



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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A Special General Meeting is held every 3rd 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.

Our guest speaker today will be Mr. Dean Lamb, from the Tannery Lane Garden Centre. His subject will be "Plants and Philosophy".

At our April meeting the guest speaker was Mr. Darby Illingworth, Vice President of Legacy for this area. He spoke on the work of Legacy and was introduced by Maurice Pease.

Darby has had 35 years as President of the Mitiamo and East Loddon R.S.L., has 3 life memberships of the R.S.L., was citizen of the year for that area in 1992 and has been a member of Legacy for 34 years.

Legacy was formed soon after the first world war by a group of returned men who were very concerned about the widows and children of those men who did not return, or who passed on after the war, so Legacy now takes care of the dependants of all returned men irrespective of when they died. This organization is unique to Australia although the concept has been tried in other countries but has failed. In Darby's opinion the reason for the success here is the Australian mateship which goes back to the early days of this country.

Legacy started in 1923 and spread throughout Australia so that, no matter where you lived, there was a Legacy Club within hail. In 1926 Legacy formed in Bendigo and some years after the second world war groups were formed in Swan Hill, Kerang, Echuca, Castlemaine and Kyneton. These groups are completely autonomous but are still under the constitution and are part of Bendigo Legacy which now extends from Balranald in the north to Lancefield in the south.

Darby then read the charter of Legacy and explained the significance of the badge that Legatees wear.

A Legatee can be any returned serviceman and can be from any rank of the service. His duties as a Legatee are to look after the widows and children of his deceased mates. When a returned man dies Legacy makes contact with the family and a Legatee is delegated to look after them. It is of great importance that the Legatee has the trust and confidence of the widow so that she feels at ease to discuss with him many of her business, financial or family problems. Where children are involved it is important to obtain their trust as the Legatee can take the role of the deceased father, particularly in relation to their education and future employment. Legacy also runs camps for these children. A Legatee is never paid for his services but receives his reward in so many little ways that are worth far more than money.

The children have now moved on but Legacy is still concerned with the now aging widows, making their lives a little safer, happier and easier and ensuring that they are getting their proper entitlements.

Legacy House in McKenzie St. is a place where war widows can meet and enjoy activities such as cards, bowls, etc.

Funding for Legacy is not provided by either Government or Council but comes in the form of bequests, raffles, sale of badges each year and other fund-raising activities.

As the Legatees are now getting older and the ranks are thinning their Constitution has been altered to allow non-returned men to join Legacy and this includes the sons of war widows. Neil Gill, the current President of Legacy, is one of these people.

Kevin Houlahan thanked Mr. Illingworth for his informative talk and made the usual presentation.

VALE

It is with deep regret that we report the death of May McLean who passed away recently, May was the wife of Probian Colin McLean, and will be remembered for her presentations at the Probus Christmas Dinners. We extend our deepest sympathy to Colin.

Colin would like to thank those Probians who attended the service, and who he was not able to thank personally, for their attendance.

PROBUS NEWS

Keep this news service in mind as it is provided by radio station KLFM as a community service to enable all Probians in the Bendigo and Castlemaine area to know what is going on in other clubs in the region. The broadcast is on FM 96.5 from 10.00 am to 10.30 am on the third Friday of each month. This is the Friday after our meeting.

ACTIVITIES

BOWLS REPORT



Our final game for the season 1999-2000 was played against Sandhurst Probus at Woodbury on Thursday 20th. of April. We were narrowly defeated 64-56.

Best performed rink for Bendigo was R. Holmes, A. Court, R. Fitzgerald and V. Canobie (s).

I would like to thank all bowlers who made their time available during the past season.

There is a list displayed on the collector's table at our meeting for bowlers who will be available next season which commences in October. Please, bowlers, add your name if possible.

Probus shirts are still available for all Probians and are handy to wear on trips as well as to bowls.

There have been quite a number of favourable comments about the shirts from opposing team members.

