



BENDIGO
PREMIER TOWN
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PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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Editor: KEN COLES (Phone 43 8590)

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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President: REG BROCK
Phone: 43 4888

Secretary: RAY DOWNEY
Phone: 43 4550

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.

OUR GUEST SPEAKER TODAY will be DAVID HUNTER. David, who is the Shire Engineer for the Shire of Strathfieldsaye will speak on Progress Towards the Establishment of a Technology Park in Bendigo.

At the June meeting President Reg expressed delight at the attendance of GEORGE JENNINGS and CLARKE JEFFREY after illness, and also at the news that BOB CAMPBELL and CYRIL McDONALD were reported to be making good progress following their periods in hospital.

One of the joys of being a member of a club such as PROBUS is that you have the opportunity to hear speakers who are both articulate and who know their subject thoroughly. Members really enjoyed the address given by MAX KITCHELL on both counts.

Max is Regional Manager for the Bendigo Region of the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands - a position he obtained following a period as Ministerial Adviser on Conservation.

The Department of C.F. & L. was established in 1983 by merging a number of Government Agencies such as the Lands Department, the Forest Commission and Fisheries and Wildlife. The merger of such diverse departments has led to some tensions within C.F. & L. but the main ethic is conservation regardless of reason.

Conservation may mean conservatism for continued commercial use as in timber production, for sporting purposes as evidenced by support for fishing and shooting interests or for appreciation of the environment.

The range of responsibilities of the Department is large as it has duties in relation to the State owned land - mainly forest - that covers 38% of Victoria and is also required to advise farmers about problems concerning land degradation.

The Bendigo Region of C.F. & L. covers 2½ million hectares (10% of Victoria) and is peculiar in that it contains virtually no virgin forest. The region has only 11% of its area as forest - a smaller proportion than any other region.

However members were advised that the area did contain a number of significant state parks and reserves. Max also advised that contrary to earlier beliefs it was now known that the establishment of National Parks such as THE GRAMPIANS actually improved the economics of the region concerned.

The major issue facing the local C.F. & L. administration was reported to be land degradation. Degradation of land results from a number of causes. The main ones cited were erosion, salinity, rabbits, and introduced weeds.

In the case of salinity we were advised that a major factor contributing to the Kerang Problem "was the movement of underground water from the Bendigo area. This problem could not be resolved in less than 100 years".

In response to specific questions concerning diseases in trees and re-forestation members were told that no effort would be made to combat natural diseases in The Whipstick and that tree sales at nurseries were increasing rapidly.

Max was introduced by GEORGE JENNINGS and thanked by ALF WHATMORE.

TRIPS AND ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY: AUGUST 23rd: TRIP TO G.T.V. 9 MELBOURNE: to participate as audience for the production of "SALE OF THE CENTURY" with Tony Barber Depart at 8.30 a.m., from Strath Community Complex, Crook Street. Arrival on return home: approx. 6.45 p.m. Morning Tea: BYO or obtain at stop. Lunch: BYO or purchase snacks at shops near GTV9. Coach: 45. At present 45 + 4 emergencies. (More emergencies required). COST: Coach fare: \$8.00/person. Admission free. PAYMENTS AT JULY MEETING PLEASE.

WEDNESDAY: SEPTEMBER 13th: TRIP TO MELBOURNE: (Coach Capacity 45).

(a) Port of Melbourne Authority - "Port Cruise".

(b) Inspection of Government House.

Lunch: (At own cost). We will be in vicinity of World Trade Centre, where snacks and meals are available. COST: \$11.50/person which includes Coach and admissions. Current bookings: 45 plus 24 emergencies. PAYMENTS AT AUGUST MEETING PLEASE.

WEDNESDAY: OCTOBER 11th & THURSDAY OCTOBER 12th: TRIP TO PHILLIP ISLAND

Sightseeing on way, to Cowes - "View the Penguin Parade". Sightseeing Mornington Peninsular, hope to arrange visit to Flinder's Naval Depot. Coach Capacity: 44. Cost per person \$99.00, which includes: Coach Fare, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast and Sightseeing. Current bookings: 44 plus 26 emergencies. PAYMENTS: A \$10 deposit payable at August meeting. Balance of payment to Houlden's Bendigo direct, one month prior to departure date.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23rd: TRIP TO THE DANDENONGS & RIDE PUFFING BILLY.

