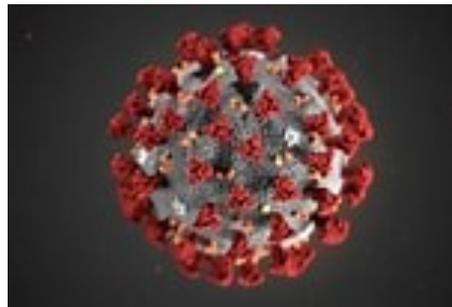




Issue No. 360

October 2021

Allen Cheng is a specialist in infectious diseases and an epidemiologist. Based at the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Monash and the Infectious Diseases Unit at The Alfred hospital in Melbourne, he's involved in preventing infections and the development of antibiotic resistance in hospitalised patients.



Allen is a Member of ATAGI (The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation) which advises the Minister for Health on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and other immunisation issues.

Next General Meeting:

Tuesday October 19 10 am

Speaker: Professor Allen Cheng, Monash University

Topic: Lessons Learned from COVID

**10-Minute Talk: Peter Sherman
An Australian Stock Market Perspective**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chris Renwick

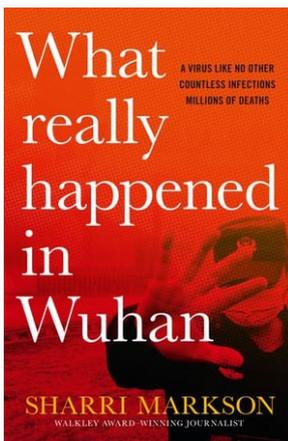


Another month of the pandemic goes by but at least now we have a roadmap out of the latest lockdown. Unfortunately, while vaccination rates are improving, we see at the same time a substantial increase in COVID infections. To me, this means that the immediate future will be quite uncertain as this 'pandemic of the unvaccinated' will continue to impact us all.

However, what we can do now is reconnect by participating in the remaining Probus activities in the year - the Bowls event and dinner, the Pub Lunch and, of course, the President's Lunch at Woodlands Golf Club in December. (The Melbourne Club function is fully booked.) Unfortunately, so many of our activities have had to be cancelled and I wish to thank all those who had tried to arrange them. It has been a very difficult time.

The Speaker at our next meeting (by Zoom), is Prof Allen Cheng. He was widely identified, early in the lockdowns, as Victoria's Deputy Chief Health Officer standing regularly beside Premier Daniel Andrews and Prof Brett Sutton, talking to the public via the media throughout the emergency. I expect his talk will be of great interest.

I look forward to our next meeting and please do all you can to stay safe.



Markson's book closes with: "The failures of the scientific community, intelligence agencies, international bodies and large sections of the media have all left the world a less secure and less safe place to live"

What really happened in Wuhan?

Sharri Markson, an award-winning journalist at *The Australian* and host of *Sharri* on Sky News has investigated the origins of Covid-19 and how it came to be spread around the world. She has also presented a recent documentary on Sky News on the same topic.

A very readable analysis, the early chapters of her book describe how many prominent Chinese living in the US became aware of the first outbreak in Wuhan. Although evidence suggests the outbreak occurred as far back as September, it only began to be talked about in the US in late December 2019. Sharri provides details of how the Chinese CCP covered up the outbreak to the point of silencing medical professionals (many of whom have since disappeared). In the early days there were many flights out of Wuhan to other parts of the world which is how the virus was spread. Case numbers have never been accurate; many deaths were not counted even as bodies piled up and the WHO - heavily influenced by China and kept in the dark - failed to stress its potential seriousness. That there was a problem was overshadowed by a potential trade agreement between China and the US which President Trump was keen to conclude (finalised on January 15 2020 but there was no mention of the virus in the minutes of the two-day meeting).

In the meantime, the US had tried to send a team to Wuhan but were thwarted. The first cases in the US, UK and Australia were in late January but even then there was no urgency - largely through lack of understanding, reassurance by medical experts like Dr Fauci and over-confidence by political leaders. Belated statements from Wuhan emphasised that the virus started in one of their local markets (the source of SARs and other earlier viruses). The statements didn't mention the Wuhan Institute of Virology but Sharri goes into great detail about its activities and raises the strong possibility that the virus emerged from their experiments. Despite circumstantial evidence - such as the wiping of the Institute's virus database and the virus's unusual features - there is no proof.

Barry Amond

“Whereas thousands died as a consequence of the Chernobyl meltdown, millions have died as a consequence of a deadly virus that originated in China.”

