



NEWSLETTER

Probud Club of Beaumaris Inc.

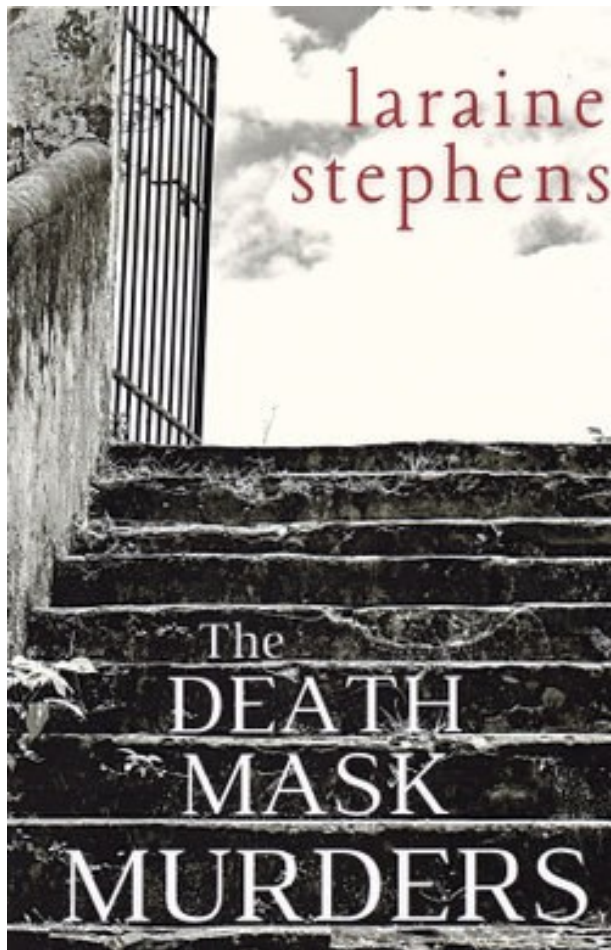
www.beaumarisprobud.org.au

Reg No. A 001 - 6598G

Probud Bank Details: CBA BSB 063144 Account No. 10121288

Issue No. 369

August 2022



February, 1918. Somewhere in the bayside suburbs of Melbourne, a murderer is lurking, engaged in a ritualistic killing spree: shaving the heads of young women, strangling them and then creating a gruesome memento of each in the form of a death mask. As a wild storm batters Brighton, an aspiring artist, Emma Hart, and Max Rushforth, a shell-shocked ex-soldier, take refuge in the cellar of a derelict mansion, the killer's lair and home to his sinister collection of plaster casts. With Max under the spotlight of the police investigation, Emma calls on the key expertise of crime reporter, Reggie da Costa, and Dr Silas Bacon, an expert in death masks, to prove his innocence, unaware that she, too, is in the killer's sights. Set in the dying days of the Great War, *The Death Mask Murders* examines the treatment of soldiers suffering from 'shell shock' and grapples with the age-old question: Can a person be born evil?

Next General Meeting:

**Tuesday August 16 10 am
Black Rock YC**

**Keynote Speaker: Laraine Stephens, Author
Topic: *Death Mask Murders* (see p3)**

10-Minute Talk: Tim Harding - Battle of Surigao Strait

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Simon Appel, OAM



It was disappointing to see so few Members at our July Meeting. We have surveyed some absent Members, many of whom are currently enjoying life up north. Some other Members indicated medical appointments, family commitments and some a COVID fear. This fear is very real at this time and, while we will continue our face-to-face meetings, we need to be very cautious, and to keep testing for COVID. If this fear increases, we may have to revert to ZOOM meetings.

The July Meeting delivered Members an excellent Guest Speaker in Michael Strong. We received a glimpse of his work in 'policing the police', and anecdotes of his many years in the law. Michael's presentation is available on our website. We also received a revealing 10-minute talk from Alan

Nash. Alan reflected on his early days as a ship's engineer, including battles with 'guests' on board (rats, not sailors!). See p6.

This month our Guest Speaker is Australian award-winning author Laraine Stephens, a member at Victoria Golf Club, who will reveal background to her two award-winning novels: *The Death Mask Murders* and *Deadly Intent*. Our 10 Minute Speaker is Tim Harding who will describe the Battle of the Surigao Strait.

