



PROBE

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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO

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Meets 3rd Wednesday each month - 10 am at Bendigo Club.

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A LIBRARIAN with an adventurous spirit belying the popular concept of her profession is our Guest Speaker today. She is PAM POWELL, children's Librarian at the Bendigo Library since 1980.

With a special penchant for the Himalayas, Pam has been overseas every year for the past eight years and, (would you guess?), her favourite reading is books relating to accounts of true adventure and mountaineering expeditions. In an obviously busy life she includes horse-riding, bike-touring, photography, spinning and patchwork amongst her favourite interests. Sports include hockey, netball and squash.

Plenty of material there for an excellent talk. Look forward to this one!

THE SPEAKER LAST MONTH dealt with a subject that is always with us, but is likely to loom largely in the coming months. He was BOB MORRALL and he is a Regional Officer for the Country Fire Authority. His subject? FIRE!

Since the infamous 'Ash Wednesday' fires, fire 'Prevention' has replaced fire 'Suppression' as the prime activity of the Authority; and for this purpose the State of Victoria has been divided into 7 zones with 25 regions. Main concerns are: Business Premises, Townships and Rural Areas.

***** REMINDER! MEETING TODAY, WEDNESDAY, 19th NOVEMBER AT 10 A.M. ***

THE SPEAKER LAST MONTH (Cont.) ... With the enormous growth this year it is obvious that to win the war against the fire demon Everyone must co-operate, with the business man, the householder and the farmer aware of the danger and taking whatever measures are needed.

Some observations:

Businesses must have extinguishers, fire hoses and, in many cases, sprinkler systems in good order.

Home construction, especially on Hobby farms is often unsuitable.

Houses must be cleared of inflammable material (including shrubs and trees that easily burn), for a distance around the buildings. Oddly, this advice is often resented by owners. Non-burning deciduous trees are good protection.

Water supplies are important, and, happily, rural properties around Bendigo are well catered for in this direction.

Summarising a general observation: Farmers do protect - Towns-people do not!

Harry Higginbotham introduced the speaker and Ian Carter rendered thanks for an informative and timely address.

SUPERLATIVES ARE OFTEN ODIUS and are best shunned if one is to avoid a charge of tedium. Suffice it to say, therefore, that those members and their Ladies who, through various circumstances missed the Stawell/Halls Gap trip were unfortunate indeed. Those fortunate ones, who filled two of the largest buses found the experience an exemplification of organisation, fellowship and enjoyment. From the meeting with Stawell Probians, through the Mini-World, the Gold Mine, a splendid luncheon, to the Halls Gap Wildflower show, no time was wasted. Confirming once more the value of belonging to a Probus Club!

From the Stawell Probus Club, past-president John Van Leeuwen was the organiser and president Ken Schultz led the small party of fellow-Probians. Our thanks go to all who assisted.

ON A SAD NOTE we record the death of a valued member, ARCH JOHNSON. Our deepest sympathy goes to wife, Carrie, and family in the loss of a loved husband and father. Vale, Arch.

WE WELCOME to the world of Probus new member LEN HALL. Len was for many years Lecturer in Aborigine Studies at the B.C.A.E. and his knowledge of the customs, history and habits of our black brothers is prodigious. Glad to have you aboard, Len! (For the little white book: HALL, Len (Merle), 10 Pleasant Vale Crescent. 433472).

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

BRING YOUR PIGGY BANK WITH YOU TODAY! Arthur would like payment for (a) Zoo Visit and (b) Christmas Dinner. No Credit Cards, thank you

ALL IS SHIP-SHAPE & BRISTOL-FASHION for the voyage on Eildon Weir, Feb. 19th with all berths fully-booked. A hopeful list of 16 waits anxiously to drop onto any cancellations. More later.



AT THE END OF WORLD WAR 1 Australia was visited by the dreaded Bubonic Plague (Spanish Flu) and it quickly spread throughout the land. In Melbourne, the Brighton Road State School was commandeered as a Hospital/Morgue and the students transferred to other schools in the area.

