



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probuss Club of Bendigo Inc.



Published Monthly

Issue No. 180

15th August, 2001

Incorporation No. A0011248L

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

President: Herb Hesse

Secretary: Bob Chenery

Phone: 5443 6424

Phone: 5442 4546

Editor: Alec Crothers Phone: 5443 2642

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, Bob Chenery, 49 Emmett Street Golden Square 3555.

At our meeting of August 15th the guest speakers are Muriel and Ian Thornton who will be showing slides and speaking of their recent second trip to China. Ladies are invited to attend.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Geoff Biles introduced the speaker at our July meeting giving us a short biography. The speaker was Paul Davies, musical instrument maker of Castlemaine.

Paul grew up in Glen Waverley and, working part-time in a local music shop, gradually began, under expert guidance, to repair musical instruments. As a guitar and violin player he had special interest in these and other stringed instruments, and he started making these. To further his skills he went overseas, to Europe, eventually returning to Australia where he set up a shop in Castlemaine.

Violin making is conducted in a very traditional way, the tools and techniques now are little changed from what they were 200 years ago. One modern innovation which Paul has pioneered is the use of computer controlled machines, but



only for the preliminary stages, the final work must still be done by hand. Paul's working philosophy is 'Respect for the past and vision for the future'.

There are 72 separate pieces of timber in a violin. Maple and spruce are the traditional materials. The softer spruce is used for the top of the model, the back and body are the harder maple. However Paul is experimenting with native Australian timbers. The tone of the finished instrument depends on the design, the construction, the materials and the varnish. The timber must be seasoned for at least 10 years. To glue the component parts together natural glue is used made from hide or bone. The composition of the varnish is somewhat secret; Paul's brother, a research chemist at Cambridge has done analysis of the varnish. One interesting point is that in the old Italian violins, before the varnish was applied, volcanic ash was applied to the surface and this cements wood and varnish together.

The proportions of the body use the Golden Proportion which was discovered by the ancient Greeks and has been used by artists ever since. (Note: inquire about the Golden Proportion from Ken Coles). The scroll at the end of the neck uses Fibonacci numbers (again, see Ken) and is made of maple.

Paul ended his talk by illustrating the tone of some instruments by playing a tune or two.

After answering many questions, which demonstrated the interest which the talk evoked, Paul was presented with a Probus beaker by Ron Twitt.

SHEREE'S RIDDLE:

In response to great demand, Bob Chenery has supplied the answer to his granddaughter's riddle.

Answer:

Because of the nature of floor surfaces in all circus tents, you should know that high heeled shoes are banned and that a slipper design shoe is mandatory. The blind-folded knife thrower thought she was wearing the prescribed shoes. He started to throw the knives over her head; but alas the extra height!!

NEW MEMBER:

President Herb inducted **Caspar Sens**. Welcome Cas!

SICK MEMBERS:

Gordon Rayson and Clark Jeffrey are not at all well.

Our guest speaker for the September meeting will be Geoff Michell, son of Ralph, who will speak about water quality improvement.

**TRIP TO HARCOURT & CASTLEMAINE, THURSDAY OCTOBER 18TH
2001 ** Maximum (48)**

Depart: Strathdale Community Centre, Crook Street at 8.30am. **Home:** 4.00pm
Cost: \$25.00 per person. (Based on minimum 40 to travel). Includes Coach Fare and all admissions to attractions plus a light morning tea and a BBQ lunch.

VISITS TO: Harcourt in Morning

**** Woop-Woop:** 'You've never seen anything like it'.

Roam through an Aussie Garden, a laugh behind every bush. We stay here for a BBQ lunch. 'A popular attraction'.

**** A unique 'Fauna Garden'** with extensive bird avaries stocked with an interesting variety of Australian birds and animals.

In the afternoon:

We travel on from Harcourt to Castlemaine.

**** A visit specially arranged to Arts Music Manufacturing Centre** (Paul Davies) the famous Violin Maker (who was at our July Meeting). Makers, restorers & suppliers of fine stringed instruments.

**** Combined with a visit to a Carousel Restoration Centre.**

****A visit to 'Restorers Barn' -** what a sight to behold, see some treasurers of yester year, will take you back to your early days.

**** A specially designed, leisurely paced and most interesting trip with great variety, will suit all tastes. 'Don't miss out'.**

LIST/BOOKINGS:

At meeting Wednesday 15th September.



THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 2001: Trip to Geelong **Maximum (49)

DEPART: 7:45am **HOME:** 5:30pm (approx.)

VISITS TO:

The Ford Discovery centre: Recognised as one of the most popular Geelong attractions, will be of interest to all. (Conducted Tours).

The Ford Factory:

An opportunity to see a high technology Automotive Manufacturing Plant in operation. View the Engine Stamping Plant, Panel Sub Assemblies, see the robotic operations, again this will be of interest to all. (Conducted Tours).

COST:

Coach Fare, and admission charge: \$19.00 per person (based on 40)

LUNCH:

For group available at **Smorgies** on Pier at \$10.95 per person, as much as you can eat, with free Tea/Coffee, soft drink or wine.

COST:

Coach, admission fees, Smorgies lunch. \$29 per person (based on 40)

***** I will seek expression of opinion at meeting, if to include meal***

LIST/BOOKINGS:

At August & September meetings

PAYMENTS:

October

Note: I seek the support of the membership to participate in these two interesting and value for money outings.

TOURS ORGANISER:

Arthur 5443 9162

