



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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Editor: A willing member is needed!

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A Special General meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00 am. at the Masonic Centre, Melvor Road, Bendigo.

All correspondence to be addressed to The Secretary, Bob Chenery, 49 Emmett Street Golden Square 3555.

The guest speaker for today is Anne Conway who is a vocalist/entertainer.

GUEST SPEAKER

Guest Speaker for the May meeting was Noel Sens who spoke about his experiences and highlights as a paralympian cyclist. Noel who is 42 years of age was involved in a serious motor cycle accident in 1983 in which he received serious injuries.

His recovery over a period of 7 years was a tribute to his determination and will to succeed in his chosen sport of bicycle racing and his list of achievements is steadily growing.

He raced towards a national record in the 3000m pursuit at the Melbourne Vodaphone and in doing so he bettered his personal best by 3 1/2 secs. This performance following other consistent successes resulted in Noel sharing the Bendigo Advertiser/Channel 10 monthly star award and cemented his place in the Paralympian squad at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Europe.

Noel was accompanied to the meeting by his father Cass, well known as a jeweller in Bendigo and who also for exercise, rides about 40-50 km a week. The questions directed to the speaker by several members at the conclusion of the address provided evidence of the interest arising from the talk and Noel answered them to the satisfaction of all.

Noel was thanked for his interesting address by Ray Downey and the presentation of the Probus Mug by Bob Holmes.

VACANT OFFICES:

Please members!! We still need a Vice-President and Bulletin Editor!! These are not onerous jobs and assistance will be provided to any interested member.

SICK LIST:

Frank O'Connell recovering well after his recent illness. Don Donaldson doing well and hopes to be at this meeting. Gordon Rayson, 3 hospital visits and now improving. Ken Burch, both he and wife Nina are doing well. Ken had a birthday on 22nd May and was off to lodge that night. Gordon Glover, much better and off to Darwin for a fortnight. Peter Goodrich, much improved and reports that there are 5 Bendigo Probus members residing at his retirement village. Arthur Morris, doing well and hopes to be with us today. Clark Jeffrey an inspiration to us all and great to see him at our May meeting. Bob Chenery as bright as a button even with an attack of Sciatica!!

INDUCTION:

A welcome to our newest member, David O'Neill of Lockwood who was introduced by Les Nankervill - place him on the list of bowlers, Bill!!

ACTIVITIES:

Bill's final report for the year was accepted with delight - he reported on a win at our last game against Woodbury!! Bowls is now in recess for 4 to 5 months with a solemn reminder that we are to be the guest club for the annual Probus tournament this coming season. Bill was also soliciting buyers for Probus shirts.

The guest speaker for our July meeting will be Mr Paul Davies who is a violin manufacturer with a business in Castlemaine. Something new - should be very interesting.



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK:

Membership statistics (to March 2001)

Australian and New Zealand Probus Clubs - total 2052

Total Membership - 178,092

Our Club (to May 2001):	Temporary inactive members	- 6
	Life Members	- 2
	Honorary Members	- 1
	Total Members	- 96
	Vacancies	- 4
	Waiting list	- Nil

Thanks Bob, but let us work to change 96 into 100 as soon as possible!!

Heard this last month...Dave and Mabel had married and set off on their honeymoon. Nearing their destination, Mildura, Dave placed his hand on Mabel's knee. After a while, Mabel leaned over to Dave and said affectionately, 'Dave, we are married now, you can go further,'.....So Dave continued on to Adelaide.

Little Johnny wanted to go to the zoo. Finally his mother talked his reluctant father into taking him. 'Did you and your father have a good time?' asked his mother on their return. 'Just great.' said Johnny, 'Daddy really loved it. Especially when one of the animals came home at thirty to one!'

Growing old is like being increasingly penalised for a crime you have not committed!!

BUT

Never resent growing old, lots of people are denied the privilege!!

PROBUS - CANADIAN ROCKIES/ALASKAN TOUR, 6TH - 26TH MAY, 2001:

At 2.00pm on Sunday 6th May, President Herb Hesse & Secretary Bob Chenery farewelled a group of 49, comprising of men and women from several of the Bendigo Area Probus Clubs and friends of Probus.

A short flight to Sydney for an overnight stay. At 9.30am on Monday 7/5/01 the group departed from Sydney on an Air Canada Flight, a brief stopover in Honolulu, arriving in Vancouver (Canada) on Monday 7/5/01 at 9.30am. Total flying time 15.5 hours.

Vancouver in the state of British Columbia is a beautiful city, at which our first two days were spent sightseeing with visits to Franville Island market, Gastown with famous steam clock, Stanley Park and the Capilano suspension bridge. Many travelled on the Sky Train to its terminus many miles away, a completely computerised system, no train driver, no station staff, trains and stations spotlessly clean, a fast, efficient service.

On day 3, 9th May, travelled our road coach by Ferry to Vancouver Island with an overnight stay in the Capital City of Victoria. We spent a few hours in the world famous Butchart Gardens with its breathtaking display of spring flowers.

Next day we again travelled by Ferry to the mainland and the commencement of our days 4 to 7 Road Coach Tour of the spectacular Rocky Mountains with its majestic snow capped mountain peaks and ever changing scenery. We passed by natural forests of Pine, Cedar & Fir Trees, scenic lakes some of which were still frozen, rivers, streams & mountain glaciers and canyons.

