



PROBE

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 Masonic Centre, McIvor Road.

All correspondence to the Secretary, 2 Cook Street, Bendigo, 3550.

Today our Guest Speaker is Peter McGregor, the Chief Executive Officer of the Bendigo Health Care Group.

At the August meeting we had no Guest Speaker, instead to mark the 50th Anniversary of VJ Day we had brief accounts by four members of the club telling us of their experience of the first VJ Day.

The first was Rupert Reynolds, who was lodging at a boarding house, popularly called "Cobwed Castle", in St. Kilda Road, where he shared a bedroom with three others. Rupert was working shifts as a trainee chemist with the Gas Company. Sugar, tea, beef and even beer were rationed at the time. It was possible to get poor quality beer at a sly grog shop down an alley in St. Kilda. Business was so brisk there on Friday and Saturday nights that a policeman directed traffic to the first ever "drive-in". There were few cars in those days but public transport was excellent. At night in the brown-out Rupert often rode home in a hansom cab.

Next came Arthur Cowling, who first gave us a resume of his army career. Called up in 1939 he was put into the intelligence section and progressed through the ranks, eventually reaching lieutenant. After a course in intelligence work in Southport he was posted to Darwin where he organised an office specialising in the enemy order of battle, and was responsible for the map room.

Information largely came by monitoring the enemy radio traffic but much also came through the work of the Z Special Unit whose members operated in uniform behind the enemy lines, among other places in Timor. Arthur was Duty Officer on VJ Day, and he first heard of the end of the war from the Japanese in Timor. Because of the pressure of work it was a few days after VJ Day that he was able to celebrate. His summary of his impression about the end of the war - confusion, excitement, relief, anticipation.

Speaker number three was Maurice Pease who served four and a half years as pharmacist on a hospital ship. When peace was announced the ship was docked at Sydney after bringing home a contingent of wounded men, and with the urgency of preparing to return to pick up P.O.W. he had little opportunity to do anything to mark the occasion. His ship was the Wonganella, the only one of three hospital ships which was not hit. The ship had 430 beds and accommodation could be extended by the use of swinging cots. The first trip he made was to Singapore, just before its fall. Then for two and a half years the ship made regular trips to Suez, eventually the run was extended to Taranto. Here they took aboard N.Z. wounded who had taken part in action at Casino. Next, with the U.S. 4th Fleet to Morotai. After VJ Day he went to Borneo to pick up more P.O.W.S. and got back to Sydney on Christmas Day 1945 and to Melbourne on the eve of New Years Eve.

Our last contributor was Jack Watts who spent that VJ Day as a "Guest" of the Japanese at Changi. They knew from a secret radio that the war was over, but the Japanese did not announce this. They were advised to give no indication of knowing that the war was over, and to wait for the Japanese to acknowledge it. At the end of the war there were about 6000 P.O.W. in Changi drawn from many nations and even including Italians who had been the crew of a submarine preparing to ship a cargo of rubber from Penang when Italy capitulated. On August 18 the Japs said there was no more working parties to go out. Within a week the number in the camp had increased to 12,000 because of the return of troops from jungle work. On August 28 two British planes flew over and dropped leaflets with instructions and on August 31 the Japs walked out of the camp. The first Allied troops to reach the camp were English paratroopers, and on September 5 British troops under Mountbatten arrived. It was not until September 14 that Australian troops arrived, and on September 23 Jack and his companions left Singapore in S.S. Duntroon.

Kevin Houlahan thanked the speakers, and made the presentations.

NOTES ON MEMBERS

Eugene Sandner has been in hospital because of an attack of bronchial pneumonia.

Alf Whatmore is slowly recovering from his trouble.

We regret the passing of Cyril Michelsen - Deepest sympathy to his family.

TRIPS INFORMATION

SURPRISE!! SURPRISE!! SURPRISE!! - MYSTERY TRIP - THURSDAY OCTOBER 19TH. Maximum (49) Current (67). Depart 9.00 a.m., arrive home 5.00 p.m. Cost : \$22.00/person - includes coach, morning tea, 3 course lunch and afternoon tea. Cliff Binks has prepared what is certain to be another interesting and enjoyable mystery tour. Payment : Please finalise any outstanding payments Sept. meeting.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22ND : TRIP MELBOURNE - NOTE PRINTING WORKS AND G.M.H. CAR ENGINE WORKS PORT MELBOURNE. Maximum (49) Current (47) ***Vacancies Exist***. "A trip with a difference". First we visit Note Printing Works, at Craighburn to see how our "Notes Currency" is made for both Australia and overseas. After lunch we travel on to the Port Melbourne G.M.H. Car Engine Build Factory where we will follow the production of Car Engines from the basic raw material through to the completed Engine, packaged in readiness for both home and export use. A most enlightening experience. At each location we have conducted tours. LUNCH BYO Picnic Lunch. COST: \$12.00/person. PAYMENTS: Wednesday September 20th Meeting.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" - LIVE STAGE SHOW - PRINCESS THEATRE MELBOURNE - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20TH - 1.00 P.M. Maximum (26) Current (26). Depart Bendigo 10.00 a.m., arrive home 6.00 p.m.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 15TH, 1995 - ANNUAL XMAS TRIP TO MOAMA R.S.L. CLUB. XMAS DINNER INCLUDED. Cost : (Group Concession \$8.00 per person) - includes coach fare and xmas dinner.

"Southern Cross Tours" have again offered this much sought after, popular, low cost, trip for 1995. Depart Strathdale Community Centre at 6.00 p.m. - arrive home approx. 12.30 a.m. "Another beauty" LIST FOR BOOKINGS: At September 20th Meeting. PAYMENTS: October Meeting.

Arthur Eaton.
Trips Liaison.
Phone 43 9162

REPORT

August 17, the morning after our meeting, it was up bright and early to board the coach for a trip to Melbourne. First stop was to the Henselite factory to see how bowls are made. The late William D. Hensell and his descendants of three generations, have been manufacturing bowls since 1918, and in addition providing a testing service for bowls. Traditionally bowls were wooden, made from lignum vitae, and indeed this is still in use; W.D. Hensell started to look for an alternative more stable, substance, and first tried vulcanite in conjunction with the Dunlop Rubber Co. Eventually Hensells developed to modern plastic bowl, made from Bakelite (phenolformaldehyde in chemical parlance). A special formulation has been developed, and from this, in the form of powder the bowls are moulded. The manufacturing processes were traced out for us by members of the Hensell family, great-grandsons of William D.

Eventually we managed to tear ourselves away from this absorbing visit and moved on to the Victorian Craft Centre in the old Meat Market. After a lunch of gourmet snacks we moved around the Centre seeing the craftwork, investigating the difference between hot and cold glass working, seeing metal working, wood working and textile crafts as well as ceramics and leather wear.

Finally home on schedule at 5.45.

BOWLS

The programme for the coming season is as follows-

Eaglehawk Bowling Club	Thurs. Oct. 26, 1995
South Bendigo	Tues. Nov. 14, 1995
Bendigo	Thurs. Dec. 7, 1995
Bendigo East	Thurs. Jan. 18, 1996
North Bendigo	Tues. Feb. 13, 1996
Woodbury	Wed. Mar. 13, 1996

Bendigo Probus V's Sandhurst Probus
Thurs. Apr. 11, 1996

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 7TH & 8TH OCTOBER
BURNEWANG MANSION (Near Elmore)
FOOD AND WINE TASTING FESTIVAL - 10am - 5pm
Sample best gourmet food and wines.
Entertainment all day.

Entry Fee \$6.00
Concession for Probus Members wearing a badge.