



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President: JACK WATTS
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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

GUEST SPEAKER at the first meeting of the 1990's will be Mr. David Humphreys. David, a well known local businessman, has recently returned from an erotic - sorry exotic - trip abroad. A bright start to 1990 seems assured.

A NEW MEMBER - BRYAN CLEMSON - was inducted at the November meeting. Bryan was introduced by Ken Coles and welcomed by President Reg.

I couldn't believe my ears when I heard JACK WATTS say that he tried successfully to find the definition of "OMBUDSMAN" in his dictionary and had to resort to a second edition - but I confess to the same problem.

While introducing NOVEMBER'S speaker - DEREK SYNNOTT. Jack advised that the word was of Scandinavian origin and was applied to a person appointed to investigate citizens' complaints of maladministration by government departments.

During his address Derek advised that there were a number of ombudsmen in Australia and that his office - the Commonwealth Office - could investigate only those complaints that related to treatment by federal departments. Various state offices were set up to deal with complaints against state departments.

Derek's address covered a number of aspects of the work of the Office including its role, the type of complaint that can be investigated -

and those that can't - who can complain and when, how to complain, the action that will follow a complaint and the lack of any charge (other than taxes) for the service. Many examples were quoted.

During question time a number of problems affecting members were raised and it seemed as though the most difficult problem for the Ombudsman's Office related to the determination of whether the problem arose because of government policy - which cannot be investigated - or because of the particular application of policy.

Any member who missed Derek's talk and the informative pamphlet he provided could contact the Ombudsman's Melbourne office by phoning (03) 614 3911. I'm sure a copy of the pamphlet will be forwarded without delay.

Derek was ably thanked by a member who - due to poor note-taking - must remain nameless. My apologies!

BEFORE listing the **TRIPS & ENTERTAINMENT** as provided by ARTHUR EATON I have been asked to remind members that a major contributing factor in the smooth running of meetings is the work done by the volunteers who collect money before the meeting commences. Such assistance is invaluable and greatly appreciated by your committee. TO HELP these volunteers it would be greatly appreciated if members would tender the EXACT AMOUNT to cover the cost of individual items. PLEASE CO-OPERATE.

TRIPS & ENTERTAINMENT

HONG KONG & SINGAPORE: SATURDAY MARCH 31ST TO MONDAY APRIL 9TH.

10 Days - 9 Nights. COST: \$1664 (twin share), ensures a good location and better quality Hotel (as recommended). Vacancies exist but time is running out to hold booking positions. Nat. Aust Bank Travel: Consultant: Kay Schroeder. Vacancy for one Probus Member to share room with Alex Crothers. Arthur Eaton (43 9162) has full details/literature/timetable, etc.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22ND: DAYLESFORD-JUBILEE LAKE-HEPBURN SPRINGS-MALDEN...

Depart Strath Community Centre 9.00 am, arrive home approx 4.30 pm. A leisurely day, take own Picnic Lunch, some may like a Mineral Spa or Bath? COST: \$6.00 per person (Coach Only) (45). List posted today, payment February Meeting.

FRIDAY MARCH 9TH: BALLARAT - BEGONIA FESTIVAL

Depart Strath Community Centre 8.30 am, arrive home approx 5.00 pm. Take own Picnic Lunch. COST: Estimated \$10.00/person (Coach and admission). Limit 45 persons. ** List posted today, payment February meeting.

LATE APRIL: Possible Trip: Barmah Forrest/Lakes, Discovery Boat Cruise, Devonshire Tea. (Take own Lunch). COST: Estimated \$20.00 / person. (Includes Coach, Boat Trip, Devonshire Tea).

The following are submitted for your consideration as a possible trip for either May or early September. Would you prefer a trip of longer duration? Please list your preference and comments on sheet tabled today.

HUNTER VALLEY - HAWKSURRY RIVER AREA - Based at Gosford, return through the Blue Mountains.

6 Day/5 Night. Approx Cost: Coach & Accommodation DBB \$360.

Overnight Goulburn (or other), Gosford 3 nights, Blue Mountain Area (1) perhaps we may meet up with Probus Club of Toukley?

