



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probos Club of Bendigo Inc.



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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, 2 Cook Street, Bendigo, 3550.

The Guest Speaker today is Russell Jack who is of course the President of the Bendigo Chinese Association, and already known to our members.

For the first meeting for 1996 our guest speaker was David Heywood from PowerCor who apologised for Andrew Lelliot. Mr Lelliot was unable to attend.

David, who has had 30 years experience in the Victorian Electricity industry commenced with a brief history of how the SECV was established in 1918 primarily to develop the state's extensive brown coal resources, to fuel power stations and to operate the transmission grid. Distribution was largely in the hands of local companies and municipal councils.

The SECV progressively extended its network absorbing all of these independent distributors except 11 Municipal Electricity Undertakings. There had been continuous power station constructions since the early 1950's.

Electrification of the State of Victoria was completed by the late 1960's.

During 1983 the Labour Government appointed a General Manager, followed by the start of a reform process with significant cost reductions.

The first real price reductions came in the 1980's.

Developments in electricity supply in Victoria during the late 1980's required a staff of 22,500 employees covering 200 classifications. By 1989 the SECV introduced structural efficiency, five band pay scale and skills-extension programs.

By 1993 the workforce had been reduced by 45%. Early 1990's there was a need for reform; despite improvements, the average electricity costs were substantially higher than in the most efficient state, Queensland. The issues to be addressed were over-capacity - high debt - unfair tariff structure - high prices and cross subsidies.

In 1992 the new Kennett government showed clear intentions to reform the electricity supply industry. The Government's objectives for the reform were to create an efficient industry of international standard with the lowest achievable costs to consumers and maintain a safe and secure supply of power, so reducing public sector debt.

In July/August 1994, further changes were introduced with the intention of selling all distribution and generating activities. 18 Electric Supply, Customer Service Businesses and 11 Municipal Electricity Undertakings combined to form 5 new distribution businesses: United Energy - CitiPower - Solaris Energy - Eastern Energy - PowerCor Australia. Total personnel in all companies now number approx. 9,500.

Then the Government commenced sale processes in mid 1995 which concluded with the sale of CitiPower in mid December. The return to the State was extensive, with United Energy realising \$1.55 Billion, Solaris Energy \$950 Million, Eastern Energy \$2.1 Billion, PowerCor \$2.15 Billion and CitiPower \$1.6 Billion.

PowerCor serves the largest half of Victoria with 540,000 customers, Eastern Energy covers North Eastern Victoria and Gippsland supplying 457,937 customers. The remaining three distributors supply the Metropolitan area and the Greater Melbourne region with supply going to 978,776 outlets.

Tariffs under new reforms.

Residential customers - price freeze until June 1996 and a two percent real price fall in July of this year followed by a one percent fall each year until the year 2000, at which stage a Government appointed Regulator General will oversee any submissions for price increases; rural and farm customers will have prices comparable with Metropolitan consumers under

state-wide uniform tariffs. Pensioners and low energy users benefit from an extension of concession up to 22% cut in power bills and small to medium businesses will receive 22% price reduction in real terms over the next 4 years.

Industrial customers will gain pricing certainty (if required) by having the choice of remaining on their existing tariff, indexed for inflation, rather than moving immediately to the competitive market.

Our guest speaker was introduced by Bob Chenery. After the speech an expression of thanks was made by Colin McLean with the usual presentation.

Reporter: Alan Michelsen.

PROBUS TRIPS INFORMATION

Tuesday February 27th, 1996 - Trip to Melbourne - Weather Bureau. National Philatelic Centre, Museum of Victoria Special Exhibitions
Current Bookings - 40. ****Vacancies Exist**** Depart Bendigo at 7.30 a.m. and arrive home at approx. 5.45 p.m. Maximum 49.
Cost: \$17/person. Includes coach and entrance fees. Lunch: Bring or buy your own. "A trip packed with things to interest all our Members. Weather Bureau: forecasting - early days to present time; Philatelic Centre (Commonwealth of Australia - Postage Stamps 1913 to 1996) - current theme Stamps of Space Age - some actual Space Items on display; Museum of Victoria: Special Awe Inspiring Exhibition "Whales of the Deep" - First Exhibition of its kind in the World, 30 exhibits. Planetarium Star Show: everything you wanted to know about the Stars.

Payments to be finalised at February 21st Meeting.