Bill Clemens

NEW ZEALAND TRIP

Fifty people comprising Probiants, their partners and friends of Probus descended on a Cobb & Co. coach at 7.00 am on the 29th April, 2000 for a conducted tour of New Zealand. Organized by Arthur, through Evergreen Tours, this happy little band arrived at Tullamarine and boarded an Air New Zealand Boeing 767 ready for the foray into the unknown.

After a very pleasant flight from Tullamarine we landed at sunny Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, to be met by our coach captain for the trip, Tui, a very knowledgeable Maori, and excellent driver.

Our coach seated 50 passengers and had two doors which made entry and exit much easier. The second door, when opened, revealed a set of steps which were readily accessible when a pair of folding seats were raised. These two seats were probably the biggest drawback to the trip.

Following an enjoyable evening meal we were pleased to have an early night.

30/3 Thursday saw us awake early, bags out promptly and, after an enjoyable breakfast, we proceeded on a tour of Auckland. Some of its many features explained to us were - America's Cup Course, the prevalence of horse breeding, 98 breeds of sheep and the high cost of housing. At the top of Mt. Eden we were greeted with a panoramic view of the city and beautiful harbour. It is claimed that Auckland is the only city in the world where you can view the whole city from one vantage point. A group of surveyors on the mount was planning for the introduction of building height limits in certain areas to prevent interference with the views from the top of the mount.

We left Auckland and, after passing through the pleasant countryside, paused for a while in Otorahanga where we were greeted with a proliferation of floral hanging baskets in the shopping area.

At the Waitomo caves we were thrilled to view the renowned formations. In the darkness we boarded a small boat and were quietly guided along an underground stream by an attendant grasping an overhead rope. All the time we were gazing in wonder at the thousands of glow worms overhead.

At Rotorua, where we stayed for two nights, we had a delightful evening meal and then were treated to a colourful and well presented Maori concert. It was a pleasure to admire the pride these people have in their own culture. Clark Jeffrey acted as chief on our behalf and received the token of friendship from the Maori chief, while Bill Clemens made a good effort of the traditional Maori dance. *FRIDAY*

The next day saw us visiting the Agrodome where we were able to admire the numerous breeds of sheep and be entertained by the prowess of excellently controlled sheep dogs. We then proceeded to the Tamaki Maori Village where our 'Chief Arthur' was greeted by the Maori chief with a formal nose rubbing. (Will Arthur personally pass this gesture on to President Alan?). Then on to Wai-O-Tupu Thermal Wonderland where an excellent guide gave us detailed explanations of the various types of thermal activity and their ever changing conditions. One interesting aspect was that New Zealand timbers cannot withstand the ground heat and the best timber for fence posts is Victorian hardwood and that only lasts for 4-5 years. Rotorua is a fascinating city with hot steam exuding from the most unusual crevices and the boiling mud pools, both in the city as well as the surrounding countryside.

1/4 Saturday. We journeyed south from Rotorua past Huka Falls and Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake, and on through the World Heritage National Park, Tongariro, then along National Highway 1 towards the capital, Wellington, N.Z.'s largest city. Unfortunately, we were held up for about 3 hours because of a serious road accident ahead of us.. Consequently we were late arriving in Wellington, however, we were not deprived of a short hair-raising tour on the winding road up the mountain by night and were able to admire the night sky and the city lights from the summit of Mt. Victoria thanks to the co-operation of our excellent Coach Captain, Tui, before we had a late evening meal.

