



# PROBE

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A Special General Meeting is held every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

As today is the Annual General Meeting there will be no guest speaker.

Last month's speaker was Dr. Brian Coman who spoke on the subject of rabbits.

Dr. Coman gave a summary of the life of the rabbit from its first reference in Spain about 2000 years ago to the present time. He also spoke at length on the efforts to eradicate the pest in Australia over the years since its introduction from England.

One of the methods attempted was the blasting of warrens which was demonstrated in the granite hills south of Bendigo. The resulting explosion was most spectacular but did not accomplish much in the eradication program; myxamatosis and the calici virus being far more effective.

Brian was introduced by Herb Hesse and thanked by Jim Harrison for his informative and entertaining talk. Jim also made the usual presentation to Dr. Coman.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasant duty to present the Annual President's report for the year 2000 – 2001.

I must first thank you, the members, for giving me the opportunity of standing out at the front for the past twelve months and the support from so many of our members who have contributed to the continued success of our Club.

Many of our members have been sick, had operations and accidents and I am sad to say that five have passed away. However I am happy to see a number of our sickies here today.

I would like to thank the following;

our money collectors who gladly receive our contributions with a smile and handshake, Maurice Pease, our treasurer, for collecting same and keeping the books in order, Secretary, Arthur Cowling, for handling our correspondence and keeping in touch with "Head Office" and the local Probus Clubs, to Vice President Herb Hesse for his support and arranging such a diverse group of interesting speakers that we have enjoyed - Dean Lamb, Darby Illingworth, Doug Buerger, Tom Stewart, Darren La Ponder, Mandy Smith, Dick Hazeldene, Len Hodren and Brian Coman.

My thanks also to those who have introduced the speakers and those who made presentations, also to our Badger, Ray Downey, for continuing his work to ensure our identity is known.

What a great year we have had with our travels and entertainment. Our visit to B.R.I.T. saleyards campus, tour of New Zealand, tour of Empire Rubber, Korong Vale/Boort, Melbourne Aquarium and Town Hall, Picture Night at Latrobe University then finally a great trip to Phillip Island. My thanks to Arthur Eaton for a wonderful year of organization. Also the Millenium Dinner at B.R.I.T. (thanks to Cliff Binks).

I must also thank Alex Wilson, Alex Crothers and Ken Coles for keeping the Probe going, but there is still a vacancy for another helper.

Ken Coles has been very helpful by stepping in where and when required.

Our bowlers, under the direction of Bill Clemens, have enjoyed the friendship of several district bowling clubs although not with a lot of success. However, we did win the Bendigo District Probus Bowls Day at Castlemaine to win the trophy. Well done Bill and all bowlers.

I wish Vice President Herb a happy and successful year and hope that the general membership will not only support him, but take on a more responsible role.

Alan Court, your President for 2000/2001.

### VALE

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Walter Ashburn who passed away this month. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Peggy.

## SICK LIST

Several of our members are not well and we would like to take this opportunity to wish them a speedy recovery and a quick return to our meetings.

## ACTIVITIES

### BOWLS NOTES

Bowls teams for the game against Woodbury at Woodbury on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am. The games will be 2 bowl triples - regulation dress with Probus shirts.

J. Laidler	C. Turner	M. Boyd
L. Nankivell	A. Court	H. Hesse
E. Trewartha	E. Hogan	W. Clemens
A. Downey	A. Stephens	F. O'Connell
W. Winzar	R. Fitzgerald	E. Waterworth

Reserves: L. Roy, R. Chenery, J. Rose, F. Scrivener.

if unavailable please notify Bill Clemens on 54470562 -----A.S.A.P.

Congratulations to all players involved in our win at the Probus District Championship recently held at Castlemaine.

After our great win in the District Championships we played our March game against North Bendigo last week, full of confidence but lost the match by one shot 94-95.

Our best rink was Les Nankivell, Alex Wilson, and skipper, Peter Bath. Peter is, at present, on the waiting list to join our club and will add strength to the bowling ranks.

Bill Clemens



### Phillip Island 13/2/01 – 15/2/01

Coach departure at 7.31am was praised by Arthur and augered well for timely activities over three days. A cloudy morning became cloudier as we headed south and an odd drop of rain was sighted!! Had Arthur mis-judged the weather? No. We had three temperate days on tour.

First stop – “Maccas” on the Ring Road.

Second stop – Almost missed pelican feeding at San Remo but observed many plastic containers of fish.

Drove to Rhyll

No great thrill.

On to Cowes where we checked in at the luxurious Anchor Inn where one couple reminisced about a honeymoon 55 years earlier

After lunch and a stroll we travelled to the Seal Rocks Sea Life Centre. The Centre is housed in an ultra modern building that provides a variety of activities including

- (a) a panoramic view of seal life on Seal Rock – (camera to screen)

- (b) Pools containing varied sea life
- (c) a boat trip to remind us of Bass and the discovery of Seal Rocks
- (d) a shark display
- (e) a souvenir shop
- (f) a dining venue that provided us with afternoon tea.

