



PROBE

Bulletin of the 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 Masonic Centre, McIvor Road.

All correspondence to the Acting Secretary, 49 Emmett Street, Golden Square, 3555.

The Guest Speaker at today's meeting is Mr Jim Downward. His subject will be the History of Telegraphic Communication in Australia. He will be assisted by Mr Peter Shaw.

Our Guest Speaker in May, Mr Steven Cole of 'Events Bendigo', outlined his previous positions as a Promotion Officer, with Red Cross 6 years, Save the Children Fun, the Melbourne Football Club, Murray River Marathon and concerts at the Myer Music Bowl.

He inherited many events in Bendigo, the major one being the Easter Fair. He is concentrating on events that are Tourist orientated of which there are 300 classified as significant. His small staff of 3 are kept busy all year particularly during school holidays when many varied attractions for the children are organised.

He sees his challenges as redeveloping interest in the Bendigo Competitions and the Bendigo Madison. 'Events Bendigo' had an important input in publicising the Flower Show and maintaining interest by exhibitors Australia wide.

The Council of Greater Bendigo contributes approx. 50% of the costs in promotion, the balance comes from 'Corporate Sponsorship' and support from Voluntary Community Organisations.

Over \$248,000 was raised in the Corporate Sector, plus services in kind, such as TV advertising and donations worth \$36,000. 'Events Bendigo' has proved itself to be marketable – the City of Toowoomba has asked for assistance, also the town of Cobden.

There are over 40 major events in Victoria at Easter, competing for the Tourist Dollar. We have a total of 52 hotels and motels and not all are fully occupied – new attractions are necessary. This year we had the Motor Fest here which resulted in the Speed Trials along the creek at Lake Weeroona.

A video was then shown of Bendigo's attractions.

Mr Cole was introduced by Val Moyle and thanked by Tom Iser.

FEES REMINDER –

If you are contemplating migrating to warmer climes, please pay at this meeting.

SECRETARY –

This important position has not yet been filled. Please consider - your talents may be languishing and that's not good for you or the Club.

CHRISTMAS PARTY –

Your committee has, after due consideration, decided that the Christmas Party will take place on December 10th at the Bendigo Bowling Club, it will be a lunchtime celebration.

A PROFILE OF ROB WATKINS

Rob has enjoyed a busy working career and found time to be involved in many community organisations and recreational activities.

Robin David Watkins was born in Bendigo on 25th November, 1929. His parents were Henry (Harry) and Florence Watkins. Henry and Florence had 2 children and Rob's older brother Alan and his wife Eilene, are members of the Spring Gully Probus Club.

Rob attended Quarry Hill State School and Bendigo High School. In his youthful years he attended Quarry Hill Methodist Sunday School and church where he played cricket in their team before the formation of the inter church competition.

Rob commenced work in 1945 as an apprentice metal moulder at Holland Bros. Foundry in King Street, Bendigo where he stayed for ten years.

When he was 16 years of age he became secretary of the Provincial Football Club. With only a bicycle for transport and without a phone, the work load was so great that he only saw out one term.

At this stage Rob joined the Vikings Club within the Bendigo YMCA and remained a member there until he was well into his 20's.

When Rob became engaged to Cynthia Bramley, he began working for her father at his "Candee" poultry farm and hatchery.

Rob and Cynthia married in 1955. They have two children, Neil and Linda, and have eight grandchildren.

Being a do-it-yourself type, it seemed natural to build his own home. Forty one years later they continue to live in the same home in Marnie Road, which at the time of building, was little more than a handful of houses and farms fronting a winding track, then known as Rifle Range Road.

When club shooting ceased, the opportunity arose to purchase part of the former rifle range. Rob and Cynthia built an egg producing complex on this site, a venture that served them well for the next 23 years.

These farming years were busy ones indeed. Rob became heavily involved with the politics of the egg industry at a time when Bendigo was the largest egg producing centre in the whole of Australia.

Many terms were spent as secretary of the Bendigo Egg Producers Association, including a term as President. Six terms were spent as a director of the Egg Producers Co-operative and one year as chairman.

Few evenings were spent at home due to committee involvements with YMCA scouts, Bendigo Field Naturalists, Bendigo Camera Club and Bendigo Competitions Society.

