



PROBE

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

All correspondence to the Secretary, 2 Cook Street, Bendigo, 3550.

Our Guest Speaker today is Neil Burns, who is a water engineer with Coliban Water.

Because the March Meeting was the 10th Annual General Meeting, we had no Guest Speaker. Our retiring President Maurice Pease, presented the Annual Report, summarising the year's activities and events.

The office bearers and committee for the coming year are as follows:

President	-	Ralph Michell
Vice President	-	Bill Jacka
Treasurer	-	Geoff Biles
Secretary	-	Ken Coles

Committee Members - Jim Aitken, Bill Clemens, Alan Court, Kevin Houlahan, Colin McLean, Maurice Pease and Ern Waterworth.

Ron Stanistreet was appointed auditor. The existing fee table will remain -

Joining Fee (once only)	- \$10
Annual Fee	\$15
Nominating Fee	\$10
Nominee's Annual Fee	\$5
Monthly Meeting Attendance Fee	\$2

The Honorary Treasurer wishes to point out that Annual Fees are due, from the Annual General Meeting.

--- A TRIP TO REMEMBER 1996 ---

On Monday 11th March we commenced a trip with a difference as it was arranged by 'V-Line Holidays' with assistance from Arthur Eaton, of course.

We were pleasantly surprised to be welcomed at the station with a cup of tea/coffee and carrot cake. We were also privileged to have reserved train seats under the personal supervision of Tony Drummond, V-Line Promotions Officer through whom Arthur arranged for two of our members, Clark Jeffery and Ralph Michel, to travel separately in the driver's cabin where Ralph used his video camera.

Would you believe it, one of our members left his baggage (and his wife's) in the waiting room at Bendigo. However after special arrangements by Tony in conjunction with Western Victorian Rail and Swagman tours our concerned couple obtained their cases just before bed time!

After a pleasant trip to Melbourne, and experiencing some difficulty in obtaining refreshments at Spencer Street because it was a public holiday, we continued on our way to Geelong where we were met by our Swagman Coach Captain Archie Black with his comfortable coach. We had a quick look at Geelong's seashore and travelled along the Princes Highway viewing the 'Floating Lakes' prior to reaching Colac.

We then proceeded to Camperdown where we enjoyed the view from the top of the cone shaped Mt. Leura, accompanied by an interesting commentary by Ray Downey, before journeying to Warrnambool. There we were greeted by the proprietors of Riverside Garden Motor Inn who supplied us with a delightful evening meal.

On Tuesday during a short tour of Warrnambool we were impressed with the cleanliness of the city and the lack of vandalism. We continued on to Tower Hill State Game Reserve. Those of us who had previously visited this Reserve noted with interest the many improvements. Once again there was an absence of vandalism and an emphasis on the planting of native trees and shrubs which commenced in 1961 and has resulted in over 250,000 trees being planted with the assistance of many volunteer groups.

After a pleasant morning tea at Koroit we went to Port Fairy, a quaint fishing village at the mouth of the Moyne River where we had lunch and admired many of the historic buildings.

We returned to Warrnambool and visited the Maritime Museum overlooking Lady Bay. This is an outstanding maritime complex allowing one to step back in time and realize the atmosphere of an early Australian coastal port and the many dangers faced by the early migrants many of whom never reached their intended destination because of the treacherous seas in Bass Strait. We also saw and admired the Loch Ard Peacock, perhaps Australia's most famous shipwreck relic.

On the way back to the Motel, we visited the well known Fletcher Jones Gardens which is a credit to this prestigious Australian firm. Quite a few purchased some 'specials' and all of us admired the gardens, and the manner in which they are kept. One of the quotations on display seemed most appropriate - 'When the world wearies and society does not satisfy there is always "The Gardens" '. After a delightful dinner we were taken for an evening beach walk.

After an early breakfast on Wednesday, we journeyed along the western part of the Great Ocean Road and saw the Bay of Islands, London Bridge, Loch Ard Gorge and the Twelve Apostles. At each stop we were impressed by the provision of detailed plaques with information and the numerous boarded walk-ways which help to preserve the natural habitat.

We travelled inland through the Otways and had lunch at Simpson after which we were treated to an historical review by Ray Downey of the Heytesbury Settlement which now has a thriving dairy industry. (Ray was manager of the S.E.C. in Colac prior to coming to Bendigo).

At Colac we enjoyed afternoon tea and some of us went for a walk in the gardens where we were impressed by the fine War Memorial. Bob Hollow was heard to remark it was the first time he had seen specific mention of the service given by women in the time of war.

After reaching Geelong we travelled by train to Spencer Street where we enjoyed tea prior to appreciating the reserved area in the train for the final stage of our trip and were back in Bendigo before 8.30 p.m.

Our grateful thanks are extended to Arthur Eaton for once again providing a very enjoyable experience in pleasant weather, and to our Coach Captain Archie Black and Tony Drummond for attending to many details that made the journey so delightful. It is nice to see V-Line entering the holiday tours scene.

Allan Dingle.

P.S. It is suggested the conductors could give more details on the services provided at Spencer Street Station, both when and where.

It was also disturbing to some of us that our special carriage on the way home was locked in such a way that if there was an emergency, it did not appear possible to be able to contact the conductor.

TRIPS INFORMATION

THURSDAY APRIL 18TH - WATERFALLS AND NATURE TOUR (Cliff Binks)

Cost: \$21/person includes coach fare, m/tea, lunch, a/tea. Max:49 Current:54. Emergencies invited. Depart 8.30 a.m., arrive home approx. 6.00 p.m. **Bring good walking shoes, umbrella and coat - just in case required.

THURSDAY MAY 16TH - TRIP TO BALLARAT - GREAT SOUTHERN WOOLSHED

Max: 49 Current: 60 "An entirely new attraction" Depart 8.45 a.m. Arrive home approx. 5.30 p.m. The Great Southern Woolshed is Ballarat's newest major tourist attraction, based on the Wool Industry and of "International standard". It opened November 1995 and is proving popular with visitors. It is a large complex, built as "genuine working Shearing Shed". You will be pleasantly surprised! Features sheep shearing, working sheep dogs, ram parade, animal nursery, a lazer 3D Waltzing Matilda Show, exhibits from the early days and many items of interest. Specialty shops featuring the best in Australian wool, clothing and crafts, at reasonable prices. **All under one roof, in warmth and comfort. Cost: \$25/person includes coach fare, entry to attractions and two course lunch. Payments due at April 17th Meeting.

TRIP OF THE YEAR - MONDAY SEPT. 23RD TO SATURDAY SEPT. 28TH 1996 (6 Day/5 Night) TRIP TO SNOWY MOUNTAINS - STAYING AT PROVIDENCE LODGE (ADAMINABY).

Max:48 Current:67. Host: Col Mayhew (Owner). Cost: \$429/person approx. twin share. Includes coach, accommodation twin share, full breakfasts, 3 course dinners, lunches and evening supper, morning and afternoon teas, all entries, rides, inspections etc, evening entertainment, fun nights. Host provides commentary on all outings. Our Club will have "exclusive use of entire Lodge". **Providence Lodge is situated on Lake Eucumbine, and comes very highly recommended. Our 1991 trip was voted as the best ever.

FRIDAY JUNE 14TH 1996 - TRIP TO MELBOURNE - VISITS TO POLICE H.Q. AND MUSEUM, CASINO AND NEW MELBOURNE EXHIBITION CENTRE.

Max: 49. Depart 7.30 a.m. Arrive home approx. 5.45 p.m. Cost: \$17/person. Listing at April 17th Meeting.

Arthur Eaton.