



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



Published Monthly

Issue No. 143

15th. April 1998

Editor: ALEX WILSON (Phone 54439994)

Annual Subscription \$20 Print Post Publication No PP 3491 06/00007

President: Kevin Houlahan

Secretary: Arthur Cowling

Phone : 5443 3666

Phone : 5443 3788

A Special General Meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday 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.

The subject for today's meeting is "War Memories", chaired by our President, Kevin Houlahan.

The speakers are :

Jack Watts - Army

Wal. Spicer - Navy

Ern Waterworth - Air Force

Each speaker will talk for 10 minutes, then questions can be asked.

The Annual General Meeting held last month resulted in the following Office Bearers being elected :-

President - Kevin Houlahan

Vice-President - Ern Waterworth

Secretary - Arthur Cowling

Treasurer - Rupert Reynolds

Auditor - Ron Stanistrect

Committee Members - G. Biles, W. Clemens, A. Court, R. Michell and M. Pease.

Bulletin Editor - A. Wilson.

Following Kevin Houlahan's induction as President, Ern Waterworth thanked Bill Jacka for his excellent leadership during 1997/98. Kevin then presented the Past Presidents badge to Bill.

Arthur Eaton and Ray Downey were then presented with life memberships to the Bendigo Probus Club in recognition of their services to the Club.

The Treasurer recommended that, owing to the decline in our small reserve, the annual fee be increased from \$15 to \$20. This was carried by the meeting. After morning fellowship the members were treated to entertainment which was a rehearsal of the entertainment to be provided at the Annual Probus Picnic. Thanks to Ken and Brian, Alan and Bill, and Bruce.

PROFILE OF OUR PRESIDENT - KEVIN HOULAHAN



Kevin was born on 20th April 1921, the youngest of seven children (4 brothers and 2 sisters), with all but one still living. His education started at the Eppalock State School and then at Assumption College, Kilmore. The Education Department was his first employer being a student teacher before entering the Melbourne Teachers College in 1941.

He then entered the Army doing elementary training at Balcombe and subsequently joined the 4th Armoured Regiment. Some months later, after attending a school at the Tank Wireless Wing of the Armoured Fighting Vehicles School at Puckapunyal he was transferred there as an instructor for a couple of years before enlisting in the RAAF. After training in Adelaide and Point Cook as a Cypher Assistant he sailed to Morotai where he remained until December 1945.

In 1946 he married Theresa Mannes resulting in 5 daughters. Subsequently 5 sons-in-law came along and now there are 14 grandchildren.

In 1947 he resigned from the Education Department and started with his brother and uncle in the Building Industry in Melbourne. In early 1955 he and his brother were engaged in the construction of the Sunset Drive-In Theatre in Maribyrnong and became interested in establishing one in Bendigo. It was agreed that Kevin would transfer back to Bendigo and be responsible for the establishment of this theatre. This operated for about 30 years until videos presented a more popular medium for film exhibition.

In 1965 he was associated with a company that had the lease of the Plaza cinema in Bendigo and had operated satisfactorily until it was decided to build the "Twin Cinemas" in Queen Street in 1975. After about 12 years the cinema was sold to a group from Shepparton who, together with Roadshow, have built an extra cinema and intend, very soon, to extend further. Kevin has been busy in the broader community since returning to Bendigo having spent some time with Legacy, Strathfieldsaye Council, Bendigo Sewerage Authority, Lake Eppalock Foreshore Committee, Northern District School of Nursing, Bendigo Base Hospital Board, Mount Alvernia Board and National Trustees Ltd.

He greatly appreciates the work which so many people in the community contribute to make Bendigo such a great place to live.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ray and Ollie Downey and Clark and Gwen Jeffrey respectively celebrate their 60th wedding anniversaries this month. Congratulations and best wishes are offered to them from all Probians.

ACTIVITIES

BOWLS NOTES

The Combined Probus Bowls Day was held at Bendigo East Bowling Club in March and was attended by most clubs in this region. A very successful day was enjoyed by all. The winners of the perpetual Probus shield was Castlemaine who now have the dubious pleasure of hosting next years event. Our club came fourth overall with one section winner, Herb Hesse's rink of Alan Court, Ray Fitzgerald and Eddie Hogan. Well done and many thanks to all other players who attended.

