



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, 49 Emmett Street, Golden Square, 3555.

GUEST SPEAKER Today we have the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Greater Bendigo, Peter Seamer.

At our April meeting we had as guest speaker Keith Falconer who was introduced by Kevin Houlahan. Keith entitled his talk "Eavesdropping" and he enthralled us with his account of his career in the Services. The "eavesdropping" is more formally called Wireless Surveillance. Because the Japanese code had been cracked it was possible for the High Command to place forces, ships, and planes at the right spot and time, enabling defeats to be inflicted at the Coral Sea, the Bismarck Sea and subsequent engagements.

After joining RAAF in April 1942, Keith trained at Ballarat and was then selected for special work (after careful checks on family background by security). A group of 20 was selected for special training at Ascot Vale.

KANA, the Japanese morse code consists of the 26 normal letters and 50 extra. In service the Japanese transmissions were monitored, recorded and passed on to the code breakers. Transmissions from Japanese land bases, ships and aircraft were all observed and interpreted.

Keith was stationed first at Townsville, later at Port Moresby, then back to Townsville and on to Darwin.

As the Japanese were driven back, Keith was eventually moved on to Laete then San Miguel both in the Philippines, and it was there that he heard the news of the dropping of the atomic bomb and the end of the War.

Keith was thanked by Alf Ryall.

----- **PROBE TRIP TO DONALD (Report from Alf Ryall)**

The weather again was perfect for a prompt departure, but we were saddened to learn from Arthur, at that stage, of the mishap which had befallen Gwen and Bill Foster on their way to join the coach.

Arriving at Wedderburn we enjoyed a cuppa in the pleasant surroundings of the Rotunda Bowling Green. An interesting drive along the Borung Highway to Charlton then on to Donald had us arriving at Donald earlier than expected.

Arthur, as usual, had made very thorough arrangements with Mrs. Janet Wood, the proprietor of the most attractive Donald Caravan Park. Janet, with Ross Shield took us on a tour of the Caravan Park and provided us with valuable information about the Park and about Donald.

Our next stop was Kooka's Country Cookies. Watching the production of the cookies, tasting them and the coffee, purchasing biscuits at factory prices made this call well worth while.

Next we visited Armstrong Belts, where there was a full range of ladies' and men's leather belts and many other items, under the very capable young lady Manager. We were all impressed by her expertise.

We proceeded then to the Donald Racecourse and were impressed by the up to date amenities. Then it was back to the Caravan Park to enjoy our lunches in most pleasant surroundings.

During the afternoon we visited the Goodwin Village, occupying a four hectare rural allotment. We are sure the residents there are friendly, comfortable and secure, and really are "Living with Friends". We also visited Rye's Nursery which had a grand display of plants. We saw the efficient, hard-working girls in the Fairmark shirt factory, located in the old Uniting Church building.

To conclude the interesting day we drove past the new Amaroo housing estate, and observed the "Bullock's Head" - a natural growth on the side of a gum tree.

We say a most sincere thank you to Arthur Eaton for arranging this interesting and informative day. We also thank Janet and Ross for their guidance and help, Graeme Harris the Co-ordinator of tours for the Buloke Shire and Tom Bowles the former secretary of the Donald Shire, for their help in arranging the day.

We were all wondering beforehand what there was to see in Donald. Well, the above is a brief summary of a day enjoyed by us all.

P.S. Gwen suffered some minor cuts and bruising but Bill Foster had cuts which needed stitching and cracked ribs in the mishap.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER Our President with the approval of the Committee has persuaded Kevin Houlahan to join the Committee, making up the correct number.

TRIPS INFORMATION

TRIP AROUND GUNN'S SWAMP - THURSDAY MAY 18TH, 1995. Maximum 49 - Current 56. Depart: 8.15 a.m. Arrive home: Approx. 6.00 p.m. An interesting and enjoyable trip is assured. We first travel to Waranga Basin Caravan Park for morning tea, then on to Tatura German War Cemetery (Tour and Guide). Visit Dhuringil Homestead/Prison (Tour/Talk); Passing Goulburn Weir, to Chateau Tahbilk for a Tour, Wine Tasting, and afternoon tea. Cost: \$20.00/person. Includes Coach, Tours, Pack Lunch, Morning and Afternoon Teas.

TRIP OF THE YEAR : LAKES ENTRANCE/GIPPSLAND LAKES - (5 Days/4 Nights) THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH TO MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1995. This is a beauty - value for money, scenic trip - book early. Cost : \$325.00/person. Includes Coach Fare, Accommodation, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast, and Entry Fees. (At George Bass Motor Inn) in Lakes Entrance. Motel has Panoramic Views of Sea and Lakes.

Day 1 - Travel to Melbourne and through rich dairy pastures of Gippsland, inspection of power generating facilities at Morwell. View the hand painted ceilings of St. Mary's Church Bairnsdale. Arrive at our Lakes Entrance Motel, where we stay 4 nights.

Day 2 - Trip through Buchan Valley, visit Buchan Caves, Guided Tour of Ramsdell Timber Mill display centre. Visit Braeburn Park Preserves Orchard, sample award winning jams and preserves. On to Wyanga Park Winery. Return to Lakes Entrance aboard the "Corque" Lake Cruiser.

Day 3 - A local guide gives a fascinating tour of Gippsland Lakes, travel to Metung, Paynesville and Bairnsdale. Visit Lake Bunga, Lake Tyers and Bullock Island.

Day 4 - Visit Sea Shell Museum. Guided tour Nyermylang Park, rose garden. After lunch board the Thunderbird Catamaran for a sensational cruise of inland waterways. Evening - Live entertainment and sing-alongs.

Day 5 - Head for home, on way home, to arrange visit to another attraction/attractions.

Maximum 48 - Current 55. Emergencies invited.

Deposits: \$20/person at May 17th meeting. (To Probus Collectors)

Final Payment by August 14th. (To Southern Cross Travel Bendigo).

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" - LIVE STAGE SHOW - PRINCESS THEATRE MELBOURNE - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20TH - 1.00 P.M. Maximum 23

Depart Bendigo 10.00 a.m., arrive home 6.00 p.m. Cost: \$85.00/person. (Pensioner Concession \$58) - includes Coach, plus entry theatre. Payments now due at Southern Cross Travel Bendigo.

(Closing date May 31st). Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" is the sensation of the U.S. stage breaking Broadway's all time box office records against "Phantom of the Opera" and "Miss Saigon".

Bookings have been made for R. Chenery (2), C. Binks (2), A. Crothers (2), A. Eaton (2), E. Forbes (1), A. McLean (2), K. Proud (2), A. Ryall (2), Y. Wallace (1), A. Wilson (2). Total 18. Yet to confirm: J. Crook (1), D. Martin (2)

Total = 21. At present 2 seats available - if booking not received by May 17th meeting, they will be released to Southern Cross Travel.

SURPRISE!! SURPRISE!! - MYSTERY TRIP - THURSDAY OCTOBER 19TH Maximum 48 - Depart 9.00 a.m. Arrive home 5.00 p.m. Cost:

Approx \$22.00/person includes coach, morning tea and 3 course lunch and afternoon tea. Make a note of this date. Cliff Binks has prepared what is certain to be another interesting and enjoyable mystery tour. Listing: May meeting. Payments July meeting - unless going North.

Arthur Eaton, Probus Tours Liaison.