



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



Published Monthly

Issue No. 183

21st November, 2001

Incorporation No. A0011248L

Annual Subscription \$20 Print Post Publication No PP 3491 06/00007

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A Special General meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month.

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The Guest Speaker at the November meeting will be Geoff Michell who will speak on matters concerning Bendigo water.

GUEST SPEAKER:

On October 17th our guest speaker was Rob Hunt the Managing Director of Bendigo Bank. Allan Dingle introduced the speaker and could refer back to 1966 as first encountering Rob, a student at White Hills Tech.

Rob left in 1968 to start a career in banking, first with the Commercial Bank. There he mastered the use of computers so that when in 1983 the Bendigo Bank decided to enter this field it was Rob who they appointed to implement the decision.

In 1990 Rob was appointed Managing Director of the bank.

The philosophy of Rob Hunt's approach to the business is to focus on the needs of the customer, of the community and of the district in which it exists. In contrast to the so-called hard sell approach which characterises the American view, the Bendigo Bank depends on the combined capability to achieve goals.

A sustainable community is built on social capital, which is not just financial capital but also intellectual, productive and human capital especial the young of the community.

Superannuation whether compulsory or voluntary absorbs 12-15% of earnings and of the sum raised only 1% flows back into regional and rural areas where it could be used to develop new enterprises.

Community bank is the answer to community problems, successful customers in a successful community, means successful bank, which will attract further success. To solve problems which seem insurmountable can be attacked and overcome by utilising the entire capability of the region, mobilising, involving and engaging the leadership and the

whole community. Quality information should be used in decision making.

In the wider sphere by reducing capital drain we could reduce world poverty and create environmentally sustainable enterprises.

The fourteen largest enterprises in the Bendigo area were contacted and the advantages of combining to form a buying base was pointed out. In one year the Bendigo business and commercial enterprises spend \$70 million in telecommunications and telephony. Pulling all this together the community could negotiate advantageous new contracts and form a powerful enterprise which could offer the ability to be a significant part of the new economy. It could create an environment for continual up-skilling and learning.

The fame of the Bendigo Bank has spread all over the country and also the rest of the world. The bank has been approached and received visitors from Canada, the UK and Asia, seeking advice about community banking which thinks about people first. A very deliberate plan is applied to the style of banking and the style of operation. A significant fact is that the shareholders of the bank are individuals not financial organisations.

Bob Chenery made the 'thank you' speech and the presentation, confusing everyone by repeated reference to Reg Hunt, who ever that is!

WOOP WOOP AND BACK

Thursday 18th October dawned bleak, overcast and ominous. Just after 8 o'clock some forty odd Probians and friends stood in the car park at the Senior Citizens Centre with umbrellas raised, waiting for the bus, which was late! This was not Arthur Eaton style. However, Arthur assured everybody that 'by the time we get to Harcourt the weather will be ok'.

And so it came to pass. We arrived at 'Bird Haven' off the Castlemaine road at Harcourt, and all were agreeably surprised at the layout and the array of Australian birds, neatly caged and suitably housed. All of this was the work of the owner Jack Hard and a real credit to him, not well known but worth a visit.

Back to Harcourt for a toilet stop and a welcome cup of tea provided by our Coach Captain Trevor, then all aboard and on to Castlemaine.

We drove into Woop Woop in clear weather, (Arthur had done it again). What a place! Nobody had ever heard of it. Construction and layout, art work and humour was abundant. All the work of Andy and Melva Graham. We were delightfully entertained. However a stroll through the grounds was rudely interrupted by a passing skiff which had the effect of driving us indoors a little early for what turned out to be a delightful BBQ lunch.

Again the 'eatery' was humourously decorated with rustic sayings, cartoons etc portrayed as murals.

This tourist attraction is only open by appointment eg. several car loads, or bus full etc. But well worth the visit on a nice sunny day. Arthur would have had a job to get his charges out of there. But today he reloads the bus easily as all were glad to get back into the 'warm'.

A short drive across Castlemaine to Paul Davies' Violin Factory. Members will recall the excellent address he gave us as recent Guest Speaker. The tour of his factory, following a brief introduction to how his business operated was followed by moving into that 'holy of holies' where he demonstrated how a few pieces of carefully selected wood, was turned into either a violin, viola, cello or bass fiddle.

From here, we changed factories to that of Merry Go Round Restorer (I use the word Merry Go Round because I can't spell Carousel). The one under restoration was said to have come from Mordialloc (World War II era). Hard to realise as it was spread over

the factory we were in and another, which we later visited. All of this was under the directions of a dedicated restorer, a man blessed with the same zeal as Paul Davies, both of whom were dramatically representative of the very thing Bob Hunt spoke about the day before.

Before we left Castlemaine, Arthur sprang another surprise by taking us to the 'Restorers Barn in the C.B.D. Another pleasant shock. What a place. Very difficult to describe.