²Paul Monk *The Weekend Australian Review* (October 2-3)

NOTICEBOARD

Golf News

Until we have certainty on coronavirus restrictions, and while many golf clubs are unwilling to accept bookings from outside groups - which have a good chance of not being fulfilled - we have decided not to organise the annual golf day for the Victoria Cup until early in 2022.

John Pound

AMENDMENT TO STANDING RESOLUTIONS

In keeping with modern banking practice, our Club now carries out the vast majority of its banking transactions on-line. Our bank had interpreted our Standing Resolutions to require two nominated members of our Committee to authorise every on-line payment transaction carried out on the account. This had proved to be cumbersome to administer, particularly as many of our payments are for small amounts. The Committee decided that the process should be simplified, subject to obtaining approval of the members. An amendment to the Standing Resolutions was proposed whereby any one of three nominated members (ie. the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Functions Coordinator) would be empowered to authorise all transactions without requiring the support of a second signatory. I am pleased to say that this amendment received the overwhelming support of members at our last General Meeting in September. The Treasurer has negotiated with the CBA for this new arrangement to become operative, and it is 'up and running'. On behalf of the Treasurer and the Committee I thank members for their support in making the honorary work of the Treasurer less onerous!

Garry Sebo, Secretary

Beaumaris Streets: A Short History

This is worth watching if you have ever lived in Beaumaris

[CLICK HERE](#)

Pub Lunch

Nothing finalised yet but we are aiming for Thursday November 11 – if Newbay will take 24-30 people. NOTE: The Wine Appreciation meeting for October 26 is cancelled.

Roger Wilson

Birthday Boys – October

GIBSON, Duncan 1/10*	LARKIN, Garry 5/10
BRAVO, Gus 6/10	BEATY, John 8/10
LEEMING, Roger 11/10	GLASS, Tom 11/10
HUNTER, Ron 16/10	JOHNSON, Ian 18/10*
McGREGOR, Peter 21/10	KERMOND Alan 23/10
RAND, David 26/10	[* 80th]

Discussion Groups

The two groups will again combine for yet another Zoom meeting on Tuesday October 12 at 2pm. The main topic will be 'Sliding Doors' (deferred from the last meeting). It will be followed by an update on the virus. In September, 15 of us strongly agreed that everyone should get vaccinated, other than those with medical obstacles.

Barry Amond

Free eBooks

During lockdown, many of us have been reading more and more; and some have been buying books on Kindle. Another option (free) is to borrow eBooks from your local library. All you will need is a library membership. By logging into your library, you can select the ebook option – which will lead you to a free application called Borrow Box. You can download the application to your computer, iPad or tablet and log in using your library membership number. You can borrow books for 21 days and can extend them for a further period if necessary. There is the option to search for your favourite author or genre or even a specific book.

Geoff Wade

Digital Technology

With the necessary cancellation of our last meeting on October 5 due to the lockdown, we will continue with the regular distribution of articles which may be of interest. If you come across an article or a topic you would like others to consider, please let me know and I can send them out. If all goes well, we will meet together again in February.

Geoff Wade

Club Communications

There are occasions when we wish to distribute information to all club members (That is, in between newsletters), and I have been delegated by the Club to perform that duty. Most of those communications have specific directions as to whom is to reply, (maybe the Functions Coordinator, Pub Lunch Co-ordinator, Visits Coordinator, and so on and their address is included in the body of the email. But some members simply disregard those instructions and reply to the originating address. This results in a delay in the recipient receiving the information such as a booking, as that reply then needs to be forwarded on. PLEASE, carefully read these emails and reply to the address given in the body of the email and NOT the originating address. Thank you.

Good News



Cheer up – it's Spring (Ed.)

Visits & Excursions

President's Christmas Lunch Wednesday December 15 at 12 noon

This year's Christmas Lunch will be held at Woodlands Golf Club, White Street, Mordialloc.

2021 promises to be very special. Not only will we have entertainment from the fabulous Stiletto Sisters, plus all the usual raffles, but also we will celebrate Aub Gamble's 100th birthday (December 21).

We hope you will come to this, our Club's main annual event.

Cost is \$75.00 which includes a two course Christmas Lunch plus wine and beer.

Let's make up for last year which was cancelled! It will be great coming together again.

[CLICK HERE](#) to book



Melbourne Club Fine Dining Tuesday November 16

Now fully subscribed but please add your name to the wait list in case there are cancellations.

If coming, please email me your proof of vaccination. This is required by the Melbourne Club.

