



Issue No. 367

July 2021

Getting on with Life in Beaumaris



What our members are up to. Details: See p2



Next General Meeting:
Highett RSL Tuesday July 20 10 am

Keynote Speaker: Keith Bulfin
Ultimate undercover operative
Topic: Busting the drug lords

10-Minute Talk: Roger Wilson
Australia's Medal Prospects at Tokyo

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chris Renwick



At last we are out of lockdown. Spare a thought for those of us who ventured north. My wife and I successfully entered NSW but were stranded in the far north of that State for four days before Queensland would let us in. We got to Hamilton Island, met the family there (the weather was very ordinary) and are now back in Brisbane. Brisbane has just come out of lockdown and we are preparing to drive back to Melbourne. But easier said than done as we have to navigate the restrictions in both NSW and Queensland before Victoria will let us back. Fortunately, we are both fully vaccinated.

As Victoria returns to zero COVID cases, we hope to return to a more normal existence. Maybe that is the end of Zoom meetings, but I wouldn't count on it! I am looking forward to our deferred Candlelight Dinner on July 28 - the wait will make it even more memorable. I would like to thank Geoff Bransbury for his efforts in encouraging so many to attend.

Our speaker in July is Keith Bulfin, talking about his time with the US DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) and the FBI. It should be interesting. In August our Speaker will be journalist Rowan Callick, former China correspondent for *The Australian* newspaper, a respected author on Asia-Pacific issues.

I look forward to our next meeting.
Keep safe.

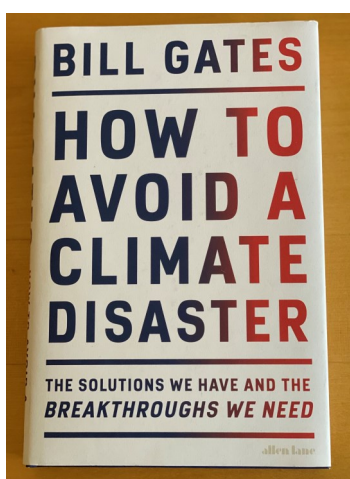
Birthday Boys – July

MURRELL, Rod 1/7	BEADLE, Ken 3/7
BOWLES, Tony 3/7	WADE, Geoff 8/7
MONTGOMERY, George 11/7	MEADE, Colin 14/7
LONCRANE, Peter 15/7	LANDER, Robert 20/7
APPEL, Simon 21/7 *	HOSKINS, Howard 21/7
SMYTH, John 24/7	DUGGAN, Jim 24/7
CADMAN, Richard 24/7	DAY, Bill 25/7
HEWISON, John 25/7	WIGG, Bob 31/7

* 80th

Pictures: Getting on with Life (p1)

- 1: Wine Discovery Meeting – Kevin McDonnell and Paul Stephens examine the sediment in one of the superb Warrabilla wines
- 2: Intrepid Bike Riders (L to R): Ken Beadle, Martyn Pickersgill, Geoff Bransbury, John Pound and Robert Kerr
- 3: Convener of the Wine Discovery group, Grant Sabin, enjoys his white wine mussel soup at Fazio's
- 4: Bob Wigg and Barry Gibson explore the many mysteries of one of the Rutherglen classics
- 5: The June Meeting of Geoff Wade's enthusiastic Digital Technology Group



Avoiding Climate Catastrophe

It may be preaching to the converted about Man's action or inaction leading to a future catastrophe for human beings; but Bill Gates does offer some alternative thinking re how we make things, how we grow things, how we move around and how we keep cool or stay warm. He breaks down some of the myths we 'know' and presents arguments to analyse the worthiness of changing to a 'greener' technology called a Green Premium. Overall he targets the areas for action both at a personal level through to government. At least he's trying to set some forward vision independent of political shorter term thinking. Worth a read, even though some will bite their tongue over certain points raised.

Alan Stevens

"Yes, climate change is real and man-made, and we should fix it smartly. But we don't because climate impacts are often vastly exaggerated, leaving us panicked." Bjorn Lomborg

NOTICEBOARD

**Fine Dining evening at the Melbourne Club
September 15
Three-course dinner with wine included.**

President Chris and Margery Renwick will host Members and partners in a splendid private room at this iconic club.



