Smith division, builders of pressure vessels and storage

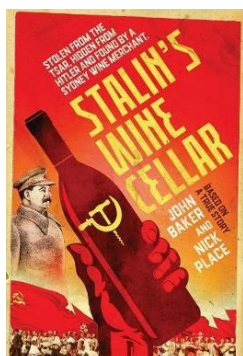
tanks. In 1980, project investment in Australia restarted, and Ken joined Fluor, where he spent 15 years in project and marketing roles. Fluor decided that 60th birthdays were also use-by-dates and so Ken received a golden handshake - and became a consultant for his last five working years.

Throughout his career in Australia, Ken has been active in community and professional engineering activities. He was a Rotarian for twelve years and served for six years on the National Council of the Institute of Engineers, Australia, and awarded the Chemeca 1991 Medal, the top Australian honour for chemical engineers. After retiring in 2000, Ken served for six years as a Bayside Councillor and Mayor in 1993/4. Projects championed included the new Beaumaris library and the Brighton waterfront bike path.

In his dotage, Ken has become a Board member of Neighbourhood Watch 3193 and keen member of the Graffiti Busters group. He is passionate about music, opera, ballet, bridge and biking. He and Margie have travelled extensively on adventure holidays, succumbing only in early 2020 to a cruise around New Zealand.



# Lockdown Reading: Recommendations



## Inside Stalin's Wine Cellar

*An Australian dealer and his friend go to Georgia to find the remnants of the Tsar's cellar and investigate*

This is a story of an Australian dealer in quality aged wines. In the 1990s, he was approached with a mysterious list of amazing wines, beyond anything he had seen before. The list was supposed to be a catalogue of the wine collection of the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II. After the Russian Revolution, it was acquired by, and added to, by Stalin. The wine, then held in Leningrad, was moved to a winery in Georgia, out of the way of the advancing German Army. Fifty years later, the wine was rumoured to be hidden underground in a winery in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Our Australian dealer; John Baker and his friend Kevin Hopke, go to Georgia to find the cellar. They quickly become embroiled with some very dodgy types in post-USSR Georgia. Scary stuff. I would think it should be essential reading for our Probus Wine Appreciation groups.

Chris Renwick

## For Golf Afficionados

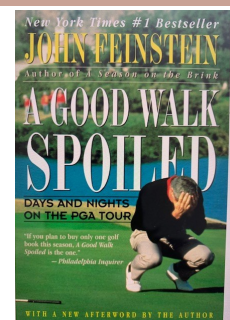


*His key finding? '... everyone in golf struggles'*

If you play golf, like reading or would you like to try before you buy, this is for you. American author, John Feinstein, has written countless books with sport as the subject - basketball, baseball, tennis, and golf. At least five of his books with golf as the theme are available as e-books via the Books app. on your iPad. The beauty of e-books is that you can sample a chapter or two without committing to buy.

Feinstein's first golf book, *A Good Walk Spoiled*, was published in 1995 and released as an e-book in 2014. The author spent 15 months working with a core group of 17 professionals following their fortunes on the PGA Tour in 1994. This included some striving for No.1 world ranking (Nick Price, Greg Norman), some just hoping to keep their cards (Paul Goydos, Brian Henninger), some whose best days were behind them (Tom Watson, Tom Kite) and some 'up and comers' (Davis Love III). The

*The beauty of e-books is that you can sample a chapter or two without committing to buy*

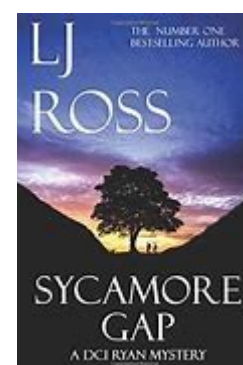


author's aim was 'to try and really get inside the heads of the players and to take the readers there with me'. He succeeds in his aim. His key finding? '... everyone in golf struggles' even though the struggles are at different levels with different stakes. The book does not lose any appeal because it is not dealing with current day players. Our Probus Club golfers will be quite familiar with the core group in this book. Thoroughly recommend.

Garry Sebo

## What I Will be Reading

*"...his personal life is as engaging as the plots themselves"*



For those who like to escape from more serious matters by reading romantic suspense thrillers, I can recommend a best-selling English author who I came across two years ago. L J (Louise) Ross is an prolific author who in five years has written 15 books in her DCI Ryan Mystery Series and three in the Alexander Gregory Thrillers Series. Reading on my Amazon Kindle, I discovered that Amazon allow some authors to self-publish and the resulting cost is low, \$4 in Ross' case.

Louise Ross grew up in Northumberland where the Ryan books are set. He is an interesting detective and as you read through the series his personal life is as engaging as the plots themselves. Although, relatively unknown outside the UK, L J Ross has even been described as the next J K Rowling, an exaggeration I think, but a suggestion of her appeal and ability.

Barry Amond

**"Annually, in Australia in recent years about 160 000 people die; COVID-19 so far has killed fewer than 900."**

John Carroll Sunday Age 27/9/20



# Back Page

## Introducing Kazakhstan

Grant Sabin

Phil Maddox provided a great learning curve for all of us, an overview of a country the Australian media seems to have no interest in: Kazakhstan. Phil used his two working stints, 2008 to 2009 and 2017 to enlighten us about Kazakhstan, the largest land-locked country even though it has a Caspian Sea coast. After independence from the Soviet Union the capital was moved from Almaty to Astana and then in 2019 was renamed Nur-Sultan.

Phil said the people are similar to those of western China. With a population of 18 million including about 68% Kazakhs and 19% Russians, the country has huge oil and gas reserves and uranium, with one other important industry: space whose facilities Russia leases. Horses are also important throughout the country, providing meat and the national beverage - fermented horse milk (which Phil didn't seem to have tried!)

Alcohol is permitted even though the majority are Muslim; Russian Orthodox is next. Although the country is wealthy there are large differences in the way people live, ranging from luxury to no running water or sewerage but with minus 30s in winter and plus 40s in summer. it's a hard life for many.



*Kazakhstan: A country not often in our news*



## Beaumaris from the air

*Aerial view of Black Rock and Beaumaris*

Tim Harding provided a brief history of the life of Major Harry Shaw, a magnificent man and his flying machine and his special relationship to Beaumaris. The presentation included several historic photographs including Harry and parts of Beaumaris, with some taken by Harry from aeroplanes.

Harry was born in England in 1889 and flew fighter planes during WW1. When the Shaw family moved to Australia they became the owners of a large part of Beaumaris after his father bought the mansion known as 'The Point' located where Point Road is today and employed eight servants. Harry's interest in aviation continued, even building an airfield in Beaumaris so he could fly to Port Melbourne for work - and sometimes home for lunch.

In 1921 he began importing aircraft to Australia. In 1931 he selected the site for Essendon Aerodrome. He made the 1st civilian flight from Melbourne to Sydney carrying his own aircraft tool kit, just in case repairs were required en route. In 1947 he started a boat building business at The Point producing over 3,000 boats. The family sold The Point in 1959, the estate was subdivided and the mansion gone.

Grant Sabin

## **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>Phillip 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