From Seal Rocks we drove to the other end of Phillip Island to see the world renowned surf at Cape Woolamai – not for beginners.

On Wednesday we drove south to Koala Conservation Centre and Woodland Park where we found an enclosed area devoted to koalas.

Under the supervision of a ranger we were able to wander through the park at ground level and also via a raised boardwalk to see the animals in their natural habitat. The park is also a breeding haven for the supply of koalas to various parts of Victoria where numbers are declining. We learned many aspects of their breeding habits.

From there we travelled past the car and motorcycle racing circuit and, following the coast, admired the beautiful scenery. En route we passed what appeared to be tobacco kilns. Subsequent enquiries revealed that, during the depression, the importing of coffee was restricted and some of the Phillip Is. farmers grew chicory that was used as an additive to coffee.

A little off-shore on the Eastern side of Phillip Island is Churchill Island. Lieut. James Grant disembarked from the “Lady Nelson” in 1801 and named the island after the man who had given him various seeds that he planted, thus making it the site of the first European agricultural pursuits in Victoria.

Some of the sheds house farming machinery and equipment from bygone days and many of our members who were farmers, or who had been brought up on the land recalled many treasured memories.

Many of the original buildings are being restored and special bi-centenary celebrations are being held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2001.

After a free afternoon all enjoyed a roast dinner during which we all celebrated Kath’s and Arthur’s 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary.

After dinner we went to Summerland Bay and watched the world’s smallest penguins return from their day long journey fishing for food for themselves and their young. These beautiful creatures attract crowds of up to five and a half million people each year from all over Australia and from overseas.

An early start on our final day saw us on the road to Mooraduc and “The Australian Museum of Modern Media”. While there we all laughed at selected antics of Graeme Kennedy and friends in excerpts from “In Melbourne Tonight”.

Next door to the Museum we watched some of the process for making boiled lollies.

From Mooraduc we progressed to Sorrento and then to Queenscliff by ferry and on to Geelong where lunch was available at any of many food counters in a large retail complex.

From Geelong it was back to Bendigo via Bacchus Marsh and Gisbourne.

Again, congratulations to Arthur are in order after a delightful trip and a wedding anniversary. Well done, Arthur, and sincere thanks from your happy travellers.



### SOME OBSERVATIONS

It would appear that no members are prepared to take on the positions of Tour Director or Editor. Arthur has kindly agreed to carry on in a supervisory capacity and I will continue the newsletter whenever I am able. The inability to fill these positions is a sad indictment on the membership of this Club as we all know that there are a number of people quite capable of carrying out these most important positions. Some of the excuses for not helping are nothing short of ludicrous.

For the editorship typing facilities are not necessary as the Receptionist/Typist at Richard Cambridge Printers is quite capable of typing the newsletter and inserting the small graphics as required. All that is really required is the ability to write up the talk by the guest speaker and collate the reports.

As an aside to our successful trip to Phillip Island it would appear that our quarters at the Anchor Inn were so modern that some members were not able to set the alarm on the clock radio in the room. In one instance a member was requested to ring the room of an office-bearer at an appropriate time but the only response was the wife wondering why the telephone was winking at her.



### PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO/EVERGREEN TOURS -TRIP TO CANADA

MONDAY 7TH MAY TO SAT.19TH MAY, 2001. Maximum (48) 13 DAY TOUR - CANADIAN ROCKY MOUNTAINS. \*\* (Hostess Escorted)

(Includes: Last two days on the Famous Rocky Mountaineer Train) COST: \$4775.00 per person Twin Share. \*\* (Bendigo to Bendigo.)

\*\*Excellent Group Price secured. New 2001 Tour prices factored in

\*\* AN OPTIONAL: " 7 Day Alaskan Cruise," timed to immediately follow on, is available for those who may wish to take cruise.

Outside Cabin -Excellent Price of \$1350/person -twin share."

This tour is now closed.

No further trips or tours are in the pipeline for now, but watch this space.



While on the subject of rabbits it may be helpful to ponder these wise words.

A young rabbit, living in the burrow with his family, was finally permitted to venture out at night, his mother now deciding that he was old enough to look after himself. Off he went into the National Park where mother told him he would be quite safe. With a little nibble here and a little sniff there he came to a strange smell. He had a second sniff and stepped back a pace. Next thing there was an almighty clashing of steel teeth just behind him. Little rabbit took off and did not stop until he reached his home. Mother rabbit consoled him, cuddled him and inspected him for damage. Horror of horrors, his fluffy little tail was missing.

Next evening, when it was dark, Fluffy decided that he would go and look for his tail. He went to the same place in the Park where he had such a fright the night before and spotted the tail on a little mound of earth. As he went to pick up the tail in his mouth there was another almighty crash, dirt flew everywhere and Fluffy was no more – decapitated.

There is, of course, a moral to this story – never lose your head over a little bit of fluff.

