



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus 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 Bendigo Club.

All correspondence to the Secretary, 29 Woodbury St. Bendigo 3550.

A PROBE INTO HISTORY: Geologist ERIC WILKINSON was Guest Speaker for the November meeting. Initially attached to the National Museum, Melbourne, he has spent the last 20 years as Chief of the Geological Survey Office in Bendigo - an institution which is more than 100 years old.

In a most interesting address Eric traced the history of the Bendigo minefield from the vantage point of the Surveyor and recalled that, in plotting the local area his predecessors of last century had faced a daunting task due to the rapid growth of the mines.

As evidence of this, the first attempt at mining reefs occurred in 1833 and by 1855 all mines had been pegged and claimed.

A map was produced in 1873 which showed significant work as a first attempt, but unfortunately the Surveyor, Murray, went to Ballarat without leaving a report on Bendigo.

Early this century and working from fossils the surveyors produced the first Geological map tracing all the folds (anticlines). The magnitude of the task becomes clear when it is realised that there is 110 kilometres of shafts in the Bendigo field! Roughly equivalent to an underground journey from here to Dandenong.

BILL BURCH introduced the speaker and FRANK BUDGE thanked him for his enlightening talk.

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THAT'S LIFE! When it comes to giving most folk stop at nothing.

TOURS INFORMATION. Are any members interested in Small Group Camping "Safari Tours"? Barrett Safaris of Bendigo (Tel. 39 5600) are offering a series of affordable price trips. All interested are invited to an evening at Barretts, 414 Sullivans Road, Strathfieldsaye at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, January 26th to inspect Buses, equipment and display, a light meal will be provided, BYO drinks, if attending contact Barretts or Arthur. Literature available. 10 day Victoria Outback Feb. 21st - \$395. 28 day GULF - INDEPTH TOUR, Price \$1316/person, Departs May 5th, 1989.

TUESDAY, JAN. 24TH: TRIP TO SHEPPARTON: Visits Police Driving School, S.P.C. Cannery, A B.B.Q. Lunch will be provided. Estimated Cost: \$9.00/person, includes Coach fare and Lunch. **PAYMENTS:** need to be finalised today please. Emergency listings invited. Departure Time 8.15 a.m. from Strathdale Community Centre, Crook Street.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST - FILM MORNING & CHINESE LUNCH.

Film: "The Last Emperor", Location: R.L. Campbell Theatre.

Time: 9.30 a.m.

Chinese Lunch: Smorgasboard at "House of Khong".

Cost: Film & Lunch \$10.50, Film Only \$3.00, Lunch Only \$7.50.

Ample vacancies for Film: Emergencies taken for Lunch.

PAYMENTS: Today at Meeting please.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23RD: TRIP TO YARRA GLEN RACES: Picnic atmosphere. Inspection of "Gulf Station" and Meet up with Probus Club of Doncaster and Probus Club of Wonthaggi and have an interesting "day at the races".

Details are at present being finalised, but should be a low cost trip. **ONE COACH ONLY** - List will be tabled at meeting today.

PAYMENTS: At February Meeting.

MAY 23RD TO MAY 31ST: 9 Day - 8 Nights HOULDEN'S OF BENDIGO, Modern Coach. Travel Gippsland overnight Sale, 3 Nights Merimbula, 3 nights Canberra and one night either Wagga or Griffiths.

COST: \$465.00/person includes Coach Fare, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast. Based on 40 travelling, twin share. **DEPOSITS ARE NOW REQUIRED AT HOULDENS (\$46/person)** for first 44 persons who have been advised. At present 11 emergencies listed, other emergencies invited.

SINGAPORE & HONG KONG - possible trip Mid August to Late August 1989. Example: a current offer: 3 Nights Singapore, 5 nights Hong Kong. Inclusions: Return Air Travel, transfers, Twin Room Accommodation, Limited sightseeing - Cost \$1370/person.

Many 1989 Itineraries are yet to be released, will review.

Arthur will be pleased if all interested in a trip of this nature to please place their names on a List tabled at meeting today - not necessarily a commitment at this time, required as a guide to possible interest, will enable planning.

"LET JOY BE UNCONFINED!" seemed to be the prevailing mood as the 127 Probians and wives attending the fourth annual Christmas dinner prepared to pack the sustenance into the inner cavities.

Forsaking the ballroom dancing for the comfort of the diners seemed to be a good idea as we enjoyed the elbow-room provided.

