



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



Published Monthly

Issue No. 186

March 20th, 2002

Incorporation No. A0011248L

Annual Subscription \$20 Print Post Publication No PP 3491 06/00007

President: Herb Hesse

Secretary: Bob Chenery

Phone: 5443 6424

Phone: 5442 4546

Editor: Alec Crothers Phone: 5443 2642

A Special General meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9.30am at the Masonic Centre, McIvor Road, Bendigo.

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

As the March meeting is the Annual General Meeting there will be no guest speaker. Nominations are still required for five committee members and one Vice President.

GUEST SPEAKER

The guest speaker at the February meeting was introduced by Alan Dingle. He was Ken Briggs, who completed his career by being CEO of the State Rivers. He was persuaded by his brother, who is now in USA, to volunteer for and take charge of a project in Malawi to put in a water supply to a small town, called Domasi.

Malawi is a small land locked state located at the southern end of the East African Rift Valley. A fifth of the area of the country is in Lake Malawi, one of the world's big lakes. Malawi has an intensely rural economy, 96% of its population work on the land. Maize is the main subsistence crop, while tea, tobacco, sugar and ground nuts are the main exports. The climate is tropical with rather high temperatures on the lowlands. The precipitation is mainly in the summer and very heavy.

The country's capital politically, is Zomba, but the official capital is Lilombe. The people are mostly Christian. The economy is really third world, with a big gap between rich and poor.

The project Ken was working on was to provide a supply of good water. Previously the people were supplied by the women carrying water for domestic supply, to replace this it was planned to dam the waters of a small river whose water was fresh, and carry this by pipeline across the main river, which had unusable water, to a holding area near the village.

Simple though the scheme was, the logistics created big obstacles. The people themselves were not energetic, time has little meaning. Besides this machinery was hard to come by, and petrol shortages, poor communications and bureaucratic bungling made progress very slow.

The length of the pipeline was planned as 11,000 feet, but before it was complete financial obstacles caused a delay and Ken was not able to stay to finish off the work. Ray Downey made the presentation and expressed the thanks of the audience.

TRIP TO LOCAL VENUES:

At 9am on February 28th, we gathered at Bendigo Pottery, Arthur filled us in on the details of the arrangements and in we went. The management has produced a brief film about the origin, the subsequent history and the operations and products of the pottery.

The pottery was founded in 1858 by a Scotsman, George Guthrie. In the early days most of the production was sewer pipes, but other items were introduced as time went on.

Large numbers of bottles were produced to hold soft drinks or wine or even sulphuric acid. One of the displays shown brought a happy smile to the face of Gordon Glover, a bottle with the name Glover on it. After an interesting tour we moved back into Bendigo.

The second part was a visit to the old General Post Office, which now houses a very good visitor information centre and even more interesting the Federation Exhibition. Here the main emphasis is on the work of Sir John Quick, and of the Corowa Federation Congress. There was too little time to see all of this, another visit is needed, because we had a Chinese Banquet to partake of at the House of Khong.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2001/2002 - HERB HESSE

Dear Fellow Members,

It has been an honour and a privilege for me to serve the Club as your President for the year 2001/2002. My term of office has been made most pleasurable by the willing help which I have received from members in all matters concerning the interest and functioning of the Club. It has been a real team effort and I would like to thank the following:

Secretary: Bob Chenery for his expertise and attention to all matters concerning his duties.

Treasurer: Ken Coles - our efficient, capable and generous treasurer. Ken is the Club's Public Officer; so we also thank him for those duties.

Auditor: Clive Miller for his attention to this important job.

Vice President: Barry O'Brien for his support and assistance whenever required.

Alan Dingle for obtaining excellent speakers for our meetings. Arthur Eaton for his continuing outstanding contribution in arranging trips throughout the year; particularly the tour of Canada and Alaska. This was a huge job of organisation and most efficiently undertaken. Arthur's work for the Club is very gratefully appreciated by ALL members.

