



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus 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, McIvor Road, Bendigo.

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

For our guest speaker today we have Dick Hazeldene, of Hazeldene's Chicken Farm, who will talk on "Fowl Business"

Last month's speaker was M/s Mandy Smith, Operations Manager of the Bendigo Prison, who gave us an insight into the developments at the prison. She was introduced by Bob Holmes.

Mandy's studies were in the Management, Social and Community services and Executive Development with the Melbourne Business School. She worked for six years with the Australian Regular Army, five years with the State Public Service and has now served fourteen years with C.O.R.E. with placements at Metropolitan Reception Prison, Loddon Prison, Pentridge Prison and the Security and Emergency Services Group, Fairlea Women's Prison and the Bendigo Prison. She rose through the ranks from base grade prison officer to her present position at Bendigo.

Up until about four years ago Bendigo was a main stream prison which was very violent with a lot of drugs and was selected by the Department as a place to treat drug and alcohol users.

Prisoners could come to Bendigo either because they had a long social history of using drugs and/or alcohol or drugs or alcohol were directly involved in the commission of their offence. From data collected on these individuals it became apparent that they began experimenting with alcohol at age ten and progressed to marijuana and then on to a cocktail of hard drugs. As a result of this activity their emotional development stops at the age of thirteen or fourteen. The inmates of Bendigo are men between the ages of twenty-five and forty-five who are quite young and irresponsible.

What has been created at the prison is a community type environment where the prisoners have access to organized sport, can have their questions answered and complaints resolved. There are also community peers who have made advances in their own treatment who meet with, and guide, the younger prisoners through the system.

Work is mandatory at the prison and this is provided by Robert Bosch (Australia) and involves making car components. This introduces them to a routine which involves getting up in the morning, having breakfast, a formal count to make sure that all are there, work, lunch then more work until knock-off time. Other employment is in the laundry and the kitchen. To change jobs a prisoner must apply for a position, produce a résumé and attend an interview, just like the real world.

On arrival at Bendigo any prisoner on prescription drugs had the dosage reduced and alternatives found while Aromatherapy has been found to be beneficial.

School is also an essential part of the rehabilitation process, finding out who can read and write and determining basic literacy and numeracy skills. Courses range from cooking to computers, occupational health and safety and industry specific programs.

There are many other programs available to help the inmates and prepare them for life on the outside.

To keep the prisoners honest urine samples are taken on a monthly basis for analysis to determine whether they are still using drugs in jail.

Combined staff and prisoner activities are also undertaken to build confidence in each other and help the prisoners to realise that their mentors are indeed human. They are also given talks on Centrelink procedures, Community Corrections parole procedures and Community Housing.

Bendigo has a capacity of eighty, all male, all medium security and all drug and alcohol users.

After quite a lengthy question time Alan Dingle thanked M/s Smith for her interesting and informative talk and made the usual presentation.



DEMO

Tuesday, October 24, at 10.00 am at our meeting venue, is the tentative date chosen for a demonstration by Ambulance Officers on the application and correct procedure for using a face mask (as recently purchased by our club) when performing Artificial Respiration in an emergency.

Bob Holmes

ACTIVITIES

BOWLS NOTES

Welcome to all Probus bowlers for season 2000-2001.

There is a list displayed at each meeting for members wishing to play bowls this year. Please place your name thereon.

Our first game is against Eaglehawk on Tuesday, 17th October with assembly at 9.30am for refreshments. Bowling commences at 10.00am. Regulation dress is required.

Our program for this season is:-

Oct. 17 th	Eaglehawk
Nov. 21 st	South Bendigo
Dec. 21 st	Bendigo
Jan. 18 th	Bendigo East
Feb. 28 th	North Bendigo
Mar. 28 th	Woodbury

Other dates will be published later.

Teams for the Eaglehawk game on 17/10 are-

R. Downey	L. Roy	A. Court	H. Hesse
J. Kelly	J. Laidler	A. Eaton	M. Boyd
R. Holmes	E. Driscoll	C. Turner	A. Stephens
J. Rose	A. Wilson	R. Fitzgerald	W. Clemens

W. Clemens



TRIP TO KORONG VALE - BOORT AREA. TUESDAY 26th September, 2000.

Punctually at 8.15am our Coach with 39 Probians, wives and friends of Probus, with Coach Captain Neville Dewhurst departed for what was to prove to be a most pleasant and interesting day.

