



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.

The guest speaker for today's meeting is Bert Byleveld, Senior Sheriff Officer.



For our May meeting Mrs. Greta Balsillie spoke of Bendigo mothers of the past. She was introduced by Alan Court.

Greta was born, and grew up, in Mildura, married an army man and moved to various locations before settling in Bendigo after her husband retired from the army. She acknowledged the influence of her mother during her younger life as she was brought up to love and respect people, animals and books but not necessarily in that order; the animals being the most stable.

Greta quoted U.S. President Woodrow Wilson when she said -"Mothers are the greatest source of the country's strength and inspiration".

The role of women in Australia is very important although it is difficult to find anything written about them because they were simply there, behind the scenes as it were. Both pioneers and convicts left their own countries and families to come and make a future in a new land. The convicts, when their sentences were completed, also made an important contribution to the development of their new country.

Greta then spoke of the loneliness of the women following their menfolk to the goldfields, and particularly of a family from Clare, South Australia, who, in 1852, came as far as what is now known as Maiden Gully before the wife and two children became ill and died before the husband could return with help. The grave is still maintained in recognition of a pioneer family.

The living conditions in the Bendigo area resembled those of a third world country at that time with no sewerage or other amenities and this resulted in Bendigo having the highest death rate from communicable diseases, typhoid, cholera and scarlatina, in the colony.

An interesting story related by Greta concerned the finding of the grave of Anne Caudle, a Bendigo doctor's wife, who founded the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum in 1859.

As a finale, Greta disclosed the reasons behind the founding of Mother's Day.

Greta was thanked for her interesting talk by Cliff Neivandt and was presented with a Probus spoon to remember her visit to us.

INDUCTIONS

Noel Kilby was introduced to the members by Bob Holmes and inducted to the membership by President, Kevin Houlahan.

ACTIVITIES

Bill Clemens announced that the bowling season was now finished and would recommence next October. He thanked all who made themselves available during the past season and asked that any person not on the current bowling list, but interested in playing, to contact him.

Congratulations to Reg Marslen and Wal Ashburn who have been made life members of the Bendigo and District Bowling Association.

WETLANDER CRUISE AND COHUNA EXPERIENCE. MAY 6TH, 1998.

The day started off rather differently than usual with our Immediate Past President, Bill Jacka, being late for our departure for a very good reason. The brakes on Bill's car failed when coming out of his driveway, resulting in a partially demolished front fence and a damaged car. However, a taxi trip saw Bill arrive not very late and we took off with Neville Dewhurst as our driver.

The day was overcast with fog threatening to encompass us 'till almost Echuca. Neville took us to the site of the Echuca-Moama R.S.L. clubhouse adjacent to a pleasant park where he introduced a new service by providing morning tea with tea-coffee-biscuits, served on a picnic table, for a charge of 50 cents each. A novelty of this service was the request to wash our own cups in a bowl of hot water and dry them with the tea towel supplied.

We arrived in Cohuna, being greeted with sunshine, and Joy, Daphne and Ray as our guides in the bus around Cohuna and environs. Cohuna is a delightful town, population about 2200, declared a town on 12/11/1887 and situated on the Gunbower Creek with very pleasant parklands opposite the shopping precinct.

We toured the township and surrounding countryside for about thirty minutes with a running commentary on all things of interest; a very thorough and professional explanation of everything by Daphne Garner. We saw all the buildings of note, all sporting facilities, particularly the grass bowling greens where galahs and corellas are dissuaded from digging up the turf in search of worms by placing two metre lengths of 25mm black plastic water pipe on the greens. Also the grass tennis courts were protected from birds with netting suspended about two metres above the surface during the period that they are not being used.

Daphne was the complete tour guide, interspersing her commentary with appropriate anecdotes. One which comes to mind is the doggerel which seemed to bring back memories for us was "Kiss my Palmolive, Not on your Lifebouy, Too much Sunlight".

On completing this interesting tour we arrived at the Cohuna Historical Society consisting of a Museum in a disused church building, an Archives Centre in a purpose built fireproof brick building, and a Trash and Treasure collection at a separate weatherboard building where we had a pleasant light lunch. The Archives Centre deserves particular comment as it holds their library, research and records, microfilm and microfiche readers, local newspapers, a photograph collection of people and places stored in a large compactus. This must rank as one of the most professional collections in any country town in Australia. We were also reminded that Cohuna was the birthplace of Stewart Appleby of golfing fame.

An unfortunate accident happened to Ken Coles while he was investigating the township when he stepped out from the footpath and was knocked down by a reversing vehicle. After being taken to the Cohuna hospital by ambulance and examined by a doctor who diagnosed a severely displaced kneecap, it was decided that the boat trip was not possible for him, so, while we went sailing, Ken had his knee repaired.

