



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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Editor : ALEC CROTHERS (Phone 43 2642)

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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President : CYRIL MC DONALD

Phone : 43 9534

Secretary : BOB CHENERY

Phone : 42 4546

A Special General Meeting is held every 3rd. Wednesday each month at 10.00 a.m. at the Bendigo Club.

All correspondence to the Secretary, 49 Emmett Street, Golden Square, 3555.

GUEST SPEAKER at our August Meeting is MICHAEL O'BURTILL who will be talking about his experiences as an Air Traffic Controller.

HAVE FOUR WHEELS - WILL TRAVEL : MR. BILL MILLER, a well known Eaglehawk identity whose hobbies include travelling in the Australian outback via a four wheel drive vehicle, spoke on his experiences travelling through Central Western Australia.

Bill was introduced by RAY DOWNEY, who told us that Bill held the qualification of Ph.D. (Post hole Digger), and also of his ready assistance to local community projects.

Bill's talk was mainly about his re-tracing a track called the "Canning Stock Route", named after Alfred Canning (1861-1936), a surveyor and explorer who pioneered this stock route in 1906. Although not now used, this stock route extends 1600 kms from Wiluna to Halls Creek in W.A. and is still the longest stock route in the country and which took only 18 months to construct.

Rather than take the "easy road" - Bill and his party began their trek from Rawlinna rail siding on the India/Pacific railway and headed north following the so called Conisue Highway; distinguishable by occasional very small windrows which made navigation difficult. His first obstacle was to turn right at Neal Junction, which was designated only by a survey marker bottle in the sand some 320 kms north. Then further northerly another similar distance to Warburton Mission through some of the Gibson Desert and continuing generally north. The Canning Stock Route was constructed utilizing as much of the limited natural water resources as possible, which meant in many cases having to

build many wells, often through limestone and some as deep as 100 feet. These were all timber lined, each well having two 50 foot troughs for cattle watering. Many of these wells exist today, but some in varying degrees of disrepair. Bill described difficulties of traversing countless sand dunes, being confronted with serious vehicle mechanical breakdowns and eventual repair and the comfort of having radio communication available through the Royal Flying Doctor Services. Bill concluded his talk by paying tribute to the courage and perseverance of the early explorers and all those who built the original Canning Stock Route.

BILL BELL thanked Bill Miller, who received the usual Club memento of his visit to Bendigo Probus

TRIPS AND ENTERTAINMENT :

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26TH. : MELBOURNE TRIP

GUIDED TOUR NEWPORT RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, WILLIAMSTOWN AREA
AND SCIENCE MUSEUM AT SPOTSWOOD (RECENTLY OPENED)

Guided tour of Newport Railway Workshops presenting an opportunity to see some of the latest technology in that industry. Arrangements have been made for the ladies to see other suitable attractions in Williamstown while the men are at the Workshops. Afternoon portion: Ladies & Men - a tour of the recently opened Museum at Spotswood, should be of interest to all. A hands on experience.

Cost : \$15/person - take own picnic lunch. **Maximum To Travel** : 49
Current Bookings : 48. Emergencies invited. Depart : 7:30 a.m. from Strath Community Centre. Arrive Home : 6:30 p.m. approximately.

TRIP OF THE YEAR : 8 Days/7 Nights "FLINDERS RANGES/ROXBY DOWNS"

Saturday September 26th. - Saturday October 3rd. (inclusive).

"An interesting trip with variety." **COST** : \$760.00/person - Includes Coach Fare, Accom. - D.B.B., plus morning and afternoon teas and all entry fees. Full trip itineraries available, either from ARTHUR or HOULDENS TOURS. **CURRENT BOOKINGS** : Coach Full - Emergencies: 1 couple, further emergencies are invited. **BALANCE OF PAYMENTS** due and payable at Houlden's Tours, August 26th. Insurance Cover Available : Approx \$20/person, enquiries Houldens or Arthur.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26TH. - PUFFING BILLY STEAM TRAIN RIDE & DANDENON.