The Melbourne Club was established in 1838—three years after European settlement

A coach will pick us up and take us home to three pick-up spots in Beaumaris, Sandringham and Brighton. Pick-up around 5.30 TBA.
Cost: (incl. meal, wine, coach) \$127.50 pp.

NOTE: Limited to 58 - 42 already registered.
So, please book ASAP.
Cost: (food, wine, coach) \$127.50 pp
[CLICK HERE](#) to register.

**Candlelight Dinner
Sandy by the Bay -
Wednesday July 28 6.30 pm**



The Stiletto Sisters are a gypsy trio based in Melbourne playing songs of love, food and passion from Hungary, Russia, Eastern Europe including Klezmer, Yiddish songs, tango and French songs

Still time to book for our midyear dinner - It's a great venue overlooking the bay with parking on the fore-shore carpark close by. There is a lift. We will have 2 course dinner, wine included, and the fabulous Stiletto Sisters will assist to make it memorable. Let's have a record crowd - so register now and pay the Treasurer \$75pp [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

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.

NEED A LIFT?

Members who find it difficult or inconvenient to get to Probus meetings at the Highett RSL should contact Meetings Co-ordinator, Keith Ross (0418 584 401) to arrange to be picked up by a member nearby. Please get in touch to arrange a pickup for the July Meeting . We would like you to attend!

Wine Discovery



Family owned and run in Rutherglen, Warrabilla is best known for its blockbuster red wines

Grant Sabin organised the Wine Discovery group to meet at Fazio's restaurant in Hampton so that we were Covid-compliant. We had a vertical tasting of wines from Warrabilla in Rutherglen (mostly per John Smyth), starting with Kevin McDonnell's 2006 Limited Release Parola's Durif and finishing with a 2004 Reserve Vintage Portshed. The meal was outstanding again with fresh mussels from the South Melbourne market, chicken wings, meatballs made to Aunt's traditional recipe and finally lamb shanks with rosemary potatoes and fresh string beans.
Mmmmm.
Alan Stevens

Digital Technology

Geoff Wade

After nearly 18 months of no face-to-face meetings, we were finally able to get together on Tuesday June 29. For the past 18 months we have had to get by on distributed articles and links regarding various matters of interest. However, when we met we were able to participate in lively discussion on a range of topics including the upcoming introduction of Windows 11, factors to consider in buying a laptop computer, Apple's airtag trackers, free ebooks, and problems with printers regarding cost of inks. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday October 5.

Staying Connected

Geoff Wade

Via Probus South Pacific we have sent everyone a publication with interesting information for everyone about staying in touch. Keep an eye out for it in your inbox.

Wine Appreciation

We meet next at Kevin Mc Donnell's Sandringham home on Tuesday August 3 at 2 pm with individual wine choices.
Roger Wilson

Noticeboard 2

Discussion Groups

Barry Amond



Some of the faces of those who took part in the discussion via Zoom

As the Covid news improves, we can soon expect to return to face to face contact



Covid-inspired restrictions meant we had to revert to Zoom meetings in June. The topic for the day, 'China Revisited', was complex but our conclusion was that perhaps a nuclear war was unlikely. It was also pleasing to note that some other countries are beginning to realise the potential dangers posed by China's infiltration around the world.



In July, we will discuss 'Current Topics'.

The CPC celebrates 100 years since its foundation - and a property tycoon is gaoled for 18 years for calling Ji Jinping 'a clown'

She-Oak and Sunlight

The Australian Impressionism Exhibition @ NGV Fed Square, Wednesday August 4.

This is the new date for our visit following the Covid lockdown. Tickets will be distributed by mail to all members who confirmed they are OK for the new date. Meet in the entrance foyer for admission at 11am. As normal these days, contact details for tracing purposes will be required. Afterwards we have a booking for *In a Rush Cafe* at 12.15pm for a light lunch.

Ken Beadle

Council Grant

Geoff Bransbury

We are grateful to Bayside Council for awarding us a grant of \$2000. The funds were requested to enable us to continue recording our speaker videos. Paul Crompton has tirelessly created and edited our monthly talks for 12 years. The funds have been used for a new video editing computer and software. All videos since 2016 can be viewed on our website.



