



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.

Our speaker at todays meeting is Doris Le Toille, an officer in Financial Information Services of the Dept. Veteran Affairs.

President Ralph is a man of many parts. He has been elected to the position of Deputy State President of the Independant Order of Rechabites. Here he is with his Official Collar. The Rechabites promote temperance and education in the use of alcohol, state wide including visitations to some 41 schools Bendigo.

As we approach Christmas and the New Year, we should remember the really happy person is the one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour!!

The Seasons Greetings to all our esteemed members.

Ed.

Our Guest Speaker, John Ward, upon being summoned to appear before our meeting, burst through a side door dragging the infamous ball and chain and dressed in prison garb.

He then requested in a most respectful manner, that our President give permission to remove the ball and chain - this granted, he went on to explain his ancestry.

John had a number of documents and photos, the most interesting being the listing of all those who came out in the First Fleet on 26th January 1788. There were 1487 souls in 11 ships of whom 759 were convicts - 568 male and 191 female. Seventeen died in Portsmouth Harbour and twenty three on the trip out to Australia, which took eight months and three weeks. John has traced his ancestors to the Norwich Castle which was used as a prison.

He based his research into his ancestry and his own life with the philosophy that "Truth shall make you free". He described his traumatic early life - his half brother not been accepted by his father and sent to a home at age 6. John finally met his half brother after 69½ years of yearning to met him.

As a descendant of the convicts, John feels that it can now be construed as elitist to have such an ancestry.

He was thanked for his entertaining talk by Ern Waterworth.

OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING

It was noted that we now have a zero waiting list for membership. If you have a friend who would enjoy Probus fellowship, please advise the Secretary or President.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Stan Gillam as a new member. He was introduced by Bill Clemens. Stan is well known to most of us in his capacity as former Traffic Control Officer of our City.

MEMBER PROFILE

There is a wealth of varied endeavours in the lifetime of our members and Ern Waterworth's story is no exception.

Born at Hawthorn on 13th July, 1921. Ern's parents were in business in Swan Street, Richmond and lived "above the shop". Shortly after the arrival of a brother (Dec'd), the family moved to Ormond where Ern attended State School, then Caulfield Tech. before entering the family business.

Ern played cricket, baseball and football and after leaving school, continued with both cricket and baseball, ultimately "tried out" with Richmond Cricket Club just prior to W.W.II

Attested for RAAF but faced with a long delay consented to do 90 day National Trainee Service which lasted almost 12 months. (Once in - no out). Eventually Ern trained as Aircrew at Somers I.T.S and Mallala S.F.T.S. Ern graduated as a Twin Engine Pilot and was then posted overseas to U.K. He did a refresher course at Banff Scotland and graduated as an Instructor and he then stayed in Flying Training Command until the end of the war.

On April 28, 1945 Ern married Audrey. He returned to Australia in January 1946 and in June, Audrey followed. Like many others, they settled down to family life and had two daughters, Anne (Queensland) and Brenda (Corack East).

Ern enrolled at Melbourne University (Commerce), got a job with Repatriation Department, started to build a house, became a VFL field umpire (for exercise) - almost all at the same time.

Eventually moving to Wycheproof to a General Store, Ern took an interest in some local activities as following - Wycheproof Public Hospital (President 2 years and Treasurer 5 years), RSL (President 28th District Board 5 years), Football, Lawn Bowls, Lawn Tennis and Foundation Member of the Lions Club.

In 1970, he moved to Melbourne to work for Dunlop Australia during its expansion program, in a managerial position.

In 1990, Ern moved to Bendigo where he joined the Bendigo East Bowling Club and Bendigo Probus.

GREATER BENDIGO AREA MYSTERY TRIP - 17 OCTOBER 1996.

On the beautiful morning of October 17, 48 of us placed ourselves in the hands of Cliff Binks for another of his well kept secret mystery trips.

Our first port o' call was the Albert Richardson Reserve at the foot of Victorian Hill and opposite the well known Goldfields Hotel. Here we met our guide for this location, James Lerk. James, well versed in the history of the Bendigo Mining industry, gave us a run down on this particular area and its past. He led us on a stroll up Victoria Hill, passing the old workings of the alluvial diggers of 1851 and later quartz mining claims.

Bellestear, a German miner of some repute, made history by defying opinions of the time by sinking deep shafts seeking quartz reefs - his foresight certainly paid off in the form of wealth and his home 'Fortuna'. Later his mine and 'Fortuna' was sold to George Lansell by his son who returned to Germany.

Lansell, on taking over, decided to sink the shaft further with outstanding financial success - this was the foundation of his considerable fortune and the reputation of the 180 Mine.

At the summit of the hill, poppet legs have been erected adjacent to the shaft of the Victoria Quartz mine over the deepest in the world - 1.25km deep. These legs have been erected for both commemorative and tourist purposes.

Close by is the old Central Nell Gwynne mine which was re-opened in the mining revival of the 1930's. The poppet legs are still in site.

On our return downhill, we passed the site of the Little 180 Mine and the 10 head battery erected during the mining revival.

After this most informative stroll, David had morning tea with us at the Goldfields Hotel. Background music was supplied by Anne Conway.

Enroute to our next 'surprise', we viewed Bendigo and its environs from Monkey Hill, once and still the cooing spot for young and old lovers - no "monkey business of course!!

The Chinese Museum and nearby completed gardens were our next 'surprise'. Here we had lunch Chinese style. Following this, under the guidance of Russell Jack, we visited the nearby completed gardens where chinese artisans and Europeans have been working together on this magnificent project. Russell, in his usual style, gave us a talk on the gardens and their future and the almost insurmountable problems he has had to contend with certain bodies.

