



NEWSLETTER

Probus Club of Beaumaris Inc.

www.beaumarisprobus.org.au

Reg No. A 001 - 6598G

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Issue No. 360

November 2020

After The lockdown



Next General Meeting:

Tuesday November 17 @10 am via Zoom

Speaker: Nadia Wright

Topic: Singapore – Challenging Sir Stamford Raffles

10-Minute Talk: John Opie - My Flying Experiences

FROM THE PRESIDENT

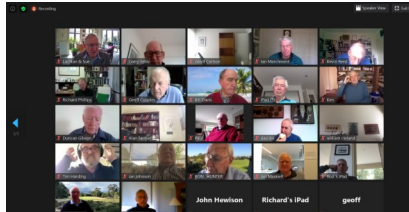
Simon Appel



Peter Card gave an excellent presentation at our October Meeting. His background to the Middle East wars was educational and enthralling. Peter and wife Margie have at least one more presentation on Myanmar where they have journeyed and actually contributed to the building of 19 schools in that region. Peter Loncraine delivered an entertaining 10-minute history lesson on pubs with many slides on memorable hotel sites (for some of us).

With Covid conditions slowly easing, we have been considering organising home visits which could be allowed for our next meeting. We will watch this closely for the opportunity to have more of our members actively involved. Imagine if we had Noel Ineson delivering Tall Tales himself.

The Committee has agreed to cancel the Christmas Party we tentatively planned for December 4 at Black Rock House. It is so important that we are always conscious of the need to be safe and aware, particularly for our special cohort. We plan to make a tentative date for January 2021.



Left: Snapshot of our last meeting via Zoom

The Committee is researching some other options for December and perhaps we can expand on that at the November Meeting. Barry Amond will have two Discussion Group meetings this month and then will celebrate 20 years of the Music Group at an afternoon/evening Zoom presentation on November 18. This is an outstanding achievement and we congratulate Barry.

During lockdown, Roger Wilson continued his Wine Appreciation delights and has a lunch planned for the group at the *Lobster Cave* in December. Finally, I am pleased to advise the appointment of John Hewison as an observer to the Committee as our Assistant Treasurer. John will retain that position until the next AGM when he has agreed to accept the role of Treasurer. Until then, Geoff Carlson will continue his valuable contribution as our Treasurer.

NOTE: As usual, there will be no newsletter in December

Far right: John Pound on his exercise bike; and below, the Bike Group and friends

At right: Margaret and Barry Amond on grand-parenting duty, building a wigwam

Right: Grant Sabin wants everyone to see that he has had his hair cut – at last!



NOTICEBOARD

October Bike Ride



From left: Noel Ineson, Rod Kelly, Geoff Bransbury, Ken Beadle and Duncan Gibson

We are such a careful bunch, nobody fell off their bike and nobody ran over a dog. This photo was taken by a friendly foreigner at the Mordialloc Creek Boat Harbor where the kiosk is still trading and the coffee is mediocre. As usual, in conversation we resolved the world's problems combining healthful exercise with our own mini discussion group. DG

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

At our November meetings on Zoom (Tuesday 10/11 and Friday 13/11), the two groups are discussing 'The US after the election and the world impact of Covid-19'. I am very pleased that Peter Sheldrake will join the Friday morning meeting from his home in North Carolina. He ran a senior roundtable for some of us before moving to the US 10 years ago. Any member wishing to join this meeting should let me know.

Music Group

Barry Amond

As mentioned in the October newsletter there will be a Zoom celebration of the group's 20th anniversary on Wednesday November 18 at 5pm. I have written to those who have attended in the past but anyone else wishing to attend should let me know.

Wine Appreciation

Roger Wilson

11 of our 14 members met on Zoom for our virtual wine tasting meeting in October ably co-ordinated by Club President, Simon Appel, who somewhat stole the show when he presented a Tudor Shiraz from Aldi at \$13 a bottle and convinced a number of members of the virtues of the Nagambie-sourced shiraz. Our next meeting: a 3-course lunch at *The Lobster Cave* at 12 Noon Thursday, December 10 (subject to Covid restrictions).

Ricketts Point Dedication

Ricketts Point is a special area for Ralph Butcher and his family who have dedicated a table at Ricketts Point to Ralph's great grandson, Lachlan Black, who died from a cardiac arrest aged 2.5 years four years ago.

Right: Ralph with the table at Ricketts Point



Tastes

Great news! Tastes is coming back.

