



BENDIGO
PREMIER TOWN
VICTORIA 1902-1985

PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



Published Monthly

Issue No. 206

21 Jan, 2004

Incorporation No. A0011248L

Annual Subscription \$20 Print Post Publication No PP 3491 06/00007

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A Special General meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9.30am at the Masonic Centre, McIvor,Rd, Bendigo.

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Tour organiser and Activities Co-ordinator

Arthur Eaton, 4 Maxwell Cresent, Bendigo Phone:5443 9162

The Guest Speaker at today's meeting is Greg Williams who will speak about Yabbie Farming

At the November meeting the Guest Speaker was Ken Johnson. He was introduced, under some difficulties, by Alex Wilson. His subject was Travels with a Donkey. After a serious illness, Ken decided to get out into the bush, and eventually decided to get on to the Bicentennial National Trail. It starts, or finishes at Healesville and ends, or starts, at Cooktown. With a length of 15,331 kms. this is the world's longest such trail.

Most of the trail is off the bitumen, on bush tracks, often through dense woodland and away from civilised amenities. Because of this, everything needed, food, water, tents, sleeping bags and so on, must be carried around, necessitating some form of transport; pack animals.

For this purpose, the best choice is donkeys. More surefooted than horses, they do not need to be shod, their day's journeys can be longer and they live on the land, no need to carry fodder, they feed on grass or almost any vegetation even thistles. They do need water and of course so do the donkey men (or women).

Ken obtained 3 donkeys and for a start they had to be rehabilitated. Their physical condition was poor and they had foot rot. Next they had to be trained in carrying packs.

On the trail the day's time table was up at 5 am - cook breakfast, wash, shave, whatever, break camp. 7 am - start walking, speed up to 4 kph. 3-4 pm - start camp.

Summer wear - shorts or jeans, t-shirt

Winter gear - all clothes on back, wear gloves.

The travellers are in touch with the local authorities, informing the police of their projected route and times. Sometimes they would have to trek across private properties and to do this the landowner's permission was sought.

Ken was thanked by Colin McLean for a very interesting talk, and the usual presentation was made.

Vale - Since the last edition of ProbC, we have to record the passing of Maurice Pease, former President of our club. Also the passing of Betty Winzar - the wife of our member Warren, on the 30th of December, 2003

Christmas Luncheon

There were 98 Participants at the Foundry Arms on December 17th. The committee are to be congratulated for the organisation of the function. An excellent meal, efficient and friendly service made it an enjoyable occasion. Special thanks are due to the organisers, the M.C. and as always to Norm Dack for his accompaniment. Thanks too, for Casper Sens who provided the medallion which was the first prize.

Bowls Notes

After a disastrous start to our bowls season in the match against Eaglehawk we played our November match at South Bendigo and after a titanic struggle were beaten by 1 shot 69-68. Our best rink was Ed Trewartha, Alec Wilson and Herb Hesse. Well done to all the players.

In December, our match was against Bendigo Bowls Club, and we improved greatly to record a very good win 87 shots to 76. Our best rink again skippered by Herb Hesse, with Bill Clemens and Jack Laidler.

Our January match is against Bendigo East on Tuesday 13th January. Teams to be notified. Any player unavailable please notify me at your earliest convenience.

Bill Clemens

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Best wishes are extended to the following members who will be celebrating their birthday in the coming months . . .



FEBRAURY 2004

02 Tom Roberts	83
05 Jack Watts	88
06 Cyril Slade	82
18 John Hardy	80
25 Cliff Neivandt	78
26 Ken Proud	83

MARCH 2004

02 Peter Randall	70
17 John Sanderson	80
19 Gordon Glover	87
23 Ray Fitzgerald	82
23 Jim Harrison	82
25 Jim Aitken	79

SIGNIFICANT Wedding Anniversaries

2 Feb	Muriel / Peter Thornton	50 Years Wed
2 Feb	Mel / Arthur Morris	72 Years Wed
26 Feb	Jean / Peter Goodrich	55 Years Wed
27 March	Laurel / Max Hallett	50 Years Wed



Congratulations to all of the above

Note: If you do not wish your birthday published in the 'Probe', please advise the secretary.

Preliminary Notice

Members are reminded that the Club's Annual Meeting will be held at 9.30am on Wednesday 17th March, 2004. All positions in the Club will be declared vacant at the Meeting and members are invited to apply to any position.

In addition, the Club may be seeking volunteer/s to fill positions other than the Committee, and your indication on the nomination form is invited.

