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President: John White

Secretary: Bob Chenery

Phone: 5443 1471

Phone: 5442 4546

Editor: Barry Hargrave Phone: 5444 5966

A Special General meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am at the Masonic Centre, McIvor Rd, Bendigo.

All correspondence to be addressed to The Secretary, Bob Chenery, 49 Emmett Street Golden Square 3555.

Tour organiser and Activities Co-ordinator Arthur Eaton, 4 Maxwell Crescent, Bendigo  
Phone: 5443 9162.

The Guest Speaker for the June Meeting will be John Sirolli Bendigo Bank Regional Manager – Subject Establishing and Growth of Branches throughout Australia.

- Barry, O'B.

The well kept secret of who was going to be the surprise speaker at our last meeting was revealed by Barry O'Brien, it was our newest Life Member Arthur Eaton. Arthur spoke about his 44 years and 7 months service with Victorian Railways. Starting at the age of 14 years working in the railway refreshment rooms during Xmas/Easter holiday periods whilst still at High School.

In 1939 he commenced work at the Seymour Locomotive Depot as a Lad Trainee, progressing to Apprentice Fitter and Turner at Newport Railway Workshops. In 1942 during the war years Newport manufactured Bren Gun Carriers, Aircraft Fuselages etc. The work hours were 7.30am to 6.00pm. In Dec., 1946 he returned as a fitter and turner to Seymour Loco Depot and worked on the famous Spirit of Progress Locomotives.

During the next 23 years he earned promotions at many different locations and in 1969 he came to Bendigo North Workshops as Second in Charge. In those days 675 employees worked there. In October 1983 he retired at Senior Officer Class 1 from North Bendigo Railway Workshops.

- Editor

## COMMITTEE NEWS

Your Committee wishes to encourage greater member participation in the annual Christmas Function. To tempt you we invite suggestions that would make your attendance more appealing. Comments positive or negative should be forwarded in writing to Ken Coles. Anonymity Guaranteed.

- Ken C.

**WE NEED NEW MEMBERS AND WE NEED  
YOUR HELP TO FIND THEM.**

## Foundation Members Luncheon

This month we will take the Foundation Members Luncheon at the Foundry Arms, 366 High Street, Bendigo. It usual we invite all members and friends to join us, to facilitate the arrangements for seating please inform Dorothy (Phone 5443 2642) of your proposed attendance.

Last months luncheon was at the Bendigo Club where we enjoyed a good meal in good company.

- Alec C.

## WELFARE NEWS

As at 21st May Wally Spicer is now at St. John of God Hospital for rehabilitation following several weeks at St. Vincent's after undergoing surgery. Peter Goodrich had a mild stroke and also a very bad fall while in Hospital. Maurie McDonald hopes to be at our June Meeting.

- Peter R.

## Presidents Piece - So what's new?

Where ignorance is bliss

'Tis folly to be wise. – Thomas Gray 1716 – 71

For Satan finds some mischief spell

For idle hands to do – Isaac Watts 1674 – 1748

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread – Alexander Pope 1688 – 1744

The best laid plans of mice and men

Gang aft agley – Robert Burns 1759 – 96

- John W.

## USELESS INFORMATION

- Astronauts in orbit around the earth can see the wakes of ships
- Bamboo can grow up to 90cm in a day
- There are no clocks in Las Vegas Gambling Casinos
- Neck Ties were first worn in Croatia, That's why they were called cravats (Cro-vats).
- Earth is travelling through space at 660,000 per hour.
- On some mummies that have been unwrapped the total length of the bandages has been 1.5 miles.
- Only two countries have participated in every modern Olympic Games, Greece and Australia.
- Slaves under the last emperors of China wore pigtails so as they could be picked out quickly.

- Editor

# King's Bridge Collapse 14 May 1901

To alleviate the problem of the frequent flooding, Council called tenders for the construction of eight bridges over Bendigo Creek.