Finally, we have a new caterer for our lunch this month and look forward to new culinary delights. I also look forward to increased attendance for the Meeting.



Above: Howard Hoskins and Vivienne Fry enjoy our July Pub Lunch at the Bridge Hotel; and celebrate Howard's birthday



What a coincidence! Our Pub Lunch just happened to coincide with President Simon's birthday (21/7). Always a good time for some cake.

Below left: Derek Skues and our July 10-minute speaker Alan Nash

Below: Garry Bradd and President Simon welcome new member, Allan Stone; and also new member Erroll Stubblety



Below: Garry Bradd and Rod Murrell having a cuppa with Allan Stone

Right below: Lloyd Jenkins and Dick Kirby at morning tea

NOTICEBOARD

Book Reviews

Peter McGregor

Many of you are reading books (fiction and non-fiction) that other members might enjoy. All you need to do is a 100-word or so summary and send the title and author. We will do the rest.

NGV Exhibition



Above left: Tutorial

Right: In the main auditorium a huge mirror hung over the central area. Left to right are Barry & Margaret Amond, photographer, Geoff & Merry Bransbury, Margie Beadle and Gail Seedsman.

[Photos: Alan Stevens]

Ten members and partners attended the Picasso at NGV Exhibition on Wednesday July 6. Coffees and muffins on the forecourt to warm us up first, then once inside we attended the NGV lecture (see above). This half hour tutorial was very helpful and explained the influences in Picasso's work from fellow artists, writers and social upheavals such as the Spanish Civil War. The crowds were big and without that tutorial it would have been quite difficult to gather the themes and purpose of all the artwork on display. At the end of the tour there was a light lunch at the upstairs cafe. Thanks to Ken Beadle, Geoff Bransbury and Kevin Reed for organising this excellent event.

Alan Stevens

Bicycle Group

R to L: Ken Beadle, Duncan Gibson and Derek Skues provide a local busker with an audience; Mordialloc



Wine Discovery Group

To be delayed from Wednesday August 10 until a future date yet to be decided.

August Keynote Speaker

Author: Laraine Stephens

Laraine Stephens lives in Melbourne. She worked as a teacher-librarian for many years before turning her hand to writing historical crime fiction.

Bridge

Due to recent developments at Victoria Golf Club, it is no longer possible for Probus members to join the group – unless they also happen to be members of the golf club. However, it is still possible to play with the group online.

Peter McGregor

Pub Lunch

Roger Wilson

Our next Pub Lunch is on Thursday 13th October at The iconic Elsternwick Hotel which dates back to the 1850's -starting at 12.30PM – with a selection of five main courses - at a cost of \$30 – located at the Elsternwick Junction (Cnr Nepean Highway and Glenhuntly Road). [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Discussion

Barry Amond

In August the two groups will combine and meet on Tuesday 9th at 2pm. The main item will be the YouTube video "Rethinking Humanity". As we age, our health needs looking after and we'll find time to discuss what steps we should all be taking.



L to R: Phil Stewart, Ken Beadle, John Fisher, Roger Wilson, Lloyd Jenkins, Ian Marchment, Geoff Bransbury and Alan Trumble

New Investment Group?

Barry Amond

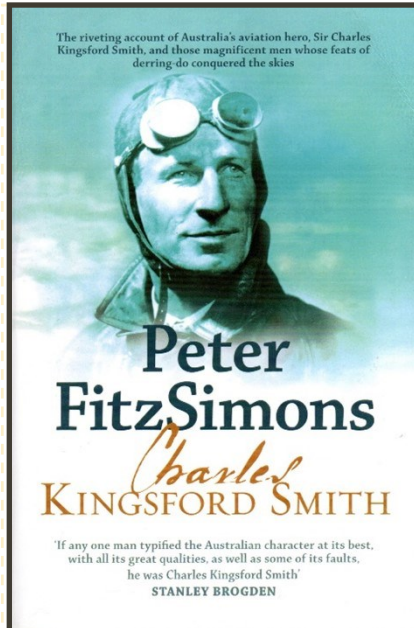
From 1998 - 2017 an Investment Group met before the club's monthly meetings at the same venue. It was attended by between 20 and 30 members and discussed all types of investment. Interest rates and inflation were historically low at the time, but we are now facing a new era. It may be time to resurrect our group but probably in a different format. Having started the old group I do not wish to run any new one but I would be very happy to chair an initial meeting at which we can decide on a format and and, hopefully, a convenor. If you are interested in attending that meeting please let me know by email and if there's enough interest I'll arrange a meeting.

