

ROBERT GATES



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 10.00am at the Masonic Centre, McIvor Road, Bendigo.

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

Our guest speaker today will be M/s. Mandy Smith, Operations Manager of the Bendigo Prison, who will speak on Prison Management.

The speakers at the August meeting were, although not as described in August Probe, nevertheless provided the Club with an interesting and informative talk.

During the morning session members were delighted to hear Bruce Michelsen's account of his "Olympic Run" in 2000 with comparison to the more difficult 1956 event.

As runners were able to purchase their torch in 2000 Bruce was able to demonstrate the structure of the standard model. This was later passed around so that all members present were able to say that they had a personal experience with the "2000" version of the Olympic Torch.



After morning tea members were advised that the scheduled speaker, Mr. D. La Ponder was unable to attend.

At the President's request Ray Downey introduced three members of Vic Roads staff, Mr. L. Clay, Ms. C. Driscoll and Ms. J Leunig.

After the introductions Ms. Driscoll described the content and method of a four week discussion course designed to help make elderly drivers more aware of the problems that may make them more susceptible to accidents. Included were:-

- (a) side effects of medication – always ask your doctor
- (b) gradual deterioration of eyesight
- (c) gradual deterioration of hearing
- (d) the onset of stiffness of the joints that determine the ability to observe objects all round a vehicle
- (e) Slower reflexes

Each of these possible conditions should be considered in relation to specific driving conditions such as density of traffic, condition of road surface, time of day and climatic conditions.

During the discussion period that followed comments were made concerning -

- (a) the growth of the elderly group
- (b) the vulnerability of various age groups
- (c) training programs for the pre-driver
- (d) perceived characteristics of groups as :-
 - (1) P plates
 - (2) young ladies in new, small cars
 - (3) gentlemen wearing hats

On a more serious note it was pointed out that we all had a responsibility to advise Vic Roads, or Police, if we knew of a driver who was incapable of driving safely.

The discussion closed humourously when one member, who shall remain nameless, advised that, on a recent trip, he had passed a vehicle displaying a "P" plate.

Bill Clements thanked our guests and presented Probus mugs to Ms. Driscoll and Ms. Leunig. He assured Mr. Clay that a third mug would be forthcoming.

Ken Coles
(aw)

Thanks to Ken for helping out with Probe while I was absent.



VALE

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Bill Bell, a foundation member of our club. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Florence.

SICK LIST

Arthur Cowling, Ray Downey and Ken Gloster are now back on deck again and Gordon Glover is recovering from pneumonia.

Arthur would like to take this opportunity to express his thanks to all Probian for their cards and 'phone calls wishing him a speedy recovery after his recent operation.

I have not been advised of any other "sickies" but we hope that all are now recovered, or are recovering, from "what ails them".

REPORTS

The Probe is your newsletter and is only as good as the reports and general information provided to the editor can make it. I would like some feedback as to whether the current setup of Probe is satisfactory. Is it too long or too short? Is the print too large or too small? What other information would you like to see presented?

And don't forget to listen to KLFM, 96.5 on the FM band at 10.00 on the third Friday of each month for Probus Diary. You will hear what other clubs are doing and you may even catch a trip if you have missed out with our club.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please alter the following addresses.

Max Hallett – 138 Holdsworth Rd. Bendigo.

Clyde Mahar – 2 Birch Grove Bendigo.

ACTIVITIES

VISIT TO EMPIRE RUBBER

Two conducted tours of Empire Rubber were arranged for Thursday and Friday, the 20th & 21st of July. I like Arthur Morris and probably others in the party had a special interest in seeing how some of the automotive products were made as 95% of the work carried out is for the auto industry. Rubber parts are produced for GMH, Ford, Toyota and Mitsubishi and also for other companies who then supply parts themselves to those companies. A very small section of the plant is set up for the production of parts for export, namely Toyota in Fiji.

Sid Spoffath was our guide after we split up into two groups whilst the others were shown around by Owen Lockwood.

Sid explained to us that Empire Rubber has been on the present site since 1973 and were so successful that, at a later stage, they were taken over by BTR. There are now over 500 employees and the assembly line works non stop 24 hours a day with three shifts. They have only 17 maintenance staff and many innovations have been adopted in an effort to avoid holdups along the line. Originally, there were only two bays working but that has increased to the present five.

