



PROBE

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A Special General meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00am at the Masonic Centre, McIvor Rd, Bendigo.

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Tour organiser and Activities Co-ordinator

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This month's guest speaker is Judith Doughty who is the Manager of Strath-Haven.

Last month the Guest Speaker was Philip Hogan, who was introduced by President Alan. Philip's, subject Victoria Air Ambulance. Philip has been in the service for 30 years, he has seen much of the history of the service.

One of the important factors leading to the introduction of the Air Ambulance was the work on the Snowy Mountains scheme. The remoteness of the work site meant that the time of transit to hospital for injured workers was very long and roundabout and of course it was inevitable that many accidents occurred.

The service has been expanded across the rural areas of the state so that country patients can be afforded access to medical benefits, not only for accidents and medical emergencies, but also for day procedures, e.g. chemotherapy, flying the patient into the city and then home again.

After 1985, twenty three years after the start of the service, there were improvements made to safety measures and in air medical procedures.

Helicopters were originally operated independently of fixed wing craft, but now there is one administration. The helicopters were first used in the Mornington Peninsula, then the Latrobe Valley and now all Victoria. The service operates 24 hours for both the fixed wing and helicopters.

The operational costs for the helicopters are 3 times as great as for the fixed wing aircraft. The police and the ambulance service interact to improve performance. After the very interesting talk Hert Stesse express the meeting's thanks and made the usual presentation.

The Probus Christmas Luncheon will be on the third Wednesday of December, December 15, at the Foundry Arms. Cost will be \$23 per person. Len Roy was in hospital for the insertion of a stent on October 6.

A new member, John Petrusma, was inducted.
The club is still in need of new members, so bring a friend.

Tricky Wording (it's all in pronunciation)

Avoidable: What a bullfighter does

Bernadette: The act of burning a mortgage

Heroes: What a guy in the boat does

Paradox: Two physicians

Rubberneck: What you do to relax your wife

Selfish: What the owner of a seafood restaurant does

Youth would be an ideal state if it came later in life.

Our toaster works on A.C. or D.C., but not on bread.
It has two settings, too soon or too late.

PROBUS BOWLS TEAMS

To play at Eaglehawk on Tuesday, 26 October, 2004.
Assemble at 9.30 am for 10 am start.

E. Trewartha - R. Fitzgerald - M. Boyd (S)
W. Winzar - D. Driscoll - H. Hesse
A. Wilson - McDonald - P. Bath
Z. Hughes - A. Court - E. Hogan
B. Redmond - R. Chenery - F. O'Connell

Reserves: E. Waterworth, J. Laidler, A. Eaton, G. Glover and D. Laity

2 Bowl Triples - Casual dress, Probus shirts if possible.
Please ASAP if not available, Bill Clemens



PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO

TRIP TO CANBERRA - 5 DAY/4 NIGHTS

MONDAY 22nd TO FRIDAY 26th NOVEMBER, 2004

Cost Based on Minimum of (35) to travel. Current: (39) Max: (49)

** Vacancies (10)*

**** Depart: 7.30am.** From Strathdale Community Centre, Crook Street.

**** COST: \$457.00 per person (Twin Share)**

**** A Single Supplement of \$140 would apply if request for a room on own.**

**** Cost includes: All Coach travel, dinner, bed & breakfast, entrance fees and Lunches on days 2,3,4.**

** *The Itinerary includes visits/tours to: Royal Australian Mint, National Capital Exhibition, Southern Cross Cruise, Cockington Green, Parliament House, Australian War Memorial, Screen Sound Australia, High Court, National Gallery, Deep Space Complex. We will visit Mt. Ainslee for superb views of the City and one evening be taken to Telstra Tower to see the night lights of Canberra. During travel en route we will see the Dog on the Tucker Box and visit Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece near Gundagia.*

** *A trip with much variety, should be of interest to all.*

** *Itineraries should be available for issue at Oct. 20th meeting.*

** *Further bookings are required for this Tour in order to cater for any cancellations,*

** *I seek the support of members, Friends of Probus Members are invited to join this trip.*

** *Members of other Probus Clubs are also welcome to participate.*

INSURANCE: *Should you wish to take out "Cancellation Insurance," then please make your own arrangements for this cover.*

A SPECIAL FUNCTION: (Friday 4th February, 2005, 4.30pm)

A FILM SHOWING AT THE LATROBE UNIVERSITY LECTURE THEATRE - BENDIGO

Rob & Cynthia Watkins have again offered their services to provide for us another of their "spectacular film showings," a number of which we have greatly enjoyed and been privileged to see over a period of many years in **Air Conditioned comfort** at the Latrobe University venue.

