



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 Acting Secretary, 49 Emmett Street, Golden Square, 3555.

CRANK

The Guest Speaker at today's meeting is Mr Steven Cole from 'Events Bendigo'.

In the March edition of Probe, we espoused the psychology theorem that the female of our species is the stronger. Surely the proof of this theorem was born out, when we had the pleasure and privilege to listen to Miss Jenny Ellis – the present Supervisor of the Aged Hostel at Rochester.

She had us all in her lap – well not exactly, but that would certainly be a comfortable situation.

Her exploits as a young graduate nurse in some of the poorer countries in South America doing private nursing, came as a real culture shock to her. This experience engendered a compassion for people with disabilities and a low level of self-esteem to be given a high degree of support both physically and mentally.

Finally after 22 years in trauma situations in Casualty and Intensive Care, her career has led her to the caring of the old and frail – the average age of the 30 residents in her Hostel is 90 years.

As well as seeing to their physical needs, Jenny has extended her normal nursing duties to providing stimulating entertainment in many ways. She recounted that one of the residents expressed a desire to meet the Queen. A letter was duly sent off to the Queen for her to visit the Hostel.

The Lady in Waiting to the Queen wrote back, apologising that the Queen was unable to make the trip. Undeterred, Jenny decided to organize a 'Real Pretend' visit to the Hostel equal to a real visit by the Queen. The local community would be involved, including the local school children. Imagine a procession down the main street heading for the Elderly Persons Hostel, with a local lady dressed for the occasion complete with tiara in her carriage drawn by two black stallions and 300 school children lining the route – a red carpet laid out leading to the Hostel bedecked with flags. The tables were laid out with fine silver dishes – lent by the community for the dinner celebration.

Well to her great credit, Jenny's enthusiasm to make a wish come true brought all this about much to the excitement of those elderly citizens.

This was only one example of her compassion towards elderly people. She paid a tribute to the people in the Rochester District who take an active part in supporting the Hostel.

Jenny Ellis, if you didn't realize, spoke to us for 55 minutes, and it was quite obvious that she held each and everyone of us in rapt attention throughout her talk. I think Kevin Houlahan has earned 10 out of 10 for his choice of speaker on this occasion.

Ralph Michell thanked Jenny and presented her with the usual 'Mug'.

Kevin exercised his prerogative to introduce our speaker, who no doubt must be regarded by the Residents at the Rochester Hostel as their Guardian Angel.

NEW MEMBER

We now have two sons of a great Bendigonian – our late member Cyril Michelsen, when Alan introduced his brother Bruce, who was duly inducted by President Bill.

SECRETARY

This all important post has been filled by Bob Chenery for the time being. President Bill was asked to have his grateful thanks recorded here.

MEMBERS NEWS

Congratulations to Past Presidents Col McLean and Ralph Michell and their wives upon the event of their 50th Wedding Anniversaries.

Les Nankivell has joined the elite rank of the O.B.E.'s.

GOLF

Chopping away at a ball deep in the rough at Bendigo Golf Club, Alistair McLean was heard asking his caddie, "Why do you keep looking at your watch?", "This isn't a watch" the caddie replied, "It's a compass!"

BOWLS REPORT

This will be the final Bowls Report for this season. Our next game in the 97/98 season will be in October. I have much pleasure in reporting that we finished the season on a high note in our annual grudge match against Sandhurst, Probus recording a 9 shot victory

78-69, and this was achieved with a team considerably weakened by the absence of many of our top bowlers.

Thanks to all those bowlers who made themselves available on the day, some at very short notice. It was still necessary for us to 'borrow' three bowlers from the opposition to even up the teams and these three were included along with Arthur Eaton in the best winning rink recording a 27-9 victory.

Bill Clemens
Bowls Co-ordinator.

REPORT ON CLIFF BINKS' MYSTERY TRIP

Although, when we got back, we knew where we had been, when we left the Strath Centre on Tuesday, only Cliff and Tony, the coach captain, knew where we were going.

Going down the Calder Highway, rumours were circulating about our first destination but one by one these were discarded and eventually there we were taking in the beautiful view over Castlemaine from the entrance gate of the Gaol. We learned much of the history from Andrew Duncan, the owner, and had a conducted tour of what is now a Tourist facility with a restaurant, wine bar and accommodation in refurbished cells.

