



NEWSLETTER

Probud Club of Beaumaris Inc.

www.beaumarisprobud.org.au

Reg No. A 001 - 6598G

Probud Bank Details: CBA BSB 063144 Account No. 10121288

Issue No. 366

May 2022



**Margie and Peter Card
have made seven visits
to Myanmar as tourists
since 2005**



*Above: Some of the many pictures from
their collection*



Next General Meeting:

Tuesday May 17 10 am

Black Rock Yacht Club

Speakers: Peter & Margie Card

Topic: Inside Burma

10-Minute Talk: Rod Hammond Golf in UK & Ireland

FROM THE PRESIDENT Jim Duggan



The juxtaposition of Lloyd Jenkins' talk on Lark Force, ANZAC day and, most of all, the war in Ukraine have caused us to be confronted, once again, by the horror and futility of war.

It seems as though I have been deluding myself, but I assumed we would never again experience a modern state invading a neighbour, doing untold damage and terrorising and killing large numbers of its civilian population. All purportedly justified by lies and enabled by a subjugated media.

It is all so disappointing. After the end of the Cold War and the collapse of Communism, many of us thought we could look forward to an era of peace and even to a level of prosperity that might lift many people around the world out of the extreme poverty under which they suffer.

When you add in the tragedy of Myanmar - about which we will hear from this month's speakers, Peter and Maggie Card - the price we have paid, and continue to pay, for ambitious autocrats and deluded military regimes, is paid by the people who have to live in countries under their governance.



There seems to be no solution to the world's many problems. Unfortunately, our trust in international organisations is receding, particularly in the US where the UN is opposed as a matter of course by many members of Congress; not to mention those in the UN with the power of veto over all decisions. Of course, it has many problems, but it is the only international organization we have.

The war looks like dragging on. Putin is not going to walk away and Ukraine is not going to accept a compromise that abandons a significant part of its territory. Very sad.

I'm sorry to offer such a bleak outlook. But the topic is so important and it is pointless to be unrealistic. I would welcome any feedback, especially if you think I am being unduly pessimistic.



In Ukraine's Russian-speaking east, Putin's war is tearing families apart

Murray Downs Golf Trip



During the first week of April we ran our annual 3-day golf trip which was again at the Murray Downs Resort at Swan Hill. Our field was down on last year due mainly to covid, but there were 21 golfers (and 4 ladies, nonplaying.) Photos: Alan Stevens

Besides taking out winner and runner-up in the two 18 hole events, the ladies took most of the balls in the ball run-down awards. The two 18-hole competitions for the Howlong Perpetual Trophy and the Warburton Heirloom Trophy were both won by Kaye Bradd. Yolanta Cupples was runner-up.

The last event was the putting competition for the Bill Gillingham Memorial Trophy. The runner-up was Rod Hammond and the winner was John Howe (to much applause). Picture above left.

We also have a perpetual aggregate trophy for the player who collects the most points for the two main events. Kaye Bradd was a very clear winner (left).

John Pound

NOTICEBOARD



May Speakers
Margie and Peter Card

Margie and Peter Card have made seven visits to Myanmar as tourists since 2005. They backpack on public transport and have explored much of the country. They tried to learn Burmese but sadly found it too difficult to learn. During the last three visits, they stayed mainly in farmers' homes in small villages - eating rice on the short tables, walking the village tracks, washing outside at the rain-water tank and sleeping on the floor in front of the shrine. For their last visit in 2019, they took their daughters and grandkids - "our best holiday ever!" They will outline how in 2007 they paid for a primary school in a small rural village and have since paid for many more. When the junta seized power 15 months ago, their trusted man (82) was too scared to travel to build their next school. They will try to explain the existing political situation in simple concepts.

Discussion Groups

The groups will meet again in June on the usual days, Friday 10 and Tuesday 14. Topic: a surprise! This month we are discussing: Entertainment as light relief during election time. Barry Amond

Anglophobia

"Racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, anti-semitism and transphobia have been elevated to a point where they are now considered tantamount to criminal acts. Yet during the same period, discrimination against Anglos has been largely ignored."

Quadrant, April 2022

[Too bad about the English language, the political process based on the Westminster model, the rule of law founded upon the principles of British justice; not to mention the education system and universities. Ed.]

Birthday Boys – May

KELLY, Rod 1/5	JONES, Neil 3/5
AMOND, Barry 4/5	LOBB, Don 5/5
REED, Kevin 7/5	DAVEY, Brian 10/5
OBST, Ossie 15/5	MATTHEWS, Bob 24/5
PICKERSGILL, Martyn 24/5	
HAMMOND, Rod 27/5	

Wine Discovery

The next meeting of the group is planned for Wednesday June 8, hosted by Grant Sabin. At this session we will discover a selection of Shoalhaven wines (see below).