Details of the coach pickup time and locations will be sent later. We estimate it will be around 5.15 – 5.30.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see list of those attending or email gbransbury@gmail.com

Bowls Social and Dinner Wednesday November 24

This is one of the most enjoyable events on our Probus calendar. It's more a social evening than a serious bowls competition but you COULD win the Ted Montfort Memorial Trophy.

If you don't want to play, that's fine.

Just come and enjoy the dinner and company. Dinner is cooked and served by the ladies of the Sandringham Bowls Club. It's a hearty meal. You won't go home hungry. Drinks at low club prices.

It's held at the Sandringham Bowls Club, Tulip Street. Plenty of parking.

Arrive at 4.30. Finishes around 9pm Cost: \$40 plus your drinks

[CLICK HERE](#) to register now.



Cold War Tragedy

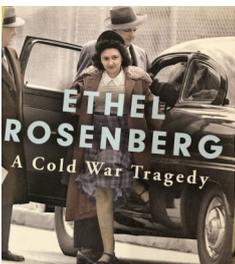
Ethel Rosenberg was executed in the USA as a spy, alongside her husband, Julius. However, this sad, very readable book suggests that she was not a spy (though her husband certainly was, passing on nuclear secrets to the soviets in the 1950s).

Ethel was "obstinate, determined, prone to self-doubt and did not make friends easily. She was also a committed Communist, highly intelligent and fiercely loyal to her beloved husband."

Ethel was executed largely through the betrayal of her brother David and his wife, Ruth – both of whom were engaged in espionage for the soviets – and her mother, but also as a result of America's decline into Cold War paranoia in the 50s.

The tragedy of Ethel Rosenberg's life in the USA began with her arrival in New York, together with thousands of other impoverished Jews – escapees from Nazism – from Eastern Europe. Despite the absence of any evidence against Ethel, both were convicted of providing top-secret information about radar, sonar, jet propulsion engines and valuable nuclear weapon designs – at a time that the US was the only country in the world with nuclear weapons. In the words of the author, Anne Sebba, this is "a deeply personal Shakespearean tragedy."

Peter McGregor



She was a dedicated, loving wife and mother of two small boys, of whom her husband wrote from his gaol cell to hers: "Ours is a great love and a wonderful relationship. It has made my life rich and full."

Members' Page

John Green – Man of Many Parts

A semi-retired lawyer and economist and former university lecturer and administrator at the University of Melbourne, John is married to Diana, a former speech and drama teacher. They have five adult children, have lived in Beaumaris for a number of years and are involved in several local community activities such as the U3A wine appreciation club. Their social activities include attending music concerts and social dancing. It was social dancing that led them to be invited to travel with Qantas to Santiago in Chile to film an advertisement for Qantas promoting the Qantas Frequent Flyer club. As a former Fitzroy supporter, John is a keen Lions supporter.

Overseas travel has been an important part of the Greens' lifestyle prior to COVID and they are very keen to resume this activity—with a standing invitation to take up an honorary membership as a Freeman of the City of London. A Freeman of the City of London has some interesting entitlements such as being allowed to take his sheep across London Bridge once a year! This award follows several years spent in London as International President of the Chartered Institute of Company Secretaries and his involvement with corporate governance internationally, in the UK, NZ, Canada and Singapore.

He currently works part-time with the Bayside Community Health Service and also with a venture capital company established to provide funding for early seed university research activities. He is a foundation member of the Marine Science and Education Centre at Ricketts Point. Both John and Diana are looking forward to being involved with Beaumaris Probus and being able to join in the many social activities once the lockdown finishes.



Left: Both John and Diana are looking forward to being involved with Beaumaris Probus and being able to join in the many social activities once the lockdown finishes.

Below: With wife Angela, Tony used his passion for flying to establish Aussie Flyaways – a flying Safari business operating primarily in the outback of Australia and the Pacific