Little did we expect that our next call would be the Airport. Here we met the City Councils Director of Economic Development who outlined long range plans for the development of the Airport. These mainly encompassed the economic utilisation of land adjacent to the runways or existing facilities. Due to our proximity to Melbourne, no great increase in air traffic is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

Here we had a 'lucky draw' and three of our voyagers - Nina Burch, May McLean and Arthur Cowling won a flight over Bendigo and district. No one was ill, all were ecstatic over the experience and a safe landing. We were fortunate in viewing an aircraft undergoing maintenance and the P3 Aircraft Gallery.

Our final call was at "Nanga Gnulle" Bed and Breakfast establishment of Peg and Rob Green. Here we sat down to a superb afternoon tea and an interesting talk by Rob on the history of the property. This is indeed a splendend venue for not only 'bed and breakfast', but functions of all types. It is a credit to its very

friendly owners.

Cliff, you have done it again! A splendid day, well organised and enjoyed by all.

Thank you very much!

Rupert Holland.

BOWLS

Ted Driscoll advises the following teams have been selected to play at Bendigo on Thursday 5th December.

J. Kelly, O. Watson, A. Stephens, W. Clemens (S)

J. Laidler, R. Holmes, L. Roy, V. Canobie (S)

Rose, V. Moyle, K. Gloster, E. Hogan (S)

A. Wilson, R. Downey, E. Driscoll, A. Eaton (S)

We hope our teams improve after having been beaten by Eaglehawk 62 - 47.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11TH - BENDIGO PROBUS CLUB ANNUAL XMAS DINNER
Venue: Bendigo Bowling Club, Barnard Street. Time 6.30 p.m. for meal at 7.00 p.m. Three course meal and entertainment. COST is \$24/person. No restriction on numbers. Current: 80. BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT must be finalised at Wednesday November 20 meeting.

TRIPS INFORMATION

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28TH - TRIP TO AVOCA/AMPHITHEATRE AREA. VISIT MT. LONARCH FINE CHINA AND OASIS LEAD CRYSTAL. (Max. 48)
Depart Crook Street Centre at 8.30 a.m. Home approx. 5.30 p.m. Witness skilled craftsmen at work. A leisurely and interesting day is assured. COST is \$25/person included coach fare, entrance fees, lunch, afternoon tea. **Bookings: Coach Full, Emergencies 3

FRIDAY DECEMBER 13TH, 1996 - ANNUAL XMAS TRIP TO MOAMA R.S.L. KANGAROO FLAT BUS LINES/SOUTHERN CROSS TRAVEL. Bookings: Max. 49 Current 49. ** Vacancies exist. Depart Crook Street Centre at 5.30 p.m. Arrive home approx. 12.30 a.m. COST is \$12/Person includes coach and Xmas Dinner. Southern Cross have again provided this much sought after, popular, low cost "Annual Trip". The last trip for 1996. PAYMENTS at November 20th meeting.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14TH, 1997 - TRIP TO SEYMOUR ALTERNATE FARMING EXPO AND RAILWAY HERITAGE CENTRE. Maximum 48. Depart at 8.15 a.m. Arrive home approx. 5.30 p.m. (Buy/Bring own lunch). COST is \$17/person includes coach fare and entry fees. "This trip is a beauty, offering great variety which is sure to satisfy the interests of all - don't miss out on this one!!
LISTING at November 20th Meeting. PAYMENTS at January 15th Meeting.

THURSDAY MARCH 20TH, 1997 - EVENING OUT IN GREATER BENDIGO. Depart Strath Community Centre, Crook Street at 5.30 p.m. and return 11.00 p.m. COST is \$20/person includes coach, two venues, dinner (3 course), Cabaret/Concert, Supper. A "Cliff Binks Special, quality entertainment and food assured" No restriction on numbers.
LISTING at November 20th Meeting. PAYMENTS at February 19th Meeting.

THURSDAY APRIL 17TH, 1997 - OUT OF TOWN MYSTERY TRIP by Cliff Binks. This is guaranteed to surpass previous mystery trips, it will both please and surprise. COST is \$32/person includes coach, morning and afternoon teas, lunch and 3 tours. Maximum 53. LISTING at January Meeting. PAYMENTS at February 19th Meeting.

FRIDAY MAY 9TH TO MONDAY MAY 12TH, 1997. (4 DAY/3 NIGHT) MURRAY RIVER CRUISE ON PASSENGER VESSEL "PROUD MARY" Maximum 35. Current bookings 35. Emergencies 10, further invited. COST is \$435/person twin share. (Based on 30 paying travellers) Includes road coach, Proud Mary Package and Murray Bridge Motor Inn (D.B.B.). Copies of Itineraries available. Insurance Papers for signature at meeting on Wednesday November 20. FINAL PAYMENT: March, 1997.

SUNSET BOULEVARD - REGENT THEATRE MELBOURNE - WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19TH. Depart Bendigo Post Office at 8.00 a.m. for 2.00 p.m. Matinee. COST: Normal 'A' Reserve - \$98/person. Pens. Conc. \$74/person. Bookings direct to Southern Cross Travel (5443 5133) Last day for bookings : Thursday 21/11/96. *Mention Probus Club of Bendigo.

**Important: to assist the "Collectors" please tender correct monies at time of payment. If by cheque, endorse payment for trip.

Arthur Eaton - Trips Organiser.

And finally the Committee has granted me 4 weeks annual leave hence NO bulletin in December. I wish to thank contributors for their copy on time, for printing and proof reading.

Ed.