



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo



Published Monthly

Issue No. 9. 19th February, 1986.

Editor: REG BROCK (Phone 434888)

Annual Subscription: \$8. Registered by Australia Post No. VBH 7101

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO

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Meets 3rd Wednesday each month - 10am at Bendigo Club.

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FLASH! PORT OF MELBOURNE/ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE TRIP - DETAILS INSIDE ...

TODAYS SPEAKER is GARRY CROUCH, Phys. Ed. instructor at the BCAE. Prominent sportsman, he has just spent 15 months in America where he attended Oregon State University at Portland. He took part in 3 marathons whilst he was there. A prominent footballer in the past (he played VFL for Essendon after a term at Subiaco, W.A.). The title of his talk is "SPORTING ATTITUDES". Look forward to this talk.

WHEN I SUGGESTED in our last issue that Guest Speaker DORIS LEAD-BETTER would be a humorous and entertaining speaker I was right! She was! Mind you - not for Doris (a self-confessed 58 years and 18 stone) the measured cadenzas of numerous well-timed stories each with its all-important punch-line. Rather, her wit flowed in a quiet stream like a whole series of one-liners joined in a continuous narrative. We seemed to wear a permanent smile as each line delivered its own measure of humour.

This is the real strength of British humour (she is from Yorkshire - couldn't you guess!) which is second to none in the world. Most times Doris is herself the butt of the joke - the English touch again.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, 19th FEBRUARY at 10.00 a.m.

Before coming to Bendigo (about a year ago) she worked for some years in the Library at the CSIRO in Canberra. She must have been a scream to the largely humourless citizens of the Canberra Public Service. We can accept that her wicked sense of humour led to an incident with the Russian Embassy culminating in a visit from ASIO (an organisation not noted for its brilliant hilarity).

Whether she was writing with a finger in the dust on a table at home (just to prove she is literate) or coping, for purely personal reasons, with a beach umbrella in the desert wastes of Central Australia or limbering up (a la Ballet) on the rails of an elevator she was recording life according to Leadbetter.

Doris would not forgive me if I failed to refer to her forthcoming book of verse, "Words for Lovers" (launching at the Bendigo State Library due to lack of space at Gillies Pie Emporium) or a momentous work to come, "Private Parts" to which we look forward most eagerly.

Veteran Journalist Cyril Michelson made the introductions and Ian Carter rendered the thanks.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE that the meeting next month (March) is the Annual General Meeting and election of Officers. Under the Constitution VP Bob Campbell will be installed as President and other members will be elected to fill the positions of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and six Committee. Acting as Nominating Committee, the present Executive will ensure that sufficient members are available for these positions, but all members will be invited to submit Nominations from the floor. Make sure you attend this, our first Anniversary meeting.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME - Here's a date for your Diary. FRIDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER for the Evaluation Day at Boonook, north of Deniliquin. A chance to look at life 'down on the farm' and maybe purchase a prize ram as a domestic lawn mower!

THE VISIT TO the V/Line Workshops at North Bendigo attracted a good collection of members and wives who forsook the sunshine of a perfect Bendigo day for the somewhat dimmer interior of our second largest industry. It was well worthwhile just to see what the efforts of highly skilled craftsmen can produce. This is heavy industry and some of the train bogies produced there seemed unbelievably massive. The conversion of battle-scarred Harris cars to modern V/Line carriages riding literally 'on air' (pneumatic suspension has now replaced the old coiled springs) was most impressive and aptly demonstrated the value of an industry that provides constant work for 480 of our citizens.

In 1979, at a club in Melbourne, two members (one a Doctor) were discussing a forthcoming operation. "Why," said the Doctor, "are you coming to Melbourne for your operation when you have one of the best Surgeons in Australia right there in Bendigo?"

He was referring to

Mr. EUGENE SANDNER

MBBS (Melb), FRCS (Edin), FRACS,

The remark sums up a lifetime of service Bendigo by a doctor as well-known as the Post Office clock!

It was in 1867 that Eugene's grandfather came to Bendigo lured by the prospect of golden wealth from the streams in the area. But by then most of the alluvial gold had been won, and he found in the eucalypts of Bendigo a fascinating study. This led him to start distilling and extracting the oil from these extremely useful leaves, thus following the example of Captain Arthur Phillip, of First Fleet fame, who is recorded to have done just that - but in 1788!

Sandner, Snr. founded a business in Eucalyptus Oil which enabled him to bring his son, Adolph, out from Bavaria and which lasted for many years.

Adolph (he was Eugene's father) wanted to be a Doctor but he found that the Degree which he had obtained in America was not recognised in Australia so he set sail for England where he obtained the necessary Degrees. Even then he did not immediately practice medicine but developed the Eucalyptus industry founded by his father. When the demand for the oil declined he started a successful practice as a GP.

