



Beaumaris Bulletin

The Combined Probus Club of Beaumaris Bay Inc.
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From the Editor

Thanks to all the contributors to this month's publication and for the messages of appreciation – I've been pleasantly surprised at the response to my appeal for material. I knew we had hidden talent in the Club. I will keep it going as long as I have something worth publishing or I run out of ideas.

What should we call this publication: *Beaumaris Waves?* *Beaumaris Bulletin?* *"Above the waves: Sharing what keeps us afloat"?* *Beaumaris Digest?* (My harshest critic said digest was too old fashioned, like me!) It needs to be something that evokes the mood of the times. Your suggestions are welcome - I'll donate a roll of toilet to the creator of the best suggestion! I'm not sure how I'll deliver it, might have to be a virtual image ...



Time passing too quickly?



It's a dog's life!

AUSTRALIA

Australians are a funny lot, you'll often hear one curse,
How things have started badly, and they'll probably get worse,
The weathers dry, the sun's so hot it's stolen all the water,
The Government has never done the things we think they oughta'.

But if we hear a tourist say his home is much more grand,
They had better be prepared to make a very solid stand.
For although we Aussies may complain at what's become our lot,
When someone knocks this country, we defend with all we've got.

We may criticize some teenage brat, may even wish them failure,
But we stand behind them cheering when they're playing for Australia.
Because, if this is home to you, the country of your birth,
Then you back the native player to beat anyone on Earth.

When the cricket bats are swinging or when someone scores a try,
When a home grown horse has won the cup and made the owner cry,
When some Paralympics athlete hits the front and sets the pace,
You'll hear "Aussie Aussie Aussie" as the crowd goes off their face.

And although we like to take a break in overseas locations,
If you take the time to question this nomadic population,
They will tell you without blinking that wherever they may roam,
The best part of the journey was the last bit,coming home.

For the sun was never brighter on the beach at Waikiki,
Than it is on all the sandy shores Australia has to see,
The water never purer nor the air as fresh and clear,
The people never friendlier than those that we have here.

If you venture to the outback where grass is scarce as snow,
As you swelter you may wonder what it was that made you go,
But just look at the locals who have lived there since their birth,
And I know you will not find a better class of folk on earth.

All across this wide brown country from the Cape to Hobart town,
There are people who will help you when you find the chips are down,
And if someone should abuse you, and does it just because,
Then that person's not Australian, and that person never was.

So when you feel disgruntled just remember this rendition,
And never blame the country for the acts of politicians,
Look up and count your blessings when you see our flag unfurled,
And be grateful that you live in the best country in the world.

Anon

Vale Bill Adams OAM



Bill Adams OAM has passed away at the age of 97. He joined the Club in 2002 and was much loved and highly respected. After World War II, during which he served in the Australian Survey Battery, Bill became very involved in community affairs and was a Councillor in the former City of Sandringham from 1961-74, and its mayor for two terms (1966-67 and 1969-70). He was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division (OAM) in 2006, the citation reading, "For service to the community of Sandringham through a range of health, service and church organisations." He was a gentle man in every sense of the term. I particularly appreciated his encouragement and support of my role as the Editor of the newsletter. He had a wry sense of humour as evidenced by his contribution of the poem, *The Piddling Pup*, on page 6, which I am printing with Jean's permission; Bill never divulged its source nor the poet's real name (can you get the joke?) He will be greatly missed. We extend our sincerest sympathy to his wife Jean and all their family.

Value of meditation

In these non-restful times we are facing, I find it useful to have some quiet meditation time. Repeating phrases over and over is a good way to make some time for yourself, even if it's just a few minutes.

Sit comfortably
Imagine yourself experiencing
complete physical and emotional wellness and inner peace.
Repeat a few reassuring phrases to yourself over and over. e.g.,

May I be filled with loving kindness
May I be well
May I be peaceful and at ease
May I be happy. (Jack Kornfield, 'A Path with Heart')

Repeat Repeat

You can try this, or something similar for a number of weeks until the sense of loving kindness grows and you can feel peace and calmness.

Christine Simmons

Welfare

Welfare Officer: Helga Anderson (Ph. 9589 5597)

If you know if any of our members is ill or hospitalised, can you please advise our Welfare Officer so a card can be sent or a phone call arranged.