A booking has been sought for this day with details of costing. Trip will include a ride on Puffing Billy and other sightseeing.

IST WILL BE TABLED AT JULY MEETING.

SAFARI REPORT (Alec Wilson)

On the 5th May a small group of Probians and wives, together with a near member and others left Bendigo on a 28 day camping tour to the "Gulf Country" with Barrett's.

The complete tour took us through four states. The outward part of the trip took us through Mildura, Burra, the Flinders Ranges, along the Birdsville Track, to Mt. Isa, Gregory Downs, Lawn Hill Gorge areas which provided us with spectacular canoeing and walks, and Escott Station which is an operational cattle station of 2560 sq. km's running approx. 8000 head of Brahman-cross cattle.

Fishermen had a choice. Gulf fishing was available by flying from Escott Station to Sweers Is (In the Gulf). Karumba provided fishing by way of a river cruise. Prawns were also available. A similar cruise by night taught us that crocodiles can be conspicuous by their absence.

The return trip took us through Cloncurry to Longreach and the recently completed Hall of Fame, Lightning Ridge opal fields, Sofala, Wagga, and thus home.

Together a most enjoyable trip and one that can be recommended to anyone with a liking for camping.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY (From the Probus Club of Eaglehawk Bulletin).

The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity!

GOLF NEWS:

Regretfully the Mirridong Golf Day to which members were invited by JOE O'SULLIVAN has been cancelled because the Course is too wet for play. Another arrangement can be expected.

PATIENCE PLAYERS:

ALLAN DINGLE invited you all to another clinic at our morning-tea break and suggests that "Patience" can be Relaxation, Exercise, or Rejuvenation when any or all of the following occur; TV adverts, when you need a mental challenge, in quiet moments, when you need to keep awake, or when the doctor tells you that you should exercise your fingers more.

BILLIARDS:

Eight members made use of the facilities at the Eaglehawk Clubrooms on "whatever that date was". Prize for the most "misspent youth" goes to KEN GLOSTER with JOHN GRIFFIN a close second.

Interested members are invited to a repeat performance at 2.00 p.m. on Monday 24th July.

NATIONAL WOOL MUSEUM - GEELONG - 22nd JUNE.

Whoever said that ARTHUR EATON can organise a good trip. I still don't know how many Probians and spouses went to Geelong on the above date - all I heard was that there were "still 6 empty seats so we must be right".

Also Arthur - we can all stand leaving Bendigo at 8.00 a.m. on a frosty morning - but frost at Ballan after 10.00 a.m. is a bit much. To top things off the heating system in the bus was SNAFU despite the bravado of the driver who took his coat off before we left Daylesford!

To degenerate to fact we had an uneventful trip to the outskirts of Geelong until RAY DOWNIE showed the driver a new entry to Geelong that gave all a tremendous view of the city. Ray then guided us around the Bay from the refinery, through the city, past the saltworks to the smelter at Point Henry and on to Drysdale.

A visit to the Wool Museum proper is well worth the effort. The Museum is on three levels. The lowest level depicts most aspects related to the production of the raw material. Models of sheep, shearing, and shearers' quarters were to the fore.

The second level illustrated the treatment of the raw fibre until it became cloth. Scouring, combing, spinning, weaving, and dyeing were featured.

Level three was dominated by two magnificent woollen tapestries depicting scenes related to the industry and a wide range of wool samples as once presented for auction. This level also contained the two current auction rooms which were not in use - through no fault of Arthur's.

The return trip was even less eventful than the trip down. There was one advantage however - the heating system was operative and we still had 6 seats to spare.

Rubbish aside - another very enjoyable trip to a most interesting destination and our sincere thanks yet again to the man who does it all on our behalf - well done ARTHUR!



Wear this badge with pride