



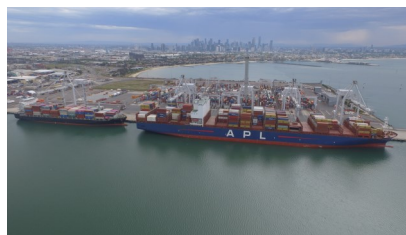
Issue No. 361

January 2021

“Victoria International Container Terminal was appointed by the Port of Melbourne in 2014 to design, construct and operate Australia’s first fully automated container terminal. The unique location on the bay side of the West Gate Bridge makes it the preferred gateway, providing unrestricted access for current and future large vessels.”

“Larger vessels are now coming to the Port of Melbourne for service by VICT. Innovation lies in integration – that is, selecting world class technologies to provide seamless operations end-to-end. A high-tech terminal ensures a safe working environment for employees and customers with a proven and enviable track record in setting high safety standards.”

–VICT



## Next General Meeting:

**Tuesday January 19 10 am Highett RSL**

**[COVID permitting]**

**Speaker: Patrick Chan**

**Topic: The New Port of Melbourne**

**10-Minute Talk: Garry Bradd on the Taxi industry**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Simon Appel**



'On again, off again' has been the pattern of the past 12 months in Victoria, and seems to be continuing for the foreseeable future. We have missed our face-to-face gatherings which were replaced by ZOOM virtual events. I think we have made excellent progress with these virtual technology resources because, prior to lockdown, we had only heard, or read, about this process of communication, not used it.

However, I have missed the chats we all enjoy when we get together, where a range of topics arise spontaneously. I have missed hearing the diversity of members' opinions – special thanks to Barry Amond for his Discussion Group get-togethers and relief from isolation!

I have also missed Tastes and the delights it brings; not to mention Roger Wilson's Pub Lunch at the McKinnon Hotel which I really enjoyed - a return to the traditional gathering with Probians and partners, in record numbers, demonstrating the relief of many in being able to 'do it all again'.

### **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.

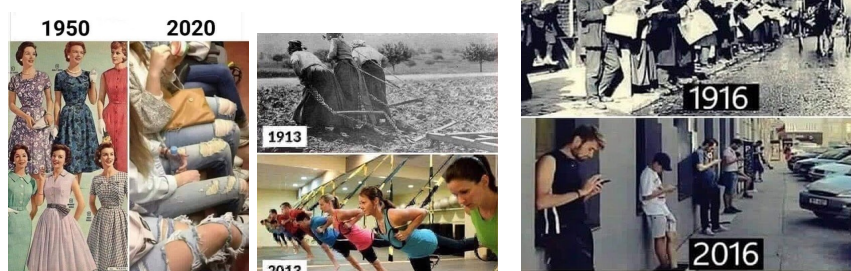
It was also a relief for many to get back to golf - even with masks on and/or off, and after-golf catering restricted, it was certainly better than nothing!

Now we face an uncertain future again. Our General Meeting is booked at the Highett RSL for January 19. At last discussions, the RSL Function Room will accommodate 70 people, and the bistro will seat 45-50 Members for lunch. It is one thing to make this booking, but quite another to assume it will proceed. I will meet with our Meeting Coordinators and the RSL and advice will be delivered to members to confirm we meet either at the RSL, or via Zoom.

Plans are well advanced for the President's Australia Day lunch at Victoria Golf Club on January 29. Ken Beadle has been in constant contact with VGC and it appears, at this point, that the event will proceed. I urge all members to make a booking on the Probus website and pay now.

Together with your Committee, I look forward to meeting you all soon. Face to face.

## **How did the world go from this..... To this?**





# NOTICEBOARD

## Bridge

Jim Duggan

As presently advised, we will be able to resume bridge at VGC on February 2 and each Tuesday thereafter—with the exception of the day of the monthly Probus meeting, of course. On those days, I would propose, we continue our online games. We also have our normal end-of-year lunch (which was deferred from December) on March 2 at VGC. This is an appropriate time for anyone thinking of taking up bridge to take the plunge. You won't regret it and would be most welcome.