This was of particular significance to one of the students, Thomas Cooke, for at his new school, St. Kilda Park, he met another ten-year-old with whom he formed a firm friendship. This has lasted for more than 67 years, most of them spent as partners in a successful business venture. The other leg in the partnership is

ALBERT GEORGE COOPER

and this is his story.

Albert was born at Windsor (near St. Kilda Junction) in 1909 and was educated at St. Kilda Park School and South Melbourne Technical School. In 1923 he started work as Office Boy and messenger with an importing firm, Marcard, Lund & Co., for the princely sum of 12/6d per week, later to become Sales Rep and Manager of the Florist Supply section. In common with many businesses in the Great Depression the firm went into liquidation, but Albert was able to make a deal whereby he took over all stocks of the Florists Supply section.

By this time Tom was studying at the Melbourne University but Albert was able to convince him that a future lay in a business venture, and so, in 1932 the firm of Cooper and Cooke Pty. Ltd. was born, and today, 54 years down the track, it is still 'going strong'. More remarkable, both principals and their families remain firm friends!

The case history of Cooper and Cooke makes absorbing reading, but only an outline can be recorded here. From its status as an importing firm it was forced, because of sabre rattling in Europe at the time, to embrace the manufacture of goods no longer available from overseas. The biggest seller was porcelain wreaths in glass domes, for which there was a great demand. These were imported from Belgium and Germany and when the supply ceased, C & C set about making them here. They became the only manufacturer of these items in Australia, marketing between 2000 and 2500 per week.

War put an end to these activities and through the Dept. of Supply they switched to making electrical porcelain items for defence work; they became a 'protected industry' and a reserved occupation.

The war over, the firm diversified to domestic items, particularly porcelain jug bodies for the wholesalers in the electric jug field.

The constant expansion of the business meant a number of new and

ALBERT GEORGE COOPER (Cont.) ... larger locations and finally led to the transfer to Bendigo as a decentralised business, where it continues under the guidance of Managing Director, John Cooper (Albert's son) and daughter, Kay.

Married to wife, Norah, in 1941, the busy life of Albert Cooper has not prevented him from journeying to most countries in the world, many of them in the course of sporting activities. Describing his prowess as 'mediocre' he does take credit for being a good Administrator. Table tennis is his great obsession and as a member of the Victorian Table Tennis Association since 1939 and a Life Member since 1959 he has served terms as vice-president and president. His greatest achievement was the establishment of the worlds' largest Table Tennis Centre at Albert Park.

As Manager he led TT teams to Tokyo in 1956, Peking in 1961, Llub yana in 1965 and was a delegate to all ITTF meetings from 1956 to 196.. His greatest disappointment was losing the World Championship to Stockholm in 1967. Melbourne was unable to stage this event because of Visa problems associated with the Vietnam War.

A member of Rotary since 1963 he has belonged to clubs in Caulfield and Eaglehawk before joining his present club, Bendigo-Strathdale in 1983. He is a member of the Bendigo Club and past president of the Woodbury Bowls Club.

Most importantly, Albert Cooper is now a member of the Probus Club of Bendigo and probably his most important creation in Porcelain is the Probus mugs which we present with pride to our speakers and other worthy citizens!

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

A REMINDER IN RETROSPECT: MONDAY, 17th NOVEMBER (last Monday if you refer to the date on this Bulletin) is the day when Maryborough Probians and their Ladies visit Bendigo. PLEASE try to attend White Hills Gardens at about 11.45 a.m. for a barbeque (meat provided - reimbursement - a Ladies please bring a plate of salad). For catering purposes, please advise Arthur Eaton of your ability to attend (if you have not already done so). A folding table may help, if you have one available, and, of course, Eating Utensils!

TRIP TO MELBOURNE ZOO on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26th is fully booked. Cancellations only are available now. Time of departure is 8.00 a.m. from Bendigo Club. Cost: \$11 per head inc. bus and Zoo fees - BYO lunch or fast food available.

CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING is on DECEMBER 17th. Cost is \$14 per head including sandwiches/savouries with drinks at 7 p.m. for a 7.30 p.m. assault on the main meal. Limit of 120 means acceptances TODAY, please!