Monday March 11th to Wednesday March 13th, 1996. Combined Train and Road Coach Trip to Warrnambool (3 Day/2 Night) Maximum 45-
Current Bookings 65. Depart Bendigo on Monday March 11 at 9.20 a.m. from Bendigo Railway Station. Return home ex Warrnambool on Wednesday March 13 departing at 8.00 a.m.

Price Includes Rail Travel, Coach Travel, Accommodation D.B.B., Entrance Fees, Luggage Handling. (Provide own mid-day lunches). Full Itineraries/Details were distributed at November Meeting.
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN FULL (By cheque to Probus Club of Bendigo) DUE AND PAYABLE AT PROBUS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY
Cost: \$235/person twin share - (With Rail Voucher or Pass \$199). (**If you have paid the \$20 deposit/person, then adjust your final payment accordingly**) IF USING "RAIL VOUCHERS" - bring to meeting, give to Arthur, he will then present to V/Line.

*****TRIP OF THE YEAR*****

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD TO SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH, 1996 (6 DAY/5 NIGHT) - TRIP TO SNOWY MOUNTAINS - STAYING AT PROVIDENCE LODGE (ADAMINABY) Maximum 48 - Current 62. Host: Col Mayhew (Owner) Cost: \$429/person approx. twin share. Includes: Coach, accommodation twin share, full breakfasts, 3 course dinners, lunches and evening supper, morning and afternoon teas, all entries, rides, inspections etc, evening entertainment, fun nights. Host provides commentary on all outings. Our Club will have "exclusive use of entire Lodge". Excellent selection of tours including Thredbo Alpine Village and Chairlift Ride, Ski Tube (Australia's highest Railway), Waterfalls, Gorges, Snow capped Mountains & Tobogganing. **Providence Lodge is situated on Lake Eucumbine, and comes very highly recommended. Our 1991 trip was voted as best ever. An interesting, enjoyable and relaxing trip is assured.

DEPOSITS OF \$10/PERSON are due and payable at the February 21st meeting (From the first 48 bookings as received on list of 17/1/95)

THURSDAY APRIL 18TH - WATERFALLS AND NATURE TOUR (Cliff Binks)

Cost \$21/person includes coach fare, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Depart: 8.30 a.m., arrive home approx. 6.00 p.m. **Need walking shoes** Cliff has prepared a relaxing, interesting and informative trip. Travel to Heathcote, Mia Mia - Bendigo Redesdale Road to Redesdale. Morning tea at Redesdale. Inspect Barfold Gorge, walk over level grass ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile in and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile out). Lunch at Turpin Falls. Inspect the rapids at Metcalfe. Afternoon tea at old Coliban Park Homestead.

List to be tabled at Wednesday February 21st meeting. Payments at March 20th meeting.

Arthur Eaton - Probus Tours Liason

VALE With sorrow we report the death of Ken Hesse late last month.

NEWS OF MEMBERS Since the last appearance of Probe, two of our members have celebrated their 80th birthdays. In December, it was Hugh Ward, and this month Jack Watts.

This month also there are two wedding anniversaries. Cliff and Norma Binks have had their 50th anniversary and Ken and Joyce Coles celebrated their 40th anniversary.

BOWLS REPORT In the match against Bendigo East on January 18, the best performed team was R. Fitzgerald, R. Chenery, G. Rayson with H. Hesse as skipper. In spite of their efforts, Bendigo East won the match. There will be a game against Woodbury on March 13, all details of teams will announced at meeting.

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 Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Bendigo Incorporated will be held on 20th March 1996 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 Associations 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 95/96 -
 - (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

Ken Coles (Secretary)

I think that I shall never c
A # lovelier than 3;
For $3 < 6$ or 4,
And than 1 it's slightly more.

All things in nature come in 3s,
Like .s, trios, Q.E.D.s;
While \$s gain more dignity
If augmented 3×3 —

A 3 whose slender curves are pressed
By banks, for compound interest;
Oh, would that, paying loans or rent,
My rates were only 3%!

3^2 expands with rapture free,
And reaches toward ∞ ;
3 complements each x and y,
And intimately lives with π .

A 0's # of °
Are best + up by 3s,
But wrapped in dim obscurity
Is the $\sqrt{-3}$.

Atoms are split by men like me,
But only God is 1 in 3.

—To think that two and two are four
And neither five nor three,
The heart of man has long been sore
And long 'tis like to be.

If times are bad and you feel blue,
think of others who worry too.
Just because your trials are many,
Don't think the rest of us haven't any.

A diplomat is a person who can tell you to go to hell
in such a way that you actually look forward to the trip.

Another name for experience is practice.
Rehearse at every opportunity.