During a visit to New Zealand, when the children were aged 8 and 10 years, Rob and Cynthia embarked on the famous Millford Track and so began the first of many family back-packing expeditions. After many extended walks in the South West of Tasmania, and another series in New Zealand, Linda, then aged 16 years, and Rob, left for two months in India and Nepal where in the Himalayas, they walked 650kms reaching 18,500' in the Everest Region.

In 1982, Rob commenced building another egg producing farm at Sedgwick to cater for his son Neil, now a partner in the farm business. When that project was completed in 1987, Rob retired and devoted more time to a long held interest in nature photography, sometimes working with birds from a 17m telescopic steel tower.

From exhibiting in both national and international photographic exhibitions, a past-time shared with Cynthia, both have at some stage held 2nd place in the Australian Photographic Societies 'Who's Who Rating's' for nature photography achievements.

Although he no longer competes in exhibitions, judging assignments are undertaken for Camera Clubs, National and International Exhibitions.

Photography continues to occupy much of their time, complimenting a love of travel in general, but particularly to places where the scene remains pristine. The last business project undertaken was the development of our former farming property into what is today Ironbark Court.

PROUD MARY WEEKEND CRUISE

It is not unusual to hear the phrase "Arthur has done it again". This time Arthur certainly did do it again. The weather was perfect and all arrangements were made for our comfort as we have come to expect.

As our coach wound it's way to Murray Bridge, ably captained by Charlie Morgan, Arthur regaled us with fascinating "Railway stories". It seems we were travelling through "his country" and every town reminded him of another epic.

Constant chatter and the usual necessary stops kept most of us awake on the long drive. After lunch, to make sure we didn't sleep, Bob Chenery administered puzzles to try our intellectual capacity. Especially trying; the one about nursery rhymes.

First call at Murray Bridge was to the Cottage Box Chocolate Factory to see the process and sample the product. There was of course opportunity to purchase further "samples", before moving upstairs to the associated 'Pumphouse Café' for the very welcome Devonshire tea.

Our thoughts of going aboard Proud Mary to quietly recuperate before dinner were dashed when it was found our state rooms were not ready for us. We were two hours too early! Naturally Arthur knew what to do. Back to the big pub on the corner and with no trouble at all a quiet corner of the dining room was set aside for us to rest awhile. Who said rest? There were pokies in the next room! On boarding Proud Mary and settling in, dinner was served. And what a sumptuous dinner it was! As a captive audience we were introduced to the crew, told of all the good things to happen and had the obligatory demonstration of life jackets (complete with whistle).

With dinner nearly over, there was some frivolity, at the expense of the writer, with the singing of Happy Birthday and the serving of a birthday cake complete with candles and sparklers.

During dinner, Proud Mary slipped her moorings and headed upstream towards Mundurra, gently gliding past willow covered banks and towering yellow cliffs well lit by the on board powerful lights.

After a very peaceful night, tied up at the river bank we awoke to the river scene of traces of mist and quiet water birds. Peace was soon shattered when the motors started. But who cares about scenery? It was back to the dining room for breakfast with the works! Breakfast over, this shipboard life had to be appreciated. There were chairs to arranged on the upper deck. Must keep out of the breeze and not too much sun. Watch the world go by.

Soon we had the opportunity of exploring the river side town of Mannum.

Back cruising again, Captain Thorp, known as E.J., kept us informed of the many features of our journey. By late afternoon Proud Mary had brought us fifty miles upstream. Yes, fifty miles is correct as internationally, river distances, we were told, are described in miles. Our stop for the night being Craignook where we tied up to majestic river red gums. In this area we were given the opportunity to be whisked away in a flat bottomed boat for a closer look at things ecological.

On returning to Proud Mary to wrap up in our warmest clothes, it was all ashore for the "Great Aussie Barbecue". The crew prepared a huge bon fire and brought ashore chairs, barbecue, sound equipment and of course the bar. Not long after sundown we lined up for the meal which included kangaroo kebabs, damper cooked in a camp oven and billy tea. Entertainment was superb. Captain E.J. not only knows the riverboats but gave a one man performance of Australia bush ballads which he accompanied on guitar and bush poetry, expertly rendered. Barbecue over, there was no time to dally. The ship's generators turn off at 11.30p.m.

A good night's sleep and Sunday starts at 7.00 a.m. with a shattering roar as the generators were started again. Another breakfast in the manner we had come to expect and our journey back to Murray Bridge started. Another short stop at Mannum for exercise and the morning papers followed by a talk on the river by our Captain, took up our morning. After lunch, Cruise Director Jane showed videos of river folk lore. Before long we tied up at Murray Bridge where the crew assisted us to return to our coach to transfer to the Murray Bridge Motor Inn for another huge meal and a quiet night.

