



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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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 Bendigo Club.

All correspondence to the Secretary, 29 Woodbury St. Bendigo 3550

NOTICE OF MEETING: The Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Bendigo will be held today, 16th. March at the Bendigo Club. Business includes Election of Officers for the coming year...How To Vote Cards are NOT permitted!

THE SPEAKER TODAY will be Mr. RUSSELL JACK, President of the Bendigo Chinese Association and well-known Community worker.

A GRANT OF \$6000 for the restoration of the Central Deborah Gold Mine (a tourist attraction led to the formation of the Bendigo Trust and the election of a sub-committee to rescue the now-famous Bendigo Trams from the depths of oblivion (or, perhaps, 'foreign' invaders).

Chairman and life-long supporter of the Trust, DARYL McCLURE ex MP was our Guest Speaker last month.

In a most interesting and informative talk Daryl demonstrated that he was not a Politician for nothing - his speech was delivered in a professional manner as he traced the history of the Trust, the early struggles and subsequent successes of the projects in which he has always been a 'Front Bencher'.

Whilst the Central Deborah restoration seems to have been accomplished with a minimum of trauma, few community projects have stirred so much 'aggro' as our beloved Trams. Firstly, the hostility of the then Government had to be overcome, the State Electricity Commission who owned the trams but had no further use for them had to agree to the Trust

taking them over, and a team of skilled workers had to be assembled to carry out the restoration - an achievement in its own right.

All this having been accomplished there came the day when a 'foreign' Collector of Trams from another State in complete good faith came to collect a 'Birney' promised to them by the responsible Minister. A resistance group, in the best tradition of the Eureka Stockade, virtually said, "Over our dead bodies" and proceeded to weld iron bars to the rails to prevent the removal of the precious tram.

(Editor's Note: The sequel to all this was the departure of the 'invaders' tramless; but, because of the validity of their claim and as an act of amelioration the Trust located a 'Birney' at Ballarat, purchased it, completely restored it and presented it to the Tram Society in Adelaide where it was received with gratitude and delight. A splendid exercise in goodwill!).

Reg Brock made the introductions and Tom Roberts tendered the thanks for an excellent address.

TRIPS AND ENTERTAINMENT. The Shape of Things to Come!

TRIP TO MELBOURNE - WEDNESDAY MARCH 23RD. 1988:

Depart from Strathdale Senior Citizens Complex, Crook Street at 12 Noon sharp. Visit the Gallery of Sport complex and afterwards the M.C.G. A light B.B.Q. Tea in either Treasury or near by gardens included. After a conducted tour of Parliament House we will attend part of an evening session.

Coach at present fully booked with (eight emergencies recorded). Cost - \$12.00 due for payment today: includes: Coach Fare, Entrance Fees and light B.B.Q. Tea. (Bring own cups).

AUTUMN TRIP TO BRIGHT/MYRTLEFORD/BEECHWORTH AREAS (4 day/3 night)

Friday April 15th, Sat. 16th, Sun 17th and return home Monday April 18th arriving about 5.00 p.m. Cost \$65.00/day/person, total \$260.00/person includes: Coach fare, Lunches (except first day), Dinner, Bed and Breakfast and all admission charges.

(Refer January Probe for trip details -- Trip Itinerary available for perusal at Meeting today. PAYMENTS: In full at meeting today please. Vacancies exist: FURTHER BOOKINGS AND EMERGENCIES REQUIRED.

TRIP TO EXPO: AUGUST 21st. 1988 with Kingstons of Stawell.

Coaches are the best available. Featuring: Air Conditioning, reclining cloth seating, toilet and washroom, drink water dispenser, plus added comfort of air suspension.

Trip is of 12 days duration, Cost \$794.00 per person, which includes:- Coach fare, Motel accommodation based on twin share with cooked breakfasts and evening meals, admission charges to Expo and other attractions and tours of Brisbane, Gold Coast areas etc. Itinerary available for perusal. Currently Coach fully booked, with two emergencies on waiting list, (further "Emergency listings invited). Inquiries - Arthur 439162.

MOST OF US have to be content with only one lifetime but one man has crowded into his earthly span TWO lifetimes, almost concurrently, and of such diverse characters as Education and Mortal Combat!

