

Kyrle Probus Club member Keith Glover described some of his 'unforgettable' experiences in Vietnam, Cambodia and the Mekong Delta at the club meeting on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

There had been so much to see and enjoy, said Keith, that ideally he would like three meetings to do justice to this 'magical' part of the Far East.



*'Visiting a foreign country is not just seeing the sights, taking the photos, he said. 'It is about looking up, a new skyline and new culture, a way of life not always aligned with the western ways...a trip to somewhere new.'*

*In the bustling North Vietnam city of Hanoi, with its seven million population and five million registered scooters, Keith enjoyed touring the all-night flower market with 'lucky' peach blossoms just coming into season,; exotic roadside food dishes and a cheery welcome from the North Vietnamese people, with English being increasingly spoken in tourist areas and hotels. His first experience of crossing a busy Vietnam road, was also something to remember.*

*Among the many highlights was the visit to the Presidential Palace- where he met a couple from Goodrich, Toss U3A – the Temple of Fine Arts; the first university founded in 1070 and some Soviet-style architecture giving a sobering reminder of its Socialist Republic background.*

*At the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, long queues were allowed just five seconds to view the embalmed body of the former president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.*

*A two-day expedition to Halong Bay included a night on a luxury cruise to see the Limestone natural wonder World Heritage site; pearl beds and artificial pearl processing; lagoons and 'massive beaches.'*

*Keith also went aboard the 12-hour sleeper train to Huế, and a morning tour of the Imperial Citadel, from where kings had ruled for hundreds of years.*