The range includes a Tannat wine from Coolangatta Estate and a chambourcin by the Stone Cottage Vineyard. Both grapes are of a French origin. It's interesting that chambourcin grapes like a wet climate as per the NSW South Coast, which is so appropriate. The man at the Berry wine shop has recommended we taste them in the order from left to right as per the picture. (By the way, Berry is a great little town.) Grant Sabin



Above: The range of Shoalhaven wines to be tasted

Pub Lunch

We had a great Pub Lunch again at The Bridge in Mordialloc in April - excellent company, excellent meal and a free pre-lunch drink and a free coffee after the meal. Great value at \$30.

For those of you who have been in the past, we would love to see you again with your partner (where applicable) at our next lunch. I am giving you plenty of notice and hope you can come.

Our Pub Lunch is Thursday July 21 at Noon - again at the Bridge Hotel at a cost of \$30. A selection of five excellent main meals plus a free pre-lunch drink and free coffee after the meal!

Hope you can come! Please book and pay John Hewison. Keep Well! Roger Wilson

Digital Technology

The group will meet on Tuesday May 31 at the home of Barry Amond, 1 John St, Beaumaris at 2pm. An interesting range of topics will be on the agenda. If any members have a particular topic they would like discussed, please let me know at:

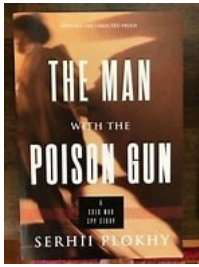
geoffp.wade@bigpond.com.

Member Register

The newly updated Register is now on our website in the protected area. Members are requested to check their entries and advise me of any errors or omissions at: geoffp.wade@bigpond.com. Geoff Wade

Book Reviews

A Thrilling Tale of Soviet Spycraft



Not just another spy story

For any of those of us who thought Russia's murderous onslaught against Ukraine was a relatively recent phenomenon, time to think again. Russia has had a fractious relationship with its near neighbour resulting in persecution in one form or another since the Bolsheviks took over in 1917 (and in fact before, dating as far back as Catherine the Great's seizure of Crimea). The former First Secretary of the USSR, Nikita Krushchev, was Ukrainian and was elevated by Stalin precisely because he was thought to be the best person to eliminate troublesome Ukrainians.

With its long history of resisting Soviet rule, the wayward province was always badly treated by its more powerful and sophisticated neighbour. Stalin, for example, imposed punishing quotas on its farmers to the point where the once 'bread basket of Europe' experienced a man-made famine in the 1940s. Russia's favoured method of assassination was always a bomb, then bullets; but in the more 'enlightened' era of the last 50 or more years, carefully-directed poison has become the weapon of choice for 'modern' tyrants.

However, *The Man With the Poison Gun: A Cold War Spy Story* is no story; it's a carefully-documented piecing together of how the Soviet Union and later the Russian Federation went/ goes about pursuing its enemies. The central figure is Ukrainian, Bogdan Stashinsky, who to survive in the face of Russian persecution joins the KGB and does their bidding - including assassinating leading Ukrainian dissidents and activists. His use of a specially-crafted gun which fired not bullets but poison and killed without trace is supposed to have inspired Ian Fleming's last James Bond novel, *The Man with the Golden Gun*. Written by a Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard, it is detailed and captivating because it actually happened. If you like your thrills to have some basis in reality, this may be the book for you. A challenging read.

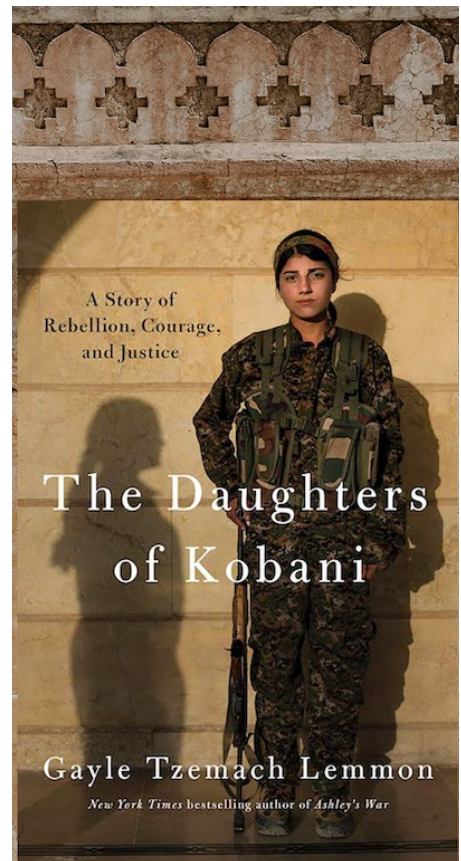
Peter McGregor

The Women Who Took on the Islamic State

Those who watched the French spy TV series, *The Bureau*, would already be aware of these spirited Kurdish female soldiers. This book places them centre stage and tells their story.