April birthdays

We wish all the following members, good health and many Happy Birthdays: Margaret Bruce; Margaret Cummin; Laurie Gwillim; Michael Herbst; Neil Howard; Loraine Lamont; Jim Scott; Bill Soding.

Signs of the times?



Is this saying, "No visitors admitted"?



On your (exercise) bike!

Confession

I have an admission to make - I'm a free on-line course junkie! There, I feel better now I've told you.

My compulsive need to study on line began in 2015 with a course on Chinese culture. Since then I have completed 15 courses including: Food as Medicine; Shakespeare; Screen writing; ADHD; Psychology; Teaching vocabulary; Web development; Cyber security, Crime and punishment.

The best thing is that the courses are FREE, there are NO entry requirements, NO assessment and they are SHORT. The content is prepared by universities around the world, including universities in Australia. And you can opt out if it proves of little interest.

Right now, is an excellent time to try out one. The range of topics will amaze. Two sites I have used are:
www.futurelearn.com
www.edx.org

Give it a go and let me know if you have taken up the challenge.

Jan Storey

Home schooling

Most of us over 65 were Home Schooled in many ways whether we realised it at the time or not...

My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

My mother taught me RELIGION.

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My father taught me LOGIC

"Because I said so, that's why."

My father taught me IRONY

"Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!"

My mother taught me about ENVY

"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION

"Just wait until we get home."

My mother taught me about RECEIVING

"You are going to get it from your father when he gets home!"

My father taught me HUMOUR

"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

My mother taught me about my ROOTS

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me WISDOM

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

My father taught me about JUSTICE

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

This should be sent only to the over 65 crowd because the younger ones would not believe we truly were told these "EXACT" words by our parents...

The Piddling Pup: An Ode by I.P. Standing

A farmers dog once came to town
His Christian name was Pete.
His pedigree was two yards long
And his looks were hard to beat.
And as he trotted down the road
'twas beautiful to see
His work on every comer post
His work on every tree.
He watered every gateway and never missed a post
For piddling was his masterpiece and piddling was his boast.

The city dogs stood looking on
With deep and jealous rage
To see a simple country dog
The piddler of the age.

Then all the dogs from far and wide
Were summoned with a yell
To sniff the country stranger off
And judge him by his smell.
They sniffed beneath his stumpy tail
Their praise for him ran high
And when one sniffed him underneath
Pete piddled in his eye.

They smelt him one by one, they smelt him two by two
And noble Pete in high disdain stood still 'till they were thru'.

Then Pete to show the city dogs he didn't care a damn
Walked into a grocer's shop and piddled on the ham.
He piddled on the onions, he piddled on the floor
And when the grocer kicked him out, he piddled on the door.

Behind him all the city dogs decided what they'd do
They'd start a piddling carnival and see the stranger through.
They'd show him all the piddling posts they knew around the town
Then started off with many winks to wear the stranger down
They called the champion piddlers who were always on the go
Who sometimes have a piddling comp, or have a piddling show.

They sprang upon him suddenly when halfway through the town
But Pete just piddled on and on and wore the champions down.
And Pete was with them every trick with vigor and with vim
A thousand piddles more or less were all the same to him.

So he was piddling merrily, his hind leg kicking high
When most were lifting legs in bluff and piddling mighty dry.
On and on Pete sought new ground on which to lay the dust
Till every other dog went dry and gave up in disgust.

But on and on went noble Pete to water every sandhill
Till all the city champs were piddled to a standstill.
Then Pete an exhibition gave of all the ways to piddle
Like double drips and fancy flips and now and then a dribble.

And all the time the country dog
Did never wink or grin
But piddled blithely out of town
As he had piddled in.
The city dogs said, "So long friend
Your piddling did defeat us."
But no-one ever put them wise
That Pete had Diabetes.

Travel vouchers

Editor's note: This information currently appears on the Public Transport Victoria website and I supply it in case the current restrictions on domestic travel are lifted before the year's end, and it needs to be read in the context of the social distancing rules.