Noticeboard continues on p4.

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 [80th]

Book Review



'... his extraordinary flying skills had on numerous occasions saved he and his crew from almost certain disaster'

In typical Peter Fitzsimons style, the life of this extraordinary man is revealed event by event, year by year, as he careens through life. Family circumstances resulted in some of his upbringing in America, then back

in Sydney where he joined the AIF and survived at Gallipoli and the Western Front. However, the authorities, deeming him unfit for front line activities, kept him in England to train new pilots, much to his frustration.

Back in post-war Australia, he had his sights set on a career in flying, ultimately gaining a position flying long-haul mail runs up the Western Australian coast. But top of his list, with the potential to lead to fame and fortune, was to fly across the Pacific Ocean. Eventually, fame and fortune came his way in bucket loads in 1928 after he and Charles Ulm with two American crew succeeded in flying across the Pacific Ocean from San Francisco to Brisbane in the *Southern Cross*. This enabled them to set up a commuter airline between Sydney and Brisbane.

However, poor business and financial decisions consistently saw him looking for the next long-distance feat to achieve financial stability for his young family, but eventually he took one flight too many. Under financial pressure and in poor health, in November 1935 he embarked on a London to Melbourne speed record attempt. At the age of 38, he disappeared off the coast of Burma (Myanmar) and joined the ranks of numerous others to lose their lives in the heroic age of aviation.

With typical Peter Fitzsimons flair, this thoroughly researched story is intertwined with the significant aviation events and breakthroughs in Australia and around the world..

Tom Glass

Golf

John Pound

Beaumaris Probus Golf

The golf day for the beautiful Elson trophy will be run at The Dunes Golf Course, 335 Browns Road, Rye, on Friday August 26. First hit off at 11.30 am. All members of our Beaumaris Probus Club who have a current Golf Australia handicap are welcome to enjoy the day on this most glorious golf course.

The cost is \$72 which covers green fees and prizes.



To enter, please send this amount to the Probus bank account, (CBA BSB 063144, Account No.10121288) specifying that it is for "Elson trophy golf". If you have not been to a previous Probus golf day, please send me an email with your Golf link number. If you wish to use a golf cart (and the course is reasonably demanding), please send an email to me (jappound@hotmail.com). I will pair up cart users wherever possible. The cost of a cart is \$45, which is to be paid to the pro shop on the day.

Tastes

HURRY

Black Rock's hidden gem — Clover

At Clover, Chef Tong delivers delicious, flavour-some, authentic cuisine inspired by Northern Thailand and Japan - using fresh local produce. The cuisine is a fusion of Thai and Japanese favourites reflecting the cultural backgrounds of Tong and his wife, Kyoko - all carefully hand-picked by the couple for a thoroughly enjoyable dining experience.



When: Wednesday August 24
Where: 20 Bluff Road Black Rock
This small friendly restaurant is a favourite haunt in Black Rock. The food is excellent and consistent. NOTE: It's BYO this time. Cost: \$43 (incl corkage). [CLICK HERE](#) to book

Visits & Activities

Tony Read invites you to inspect his major, long-term project – the near-complete construction of a home-built, Glasair III, 2-seater, high performance, low-wing monoplane with retractable landing gear and a 300 hp engine. It is designed to cruise at 500 km/hr with jaw-dropping capabilities in aerobatics, cruise and vertical penetration. [CLICK HERE](#) to register now

To visit the project, register by September 9 and assemble at Peninsula Aero Club rooms carpark, Stuart Road, Tyabb (Melway 148 G11) on Wednesday September 14th. Be there no later than 10:30 AM. When registering please indicate if you are willing to carpool or if you would like a ride.

After inspecting Tony's project we will have lunch on the side of Western Port Bay at the Pelikan Societe Restaurant, 2 Marine Parade, Hastings (Melway 154, K11) - a favourite haunt of the Bike Group.



