



NEWSLETTER

Probus Club of Beaumaris Inc.

www.beaumarisprobus.org.au

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Issue No. 368

August 2021



China has 2,183,000 personnel they can send to war if they have to
China is building 120 new missile sites—a 10-fold increase in its strike force of long-range nuclear weapons



Next General Meeting:
Highett RSL* Tuesday August 17 10 am

Keynote Speaker: Rowan Callick, Journalist
The Next 100 Glorious Years of Chinese Communism

*unless advised otherwise

10-Minute Talk: Ian Marchment Organ Transplants

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chris Renwick



Just when we thought we were out of lockdown!

However, we must be grateful as we look at New South Wales and the crisis that confronts them. Remarkably, Queensland's current outbreak even has young children making up many of the cases and I get annoyed whenever I see people flouting the rules. It seems inevitable that we will not avoid future lockdowns.

It was most unfortunate that the Candlelight Dinner had to be cancelled - over 100 people had booked! There is the Pub Lunch coming at the end of August and dinner at the Melbourne Club in September. Let's enjoy these functions while we can.

Our Speaker in August is Rowan Callick who is a double Walkley Award winner and a Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year. Rowan has worked and lived in PNG, Hong Kong and China as *The Australian's* correspondent. He observes that while much of the world is in COVID-19 agony, China's Communist Party is celebrating as nothing before. He will have some surprising observations to share with us at our next meeting.

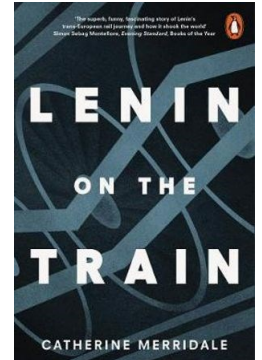


Peter and Helen McGregor inspecting one of many paintings by Arthur Streeton at the NGV's Australian Impressionism: She-Oak and Sunlight exhibition. – more pictures p5

Birthday Boys – August

Beadle, Ken 3/8	Wade, Geoff 8/8
Montgomery, George 11/8	Marchment, Ian 19/8
Cadman Richard 24/8	Duggan, Jim 24/8
Hewison, John 25/8	Wigg, Bob 31/8

A group of nobodies is smuggled across Europe during the First World War and alters the course of history



Train to Nowhere

It has been called the Journey that Changed the World. A group of Russian nobodies living in exile in Switzerland in the early decades of the 20th century travels from Zurich to Petrograd (St Petersburg) in a bare, sealed third-class railway carriage across both warring Germany and the length of treacherous Sweden. They were led by a revolutionary fanatic who called himself Lenin, a zealot anticipating world revolution, starting in countries in Western Europe. What he didn't know was that he was being abetted by the German High Command which saw a unique opportunity to destabilise Russia – Britain's major ally in the First World War – which was beginning to show signs of disintegrating through civil unrest. It worked.

After an arduous and frightening trip of several days, the group arrives on the border with Russia at the Finland Station, Petrograd. They were met by Lenin's excited acolytes - Bolsheviks - armed and ready for revolution. Within months, they had overthrown the czarist regime and begun a frightening reign of terror resulting in the deaths of millions and the start of the Cold War. A gripping, little-known piece of history.

Peter McGregor

Above: We have all been glued to the television in recent times, watching events at the Tokyo Olympic Games; including Immediate Past President Simon Appel and Alfie



NOTICEBOARD

August Keynote Speaker: Rowan Callick

Melbourne-based author Rowan Callick, Industry Fellow at Griffith University's Asia Institute, worked for almost 20 years for the *AFR* as its China Correspondent based in Hong Kong, from 1996-2000. He joined *The Australian* at the start of 2006 as China Correspondent and became its Asia-Pacific Editor in 2009, returning to Beijing as China Correspondent from the start of 2016 to mid 2018, when he left to develop a new role as a public speaker, author and columnist. He continues to write regularly for the newspaper.