COST: \$3.00 per person. Maximum - our Club allocation: (80)

A relaxed and very interesting evening is assured. **"Book early - don't miss out"**

Program:

** 4.30pm **Films:** National Parks of U.S.A. and Canada

** 5.30pm **B.Y.O. Picnic Tea & Socialise.** (Tea, Coffee, Milk, Sugar & Paper Cups provided)

** 7.00pm **Films** From Nice (French Riviera) to the Top of Norway & return.

** 8.00pm **Depart for home in daylight.**

LIST: At Meeting Wednesday 20th Oct. **PAYMENTS:** At meeting Wed. 17th November, 2004.

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO - ANNUAL XMAS LUNCHEON

- WED. 15th DECEMBER, 2004

** At "Foundry Arms Hotel," (Platinum Room), Hight St., Golden Square.

** *Commencing 11.30am for 12 Noon Luncheon. Cost: \$23.00 per person*

** *A great opportunity for all to meet, fraternise and enjoy the fellowship of Probus.*

** *President Alan and Committee seek the support of the membership.*

LIST: At Meeting Wed 20th Oct. **PAYMENT:** Wed 17th Nov. 2004

TRIP TO THE LITTLE DESERT LODGE & WHIMPEY'S WORLD

(Tuesday 21st to Thursday 23rd September, 2004.)

Day [1] Tuesday 21st September: Our modern 62 seater Coach from Bendigo Coach Lines with Coach Captain Ian Tonkin was on hand early, with luggage stowed and our Group of Forty Two Passengers aboard, comprising Members of Probus Club of Bendigo & their wives together with some from other Probus Clubs & friends of Probus, a welcome was extended by our President Alan Court, after which we departed virtually on time at 8.00am.

Our first stop for a Morning Tea break was in a garden area at St. Arnaud, presenting an opportunity for the group to mix and get to know each other. We travelled on and were taken through Minyip (the area where the Flying Doctors T.V. show was filmed), Ian pointed out the T.V. location highlights. We continued on, skirting Horsham to join the Western Highway on to Nhill, then for 16 km along Nhill-Harrow Road to our home for the next three days "The Little Desert Lodge," arriving at 12.40pm. We were immediately given a most adequate lunch of sandwiches, cake and fruit. We were welcomed by Whimpey Reichelt and Admin. Manager Gordon Rich, after which room allocations made. Of the 24 en-suite rooms allocated (12) had recently been refurbished and the remaining (12) were brand new modern style rooms only recently completed.

After settling into their rooms, many of the group collected Little Desert Lodge area maps for guidance and set forth on a Nature Trail Walk of their choice. One small group of which I was one, failed to heed the advise of a "wise one," and ended up on a lengthy boundary circuit, and after a time were relieved to see the "Lodge" in the distance. At 6.00pm all were ready for the excellent three course dinner of: Pumpkin Soup, Lamb Shanks & Veg & sweets. After Dinner, Gordon Rich took the Group on a Nocturnal Walk through an enclosed Breeding Sanctuary Area where with the aid of a spotlight we were able to see Sugar Gliders, Bettongs and Sone-Curlwews, for each of which the Lodge were conducting breeding programs. On return to the Lodge some availed themselves of the two comfortable lounge areas, one of which had a large TV.