Entertainment was excellent. Unable to afford even the modest fees demanded by Dame Kiri or Michael Jackson the Executive wisely dropped the matter into the lap of that factotum of fizzy facilities, GORDON GLOVER, who rose nobly to the occasion.

He gathered around him a group of songsters whom he dubbed, 'The Probus Choir'. They could have been - and probably were - refugees from the Vienna Boys Choir (circa 1939) who, you will recall were stranded here when war broke out and remained when they realised that they were on a good thing.

The night revealed some unexpected talent. BOB CHENERY, (dubbed 'Poet Laureate') recited his original verses, OSSIE WATSON and WAL FORBES taught us in their sketch that Things Are Not What They Seem and raconteur CYRIL MICHELSEN drew on his 80 plus years of active service to recall amusing incidents.

In addition to the above-mentioned gentlemen the Choir included JOHN GRIFFEN, HAROLD EVERY, ALF WHATMORE and GEORGE JENNINGS whilst Guest Conductor CLARK JEFFREY led the entire assembly in a lusty rendition of Christmas Carols.

Pianiste (where does the talent come from?) HEATHER JENNINGS admirably provided the musical background.

Noting the not inconsiderable amount of Fellowship generated throughout the night it could be said, quoting a trite phrase, that a Good Time Was Had By All!

ONCE MORE we record the loss of a valuable member with the untimely death of BEN MAY. The quiet fellowship which he extended to his fellow-members will be sadly missed. Our sympathy goes to Alma and the family.

"SHUT THE DOOR - THEY'RE COMING IN THE WINDOW" seems to sum up, the growth of PROBUS. Hard on the heels of the new Ladies Probus Club we now have a newcomer in the form of the Probus Club of Eaglehawk. Formed late last year and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk it had its genesis on December 12th, 1988. Up and running with an initial membership of 48 we send our greetings to President JOE MILES and the members of the Probus Club of Eaglehawk. The new club meets on the second Monday of each month at the Allies Hotel, Maiden Gully, at 10 a.m.

NEW MEMBERS: Details for your little book:

REG MASLEN (Rose) 34 Nabilla Crescent (PH: 43 1772)
EDDIE HOGAN (Betty) 3 Aviary Crescent (PH: 43 5647)

Welcome to Reg and Eddie - glad to have you with us!

A COUNTRY OCCASION: The bucolic attractions of life in the rural scene lured a large number of Probians and spouses to magical Mandurang where the residents, not content with mundane musings of rustic ruminants have created an organism pitched somewhere between practical farming and practical tourism.

It was a leisurely day as two nearly-filled buses trundled happily through the countryside to the eventual goal of a barbeque lunch laced with good wine 'samples' and snags, burgers and bread dispensed by a coterie of perspiring 'babbling brooks'.

But first we had to earn it by treading the soil at various venues. **"The Country Garden"** had everything that the name suggests except the delightful music of Percy Grainger; several overcome this deficiency by humming the tune.

Here was togetherness in the extreme as just about every specie of flora stood (or grew) shoulder to shoulder with its neighbour. Some of the trees looked like they probably came out with the First Fleet - Joseph Banks would have had a field day identifying all the goodies in this garden!

BUT - it is not true that several visitors became lost in the undergrowth and had to be rescued by a patrol of boy scouts.

Flora's sister, Fauna was there, too, in the form of fine feathered friends ranging from mini-chooks and pigeons to strutting peacocks all seemingly engaged in the fruitless activity of laying eggs that never hatch.

"The Orchid Garden" was a delight to all who extract pleasure from viewing these exotic blooms at their best. For the real enthusiast a lecture on the cultivation of the orchids was an added bonus.

For others not so dedicated to orchids, attractions on the side consisted of cages containing Fowls Domestica, Guinea Pigs and itinerent mice with four sturdy goats staring, without emotion, at the peculiar creatures on the other side of the wire fence.

The luncheon venue was an ideal setting with just enough tall gums to provide adequate shade and the proper atmosphere. Located nearby was an Art Gallery, a collection of ancient Radio memorabilia and a modicum of wines from fledgling grapes which added a gourmet touch to the bangers and bread.

Which just goes to prove that much pleasure can be gained from a low-cost trip around our own environment.

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THEN THERE WAS THE DOCTOR who hit on a novel way of collecting overdue bills. He included a sticker on the bill, "Long time - no fee".

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