



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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

All correspondence to be addressed to The Secretary, P.O. Box 1217, Bendigo, 3552.

As today is the Annual General Meeting there will be no regular speaker. Instead, there will be a couple of five minute talks by our own Probians.

The speaker at our last meeting was Mr. Russell Jack of the Bendigo Chinese Association who spoke on current and future developments at the Chinese Centre in Bridge Street. Russell was introduced by Bob Holmes.

Russell's introductory remarks revolved around the association which has around sixty members although only around twelve attend the meetings; "a handful does the work and the rest do nothing, that's normal", was Russell's comment. The museum cost \$3.25 million, the Gardens cost \$1.6 million and should have been more like \$5 million but Russell negotiated with the mayor

of Beijing and the construction company to do the Gardens as a goodwill gesture. The projects are debt free.

The next project was the Education Centre in the old pub which Russell managed to buy at auction for \$160,000. He was also able to obtain the services of students from the University and one of the inmates of the Bendigo Prison to help in the project. Equipment that he bought specifically for this refurbishment was donated to the University when that part of the refurbishment was finished. The next part of the project was replacing the floor of the hotel because of the ravages of the white ants.



Within the Museum and the Education Centre the Chinese language, Chinese pageant and Tai Chi is taught and this is the first Museum to obtain accreditation, even beating the National Gallery in Melbourne.

In the future Russell hopes to send students to China, twenty at a time, in exchange for the same number of Chinese students and another project is the building of a Pagoda on the service station site.

Russell was thanked by Ron Twitt who made the usual presentation.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

John McCoy is now living in Bethlehem and his address is PO Box 60, Golden Square.

OPERATIONS

Bill Jacka has been successfully relieved of his gall stones and is now recuperating at home.

CARER SUPPORT SERVICES

Through their new bulletin, Carers Quarterly, the Carer Support Services part of the Bendigo Health Care Group are making their service known to the Bendigo public.

Carer Support Workers from this service travel throughout the region providing information, resources and support to carers. The service also provides a 24 hour toll free contact number. By dialling 1800 068 978 or 1800 059 059, carers across the region will be connected directly to a qualified Carer Support Worker who is available to talk about respite options, issues or concerns.

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

The flaming torch arrives in Bendigo Thursday, 27th July 2000. There will be a celebration between 1.00 pm and 3.30 pm at the corner of Pall Mall and Williamson St. An area has been set aside, close to the stage, for the elderly and those with mobility problems, to place their chairs and view the celebrations. In other words, even if you cannot walk, you still have to carry your chair.

If you want to book a site, as a group, the contact is Mr. Peter Davies on 5434 6103.

ACTIVITIES

BOWLS NOTES



On Wednesday, 23rd February we played against North Bendigo and were defeated by 3 shots, 59 to 56. Hopefully, this game will be a good warm-up for the Probus District Championships to be held on 28th February, Bendigo being the current champions.

The best performed rink for Bendigo comprised Jack Rose, Alex Wilson, Bill Clemens and Mel Boyd, winning by 10 shots.

The annual Probus District Bowls Championship was held on Monday, 28th February at Bendigo East Bowling Club.

On a glorious summer day 144 bowlers from district clubs attended and a great day was enjoyed by all. Bowling was very competitive as the results showed. The Championship Shield was won by Castlemaine with 8 wins followed by Eaglehawk/Sandhurst and Maryborough with 7 wins each, then Strathdale 5½, Bendigo and Spring Gully 5 wins.

Division winning skippers were Mel Boyd (Bendigo), Bob McNeice (Castlemaine), Ken Ludeman (Sandhurst) and Ian Wallace (Sandhurst).

Bill Clemens

WILLIAMSTOWN - SUMMER 2000

With stopwatch in hand, plus the cooperation of coach captain Ian and all 53 passengers, tour controller Arthur ensured that we made the maximum use of the time available for our excursion.