*From 1990-1992 Rowan was a senior writer with **Time** magazine*

Next Pub Lunch

Thursday August 19 at The Newbay Pub, Brighton.
Time: 12 noon
To register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Roger Wilson

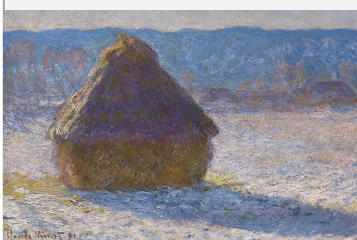
Cost: \$25pp

Email scams

Several members of the Digital Technology group have alerted me to the danger of potential email scams. One particularly prevalent at the present purports to come from Telstra but does not have the usual look of an email from Telstra, advising that your bill is available to view. However, if you look at the address from which it comes it is not a Telstra address. My daughter works for Telstra and she has alerted their cyber security group and confirms it is a scam. Advice: DO NOT CLICK on anything.

If you receive an email that looks a bit suspect, check the originating address before doing anything. If it contains a series of numbers and letters, it is probably a scam. Unless it has a recognisable domain name such as "telstra.com". "bigpond.com" or "gmail.com" delete it. The main aim of scams is to get your email address and then your passwords and that can lead to all sorts of problems including access to various accounts.

Geoff Wade



Beaumaris Probus Visits the NGV

*From She-oak and Sunlight
Exhibition at the
NGV*

Discussion Groups

The current lockdown has meant that we have had to meet via Zoom



In July, we discussed five Current Topics including single-sex clubs - and agreed that they should be allowed! There are no meetings in August but in September we celebrate our 10th Anniversary. For this occasion, the two groups will meet together on Tuesday September 14 at 2 pm. The groups have each met 70 times covering many different topics but as well as toasting ourselves we are going to talk about the future of our discussions. The main topic will be 'Sliding Doors' where fate has had an impact on us personally or on organisations. More details will be sent to members before the meeting.

Barry Amond

Mixed Bridge

Jim Duggan

We have been permitted to book a Sunday lunch/bridge day on September 12. The arrangements including menu options will be much the same as the earlier cancelled event with the only difference being we cannot come earlier than when lunch is served (i.e. 12:30) – therefore having a drink before lunch is out. Of course, all subject to whatever virus restrictions applicable on the day.



Wine Discovery

Our next planned meeting is Wednesday August 18 to discover malbec wines from France, Argentina and Oz. That's if we have covid permission to visit Paul Stephen's abode!

Grant Sabin

Keith Bulfin

For another look at the amazing story from our July Speaker, [CLICK HERE](#). A ripping yarn.



"I no longer have any intention of sacrificing my life, my time, my freedom and the adolescence of my daughters, as well as their right to study properly, for those who refuse to be vaccinated.... [while] those who for reasons incomprehensible in the country of Louis Pasteur, science and the Enlightenment still hesitate to use the only weapon available against the pandemic, the vaccine."

French President Macron

Visits & Excursions



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

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.

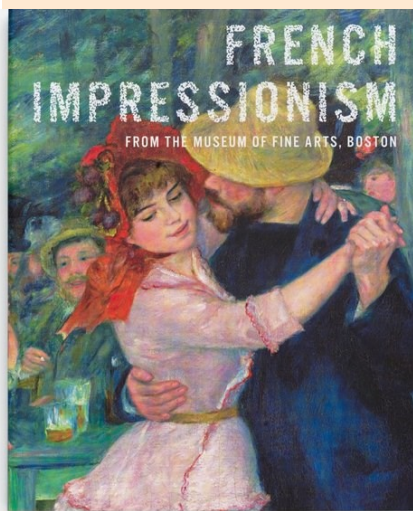
Cost: (incl. meal, wine, coach) \$127.50 pp.

NOTE: Limit: 58 42 already registered.

So, please book ASAP.

Cost: (food, wine, coach) \$127.50 pp

To Register, [CLICK HERE](#).

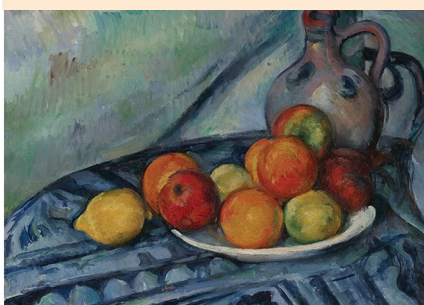


Victorian Tunnelling Centre

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.

[CLICK HERE](#)

To Register



French Impressionism @ NGV

Visit to "French Impressionism from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston" Exhibition, Wednesday 22nd September. See more than 100 masterworks by some of the world's most famous artists including Monet, Renoir, Degas and Pissarro at NGV International at St. Kilda Road.