At Korong Vale we were met by Robyn Vella of Loddon Discovery Tours, a pleasant capable young lady, our Tour guide for the day.

Just out of Korong Vale we visited Jim Rowe (the Chandelier Man) and his sister Judy Rowe (painter/artist). We were shown the various processes in the manufacture of Chandeliers and viewed finished products at prices ranging between \$400 & \$15,000. Also amazed at the variety and quality of Judy's art work comprising sketches, paintings and a variety of craft items. Very interesting indeed.

Next stop for morning tea provided by Ladies "Borong Busy Bees" what a feast !!, scones & cream, "anzacs" and other goodies.

Upon arrival at Boort, Robyn, with pride, gave us a comprehensive Coach Tour of this vibrant country town, panoramic views of town, lake and surrounds, its community, educational, sporting & recreational facilities. Then on to Hicube Facility where we were met by Operations Manager Jan, a most knowledgeable & capable lady responsible for the day to day manufacturing processes.

tour of inspection where Jan detailed the processes from selecting raw materials of Lucerne and hay at the farm gate, the manufacturing, quality control, marketing and transport of the finished products. Products comprise Lucerne Cubes, also double compressed oaten hay, and frost damaged hay bales, for both local and export markets. At peak production/double shift - 150 ton per day of Cubes, in peak year 35,000 tons. Employs between 30 to 60 people as at present. Now in its 15th year of operation.

After a nice one course hot lunch at the Boort Railway Hotel we visited the new Olive Grove a few Km from Boort where we met Manager Geoff Parker & were taken by Geoff on a coach tour of the grove area. Trees comprise 20% pollinators & 80% of others. First planting, in 9 weeks, 350 hectares of Olive trees were planted, 2nd planting, 500 hectares in 9 weeks. Next planting to be 160,000 trees. Can plant 7000 trees per day, with 12 men working full time. The young Olive trees come from Adelaide & West Australia.

Spraying from 20, 4 wheel Honda Motor Bikes, at cost \$10,000 each Expected to have 1.2 million trees on 10,500 acres with centrally controlled computerised irrigation of PVC piping at cost of \$5,000,000 and using 6 megalitres of water per hectare. Expect first pick in 2002; first major pick in 2003. At peak could get 35 ton per hectare, and will be machine picked by 6 machines at \$500,000 each. A Crusher (largest in world) crushes 200 ton/day. Bulk Olive Oil \$5.00 to \$12.00/litre. 26,000 indigenous trees will be planted in the low-lying areas. Nearby farmers are being made offers for their properties, which are hard to refuse. An Australian Company.

** Olive trees cost about \$6.00 each.

A short drive away from the Olive Grove we visited Ian, Marj and Adam Potter's Aquaculture "Fish Farm at Barraport where they are farming "Silver Perch." Ian gave the group a conducted tour of the facility and its several fish holding tanks. First 5,500 fish obtained in Dec. 1998, early losses 30%, from experience and knowledge gained losses now minimal. Buy 1/2 to 3/4 inch fingerlings, grow to maturity in 9 months, at present market locally at approx. \$4.50 per fish. Now hoping to expand into a larger operation.

The next and final highlight of the day, a visit to and conducted tour of Venn's Creek Nursery by owners Paul & Kathie Haw. They commenced development three years ago, designed the facilities, special plastic seed containers and set up the nursery structure. The nursery grows 3 million trees each year and supplies what the customer wants, selecting the seeds from their own local area where it is intended to plant new trees. Seeds are planted in a special mix in the 40 hole plastic containers, which are in turn placed on huge steel trays and watered by overhead sprinklers and housed in an extensive clear plastic covered building. The strike rate is excellent with minimal loss when trees planted out. Period from first planting seed to planting out is 5 months. About 20,000 trees depart from the nursery each day. With a special planting device up to 1000 trees per hour can be planted. The nursery grows indigenous trees for the public, councils and Department of Natural Resources & Environment; it is also growing the 26,000 indigenous trees for the new Olive Grove.

We wish to acknowledge Robyn's preparation and delivery of this excellent, informative, and interesting outing, thoroughly enjoyed by all that traveled.

Arthur Eaton.

** A SPECIAL APPEAL for a volunteer/volunteers as replacement for retiring Probe Editor Alex Wilson. Consider two persons as co-editors, sharing preparation of Probe at times to suit each. The PROBE Monthly publication is the "heart of the Club" giving essential information at the time required, without Probe it would be difficult for our Club to function.