Allan and Thelma Dingle

2/4 Sunday A morning tour of Wellington showed us that New Zealand's capital has a great deal of history and, because of the terrain, there are some quirky features, such as the turntable for cars at the top of one street. The Parliament House is, because of its shape, called the Beehive. Whether the parliamentarians are as busy as bees was not revealed. It was interesting to see where the shoreline was in 1850, many of the present buildings would be under water were it to move back today. There is also an underground shopping centre which would be flooded. On the way to the ferry we passed the Thistle Inn which dates back to 1840 and is still operating. Wellington has a large port and it was from here that we boarded the ferry, Arahura, for the trip to Picton in the South Island. It is a big ferry with cars, trucks, buses and trains all stacked aboard. The voyage was pleasant, all amenities available but the weather prevented many from venturing on to the open deck. We traversed the harbour, then crossed Cook Strait and finally sailed along Queen Charlotte Sound. Just out of Picton we rejoined the bus in the hold of the ferry and drove off into our tour of the South Island.

The east coast road is rugged and rain swept, reminding us Victorians of the Great Ocean Road, with the ocean waves dashing over rugged rocks, although the Southern fur seals seem unperturbed. As we reached Christchurch the rain had eased a little and, after settling into the hotel, it was possible to take a walk without mackintoshes.

Monday arrived in bright sunshine and we were soon on the Tranz Scenic train. (Did one of our members bribe Tui to lock his (the members) wife in the coach). One of our experts identified the loco and the rolling stock as of US manufacture. The long train progressed along the valley of the Waimakariri River, gently sloping upwards at first, then more steeply, and we began to encounter the tunnels. Beyond Springfield we had a succession of gorges, viaducts and tunnels, seldom in a straight line, the long train often visible for its full length on the many curves. As we neared the top of Arthur's Pass snow-covered mountain tops appeared high above us. The Pass is 737 metres above sea level, but these peaks were sometimes 2000 metres plus. At the Pass Tui and our coach were waiting and we began the descent. The road is scratched on the sides of the mountains. New construction is going on over many sections. We were passing waterfalls tumbling into deep gorges to eventually join the Taramakan River, which the road followed, down to the sea.

At Hokitiki we visited a greenstone (jade) factory, in fact the town has a surprising number of these; it is also known for its glass working and for whitebait. We then continued along the coast to the glacier region. Here we saw the Franz Joseph glacier, described as the most accessible in the world; no helicopter flights because of the weather. In the evening at Fox Glacier we went to see the glow worms in a pocket of native trees and shrubs.

On Tuesday we continued the tour, once more in the rain. At the salmon farm even the salmon were sheltering from the downpour. The journey up the valley of the Haast River revealed more waterfalls, this time more accessible, and enhanced by the rain. Two really impressive falls were Roaring Billy and Thunder Creek. Over the Haast Pass and leaving the mountains, the rain ceased and the scenery changed. We left the lush vegetation of the rain forest with its tree ferns and, around Cromwell, the vegetation seemed sparse and the foliage on the poplars was turning yellow.

As we approached Arrowtown we arrived at a point where the road took a new course. A disused bridge on the old part of the road provided an entertaining display of bungy jumping. Then there was a short stop in Arrowtown before arriving in Queenstown where we had the evening meal at the Skyline Restaurant, reached by cable car gondolas. The meal was fantastic although some would not take the ride and settled for dinner at the hotel while another took the ride under duress and enjoyed it thoroughly.

Alec and Dorothy Crothers

Today is day eight and a rest day for the coach driver, so we had a free day to do whatever we pleased. Some of the more adventurous went jet boating while others took the opportunity to visit out of town attractions or just wander around and enjoy the sights of Queenstown as well as catch up with the laundry. One group boarded the TSS Earnslaw for a cruise on Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Farm. There was a sheep mustering and shearing exhibition, deer and sheep were hand-fed and people were given the opportunity to sit on a very tame highland breed bull for a photograph. The high point of the visit was the excellent Devonshire tea provided as part of the fare. The Earnslaw was unique as it is a steamship and has been operating on the lake since 1912. The passengers were given a guided tour of the ship and were able to watch the stokers at work, it uses one tonne of coal an hour, as well as view at close hand the engines in operation and on the last stage of the journey, enjoyed some community singing. It was a relaxing day, but the highlight for me, personally, were the telephone calls from my children in Australia as it was my birthday.

