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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.

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The Speaker at the October Meeting will be our own Arthur Cowling, who last year was World President of the Y' smens Association, and is a much travelled man. His talk is entitled "Hats I have worn".

We had an innovation at the September Meeting, wives and partners were invited to attend, then afterwards we went to Sizzlers for lunch.

Our Speaker for the meeting, Doone Robertson, who was introduced by Ray Downey, gave us an enthralling talk about the International Red Cross.

The germ of the movement was the experience of a young Swiss Banker, Henri Dunant, who accidentally found himself on the battlefield of Solferino in 1859. He was the first to champion the neutrality of the sick and wounded in wartime. He was instrumental in forming a committee which organised an international conference in Geneva in 1863. At the request of Dunant's committee the Swiss Federal Council convened a diplomatic conference in Geneva in 1864, which led to the first Geneva Convention, conferring protection on the wounded and on the medical and nursing personnel and volunteers attached to relief organisations.

The emblem chosen, in honour of the Swiss nation, was a red cross on a white background; which is the reverse of the Swiss national flag. In Moslem countries a red crescent is recognised instead.

The Convention was extended, in 1899, to the victims of war at sea, to prisoners of war in 1929, and to civilian victims of war in 1949.

Henri Dunant devoted so much time and effort to the organisation that he was bankrupted and obliged to resign his honorary position in the movement. In 1901, though, he was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize.

The organisation, now the International Committee of the Red Cross, has the following rôles.

- \* Protection of Prisoners of War.
- \* Tracing missing persons in war.
- \* Relief for civilians.
- \* Medical activities.
- \* Dissemination of the International Humanitarian Law.

The changes which have taken place in the nature of the impact of war is shown by the following statistics. The impact on civilians in the Great War of 1914-8 was 10%; in World War II it had increased to 50%, and in Vietnam it was 70%.

The work of the Red Cross goes on today, where ever there is the need, in Yugoslavia, in Cambodia, in Somalia.

Maurice Pease thanked the Speaker for an enthralling talk and made the usual presentation.

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#### **TRIP TO THE TULIP FESTIVAL - SYLVAN**

Springtime in the Dandenongs is a riot of scent and colour; nature is fairly bursting out of the chocolate coloured soil.

In particular it is Tulip Time on the eastern slopes of the hills. Here Tasselaar's tulip farm attracts visitors not only from Victoria, but from the whole world. This is Holland Down Under and this is where we went on the latest excursion.

Tens of thousands of tulips are planted throughout the gardens, and also hyacinths, daffodils and other bulbs, all blooming in a succession of colour throughout the tulip festival. Every possible colour of tulip can be seen here; every colour of the rainbow can be seen, in single colours and parti-coloured styles.

Plastic "tunnel" houses can be seen on the farm. They are used to protect the flowers from the heavy rains and are extensively used in the flower industry.

As well as the tulips and other bulbs there is an exhibition of proteas. This features the "best in Proteas". The proteas are available for purchase as are bulbs and freshly cut flowers.

We returned to Bendigo laden with bulbs, proteas, flowers after a most pleasant outing. Everyone enjoyed it, even those like me who have black thumbs rather than green fingers.

### TRIPS INFORMATION

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 28TH, 1993 - TRIP TO SOVEREIGN HILL, BALLARAT (Maximum 48); Current 48. - \*\*\*\* Emergencies required.**

An excellent offer has been received from "Sovereign Hill". \$11.00 per person, all inclusive as following : Entry to Sovereign Hill, Guided tour of Voyage to Discovery, Entry to Gold Museum, Complimentary Coach ride, lunch which includes: soup, sandwiches, fresh baked apple pie, tea or coffee.

\*\*\* (Normally approx. \$25 per person). **TOTAL COST:** Coach Fare plus Sovereign Hill (as above) : \$20 per person. **PAYMENTS:** to be finalised at October Meeting. **EMERGENCIES REQUIRED.** Depart: 8.15 a.m. and arrive home approx 5.30 p.m. Open to Brobus Friends.

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25TH - TRIP TO MELBOURNE - SENSOR VISION THEATRE AT SOUTHGATE AND BOAT TRIP UP YARRA RIVER.** Maximum: 48. Depart at 7.45 a.m. and arrive home 6.00 p.m.

The AustraliaGate SensorVision Theatre is Australia's first multi-sensory theatre, situated in the popular SouthGate Arts and Leisure precinct on the south bank of the Yarra. "Experience Australia" is a journey over 50,000 years of our continent, it is an entertaining and spectacular experience for all Australians.

At SouthGate Complex there is much to see and explore, it offers a wide range of foods at affordable prices. Or, if you prefer take a picnic lunch and sit on the promenade overlooking the Yarra. After lunch we take a River Cruise up Yarra, view the scenic river gardens, pass our famous sporting venues and one of the world's great botanic gardens.

The cost is \$22.50 per person which includes coach, theatre and cruise. Payments at October Meeting please. **\*\*Current bookings 78.** (Probus Club has to pay in full prior to trip)

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 17TH - ANNUAL XMAS TRIP TO RICH RIVER - XMAS DINNER INCLUDED.** Depart at 5.45 p.m. (Maximum to travel 49).