We would like to thank Paul for his very special contribution to our Club.



Paul Crompton powers up the new Beaumaris Probus Video Editing Computer

NEXT PUB LUNCH

Where: Mc Kinnon Hotel When: Tuesday July 13 at 1 pm.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register

Cost: \$30 pp (2 courses). NOTE: we can still take paid bookings until Monday July 12. Next Pub Lunch at the Newbay Hotel Brighton (cnr Bay and New Streets) on Thursday August 19. \$25 for one course pp.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for Newbay Hotel

Prize-winning Author Debunked

Bruce Pascoe, author of *Dark Emu*, "tried, and failed, to overturn over a century of anthropological and archaeological study, analysis and documentation, in addition to Aboriginal oral testimony, of the ways of life, governance, socioeconomic behaviour, material, technological and spiritual accomplishments and preferences of Aboriginal people in classical society and on the cusp of colonisation."

Kellie Pollard, Wiradjuri archaeologist from Charles Darwin University
The Age 12/6/21

".... either a profound lack of knowledge in relation to the peoples and history written about in *Dark Emu*, or an unconcern with facts and truth themselves, or a combination of these things...."

Peter Sutton, anthropologist, and Keryn Walshe, archaeologist
Farmers or Hunter-Gatherers? The Dark Emu Debate

This book ... is a defence of Aboriginal people as hunters and gatherers; as nomads; as a dignified and highly intelligent, spiritual people, who don't need to be and have no wish to be farmers or horticulturalists...."

Warrimaay historian Victoria Grieve-Williams
The Review in *The Australian*, July 3-4, 2021

VISITS & ACTIVITIES

Victorian Tunnelling Centre Wednesday September 1

Holmesglen Institute has established the VTC to train workers in underground construction and tunnelling for employment on projects that extend Melbourne's transport network.

On our guided 1-hour tour, we will see a replica three-lanes-wide mined tunnel; a replica TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine); and a full size TBM cutter head, the same size as the Metro Tunnel TBMs. We will also experience virtual and



augmented reality programs of working underground. VTC is located at the Drummond Street campus in Chadstone (Melways 69G4). We will travel by car - when registering please indicate if you are willing to car pool or if you would like a ride.

Meet outside Building 1 at 10.45 am for a safety briefing and the issue of hard hats and hi-vis vests.

After the visit, we will have lunch at the nearby Matthew Flinders Hotel (Melways 69G1). Cost of the visit: \$10 pp (which covers the tour and a small donation to the Homesglen Students Benevolent Fund). Please register and pay no later than Friday August 20.

We are limited to 30 people so register now to avoid disappointment. [CLICK HERE](#).

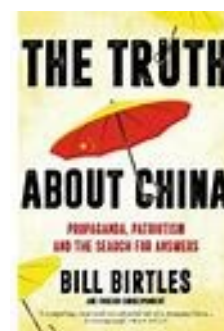
Right: Beaumaris Probus visited the Metro Tunnel Headquarters and Visitors Centre in early July

Afterwards, Ken Beadle and Lloyd Jenkins reveal their true interests in this trip (below)



Clearly, China is flavour of the month; or year. All the talk – and many of our current publications – are about China. A recent page in the magazine in *The Australian*, for instance, reviewed seven books on China by a wide range of authors. One of them was ABC journalist, Bill Birtles's book, *The Truth About China*, which essentially back-grounds the events leading up to his sudden expulsion from China. His crime? He had reported extensively on the 2019 upheaval in Hong Kong - often embedded in the midst of the action - that resulted in a brutal backlash from the Chinese Communist Party. While some might suggest the coverage is superficial, it does provide valuable insights into the changing lives of the Chinese people as they accommodate to rising living standards and tighter controls under the leadership of Emperor-for-life, Xi Jin Ping. Reviewer of the seven titles, Paul Monk, suggests that the best recent book on the subject is Peter Hartcher's *Red Zone: China's Challenge and Australia's Future*. "None of the other [books] comes close to packing the punch that his does," he writes. He believes we face a grim outlook in relations with the PRC, a threat he dubs 'the Paranoid Republic of Coercion.'