Day nine and an early start with breakfast at 6.30 am. It was cold with a heavy mist as we travelled along the shores of Lake Wakatipu with the mountains sweeping right down to the shoreline, a wonderful sight. Leaving the lake we travelled through lush agricultural country dotted with cattle, sheep and deer farms to Te Anau where we dropped off our luggage at the Luxmor Resort before heading to Milford Sound. More farmland then beautiful lake country and dense Beech forest before entering the Fiordland National Park and the rugged splendour of the snow and ice-capped Darran Mountains. We stopped at the Homer Tunnel for a photo opportunity before driving through this one and a half kilometre long engineering marvel constructed by pick and shovel through the mountain. The views so far were nothing to compare with what greeted us as we emerged from the tunnel. Nothing I can say can describe the sheer heights covered in snow, the waterfalls cascading down from the peaks above or the magnificence of the cruise through the majestic Milford Sound. We were blessed with a dull, calm day for our cruise which, for part of the way, was accompanied by a pod of dolphins. Light rain towards the end of the cruise was enough to make the numerous waterfalls more spectacular. The return through the Homer Tunnel had its moments, as large vehicles cannot pass inside the tunnel except at two short widened parts. Just a short way in there was a problem with gravel trucks coming through as there was already a bus at the passing point. We

had to back out much to the consternation of the passengers as it was a long drop to the bottom, but Tui was equal to the task and made a difficult situation look easy. It was truly a dream day. Although the man made roads and structures, including the Homer Tunnel, were great achievements, nothing could match the beauty that nature has provided in the pristine wilderness. There was a lot to reflect on as we returned to Te Anau.

Day ten and a late start today after the big and memorable day to Milford Sound. We left the hotel at 9.00 am then travelled through lush undulating agricultural country to Dunedin. Not a good day as it rained for the whole trip making stops for sight seeing impractical. Did you know there is an old abandoned mining town called Bendigo in New Zealand's South island, no doubt named after our own fair city, but it had suffered a different fate. We toured Dunedin and had its main features pointed out including the Railway Station that had been beautifully restored. The day concluded with a guided tour of Olveston House, a beautiful home built between 1904 and 1906 by a merchant, David Theomin, and left to the City on the death of the last member of the Theomin family in 1966. The Theomins travelled extensively throughout the world during the late 1800's and early 1900's and lavished their home with irreplaceable artefacts and priceless treasures. It was a brilliant exhibition and gave us an idea of the opulent lifestyle that the rich enjoyed at that time. Our night stay was at the Leisure Lodge in the heart of Dunedin.

Reg Marslen

8/4 Saturday Raining gently as we left Dunedin and climbed through the hills via North Road to Otago Cove where there is an albatross colony. This is sheep country with high density grazing. The Moeraki Boulders were different - not very large but smooth and round and located in the sands of the cove.

We all enjoyed the walk along the road above the Benmore Power Station, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. What a magical picture, azure blue water and golden poplars.

Our baggage was left at Twizel, a hydro town with many empty houses. We travelled towards Mt. Cook along dry beef cattle country between two mountain ranges. Nine of the gang left us at an airport for a fixed wing flight over Mt. Cook, the glaciers and Milford Sound, while the remainder visited "The Hermitage", a hotel located near Mt. Cook, which was only partly visible. The hotel had an excellent visitor centre and tea room. The "fliers" had a wonderful experience, making it a highlight of their trip. After the usual high class dinner, Norm entertained at the piano.