Tony Read - Aviator

Tony Read was born in Auburn in the Clare Valley, SA, longer ago than he cares to think about. He went to school in the area together with many who were to become known winemakers. His love of aircraft saw him join the RAAF, stationed in different parts of Australia and the UK where he studied, specialising in navigational computers. He married and settled in Melbourne where his four children were born. Computing was in its infancy and when he left the Air Force he used his knowledge to join Control Data Corp the manufacturer of the then-super computers. Digital Equipment followed and extensive training in the US; time at *The Age* included investigating the role of computing in copy processing in the US. In 1978, he formed his own computer engineering company and ran it successfully for 30 years until its sale. After retirement, with wife Angela, he used his passion for flying to establish his Aussie Flyaways – a flying Safari business operating primarily in the outback of Australia and the Pacific. This was a time he enjoyed greatly which continued for a number of years until a medical event made it difficult. With flying in his blood, he has owned several aircraft and has been building a very fast aircraft for the past 11 years which is very close to completion. Restoring and driving classic cars and motorcycles is another passion. Tony was a charter member and president of The Rotary Club of Keysborough, charter member and president of the Rotary Club of Beaumaris and was part of the group that started the Probus Club of Beaumaris. Tony and Angela have six children and eight grandchildren between them, all of whom are scattered throughout various places in Australia and the world. Both are keen golfers at VGC and Tony plays tennis regularly as well as travelling, camping, fishing and walking their Bernese Mountain dog, Monte.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more profiles of Members

The Last Word

On Falling

Rod Kelly started his presentation with a description of an unexpected fall that put him in hospital for 21 days and on crutches for many weeks afterwards. The prime cause was at night, hence dark. Rod pointed out that home falls (which account for 51% of all falls) put a lot in hospital and that 40 percent occur between 9 pm and 8 am. The main reason? Going to the toilet in the dark.



Home falls account for 51% of all falls

Rod Kelly has now installed sensor lights under his bed enroute to the loo

Rod stressed the need for adequate lighting and explained how he had now installed sensor lights under his bed enroute to the loo. Rod is using small EL 603 re-chargeable lights that can be bought for around \$13 and last for two months per charge.

He explained how if the light is too bright he uses tape to reduce the intensity. A great and simple message.

Grant Sabin

Understanding Dementia, Heart Attacks and Strokes

This was a very appropriate presentation for our members. STAREE is a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial involving men and women over 70 years of age involving a number of research facilities including Monash Medical. A community-based trial working in collaboration with General Practices across Australia, STAREE stands for 'Statins in Reducing Events in the Elderly'.

The basic aim of the trial is to ascertain the benefits, positive and/or negative, of taking statins for people over 70. There are now almost 9,000 people being monitored. Dr Lavanya Gupta explained how statins work. She said the trial is addressing questions such as - should one continue taking statins when over 75; do statins impact on dementia; do they have anti-inflammatory benefits; do they reduce the incidents of heart attacks and strokes?

One statement by Dr Gupta that stuck with us: "For most people, the first heart attack is the last". That was a sobering thought. In response to a question regarding genetic risks, she said that lifestyle seems to be the most important factor in relation to all strokes and heart attacks. Members not currently on statin medication were encouraged to discuss participating in the STAREE trial with their General Practitioner.

Grant Sabin

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

*** Office Bearers 2021** * *Committee Members*

* President: Chris Renwick	0419 927 536	* Vice-President: Jim Duggan	0432 150 675
* Past President: Simon Appel	9585 6956	* Secretary: Garry Sebo	0419 340 565
* Treasurer: John Hewison	0419 357 203	* Assistant Treasurer: Geoff Carlson	9521 0024
* Functions: Geoff Bransbury	0416 294 452	* Assistant Functions: Ken Beadle	9589 6120
* Webmaster: Geoff Bransbury	0416 294 452	* Meetings: Keith Ross	9589 3580
Assistant Meetings: Barrie Gibson	9589 3902	Sommelier: Bill Green	9596 1548
* Newsletter: Peter McGregor	0418 322 987	* Membership: Peter Flude	0405 127 271
* Welfare: Alan Stevens	0418 336 354	Auditor: Robert Lander	0435 930 082
Recorder: Grant Sabin	9598 4768	Assistant Recorder: Simon Appel	9585 6956
Audio Visual: Paul Crompton	9583 1310	Projectionist: Geoff Cupples	0411 251 406
Archive: John Howe	9598 2429	Photographer: Alan Stevens	0418 336 354

*** Interest Groups**

Bike Riding: Ken Beadle	9589 6120	Golf: John Pound	0414 251 292
Digital Technology: Geoff Wade	9588 2593	Visits: Ken Beadle	9589 6120
Discussion: Barry Amond	9515 0725	PRISMS: Alan Nash	9589 2934
Tastes: Geoff Bransbury	0416 294 452	Wine Appreciation: Roger Wilson	0418 395 946
Bridge: Jim Duggan	0432 150 675	Theatre: Graham Ball	9598 4125
Wine Discovery: Grant Sabin	9598 4768	Travel: Simon Appel	9585 6956
Pub Lunch: Roger Wilson	0418 395 946		