Nomination forms are enclosed within this issue of 'Probe'. Completed nomination forms are to be in the hands of the Secretary prior to Wednesday 10th March 04, (seven days prior to the A.G.M.). Further blank copies of the nomination form are available from the secretary upon request.

Bob Chenery, Secretary



PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO - TRIPS INFORMATION REPORT ON: Trip to Melbourne: SHRINE & MUESUM - Thursday 20th November, 2003.

On Thursday 20th November our Group of 39 Probians and friends of Probus departed at 7.45am for Melbourne after anxiously awaiting the arrival of our Coach. We stopped as usual for a short break and a cuppa at the Macdonald's franchise at Taylor's Lakes. Following arrival on time at 10.15am at the Shrine Visitors Centre our Group was welcomed by our two guides, each of whom conducted half of the group on their tour. During the tour of the Shrine we were shown:

The Shrine of Remembrance's Visitors Centre which provides improved access for the elderly and people with disabilities, its facilities ensure that visitors are better educated about the service and sacrifice of Victorians who contributed to the freedom we enjoy today. The Centre has a "Gallery of Medals" which features a 40 metre long wall that displays 4000 service medals, each one representing 100 Victorians who have served in Military & Peace Keeping operations and 6 who have lost their lives, an interpretive panel gives details of the medals.

The heart of the Shrine is "The Sanctuary" with its marble "Stone of Remembrance" sunk in the pavement where visitors must bow their heads to read the inscription "*Greater Love Hath No Man.*" Each year on 11th November at exactly 11.00am E.S.T., a ray of light from the sun illuminates the word "*Love*" in the inscription. (*Mirrors have been installed to cater for daylight saving time.*) We were at the stone at 11.00am on 20th Nov and witnessed a ray of light pass over it. Around the Sanctuary walls is a frieze of twelve carved panels depicting the armed services at work and in action during the First World War. The Ambulatory, a narrow walkway surrounds the Sanctuary, along which are 42 bronze caskets containing Books of Remembrance with the "names only" of all Victorians who enlisted and served overseas during the First World War. The "Crypt" is situated directly below the Sanctuary and is a Regimental Memorial, it contains regimental colours and badges and a series of bronze panels recording the army and navy units that took part in the First World War and the names of Royal Australian Ships lost in war. The Crypt also contains a life size "**Father & Son**" sculpture that represents the two generations of Victorians who served in the World Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45. Unfortunately we did not see the Cenotaph which is a 12.5 metre pillar on the forecourt which supports statuary representing six men in the battle-dress of the Navy, Army & Air services, carrying a bier on which lies a dead comrade. The names of the theatres of war where each of the services fought in W.W.2. are inscribed on the Pillar. Also close by in front of the Cenotaph is the "**Eternal Flame,**" part of the Second World War Memorial, it was lit by Queen Elizabeth in February 1954.

Our Shrine visit concluded at noon at which time we departed for the Melbourne Museum where we arrived at 12.35pm and immediately proceeded to a lunch area set up for our group adjacent to a fully restored Melbourne Grippy Cable Tram at which Peter Rowlands Caterers provided a very adequate lunch of Soup and Sandwiches, tea/coffee.

After completion of the Lunch break members of the group, each of whom had been provided with a Visitor Guide, were free to explore individually and at will the wonders of the Museum which is Australia's largest and most modern.

Exhibition Galleries situated on the Ground Floor were: Evolution, Science & Life, Forest, Bunjilaka, Te-Pasifika. The Upper Level Galleries in part comprised: The Mind & Body, Forest and the Australia Gallery (a part of which contains the famous Phar Lap.), also a Childrens Museum. Whilst the Lower Level contains the Info Zone (Free resource & discovery centre), the Age Theatre, Museum Shop and a Touring Hall. Many Escalators and Lifts were provided between each level of the building.

The was great variety and so much of interest to see, that the time allocated for our stay only permitted us to scratch the surface of what this excellent facility provides. The Australia Gallery and the Mind & Body Gallery proved to be very popular, they alone capable of absorbing all available time.

All good things must come to an end, so after a most enlightening, interesting and enjoyable outing, we departed from the Melbourne Museum at 3.30pm and duly arrived in Bendigo, on time at 5.45pm.

Our Coach Captain Trevor Dickinson contributed greatly to the success of the outing and was as he usually is, most considerate and helpful, "thank you Trevor." Thanks also to those who travelled and for their support of this trip.

Author: Arthur Eaton (Trips Organiser.)