



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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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 Bendigo Club.

All correspondence to the Secretary, 49 Emmett Street, Golden Square, 3555.

GUEST SPEAKER at the October meeting will be Chief Petty Officer Donald Walker (Ret) who was a Gunnery Instructor in the Royal Australian Navy.

President Gordon opened the September Meeting with the "odd" joke or two and a report on the progress of some members who had been unwell. The comments re Alby Cooper's recent "plumbing job" are best left to the imagination. As anticipated in the September issue JACK ROSE was inducted to membership at our last meeting. Jack was introduced to members by CLIFF BINKS and welcomed and pinned by President Gordon. Gordon obviously needs practice at this exercise - the process of pinning seemed to take forever. Guest Speaker at the September Meeting was Phee Broadway - Manager of the Castlemaine State Festival - which may be best described as a mini Salzburg Festival. Phee's opening remarks related to the conduct of the first festival in 1976. This festival resulted from the foresight of a Melbourne businessman - Mr. B.R. Segan - who, on travelling through Castlemaine, noted a number of characteristics that he believed would make it suitable for such a project. The resultant committee that produced the 1976 Festival faced a deal of scepticism from the local community, but despite this, this first effort was a huge success. The Castlemaine State Festival is now conducted biennially and is controlled by a Manager who is responsible to two committees. The first of these is under the Chairmanship of Mr. Segan and is responsible for much of the artistic input that is the hallmark of this Festival.

The second Committee is based in Castlemaine and is far more concerned with the physical management of the Festival and liaison with the local community and local business sponsorship.

The success of the Festival was attributed to three factors - the vision that selected Castlemaine as the centre (character and proximity to audiences), the ideas that produce new quality acts for festivals and the thorough organization that goes into each production. One measure of the success of the 1988 Festival is the attendance figures. Ticket Sales for performances totalled 12,903, 25,500 attended exhibitions and 3,500 school children attended. Truly remarkable figures when one considers the population. Financially the Festival relies heavily on sponsorship. Main current sponsors are the Ministry of the Arts, The Stoneman Foundation, Bendigo Building Society and Vic Health. Sponsorship and increasing Box Office receipts (\$107,000 in 1988) have allowed for an increase in paid staff to the point where the committees have been able to appoint their first Technical Director for 1990. Phee concluded her remarks with reference to some of the near catastrophes that had occurred over the years. These included stories about the removal of plastic from 1,000 chairs - landing a planeload of performers at a field where parachuting was being practised - find that the "Festival Wine" had not been supplied as ordered and grand piano shifting. All good fun if its not your problem. Phee was introduced by Ken Coles and ably thanked by Arthur Eaton, who presented her with the usual token of appreciation.

TRIPS AND ENTERTAINMENT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 23RD : TRIP TO DANDENONGS-OLINDA RHODODENDRON GARDENS AND WILLIAM RICKETTS SANCTUARY. Cost: \$16.00 per Person, Includes: Coach Fare and entrance to both attractions. Suggest: Take own Picnic Lunch, thermos, etc. Coach Capacity (48), currently full. Emergencies : (28) Payments: to be finalised at today's meeting please. Depart: 7.30 a.m. From: Strath Community Centre, Crook Street.

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL : NOVEMBER 2ND. TO 11TH.

"A mini Salzburg" - An Art's Festival, a great variety of attractions over the week. Refer to Programs handed out at September Meeting, (a few still available), perhaps you may be able to arrange car loads for attractions of mutual interest.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27TH., WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28TH., THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29TH. (3 days/2 nights). TRIP TO GEELONG AREA: Geelong is the gateway to Australia's most spectacular coastal and rural scenery. COST: \$150.00/Person Includes: Coach Fare, Accommodation, D.B.B., plus entry fees. Especially designed for those who prefer a shorter trip: DAY 1: Bendigo to Geelong and sightseeing. DAY 2: Geelong to Apollo Bay and return to Geelong (excellent scenery, beautiful coastline) DAY 3: Geelong to Port Arlington, St. Leonards, Point Lonsdale areas and return to Bendigo.

Accommodation: D.B.B. at Beuna Vista Motor Inn, Geelong, hosts; Errin & John Lidgerwood (including concert hour and "Songs of Old" with John. Coach Capacity: (48). Current Bookings : (42) *****VACANCIES EXIST***** PAYMENTS: (To be made direct to Houlden's Tours) Deposit: \$20.00 with booking, Final Payments October, 27th.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14TH.: "XMAS TRIP TO RICH RIVER WITH HOULDEN'S
"XMAS DINNER": consisting of 3 course meal. Depart: Strathdale
Community Centre, Crook Street, 5.30 p.m. (Estimate arrive home
12.30 a.m.) Cost: \$6.00/person. Coach Capacity (49) LISTING TABLED
TODAY (Payment November).

TUESDAY DECEMBER 18TH. "ANNUAL PROBUS DINNER" AT BENDIGO CLUB
Pre Dinner Drinks at 6.30 p.m. Cost: estimate \$19 to \$20/person.
Further details at today's meeting. Listing: will be tabled today.
Payments: at November meeting.

APRIL 18TH. TO 21ST. 1991 : " SOUTH PACIFIC RENDEZVOUS-BAROSSA
VALLEY" 4 days/3 nights : Cost: \$255/person. Includes: Coach fare.
Accommodation: D.B.B., Entry Bendigo Ladies Probus running trip.
VACANCIES : Contact Gwen Bloomfield (39 5399).

