



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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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, P.O. Box 1217, Bendigo, 3552.

The guest speaker for today's meeting is Mr. George Flack, the Bendigo representative of the Retireinvest Group. He will speak on current issues affecting pensioners.



Dr. John Ferguson of the Bendigo Health Care Group was the speaker at our last meeting in November. He was introduced by Bruce Perrin and spoke on Radio Therapy Services.

Dr. Ferguson graduated from the University of Queensland in 1978 and, after varying periods in hospitals and private practice, came to Bendigo in 1996 as Director of Medical Services. He is now Executive Director of Acute Health.

John disclosed that there is a proven need for additional radio therapy units in Australia but the problems associated with increasing these services have their

roots in Canberra. The Federal Government has conducted 23 reviews into radio therapy services over the last 10 years giving credence to the old adage - when in doubt have another review. Over the last year and a half the then Health Minister for Victoria, Senator Knowles, convinced Canberra that there was a need for rural based therapy units. Although they are very expensive to build, approximately \$6 million, and have high operating costs, the Government eventually agreed to 3 trial sites for Australia. These are all in Victoria and are to be located in Bendigo, Ballarat and Latrobe Regional Hospital.

It is expected that the Bendigo facility will be operating in 2 years time.

Some of the statistics relating to Bendigo Hospital are rather interesting. It operates the largest emergency department in rural Victoria, the second largest acute hospital in rural Victoria and they have 45 visiting consultants to the hospital and Health Care Group. There is not much that cannot be done in Bendigo if you so choose. Last year 20,382 in-patients were treated on the hospital campus

and half a million occasions of service across the Group. There are now 6 general surgeons, 3 E.N.T. surgeons, 2 urologists and others at the hospital.

The treatment of cancer entails 3 strings to the bow, the surgical side, chemo therapy and radio therapy. Of these, radio therapy is the only treatment not currently available in Bendigo. This means that cancer sufferers must undertake this treatment in Melbourne.

There are 600+ new cases of cancer in the Bendigo region each year. Each machine can treat 450 cases a year indicating the necessity for a second machine. The initial project will provide one machine but building space for two. It is anticipated that a second machine will be installed in another 2 years time. This should deal with the requirements of this region which extends from Gisborne in the south to Deniliquin in the north, from Ouyen in the west to Shepparton in the east.

The buildings for these machines are called bunkers and will be built on the corner of Stewart and Bayne streets. They will have 3 foot thick concrete walls and no windows so that the radio activity generated cannot escape, but can be directed to where it is most needed. The staff required for each linear accelerator would be 5 to 7 radio therapists, a radiation oncologist and a nuclear physicist. Funding sources are as yet not determined, but will come from Federal and State grants and local resources.

Of particular interest to those present was the subject of prostate cancer. John revealed that there are three ways of determining whether this cancer is present, none of which, in isolation, can be relied upon to prove, or disprove, its existence.

After some interesting questions John was thanked by Kevin Houlahan who made the usual presentation.

SICK LIST

It is hoped that those on the sick list last year are feeling better now and will be able to take some part in our Probus activities.

INDUCTION

Bob McCaskill was inducted into our club by President Ern. Alan Dingle introduced Bob and we wish him well in his association with us.

MEN IN SHED

I know that it sounds like a phrase from a recent song but in reality a shed has been opened as a Men In Shed project in a joint effort by the City of Greater Bendigo and the Salvation Army for the 1999 Year of the Older Person. The shed is located at the old Gravel Hill Primary School in Mundy Street and is equipped with a variety of wood and metal working tools and equipment.

The project offers the chance to spend time making the things you want to make or just drop in for a chat and cuppa. And most importantly, it costs nothing to join.

COMBINED PROBUS CLUBS ASSOCIATION

The above group met for a luncheon at the "Rotunda", Kangaroo Flat, on Friday, 22nd October, 1999.

some 36 people were present and after an enjoyable lunch catered for by Rankin's Catering Eaglehawk an animated discussion took place. Many items were "floored", of interest to us would be the proposed broadcast, from an undisclosed radio station (such as 3RRR), of what is on in the area covered by the group.

