



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 Secretary, 2 Cook Street, Bendigo 3550.

Today's meeting is our 11th AGM with election of Office Bearers for 1997-98. The President Elect, Bill Jacka, has turned entrepreneurial in arranging a Musical Extravaganza unprecedented for an AGM. The President would appreciate a good attendance to support the 3 Tenors. These Probians are actually only Fivers, but still top class. Then there is the single act with extracts from Banjo Paterson's Poems. A well known instrumentalist will assist.

As today is our 12th Birthday, as a Probus Club with only 34 of the original 80 members still members, the newer members could be interested to know the effort that was required to bring about our formation, and who better to write the story of our beginning than P.P. Ray Downey.

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO

As we approach the 12th Anniversary of the foundation of the Club, it might be worth considering its origins.

In 1982, Alan Dingle made inquiries about Probus and proposed to the Rotary Club of Bendigo that the formation of a Probus Club be investigated. However, Probus was an unknown quantity then and there were some influential people opposed to the idea, so it didn't proceed.

In 1984 at a training session for Community Service Directors of district Rotary Clubs, Probus was spoken about. Representatives of Bendigo South (Ken Briggs) and Bendigo Strathdale (Allan Johnson) were impressed and recommended Probus to their clubs.

Bendigo South Rotary Club invited the Secretary of the Probus Club of Melbourne to address their club meeting, and invited representatives of other Rotary Clubs to attend. Reg Brock and myself represented the Rotary Club of Bendigo.

Following this address, a steering committee was formed to investigate the formation of a Probus Club. Ken Briggs was chairman of the committee with Allan Johnson as secretary.

All Bendigo Rotary Clubs were asked to share the cost of forming the club and asked also to suggest the names of people who could be invited to an information meeting.

In all, 175 letters were sent to prospective members and as a result 75 attended the meeting on 20.3.1985 under the chairmanship of Ken Briggs. P.D.G. Frank Lowery, Foundation President of the Probus Club of Maryborough was guest speaker. There were a number of apologies from men wanting to join but unable to attend.

The meeting overwhelmingly supported the motion to establish a club. So the Probus Club of Bendigo was formed with 80 foundation members.

The atmosphere at that foundation meeting can be summed up in the words of one attendee – "I came along to find out what Probus was about, expecting to find about 20 or 25 people there. I was amazed to find so many people there and that I knew nearly all of them!!"

One final question – Do each of you know all the other members of the club? If not, please make the effort.

Ray Downey.

OUR PRESIDENT BILL JACKA

Most of us would think we know Bill pretty well, but few would know what an interesting community life he has spent. Here are a few details of his endeavours.

Josiah William (Bill) Jacka, eldest son of Archie and Georgina Jacka, was born in Brighton on 25.11.1921. The Jacka Family moved to Bendigo in 1927 because of Bill's

chronic bronchitis. He attended Quarry Hill Primary School. There, Bill played a Baritone and Trombone in the school brass band. Bendigo Junior Technical School was where Bill obtained his Secondary Education.

In his youth, Bill was a member of Quarry Hill Methodist Church and Sunday School, he played tennis and interchurch cricket and assisted in running a church Boys Club (Order of Knights).

At 15, he started work at Myers Grocery Department and later in Manchester Department. When Quarry Hill Boys Band broke up, Bill joined Golden Square Brass Band, still playing the trombone.

In July 1941, Bill volunteered for RAAF (unfortunately he was rejected medically), but was called up for National Service in November 1941 for Elementary Training in Balcolme. Later he joined AIF 4th Armoured Regiment, then on to 1st Aust. Armoured Head Quarters and then became an instructor in Infantry Training Battalions at Cunungra Jungle Training. He never did any overseas service, as he contracted Dermatitis and was discharged.

After being discharged, Bill rejoined the staff of Myers and was trained in Manchester, Dress Materials and the Advertising Department.

In 1948, Bill joined Bendigo Y's Mens Club, he is Past President and Boys Club Leader (Mariners) and is still an active member and co-ordinator YM Annual Book Fair. In 1996 he was presented with an award for services to YMCA.

In 1948, Bill married Bessie Wilson, (His 'Cobbers' sister). They had 3 daughters, Margaret (Deceased), Lorraine and Ruth. Bill and Bessie are both proud grandparents of 9 grandchildren aged from 1 year to 23 years of age.

In 1953, Bill joined the staff of JM Leech Jewellers where he was assistant manager for many years and later manager. In 1986 he retired.

Over the years Bill worked for and held many offices in Forest Street Uniting Church including Secretary of Mens Society (Over 20 years), Church Steward (Over 20 years), Trustee (Over 20 years), Church Treasurer and for a number of years he assisted in running order of Knights (Boys Club).

Bill is a Zone Leader in Neighbourhood Watch 016 and his hobbies are YMCA and gardening at Bendigo and Queenscliffe.

Now we, at the Probus Club of Bendigo, are fortunate to have Bill as our President Elect.

TRIP TO SEYMOUR

Friday 14th of February saw another of Arthur's trips, this time to Seymour, to have another look at the Seymour Railway Heritage Centre, and also to visit the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo.

The Railway Centre was established in 1983 as the Seymour Loco Steam Preservation Group to restore and operate steam loco J515. Since that time J515, 2 d/e locos and a d/e rail motor as well as several carriages have been fully restored to operating condition. All this through thousands of hours of dedicated volunteer work by members.

The current fleet comprises 3 steam locos, 3 main line diesels, 3 other diesels, a d/e rail motor, diesel shunting loco Suburban electric parcels van and a 4 car Suburban "Tait" train. A very interesting array of carriages are also held. These include 3 wooden-bodied carriages dating from 1883 to 1886, 11 sitting cars, 5 sleeping cars, dining car, parlour car and State car No. 4. These last-mentioned cars are still used by V/Line on special occasions.