Arthur Eaton

TRAVEL NOTES by Arthur Eaton



THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16th, 2000. TRIP TO MELBOURNE.

VISITS TO: MELBOURNE AQUARIUM, SOUTHBANK, MELBOURNE TOWN HALL.

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

COST: \$25.00 per person. Includes Coach Fare, Entrance Fee to Aquarium & Town Hall. ** This is a trip with great variety, with much of interest to see, and at low cost, "don't miss this one"

First we visit the "World Class Aquarium," which is spectacular.

Note: Cooling Towers have now been completely replaced."

Lunch: Either: bring picnic lunch, have on Yarra Bank or buy own at one of the numerous South Bank Food Outlets. Some time to look around.

After lunch, we have a conducted tour of the Melbourne Town Hall.

PAYMENTS: Wed Oct 18th. ** Max: (49) Current: (56)

FILM SHOWING AT LATROBE UNIVERSITY LECTURE THEATRE

FRIDAY JANUARY 26th, 2001. Commence at 5.00pm

** NUMBERS: "Not limited" COST: Estimate: \$3.00/person.

A "Spectacular Film Showing" - by Rob & Cynthia Watkins.

** A relaxed & interesting evening is assured. "DON'T MISS OUT."

SHOW: In Air Conditioned comfort in an excellent Lecture Theatre

** 5.00pm to 6.00pm - A walk from India to Mt.Everest.

** 6.00pm to 7.00pm - Partake of Own Picnic Tea & fraternise.

** 7.00pm to 8.00pm - Landscapes of Australia, Outback, Rainforests and Australian wildlife

** B.Y.O. Picnic Tea - Have in air-conditioned comfort.

- Tea, Coffee, Milk, Sugar, Paper Cups provided.

LIST: At Oct 18th Meeting: PAYMENTS: November 15th meeting

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13th to THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15th, 2001

TRIP TO PHILLIP ISLAND-3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS. Maximum (48) Current: (55)

COST: \$246/PERSON Includes: Coach, Accommodation D.B.B. Twin Share Tours & Entry fees.

** Refer to July 19th Probe for trip details.

** Detailed Itinerary available for perusal at Oct. 18th meeting

** PAYMENTS: In full by Cheque payable to "Grouplink," to be forwarded to Arthur Eaton by no later than Tues. December 12th.

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO/EVERGREEN TOURS - TRIP TO CANADA

MONDAY 7TH MAY TO SAT.19TH MAY, 2001. Maximum (48) ** Vacancies.

13 DAY TOUR - CANADIAN ROCKY MOUNTAINS. ** (Hostess Escorted)

(Includes: Last two days on the Famous Rocky Mountaineer Train)

COST: \$4775.00 per person Twin Share. ** (Bendigo to Bendigo.)

**Excellent Group Price secured. New 2001 Tour prices factored in

** AN OPTIONAL: " 7 Day Alaskan Cruise," timed to immediately follow on, is available for those who may wish to take cruise. Outside Cabin - Excellent Price of \$1350/person - twin share."

** TRAVEL INSURANCE is highly recommended, important.

** Discount Group Travel Insurance available through Evergreen.

** Insurance Booklet/App'l'n, Age Over 70 & Pre Existing Medical condition forms plus ITINERARIES, full & detailed information available.

** Security Deposits due no later than 26th October.

** Enquiries/bookings to Arthur (5443 9162).

**Other Clubs welcome.



We have the Victorian Probian to thank for this one.

There is a Heaven for Volunteers.

Many will be shocked to find,
When the Day of Judgement nears;
There's a special place in Heaven,
Set aside for volunteers;

Furnished with big recliners,
Satin Couches and footstools,
Where there's no Committee Chairperson,
No Group Leaders, no car pools.

No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar, and no bake sale;

There will be nothing to staple,
Not one thing to fold or mail.

Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,
And rare treats fit for a king.

Who'll serve these privileged few?
And work for all they're worth?
Why - all those who reaped the benefits,
And, not once, volunteered on earth!



I would like to thank all those who assisted me in having copy ready in plenty of time to include it in "Probe". The past three years, as editor of this worthy publication, have been most enjoyable and I regret, through family and personal commitments, that I am forced to relinquish this position. I wish my successor every success and I will assist him in any way that I can.

Alex Wilson, Editor