BENDIGO
PREMIER TOWN
VICTORIA 1982-1985

PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.

PROBUS

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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

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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, 49 Emmett Street, Golden Square, 3555.

GUEST SPEAKER Today, the Guest Speaker is Ken Briggs, who last February told us about Dartmouth Dam. This time his subject is Overcoming cyclone damage in Western Samoa.

At our last meeting we celebrated the birthdays of two of our members, both falling on the same date, January 17. Harold Griffiths was celebrating his 80th birthday and Cyril Michelsen his 90th birthday, congratulations to both.

Our speaker in January, who was introduced by Alan Dingle, was Chief Superintendent Frank Fox. Had this been a television production it would have been marked R for repeat, because the Chief Inspector has spoken to us previously. In fact he did not repeat himself, but brought us up to date with police matters.

The Bendigo Police District, as now defined, has 255,000 inhabitants, and the annual budget is currently $22.1 million. At the time of the previous talk the head of Victoria Police was Chief Commissioner Frame, now it is Chief Commissioner Comrie. The new Chief has made a point of visiting all police districts in Victoria, taking the opportunity to speak to members and generally seems to have earned the approval of his staff.

The present State Government has introduced the notion of a Police Board, consisting of the Chief Commissioner, a retired judge, a retired Naval Commander, and a business man. Their function is to be an advisory body.

Another change which has occured is that the Director of Personnel has streamlined the procedure for transfers of police officers from one post to another, speeding up the filling of vacancies.

Acts still to be proclaimed will extend the powers or rights of officers. They may demand the name and address of a suspect person. They have power to take finger prints of suspects. With magisterial approval they can demand blood or body samples to further their investigations.

The number of road accident deaths has dropped remarkably, due probably to such innovations as the TAC advertisments on television, and the introduction of "Booze Buses".

It is now recognised that police officers often suffer stress as a result of aspects of their work, attending the scenes of road accidents for instance. This is to be alleviated by provision of counselling.

A task which police undertake, visiting schools to inform children and gain their confidence has proved effective and rewarding.

Bob Holmes thanked Chief Inspector Fox, and made the usual presentation.

NOTICE OF MEETING Under Rule 23.1 Nominations for Candidates for election as officers of the Association or as Ordinary Members of the Committee:-

(a) shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and

(b) shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Association not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of Annual General Meeting.

Note - Preliminary advice of above was given in last months "Probe", together with appropriate nomination form; further copies available from Secretary.

Notice is hereby given as follows:-

The Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Bendigo Incorporated will be held on 16th March 1994 at 10.00 a.m. at the Club's Meeting Venue.

AGENDA

1. Confirm minutes of preceding A.G.M.
2. President's Report
3. Consideration of Financial Statement pursuant to Section 30 of the Association's Incorporation Act 1981.
4. Election of Officers - (a) President
   (b) Vice - President
   (c) Treasurer
   (d) Secretary
5. Election of 7 Committee Members
6. Determine fees/subscriptions for 1994/95
   (a) Joining Fee.....(Present $10.00)
   (b) Annual Subscription.....(Present $15.00)
   (c) Nominating Fee.....(Present $10.00)
   (d) Annual Nominee Fee.....(Present $ 5.00)
7. Appointment of Auditor
8. Close of A.G.M.

Special General Meeting to follow closure of the A.G.M.

1. Confirmation of February Meeting Minutes
2. Reports
3. General Business
4. Close

Bob Chenery (Secretary)

NOTICE OF MOTION

It was proposed by KEN COLES and seconded by RUPERT REYNOLDS.... That they would move to alter by-law 6.(1) at the next meeting (February) as follows:

EXISTING:
"Under normal circumstances regular meetings (which under the Act are Special General Meetings) will be held at the Bendigo Club, Reception Avenue, Bendigo, commencing at 10.00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month".

PROPOSED CHANGE TO:
"Under normal circumstances regular meetings (which under the Act are Special General Meeting) will be held at the Masonic Centre, McIvor Road, Bendigo, commencing at 10.00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month".