Eugene Sandner was born in Bendigo in 1906 and completed his secondary education at Bendigo High School where he gained his Leaving Certificate, with Honours, at the age of 15.

His success at High School won him a place at Melbourne University where he graduated in 1928. After a month in residence at Royal Melbourne and 20 months as Senior Resident at Ballarat Hospital he went to Scotland to further his education. He studied at the Edinburgh College of Surgeons where he gained his FRCS and an appointment as MO at Hull Infirmary. He returned to Bendigo and began a practice in 1932.



He wanted to specialize in Surgery, but at that time there were no opportunities in Bendigo for Specialist medicine so his work was limited to General Practice.

He was convinced that Bendigo needed these Specialist services and to further his ambition he employed a Locum, in 1935, while he studied in Melbourne for his Master of Surgery where he gained his FRACS and recognition in Bendigo as a Surgeon of note.

Space dictates that only a small part of the life of Eugene Sandner can be recorded here. He has had a close association with Bendigo Base Hospital where he served for 27 years as Honorary Surgeon. During this time at least one-third of his working time was devoted to this voluntary surgery. He was on the Board of Management for many years (including 2 years as Chairman). He was also MO at St. Lukes Toddlers Home.

World War 2 was a frustrating time for Eugene. Four times he tried to enlist in the AIF and RAAF but was not accepted. However, he did serve as RMO in various camps and was at one time advisor to Col. Robinson, Chief Medical Officer, AIF.

In the late 1950's he supported the establishment of Mt. Alvernia Hospital and was invited to chair the Appeals Committee which raised \$100,000 for the expansion.

As a member of the High School Advisory Council he was largely responsible for the establishment of Flora Hill Girls High School, having led a deputation to the then Premier, Henry Bolte and the Minister for Education; with favourable results.

In 1971 a congenital abnormality of the thumb joints at the wrist in both hands caused Osteo-Arthritis and forced his retirement from medicine.

But he was not ready for retirement. He became involved in many community activities including the Rotary Club of Bendigo, Bendigo Jockey Club, Friends of the Art Gallery, the Agricultural Show Society, Bendigo Golf Club and the Bendigo Building Society (of which he was a Director).

In 1976 he was elected to the Bendigo City Council and became Mayor in 1978/79. During his year in this office two very important projects were the multi-storey Car Park and the new buildings for the Rowing Club at Lake Weeroona. Of these latter he feels they are the 'poor relations' of Sport in Bendigo. Insufficient funds were provided to complete the project and, unlike many other sporting activities they do not receive any subsidy.

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On the personal side, one of Eugene's most successful ventures occurred in 1933 when he met and married his wife, Mollie, then a Nurse at the Bendigo Base Hospital. Today they can look back on 54 years of happily married life during which time they produced two sons and two daughters who, in turn, have presented them with 14 grandchildren to complete five generations of Bendigo citizens!

Now, apart from his interest in green bowls, he spends much of his time researching the Eucalypts of Australia of which there are some 800 known species.

BUT - most importantly, Eugene Sandner is a member of the Probus Club of Bendigo!

ITINERARY - Bus trip to Melbourne. TUESDAY, 11th MARCH, 1986.

GENERAL: Maximum 45. All seats booked at January Meeting.

No further vacancies available.

TRANSPORT: Storey's bus leaves Bendigo Club at 7 a.m. punctually.

COST: Bus Fare, \$6.50. Tours, \$1.50. Total, \$8.00 per person plus meals.

TRIP DETAILS: Leaves Bendigo 7.00 a.m.

Arrive at Yarra Berth No. 15 at 9.20 a.m. (approx.)

Port Authority Cruise starts at 9.30 a.m. & concludes at 11.30 a.m.

Tour of World Trade Centre, 11.45 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

Lunch break at World Trade Centre, 12.15 to 2.00 p.m. (Take-away or sit-down meals available).

Tour of Victorian Arts Centre & Concert Hall 2.30 p.m. to 3.20 p.m.

"Monsanto Lounge" at Arts Centre is available for country visitors free of charge. As well as comfortable lounge chairs and 'freshening up' facilities tea and coffee is available at 40¢ each. A chance to relax before Return trip to Bendigo departing from Victorian Arts Centre at 4.30 p.m. Arrive Bendigo: 6.45 p.m.

IMPORTANT! All members who booked for this trip PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT AT THE MEETING TODAY.

ITINERARY - Bus trip to Melbourne. MONDAY 21st APRIL, 1986.

GENERAL: This trip is similar to the former trip except that arrangements have been reversed. Morning visits are to the Victorian Arts Centre and afternoon Port of Melbourne Cruise, finishing at World Trade Centre.

BOOKINGS for this trip may be made now and Details (times, etc.) will be in the next Bulletin.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION on these trips please contact ARTHUR EATON (Phone 43 9162).