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# PROBE

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Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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Editor : ALEC CROTHERS (Phone 43 2642)

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**PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.**

**President** : Colin McLean

Phone : 43 0209

**Secretary** : Bob Chenery

Phone : 42 4546

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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Our September Meeting will be a bit of an innovation, wives and partners of members are invited to come along and after the meeting we shall be going on to Sizzlers for lunch.

**The Guest Speaker** at the meeting should interest members and wives alike, it is Doone Robertson who will be speaking about her activity with the International Red Cross.

Lunch has been arranged at Sizzlers at 12.15. If you have not booked already, then you may do so before the meeting when a list of members and wives attending the lunch will be available.

**Payment** : \$8 per head is required, before the meeting so that numbers are known, and one payment by cheque from the Treasurer is all that will be required at Sizzlers.

### GUEST SPEAKER QUIZ

1. Why does Ray Downey not attend those meetings at which he has asked John Neil to speak?
2. What was the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia?
3. How did John and Ailsa Neil come to visit Jaromir and wife Katka in 1988 and again in 1992?

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3. It started with John's interest in minute fossils called Ostracodes. A discovery by John some years ago led to the preparation and subsequent publication of a scientific paper. Some time later, John received a letter from Jaromir (Czechoslovak) who had similar interests in Ostracodes.

Subsequent correspondence led to John and Ailsa combining a trip to a scientific conference in Wales with a visit to Prague in 1988 where they were met by Jaromir and hosted by him and his wife Katka.

2. The Velvet Revolution was centred on Prague in 1992. It was a virtual bloodless revolution that saw the end of Communism in Czechoslovakia. Approximately 100,000 citizens massed in Prague and (of all things) rattled keys until the government collapsed.

Changes that were evident to John and Ailsa on their second, post-liberation, visit included:-

The more relaxed attitudes to travellers in 1992. In 1988, they were greeted at the airport by armed police and had difficulty changing the conditions of their visas. In 1992, a border crossing by train didn't rate a stop. Prague changed from a quiet and charming city in 1988 to a bustling centre complete with street vendors, amusement park and computer operated fountain with coloured lights in 1992.

Accommodation arrangements with Jaromir and Katka caused some upheaval in their domestic life on both visits.

Unemployment was a fact of life in 1992.

Immediately after the Velvet Revolution Czechoslovakia remained as one Federal Republic. In 1993, a split came and there are now the two republics.

The old Czechoslovakia had 15½ million citizens. The new Czech Republic consisting of Bohemia and Moravia (the Western part), has 10½ million and the breakaway, Slovakia to the east, has 5 million. The two nations have different languages, also Bohemia and Moravia is industrialised and sophisticated while Slovakia is predominantly rural and bucolic.

On their first visit the Neils were careful to refrain from talking about politics and religion; on the subsequent visit there were no taboo topics of discussions.

1. ASK RAY DOWNEY.

John was introduced by Ken Hesse and thanked by Ted Jenkins who made the usual presentation.

A word for those who were touring during the August meeting - Eat your heart out!! You missed an excellent address.

### ----- TOURING WITH ARTHUR

It was 8 a.m. on Sunday 15th August and everybody was seated ready to depart when the President Colin farewelled us on our trip to Mildura, Wentworth, Broken Hill, Loxton, Berri and Renmark.

Once again, our Arthur had excelled himself by ordering a fine day; however by the time we arrived at Charlton, the influence of the farmers (and retired farmers) became evident. We had our morning tea break in the only rain for the whole trip. From there we journeyed on to Hattah Lakes and being a Sunday we had a short devotional segment from Secretary Bob. After a visit to Lindeman's Winery, and a short tour of Mildura, we stayed overnight at the Inlander Sun Resort.

On Monday we had an early start and with the assistance of two former Mildura residents, Ray Downey and Bob Chenery we learnt much of the developmental background during earlier years and most particularly of the post World War 2 era.

LOST AND FOUND. In Wentworth we failed to find one biro tree and one sand hill, however we found delightful views and examples of civic pride including a monument to a tractor, many of which played a significant part in saving the town in the 1956 floods.

We arrived at Broken Hill (Pop. 23,000 and growing) for lunch at the Tourist and Information Centre-

WHERE - Centre of City

FACILITIES - Information, guides for bus tours, eating facilities, toilets, souvenirs, bus parking, also historical display.

WHY - Not one in Bendigo, seemed to be the question on everyone's lips.

THEN - came the question.

WHERE - should one be placed in Bendigo?

WHAT - do you think?