The raw rubber comes in an EPS Compound and has to be mixed to the various textures required for the production of various parts. Synthetic rubber is also used in the operations.

The factory employs two different sections in their operations-

1. Anti-vibration (Shockers etc) &
2. Extrusions (Motor vehicle door & window seals)

Most of the anti-vibration section deals with the bonding of rubber onto steel such as engine mountings. The steel has to be perfectly clean and a special paint has to be applied to the portion to which the rubber is to be attached. Any loose rubber still adhering to the finished product is removed either physically on large parts or in an ice rumbler for smaller parts. The ice rumbler makes the loose rubber brittle and it just breaks off in the rumbler. The final part is given a phosphate coating to prevent rust.

The extrusion section has four systems the first being a salt bath, the other three systems are – Cold Feed Autoclave, Injection Blaster 250 degrees and Microwave.

The main product being manufactured at the time was the Ford AU door seals which proved very interesting. As the seal has to have a steel support and the rubber for the sealing section has to be softer than the rubber for the exterior, it means that the three separate items are extruded through a die to create a long, continuous length. This has then to be cut to the right lengths, plastic clips

attached and the ends joined together to complete the operation. The seal is extruded at a rate of 12 to 18 metres a minute, and the cross section of the seal is checked on a regular basis under a 10 to 1 magnifier.

Interestingly, the plastic clips attached to the seal are colour coded, Red for RH front, Yellow for LH front, Green for RH rear and Orange for LH rear. Blue and White are used on long wheel based vehicles such as station wagons, etc.

Competition is strong and pricing is very difficult, as the longer a model is in production the lower the price obtainable in what is called a "cost down" pricing system. The main competition comes from Bridgestone in Australia and Toyota in Japan.

We all emerged from the factory into a bitterly cold wind much the wiser for the visit.

Alan Dingle extended thanks to our two guides.

Ken Gloster

TRAVEL NOTES by Arthur Eaton



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2000. TRIP TO KORONG VALE-BOORT AREA.

Depart Bendigo 8.15am: We travel to Korong Vale where we meet up with our guide for the day Robyn Vella of Loddon Discovery Tours.

COST: \$32.00 per person. Includes Coach Fare, Morning Tea, Lunch, Tours and entrance fees.

An excellent trip, great variety, value for money.

Home: Approx. 5.15pm Refer July 19th Probe for details. **Bookings:** Maximum (49), Current: (53)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24TH, 2000 - TRIP TO ECHUCA

*** This proposal is cancelled due to insufficient response ***

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16th, 2000. TRIP TO MELBOURNE.

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

Depart Bendigo 8.00am. Arrive Home: Approx. 5.45pm. **Maximum:** (49)

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.

LIST: At Sept 20th meeting. **PAYMENTS:** Wed Oct 18th.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13th to THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15th, 2001
TRIP TO PHILLIP ISLAND-3 DAY/2 NIGHTS. Maximum (48) Current: (57)
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 Sept 20th meeting.
** PAYMENTS: In full, due on Tues. December 12th

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO/EVERGREEN TOURS - TRIP TO CANADA
MONDAY 7TH MAY TO SAT.19TH MAY, 2001. Maximum (48) Current: (30)
13 DAY TOUR - CANADIAN ROCKY MOUNTAINS. ** (Hostess Escorted)
(Includes: 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.

**DEPARTURE: Monday 7th May 2001 for Vancouver.
**Canadian Rockies Tour - last two days of which is on the Rocky Mountaineer Train.
"One of the World Best Rail Trips."

** 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



I have been searching for this little gem for some time and it finally popped up in the White Hills Probus newsletter. It reminds me of people I knew in a previous life.

SOMETIME

Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted,
You're the best qualified in the room.
Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow this simple instruction
And see how it humbles the soul:
"Take a bucket and fill it with water
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,
Pull it out, and the hole that's remaining
Is a measure of how you'll be missed."
You may splash all you please when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop – and you'll find in a minute
That it looks quite the same as before.
The moral in this quaint example
Is: Do just the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself, but remember,
There's no Indispensable Man.

Author Unknown