With rather mixed feelings we boarded the coach after breakfast for our return to Bendigo. The return to Bendigo was by a more Northerly route taking us through Underbool, Ouyen and Charlton. This time it was "Ken Gloster Country". Ken gave us a full commentary on the Mallee, it's features and it's people, with frequent reference to Mallee folk who now live in Bendigo.

After lunch there was still no rest for the weary. Acting Secretary Bob Chenery issued more mind bending puzzles to be solved. True to the plan we arrived back to Strathdale at 5.50 p.m. to met by a fleet of taxis arranged by phone.

Those who went all agree, the trip was one out of the box. Once again thanks Arthur.

Norman R. Dack.

TRIPS INFORMATION

THURSDAY JUNE 19TH, 1997 - TRIP TO MELBOURNE - NEW CASINO

Depart 8.30 a.m. from Strath Community Centre, Crook Street. Home approx. 5.30 p. m.
COST: \$11.00 per person. Includes coach, lunch, vouchers. Maximum 53, current 91.
**An additional trip will be organised in September, giving emergencies as listed the 'first preference'.

THURSDAY JULY 24TH, 7.00 P.M. - 'MID YEAR DINNER AT TAFE BENDIGO'

3 Course Dinner and Entertainment. Maximum 40. We have been fortunate to obtain a booking for 40 at the TAFE Hospitality Restaurant, McCrae Street, Bendigo. An opportunity to be waited upon and to sample some of the delights prepared at the TAFE Hospitality Centre. "A special, arranged for those not going North". Entertainment arranged. Cliff Binks has arranged a first class night out at reasonable cost, guaranteed to please. COST: \$17.00 per person inclusive. **Be early, first 40 are in".
LIST FOR BOTH BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT AT JUNE 18TH MEETING.

THURSDAY AUGUST 28TH. "FLICKS OF THE FORTIES" - CAMPBELL THEATRETTE

Cliff Binks has arranged an evening of "Flicks of the Forties" at the R.L. Campbell Theatrette with pre show "nibbles, fingerfoods and drinks". Films of "Forties" and entertainment of special interest for our age group and family members. COST: \$6.00 - \$8.00 per person. Max 156. Family members/friends invited to share the experience.
**Don't miss out on what will be a memorable and enjoyable night.
LISTING AT JUNE 18TH MEETING - PAYMENTS AT JULY 17TH MEETING.

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH - TRIP TO MELBOURNE - VISITS/TOURS TO -
CARLTON BREWHOUSE AND VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE**

Max 49, Current 62. The Carlton Brew House and Brewery Tour (personally escorted by C.U.B. Guides) presents the old age art of brewing in an innovative and interesting way. At the Victorian Arts Centre, we again have Guided Tours of this modern complex which comprises three Theatres and the famous Melbourne Concert Hall. At lunchtime we will be near South Gate Complex on bank of Yarra. Great variety of low priced foods available or bring your own. COST: \$22.00 per person includes coach fare and entrance fees.

PAYMENTS JULY 16TH MEETING. IF GOING NORTH PLEASE PAY BY DUE DATE.

**TRIP OF THE YEAR - FRIDAY OCTOBER 10TH TO TUESDAY OCTOBER 14TH,
1997 - 5 DAY/4 NIGHT - MARY LYNN - MARYSVILLE**

Max 46, Current 73. COST: \$300.00 per person. Includes coach, en suite accommodation, all meals, supper, use of all resort facilities, coach tours (Daily) to local attractions, evening entertainment.

FINAL PAYMENT 11TH SEPTEMBER. IF GOING NORTH - PLEASE ENSURE PAID BY DUE DATE.

**NOVEMBER 1997 - POINT COOK R.A.A.F. MUSEUM AND WERRIBEE SAFARI
PARK - THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20TH, 1997.**

Max 53. COST: \$23.00 per person. Includes coach fare and entrance fees. LUNCH: Bring your picnic morning tea and lunch. (Full details later). LISTING: At September 17th meeting. PAYMENTS: October 19th meeting.

**When making payments, correct money please or endorsed cheques.

Arthur Eaton.
Trips Organiser.

TRUTH

It is much easier to recognise error than to find truth; error is superficial and may be corrected; truth lies hidden in the depths.