



PROBE

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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.

Our guest speaker today will be Mr. Tom Stewart, Town Crier, who will speak on the promotion of Central Victoria.

Last month we had a very interesting talk from Mr. Doug Buerger who is the Managing Director of Bendigo Mining. He was introduced by Jack Watts.

Mr. Buerger was educated in South Africa and England where he studied Science and Mining. On his early visits to Bendigo Doug studied the history of mining in Bendigo and discovered that the Bendigo field was the second largest producer of gold in the world; second only to the Kalgoolie field which only equaled our local field's output in 1984.

In 1995 Doug, with his family, moved to Bendigo to take over his present position. Bendigo Mining had just taken over the tenements from Western Mining and now had the rights to the Bendigo field.

Continuing his history lesson Doug revealed that there had been about 1500 companies operating in Bendigo, something like 6000 shafts and 3 stock exchanges. The market capitalization of the companies in Bendigo was only exceeded by the market capitalization of the companies in London.

In their survey of the field Bendigo Mining calculated that there would be about 10,000,000 ounces of gold down to the 1500 meter level. This gold was in areas that had not previously been mined to the 1400 meter level of the old mines.

The shareholders were so convinced of the value of the field that they had no hesitation in providing \$39,000,000 in 1997. In 1998, after receipt of government permits, the decline was started off Ham St. Kangaroo Flat and is now about 500 meters in length, going down at an angle

of 1 in 6.5. It is 500 meters below the Mail Centre in Deborah St. The target zone is next to Abbott Supply where there is a poppet head, the old Deborah mine which shut down in 1954, and at about 700 meters below the surface. The decline will now spiral down, at the same angle, to where they will start to take samples to determine whether mining the ore body will be cost effective. This will be in January/February next year. Initial indications are that gold will be produced at between AU\$200 and AU\$250 an ounce. The gold price today is about AU\$480 an ounce.

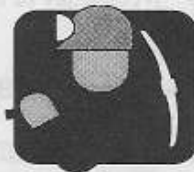
Water control is very important in the Bendigo system. Bendigo Mining drills ahead to find any water present and pumps it out before it can flood the decline. At present the water is being pumped out at the rate of 3.5 million litres a day and is transferred, by pipeline, to evaporation ponds at Woodvale. Investigations are also being made into reusing this water in the mine.

Doug stressed that Bendigo would benefit from the development of the mine. At present 75 people are employed at the mine site and, if mining is successful at this phase, this will increase to about 150. It is easy to obtain staff in Bendigo and local engineering firms produce quality goods for the mining industry.

The life of the mine should run into decades as investigations have only been carried out to 7 lines of reef. Under Bendigo there are 15 lines of reef.

Rehabilitation of a mining site is very important these days and there will be no unsightly piles of sand or mullock left over. Already a number of species of flora have been reestablished and they have the largest colony of sugar gliders in the Bendigo area.

John Stephens thanked Doug for his interesting and informative talk and made the usual Presentation.



VALE

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of three of our esteemed members in John McCoy, TI member, Max Phillips and Os Watson, foundation member. We extend our deepest sympathy to their partners and families.

ACTIVITIES

The Special Millennium/Olympic Dinner was held at BRIT Restaurant on Tuesday, 22nd June. A Gold Medal awarded to Cliff Binks for the outstanding success of organizing the above evening. The venue, quality food, entertainment, amassing the 60 prizes supplied by Bendigo central traders, memorabilia, etc.

Well done Cliff and many thanks for a wonderful night.

The evening unfolded as follows –

On arrival at the restaurant the dining area was brimming with 100 smiling, happy faces and the evening flowed accordingly. Early in proceedings President Alan Court introduced our special guest, Faith Leech,, Olympic swimmer/medallist, who responded and advised that she had brought

along her medals and award to be passed around for everyone to peruse and enjoy, especially holding the medals. Thank you Faith.

The talented artists, Elfi Willman, Allison Grenfell and Sheryn Marsden (vocalists), Peter Ellis (accordion and other instruments), Cliff Ellis (keyboard) and Janette McInness (flautist) entertained throughout the evening. They were quality and class in their presentations, many thanks to you all. A specially decorated cake, made for the occasion, and a lovely personal touch of hand painted serviettes (Olympic theme) by students of Grades 5 and 6 at Maple St. Primary State School, organized by their teacher, Mrs. Lacey, completed the theme. Please remember to drop a line to the student who painted your serviette!

Congratulations to Cliff Binks once again.

Barry O'Brien



TRAVEL NOTES

THURSDAY 20th & FRIDAY 21st JULY 2000. (Assembly Time 10.45am.)

CONDUCTED TOUR OF EMPIRE RUBBER - SMORGASBOARD AT HOUSE OF KHONG

**Please check date you are booked for.

** EMPIRE RUBBER: (Maximum 20 on each day). A conducted Tour.

Assemble 10.45am at Empire Rubber, Powells Avenue, Bendigo.

** Tour from 11.00am, 1 hour duration. *** Use own transport.

** Ladies Footwear: To enclose foot & have a low heel.

HOUSE OF KHONG- SMORGASBOARD (12.30pm each Day) (Maximum 20 plus)

** After Empire Rubber Tour, proceed to House of Khong at 200 Hargreaves Street (near Blueline Office Supplies).

TOTAL COST: \$9.00/person. PAYMENT: At July 19th meeting please.

*** Vacancies available on both days for Smorgasbord Lunch.

*** Emergencies invited for both days Empire Rubber Tour.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2000. TRIP TO KORONG VALE-BOORT AREA.