The highlight of the visit for Arthur, and, I suspect, several others, was a ride in the cab of GM36, a main-line diesel/electric loco that was used to haul the Indian Pacific across the Nullabor to Perth.

Our next destination was the Farming Expo where the group spread out, some not to be seen again until almost 4.00 p.m., to sample the delights of "All Creatures Great and Small". There were animals from the humble rabbit, through Alpacas and Angoras to Water Buffalo.

The Australian Lowline cattle were an interesting exhibit, although some may consider the steaks to be a little small. However, this can easily be overcome.

Of particular interest to some were the Country Style Crafts marquees, where examples of Australian produced yarns were on display, a fashion parade marquee and the food and wine marquees. You could buy anything from a packet of screws to a tractor. Altogether, there were almost 400 stalls.

The weather was a little hot and much use was made of the available shade and seating, while ice cream and cold drink vendors made hay while the sun shone.

The heading to this tale could almost be "Departure Delayed" as one passenger thought that the departure time was 8.30 a.m. However, an unwritten rule states that the President must not be left behind.

A very successful day, thanks again to Arthur's organizational ability and knowledge of forthcoming events.

PROBUS MEETING - WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 1997.

Our guest speaker was Mr. Ern Bell who gave an insight into Freemasonry. Ern, who has been a Freemason since 1947, spoke of the origins of the Lodge which are shrouded in the mists of antiquity, but some evidence seems to point to an involvement with the trades taken to England by the Romans, but certainly can be traced to the stone masons of the 10th Century.

The Grand Lodge of England was created in 1717 while the Grand Lodge Scotland followed in 1736. Victoria followed in the middle of last century. First meetings in Bendigo were held in a store in View Street with occupancy of a permanent building in View Street, now the Arts Centre, taking place in 1872. After more than 100 years it was decided to build a new Masonic Centre along Melvor Road and this was commenced in 1989 and occupied in 1990.

The furniture in the Temple, made from Tasmanian Blackwood, was built by the father of our member, Clark Jeffrey, and its placement in the room has considerable significance. Freemasonry is not a secret society, but a society with secrets. These secrets refer to modes of recognition and were used by tradesmen of earlier times who could neither read nor write and, therefore, used these signs to recognise others of their trade.

The aim of Freemasonry is to – Practice universal charity, provide opportunities for self development, build friendships, foster moral standards and seek excellence in all pursuits.

There are approximately 28,000 members in Victoria and 6 million worldwide.

Mr Bell was introduced by Geoff Biles and thanked by Ern Waterworth who made the usual presentation.

Alex Wilson.

BOWLS NEWS

North Bendigo narrowly defeated our club 54 to 52.

The best performed team was J. Kelly, D. Opie, A. Stephens, H. Hesse.

Teams for District Probud Competitions Tuesday 25th March are as follows.

L. Nankivell	R. Fitzgerald	J. Rose	J. Kelly
A. Morris	A. Court	T. Driscoll	A. Eaton
A. Stephens	K. Gloster	W. Winzor	F. O'Connell
V. Canobie (s)	R. Marslin (s)	H. Hesse (s)	W. Clemens (s)

Supplied by Bowls Co-ordinator – Ted Driscoll.

TRIPS INFORMATION

THURSDAY MARCH 20TH, 1997 – EVENING OUT IN GREATER BENDIGO

Depart Strath Community Centre, Crook Street. 5.30 p.m. Return 11.00 p.m. COST: \$20.00/person. Includes coach, two venues, dinner (3 course) concert and supper. "A Cliff Binks special, quality entertainment and food assured".

****No restrictions on numbers. Current bookings (69). Payments: Please finalise by meeting Wednesday 19.3.97.**

THURSDAY APRIL 17TH, 1997 – OUT OF TOWN MYSTERY TRIP. (Cliff Binks) Depart Strath Community Centre, Crook Street 8.30 a.m. Home approx. 6.00 p.m. This is guaranteed to surpass previous Mystery Trips, it will both please and surprise. COST: \$32.00/person includes coach, morning and afternoon teas, lunch and 3 tours. Maximum: (53) Current bookings (68). Payments: Please finalise at meeting Wednesday March 19th.

FRIDAY MAY 9TH TO MONDAY MAY 12TH, 1997 – (4 DAY/3 NIGHT)

MURRAY RIVER CRUISE ON PASSENGER VESSEL "PROUD MARY" Maximum (35) Current bookings (35). (Emergencies (4), further required). COST: \$435.00/person twin share. (Based on 30 paying travellers). Includes road coach, Proud Mary Package and Murray Bridge Motor Inn. (D.B.B.) Copies of Itineraries available. Insurance available. Payment: March 19th Meeting. (Cheque to Probus Club of Bendigo). \$435.00 less deposit if paid \$50.00 = \$385.00/person.

TRIP OF THE YEAR: FRIDAY OCTOBER 10TH TO TUESDAY OCTOBER 14TH, 1997 – 5 DAY/4 NIGHT – MARY LYNN – (MARYSVILLE) Maximum (46) Current (73). Cost: \$300.00/person includes coach, ensuite accommodation, all meals, supper, use of all resort facilities, daily coach tours to local attractions. *Evening entertainment*

A leisurely, relaxed, enjoyable and interesting holiday at a venue with excellent facilities in scenic surroundings.

Payment: Deposits \$50.00/person at March 19th meeting.

****Important:** To assist the 'Collectors' please tender correct monies at time of payment, if by cheque, endorse payment for Probus Club of Bendigo.

Arthur Eaton,
Trips Organiser.