Arthur can cut deals with everyone except the weather gods - nevertheless by mid-morning the rain had eased and cloudy but fine conditions prevailed for the rest of the time in the Metropolis.

Our first stop was at the 19th century Mechanics Institute in Williamstown, the home of the local historical society. After the provision of a most welcome morning tea by the members, we had a guided tour of the building. A host of exhibits illustrated the fascinating history of the whole district.

We then boarded the coach for a tour of Williamstown itself, and our guide, Rex, displayed an encyclopedic knowledge of his home town. We traversed the leafy streets of this elegant suburb, and heard of the up-market prices of houses there. We then moved to the newly established Rifle Range housing estate, which has very expensive contemporary homes, but as yet lacks the charm of the original residential area.

We arrived at the pleasant Commonwealth Reserve adjacent to the Gem Pier. Many lunched in this fine park; others patronised some of the cafes in trendy Nelson Place.

Then it was all aboard the ferry "John Batman" for a cruise up the Yarra. We were enlightened by the skipper's racy commentary on the various sights. Maritime features dominated - ships, cranes, docks etc. with Greater Melbourne in the background. Of special interest were the Newport Power Station and the old pumping station (now Scienceworks), respectively. Some of our intrepid passengers chose to sit on the open deck of the ferry, but, unfortunately, were suddenly drenched by a rogue wave. The award for the wettest pants went to veteran sailor, Wal!

On arrival at Jeff's shed (Brack's barn) we disembarked and rejoined our coach for the return journey. At its end we found that it had rained all day in Bendigo!

We had a wonderful day on this over-subscribed excursion. My advice to all those who missed out and to the fortunate ones on board who would like a re-run, is to pressure Arthur for a "Williamstown Revisited - Spring 2000".

Thanks again, Mr Meticulous

Jim Aitken

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1999-2000.

It is my pleasure and a privilege to submit to you our club's 15th Annual Report.

For me, it has been a wonderful experience of achievement and fellowship. Our club continues to provide all of those pleasures and enjoyment that we have come to expect as normal. These do not just happen as a matter of course but are due to the dedication and hard work of so many Probians.

The easiest way to appreciate what various members contribute is to close your eyes and attend an imaginary meeting.....

As you enter the door, you are firstly confronted by "Badger" on your right. Ray Downey, the acknowledged and respected "Father" of all Probians in Bendigo will be waiting there with a greeting, and your badge—if it is a "mixed" meeting your wives or partners badges will also be there. Whenever Ray is unavailable his deputy Bobbie Holmes will step in.

Next you will confront Alf Ryall and Bob Chenery who conduct the appearance and apologies sheets and then come several members whose duty it is to take money from you, a duty faithfully done by Bill Cowling, Alan Laidler, Alan Stephens and of course the overseer of this is Arthur Eaton, our Trips & Entertainment Officer - what a stirring job he does. Then, hovering in the background, like a financial doyen from Theadneedle Street is our Treasurer, Rupert Reynolds - a man of infinite patience.

While this is going on your executive is wading through the business accumulated over the past month, sifting and sorting and determining your club's welfare and direction thus presenting a crisp and concise report to the General Meeting, And who is the architect of all this - Arthur Cowling.

Sitting in on all of these "working parties" is our editor Alex Wilson who does a wonderful job of preparing and publishing our monthly "newspaper".

In addition to the regulars referred to, we have our roster of eight stewards, on rotation, who, under the leadership of "Janitor in Chief" Ralph Michell look after our tea or coffee and biscuits and clean up after the meeting. And then last but not least is our auditor Clive Miller whose job it is to satisfy the Government that all is well at Bendigo Probus and Ken Coles our Public Officer who sees that the Government is informed of our financial doings.