We were taken on a guided tour of Broken Hill and discovered B.H.P. has not been associated with Broken Hill since 1939. There used to be a number of mines in Broken Hill, finally decreasing to three, and now one - Pasminco - Pacific, Assaying and Mining Company - 90% owned by Aust. interests. There were 8,800 employed at the peak of mining boom - it is now down to 800. Production at present is higher than ever because of modern technology.

We learned that Broken Hill water comes from the Darling River some 100kms to the east and that Broken Hill Gaol was used to house the nation's treasures during World War 2. A tour of the city revealed it was a caring community. One interesting innovation was a 40 k.p.h. limit on roads forming the boundary of a school, as well as the inner-city precincts. Overnight was spent at the Silver Haven Motel.

If ever you go to Broken Hill make a visit to White's Mineral Art Gallery, a must. There you will be treated to a trip underground via a series of models and exhibits demonstrating what conditions were like years ago and how things have changed in this modern age. He also has pictures of numerous scenes around Broken Hill - these are created through the utilization of the variety of metals found in the area. A visit to the Ant Hill Gallery gave members the opportunity to view some of Pro Hart's paintings as well as the work of other artists. We also learned there were more traffic lights underground than on top.

Another place of interest for the visitor to see is the combined Civic Centre and Art Gallery where you can view paintings to suit all tastes, and the Silver Tree.

Other visits of interest were to the Royal Flying Doctor Service where some members of the party witnessed a patient being placed on the plane en route to an Adelaide hospital. We were also shown a very interesting video giving us the background to the conception and formation of the R.F.D.S.

Mention must also be made of the School of the Air where specially trained teachers give lessons to, and involve the students of the Outback by means of two-way radio. It was heartwarming to listen to the responses of each child, some of whom were hundreds of kms distant.

Returning to Mildura, we stayed there for three nights and made numerous visits to many places of interest - Australian Dried Fruits where we saw an interesting video and witnessed dried fruits being packed for export (80%) and local use. 'Dolls on the Avenue' proved to be interesting to the men as well as the ladies, mainly because of the way our hostess explained the background of many of her varied collection of historic dolls (including the number of buttons on a nightie). The wine buffs were also catered for with the visits to the wineries.

A delightful trip was had on the Murray River on the Showboat Avoca where we appreciated a 3 course meal and the beautiful scenery. This was all the more enjoyable because of the informative commentary by the skipper Captain Kevin Arney.

Another visit of historical interest was the village at Loxton where residents have created the conditions of yesteryear.

On the final night at the Sun Resort Motel we were treated to an audience participation concert organized by the motel staff. We all found this enjoyable, humorous and entertaining.

Homeward bound on the Friday, saw us journey through Robinvale and Swan Hill to Lake Boga for lunch. There we saw a restored Catalina Flying Boat as a tribute to the airmen of W.W. 2 and their training at the Base there. Alex Paton was able to tell us a great deal about Catalinas and their service in the Pacific War.

Because of his wide knowledge of the local areas, Secretary Bob entertained us with numerous reminiscences on the way home.

Once again we must record our appreciation of Arthur Eaton's ability at organizing successful tours and our admiration of his uncanny knack of linking up with fine weather.

Our thanks are also due to our driver Graeme for his safe driving and co-operative attention at all times.

Allan Dingle.

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**SILVERTON SIDE TRIP** seven of our party who wished to visit the ghost town of Silverton were given a guided tour by mine host of the motel who offered to take us there. The town, established in 1883, once had a population of about 3000 but now appears to have a population of about 20 and a three legged dog.

Visits were made to several buildings including the old police station and gaol. This is now a quite extensive museum with a display of household and mining equipment as well as both the men's and women's cells. Our last visit was to the hotel. Naturally it was to see how the other half lived. This was worth the visit as they say the beer was cold and the inside very interesting. Ask Ralph what was on the notices around the bar. Many films were made there including "A Town Like Alice" and so the hotel has had many names. A very interesting and informative tour.

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**TRIPS INFORMATION**

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH:** TRIP TO TULIP FESTIVAL - SILVAN Maximum (48); Current Bookings (58). At Tesselaar's Silvan, we will be visiting the famous "Annual Tulip Festival". Tens of thousands of tulips, thousands of daffodils - "breathtaking tapestry of colour".

## TRIPS INFORMATION CONT.

Lunch is a selection of hot foods, ice creams and soft drinks plus "Dutch Treats" are available, or you can take your own picnic lunch. Lawn areas are available.

The cost is \$17 per person which includes coach fare and entry to Tulip Festival. Depart from Strath Community Centre, Crook Street at 7.30 a.m. Arrive home approx. 6.15 p.m.

All payments to be finalised at the Wednesday September 15th meeting please.