Peter McGregor



NEXT MONTH: A special autobiography by Rudyard Kipling

The Last Word

Staying Healthy

James Taylor's impressive talk on Keeping Good Health in Bayside turned out to be an amazing and comprehensive lesson on how to look after oneself and full of interesting information. His first message was to get the COVID jab which is nowhere near as dangerous as the media would like us to believe. He pointed out that in future it could be akin to flu shots where we will need one every year.



Bayside has the largest percentage of old and aging people.

James spoke about the health benefits of living in Bayside, a place that has the largest percentage of old and aging people. We have wide open spaces, less pollution and are well catered with hospitals and a good ambulance cover. He then provided some valuable lessons on how to obtain maximum benefits from visits to the GP. He spoke about booking double appointments, taking notes, working on their strengths and getting second opinions. The final message was 'it's not all rosy'. James spoke about chronic hospital underfunding primarily as a result of the Fed's reduced share of costs - hence the long waiting times (referred to as 'ramping') to be transferred from an ambulance to a hospital bed. He urged us to write to both Federal and State politicians to point out how things are deteriorating.

Grant Sabin



Ken said compared with other planes the 747 is benign

Even You Can Do It?

Our June 10-minute speaker, Ken White, a retired Singapore Airlines Captain, described the long process of reaching the position of jumbo captain. Over a period of many years, Ken progressed from flying a DC3 to a 747 400. He said compared with other planes the 747 is benign, easy to handle and a great plane to fly. He described an incident where, early in his career during winter, on approaching Anchorage, he was directed to use the shorter cross runway, a runway that was covered in snow and ice - and a strong tail-wind to contend with. (His choice: the alternative was a 3-hour diversion to Vancouver and using up most of his fuel.) Calling on his limited experience, he managed to make a very successful landing - with only a few skids. His excellent talk was completed with a vivid cockpit video taken from a jumbo landing at Kai Tak, the very old Hong Kong airport nestled amidst its many skyscrapers. Some of us found watching the cockpit video just a little unsettling and belying the title of his talk, 'Anyone Can Fly a Jumbo'.

Grant Sabin

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

*** Office Bearers 2021**

** Committee Members*

*President: **Chris Renwick** 0419 927 536
 * Past President: **Simon Appel** 9585 6956
 * Treasurer: **John Hewison** 0419 357 203
 * Functions: **Geoff Bransbury** 0416 294 452
 * Webmaster: **Geoff Bransbury** 0416 294 452
 Assistant Meetings: **Barrie Gibson** 9589 3902
 * Newsletter: **Peter McGregor** 0418 322 987
 * Welfare: **Alan Stevens** 0418 336 354
 Recorder: **Grant Sabin** 9598 4768
 Audio Visual: **Paul Crompton** 9583 1310
 Archive: **John Howe** 9598 2429

* Vice-President: **Jim Duggan** 0432 150 675
 * Secretary: **Garry Sebo** 0419 340 565
 * Assistant Treasurer: **Geoff Carlson** 9521 0024
 * Assistant Functions: **Ken Beadle** 9589 6120
 * Meetings: **Keith Ross** 9589 3580
 Sommelier: **Bill Green** 9596 1548
 * Membership: **Peter Flude** 0405 127 271
 Auditor: **Robert Lander** 0435 930 082
 Assistant Recorder: **Simon Appel** 9585 6956
 Projectionist: **Geoff Cupples** 0411 251 406
 Photographer: **Alan Stevens** 0418 336 354

*** Interest Groups**

Bike Riding: **Ken Beadle** 9589 6120
 Digital Technology: **Geoff Wade** 9588 2593
 Discussion: **Barry Amond** 9515 0725
 Tastes: **Geoff Bransbury** 0416 294 452
 Bridge: **Jim Duggan** 0432 150 675
 Wine Discovery: **Grant Sabin** 9598 4768
 Pub Lunch: **Roger Wilson** 0418 395 946

Golf: **John Pound** 9521 8252
 Visits: **Ken Beadle** 9589 6120
 PRISMS: **Alan Nash** 9589 2934
 Wine Appreciation: **Roger Wilson** 0418 395 946
 Theatre: **Graham Ball** 9598 4125
 Travel: **Simon Appel** 9585 6956