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# PROBE

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Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



Published Monthly

Issue No. 232

17 May, 2006

Incorporation No. A0011248L

Annual Subscription \$25 Print Post Publication No PP 3491 06/00007

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A Special General meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am at the Masonic Centre, McIvor Rd, Bendigo.

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

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Phone: 5443 9162.

## **The Guest Speaker at the May Meeting is Sue Spencer who is the Co-ordinator Commonwealth Centre Link.**

All members be sure to attend with your wife/partner to hear the above speaker.

Topics Sue will cover, Ageing process, funding available, careers for the Aged and Frail, Legal Aid, plus more. Morning tea will be available.

The Guest Speaker at the April meeting, John Riddial was introduced by Len Hodren. John is associated with ABC, Central Radio. After training as an Agricultural Scientist but is now in radio, he has been with ABC for the last 19 years, first in administration but now in broadcasting.

The station provides emergency services for the C.E.S., for the Victorian Police, the Fire Service and so. It provides news coverage and discussion of Current Affairs. It is a medium for local input, for instance the questions about provision of water, challenging authorities, putting the hard questions to them. Another area is promotion of coming events, e.g. Field Days.

ABC is viewed as having a left-wing bias, in fact it tends to be always against whatever party is in government. The speaker was thanked by Ken Coles on behalf of the meeting, and the usual presentation was made.

# VALE

With regret we record the death of Gordon Rayson.

## Foundation Members Luncheon

For the April luncheon we returned to the One Tree Hill Hotel. We had 12 members and wives present. The prompt service and good food we enjoyed previously was repeated and was enjoyed by all of us. The luncheon in May will be at the Farmers Arms Hotel, 1027 McIvor Highway, Junortoun, following our Special General Meeting. The invitation still holds for members not foundation with wives or partners to participate.

## President's Comments

As you are no doubt aware our club member, Gordon Rayson has passed away and I attended his funeral on April 26, 2006. As this was the day of departure of several members on the trip to Tasmania I felt I may have been the only member of our Club to attend, how ever, I was pleased to see seven of our members present.

The Area Zone Biannual Meeting was held at the Uniting Church, Strathfieldsaye on April 28, 2006, which I attended. Of interest to our members was a report from the Eaglehawk Probus Club that they have decided to become a mixed club and so far have ten new members.

Whilst I was one who voted to remain a men only club, I think of King Canute and wonder can we hold back the tides of change.

Next Wednesday, Margaret and I have accepted an invitation from the Probus Club of Spring Gully, to accompany them on a trip to Puffing Billy. I will see for myself any advantages or otherwise of membership of a mixed club.

Best wishes to all and I hope to see you at Probus on May 17, 2006.

Len Hodren - President.

## TASMANIA TOUR

April 26 - May 4, 2006

We embarked, 39 Probus members with wives and partners, together with friends of Probus, on the Spirit of Tasmania after the journey down from Bendigo with Bendigo Coachlines under Coach Captain, Neville Dewhurst.

We arrive in Devonport at 7am, boarded the Coach and travelled to Sheffield for breakfast.

During the tour we spent several hours on the water. Besides the two crossings of Bass Strait we had a pleasant cruise on the Tamar River with Captain Nick giving us a humorous and informative commentary while navigating single handed.

Later on day 7, we joined a World Heritage Cruise from Strahan. Our first visit was to Hell's Gate, the harbour entrance. Here we had some slightly boisterous seas although nothing like the Southern Ocean which we viewed from the harbour entrance.

We turned around and proceeded along the south-east shore to reach the Gordon River. Passing through the gorges, where the river flows through steep, densely-wooded slopes with myrtle, Huon Pine and various other species, we arrived at Heritage Landing. Here a wooden walk-way gives easy access to the Myrtle Rain Forest with sights of ancient Huon Pine.

Lunch was served aboard and we returned to the harbour for a conducted tour of Sarah Island, which was Tasmania's first penal settlement.

The next day, day 8, we travelled back to Strahan for a trip on the West Coast Wilderness Railway which winds its way through the rain forest following close to the King River up the King River Gorge. This is a magnificent spectacle and the train gives an excellent view.