His Tour of Duty with the Education Department spans 52 years (from 1924 to 1976) and Australian Military Forces commitments took him from the ranks of a Junior Cadet in 1920 to a Major (he was promoted 'in the field' in 1941) when he retired in 1947 - a total of extremely active years. He is

W. F. R. (FRANK) BUDGE

and his story encompasses all the scope of a good novel, making it impossible to adequately cover in the confined spaces of this humble journal.

Born in Ballarat in 1906 and educated there to matriculation, he commenced his teaching career at Ballan State School in 1924 transferring next year to Humphrey S.S. in Ballarat. Attendance at the Melbourne Teacher's College qualified him as a Head Teacher (he gained First Class Honours) and led to his appointment as Head Teacher, Primary Rural Schools - a position which he occupied from 1927 to 1940 when Hitler intervened - he joined the AIF.

Frank was no stranger to Military Service. In 1926, still connected with the 8th. Battalion, Ballarat, he was promoted to 1st. Lieutenant but had to resign when his teaching duties took him to Speed, outside the training area. Back in Ballarat in 1930 he applied for, and was granted, a Commission without examination. As the Junior Lieutenant he was now known as 'Dog's Body' but lost that colourful title when he was promoted to Captain. 1940 saw him as Company Commander of the combined 24th. and 3. n. Battalions.

Then the 'Real War' commenced for Frank. He suspended his school activities to go to Palestine for training, then on to Tocra Pass - near Benghazi when Rommel changed the course of the war and the 9th. Division beat a hasty retreat to Tobruk - 'The Benghazi Handicap'! Wounded in Tobruk he was hospitalised in Egypt and returned to Tobruk and promotion to Major.

In Frank's own words: "We attacked and consolidated at Tel El Eisa and were preparing to have another go when our CO, after a night conference at Brigade, drove too far West and is reported to have ticked off a Sentry for being slack on duty. BUT he (the Sentry) was a soldier of the famous German Afrika Corps - one of Rommel's boys. Result - 'into the bag' for the CO and rapid temporary promotion for OC B Company (Frank to OC Battalion)



We successfully repelled Infantry attacks, and continued attacks and I held the acting command until the situation stabilised then handed over to the battalion 2/1c and headed to Alexandria for a well-earned rest."

On the second anniversary of his entrance into the AIF Frank received a special gift from the enemy - a bomb dropped on Brigade Headquarters and demolished his left leg below the knee. Infantry Officers minus a leg were not considered good material for frontline soldiering so he was returned to Australia to finish the war riding a desk at Army Headquarters, St.Kilda Road, Melbourne as a member of the special 'Z' Unit.

He was awarded a Mention in Dispatches for service in the Middle East and an Efficiency Decoration for 20 years service as an Officer, (commonly referred to as '20 years of undetected crime!').

In 1947 Frank transferred to the Reserve of Officers and took up his Education career once more.

Unlike many who found it difficult to settle into civil life after the trauma of war Frank immediately embarked on a Bachelor of Arts Course (three years) at Melbourne University combined with part time teaching at Murrumbeena S.S. By 1954 while attending full-time duties with the ED he had completed part-time graduate courses at Melbourne Uni. to gain his Diploma of Education and Bachelor of Education (with Honours in all subjects). He was appointed District Inspector of Primary Schools first at Colac and then at Bendigo before retirement.

Married in 1939 Frank has two sons and his record of Service to the Community has made him a popular and well-known citizen of his adopted City as well as many other parts of the State of Victoria.

Frank Budge has had a remarkable career - but then, he is a remarkable man! Most importantly he is a member of the Probus Club of Bendigo and the Club is privileged to have him as a valued member.

WE WELCOME new member JIM HARRISON to the ranks of the Probus Club of Bendigo. For the record: James Harrison (Jim), wife Mavis, 1/201 St.Aiden's Road, Bendigo, Phone 43 9368.

CONGRATULATIONS to popular President ARTHUR and KATH on the occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary. In view of Arthur's feverish activity one wonders how he ever had time to fit in the Marriage Ceremony! Best wishes go to both partners in this lengthy project.

THOUGHT - FOR THE MONTH: If you put a clock on the leaning tower of Pisa you would have both the time - and the inclination!

TACT is getting your point across without stabbing someone with it!