MILDURA-BROKEN HILL-BAROSSA VALLEY - 6 Day / 5 Night.

Overnight Mildura, Broken Hill (2), Barossa Valley (2). COST: Approx \$360, Coach, Accommodation, D.B.B.

Have you any thoughts concerning a possible trip in the future to ADELAIDE & KANGAROO ISLAND, a quote received last year costed at (by sea) \$439 for a 5 day / 4 night. Please advise Arthur Eaton.

THE PUFFIN' BILLY TRIP

The trip to Belgrave and the start of the train journey was broken only by stops for Morning Tea (The Fitzroy Gardens) and lunch (Sherbrook Forest). As usual Arthur organised good weather.

The start of the Puffin' Billy ride was delayed not through lack of "Puff" but over-heated wheel bearings so Loco No. 2 had to be primed.

The trip itself reminded some of the Old Ghan, but with a contrast in passing scenery. Trees of all shapes and sizes thrust skywards from tangled undergrowth, comprising low ferns, tree ferns and a variety of late wildflowers. Glimpses of cleared patches and lawns surrounding houses perched precariously on hillsides contrasted with the natural setting.

Our arrival at Lakeside - yet another pleasant spot caused consternation for some. The bus for the return journey had to be found. All made it, and were entertained on the return journey by selected stories by Gordon G. and others.

The following verse may be more explicit. (Alf Whatmore & Bob Chenery).

A trip by Bendigo Probus on the Puffin' Billy.

All Aboard!, and like children we went silly
Down hill the travelling was really quite fast,
But up hill the train found quite a task.

For Arthur's organisation Probus must be proud,
All of us in this bus shout "Thanks Arthur" aloud,
And who is this Billy and why is he Puffin?
Why Billy's the train and his wheels need stuffing.

It has carriages old, narrow and slim
Obviously the train has been used agin and agin.
The delay at the start was due to siezed bearings,

You should see Arthur - how his hair he was tearing.

At last we arrived at Lakeside with Arthur in a fuss,
What was it that was lost? Why only the bus.
But equipped with a map, compass and Kath,
Arthur found the bus and we followed his path.

Now all aboard and Bendigo bound gay we return,
Thanks to Arthur for making our pleasure his concern!

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

The Capital Theatre was the venue for a matinee showing of the "Good Old Days" on Sunday December 10th. The show was put on solely for the four local Probus Clubs following discussion between ALAN DINGLE and the theatre management.

The theatre was packed and all present enjoyed a great presentation of variety items by Bendigo based performers. Master of Ceremonies was Brian Thomas who also participated in some numbers. Audience participation was encouraged and all enjoyed singing some of their old favourites. A memorable afternoon was concluded by the provision of afternoon tea.

A vote of thanks to ALAN for his meticulous organisation is appropriate.

(Condensed from an article in "Probitv").

Our ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER was held at the Bendigo Club of 13th December. I am reliably informed by the President that he delivered the best Christmas message ever and that all enjoyed both the message and the occasion.

I suspect that more members gained enjoyment from the entertainment provided under the guidance of Gordon Glover. Another vote of thanks.

A late report on the Christmas dinner would suggest that a certain amount of private "soldiering-on" occurred after the dinner!

U3A - UNNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

More detail will be provided at a later date, but I am happy to report that discussions have been held with the Directorate of the University College of Northern Victoria, and that the College will offer what support it can to this venture. Most importantly the library and classrooms will be available together with a number of support services.

BOWLS 1. The Learners Morning proposed in November will be held at Woodbury on Thursday 1st March. Intending players to arrive 9.30 - 9.45 for 10.00 am start. Green fees - \$2.00.

2. A Bowls Day for Probians will be held in Ballarat on Tuesday 13th February - Fours Event. VIC CANOBIE has all details.

3. Results column: Bendigo Probus lost one 44 - 63, and won another 64 - 42. Again Vic for full details.

MEN Men are like bag-pipes; no sound comes from them until they are full.