Depart Bendigo 8.15am: We travel to Korong Vale where we meet up with our guide for the day Robyn Vella of Loddon Discovery Tours.

First we visit the Chandelier Man, see how Crystal Chandeliers are made, then on to Boort for morning tea. Visits to Hycube Lucerne Cubes. Visit Dulcie, amazing what can be recycled.

LUNCH: in the lounge of the friendly Railway Hotel. A town Tour of Boort, we stop at Brojyla Patches. Guided Tour through Aquaculture Farm.

Visit Venus Creek DNRE Nursery, growers of indigenous trees.

COST: \$32.00per person. Includes Coach Fare, Morning Tea, Lunch,

Tours and entrance fees. "An excellent trip," great variety, value for money.
"Don't miss out on this one."

PAYMENTS: August 16th. Max: (49); Current: (49) Emergencies invited.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13th to THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15th, 2001

TRIP TO PHILLIP ISLAND - 3 DAY/2 NIGHTS. MAXIMUM: (49),

COST: \$246/PERSON Includes: Coach, Accommodation D.B.B. Twin Share

Tours & Entry fees. Depart: Tue 13th Feb, instead of Tue 20th Feb.

Day 1. Tue 13/2: Bendigo to Phillip Island. San Remo Pelican Feeding, Ryll Swamp Bird Sanctuary. Seal Rocks, Sea Life Centre -Seal Watch & Sharks Domain. Visit Woolamai.

Day 2: (Phillip Island Local Travel) Visit Koala Conservation Centre & Woodlands, Churchill Island, a magical island steeped in history (Packed Lunch). After Dinner: We visit the Penguin Parade.)

Day 3: Phillip Island/Sorrento/Queenscliff/Bendigo. Make our way around the Bay & Mornington Peninsula; visit TV World, Aust. Museum of Modern Media. Forty minute Ferry Trip to Queenscliff & home via Bellarine Peninsula, Geelong, Bacchus Marsh & Gisborne.

** Too much to explain in detail- "A first class trip"

** Detailed Itinerary available for perusal at July meeting.

FIRM BOOKINGS NOW INVITED- Please check list of names of those who expressed interest at June meeting.

LIST: July 19th. PAYMENTS: December 12th

TRIPS FOR THE FUTURE:

ECHUCA: Wine Tasting, River Cruise/Lunch Pack, Port Area Tour, A/T

CANADA: Late April 2001: Either: 12 Day West Coast Canadian Rockies or 13 Day West Coast Canadian Rockies (last 2 days on the famous "Rocky Mountaineer Rail Journey")

Add On Avail. for Alaskan Cruise.



This explanation on the G.S.T. came to me through the email and I include it here to keep members up to date with current terminology. I also include it without comment!

The GST - Explained in Simple (user friendly) Terms

By now, of course, you've read all those GST information leaflets our government has been sending out, and you have a complete understanding of how it's all going to work. You don't? Well never mind.....

The new system is:

NUTS - the New Universal Taxation System - and although it may appear to be complicated, it is easy to understand. Basically, it is STUFFT -- the Simplified Tax Unit For Financial Transactions.

Major elements of NUTS include a number for each business entity, an Australian Business Utilization Number (ABUN) which will be used during dealings with governments at all levels.

Every business in Australia will get ABUN with NUTS.

The new system will simplify the way businesses report to the Australian Taxation Collection Head Office Organization (ATCHOO)

Businesses will be required to complete a Business Activity Statement Table And Report Directive (BASTARD) every month. Businesses should set aside at least three days every working week to fill the BASTARD out.

Under the new system, every adult Australian taxpayer is classified as a SUCKER (Simple Underpaid Consumer Keeping Everything Running), unless they are unemployed and receiving Commonwealth benefits, in which case they are classified as a RATBAG (Registered Australian Taxation Beneficiary Allowance Grantee).

All SUCKERS and RATBAGs will be required to complete a DAFT (Direct Application For Taxation) form.

The completed DAFT form will be assessed by a local MORON (Metropolitan Or Regional Outcome Negotiator) who determines the amount of CRAP (Credited Refund Allowance Payment) the taxpayer will receive.

Any SUCKER who wishes to appeal against the amount of CRAP received from the Government should contact their local MORON, who will assess the appeal and classify it as either STUPID (Secondary Temporarily Unpaid Portion of Individual Donation) or IDIOTIC (Income-Derived Individual Obligatory Taxation Installment Credit). If you are a RATBAG, you will not be entitled to ABUN with NUTS.

You will need to apply for the new allowance provided jointly by both State and Federal Governments, JOB (Joint Organization Benefit). Any RATBAG who does not apply for a JOB can get STUFFT.

From July 1, when all of Australia goes NUTS, small businesses need to submit a fortnightly General Allocation Rebate for Business And Goods Estimate (GARBAGE) report to the Department for Untaxed Merchandise and Produce (DUMP).

Your GARBAGE must be sent to the DUMP before the 30th of each month.

All small businesses must be registered as Business Utilizing Sales Tax (BUST) by June 30th, and small businesses employing more than 2.7 persons on a regular full-time basis must give each employee the Statutory Assessment Contribution Kit (SACK) on or before July 1. Only when all employees have been given the SACK will the business be officially acknowledged as BUST.

In order to alleviate any hardship during the changeover period, the government will establish a Department of Grants and Subsidies (DOGS). It is anticipated that, by the end of the next financial year, all businesses will be registered as BUST and the country will have gone to the DOGS.



And, just to finish the day, heard on KLFM –

If I want to hear the patter of tiny feet, I will put shoes on the cat.