The two hour trip on the "Wetlander" on the Gunbower Creek was very restful and interesting and which could best be described as being gentle and gliding. The reason for such is because the boat is described as "A cruise ship specially designed to explore the magical moods of the Gunbower State Forest. The waveless hull design preserves and protects the stream banks, while allowing access to the fragile environment". The two 100 horsepower engines pump water under pressure to jets at the stern of the boat producing the smooth forward motion.

The skipper gave an excellent commentary on the upstream trip, explaining how the many dead red gum trees died out because of constant inundation caused when weirs were erected to ensure irrigation water, how carp have caused severe bank erosion causing trees to fall into the creek, how the stands of red gums growing on the sand hills were cut out for rail sleepers and used on the Nullabor Plain and how charcoal was produced by burning red gum under controlled conditions. Milling of all timber is now restricted if there is not at least one bird/mammal tree per acre in which birds or mammals can shelter. Aborigines were prevalent in the area in the early days and, among other things, they used cumbingi and pampas grass pith for basket making.

We saw how the sandhills now grow irrigated permanent pasture, lucerne and citrus. Tobacco, which was once extensively grown, was last grown in 1969, leaving the tobacco kilns as relics. The stands of Black Box were pointed out to us and they indicated a soil type that was heavier and that they were not flooded for long periods. Aboriginal middens were recognized by the stands of horehound growing on them.

After one hour the boat was turned around and we made the return trip without commentary so we were able to enjoy the features explained to us on the upstream leg. Incidentally, it was interesting to share the boat trip with a group of Probians from Sorrento who were spending five days in the area.

We returned to Cohuna on the bus, called at the hospital for Ken, sat him in the front seat with his injured leg, padded and bandaged, stretched out and resting on an upturned bucket, and returned home via Pyramid Hill and the Lodden Valley Highway. Once again thanks to Arthur for an excellent trip, and thanks also to Neville for safe, comfortable travel.

Jock Crook



TRIPS INFORMATION

TUES. JUNE 23rd. 1998. 7.00 pm to 10.30pm "CHRISTMAS DINNER OUTING IN JUNE" at B.R.I.T. Hospitality Centre, McCrae St. Bendigo. A traditional Christmas dinner will be served. Entertainment has been arranged. Will be a first class night out at a reasonable cost. COST: \$18.50/person. OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS: Must be paid immediately to Treasurer Rupert Reynolds, 180 Mandurang Road, Strathfieldsaye, 3551. (6.30 pm for 7.00 pm dinner)

THUR. JULY 16TH, 1998. 7.00 pm to 10.45 pm. "DINNER AND CONCERT" (C.B)
The venue will be the Uniting Church Hall, Forest Street. A caterer has been engaged to provide the dinner. A 3 course sit down buffet. Concert by Bendigo Caledonia Choir.
FORMAT: Sit at tables - buffet. Nibbles/fruit punch on tables. Part concert - main course - concert - sweets - concert - coffee and after dinner mints. COST: \$17.50/person.
Specially organized for those not going North this Winter. ***Please support this outing.
PAYMENTS: June 17th meeting. Max.150. Current bookings 49. Additional bookings required.

SUN. AUG. 23RD, 1998. 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Maximum (156). Current (31) (C.Binks)
"FILM AFTERNOON AT CAMPBELL THEATRETTE".
An excellent program has been arranged, includes: Feature film "Road to Nhill" - An Australian Comedy, supported by - "Marvellous Melbourne" - a prosperous period (1910) - 5 mins.
& "The Back Of Beyond" (1954) - 66 mins. - an Australian Classic and most notable award winning production.
We seek your support. Other Probus Clubs have been offered specific ticket allocations. Nibbles, finger food, etc will be provided at interval.
COST: \$7.00/person. LISTING again at June 17th meeting. PAY: July 15th meeting.

MON. SEPT. 28TH TO FRI. OCT. 2ND. Incl. **TRIP OF THE YEAR**.
5 day/4 night staying at PINNACLE VALLEY RESORT. (Mansfield area). Max 48 Current 54.
***EMERGENCIES REQUIRED** "A first class trip" - you will enjoy this one, I recommend it.
COST: \$420/person. Include: Coach (5 star), Accommodation (4 star) twin share, all meals, morning and afternoon teas, tours, entry fees. NOTE: M/tea, lunch commence from day 1 and cease after lunch on day 5.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS: (\$420 - \$50 Deposit. Payment = \$370/person due for payment at *** August 19th meeting ***.

*** If going north, please ensure arrangements made for payment.

*** To assist collectors, please tender correct money. If payment by cheque, please ensure details written on back of cheque.

*** All enquiries to Arthur (5443 9162)

If you ever see something you like, buy a lifetime supply because they will stop making it.