John (later General Sir John) Monash and J.T. Noble Anderson had acquired the licence to use the Monier method to reinforce arch construction and were awarded the tender on 5th October 1900, despite a battle of wits with the local brickworks, local contractors, and the City Surveyor, who had submitted his own steel truss design. All went well until the final testing. After several passes of a 15 ton steamroller and a traction engine of similar weight, the City surveyor called for one final test with the two machines moving back to back and concentration the weight on the edge of the bridge, a much more severe test than had originally been called for. The bridge collapsed, killing A.E. Boldt, the business



partner of the traction engine driver. The inquest recorded accidental death. The rebuilt bridge has arches and is now known as the Weeroona Avenue Bridge.

Monash went on to have an illustrious career, and was knighted by King George on the field of battle on the 18th August 1918, the first commander in 200 years to have such an honour bestowed on him.

*- Rupert R*

## When Grandma Goes to Court

Lawyers should never ask a Mississippi grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know me?' She responded, 'Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you'

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know the defence attorney?'

She again replied, 'Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him.'

The defence attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counsellors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, 'If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair.'

*- Rupert R.*

## **TUESDAY 29TH JULY: TOUR OF BENDIGO BANK – LUNCH AT HOUSE OF KHONG**

**Maximum: (30) (Tour is Full.) A relaxed, interesting and enjoyable outing.**

**Depart by Coach at 10.30am:** From Strath Community Ctre Car Park, Crook St.

**11.00am:** Conducted Tour of the Bendigo Bank.

At conclusion of tour, transported by Coach to House of Khong, 200 Hargreaves St.

**12.30pm:** Chinese Smorgasboard Lunch (At House of Khong)

**2.00pm:** Depart from House of Khong – 2.30pm Arrive Strath Community Car Park

**COST: \$15.00/person Includes:** Coach Fare, Tour of Bank, Chinese Smorgasboard Lunch

**PAYMENTS:** At meeting Wed 18th June Acceptances as listed for payment please:

B.Armstrong (1), R.Chenery (1), A.Cowling (2), W.Clemens (2), A.Court (1),  
A.Crothers (2), A.Dingle (2), A.Eaton (1), K.Gloster (2), E.Holland (2), T. Iser (1),  
J. Laidler (2), D.Laity (2), B.Michelson (2), B.O'Brien\* (2), K.Proud (2), P. Randall\*  
(2), M.Shipp (2), A.Stephens (2), H.Ward (1), J. White (1), W.Winzar (1),

## **PROBUS TRIP TO NORFOLK ISLAND.**

**FRIDAY 10TH to FRIDAY 17th OCTOBER, 2008. 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS**

Travel is with: Envisage Tours: "A Part of Australia Pacific Tours Group"

**COST:** 10-20 Passengers: \$2299.00 (Twin share.) Over 20 Passengers: \$2249.00  
(Twin share.) Single Supplement if req'd: Add: \$450

**Includes:** Economy Air Travel, Accommodation at South Pacific Resort, Meals,  
Sightseeing & Entrance Fees as per Itinerary, Local Driver/Escort, return subsidised  
Coach transfers to Melbourne Airport, Travel Bag & Wallet

**Not Included:** Airport Taxes of Approximately \$200.00

**Insurance:** Is strongly recommended.

**Required:** Australian Passport: - (valid for 6 months after 17th Oct.'08) or "Document  
of Identity:" - obtainable at Post Office (At a minimal Fee for Photos approx \$12.00.)

Flights with Norfolk Air: Friday 10th October Melb to Norfolk Island 12.50pm to 5.50pm

Friday 17th October Norfolk Island to Melb 8.00am to 11.50am

Copies of: The 8 Days/7 Nights Norfolk Island Tour Itinerary available at meeting:

To secure a place on the tour, the following payments are due to reach Envisage Tours by:

Wed. 9th July: A non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 per person

(by Cheque made out to Envisage Tours,) together with a completed booking form.

(\*\* Forward these to Tour Organiser Arthur by 1st July.)

Monday 11th August.: Final payment (Payment to be made direct to Envisage Tours.)

\*\* Additional payment information will be given to those who wish to  
participate on the tour.

Would the members & friends who have expressed Interest in the Tour, please confirm  
your booking at our Probus Meeting on Wed. 18th June. (List will be on the table.)

If you have any further enquiries, then please do not hesitate to phone Arthur. 5443 9162