Our Badger: Ray Downey for seeing that we are all correctly 'labelled'.

Alec Crothers: Our 'Probe' editor (and those who assist). This is a vital communication link within our Club and well done Alec.

Bill Clemens: In spite of a health setback, many thanks for keeping Probuss Club Bowls to the fore. Members appreciate the work involved in the selection of teams etc., our win against Bendigo being a highlight of the bowls year.

Ralph Mitchell: Our Janitor-in-Chief and his monthly servants for the enjoyable cuppa and 'Service with a Smile'. Also thanks to the Masonic Ladies who prepare our morning tea.

Thanks also to our Recorders and Receivers at the Club entrance: Alf Ryall; Bill Cowling; Maurice Pease and Jack Laidler.

We had an interesting list of entertainment and speakers during the year and all have been of high standard. To test your memory they were:

"The Evergreen Concert Party" Muriel & Peter Thornton: "China Re-visited"

*Noel Sens: "Paralympian Cyclist"

*Geoff Russell: "Federation Display"

*Anne Conway: "Vocalist/Entertainer" *Rob (Rex) Hunt: "Sustainable Comm." (Bgo Bank)

*Paul Davies: "Violin Manufacturer" *Geoff Michell: "Bendigo Water" (Coliban Water)

***Paul Kirkpatrick:** "Peter Harcourt Park" ***Ken Briggs:** "Building Dams in South Africa"

Many thanks to those members who introduced the speakers and to those who expressed the Club's appreciation and made presentations; also to Robert Holmes, "Custodian of Mugs". During the year we had the pleasure of inducting into Club membership; Bill Redmond; Peter Bath; David O'Neill; Casper Sens; John Tate; Ken Crowle; John Hardy and Bryan Armstrong.

Our Christmas luncheon at the Jessie Burnett Lounge was a great success with an attendance of 100, including Probians; wives; widows of former members; and friends. The venue and meal were choice and at a subsidised price of only \$20 as arranged by the committee, met with the approval of all. Vice-President Barry proved a worthy M.C. and the entertainment provided by Gordon Glover/Arthur Cowling who led us in the singing of the usual Christmas Carols; assisted by Norm Dack, our capable pianist kept us all entertained. The "Icing on the Cake" being supplied by Secretary Bob's self prepared "Channel Nine Fairy News". Thanks also to the other members who assisted at this club luncheon which was a great way to start the Festive Season.

Unfortunately we have several members who have not enjoyed the best of health and on behalf of all members I extend best wishes to them for a brighter outlook.

Our altered times for monthly meetings appears to be received with general approval, however a final decision after a trial sample will be made later on in the year.

In conclusion, I again thank all members for the pleasant experience which I have had in being your President, and extend to Barry and his new committee team a happy and successful year ahead. *Thank you all.*

VALE:

We regret to relate the passing of Clive Miller a valued member of the Probus Club.

BOWLS NOTES - Bill Clemens:

A great day was enjoyed by all at the combined Probus Clubs District Championship held at East Bendigo Bowling Club on Tuesday 26th February. 128 bowlers competed on a beautiful summers day.

There was some very competitive bowling and Bendigo Probus Team performed well. Our best rink on the day was W. Redmond, A. Eaton, A. Court, and skipper Herb Hesse. The Championship went to Castlemaine with 9 wins, from Strathdale 8 wins and Bendigo was a close third with 5 1/2 wins. Well done to all our bowlers.

The 2003 Championship will be hosted by Castlemaine Probus at Castlemaine Bowling Club. Our game for March is against Woodbury on Wednesday 27th March. The game will be 2 bowl triples. 9.30am Assembly for 10am start. Dress to be notified. The following rinks have been selected.

Total Cost: \$12.50 per player.