Bob Chenery (Secretary)

TRIPS INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY 1994

THURSDAY/FRIDAY MARCH 10TH/11TH 1994 - TRIP TO DENILIQUIN BOONOKE. 2 Day/1 Night. **Depart:** 8.00 a.m. on Thursday March 10 from Strath Community Centre, Crook Street. The **cost:** $69 per person (based on 40 minimum) and includes coach fare, accommodation (twin share), all meals, morning and afternoon teas, entrance fees and local guide to act as host. (Itinerary can be varied to suit specific interests). Proposed to include:
Day 1 Thursday - To Deniliquin - Peppin Heritage Centre, History of Sheep Industry, Video, Exhibitions, Sheep Dog Display, School of old - classroom re-enactment. Other Deniliquin items of interest. Evening meal at one of the Clubs. (Only time at Pokies).
Day 2 Friday - Deniliquin town tour and to Boonoke (F.S. Falkiner - News Ltd Sheep Stud) Co-incides with the big "Annual Riverina Merino Field Day", exhibition of Stud Rams, view Boonoke Homestead Gardens. Partake of a bush lunch, visit Conargo, home Friday 5.30 p.m.
Maximum (46) Current Bookings (42). Vacancies exist - require more bookings to fill and emergencies. *Open to friends of Probians. **Payment** must be finalised by February 16 meeting please.

FRIDAY MARCH 18TH : COMBINED PROBUS CLUBS PICNIC AT HEPBURN SPRINGS Assemble Hepburn Springs at 11.00 a.m. - BYO Food, Drink and Chairs. **Coach Cost** is $5 per person. Maximum (49) Current (51). **Depart** Strath Community Centre at 10.00 a.m. and arrive home approx. 5.00 p.m. ***For those taking own Car a "Coach conducted tour of the Daylesford-Hepburn Springs area" - available at charge of $2-$3 per person. **Payments** at February 16 meeting please.

TUESDAY APRIL 26TH 1994 - TRIP TO TOOLANGI-CENTRAL HIGHLAND FOREST The **cost** is $25 per person. **Depart** at 7.30 a.m. from Strath Community Centre, Crook Street.

Our tour guide is Brian Garth, a former Forest Ranger/Education Officer with extensive knowledge of the Central Highland rain-forest areas.

We travel through Kilmore, Whittlesea, Kinglake areas to the picturesque forest hamlet of Toolangi. Our first stop is at Arden, the singing gardens of Poet C.J. Dennis, we stay here for a Devonshire Tea, recital and view the gardens.

During the remainder of the day we have much to discover and learn of forest and timber management, biology of our native plants and animals. We visit Demby Timber Mill, stroll on an elevated board walk beside the Sylvia Creek and learn why rain forests are unique. We have our B.B.Q. Lunch at the spectacular Murrinbindi Cascades. Then on to see more of this beautiful rainforest.

The **cost** is $25 per person which includes coach, admissions, devonshire tea and B.B.Q. lunch. **Payments** at February 16th meeting please. Maximum (49) Current (67).

TRIP OF THE YEAR FOR 1994 - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH TO SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH 1994 - (7 Day/6 Nights) Based on Wagga (5) nights and Canberra (1) night. Timed to coincide with the Canberra Floriade Festival. The **cost** is $420 per person which includes coach fare, accommodation D.B.B., morning and afternoon teas and entry fees.

Sunday: To Wagga, **Monday:** Tours Wagga area, **Tuesday:** to Canberra, (O/night Canberra), **Wednesday:** Tours Canberra and return to Wagga, **Thursday:** Tour to either Temora or Cowra area?, **Friday:** Tour to Narrandera/Leeton, **Saturday:** Depart Wagga for home. **"A beauty - don't miss out".** Maximum (46) Current (50). Emergencies required/open to friends.

Arthur Eaton
Tours Liaison.

TRIP REPORT

We had an enjoyable trip to Geelong on Tuesday February 1st. The target was the Stage Coach Theatre, for the lunch time show. After a plate of soup and a basket lunch, during which the pianist entertained us with some old favourites, we had the show. The cast of four worked hard with songs, sketches, recitations in a great show.

BOWLS REPORT

Bendigo East defeated Bendigo Probus 79-51. Bendigo and District Probus Clubs' Bowls Championship will be held at The Golden Square Bowls Club on Tuesday February 22nd at 10.30 a.m. Teams will be announced at the meeting today.

MEMBER PROFILE - QUENTIN CLIFFORD BINKS

The Bendigo District has been the ancestral home of the Binks since the Gold Rush Days. On my fathers' side my Grand Parents with their young family came to the Bendigo diggings in the early 1850's - they were recorded as residing on Paddy's Gully (now Vine Street) with a documented death of a family member in 1854. One finds it very difficult to even imagine a young family of boys and girls being raised under those most primitive conditions - but they did! Grand Father James Binks has been found to have later been a shoe maker at Raywood in 1864. On my mother's side - the Nixon family came to the Maldon Gold Fields - probably in the 1860's, where they lived as Gold Miners. My Grand Father Nixon was employed as a Tunneller working on the tunnels for the Coliban channel system and much later in the finally abandoned tunnel designed to carry water from Goulburn Weir to Waranga Basin. My father worked for most of his working life in the Rochestor/Rushworth districts and was employed as an Inspector in the Water Commission.