Guided tours remain unavailable due to Covid restrictions and ticketed session times reduce the number of people in the gallery. We meet in the entrance foyer for admission at 11.00 am to the NGV's 2021 blockbuster event.

Cost: \$30 (covers entrance to the exhibition and booking fee). After viewing we will have lunch in the upstairs tearoom at 12.15 pm. Very early registration is requested to ensure we all secure entry tickets; payment by September 8 at latest.

Please advise Ken Beadle if you will not be staying for lunch.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register

What Our Members Are Doing

A great Probus Pub lunch enjoyed by 30 at the McKinnon Hotel in July.

Roger Wilson

Below (Left to right): Beth Gibson, Tina Wigg, Bob Wigg, Barrie Gibson, Lachie McLean, Sue McLean and Margaret Amond



Above (L to R): Peter Flude, George Montgomery, Alan Trumble and wife, Jan, Rod Hammond, Lloyd Jenkins, Barry Amond, John Fisher, and John Beaty



Exhibition

One Sunday in July, I attended the Patricia Piccinini Exhibition held in the upper rooms of the Flinders St Station including the Ballroom. Alan Stevens

Below: Richard Wilson admires Tom Roberts' *Bailed Up*



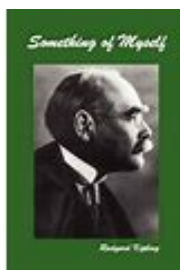
Muis Van Ruyven and Gail Seedsman at NGV's *She-Oak and Sunlight* exhibition

Muis and Helen McGregor inspect one of the many exhibits
[Photos: Alan Stevens]

Kipling By Himself

I was unaware that Rudyard Kipling had written this autobiography until discovering a book inherited from my late father, assigned for reading by literature students at Murdoch University where he took a degree. Kipling is of, course, famous for his *Jungle Books*, *Captains Courageous*, his poem/hymn *Recessional* (from which we get 'Lest we forget') and other works that rank as classics of English language. One of the most widely read of all writers, he was Britain's first Nobel Prize winner for Literature, in 1907. His life was one of privilege but also hardship. As a child, he was left in an unfriendly boarding house in England where he was routinely bullied and punished while his parents followed their careers in colonial service in India. As a young man, he worked for colonial newspapers, mixed with many notables including Prime Ministers, military leaders and common people, providing him with unique insights to the great socio-political movements of the day. *Something of Myself* is recommended reading for anyone interested in the history of English colonial life and times.

Duncan Gibson



The Last Word

Believe it or Not?



According to Keith Bulfin, he was co-opted to work undercover by police and authorities in the US, Mexico and Colombia

Keith Bulfin, self-styled undercover operative, told members in July that after befriending a Mexican who claimed to be a coffee importer (but supposedly part of a major Mexican drug cartel), he was roped in by the US Department of Justice where (he says) he continues to be employed. Following a visit to his home by State and Federal police, together with FBI officials and Mexican Federal police, he was told that his 'friend' was the number one banker for drug cartels in Mexico and Colombia. 'On the run' after arriving in Australia under a false name and identity, he had informed the cartels that he had found a 'new banker' in Australia. His first task, he said, was to set up a bank in Santiago, one that could be used to distribute billions of dollars in cash, which he says he did. Credulity a bit stretched here.

His subsequent adventures are the sort of thing you only read about in escapist fiction but made for a very entertaining half hour. Believe it or not.

Simon Appel

Roger's Crystal Ball: Australia's Medal Prospects at the Olympics

With the Olympics about to commence, Roger described five new sports: Karate, Skate Boarding, Surfing, Sport Climbing and BMX Freestyle. Overall, there will be 339 Olympic events at 42 venues which contrasted with Athens in 1896 which had 10 sports and 43 events! For the first time, Australia will have two flag bearers - swimmer Cate Campbell and basketballer Patty Mills.

Roger predicts Australian competitors will gain 49 medals of which 19 will be gold. For the gold, he expects the tally will include women's swimming (5 gold), canoeing (2 gold), equestrian (1 gold), men's hockey (1 gold), athletics (1 gold), BMX Freestyle (1 gold), cycling (1 gold), sailing (2 gold) and women's tennis (1 gold). Roger's detailed predictions are on the Probus web site. We can check his predictions! Go Aussies!

Grant Sabin



For another look, [CLICK HERE](#).

My father's favourite aphorism: "Believe nothing that you hear and only half of what you see." Ed.

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