Johnston Collection

We visit the Johnston Collection (lunch at Geppetto's)
Thursday October 6

The Johnston Collection is a multi-award-winning museum with over 1500 items - English Georgian, Regency, and Louis XV fine and decorative arts, and objets d'art which is displayed in William Johnston's former residence, Fairhall, an historic East Melbourne townhouse. See below.

Additionally, we will see the special exhibition called Splendid which includes a fabulous silverware bequest. Followed by lunch at Geppetto's (close by).

Meet at the Pullman Hotel (formerly the Hilton Hotel) - 192 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne

Note: NO LATER than 9.40am. We are taken by bus to the house and back again.

Limited to 22 visitors so hurry and book. Cost: \$22 plus lunch.

Click below to book and advise if you're staying for lunch.

Kevin Reed

[CLICK HERE](#) to book



The Last Word

A Legal Embarrassment

Our Keynote Speaker for July was Michael Strong, a distinguished former solicitor, barrister and Prosecutor for the Queen, Judge of the County Court of Victoria, Vice President of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, Director of the Office of Police Integrity (Victoria) and Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission Examiner.

He has a current appointment as Victoria's Principal Public Interest Monitor and made it clear that there was a strict limit to how much of his activities he could divulge. He is a long-serving former director and President of Berry Street, Victoria's largest independent child and family welfare agency and the immediate past Chairman of Phoenix Australia, the Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health at the University of Melbourne. He has served on boards and committees of numerous organisations.

One highlight of his talk was his recounting of – what he called – his most embarrassing experience. A need to return to his office at the weekend gave rise to an offer to take two grandchildren with him to the County Court. Needless to say, they asked to see the cells and perhaps even go inside them. One thing led to another, they found themselves locked in and Michael didn't have a key! The phone call to Pentridge was the most embarrassing call he has ever had to make.

Peter McGregor

For video of Michael Strong's talk, [CLICK HERE](#).

Rat Attack



In his 10-minute talk, Alan Nash recounted his encounter with a large black rat on board the oil tanker *Haustellum* in the Straits of Hormuz, a month after Nasser had nationalised the Suez Canal in 1956.

As one of three cadet engineers, Alan was in charge of maintaining the engine room running on minimal power while undertaking repairs. But he was shaken by the appearance of the rat beside him eying his sandwiches. After many baits and traps, the rat was found in its death throes and delivered to the Captain's coffee table. Alan took 35 days' leave soon after.

Peter McGregor

All Lives Matter

".... Police [have] fatally shot two aboriginal men in the NT since 2000..... in the same period 52 Aboriginal women had been victims of homicide, most by their partners."

NT Supreme Court judge Judith Kelly
The Australian July 9-10

PROBUS CLUB OF BEAUMARIS Inc.

* Office Bearers 2022 * Committee Members

* President: Simon Appel	0417 600 419	Vice President	TBA
* Past President: Chris Renwick	0419 927 536	* Secretary: Garry Sebo	0419 340 565
* Treasurer: John Hewison	0419 357 203	* Assistant Treasurer: Geoff Carlson	0408 568 971
* Functions: Geoff Bransbury	0416 294 452	Visits: Ken Beadle	0412 185 029
* Webmaster: Geoff Bransbury	0416 294 452	* Meetings: Keith Ross	0418 584 401
Assistant Meetings:		* Membership: Roger Wilson	0418 395 946
* Newsletter: Peter McGregor	0418 322 987	* Welfare: Alan Stevens	0418 336 354
Archive: John Howe	9598 2429	Auditor: Robert Lander	0435 930 082
Recorder: Simon Appel	0417 600 419	Projectionist: Geoff Cupples	0411 251 406
Audio Visual: Paul Crompton	0491 147 389	Photographer: Alan Stevens	0418 336 354
* Assist Secretary Leon Laragy	0410 327 587		

* Interest Groups

Bike Riding: Ken Beadle	0412 185 029	Golf: John Pound	0414 251 292
Digital Technology: Geoff Wade	0416 257 683	Visits: Ken Beadle	0412 185 029
Discussion: Barry Amond	0407 877 539	PRISMS: Alan Nash	9589 2934
Tastes: Geoff Bransbury	0416 294 452	Wine Appreciation: Roger Wilson	0418 395 946
Wine Discovery: Grant Sabin	0419 595 757	Travel: Simon Appel	0417 600 419
Pub Lunch: Roger Wilson	0418 395 946		