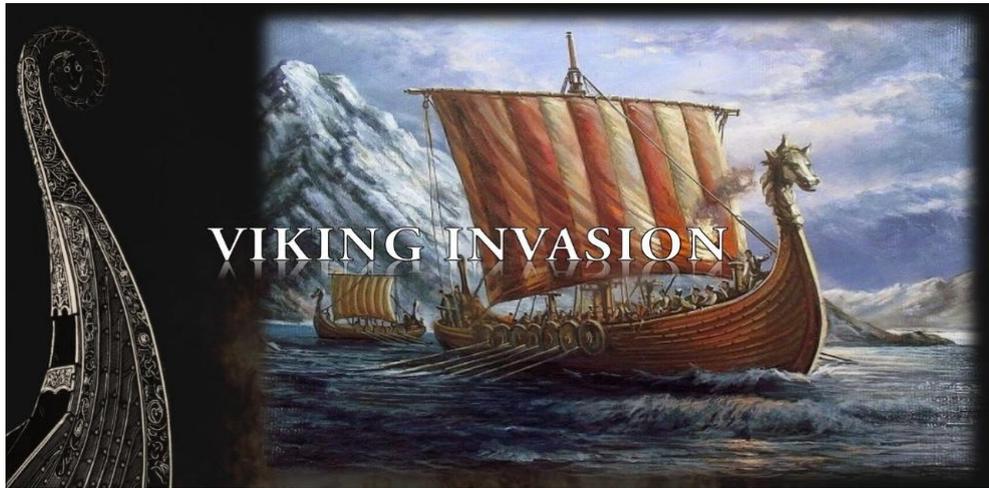


Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues. 11th NOV. 2025

ALAN BARR – Tudor and Stuart Periods Historian Extraordinaire



“THE VIKING INVASION”

Introduction: Approximately a thousand years ago, the Vikings emerged as a powerful force that dramatically altered the trajectory of European history. Originating from the northern regions, these Pagan people were renowned for their raids and pillaging. Although the Vikings are often remembered for their violent exploits, they were also intelligent and resourceful individuals in their everyday lives. Many Vikings were farmers who relied on their ingenuity to thrive. Their mastery of long-distance ocean rowing and sailing set them apart.

The most profound and enduring influence of the Vikings was felt in England and Ireland. The settlements and ongoing presence of these northern invaders brought about significant and lasting changes to medieval history. Notably, the lineage of the English monarchy can be traced directly to Viking ancestors dating back to the year 1066.



Our Guest Speaker Alan possesses a deep and abiding interest for English history, particularly with a focus on the Tudor and Stuart periods. His knowledge of the subject is extensive, built through ongoing research and reading. He enhances his expertise with biannual visits to the UK and Europe, where he explores historic sites, libraries and institutions. This has resulted in a very impressive list of talks, numbering some 30+. This is but one of them.

He regularly participates in specialised, historian-led tours in the UK, which are primarily designed for American interest groups. He is a frequent presenter to several chapters of the University of the Third Age, other community interest groups - such as Probus, and serves as a registered cruise ship speaker. **PHEW!**

After 22 years' service, Alan retired from the RAAF in 1986 and transferred to the Air Force Reserve for about 12 years heading up the RAAF's reserve force.

He has been married for 40 years to Dr Felicity Barr, who is now a retired social gerontologist. They live in Tea Gardens and have enjoyed lots of regular travel to Europe, particularly to the UK, Scandinavia and Iceland, where Norway has become their second home.

His Presentation Alan will cover the reach of the Vikings in the 8th C to Britain and beyond, why they travelled; where they went, their ships and their navigation techniques. He will explore their fighting skills, craftsmanship, religion and symbolism, their connection to France and Norman England and look at the end of their age in 1066.