## Music & Opera - the end of an era

Barry Amond

In November we celebrated our 20-year anniversary with a Zoom meeting attended by 27 members and partners. A video of the event is on the website. However, we've decided not to continue. 20 years is a long time and although I have greatly enjoyed the work involved in sourcing and editing the music, it now seems an opportune time to stop. In some ways our move from Black Rock led to this decision. It was an unexpected bonus when Margaret's art studio doubled as an intimate concert hall but when we changed to Beaumaris Library it was no longer the same. In total we had 124 evenings with videos of 90 composers and the better known operas. Among the evenings were 13 annual parties which combined music with a sit-down meal in our garden. We'll leave it for a while and see whether someone emerges in the future with an entirely new initiative. I wish, in particular, to thank Lloyd Jenkins who has been involved from the outset. Both his advice, and comments on some of the items being played, have been invaluable. [CLICK HERE](#) for video.

## Discussion Groups

Barry Amond

At our meetings on Tuesday February 9 and Friday February 12 February we are discussing 'How to deal with wokesters'. Yes, a new word but as we age there are so many woke ideas and we need to be prepared! We would be glad to welcome one or two new members. If interested please contact me.

*The pictures (right) are included solely to illustrate that our indefatigable wine appreciation groups do not relinquish their enthusiasm, even at Christmas*

## From the Treasurer

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Annual Membership subscriptions are due, payable on January 1 each year. The subs for 2021 are \$40 pa (\$70 discounted to \$40 because of COVID19).

Payment via our bank account is encouraged:

BSB: 063 144, Account No. 10121288.

You may prefer to send a cheque to me at:

22 First Street, Black Rock 3193

Also, payment may be made at our January meeting by cash or cheque.

Thank you to all those who have already paid. GC.

## January: Keynote Speaker

Patrick Chan is Chief Commercial Officer at VICT (Victoria International Container Terminal). He will speak about the new shipping terminal in Melbourne which is one of the most modern terminals in the world.



## Bike Riding 2020



Above: Some of our core members. Left to right: Robbie Kerr, Jeff Carlson, John Pound and Ken Beadle at The Nest, our Waterways refreshments café [Photo: Geoff Bransbury]

Our Bike Group will take a Festive Season break after a record 41 rides in 2020. The weekly Friday morning ride along the Beach Trail has been a much looked-forward-to event during lock-downs. In the period from the March to December, we had 39 rides enjoying incredibly good weather throughout winter, being rained off only twice. We restarted in January with a Covid-normal programme of weekly bike rides with one longer ride each month away from Bayside.

Ken Beadle

## ★ Website Password Change

NOTE: The password for the Register and Member Profiles on the website has changed. TBA.

If you have forgotten, email [gbransbury@gmail.com](mailto:gbransbury@gmail.com)



## Birthday Boys – January

MARSHALL, Geoff 4/1	HARDING, Tim 6/1
KNIGHT, John 10/1	SABIN, Grant 11/1
DONALDSON, Barry 15/1	MCDONNELL, Kevin 16/1
STURROCK, Jeff 16/1	GREEN, Bill 26/1
MASON, Geoff 29/1	

# Activities 2021

## January

### President's Australia Day Lunch Friday January 29, 12noon for 12.30 pm

After nine months without a face-to-face major social event, at last we can schedule our annual President's Lunch with confidence. President Simon is looking forward to greeting everyone at the Victoria Golf Club for a delayed celebratory festive season get-together and the start of the Probus 2021 social program. Members can be assured that VGC adheres to the COVID-safe rules for indoor dining. The appropriate protocols applying in January will be advised to attendees immediately prior to the event.



Cost is \$75pp for choice of main course and dessert served alternatively; tea/coffee; and drinks to a generous limit. Santa will be bringing the traditional free raffle prizes and our Tall Tales teller Noel will entertain us.

Please register NOW and pay no later than January 22. All dietary requirements and seating requests (max 10 per table) must be emailed to Ken Beadle by January 16. Please note that seating requests can only be accepted for paid attendees.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.

## February

### Tastes at Royal Brighton Yacht Club Tuesday February 23 at 6.30 pm



Join us for this great Tastes event. This is our third year at RBYC. Watch the sunset over the bay whilst enjoying excellent food and the best company!

If the weather is kind, we will be out on the wind-protected balcony. (Bring a hat and sunglasses) If not, we will be inside. We have the entire venue to ourselves. As before, a sumptuous two-course dinner with a bottle of wine included per couple (or two singles).