Our final bowls match for this season is against Sandhurst at Woodbury on Thursday 16th April at 9.30 am for a 10.00 am start. The following teams have been selected:-

| | | | | |
|------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----|
| G. Glover | A. Wilson | L. Roy | R. Marslen | (s) |
| A. Dingle | W. Spicer | W. Clemens | F. O'Connell | (s) |
| J. Kelly | E. Waterworth | A. Court | A. Stevens | (s) |
| R. Chenery | E. Driscoll | W. Winzar | H. Hesse | (s) |
| J. Rose | R. Holmes | P. Goodrich | A. Morris | (s) |
| R. Downey | N. Barningham | R. Fitzgerald | G. Rayson | (s) |
| J. Laidler | O. Watson | A. Eaton | E. Hogan | (s) |

If not available as selected contact Bill Clemens on 54470562.

ANNUAL DISTRICT PROBUS CLUBS COMBINED PICNIC

On Friday March 20 the picnic was held under ideal conditions in Bendigo's magnificent Rosalind Park with 145 representatives from 14 of the 22 Probus Clubs in this region.

A very enjoyable day was experienced by all who attended and took part in the activities provided by the Bendigo Probus organisers. Special mention should be made of a novel Trivial Pursuit by Ken Coles and Brian Clemson, a horse race engineered by Alan Court and Bill Jacka (no swabs were taken) and Celebrity Heads which was compered by Bruce Michelsen. Thanks to all who helped to make this day the success that it was.

The President and members of the Bendigo Probus Club wish to thank all who attended and look forward to meeting you again in the future.

CENTRAL VICTORIA TOUR

Right on the stroke of 8.00 am our bus pulled out for our tour of the North-East. Cliff Binks gave us an excellent commentary as we went through the Colbinabbin area where he had spent most of his early years and ultimately met Norma. We visited the site where there had been a P.O.W. camp and then went to the Murchison Cemetery where there is an Italian War Cemetery within the grounds. Continuing our trip we went to Noorilim where we had an interesting chat prior to looking through the beautiful old home with its huge garden and many 100 year old trees. We then had our lunch on the verandah and lawns before looking at many other surrounding features including the Museum which housed clothing from the 1920's onwards, and also the car and motorcycle collection. A beautiful collection very cleverly displayed.

After a very pleasant stay we went on our way again and called in at the Nut House in Nagambie. We were shown many nuts - in bags - and did not lose any of our passengers!! Most people bought quite a variety of their products and then we moved on to the Mitchelton Winery.

After a cup of tea, or coffee, and a large scone with jam and cream we were able to sample 4 or 5 different wines and buy some also. After a good look around the large area of vines and the lookout tower we then moved into the last stage of our journey, coming home through Heathcote. We had raffles at this stage and I am sure all the winners were thrilled when their number came up.

We had a most interesting day and thank Cliff Binks for his planning and Arthur for giving us yet another fine day.

M. Pease.

A request from Cliff: WANTED :- Any photos involving past Bendigo Probus activities. Must have written detail on photo. Required for start of Club Photo Collection. No more than 2 photos will be used of any event.



INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Someone must have a direct line to the man upstairs because we were blessed with a glorious autumn day for our trip to the Flower and Garden show. We arrived about 10.00 am and were surprised at the large crowd already in attendance. Although we expected to see a variety of flowers we were not prepared for the spectacular display in the Royal Exhibition Building.

On offer were displays with a Nursery Rhyme theme. Displays included a Royal Coach and yet others based on Humpty Dumpty and Little Miss Muffet. Nations of the world were represented and offered floral tributes to their countries.

It was interesting to see that some flowers had been dye-fed to give some distinctive and colourful edge treatments to the flowers. As well as tulips, daisies and every other flower you can mention, as ex-Queenslanders, we were surprised to see the extensive use of gerberas in the displays.

The view from the balcony provided a stunning overall impression of both the exhibits and the recently refurbished building.

Outside, in the Carlton Gardens, there were stalls in profusion selling everything from plants to garden accessories to lawn and garden care equipment but of particular joy were the gardens with their floral displays and hedge sculptures. All this supplemented by the Victorian Police Band and a Jazz Band playing tunes we all recognise.