Southern Cross Tours, formerly Houldens, have again offered this much sought after, popular, low cost, final trip for 1993. Departure from Strath Community Centre, Crook Street at 5.45 p.m. LISTING TO BE TABLED AT OCTOBER MEETING. Payment - November. The cost is \$6.00 per person which includes coach fare and Xmas dinner. \*\*\*This is a beauty and will quickly fill\*\*\*\*\*

**TRIP OF THE YEAR FOR 1994 - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH TO SEPTEMBER 24TH 1994.** 7 Days and 6 Nights. Based on Wagga 5 nights and Canberra 1 night; \*Timed to co-incide with the Canberra Floriade Festival\*

The cost is \$420 per person which includes coach fare, accommodation D.B.B., morning and afternoon teas and entry fees.

**Sun:** To Wagga **Mon:** Tours Wagga area **Tues:** to Canberra (o/night Canberra) **Wed:** Tours Canberra and return to Wagga **Thurs:** Tour to either Temora or Cowra area **Fri:** Tour to Narrandera/Leeton **Sat:** Depart Wagga for home. **A beauty - watch for the listing.** Will table a listing at the November Meeting.

Arthur Eaton  
Tours Liason.

#### CLUB ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY DINNER

Will be held on THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER (Remember no normal meeting in December). Time 6.30 p.m. for pre-dinner drinks; and 7 p.m. for the dinner. Venue at the Bendigo Club. It is anticipated costs will be only marginally more than last year; final costing will be announced when available. A booking list will be tabled at October meeting - payment at the November meeting please. If you cannot be at these monthly meetings, please book by phone to Secretary Bob (42 4546) as soon as possible.

**FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER** - Reminder for Committee Members and delegates - the Combined Probuss Clubs Committees' Meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. at the Kangaroo Flat Senior Citizens Clubrooms, Lockwood Road, Kangaroo Flat. (Meeting to be hosted by Kangaroo Flat Probuss).

**MEMBERSHIP BOOKLETS (Issued June 93)** - If you have not yet received your copy please ask Secretary Bob.

**MEMBERS PROFILE****JOHN McCOY**

John was born at Sunshine, his late Father being the Vicar and who in turn grew up in the Boort area, moving to Melbourne in his 'teens. Nothing is known of any possible connection with other McCoys in Northern Victoria. John's Mother was Mary (Lipscomb), a great-niece of the well known George Lansell (Senior) of Bendigo. John cannot claim any other link with the Lansell family.

During World War I, John's father did locum work, relieving other clergy with fewer family responsibilities, who were serving overseas with the forces. In this period the family moved to Deniliquin, Maldon and Edenhope.

Schooling - John commenced school at Edenhope and completed his primary education at Koroit where the family had moved meanwhile. When his father received notice of a further transfer to Donald John was sent as a boarder to Ivanhoe Grammar School, where he completed his secondary education.

On leaving school, John was appointed to the Staff of the Bank of New South Wales, stationed at Inglewood and able to live at home for the first year, his parents having again changed parishes. The following year John was transferred to Lockington where he was stationed for some 4 years, before being appointed as teller at Dandenong. Dandenong was then a largish country town, its only claim to being part of the metropolitan area being that the electric train terminated there. It was separated by approx. 9 miles of mainly rural land from the nearest suburb (Oakleigh). Telephone calls between Dandenong and Melbourne were charged for at "trunk" rates.

From Dandenong he was transferred to Northcote, another relatively new branch of the Bank, which was using the period following the Depression to make a belated entry into Victoria, where it had previously had very little representation when compared with other States.

In 1938 he was again transferred, this time back to Elmore. Many people will know that Elmore, whilst a solid agricultural and grazing area, was even then suffering as a town because of it's proximity to other larger centres, notably Bendigo and Rochester, with the sealing of the roads and growing popularity of Motor Transport.

With the outbreak of war, John enlisted in the R.A.A.F. and as he was too old for pilot training, and had a considerable interest in engines and other things mechanical, sought entry as a technical trainee. After completing his course at the engineering school, he was accepted as a Fitter 2E and kept at the school as an instructor. He served there until the final year of the war when he was transferred to Parkes.

During the war he married Vivien Chambers who he had known for many years, her father having been Manager of the Bank's Lockington branch during the latter part of John's service there. John and Viv have two children and four grandchildren. They celebrated their Golden Wedding last year.

After the war the family continued its nomadic existence John being stationed progressively at Finley, Lockington (again), Beechworth, Kyneton and Colac before being appointed Manager at Edenhope. On the shores of Lake Wallace in far western Victoria, Edenhope is an attractive place, home of "Henley on Lake Wallace" and other water sports. It is a solid grazing district, with many well established families, but rising land prices, poor returns for wool, coupled with distance from markets and from sources of supplies tended to make farming unprofitable for newcomers to the district.

His final appointment with the Bank was Kerang. Here the family spent a happy three years until personal circumstances prompted his early retirement and move to Bendigo.

In the 56 years of his life prior to retirement, John spent a maximum of 4 years in any one place - not including two stints of 4 years each at Edenhope and Lockington; hence the reference to a nomadic existence.

John's other interests include the Anglican Church, he has been a vestryman in various parishes for most of his married life. He was a member of St Laurence Court Board of Management for approx. 15 years before retiring in 1988. He has been a keen bowler since joining Kyneton Club in 1966 and a member of South Bendigo Club since coming to this city. He still enjoys his pennant bowls. On the administrative side, John is a past president of the Club and has filled most offices there in during his long association with it. He was elected a Life Member some years ago.

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