9/4 Sunday We drove today through the MacKenzie country, dry and few animals visible. Tui described the history of the MacKenzie family and the importance of the Border Collie dog. Lake Tekapo was magnificent with great reflections of the surrounds. Visited the Church of the Good Shepherd at the lake where you could see the lake and mountain range behind. As if to reinforce the importance of the Border Collie there was a beautiful sculpture of this dog near the church, also with the lake as a backdrop. Following lunch and a street market at Geraldine we visited "The Tin Shed" which is an outlet for some woollen and souvenir bargains. We passed through Ashburton and Rolliston and so to Christchurch which has a population of 350,000. Tui gave us an orientation tour of the City, including Hagley Park, Cathedral Square and the Botanical Gardens before arriving at the hotel by 3.00 pm. It was the same hotel that we used on our way south, in fact quite a number of us retained the same rooms. The rest of the day was a free for all; some making use of the free bus around town, some walking and others just resting before the magnificent four course dinner. After dinner a number of the

party enjoyed Athol's "History of the West Coast Railways in Tasmania".

10/4 Monday A day of rest and relaxation. A day to do those things that you have always wanted to do in a strange city.

11/4 Tuesday Our final morning with last minute purchases and packing. Evelyn's passport arrived allowing her re-entry into Australia. Farewell to Athol who was staying on until Thursday, speeches, thank you and presents to Tui and Maxine. Drove to the International Antarctic Centre, near the airport, which is a show case of the New Zealand, USA and Italian research programs. It was fantastic. Information about the ozone layer, penguins, flora and fauna, a snow cave and experience icy wind chills. There was also an exciting ride on the Haggland amphibian vehicle which is used at Scott Base. Through the formalities at the airport and onto the 4.05 pm flight to Melbourne. The Cobb & Co. coach was waiting at Tullamarine and we were back in Bendigo by 7.35 pm.

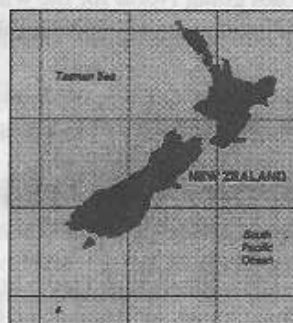
Sincere thanks to Arthur. It was a wonderful, friendly experience.

Norma Cook

I would like to thank all of the contributors, who were not necessarily Bendigo Probosc members, for their valued contributions to this report. Their assistance and support is very much appreciated.

The trip was an outstanding success and a tribute to Arthur's organizational skills. There were a couple of minor hiccups, the identical Evergreen shoulder bags providing some interesting identification parades, and the temporary loss of a pair of spectacles.

(ed)





TRIPS INFORMATION MAY 17th 2000

THURSDAY 22nd JUNE, 2000. "SPECIAL MILLENNIUM DINNER" at B.R.I.T.

VENUE: Bendigo Regional Institute of T.A.F.E. Hospitality Restaurant, McCrae Street, Bendigo.

TIME: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm Dinner. COST: \$20.00 per person, includes: Meal & Entertainment. Max: 100

A Special Dinner Menu, excellent entertainment arranged.

*** Cliff Binks is determined this "Special Millennium Dinner" will be special in all respects and be long remembered. Ring Cliff on 54435281 for bookings.

VACANCIES (4): OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS: At May 17th meeting please.

THURSDAY 20th & FRIDAY 21st JULY 2000. (Assembly time 10.45 am.)

CONDUCTED TOUR OF EMPIRE RUBBER - SMORGASBORD AT HOUSE OF KHONG

** A Special Outing arranged for those not going North for the winter

** Available to both members & ladies (Number limit Empire Rubber)

** EMPIRE RUBBER: (Maximum 20 on each day) A conducted Tour of Empire Rubber, one of Bendigo's premier industries, will prove to be enlightening and of interest to all. "A Great opportunity."

** Assemble 10.45 am at Empire Rubber, Powells Avenue, Bendigo.

** Tour from 11.00 am, 1 hour duration. *** Use own transport.

HOUSE OF KHONG- SMORGASBORD (12.30 pm each Day) (Maximum 20 plus)

** After Empire Rubber Tour, proceed to House of Khong at 200 Hargreaves Street, (near Blueline Office Supplies.)

** Superb Chinese Smorgasbord Lunch, 17 Courses, all you can eat.

TOTAL COST: \$9.00 per person. LIST: May 17th meeting. PAYMENT: June 21st.

