



PROBE

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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 Masonic Centre, McIvor Road.

All correspondence to the Secretary, 2 Cook Street, Bendigo, 3550.

We have no Guest Speaker today, as the meeting is the Tenth Annual General Meeting.

Our Guest Speaker at the February meeting was Russell Jack of the Bendigo Chinese Association.

Russell was introduced by Ralph Michell, who gave us some little known information on Russell's career, particularly his sporting achievements. Next Russell himself gave us a whirlwind account of his activities with the Association, winning help, financial and otherwise, in Bendigo and more widely in Victoria and even in China. Time and again Russell stressed the fact that all the work done by the Association was for the public good.

The outstanding achievement is the Golden Dragon Museum. Largely through Russell's efforts a sum of \$3.2 million dollars has been expended on the project, which is already the outstanding tourist attraction in Bendigo. Aside from the appeal to visitors, there is the associated Education Centre which is open to all, not just the chinese community.

The next phase which is already under construction, is the Water Garden, soon to be accompanied by the Chinese Temple, with flood lighting. Further plans for the future are a multi-storied pagoda and exhibition hall.

We were relieved to hear that the historic pomelo tree has been preserved on the nearby site of the Sports Centre. The origin of the tree is a Jack family effort, growing the tree from cuttings brought from the ancestral region in China.

We can look forward to the opening ceremony for the new constructions in the middle of this year.

An expression of thanks to Russell, and the usual presentation, was made by Gordon Glover.

TRIP REPORT

Tuesday February 27th, the Probus bus departed Bendigo with a less than average number of members (25); but thankfully supported by another 13 "Friends of Probus". It is my view that membership will need to improve Arthur's trip attendance in order to sustain his wonderful enthusiasm and high standard. If you missed this trip through complacency then you miscalculated.

What do you know of the Headquarters of the Weather Bureau; the Philatelic Centre; a Whale's life in the deep, or the origin/location/size of the stars and the Solar System within the Universe?? This trip delved into many differing facets of these subjects.....and like all of Arthurs' trips, they should not be judged by their "covers"....There are always many interesting, fascinating and challenging aspects to learn about.

For example....in the Philatelic Centre see an actual NASA space suit and note its peculiar glove attachment for the hands; as well as the lengths to which some people go to forge stamps.

In the Weather Bureau learn about temperature recording via several international geostationary satellites using infrared sensor imaging on land and sea. Meteorologists use data from over 500 people sources plus many more automated sources to assemble the Australian weather map jig-saw every three hours of every day.

Do Whales have a "whale of a time in the deep?" Some of the 80 or so different species are known to be capable of diving to a depth of 3170 metres (10,400 feet) and what's more the longest recorded time under water without coming up for air is 2 hours 18 minutes. How long can you hold your breath? The Whale Exhibition was supported by mobile plastic models, artifacts and videos.

In the Planetarium we were seated in a round "theatre" where we lay back and the dome like ceiling became a movie screen...we saw a one and a half hour movie show on the "sky" ceiling from the "Big Bang"....to the growth of the many planetary systems and particularly the development of our own Solar System....an awesome extravaganza of maybe how it all began and continues.

A many varied day, with something to suit all tastes....Thanks Arthur.

Bob Chenery (Reporter)

TRIPS INFORMATION

THURSDAY APRIL 18TH - WATERFALLS AND NATURE TOUR (Cliff Binks)

Cost : \$21/Person includes coach fare, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea. Max: 49 Current: 50. ****Emergencies urgently required**** Depart 8.30 a.m. arrive home approx. 6.00 p.m. **** (Need walking shoes)**** Cliff has prepared a relaxing, interesting and informative trip. Travel to Heathcote, Mia Mia - Bendigo Redesdale Road to Redesdale. Morning tea at Redesdale. Inspect Barfold Gorge, walk over level grass ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile in and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile out). Lunch at Turpin Falls. Inspect the rapids at Metcalfe. Afternoon tea at old Coliban Park Homestead. ****Much work done, please support trip****. Payments at March 20th meeting.

THURSDAY MAY 16TH - TRIP TO BALLARAT - "GREAT SOUTHERN WOOLSHED"

"An entirely new attraction" Maximum 49. Depart 8.45 a.m. arrive home approx. 5.30 p.m. The Great Southern Woolshed is Ballarat's newest major tourist attraction, based on the Wool Industry and of "International" standard. It opened November 1995 and is proving popular with visitors. It is a large complex, built as "genuine working Shearing Shed". You will be pleasantly surprised!! Features sheep shearing, working sheep dogs, ram parade, animal nursery, a lazer 3D Waltzing Matilda Show, exhibits from the early days and many items of interest. Specialty shops featuring the best in Australian wool, clothing and crafts, at reasonable prices ****All under one roof, in warmth and comfort****. Price \$25/person includes coach fare, entry to attractions, two course lunch. LISTING at March Meeting. PAYMENTS at April Meeting.

TRIP OF THE YEAR

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD TO SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH, 1996 (6 DAY/5 NIGHT) - TRIP TO SNOWY MOUNTAINS - STAYING AT PROVIDENCE LODGE (ADAMINABY)

Maximum 48 - Current 62. Host : Col Mayhew (Owner) Cost: \$429/person approx. Twin Share includes coach, accommodation twin share, full breakfasts, 3 course dinners, lunches and evening supper, morning and afternoon teas, all entries, rides, inspections etc, evening entertainment and fun nights. Host provides commentary on all outings. Our Club will have "exclusive use of entire Lodge" ****Providence Lodge is situated on Lake Eucumbine, and comes very highly recommended. Our 1991 trip voted as best ever.** OUTSTANDING DEPOSITS OF \$10/PERSON. Please arrange for payments for March 20th Meeting - check the listing.

Arthur Eaton.

BOWLS

On Tuesday March 26 at 10.00 a.m. on the Bendigo Bowling Club's green the District Probus Competition will be played.

Teams for our Club -

J. Laidler
E. Hogan
W. Clemens
H. Hesse (Skipper)

J. Rose
A. Court
W. Winzar
R. Marslen (Skipper)

L. Nankivell
G. Rayson
K. Gloster
F. O'Connell (Skipper)

J. Kelly
A. Morris
A. Stevens
V. Canobie (Skipper)

OUR NEW PRESIDENT, RALPH MICHELL - Ralph was born at Long Gully in 1920, of Cornish descent. He was educated at Long Gully and Violet Street State Schools to Merit Standard. This was the end, temporarily, of formal education as he commenced work at the age of 13 in the Building Industry, where he remained, apart from his time of service in the Army, until retirement. Although his formal full-time education ended at 13, his real education then began. He had 10 years training doing evening classes at the Bendigo School of Mines. At the same time he did 3 years with correspondence courses conducted by International Correspondence Schools, and also short correspondence courses while he was in the Army. (As he drily points out, in those days you paid for your own education, and attended classes in your own time). At the age of 18 he joined the 17th. Light Horse Regiment and later the A.I.F. serving the Engineers on construction work which included railway, road and air-field building. His service took him to the Middle East and New Guinea, where he built the airstrip at Madang for Peter Goodrich to land on. After the War he and his brother carried on business as Building Contractors, specialising mostly in Government, Commercial, Institutional and Banking premises. That is the career record for Ralph, but it is not the full story by any means. After the War Ralph took up golf and later yachting. He is a member of many clubs, still attends educational classes and has many hobbies. He has been married to Marjorie for 49 years this April and they have 2 sons, 2 daughters and 10 grandchildren. In addition to all these things, he is of course a Member of Bendigo Probus Club.