There will be more information on this in the future. We will need to forward a copy of our bulletin to the Centre where script material will be developed for subsequent sessions "on air". It is thought that trips, bowls, golf, theatre, etc would be of interest to all.

The next meeting is to be held at the same venue on 28th April, 2000, clubs will receive notice thereof.

Ern Waterworth
President

Further to the above, we now know that the radio station concerned is KLFM located in Bendigo and Castlemaine. These broadcasts began on Friday, 19th November, 1999 at 10.00 am and will continue on the 3rd Friday of each month from then on. The session will be known as "Probus Diary".

KLFM Community Radio can be heard on two FM frequencies, namely 96.5 (Bendigo) and 106.3 (Castlemaine)

The guest speaker at the inaugural broadcast was Ray Downey and the host is Derek Gibson.

ACTIVITIES

BOWLS REPORT

In November we played South Bendigo and were narrowly defeated 60 to 56.

Our best rink was 8 shots up - Jack Rose, Ted Driscoll, Ray Fitzgerald and Bill Clemens.

In December the game was to be against Bendigo on the morning following our Christmas dinner. After a very pleasant day of feasting and fellowship on a very hot day the next day saw a drastic change in the weather. Rain for most of the night flooded the Bendigo bowling greens. A few hardy bowlers attended but at 9.30 am the day was cancelled.

Our January game will be at Bendigo East on Thursday, 13th and results of that encounter will be announced at the January meeting.



IMAX THEATRE TRIP

On November 25th, in glorious sunshine, approximately 40 Probians, their partners and friends of Probus left Crook St. at 8.00 am and travelled in a very comfortable coach with Victor, our driver.

We had morning tea at Gisborne then on to the Imax Theatre in the Exhibition gardens where we viewed "Antarctica". Imax has the largest screen in the southern hemisphere, 6 stories above ground and 2 stories below. The film "Antarctica" was exceptional. The illusion of flying in a helicopter between iced valleys was a sensation that was truly awesome.

After the film we were driven to the Central Business District where we saw, and heard, the Diamaru clock at 1.00 pm, then on to the food hall where the huge variety of meals made choosing the right dish a gamble.

After lunch our coach took us to the old Customs House at the corner of Market and Flinders Sts. which is now the Immigration museum. This museum houses the records and displays relative to the migrants who made up the population of Australia from the 1700s. There was also a display of Korean needlework which was outstanding.

On the way home our coach captain drove along the Western Ring road, branching off to take us over the Bolte bridge (a first time for most of us), then along a raised roadway about 8 k long to Flemington Rd. where we joined Tullamarine Freeway and home via the Calder.

Another full and well programmed event by our special tour leader, Arthur. Thank you, Arthur, from us all.

Bill Jacka

CHRISTMAS DINNER

This year the Christmas dinner was held in the dining room attached to the Burnett lounge of the Latrobe University. It was a most successful function, with an excellent 3 course meal, hosted by Alan Court and opened and closed by President Ern.

Colin McLean said grace, the Christmas message was delivered by Maurice Pease, Alan Dingle gave us My Country by Dorothea McKellar and Jim Aitken offered the thanks.

Entertainment was provided by The Noted Three, namely Arthur Cowling, Gordon Glover and Clive Miller, accompanied by pianist, Mrs. Lorna Thomas, who rendered such songs as Janine, I Dream of Lilac Time, Just A Song At Twilight Time and Lake Cadibarrawirracanna. Incidentally, this lake actually exists and is located approximately 120 km west of Lake Eyre (North) in South Australia.

Carols were also sung at the dinner, the accompaniment being provided by Norm Dack.





PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO: TRIPS INFORMATION JANUARY 19th, 2000

TRIP OF THE YEAR - NEW ZEALAND - WED MARCH 29-TUE APRIL 11, 2000
EVERGREEN TOURS "14 DAY CLASSIC NEW ZEALAND"- NTH & SOUTH ISLANDS
MAXIMUM: (50) Full. Excellent Group Price: (37 - 50) \$2400.00 / p.
PASSPORTS: Required.

For information & "renewals," phone 13 1232 "New" Bdgo P.O. 5443 0755
Cost: \$128.00 each, valid for 10 years. Passport Photos available at Bendigo Post Office.

** BALANCE OF PAYMENT NO LATER THAN: January 29th, 2000,

(\$2400 - Deposit \$150) = \$2250.00 per person

Payments to be made either by Cheque or Bank Card direct to:

Evergreen Tours: P.O.Box 704, Kew. Vic. 3101. Tel: (03) 9853 9998

** VERY IMPORTANT PAYMENT MADE ON TIME: As Flight bookings have be confirmed to AIRLINE with names of Travellers at that time.

WHEN TICKETING FINALISED:

Evergreen Group Sales Manager, Fran Sirio, will visit Bendigo on

THURSDAY 10th FEBRUARY at 11.00 am at St. Andrews Hall, Myers St, to distribute Airline Tickets, all Travel Documents, Travel Itinerary, Evergreen Travel Bags etc. Please attend to collect.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22nd, 2000 - TRIP TO WILLIAMSTOWN & BOAT CRUISE

Depart Bendigo 7.45 am. Home 5.45 pm (Approx Times) Max: (53)

Coach Tour of Williamstown Area with Local Guide & Boat Cruise Williamstown up Yarra to Melb Exhibition Ctre. LUNCH: Own Picnic Lunch at waterfront park or buy, own, great variety of food outlets

** Should suit all, will be a relaxed & most interesting trip.

COST: \$25.00/person. Includes Coach, M/Tea, Tour & Boat Cruise.

PAYMENTS: At meeting Wed. Jan, 19th. ** Max: (53) Current (72)

THURSDAY 22nd JUNE, 2000. "SPECIAL MILLENIUM DINNER" at B.R.I.T.

VENUE: Bendigo Regional Institute of T.A.F.E. Hospitality Restaurant, Mc.Crac Street, Bendigo.

TIME: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm Dinner.

COST: \$20.00 per person, includes: Meal & Entertainment. Max:(90)

A Special Dinner Menu, excellent entertainment arranged, three talented lady soloists.

* You won't want to miss out on this !!

Cliff Binks is determined this "Special Millenium Dinner" will be special in all respects and be long remembered.

Watch for it !!

LISTING: Will be tabled at meeting Wed February 16th.

PAYMENTS: Please tender correct money. If payment by cheque, please endorse back of cheque with payment details.

AN ASIDE

Some of you may remember Monty Blandford who broadcast his "Philosopher's Scrapbook" to the listeners of radio station 3DB, Melbourne during the 40s and 50s. I am fortunate enough to retain a copy of his "Philosophers Scrapbook" from my mother's collection and would like to share some of these writings with you.

The first one that I would like to quote is titled "A Morning Wish" and was written by W. R. Hunt. I think that it is an appropriate piece for this time of the year.

The sun had just risen on the morning of another day, the first day of a new year.
What can I wish that this day, this year may bring me? Nothing that shall make the world
or others poorer, nothing at the expense of other men, but just those few things which in
their coming do not stop with me, but touch me rather, as they pass and gather strength:
A few friends that understand me, and yet remain my friends.
A work to do which has real value without which the world would feel poorer,
A return for such work small enough not to tax unduly anyone who pays,
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed.
An understanding heart.
A night of the eternal hills and unresting sea, and of something beautiful the hand of man
has made,
A sense of humour and the power to laugh,
A little leisure with nothing to do,
A few moments of quiet, silent meditation,
The sense of the presence of God,
And the patience to wait for the coming of these things, with the wisdom to know them
when they come.

W.R.Hunt



The President, Executive and Editor wish all members and their partners a happy, safe and prosperous new year.