EXTRACT FROM ISSUE No. 4 OF AUGUST, 1985

"In a brief but informative description of the 'University of the
Third Age' (U3A) the article describes it as composed of people
who have gained a lifetime of experience and expertise, joining
in an exchange of knowledge." (What took us so long? - Ed.)

BENDIGO-GOSFORD TOUR After a send-off by sleepwalking President
Gordon and Secretary Bob, tour organiser Arthur, we were introduced
to our coach captain, John Rainbow by tour leader Ray. Good
fellowship was present and grew as each day passed. Joe and Pat
joined us at Benalla. The country-side was green as we moved onward
via Albury, Holbrook, Gundagai, Yass to Centre Town Lagoon Motel
Goulburn, hospitality was excellent. The almost perfect road surface
from Goulburn allowed us to glide through surrounding hills covered
by gums, wattles, picturesque homes. Deep streams penetrated rocky
gorges which were bridged by the highway. The Newcastle freeway,
four lanes of smooth roadway passed through man made gorges with
high, blasted and hewn walls cut through the top of the ranges.
Views of the rugged landscape and flashes of the Hawkesbury River
enthralled us and made us realise the colossal task faced by the
early explorers and the achievement of Blaxland, Wentworth and
Lawson, who finally succeeded. At West Gosford we were welcomed
to the Galaxy Motel owned by R.S.L. Club. There we were given superb
accommodation, meals and use of club facilities. The Henry Kendall
cottage revived many old memories as we viewed articles similar
to those of our younger days.

Jack Hinch, R.S.L. Club gave directions and guided us along the
shores of beautiful Brisbane Waters. We marvelled that people set
their homes on the steep hillsides. To Pt. Clare-homes here to
\$400,000, past Trustcott Station-folk commute to Sydney 1 hour
10 minutes. Woy Woy-Broken Bay, past the entrance to Brisbane
Waters, Ettalong Beach, Rip Bridge. We circled St. Hubert's Island,
then took the high road to Terrigal-Jap. hotel-\$280 each a night.
Energetic folk climbed the "Skillion"-Bateau Bay. Lunch at Tuggerah
R.S.L. Club-across the entrance bridge-Norah Head. We viewed Edward
Hargreaves' Cottage built 1857 from grant for discovering gold at

Bathurst (£15,000) and small pensioners' cottages known as "God's Waiting Rooms". Mrs. Golding, Secretary Elderly Citizens Club welcomed us. The Club has 5,000 members, council owns the buildings, run by volunteers and financed by "Housie". Tuggerah Probus Club members turned out in force to welcome us and join us for afternoon tea. The Burbank Azalea Nursery was absolutely beautiful. Old Sydney Town, a replica of the first settlement re-enacts episodes from early settlement days. Soldiers parade, punish, flog and arrange tasks for chain gangs. Costumes 1700-1800's. This was an interesting and varied experience. Our visit to the Look-out over Brisbane Waters revealed many lovely sights. The Australian Reptile Park developed by Eric Worrell was an experience to remember. Many touched the python, others watched snakes being milked of venom. A funnel-web spider was displayed, "Eric" the 15 foot salt water crocodile swallowed a fowl. The platypus was active but shy. The wombat used in Country Practice was in residence. Huge numbers of snakes, lizards, spiders were displayed. A quick stop in Gosford shopping area pleased some ladies. We boarded the Hawkesbury Explorer for the mail run. The river is enchanting, wide water-ways guarded by towering cliffs and rocky crags of sandstone reach sky-wards. Small cottages nestled along the foreshore. The river, under various names, stretches for 470 kms., 67 kms. being tidal. Many people depend on water travel and the mail boat for supplies. The tour was a restful experience. Askania Park "The Forest of Tranquility" was a natural area of well cared for forest. Prepared tracks, named trees made it a place of spectacular walks. Entering Sydney we crossed The Harbour Bridge. Views were clear and beautiful. "The Rocks", aged buildings and Garrison Church, 1848. Back under the bridge to Darling Harbour. We visited the Exhibition area, shops and Chinese Garden. From the Haymarket the Monorail took us to City Centre Park. Some went to Queen Victoria Building recently renovated. Others to Centre Point Sydney Tower. Highest building in southern hemisphere 1000' or 304.8m, 3 double decker lifts reach top in 40 seconds. Sydney lay at our feet, priceless views on all sides. At Blackheath we stayed in Redleaf Lodge Motel another excellent stop. Megalong Valley-the Boarshead Rock then to Katoomba Scenic Railway and Skyway Cable complex. Awe inspiring views of the Jamison Valley including "The Three Sisters". From the Look-out a sheer drop for hundreds of feet to the trees below. Homeward bound via Lithgow, deep gorges and steep hills were encountered - Victoria Pass. Much talk and happy laughter held our interest. Bathurst, Cowra and Young, a cherry district were passed. Roads under repair from flood damage slowed the bus. Ray thanked all for co-operating to make our tour such a success. Cyril McDonald expressed our thanks to Ray and Bob and asked John Rainbow to convey our thanks to Houldens for the tour they had promoted in conjunction with Arthur. Special thanks were offered to John for his patience, good driving and readiness to help. A Great Tour.