RANGES : Experience the beautiful scenery of the Dandenongs and travel on the famous "Puffing Billy" at the best time of the year. Many expressions of interest have been received - don't miss out on this excellent trip. (I have reserved train bookings) Approximate **Cost** : \$18.00/person - includes Coach & Train. **LUNCH** : take own Picnic Lunch. LIST Tabled TODAY AUGUST 19TH. MEETING.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22ND. 1992 - CONDUCTED TOURS OF :

SANDHURST DAIRIES & BENDIGO ADVERTISER

"An opportunity to visit two interesting and efficient Local Industry Enterprises." **Morning Tours**. BENDIGO ADVERTISER NEWSPAPERS : 9:30 a.m. SANDHURST DAIRIES 11:00 a.m. **Transport** : Use own cars. **Maximum** : 40. LIST Tabled TODAY AUGUST 19TH.

GOLDEN DRAGON CHINESE MUSEUM TOUR & HOUSE OF KHONG BANQUET: What a wealth of tradition the Chinese have, what a rich, colourful culture. The Chinese Community in Bendigo is rightly proud of its inheritance and in the Chinese Golden Dragon Museum this culture is proudly displayed. When a group of Probus members and wives visited the Museum on July 21 we were fortunate to be received and guided by Russell Jack. The Club has already been favoured with a talk from Russell, but, while this was a part introduction to the work of the Chinese Association, this writer was astonished at the breadth of interest on display. The famous Bendigo dragons are there. One has seen them in the Easter parade, but to see them close up in the confines of the Museum, which is quite spacious, is something else again. Besides the dragons, there is a great deal more on display, clothing, ceremonial apparel, tools, utensils and so on. In addition, there is material about the Chinese in Bendigo, family photographs, portraits and documents. A final, very strong impression, is how much the Chinese Community has contributed to Bendigo life, especially perhaps in fund raising for charities and public projects.

After the Museum we moved on to the House of Khong for a Chinese Banquet Meal, a fitting conclusion to the excursion.

SPECIAL FEATURE SPOT

BE EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS : For your diaries, please note that the Club's Christmas Party Night will be held this year on **THURSDAY 17TH. DECEMBER.**

----- *KEN BARCH* -----
CONGRATULATIONS : To our President Cyril and Delina on celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

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THE SECRETARY'S LAMENT :

If the Secretary writes a letter, it's too long;
If he sends a postcard, it's too short.
If he speaks at the Meeting, he's interrupting;
If he doesn't, he's shirking his responsibility.
If he offers a suggestion, he's a know-all;
If he says nothing, he's useless.
If the attendance is poor, he should have telephoned;
If he telephones, he's a nuisance.
If he reminds a member to pay his subscription, he's insulting;
If he doesn't, he's lazy.
If the Meeting is a success, the Committee is praised;
If it's a failure, the Secretary is to blame.
If he seeks advice, he's incompetent;
If he doesn't, he's a big-head.
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust;
If the others won't do it, the Secretary must!

COMEDY SPOT :

A Department of Health official was visiting the Bendigo Hospital and stopped to scan the management notice board. Among the list of lectures was "Surprises in Obstetrics". Beneath it someone had penciled, "Mary had a little lamb".

Then there was the Probus Member who always had bad luck. Once he found a magic lamp, rubbed it, and a genie appeared and gave him the Midas touch. For the rest of his life, everything he touched turned into a muffler.

Have we a Phantom Secretary?

Our Secretary was seen recently waiting for a train on Spencer Street Station when a Flinders Street train made an unscheduled stop. He jumped aboard, only to be told by a porter, "I'm sorry sir, you'll have to get off ... this train doesn't stop here." Unabashed, our Secretary was heard to reply ... "In that case, don't worry - I'm not on it."

BENDIGO PROBUS CLUB

HOBBIES DISPLAY
DAY

16 SEPTEMBER 92
(SEPT. MEETING)

THIS DAY HAS BEEN SET ASIDE TO
ALLOW MEMBERS TO SHOW OTHERS
OF THEIR INTERESTS/HOBBIES ETC

Organisers:-

VAL ASHBURN & RAY DOWNEY

Members participating in this day are asked to meet at 9:45 at the August Meeting to discuss any arrangements they wish to make, or any assistance they may require on the morning of the September Meeting.