Where: Royal Brighton Yacht Club

When: Tuesday February 23



This is our third year at this fabulous location. Enjoy an excellent two-course dinner and a free bottle of wine (worth about \$45 per couple - half per single). If the weather is kind we will be on the huge balcony overlooking the bay. Bring a hat and sun glasses - but there is wind protection. If wet, we will be inside in the large modern area. (70 + came last year.) If you've not been to Tastes before, you are missing a top event, so please come! If the virus stops us again, full refunds given. Price still to be finalised but around \$50-\$55 pp (inc. wine). Don't pay yet but please register! [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Golf News

John Pound

Planning for next year's trip to Murray Downs, Swan Hill, is well in hand



We have confirmed accommodation and tee times for the golf trip to the Murray Downs Resort at Swan Hill. The arrangements are:- arrive on Tuesday April 13 and depart on Friday April 16. Golf games on Wednesday and Thursday, putting competition and presentation of prizes on Thursday afternoon. Bring your own food and drink for a BBQ on Tuesday evening and a nice dinner either in Swan Hill or at the Resort on Wednesday evening.

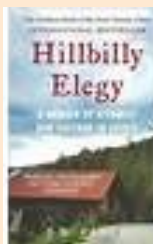
When restrictions on travel are lifted, and golf clubs are prepared to accept a booking from non-members, we will look at the possibility of running the Victoria Cup and/or the Elson Trophy.

Birthday Boys – November & December

RATTRAY, Ken 8/11	FLUDE, Peter 10/11
CARIS, Nick 14/11	GIBSON, Barrie 27/11
TAFFS, Geoff 2/12	ROWELL, Phil 3/12
STEWART, Philip 5/12	BERNHARD, Stan 6/12
STOCKDALE, Geoff 6/12	CARLSON, Geoff 18/12
ANDREWS, Warwick 21/12	GAMBLE, Aub 21/12
SOLOMON, John 22/12	
BRANSBURY, Geoff 28/12	
CLELAND, Bill 30/12	WALLACE, John 31/12

Post Lockdown Recommendations

The Hillbilly View



I'd like to share with you a book I was given for a recent birthday. A best seller, it's been described as one of the most important books on modern America. It tries to explain the cultural reasons so many voters put their trust in Donald Trump. Primarily an autobiography of one family, families perhaps unfairly portrayed in Hollywood stereotypes as

backwoods types living in squalor, surrounded by rusty car bodies and other assorted junk, people mostly armed, often drunk and without many natural teeth. While the image is unfortunate, much of it is true of a significant part of rust belt America where traditional society has been disrupted by the loss of manufacturing, especially in the car industry and in coal mining (abandoned to cleaner forms of energy). Sound familiar?

J.D. Vance *Hillbilly Elegy*

The hillbilly view is that polite society and most of its social institutions are the enemy. Trump with his (perhaps contrived) disrespect for conventions, his prejudices, his bypassing of the professional news media, represents a powerful alternative point of view. This book challenges us to consider what it means to be a role model for these times. Available from Bayside library.

Duncan Gibson

Warning: Don't Read This



Everywhere you look these days, you see one Bruce Pascoe bobbing up talking about aboriginal agriculture. He even wrote a book, *Dark Emu*, which is one of Booktopia's best sellers, won at least one Premier's Award for Book of the Year and has been included on school curricula around the country.

But it's absolute nonsense; as historians point out, there is no such thing as aboriginal agriculture. As one critic noted, "Mr Pascoe claims to have proved that, contrary to 200 years of accepted wisdom, [they] were not essentially nomadic hunter/gatherers but sophisticated agriculturalists. In fact, the very paucity of what genuine evidence he does provide simply reinforces that Aborigines were, in fact, nomadic hunter/gatherers as we have always, hitherto, believed." His conclusion: the book is a litany of lies and misrepresentation. For anyone who takes Australian history seriously, this is a book to be avoided. Peter McGregor

VALE: George Fabiny (1927–2020)

George was a very keen club member. He was in the discussion groups from the outset and he and Anya were among the strongest supporters of the music and opera groups. He was the club's auditor for several years. Many of us have fond memories of a highly intelligent, likeable and interesting man.

From the Treasurer Recommendation to be put to November 2020 General Meeting

As per our Constitution, the joining fee and annual subscriptions for next year are to be determined by members at the November General Meeting. Accordingly, my recommendation, supported by your Committee members, is detailed below:

Joining Fee and Subscriptions 2021

Subscriptions for existing members to be:

\$70 with a discount of \$30 - \$40 (Discount represents surplus from 2020 because of COVID-19)

Subscriptions are due and payable on 1 January 2021

New members in 2021: A Joining Fee of \$60

Subscriptions to be paid pro rata on a quarterly basis:

Where a person joins during quarter ending:

31 March 2021		\$65
30 June 2021	three quarter	\$53
30 September 2021	half	\$35
31 December 2021	quarter	\$18

NB NO CHANGE

A draft Budget for 2021 based on above recommendation (\$70 discounted to \$40), a transfer from 2020 surplus and a reasonable increase in monthly room rental costs and PSPL capitation fees, indicates a virtual 'break-even, result for the year.