QUENTIN CLIFFORD BINKS (Known as Cliff) was born in Rochestor in 29.1.1922 - the only birth for that marriage. I commenced life as an infant on an irrigation channel property at Bamawm, commenced school at Maldon, then to Lockington, Rushworth State and then to Rushworth Higher Elementery. I completed my studies at the Bendigo School of Mines graduating with a Diploma of Civil Engineering and also at several Schools of Military Engineering in New South Wales in 1942.

With the War getting ever closer to Australia in 1942, I ceased my Diploma studies - commenced Engineering employment with the Water Commission prior to enlisting in the Army.

After completing the Military Schools I was posted to an Engineering Company as Platoon Commander in New Guinea 1943-1944.

During this time I served in Port Moresby , Buna/Dobadura/Poppondetta areas, Morobe and Lae. I was convalesced back to Australia and posted to one Engineering Base Depot at East Oakleigh where I remained until discharge in 1946.

However, prior to discharge I was able to convince a certain young lady - also from the Bendigo area (Colbinabbin) that marriage was for us, and so I was married to Norma Hill in All Saints Cathedral Bendigo on 19-1-1946 with our reception upstairs in Pavaloro's. We started off on our honeymoon as passengers in an old Hopmobile Taxi (only three taxis in Bendigo at that time) - running in a mixture of Power Kero and Petrol obtained by devious means with Ration Tickets. And with the Best Man in the front seat getting a ride back to Melbourne (he was the resident Engineer building the Ordnance Factory in Bendigo). What a trip - the smoke pouring out of the old "heap" - we must have looked a sight pulling up at the Windsor. It was illegal at that time for a taxi to travel further South than Castlemaine.

This marriage brought together Norma's ancestors who also all had around 1860 association with the Bendigo/Castlemaine Gold Fields. Their families have so much early Bendigo History that I am pleading with Norma to put pen to paper so that it is all recorded. Norma's family connections are with Geo. Lansell The Colbinabbin Homestead where Dame Nellie Melba lived for a while, her Grand Father who after being one of the founders of the Country Party because the Federal Member for the Echuca area in the early 1920's and was minister for Transport for a number of years in the 1920's - those people all lived and operated their various duties in this Bendigo area. There is also some family connection with Henry Frencham - the finder of payable gold in the Bendigo Gold Field in 1851 - but this association requires a lot more research.

After my discharge in 1946 I returned to the Bendigo Technical College (name had changed during the war) to complete my Civil Engineering Diploma and then returned to the employment of the then called State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. I was posted to Shepparton as an Assistant Engineer for eleven years and it was there where our children Christine, Rodney and Lesly were born. Our oldest daughter Pauline had been born while we were living in Bendigo.

During my stay in Shepparton the Engineering world mostly involved irrigation and drainage work - I experienced one of the severest droughts and one of the worst floods during this period. All very good experience.

Following the death of my father and having a mother whose health was rapidly failing, we "sold up" in Shepparton in 1959 and came to Bendigo where I was employed as an Executive Engineer mostly working on Town Water Supply for Bendigo and other surrounding Towns of the Coliban District. I remained in this position until my retirement in 1982.

Although both Norma and I have had serious health problems we feel that we have been blessed with much fortune for we have our children all in good health, all doing fairly well in todays tough employment world and we have 10 great, healthy, grand children. We of course miss very much our eldest daughter Pauline and her family who live in Dallas, Texas but we try to see each other roughly in 1½ year intervals.

In retirement we have revelled in experience overseas travel - mostly brought about to see our children and grand children. We plan to return to USA later this year - always wondering if this will be the last time?

We recently spent two weeks in Darwin and loved that part of Australia which we had not previously visited - we were amazed at the number of overseas tourists now flying direct into that "top end" of Australia.

For recreation we both tried bowls for a couple of years but decided to leave that activity "till later". Both Norma and I have been members of the Eaglehawk Golf Club for over 20 years, I love getting out with my metal detector in search of old relics (gold is too scarce and difficult). We love our swimming, until recently we were very knew in ball room dancing. I have spent a lot of my retirement time engaged in family research for both Norma's and my own Binks family history and have over recent years been very much involved in researching and endeavouring to locate the very old in-official, unrecorded buried grounds for which there are many in and around the Bendigo district. I am a member of the Bendigo Geneological Society, the Bendigo Friends of Cemeteries and the Bendigo RSL.

We know that changes will be inevitable as we get older but in the meantime - retired life is great, especially attending Probus where I have been a member of Bendigo Probus since its foundation.