### THURSDAY OCTOBER 28TH - TRIP TO SOVEREIGN HILL BALLARAT

Maximum (48) Current (48)

"An excellent offer has been received from "Sovereign Hill". The cost is \$11 per person with all inclusive as follows:- 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: Wednesday September 15th Meeting.

Depart at 8.15 a.m. and arrive home approx. 5.30 p.m.

NOTE - Emergencies required - trip now open to "Friends of Probians"

### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25TH - TRIP TO MELBOURNE - SENSOR VISION THEATRE AT SOUTHGATE AND BOAT TRIP "UP YARRA RIVER"

Maximum (48) The AustraliaGate SensorVision Theatre is Australia's first multi sensory theatre, situated in the popular SouthGate Arts and Leisure precinct on the south banks 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 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. Listing at Wednesday September 15th Meeting. Payments to be made at October Meeting.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH - MARYBOROUGH PROBUS - AREA PICNIC  
(During Annual Golden Wattle Festival).  
The venue is Coronation Plantation (Lion's Club Wayside Park),  
Princes Park, Park Road. Program : 10 a.m. - Morning tea;  
12 noon lunch. Facilities available consist of Electric B.B.Q.,  
and hot water. Bendigo Probians welcome - B.Y.O.  
Enquiries to Harold Davies (61 2979).

MONDAY OCTOBER 11TH - EUROA PROBUS CLUB - BENDIGO TOUR  
We have assisted the Euroa Probus Club with arrangements for  
a Bendigo Tour. Proposed Program: 11 a.m. - 12 noon Golden  
Dragon Museum; 12 noon to 1.00 p.m. Lunch; 1.30 p.m. - 2.40  
p.m. Deborah Mine Underground Tour; 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.  
Talking Tram; 4.15p.m. depart for Euroa.  
Lunch venue to be determined. Euroa Probians would be pleased  
to meet Bendigo Probians during the lunch period, those interested  
please obtain details from Arthur (43 9162) or Secretary Bob  
(42 4546).

Arthur Eaton,  
Tours Liaison.

### BOWLS

Once again, the men in white are at it on the greens.

#### FIXTURES FOR THE COMING SEASON

Thursday	October 14	Eaglehawk
Thursday	November 18	South Bendigo
Tuesday	December 17	Bendigo
Thursday	January 20	Bendigo East
Tuesday	February 15	North Bendigo
Tuesday	February 22	District Probus Match (Golden Square)
Wednesday	March 9	Woodbury
Thursday	April 14	Sandhurst Probus at Woodbury

Teams for Bendigo Probus V Eaglehawk at Eaglehawk, Thursday  
October 14.

W. Foster, A. Morris, A. Eaton, V. Canobie (Skipper)  
W. Bell, R. Chenery, K. Gloster, H. Hesse, (Skipper)  
R. Fitzgerald, J. Griffin, W. Winzar, R. Marslen (Skipper)  
A. Thomas, N. Phillips, C. Rayson, F. O'Connell (Skipper)

For queries or cancellations ring Vic Canobie 43 9028.

## CHANGES

### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (& PHONE NUMBER)

President COLIN (together with May of course!) has now changed his address so please amend your Membership Booklet to read as follows -

3 PLANTE COURT, Bendigo, Phone 43 0209

We wish them well in their new home.

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Another change.....Our TREASURER JOCK CROOK has undergone a dramatic change!! It seems we will now see a different treasurer from now on as JOCK has shaved off his beard. He does look particularly neat and tidy! (He always does).Is he thinking to run-off with his latest disguise? By the way, our reporter finds this it's Jock's (?0th) birthday on 22/9/93.. Congratulations JOCK "Many Happy Returns of The Day".

### HAPPY REPORT

Secretary BOB now happily reports that all this year's subscriptions have been paid. Last year approx. 10% of members had to be followed up; this year it was about 12%. It is hoped that by mentioning this fact that members will respond more favourably next March (94) when subs are due again.

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PROBUS TIES.....Did you order a Probus Tie???? (\$16-50)

Secretary BOB has now received supplies of Probus Ties and these will be available from the WELCOMING AND RECORDING TEAM at the door at our next meeting. Those members who have not yet paid for the PROBUS TIE are reminded to bring \$16-50 please.

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REMINDER-THIS SEPT. MEETING-BRING ALONG YOUR PARTNER

(OR SOMEONE ELSE'S!!!)

Co-ordinator.....Ray Downey.

Programme : Meeting; Morning Tea (Members \$2 & Partner \$1 only); Interesting speaker; Sizzlers for lunch (\$8 each) All most welcome.

Last year at this time we enjoyed our "DISPLAY DAY"...A little different this year...lets eat together and put our gracious manners on DISPLAY!!!

If you haven't given your name to Ray Downey, please give him a ring on 43 4550 in order to assist catering requirements.