History:	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Joining Fee	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60
Subs	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$70
Discount	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
NET SUBS	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65

Geoff Carlson, Treasurer October 2020



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN



To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. "In light of your failure to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA, and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately."

Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except North Dakota, and Utah, which she does not fancy).

Our new Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour,' 'favour,' 'labour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix '-ize' will be replaced by the suffix '-ise.' Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. (look up 'vocabulary').
2. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as 'like' and 'you know' is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. There is no such thing as US English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take into account the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of '-ize.'
3. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.

[MORE](#)

Profile: Peter Flude

Peter Flude was born and brought up in Malvern, then moved to Horsham followed by Bathurst and now lives in Mentone. Always interested in the land, he spent most of his school holidays working on a Wimmera farm. Following primary and secondary education at Melbourne Grammar, Peter undertook his tertiary education at Longerenong Agricultural College, near Horsham. Unsure of what to do next, he agreed to a 2-year contract with The Education Department as a maths, science, biology teacher, teaching some senior students only just his junior.

After completing his contract, he then went back to Longerenong as Lecturer and Instructor in Dairy Husbandry for two years followed by six years of Agricultural Science at Scots in Bathurst. During this time, Peter married Maureen and they have three sons and three grandchildren all of whom have attended Scots. In 1972, Peter determined that his teaching days were over and successfully joined The NSW Department of Decentralisation, during a very exciting period of decentralisation and growth centres where he served first as Regional Executive Officer and then Deputy Chairman of The Bathurst-Orange Development Corporation.

Peter and Maureen Flude



Not one to stand still, while working full-time, Peter completed external tertiary studies at UNE and The London College of Teachers. However, he finally returned to his agricultural base in 1977 as MD of a large agricultural consulting company until his semi-retirement in 2012.

Peter's main other interests are Beaumaris Rotary and loyally following a very frustrating Melbourne Football Club over a 50+year period as a member of the MCC. He remains involved in regional activities, particularly in the central west of NSW, continuing to promote the need for the development and natural growth of regional centres such as towns and cities with populations of 50,000 or more.

Peter joined Probus in 2016 and has ably served as Membership Secretary since 2017.

For more profiles on the website [CLICK HERE](#)

The Last Word

Culture and Conflict

What we might call senior backpackers, Peter Card and wife Margie backpacked extensively through the Middle East, using the local buses, trains and taxis, eating local food in homes and restaurants, taking advantage of the very warm hospitality of the local people. Setting the scene, Peter commenced with an introduction to Muhammad, his life and how he promoted the one God philosophy of Islam, very similar to that of Judaism and Christianity. However, after his death, Muslims divided into two sects: the Sunni, the majority, and the Shia. Today, the main Sunni countries are Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Iran is Shia and so too is the coastal strip of Syria. Across the area, all the main hotspots for conflict are between Sunni and Shia.

He pointed out there are four main ethnic groups - Arabs, Turks, Persians and Kurds - in the Middle East amidst a matrix of religious or ethnic peoples. This, combined with the way the western powers arbitrarily divided the area into different 'countries' after WW1, regardless of ethnic groupings, has tragically evolved into a propensity for conflict. Hence the drivers for conflict are religion, ethnicity and empires/politics; also, frequent promises of a homeland for the Kurds was never delivered.

In Peter's view, the USA's involvement since 1970 in supporting the Shah of Persia - a puppet of the USA - didn't improve the situation. The lively and fascinating presentation, featured many wonderful first-hand photographs, especially in Syria, and also excellent diagrams that helped explain a highly complex situation.

Grant Sabin

To see video [CLICK HERE](#)



"Peter Card and wife Margie backpacked extensively through the Middle East"

Pubs and People

Peter Loncraigne's talk was more than a simple pub crawl. His presentation encompassed an historical account of the impact of alcohol following the arrival of the First Fleet. In the early days, Governor Phillip banned alcohol; hence the advent of the illicit trade. It should be noted that the punishment for drinking in those days was the lash. Peter spoke about the popularity of pub crawls and how it became illegal to sell drinks to an intoxicated person; also the rise of Temperance Societies in the 1880s and 90s leading to Sunday closing of pubs. Peter's talk was illustrated with a background of many photographs of some of Australia's iconic pubs as well as beer labels that all but disappeared many years ago. His message for us was, while travelling around Australia, don't miss the opportunity to look at some of our historic pubs.

Grant Sabin

Picture Puzzle



Answer: Roland Garros on a rainy day



PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

* Office Bearers 2020

* Committee Members

* President: Simon Appel	9585 6956
* Past President: Keith Ross	9589 3580
* 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: Chris Renwick	0419 927 536
* Secretary: John Smyth	0438 619 189
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