Highlights on these days were our snowmobile ride up on to the Athabasca Glacier, visit to the famous Lake Louise and its Chateau. We had overnight stops at ski resorts in Whistler and Sunpeaks and in Jasper, a town surrounded by snow capped mountains.

The nights of days 7 and 8 were spent in the famous Rocky Mountain town of Banff. Our group made a visit to Bow Falls and took a Gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain, a height of 2,290 meters. Some also took a rafting trip down the Bow River.

On day 9 we departed from Banff for our next two days on the rocky Mountainer Train, labelled 'The most spectacular train trip in the world.' The train hauled by Diesel Electric Locomotive comprised power car, baggage car and 15 carriages. On the first day on we were passing or being passed by huge Freight Trains comprising up to 130 wagons, hauled by multiple Diesel Electric Locomotives. There are two main railway lines which also run through the Rockies, Canadian Pacific & Canadian National.

We travelled around and through mountains by tunnels up to nine miles long, one of which being a very lengthy spiral, through forests, valleys, canyons and beside rivers and lakes, all having spectacular scenery. Our overnight train stop being in a Hotel at Kamloops where we were treated to a Dinner and Twin Rivers Floor Show, a vaudeville style show. We finally concluded this memorable journey on the afternoon of day 10, overnight in Vancouver.

During the Road Coach and Train Travel we were generally accommodated in superior class Hotel and Resort Accommodation, meals being of high standard, and with much variety.

On day 11, Thursday 17th of May we spent the morning shopping and sightseeing in Vancouver, mid afternoon we boarded the 53,872 ton M.S. Westerdam at the Vancouver Shipping Terminal for our 7 night Alaskan Cruise and what a delightful experience this was to be.

The ship had a huge Concert Theatre with Dress Circle, each evening after dinner we were treated to a 'One hour non stop live show' with top quality high profile artists, and an exceptional variety of colour, costumes and stage scenery, second to none. Each evening, there was a completely new show.

There was also another Theatre for showing films and presenting other displays. Two heated swimming pools, tennis court, gymnasium.

The ship owned by Holland America had a Dutch Captain, the greater majority of the ship's crew

and staff Indonesian, they were at all times very pleasant, helpful, efficient and attentive to detail and the needs of the passengers. Breakfasts, lunches and dinners were of a consistent high quality and with great variety and food plentiful.

We were generally accommodated in comfortable Outside State Rooms.

Our first port of call was Juneau, the Capital of Alaska which was founded in 1880 with the discovery of gold. Ship docked at 2.00pm and sailed at 10.00pm, allowing much time ashore. The town has a scenic setting and is hemmed in by Mountains and the sea.

Second port of call at Skagway, from 7.00am to 9.00pm, a town again founded on gold discovered in 1896, the famous Klondike Strike. It comprises a 20 block area, has 800 residents, summer temperatures 60's to 70's with 18 daylight hours. In its small area there was a great array of shops with a wide range of souvenirs, with museums featuring native culture, the gold rush and railway era. Many of our group travelled to White pass and Return, a 3 hour trip on the Narrow Gauge White Pass Yukon Railway the 'Scenic Railway of the World' which was built in 1898, a spectacular trip.

After leaving Skagway we sailed overnight until reaching Glacier Bay at 10.00am where we embarked Park Rangers to assist in spotting wildlife. Magnificent scenery, highlight of the day when we sailed within 100 yards of the huge magnificent Margerie Glacier, heard it cracking and saw small pieces dropping off. After leaving Glacier Bay at 3.00pm, we sailed remainder of day and that night for the Port of Ketchikan.

At 11.00am on Tuesday 22nd May we docked at Ketchikan, a town of 14,000 inhabitants. It was founded in 1887 when a Salmon Factory was built there, is now dubbed the Salmon Capital of the World. For many, a morning tour to the Saxman Totem Park. A visit to the Clanhouse and a traditional welcome by song and dance. We viewed Totem Poles and learnt of their mysteries. Finally to the Carving Centre.

There was a multiplicity of things to do and see in Ketchikan, but time was against us. Best buys of the trip available here.

After departing Ketchikan at 6.00pm on Tuesday, we were at sea until we docked in Vancouver at approx. 3.00am on Thursday 24th May, disembarking at approximately 9.15am. Our luggage was stored for the day at a hotel in Vancouver, then last minute sightseeing and shopping.

We departed Vancouver by Air Canada at 9.00pm that evening, lost a day en route, arrived Sydney Saturday 26th May 7.10am. Ansett Flight to Melbourne, then Road Coach arriving Bendigo 1.10pm.

A big thank you to all from our Sister Clubs and friends of Probus who travelled, without whom the trip was not possible. Our party of 49 persons quickly became a friendly group and very supportive of each other and shared together the enjoyment of 'the trip of a lifetime', thoroughly enjoyed by all who travelled.

We acknowledge and appreciate the excellent organisation and delivery of service as arranged by Scenic/Evergreen Tours.

Arthur Eaton

Tours Organiser Probus Club of Bendigo