The Gaol has gone through several cycles with changes and new constructions. The containing wall and most of the buildings inside are constructed of local sandstone with insertions of granite from nearby Harcourt. Some structures are brick which was brought from Collingwood.

The Gaol was designed on the lines of the Pentonville design. The present construction was built in 1859-61 and there were later additions.

In 1909 the purpose of the gaol was changed, it became a Reformatory Prison for youthful offenders. The treatment metted out to them was no better than the adult prisoners had received. This phase ended in 1951, and the gaol was closed to be re-opened in 1954 as a semi-hospital prison.

The latest chapter began in 1990, when Castlemaine Gaol was closed, permanently. The Tourist facility was introduced in 1995.

Our extensive guided tour was interrupted in the middle, for a coffee break in the Governor's Restaurant.

From Castlemaine we proceeded to Daylesford for a three course luncheon at the Convent. After the meal we were given a talk on the history of the Convent by Angela.

The lunch did not finish the day's supply of food. On we went to Calder House in Maldon, for tea and scones supplied by Edmund and Peter. We also were given a history of the house and of the Calder family.

On to the last mystery. We took a journey on the steam train to Muckleford and back, entertained en route by an unnamed musician. Back at the station the guard, Rick, told us the story of the development of the present service.

It seems that we followed a group of State politicians headed by the Minister in our Maldon section, but Cliff had not arranged that!

TRIPS INFORMATION

*FRIDAY MAY 9TH TO MONDAY MAY 12TH, 1997 (4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS) – MURRAY RIVER CRUISE ON PASSENGER VESSEL "PROUD MARY"

Max. 35 – Full. Depart Friday May 9th at 8.00 a.m. from Strath Community Centre, Crook Street.

*THURSDAY JUNE 19TH, 1997 – TRIP TO MELBOURNE – NEW CASINO

Depart at 8.30 a.m. from Strath Centre, Crook Street. Home approx. 5.30 p.m. The 'New Melbourne Hotel, Entertainment, Casino and Convention Complex', contains shops, restaurants, theatres, much to see. COST: \$11.00 per person. Includes coach, lunch, pokie vouchers. PAYMENTS: at May 21st meeting please. Maximum 53 – Current 89.

*THURSDAY AUGUST 28TH, 1997. "FLICKS OF THE FORTIES" – CAMPBELL

THEATRETTE. Cliff Binks is currently organising an evening of "Flick of the Forties" at the R.L. Campbell Theatre with pre show 'nibbles, finger foods and drinks'. Films of special interest for our age group from both National and State Film Libraries. A listing will be tabled when arrangements are complete. No limit on bookings.

*THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1997 – TRIP TO MELBOURNE – VISITS AND TOURS

TO CARLTON BREW HOUSE AND VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE. The Carlton Brew House and Brewery Tour (personally escorted by C.U.B. Guides), presents the old age art of brewing in an innovative and interesting way. Follow the manufacturing process from raw materials to the finished product, using the latest technology. The Carlton Brew House Museum has the latest in interactive multi-media wizardry and static display of the historic memorabilia.

At the Victorian Arts Centre, we again have guided tours of this modern complex which comprises three Theatres and the famous Melbourne Concert Hall. An amazing variety of design and colour. At lunch time we will be near South Gate Complex on bank of Yarra which has a great variety of low priced foods available, or you can bring your own. COST: \$22.00 per person. Includes coach fare and entrance fees. LIST: at May 21st meeting. PAYMENTS: July 16th Meeting. ***If going north, ensure paid by due date please.

*TRIP OF THE YEAR – FRIDAY OCTOBER 10TH TO TUESDAY OCTOBER 14TH, 1997.

(5 DAYS/4 NIGHTS) – MARY LYNN – (MARYSVILLE). Max. 47 – Current 73. COST: \$300 per person. Includes coach, ensuite accommodation, all meals, supper, use of all resort facilities, coach tours (Daily) to local attractions and evening entertainment. FINAL PAYMENT: 11TH September, 1997. ***If going north, ensure paid by due date please.

*NOVEMBER 1997 – POINT COOK R.A.A.F. MUSEUM AND WERRIBEE SAFARI PARK. Currently negotiating for a suitable date, possibly 3rd week in November. *20th TRIP*

**IMPORTANT – to assist 'collectors', please tender correct monies at time of payment. If by cheque, endorse payment for Probus Club of Bendigo. Arthur Eaton, Trips Organiser.