"Paddy's Market", "Emporium", "Steptoe & Son", "Historical Museum", "Ironmongers". None of these terms really fitted. It was somewhere in between. Some of our party could not resist the temptation to make a purchase.

This place would truly be worth a visit as it is only a short distance from Bendigo.

The Restorers Barn is located at 129-133 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine.

A nice quiet return home. The rain had stopped. It looked nice and sunny through the bus window, but it was still very cold outside.

Safe home by 5 o'clockish and a big thank you to Arthur Eaton our tours and entertainment officer. Well done.

Ern Waterworth

FROM THE SECRETARY

At the last committee meeting we discussed the suggestion to change the club's scheduled starting and finishing meeting times. The suggestion is as follows:

Starting time: 9.45am (in lieu of 10am) Finish time: 11.45am (in lieu of 12 noon)

The reason for the suggested change is to allow more time for Probians who are members of other organisations such as Rotary, Legacy, bowls etc. a little more time to enable them to attend all their respective interests.

The committee requested this suggestion be published in the 'Probe' in order to give time for the suggestion to be discussed/resolved at the next (November) meeting.

BOWLS NOTES:

The game against Eaglehawk in October was cancelled due to rain which started in the early morning and increased later in the day. Our game against South Bendigo which was to be played on 20th November will now be on Tuesday the 27th November.

Teams for 2 bowl triples: South Bendigo Tuesday 27th November 9.30am for 10am start.

W. Winzar, D. O'Neill, H. Hesse

J. Kelly, E. Waterworth, J. Tate

C. Turner, R. Fitzgerald, A. Court

J. Laidler, F. O'Connell, M. Boyd

W. Redmond, W. Clemens, P. Bath

Res: R. Downey, R. Holmes, J. Rose, A. Wilson

TRIPS: Thursday 29th November 2001: Trip to Geelong

Depart: 7.30am Home: 5.30pm Aprox.

The Ford Discovery Centre: recognised as one of the most popular Geelong attractions, will be of interest to all (conducted tours).

The Ford Factory: An opportunity to see a high technology automotive manufacturing plant in operation. View the Engine Stamping Plant, panel sub assemblies, see the robotic operations, again this will be of interest to all. (Conducted tours).

****Dress:** Occupational Health & Safety requirements: Long pants, long sleeved shirts, and covered footwear essential.

Lunch: For group at Smorgies on Pier, as much as you can eat, with free tea/coffee, soft drink or wine.

Cost: Coach, admission fees, Smorgies lunch. \$29.00/person (based on 40)

Maximum:(49) Current:(50) Payments: At Wednesday 21st November meeting please



PROBUS CLUB XMAS LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Will again be held at the Burnett Lounge (previously the Teachers College) in Osborne Street. Report at 12 noon for 12.30pm luncheon consisting of a Hot Carvery and Sweets. Widows of members and friends of Probus welcome. A most enjoyable outing is assured. **Cost:** \$20.00 per person **Payments:** At 21st November Meeting please.

Merry Christmas



PROBUS CLUB OF DENILQUIN - FRIENDSHIP DAY

****At Denilquin R.S.L. Club **Friday March 19th 2002**

Morning tea: 10.00am **Luncheon:** 12 noon

Guest speaker Fr. Chris Riley (Street Kids Sydney) ****Concert items ** Town Tour**

Cost Day Portion: Morning tea, lunch, concert \$20.00 per person if we take a coach (based on 40) and attend the day activities only. **Additional cost:** \$17.50 per person

**** A 'Free Social Evening'** at R.S.L. Club with well known guest entertainer Peter Horan 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

****For those who may like to stay overnight, accommodation listing of Motels available.**

****Expressions of interest invited at 21st November meeting**

Tours Organiser: Arthur 5443 9162

Welcome to: John Hardy, former President of the Coolangatta-Tweed Heads inc. Probus Club. John comes to our club with strong recommendations from his former club and incidentally has helped our membership to top 100 again. We look forward to his participation in the happy fellowship experienced at our club and trust that he will quickly settle in to his new club.

SICK LIST:

It was great to see Gordon Rayson, Clark Jeffrey, Bill Jacka and Arthur Morris at our October meeting. Clive Miller is recovering from his recent illness but is to return to the hospital in a few weeks time hopefully to receive some final treatment to cure his problems and we look forward to his early return to home and the club. Arthur Eaton is home again, well on the way to recovery, after a hospital stay for an operation.

QUIZ:

*'Probe' got it wrong regarding the card balance problem:
Of the three see-saw balances;
the lowest one should show five clubs not four.*

Do you know your metrication?.....

Ten millipedes = one centipede

Quizzzz..... Why did the bees go on strike?
Because they wanted more honey and shorter flowers.

Bob
Secretary: ~~Reg~~ Chenery