The Daughters of Kobani details first-hand accounts of the women who had to struggle against their own patriarchal system first and then go and fight a war against ISIS. The fighting took place in the northern area of Syria with the critical town of Kobani right on the Turkish border. This is an account of truly heroic women who reclaimed large areas in the north from 2014-2017. It needs a follow-up story as the Kurdish people still face further struggles to try and obtain rights for an autonomous region.

Alan Stevens



“An unforgettable tale of women’s power and courage... The young women in this book fought a fearsome war against brutal men -- and proved in the process what girls and women can accomplish when given the chance to lead.”

Elizabeth Gilbert

Visits & Activities

Tastes LAST CALL



Tuesday May 24 at
6.30 pm
Little Vietnam
504 Hampton Street

Superb, authentic Vietnamese food that makes you feel you are in Vietnam!
This award-winning restaurant is as good as it gets!

Cost: \$45 plus wines at 'Tastes prices' (\$15 per bottle).
Please register and pay now.



[CLICK HERE](#) to book

Candlelight Dinner



Wednesday June 15 at 6.30 pm
Sandy By the Bay (Sandringham Football Club, Beach Road)

Always a special Probus evening and one of our two major Club events - the first since 2019!

We will have a two-course dinner with wines, beer and soft drinks included - plus free raffle and some special entertainment

There is an elevator, parking in foreshore car park. Seating will be allocated or advise Geoff Bransbury. Dress code: jackets for men
Cost: \$80 pp Please register and pay asap.

We hope everyone will come and join us!
[CLICK HERE](#) to book.



Join the Elvis Exhibition day trip to the Bendigo Art Gallery next Wednesday, May 11.
Your last opportunity to join our group of 15 for the train trip, lunch and Elvis Exhibition.

Tickets are still available for our 2pm gallery entry. Please contact Ken Beadle if you wish to join our party and receive details.

The Last Word

Every Man for Himself

Lloyd Jenkins gave us a timely presentation for our April meeting. He told of the heroics of Lark Force - 1,000 Australian soldiers who arrived at Rabaul on April 25, 1941 - the garrison contingent to support the Australian Administration. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, it was increased in number to 1,400 and became the armed force stationed at Rabaul. Most members were from Victoria with the band mainly from the Salvation Army.

On December 21, 1941, Australian women and children were evacuated from Rabaul, while the ill-equipped Lark Force, short of ammunition, stayed on. On January 23, in the dark, 5,000 Japanese approach the ill-equipped 1,400 Larks who quickly ran out of ammunition. The order given to the Lark Force was, 'Every man for himself'. A large number chose to attempt an escape into the jungle. Of those remaining in Rabaul over 160 were bayoneted to death by the Japanese.. At the end of the war there were only 360 surviving Larks, equal to the greatest loss of Australian troops in any war.

Grant Sabin Simon Appel



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On Board with Captain Cook

Martyn Pickersgill gave a most interesting ancestral insight into his name; in particular, the adventures of an ancestor, Richard Pickersgill. 2018 marked the 250th Anniversary of Captain James Cook setting sail on his first voyage on *HMS Endeavour* (1768). With him went another North Yorkshire sailor, his mate Richard Pickersgill. In fact, he sailed twice with Captain Cook. Martyn stated that the name Pickersgill was derived from the village Richard came from, and that the name Pickersgill meant 'Robbers Ravine'.

Richard was born in 1745 and at the age of 17 joined Captain Cook on the voyage to Tahiti to observe the transit of Venus across the Sun. Of the 94 crew who set sail on that 3-year voyage only 54 survived to return to England. In July 1772 Cook set out to look for new lands, naming places after members of the crew including Pickersgill. There is a Pickersgill family crest, the Pickersgill Islands (in the Atlantic Ocean), Pickersgill Reef (Queensland), and Pickersgill Cove, off the southern tip of South America.

After that trip, Richard was dismissed from the Navy and became a pirate. He died when in a drunken state he fell into the Thames off a gangplank and drowned. Richard Pickersgill died in 1779, the same year as Cook. He was 34 years old.

Grant Sabin Simon Appel

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

*** Office Bearers 2022 * Committee Members**

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* Functions: Geoff Bransbury	0416 294 452	* Assistant Functions: Ken Beadle	9589 6120
* Webmaster: Geoff Bransbury	0416 294 452	* Meetings: Keith Ross	0418 584 401
Assistant Meetings: Barrie Gibson	9589 3902	* Assistant Secretary: Leon Laragy	0410 327 587
* Newsletter: Peter McGregor	0418 322 987	* Membership: Roger Wilson	0418 395 946
* Welfare: Alan Stevens	0418 336 354	Auditor: Robert Lander	0435 930 082
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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	0407 877 539	PRISMS: Alan Nash	9589 2934
Tastes: Geoff Bransbury	0416 294 452	Wine Appreciation: Roger Wilson	0418 395 946
Tipping Competition: Leon Laragy	0410 327 587	Pub Lunch: Roger Wilson	0418 395 946
Wine Discovery: Grant Sabin	9598 4768	Travel: Simon Appel	9585 6956