From 2020, free travel vouchers will no longer be automatically sent to Victorian Seniors Card holders. From January 1, both existing and new Victorian Seniors Card holders will need to opt-in to receive free travel vouchers in future by registering at the website: www.ptv.vic.gov.au/vouchersau/vouchers. You will only need to register once.

If you are a new card holder please note that to receive your free off-peak travel vouchers you now need to opt in by registering at www.ptv.vic.gov.au/vouchers and you'll receive vouchers in the mail each year.

Registering

If you're eligible, you must register by 31 July 2020 to receive your allocation of free travel vouchers, and vouchers will be mailed in September 2020. If you register after 31 July you will be included in the following year's mail-out, i.e., 2021. You only need to register once and vouchers will be mailed to you each year, provided you remain eligible (your eligibility will be cross-checked with relevant government departments).

There are three ways you can register:

- Online
- Physical registration form - you can pick up a registration form from any staffed train station or PTV Hub. You'll need to post it back to PTV for processing (address below) - registration forms cannot be left at staffed stations
- In person at a PTV Hub - you'll need to bring your eligibility card with you

Free Travel Voucher Registrations
GPO Box 2392
Melbourne, Victoria, 3001.

You've gotta laugh!



Telecommunications and social distancing

With the advent of social distancing and the need for us to stay at home as much as possible during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the phone and a plethora of digital devices have become vital tools in enabling us to maintain contact with each other when we cannot meet face-to-face.

You may be happy with voice calls only, but what can you do if you want a visual element in your telecommunications, so as to introduce some immediacy into your interactions using your digital device? There is a multitude of systems available whereby we can make video calls, each with their strengths and limitations. There are usually “free” trial versions of many of the systems, but you may have to supply your credit card details to access them. However, you will need to cancel your “free” subscription by opting out if the “free” trial period has an expiry date. If you don’t opt out, you will incur charges. Admittedly the paid versions contain more features than the “free” trial versions.

I don’t profess to be an expert in this area but I am providing the following information in good faith, based on my own experience. Google is a good source of information for you, and YouTube has many good (and not so good) video clips on the various teleconferencing systems. All such systems require an Internet connection, and, for video calls either an in-built camera on your device or a Webcam connected to it.

WhatsApp – is a very popular app. It has a limit of four participants at a time on their phones. I use *Whatsapp* on my Android phone. *WhatsApp* uses your phone's Internet connection or Wi-Fi to let you message and call friends and family. It even has a video call option and you can also use it for group calls. *WhatsApp* uses your mobile phone number to identify you and your contacts. There is a lot of information on the Internet about how to use it (including YouTube clips) but I've found it pretty straight forward to set it up.

If you are interested, go to <https://www.whatsapp.com/download> and download it from your computer's browser or download it from the Apple App Store. *WhatsApp* can only be installed on your computer if your operating system is Windows 8 (or newer) or macOS 10.10 (or newer).

Skype - Skype lets users communicate with multiple people at one time using devices with a camera and/or microphone. Computer-to-computer voice chat is free with multiple people, but video chatting with more than two people requires a Skype Premium subscription, which can be purchased for one day, one month, three months or 12 months. I haven’t used Skype for a long time so I’m not up-to-date with it.

ZOOM – I am using this widely used app to hold virtual coffee meetings with my friends on the ‘Net. A lot of big businesses are using it to facilitate communication between their hundreds, if not thousands, of staff, many of whom are working from home.

What equipment do I need to use ZOOM?

- *Windows* or *Apple* computer with speakers/headphones and a microphone.(Webcams are recommended but not required) or an *Apple* or Android mobile device;
- An internet connection;
- Access or permission to install and configure Zoom software on your device.

There is a lot of information on the Internet on how to use ZOOM.

Facetime for Apple device users – you can move around with your device while talking and show aspects of your new enforced self-isolation routines. I like the very good resolution you get on an iPad.

Facebook Messenger – Aptly named, you now need a *Facebook* account to use *Messenger* whereas previously this was not the case. This change in policy was introduced quietly last December. Group video chat on *Messenger* allows you to see up to six people at a time, but up to 50 people can join a voice call. Once more than six people are on a call, the main person talking is shown on-screen to everyone.

I am not familiar with *Messenger* so I suggest you check it out on the Internet.

Graeme Storey