A highlight of the day was to be with Ollie and Ray Downey who were celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations to them both. To mark this occasion a card, signed by all on the coach, was presented by Past President Bill Jacka.

Home on time after another excellent trip.

Thanks Arthur.

Gcoff Biles



TRIPS INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH, 1998. WETLANDER CRUISE AND COHUNA EXPERIENCE.

Max. 49 Current 55. Depart : 8.15 am Home : Approx. 6.00 pm.

First we travel to Cohuna to visit their unique Historical Centre consisting of four departments which will interest all. At conclusion of tour the Centre ladies will provide a light lunch. After lunch, we join the "Wetlander", a cruise ship with comfortable air conditioned cabin and covered top viewing area. We have a two hour cruise of the Gunbower Creek and Gunawarra Wetlands, seeing birds, wildlife and spectacular scenery.

COST: \$27.00/person. Includes: Coach fare, light lunch, entrance fees and cruise.

PAYMENTS: At April 15th meeting please. ****EMERGENCIES REQUIRED****

TUES. JUNE 23rd, 1998. 7.00 pm to 10.30.pm "CHRISTMAS DINNER OUTING IN JUNE" at B.R.I.T. Hospitality Centre, McCrae St. Bendigo. Cliff Binks has been fortunate to obtain a booking at BRIT Hospitality Restaurant. A traditional Christmas dinner will be served. Entertainment has been arranged. Will be a first class night out at a reasonable cost. COST: \$18.50/person. Maximum 100.

LIST at April 15th meeting. PAYMENTS: ****May 20th meeting.****

THUR. JULY 16TH, 1998. 7.00 pm to 10.45 pm. "DINNER AND CONCERT" (C.Binks)

Max. (80+ approx). "A beauty - Don't miss this one."

The venue will be the Uniting Church Hall, Forest Street. A caterer has been engaged to provide the dinner.

CONCERT: Caledonian Society has arranged for twenty artists.

FORMAT: Sit at tables - buffet. Nibbles/fruit punch on tables. Part concert - main course - concert - sweets - concert - coffee and after dinner mints. COST: \$17.50/person approx.

LIST: April 15th meeting. PAYMENTS: June 17th meeting.

SUN. AUG. 23RD, 1998. 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Maximum (156) (C.Binks)

"FILM AFTERNOON AT CAMPBELL THEATRETTE".

Due to the popularity of the previous film night at the Campbell Theatrette, another excellent program is being prepared for this Film Afternoon. Excellent program - Feature film "Road to Nhill" Other Probus Clubs will be offered specific ticket allocations. Nibbles, etc will be provided at interval.

COST: Estimated at \$7.00/person. LIST and full details at May meeting. PAY: July 15th meeting.

MON. SEPT. 28TH TO FRI. OCT. 2ND. Incl. ****TRIP OF THE YEAR****.

5 day/4 night staying at PINNACLE VALLEY RESORT. (Mansfield area). Max 48 Current 55.

*****EMERGENCIES REQUIRED*****

"A first class trip" - you will enjoy this one, I recommend it. (AE)

COST: \$420/person. Include: Coach (5 star), Accommodation (4 star) twin share, all meals, morning and afternoon teas, tours, entry fees.

NOTE: M/tea, lunch commence from day 1 and cease after lunch on day 5.

***** STOP PRESS*** V/LINE (RAILWAYS) - SPECIAL OFFER.** Maximum 50.

THURSDAY MAY 14TH, 1998. TRIP TO MELBOURNE AND RETURN BY TRAIN.

Bookings direct to V/Line Bendigo 54402739 (Bernie). When booking mention "Bendigo Probus Club" and say that Arthur sent you.

Depart Bendigo 9.20 am Return Depart Melb. 3.50 pm, Home 6.00 pm.

Visit "Madame Tussards Waxworks", Hour and a quarter Cruise on Yarra, (includes light lunch of Sandwiches, cake tea/coffee.

All inclusive cost: Seniors and Pensioner Card holders: \$42.00/person

Pass holders and Free Rail Vouchers: \$28.00/person

Don't delay - this will be snapped up quickly.

*****To assist collectors, please tender correct money. If payment by cheque, please ensure details are written on back of cheque.*****

Arthur Eaton
Tours Organizer

The editor wishes to thank all those who contributed to the reports.

