



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.

The Guest Speaker at todays meeting is Ron Smith, the Director of Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE.

At the April meeting we had, as Guest Speaker, Neil Burns, who was introduced by Cliff Neivandt.

Neil is an engineer working with Coliban Water. He is in fact in charge of engineering development.

Coliban Water was formed in 1992 and is responsible for water supply to 54 separate towns in a region extending from Cohuna down to Trentham. To perform this task there is a work force of 160. Besides water supply Coliban Water is responsible for sewerage and sewage disposal in the region.

The city of Bendigo receives water from Eppalock and Malmsbury, other towns draw water from these sources and of course from the other reservoirs.

Much of the water supply is used in agriculture and, in particular, orchards and fruit productions.

In the future Coliban Water, like other public works organisations will be contracting out many operations to private industry. Tenders had already been called and the announcement of the contractors chosen was awaited the next day, April 18.

The talk led to a spate of questions including discussions of the purity of the water. We were assured that town water is bacterially safe and that the standard of purity is to be improved in rural towns. We were told that Elmore is supplied with bore water, and Trentham with spring water both of which are of good quality.

Neil conceded that the water in Bendigo is on the whole not up to the same standard as that supplied in Melbourne. Another question concerned water loss in open channels and we were told that loss due to evaporation is less than the loss as ground water by seepage.

At the end of the talk Maurice Pease thanked the speaker and made the customary presentation.

WATERFALLS AND NATURE TOUR

It was a cold grey morning, when 48 members and friends departed from Strathdale, on what was to be a most interesting and educational tour. On reaching Axedale John Neil informed us that the Campaspe River is on the edge of a huge ancient lava flow and that the white clay, for which the town is famous, is the remains of weathered and leached blue stone. At Knowsley we learnt that on the banks of Eppalock near here is Dunn's Rock which bears the scars of glacial action 400 million years ago. The temperature of the air outside the coach made this seem quite believable. Just before we reached the bridge crossing the arm of Lake Eppalock our attention was drawn to the low cutting where there is evidence of glacial rocks and glacial flour which I believe is the result of the grinding action of the glacier. Also in this area is the "Stranger" rock which was deposited by a glacier 240 million years ago, after being carried from the Lancefield area.

Just past the bridge on our left we saw evidence of the Derrinal Railway station and station house which was on the alternative rail link to Bendigo from Melbourne.

Our next stop was the 128 year old iron bridge over the Campaspe River. This bridge was meant to span the Yarra River at Hawthorne. Unfortunately the ship which carried it from England sank in Port Phillip Bay. The bridge was eventually retrieved, and part of it transported to and installed at its present site near Mia Mia. It appears that a Ball was held on the bridge to mark its opening in 1868.

It was now time to take on refreshments which we did at Redesdale's historic hotel, where a delightful devonshire tea awaited us. Our next venture was to find the Barfold Gorge. After travelling through Barfold and private property we arrived almost without warning on the brink of the gorge, which has been carved out of the basalt rock, by the Campaspe River, to an approximate depth of 100ft. and a width of hundreds of feet. It is quite an impressive sight as you look down onto the Campaspe River as it flows over a small waterfall on its way through the gorge. The Barfold gorge was discovered in the early 1850's and was followed in the early 1860's by a short lived gold rush.

In search of more history we returned through Mia Mia and took the Lancefield road for a few kilometres till we reached a memorial cairn with an aeroplane propeller attached. This marks the area where in 1910 John Duigan made the first flight in this country by an Australian pilot in a wholly Australian made and powered aeroplane.

Time to return to the Redesdale Hotel where we partook of thick homemade soup followed by a smorgasboard lunch.

Well fed and rested we boarded the coach for the trip to Turpin Falls which though lacking a strong flow of water was never the less very picturesque. Our next stop was at the Cascades on the Coliban River. These also lacked a strong flow of water but with the steep slope and huge rocks must make an awe inspiring scene during floods.

Next on our itinerary was Coliban Downs, near Metcalfe, a grazing property of some 10,000 acres which presently runs about 20,000 stud sheep. Because it was so cold our hosts Rita and Anthony Barber invited us into the homestead where we enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea. The house was commenced in the late 1850's and has been altered and added to, using bricks made on the property. The Barbers accommodate guests from here and overseas, who are interested in the operation of an historic stud property. During our stay we were entertained by Duncan Barber playing the Didgeredo very competently.

Now it was time to head back to Bendigo after a very interesting day of varied experiences. During the day our hosts and helpers had been appropriately thanked by members of our Probus committee, but special mention must be given to Cliff Binks for his thorough organisation of such an enjoyable, interesting and educational experience; from all who travelled on this tour, thank you Cliff.

Peter Goodrich.

TRIPS INFORMATION

THURSDAY MAY 16TH - TRIP TO BALLARAT - "GREAT SOUTHERN WOOLSHED"
Maximum 49 - Current 51. An entirely new attraction. Depart: 8.15 a.m. Arrive home: Approx. 5.30 p.m. The Great Southern Woolshed is Ballarat's newest major tourist attraction, and is based on the Wool Industry and of "International" standard. **All under one roof, in warmth and comfort. Price: \$25/person. Includes coach fare, entry to attractions and two course lunch. Payments to be finalised at May 15th meeting.

TRIP OF THE YEAR - MONDAY SEPT. 23RD TO SATURDAY SEPT. 28TH, 1996

(6 DAY/5 NIGHT) - TRIP TO SNOWY MOUNTAINS - STAYING AT PROVIDENCE LODGE (ADAMINABY) Maximum 48 - Current 67. Host: Col Mayhew (Owner). Cost: \$429.00/person approx. twin share includes coach, accommodation twin share, full breakfasts, 3 course dinners, lunches and evening supper, morning and afternoon teas, all tours, entries, inspections. Payments by cheque to Probus Club of Bendigo, must be finalised by August 21st. If you are going North, please so arrange prior.

POLICE H.Q. & MUSEUM, CASINO AND NEW MELBOURNE EXHIBITION CENTRE. FRIDAY JUNE 14TH. Maximum 49 - Current 71. Depart: 7.30 a.m. Arrive home approx. 5.45 p.m. Cost: \$17/person includes coach and entry fees. Lunch BYO. We have a conducted tour of Police H.Q. Police Museum, spend some time at the Casino where you can browse, play, buy morning tea and lunch. In early afternoon we visit the "New" Melbourne Exhibition Centre to see the "Exhibition of Holiday and Travel." - where you will be overwhelmed with the colour and entertainment - even some "holiday giveaways." Listing - Payments: due at May 15th Meeting.

*****STOP PRESS*****

FRIDAY MAY 9TH TO MONDAY MAY 12TH, 1997 (4 DAY/3 NIGHTS) MURRAY RIVER CRUISE ON PASSENGER VESSEL "PROUD MARY". Maximum 35.

Day 1 - Travel by Road Coach to Murray Bridge and board "Proud Mary"

Day 2 - Cruising the Murray River and shore excursions.

Day 3 - Cruising the Murray River and shore excursions, arrive Murray Bridge 4.30 p.m. Stay o/night in Motel.

Day 4 - Depart by Road Coach for Bendigo.

Proud Mary Cruise includes all meals, morning and afternoon teas, accommodation in state rooms (twin share), activities and entertainment, shore excursions - "a leisurely interest packed trip".

** I am currently negotiating costing estimate at approx. \$390/person which includes road coach and Proud Mary Package. Note: A listing will not be tabled until price confirmed.

Arthur Eaton.

REMINDER

Committee Members are reminded that their presence is required before the General Meeting, at 9.00 a.m. not 8.45.