Teams:

W. Winzar, E. Waterworth, H. Hesse
J. Kelly, C. Turner, J. Tate
A. Court, R. Fitzgerald, L. Nankivell

E. Trewartha, E. Hogan, M. Boyd
R. Chenery, W. Clemens, P. Bath

Reserves: A. Wilson, J. Laidler, G. Glover

TRIPS ITEMS

WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL 2002: PROBUS ASS'N OF VIC. - 'FRIENDSHIP DAY'

VENUE: WERRIBEE PARK DEPART: 7.45AM ARRIVE HOME: APP. 6.00PM

COST: \$23.00 PER PERSON (based on min. 40)

INCLUDES: Coach, entry fees & morning tea of tea/coffee & biscuits.

**** A special day once a year - don't miss out.** Police band will entertain. **Banner Parade:** Commencing at 12 noon. **Probian Games:** 1.30pm. You will be free to do and go where your want to go. **Access to all the park including:** Mansion, Winery Farm, State Rose Garden.

Grounds tour in Explorer Transporter @ \$2.00/person. **Lunch:** bring your own.

A fantastic day of fun & fellowship in a beautiful venue.

Payments: Wednesday March 20th meeting. Current bookings (38) ****Vacancies, more support required * Open to other Clubs. Phone Arthur: 5443 9162**

THURSDAY 9TH MAY: Trip to Melbourne Casino - May Chocolate Special

Depart: 8.45am Strath Community Centre Crook Street. **Home:** 5.30pm approx.

Cost: \$13.00 per person **Includes:** Coach fare & Buffet lunch

Crown Casino: Have a special program between 1st & 12th May. **** Kings Buffet** have a special selection of Chocolate desserts. **** A special draw** - one entry per Club for \$1000 cash and a cylinder full of chocolate coins. Winner Club takes all. ****** There is much interest to see and do within the Casino Complex, especially for those who have not visited before ****** A leisurely, low cost outing. We will stop at Taylors Lakes for our morning 'cuppa' and short break in our journey.

****A positive response** is required at meeting Wednesday 20th March. **List:** At Meeting Wednesday 20th March. **Payments:** At Wednesday 17th April meeting **Min. (40) Max (48)**

FRIDAY MAY 17TH TO MONDAY MAY 20TH 2002- 4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS

TRIP TO MARY LYN AT MARYSVILLE: Maximum (46)

Depart: Friday 17th May 9.00am **Home:** Monday 20th 4.00pm approx.

Cost: \$270/person twin share **Coach fare:** Approx. \$30.00/person

Includes: All meals, supper, use of all resort facilities, coach tours to local attractions.

****Evening entertainment **En suite rooms **Excellent variety of home style meals**

****Special dietary requests catered for with prior notice given **Swimming pool, spa, indoor bowls complex, leisure facilities **Specialises in providing 'all inclusive holidays for groups in 50 & over age group'. 'This trip is special- don't miss out.**

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

**** All who booked at Feb 20th meeting & who since booked with Arthur up to 1st March have secured definite bookings. Deposits:** \$50.00/person March 20th meeting. **Balance:** At April 17th meeting.

AFRICA

A PROBUS TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA: 'AFRICAN WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE'
14 DAY TRIP FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 11th OCTOBER 2002

Again travelling with Evergreen/Scenic Tours. This tour arranged on request from several who travelled on Canada/Alaska Tour. Specially designed by a South African on Evergreen's staff. Great variety with Safari Tours of Kruger Park and Itala Game Reserve with qualified rangers. Visits to Pretoria, Durban, Capetown, Cape Peninsula, major places of interest.

COST: \$4995 per person, which is a very highly competitive price. **Includes:** Bendigo to Bendigo return and internal South African airfares. Entry fees to stated attractions, and almost all meals. ****South Africa Tour:** Qualified English speaking guides. Escorted by experienced Scenic Hostess. High quality accommodation and meals. Transport in Luxury Coaches in South Africa. **** Full details are being mailed to all who attended the Reunion and launch of the 'Proposed South African Tour',** Tour is open to members from all Probus Clubs. For further information telephone Arthur Eaton, Tours Organiser on 5443 9162.**