



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probuss Club of Bendigo Inc.



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A Special General Meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00 am at the Masonic Centre, Melvor Road, Bendigo.

All correspondence to be addressed to The Secretary, P.O. Box 1217, Bendigo, 3552.

The guest speaker for today's meeting is Robyn Vella of Loddon Discovery Tours. Robyn is from Wedderburn.



Last month's speaker was Joan Smith, Public Education Coordinator for the Guide Dog Association of Victoria. Joan was introduced by President Ern Waterworth and spoke on the way her guide dogs, have changed her life since she became blind some 17 years ago.

She told us first about the Guide Dog Association that is a non-profit organisation relying on the public of Victoria for the majority of its funding.

All of the services they provide to visually impaired people are completely free of charge. These services include living-in facilities while the client undergoes training with their dog. The association also provides training for clients who have suffered some trauma, such as a stroke or car accident, which has prevented the messages getting from the eyes to the brain. Blindness causes a person to lose confidence and self-esteem and these can only be restored by the independence given by a guide dog.

The Centre breeds and trains their own puppies. From the age of 6 to 8 weeks they are given to puppy walking families who socialise them for 12 months. This gives them experience in traffic, both human and vehicular, before they are returned to the Centre for assessment. This assessment takes about a week and enables the trainer to see whether the dog will make a good guide dog. The bottom line for a guide dog is the client's safety, so any trait evident during the training period that could compromise that safety results in the dog being rejected for that work. The rejects can be

found in hospitals as "pets for therapy" where they provide an interest for patients, sometimes even going home with a patient, some of the more active ones become detector dogs while others are reclassified and are sold. There is a long waiting list for these animals.

The training period last about 5 months before the dog is matched to a client who lives in motel style accommodation at the Centre for 4 weeks while they train with the dog. The instructor then accompanies the client and dog home for a week while they settle in.

The dogs are trained to "find" on voice command -- find the lift, find the door on right or left, find the counter, find the buttons or find the stairs, which makes them pretty incredible.

When a dog is in harness he is working he knows it, and it is imperative that nobody talks to, or pats the dog at this time. Once the harness is removed he becomes a normal dog again.

Joan spoke then of personal experiences, particularly when her husband was in hospital. Her dog learnt the layout of the hospital in 24 hours and could take Joan to the telephone, distinguishing between public and taxi, toilet and even searched the casualty ward until Joan's husband was located.

The average working life of a guide dog is between 10 and 12 years with a yearly assessment. A dog that has a problem that cannot be rectified is immediately retired.

Jock Crook thanked Joan for her inspirational talk and made the usual presentation.

VALE

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of our esteemed member, Noel Barningham, who died recently. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Ila.

SICK LIST

There are a number of our members who are not in the best of health and we hope that they are on the improve.

INDUCTIONS

Ted Trewartha, introduced by Arthur Eaton, and Colin Turner, introduced by Ken Gloster, were inducted into the Club. We wish them well in their association with us.

PROBUS DIRECTORY

A directory of the Probus Clubs of Australia is available for perusal with either the President or the Secretary. Anyone contemplating travel to other parts of Australia may like to make themselves familiar with the location of sister clubs.

This information can be of considerable value if you are travelling as it will give you a point of contact.

ACTIVITIES

PROBUS BOWLS

Bendigo Probus teams versus Eaglehawk on Tuesday, 26th October, 1999.

J.Laidler	C.Turner	A.Eaton	M.Boyd
E.Trewartha	E.Waterworth	W.Clemens	H.Hesse
R.Holland	A.Court	E.Driscoll	A.Stephens
A.Wilson	W.Clarke	R.Fitzgerald	F.O'Connell

Assemble at Eaglehawk Bowling Club at 9.30 am for a 10.00 am start. If unable to play please notify Bill Clemens A.S.A.P. on 54470562.

Bowls will be played against Maryborough, at Maryborough, on Monday, 15th November, 1999. Two teams are required. Would interested bowlers please contact Bill.



REPORT

Friday, September 24, saw a coach load of Bendigo Probians and friends of Probus descend on the National Rhododendron Gardens run by Parks, Victoria, and Tesselaar's Tulip Festival in the Dandenong Ranges.

First stop was the Rhododendron Gardens comprising 43 hectares of botanical delights including 15,000 Rhododendrons, 12,000 Azaleas, 3,000 Camellias, 250,000 Daffodils, more than 1,000 Hydrangeas as well as other stunning and unusual plant species.

The gardens were established in 1961 by the Australian Rhododendron Society and were later on taken over by Parks Victoria.

There are approximately 4.5 kms. of walking track through the gardens, although with the time available, only the fittest would see all of the nooks and crannies. For those who could squeeze onto the "Garden Explorer", a converted Land Cruiser with 2 carriages trailing behind, the flowers and shrubs could be seen in relative comfort. This tour took 25 minutes and was driven by Barbara who provided a friendly and informative narrative.

After our visit to the Gardens there was time for a quick cuppa and biscuit before setting off for Tesselaar's.

From someone who has some knowledge of handling large vehicles I can appreciate the effort required in turning a large bus in limited space, but we soon arrived at the Tulip Farm. We then had lunch before investigating what was on offer.