We had lunch on the train and had to change to the train with a locomotive equipped with rack and pinion gear. This took us over the ridge to Queenstown where the coach was waiting to take us back to Devonport and the Spirit of Tasmania on which we returned to Melbourne.

We disembarked at 7am and took an early breakfast at MacDonald's on the Ring Road. After breakfast we had to return to the Spirit to pick up some items of luggage which had been left behind. As a result we arrived back in Bendigo over an hour later than the scheduled time.

The accommodation at all our stays was good, particularly the food for breakfast and dinner. At the dinner on Day 6 we had two Guest Speakers, Noleen Bradshaw who is the leading spirit in the Museum at Queenstown and Len Craig, a retired railway man, who recounted some of his amusing experiences. We took the opportunity to congratulate Mr and Mrs Dingle on their approaching Diamond Wedding.

No tour is complete without some incidents, and sure enough we had them. One gentleman had lunch at a cafe then went to the toilet. He emerged and took the wrong turning, leaving the building and his wife. Not content with that he went to the coach meeting point, but it was the wrong park, at the opposite end of the town.

We also had two separate incidents of ladies who went walkabout in the middle of the night, dressed only in night attire.



## **PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO**

### *Little Desert Nature Lodge Tour*

**TUESDAY 24th TO THURSDAY 26th OCTOBER, 2006. (3 Day/2 Nights)**

*The Little Desert Lodge is set in 117 hectares of natural bush surroundings and is located on the edge of the pristine Little Desert Nature Park and is situated close to Nhill on the Nhill-Harrow Road. The Lodge has 24 rooms with en-suite bathroom facilities and the*

*Dining Room caters for group bookings*

**\*\*An interesting and relaxed tour to suit our age group. Minimum (30) Max: (48)**

**Depart: At 8.00am from Strathdale Community Ctre, Crook Street.**

**Cost: \$350 per person twin share. Single supplement: \$45. (Based on Minimum of 30)**

**Cost includes: All Coach travel, dinner, bed & breakfast, lunch from day 1 to Day 3 and various activities whilst there.**

**Day 1: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October: (L/D)**

**12.30pm: Arrive Little Desert Lodge for lunch and settle in to our accommodation**

**1.30pm: Free time to explore the tranquil beauty of the Little Desert Nature Lodge surroundings.- take in the wildflowers along one of the nature trails and enjoy bird watching at Whimpey's waterhole.**

**6.30pm: Three course Dinner in the fully licensed dining room.**

**8.00pm: Night spotlight walk – see nocturnal creatures of the bush including delightful Sugar Gliders, Betongs, and Sone Curlews. Listen in amazement as the guides interpret the sounds of the night, such as Owls Nightjars, Bats and Frogs.**

**Day 2: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October: (B/L/D)**

**8.00am: Breakfast.**

**9.00am: Travel from Little Desert Lodge via Edenhope and across the South Aust. Border to Naracoorte.**

**10.30am: Morning tea at Narracoorte Caves Conservation Park followed by a tour of the magnificent Victoria Fossil Cave.**

**1.00pm: Lunch, followed by afternoon tour of world famous Coonawarra wine growing region.**

**6.30pm: Return to Little Lodge for Dinner and an evening of relaxation.**

**\*\* The day (2) part of Itinerary may be changed for an alternative tour if it be so desired,**

**Day 3: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October: (B/I)**

**8.00am: Breakfast.**

**9.00am: Depart for our tour of the Malleefowl Sanctuary. This is a protected habitat which provides a rare opportunity to see these mound building birds in the wild. Over the years Whimpey has developed a unique relationship with established breeding birds, which enables viewing at close hand. Remember, these are totally wild birds so you have to be very quiet and patient.**

**12.00pm: Light Lunch at the Lodge before departure journey to Bendigo, arriving home approx 5.30pm.**

**\*\* Copies of the Itinerary will be available at the 17<sup>th</sup> May Meeting.**

**LIST: Will be tabled at the 17<sup>th</sup> May meeting. In order to retain the booking which I have secured, a positive response is desired at the May and June meetings.**

**Final Payments: Will be required at or prior to the September 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting.**

**Tours Organiser Arthur Eaton. Enquiries, phone Arthur: 5443 9162**