Day [2] Wednesday 22nd September: Following a most adequate Continental Breakfast comprising, preserved fruit, cereals and toast the group were ready for the highlight of the tour, our 4WD trip through a section of the Little Desert to see the wild flowers, led by the "Legend" himself Wimpey Reichelt. The Little Desert is a Desert in name only. The differing soil types give rise to a varied and diverse range of vegetation, alive with wildlife and spring wildflowers. There are more than 670 species of native plants and 220 bird species, together with an array of small animals and reptiles, it is one of the last strongholds of the endangered Mallee Fowl, (The Lowan.)

At 9.00am our Group was departed in five 4WD's, one driven by Wimpey, another by Robert the Chef and the remaining three by friends of Wimpey. All were very capable 4WD drivers and each possessed an extensive knowledge of Little Desert flora & fauna. During the trip we were given relevant commentaries, intermittent stops were made at which specimens taken by the drivers were shown to us. Also, at intervals we were allowed to alight from our 4WD, walk for a short distance along the track to view at first hand the wild flowers. A stop was made for a Morning Tea Break, the Tea made in the traditional way over the campfire and stirred with freshly picked gum leaves. We were also treated to mid-day lunch with a pre packed lunch consisting of salad, silverside, a sandwich, cake & fruit, and of course again washed down with traditional "billy tea." Wimpey, a passionate conservationist with a vast knowledge, informed us that there were 671 different species in the Little Desert, each of which in its turn contributed to the beauty of this vast area.

We returned to the Lodge at 2.30pm, some after a rest further explored the Nature trails. Robert the Chef again provided us with another excellent 3 Course Dinner of Soup, Main & Sweets, the main course meat was Roast Beef, a local purchased product was very tender. After Dinner, Gordon Rich showed two Videos of Wimpey's World, how the lodge began, its progress and an excellent coverage of the Flora & Fauna of the Little Desert. Another very interesting and most enjoyable day complete.

Day [3] Wednesday 23rd September: With breakfast complete and cases loaded on our Coach, at 9.00am with Coach Captain Ian and Wimpey as our guide, we departed for the Mallee Fowl Sanctuary, one of Wimpey's most passionate projects, the area is fenced with chain wire and is electrified, the power is generated by Solar Panels. The sanctuary is a safe haven for both the endangered Mallee Fowl and other species. During the past 28 years Wimpey has established a unique relationship with the breeding Mallee Fowl, which allows his presence at the mound during the breeding cycle. This has allowed for probes to be inserted into the mound to electronically record essential data, temperature, humidity etc which is transmitted to the Lodge Computer. Wimpey explained to us how the Mallee Fowls work on the mound from early winter to Autumn, he called up "Charley" the male bird who came up to feed near the mound. The mounds can be as much as five meters in diameter and one meter high, at times the mallee fowls move as much as two ton of mound materials in a day.

On return to the Lodge at 11.40am we sat down to a light lunch of sandwiches, cake and fruit. At this time the Mayor of the Hindmarsh Shire "Daryl" called in especially to welcome and thank us for our visit. He detailed the vast area of the shire, the minimal number of ratepayers within it, the challenges it brings and proudly informed us of its successes, one of which is the "Love a Duck" enterprise in Nhill. Group Photos were taken beside the Coach and our good byes and thanks were made to Mayor Daryl, Wimpey, his wife Maureen, Admin Manager Gordon, Robert the Chef and Leslie, (a great team.)

On the way home a short stop was made in the township of Nhill which was spic and span and promoted itself very well. We then proceeded homeward bound along the Western Highway to Horsham, Murtoa, on to St.Arnaud where we had another short break, then onwards to Bendigo, arriving home at 5.30pm. Many thanks to our friendly, capable and helpful Coach Captain Ian.

Immediately prior to arriving in Bendigo the Group were asked for their comment on the trip, comments received were excellent, A.I, yes it was just that. A most relaxed, friendly, enjoyable and informative three days, in pleasant company, accommodated at a unique modern facility "The Little Desert Lodge," where we were very well looked after by Wimpey and the very dedicated and most helpful staff of the Lodge, added to which was "the great experience of our 4WD Little Desert day tour."

Tours Organiser Arthur Eaton. For inquiries telephone: 5443 9162