Full refund if the COVID-19 gods force cancellation.

Cost just \$55 pp. Please register and pay Treasurer.

[CLICK HERE](#) to book for Summer Tastes.

How Much is a Billion?

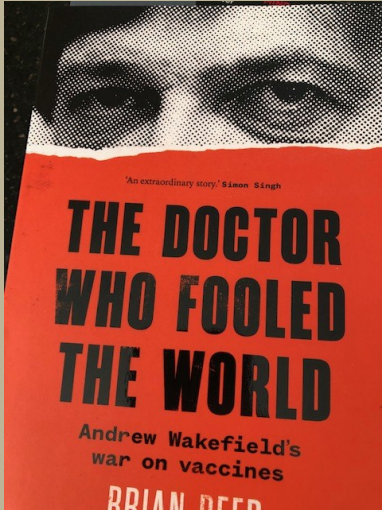
A billion seconds ago it was 1959.

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.



# Book Reviews



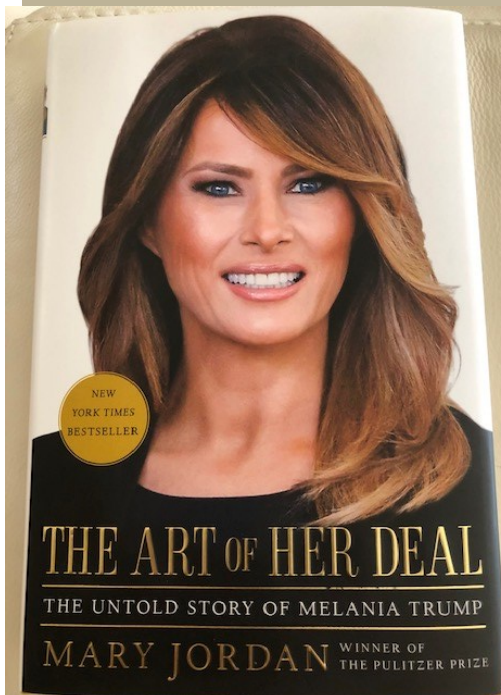
## Scientific Scam of the Century

This is an extraordinary book that lifts the lid on the fraudulent science of Andrew Wakefield, a medical shonk who has had such a negative impact on the health of children around the world. In the UK in 2010, the General Medical Council declared that Wakefield's research was not only based on bad science, but was deliberate fraud and falsification and revoked his medical licence. Investigators learned later that a lawyer looking for a link between the vaccine and autism had paid Wakefield more than a half-million dollars.

**“Too few people know how greed and deceit conspired to create the myth that vaccines cause autism. Only Brian Deer can tell the whole story because he uncovered all of its twists and turns.”**

Dr Ivan Oransky

What's remarkable about this book is not just the extent of the damage caused by someone with little interest in science, facts and the truth about good health - and the fight against disease - but the dozens of doctors and scientists who were caught in the maelstrom he created around his own self-promotion and his unflinching belief in a range of absurd nostrums about vaccines. A refugee from the medical profession in the UK, Wakefield moved to the US where he has been sighted in the company of Donald Trump, another antivaxxer until recently, and in recent times has shackled up with supermodel Elle Macpherson, divorced wife of a billionaire from whom she collected an estimated settlement of \$53 million in cash and a home worth \$26 million after four years of marriage. Wakefield's mother is quoted as saying of her notorious son, "If he believed in something, he would have gone to the ends of the earth to go on believing."



## Nothing Dumb About Her

Since the 2016 US election, Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* reporter Mary Jordan has travelled to five countries to interview more than a hundred sources - from housekeepers to room-mates - to deliver a deep and complex account of Melania Trump, the First Lady. While many of us see her as someone trapped in a loveless marriage, but going through the motions of playing her husband's game, others have a different view; behind the cool beauty is an ambitious woman who always had a plan. Jordan documents how and why Trump came to rely on Melania's political instincts and the key role she has played in some of his most important decisions. While Trump has a record of getting what he wants, it seems that Melania has consistently also shown that she cleverly and persistently works towards getting exactly what she wants. It is apparent that Melania is an independent soul - with opinions on everything from fake news to overseas aid and even domestic issues such as border control - and isn't afraid to let others know what she thinks. While some say, "She's a model so she must be dumb," but there's nothing dumb about her, insiders say.