On the pleasure side, Arthur Eaton is ever active arranging trips and outings both large and small. Cliff Binks also organises "Christmas Dinners" in June and sometimes a Mystery Trip or two. Our Vice President Alan works hard at procuring top class speakers for our monthly meetings and our enjoyment. Should the event arise that requires an immediate sub-committee such as our Christmas Party, then one appears as though by magic. Finally our hard working Bowls organizer big Bill Clemens manages to produce the relevant numbers of players required

for each game scheduled and it is to his credit that we have a Probus shirt which sets our club as a front runner.

All of the foregoing simply explains why our club runs so smoothly and it is a pleasure to preside over.

I am extremely grateful to have been your President this 15th year and a special thank you to our executive for that "leave pass" for two meetings that became three.

I wish all incoming office bearers the very best for the 16th year and I will be sitting on the sidelines to assist if my services are required.

Ern Waterworth. President



VISIT TO NEW B.R.I.T. CAMPUS: THURSDAY MARCH 16th, 2000 at **10.00 am
Time permitting, conducted tours of the Engineering, Automotive and Horticultural Sections.
Assemble at Main Entrance Charleston Road (near traffic lights.) at 9.50 am. "For members only."

A listing of (37) names was taken at February meeting, please check, it is important to advise Arthur of any alterations.

TRIP OF THE YEAR - NEW ZEALAND - WED MARCH 29,-TUE APRIL 11, 2000
EVERGREEN TOURS "14 DAY CLASSIC NEW ZEALAND"- NTH & SOUTH ISLANDS
MAXIMUM: (50) Full. Emergencies (3). Group Price: \$2410.00 / p.

** Passports required.

** Coach Departs from Strath Community Ctr Car Park Crook Street on Wednesday 29th March.

* Please report at 8.45 am for 9.00 am Departure.

SENIOR CITIZENS WEEK - MARCH 19th to 26th, 2000

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS: Free Country Rail Travel to "Seniors Card Holders": Saturday 18th, Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd & Saturday 25th. Seat bookings required for some destinations. Booking available at Bendigo Rail Station. (Country Enquiries 136 196.)

Free Metropolitan Transport from Sunday 19th March to Sat. 26th. Metro Enquiries 131 638.
Senior Citizens Booklets available from Coles Stores.

"GREAT OPPORTUNITIES" A variety of major attractions free or greatly reduced.
Enquiries 1300 366 356. and to your travel organiser, Arthur.

THURSDAY 22nd JUNE, 2000. "SPECIAL MILLENNIUM DINNER" at B.R.I.T.
VENUE: Bendigo Regional Institute of T.A.F.E. Hospitality Restaurant, Mc.Crae Street, Bendigo.
TIME: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm Dinner.

COST: \$20.00 per person, includes: Meal & Entertainment. Max:(100)

A Special Dinner Menu, excellent entertainment arranged, three talented lady soloists.

** You won't want to miss out on this !!

Cliff Binks is determined this "Special Millennium Dinner" will be special in all respects and be long remembered. Watch for it !!

Current (79). VACANCIES EXIST: PAYMENTS: April 19th meeting.

Arthur Eaton



Just an item from the Philosopher's Scrap Book

He Forgot One Thing

He was determined to live to at least one hundred, and therefore accepted and obeyed all the advice given by those who profess to know the secrets of longevity.

He brushed his teeth twice a day with a dentifrice of which the advertisements spoke very highly. He was "vetted" by his doctor twice a year. He slept with his windows open. He wore goloshes when it rained. He stuck to a diet with plenty of fresh vegetables, and after each meal took a vitamin tablet or two. He relinquished his tonsils. He golfed, but never more than eighteen holes at a time. He went to bed early and rose with the lark, never sleeping less than eight hours every night. He never smoked, never drank and never lost his temper. He did his daily dozen regularly. He kept all the rules.

His funeral is next Monday. He is survived by eighteen specialists, four health institutes, six gymnasiums and numerous manufacturers of health food and antiseptics.

He had forgotten to obey the traffic lights at the crossroads.

Editor's note: I would like to thank all those Probians who have taken the time and effort to supply me with relevant contributions for these pages for, without them, there would be no Probe.

A.W.