Talk about tip-toe through the tulips, Tiny Tim would have been in his element. Row upon row of beautiful tulips in every possible colour for a tulip greets you as you alight from the bus. Tens of thousands of bulbs are planted throughout the gardens, all blooming in a succession of colour for the festival. Some flowers are protected by plastic "tunnel" houses while the bulk are in garden beds with their heads nodding gently in the light breeze. Cut flowers, proteas and bulbs were available for purchase and a number of these made their way onto the bus. There was no truth to the rumour that free flowers were available to seniors.

We left Silvan at about 3.30 pm and travelled home via Whittlesea and Kilmore arriving in Bendigo at the appointed time.

Thanks again ,Arthur, for an interesting, colourful and feature packed day.



PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO; TRIPS INFORMATION.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 28th: TRIP TO GEELONG. Max: (49) Current (49)

Depart Bendigo: 7.45 am from Strath Community Ctre Crook St. Home:

Approx 5.45 pm. Visits to: The National Wool Museum (winner of 6 tourism awards,) a wealth of interest for all here.

Ford Discovery Ctre: A new, highly acclaimed attraction, Cars from the T Model to latest models hot off production line.

LUNCH: Either buy or take Picnic Lunch. On to the Cunningham Pier area, view the bollard sculptures. COST: \$25/Person, includes: Coach fare & Entry Fees.

*** Emergencies required.

OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS: Please finalise at Meeting Wed. 20th October

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25th, 1999: TRIP TO MELBOURNE. Maximum: (49)

IMAX THEATRE, IMMIGRATION MUSEUM & OR CITY LINK. Current: (45)

*** (4) Vacancies *** I seek your support to fill, friends of Probians welcome.

Depart: Bendigo: Approx 8.00 am. Arrive Home: Approx: 5.45 pm

IMAX THEATRE: State of Art technology, world's biggest screen,

six stories high, spectacular viewing, excellent films. 2D & 3D

Excellent Group Price: (15 - 30) \$2420.00; (30 - 37) \$2390.00;

LUNCH: Buy or bring your own. COST: \$27.00 /person, includes: Coach Fare & Entries.

PAYMENTS: At October 20th meeting

IMMIGRATION MUSEUM: Melbourne's latest. Immigration in Victoria

from early 1800's to present day. Dynamic array of exhibitions.

Trace your early family history !!

CITY LINK: Melbourne's jewel. "A pleasant interest packed trip is assured - a beauty."

TRIP OF THE YEAR - NEW ZEALAND - WED MARCH 29,-TUE APRIL 11, 2000

EVERGREEN TOURS "14 DAY CLASSIC NEW ZEALAND"- NTH & SOUTH ISLANDS

MAXIMUM: (50) CURRENT BOOKINGS: (55) Immediate vacancy: 1 Gent to share with (1) Gent.

Over (37) passengers: price will decrease. Price represents a saving of approx \$740/ person from original brochure price.

Price Includes: Transport Bendigo-Tullamarine-Bendigo, Air Fares, Accommodation/ Four Star: Dinner, Bed, Breakfasts, Tours & Entrance Fees Aust. Airport Departure Tax & Trans Alpine Rail also included.

PASSPORTS: Required. For information & "renewals," phone 13 1232

"New" Bdgo P.O. 5443 0755 Cost: \$126.00 each, valid for 10 years.

INSURANCE: Discounted Group Insurance. Payments at Nov 17 meeting.

** BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DUE: January 29th, 2000, details later.

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO - ANNUAL XMAS DINNER - BURNETT LOUNGE - LATROBE UNIVERSITY. WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15th. 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm

Pre Dinner Drinks: In Lounge (supplied by Club) White Wine & or Orange Juice.

All other: B.Y.O. either for pre-Dinner or during Dinner.

MEAL: Three Courses (details later). Self serve Tea/Coffee. Xmas Cake. All tables seat 10.

Ample parking Osborne St. entrance.

COST: \$22.00/head. LIST: Meeting: Wed Oct.20th. PAYMENTS: Nov.17th

*** Please tender correct money when paying for Trips. If payment is by cheque, then please endorse detail on back of Cheque.

*** Trips enquiries to Arthur (5443 9162)



Heard recently on our local radio station, KLFM.

Policeman pulled over a driver and asked to see driving licence.

"It says here that you must wear spectacles when driving", stated the Policeman.

"That's all right", said the driver, "I have contacts".

"Not good enough", said the boy in blue, "I don't care who you know, I shall still book you".



The following was brought back to Bendigo by President Ern after his holiday in Queensland. I cannot make up my mind whether trips to the North are a good thing or not.

Apparently there are two solutions to this problem.

"U2" has a concert that starts in 17 minutes and the group must all cross a bridge to get there. All 4 men begin on the same side of the bridge. You must help them across to the other side. It is night.

There is 1 flashlight. A maximum of 2 people can cross at one time. Any party who crosses, either 1 or 2 people, must have the flashlight with them. The flashlight must be walked back and forth, it cannot be thrown, etc. Each band member walks at a different speed.

A pair must walk together at the rate of the slower man's pace.

Bono - 1 minute to cross

Edge - 2 minutes to cross

Adam - 5 minutes to cross

Larry - 10 minutes to cross

For example, if Bono and Larry walk across first, 10 minutes have elapsed when they get to the other side of the bridge. If Larry then returns with the flashlight, a total of 20 minutes have passed and you have failed the mission.

This problem is based on a question Microsoft gives to all prospective employees.

Note: There is no trick to this, it is the simple movement of resources in the appropriate order.

Note: Microsoft expects you to answer this question in under 5 minutes.

If there is no correct answer to this problem, this will be provided, by Ern, at a later date.