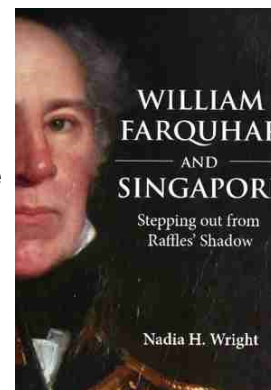
Melania's story is a play in four acts. Act 1: a little girl growing up poor in socialist Yugoslavia; Act 2: as her country broke apart, the little girl chased success across Europe in the highly competitive world of modelling; Act 3: the immigrant girl arrives in New York and attracts the eye of a well-known real estate mogul with a background of womanising and failed businesses. Act Four includes parading the stage as the First Lady of the United States but is still unfolding before the world, prior to the final curtain. It makes for fascinating reading.

# The Last Word

## Unravelling the Raffles Myths

Nadia Wright's research has resulted in a number of books about the true history of Singapore. Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles may have taken the credit for developing what was a fishing village into a thriving trading port but Nadia's work established that Colonel William Farquhar, a Scottish engineer, was the one responsible for the development of Singapore, a port no larger than Port Phillip Bay. Nadia pointed out that the most influential biography of Raffles was largely untrue. Farquhar said he was incompetent and that claims Raffles bought the island were untrue. For many years Raffles didn't even visit the island, during which time Farquhar built roads, bridges and fortifications, developing Singapore into a thriving trading port. He set up licensing systems to control the liquor and opium trades, at the same time bringing in good revenue. He established a police force around 1820, one of the earliest in the world. Sadly, Farquhar had to get approval from Raffles for his work, approvals that could take months and sometimes not at all. Farquhar realised the strategic advantage of Singapore's location, halfway between India and China, and was successful (for Singapore) in keeping the Dutch away. It was an extremely interesting presentation. For those who wish to follow-up, Wright's book, *William Farquhar and Singapore*, has just been published. [CLICK HERE](#) for video.

Grant Sabin



## Flying Experiences

John Opie told us about a couple of hair-raising flying experiences he had as a trainee pilot in the Air Force in Western Australia. He started his flying training in a Tiger Moth but switched to a de Havilland Chipmunk which was introduced as a replacement for the Tiger Moth. His first unexpected incident occurred when, with an instructor and flying at about 200 feet in a Chipmunk an engine panel came loose on one side of the plane. The instructor took control, slowed the plane as much as possible and landed safely. But his second experience, somewhat more scary, occurred when flying solo in a Chipmunk. On this occasion, he nearly lost complete control when the plane went into a flat spin. John said a lot of luck must have been on his side; hence he was able to relate the story to us.

Grant Sabin

"There are decades when nothing happens and there are weeks when decades happen.."  
Vladimir Ilyich (Lenin)

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

### **\* Office Bearers 2021** \* Committee Members

* President: <b>Simon Appel</b>	9585 6956	* Vice-President: <b>Chris Renwick</b>	0419 927 536
* Past President: <b>Keith Ross</b>	9589 3580	* Secretary: <b>John Smyth</b>	0438 619 189
* Treasurer: <b>Geoff Carlson</b>	9589 4884	Assistant Secretary: <b>Garry Sebo</b>	0419 340 565
* 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>	0405127271
* Welfare: <b>Alan Stevens</b>	0418 336 354	Auditor: <b>Robert Lander</b>	0435 930 082
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>	9598 2429	Photographer: <b>Alan Stevens</b>	0418 336 354

### **\* Interest Groups**

Bike Riding: <b>Duncan Gibson</b>	9585 3547	Golf: <b>John Pound</b>	9521 8252
<b>Ken Beadle</b>	9589 6120	Digital Technology: <b>Geoff Wade</b>	9588 2593
Discussion: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9515 0725	Music/Opera: <b>Barry Amond</b>	9515 0725
PRISMS: <b>Bill Davis</b>	9592 5982	Tastes: <b>Geoff Bransbury</b>	9589 1507
Wine Appreciation: <b>Roger Wilson</b>	0418395946	Bridge: <b>Jim Duggan</b>	0432 150 675
Wine Discovery: <b>Grant Sabin</b>	9598 4768	Travel: <b>Simon Appel</b>	9585 6956