



BENDIGO
PREMIER TOWN
 VICTORIA 1982-1985

PROBE



Bulletin of the Probos Club of Bendigo Inc.

Published Monthly

Issue No. 30. 20th January, 1988.

Editor: REG BROCK (Phone 434888)

Annual Subscription: \$8. Registered by Australia Post No. VBH 7101

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President: ARTHUR EATON

Secretary: RAY DOWNEY

Phone: 439162

Phone: 434550

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, 29 Woodbury St. Bendigo 3550

MAKE PROBUS GREAT IN EIGHTY-EIGHT! President Arthur joins the Executive in wishing all members and their wives all the best for the New Year and much safe and enjoyable travel wherever they may go.

BENDIGO CITY MAYOR. Cr. COLIN NANKERVIS is our Guest Speaker today. A City Mayor is so well-known that he (or she) needs little introduction. Town Clerk for many years the late Fred Amer had the words for it. He once started a speech by saying, "In my years as a Municipal Officer I have served many mayors!" We welcome Colin to the ranks of our excellent speakers.

EXUBERANT! would be the word most suitable to describe our speaker last, VINCENE GILL is the Regional Co-ordinator for the Australian Bicentennial Travelling Exhibition.

Alas! the Exhibition has come - and gone - so the descriptonal comments of Vincene would be superflous here and now; and my notes were recorded in vain.

Nevertheless we must pay tribute to our speaker for a most entertaining and enlightening talk.

CALLING ALL BOWLERS! The next Probos verses.. match will be held TOMORROW - January 21st. at Bendigo East at 9.30 am. Check this list for YOUR name: Cont. /2.

CALLING ALL BOWLERS Cont. A. Scott, P. Goodrich, J. Watts, A. Eaton (Skip); C. Lees, W. Opie, J. Vingerhoets, R. Campbell (Skip); F. McNeice, M. Aitken, J. McAdam, K. Gloster (Skip); R. Brock, B. May, W. Forbes, W. Winzar (Skip);

IF you are unable to attend please phone VIC CANOBIE NOW on 439028.

Our spy reports another triumph when our team defeated Bendigo South on the last encounter. Seven Bendigo Probusians and four Sandhurst Probusians journeyed in a very rowdy bus to enjoy a visit to Kerang. Alas! they lost but a good time was had by all.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME.

FILM MORNING AND LUNCH: TUESDAY, FEB. 9th. Film at the R. L. Campbell Theatre starting at 10.00 am. Featuring a new film, "ROXANNE", a light-hearted Comedy/Romance starring Steven Martin. Plus 'shorts'. Lunch at Lake View Hotel at conclusion of film. COST: Film only \$2.00. With Lunch - total cost, \$12.50. LIST AT MEETING TODAY. Please sign - and pay!

TRIP TO BOORT: TUESDAY, MARCH 8th. Dep: probably 8.00 am from Strath. Community Centre.

Full programme includes Tomato growing and picking using a huge machine; Ladies visit Mrs. Frank Boyle's display of Handcrafts whilst men watch the Lucerne Mill spitting out Lucerne cubes for export to Japan. Tour of Lake and Town sites. MAYBE a visit to Charlton Feed-Lot to view the beasts making our next T-bone steak! PICNIC LUNCH beside the Lake -- BYO LUNCH, etc. COST: \$6.50 to Boort, \$7.50 if Charlton included. LIST AT MEETING TODAY. Please sign and pay in FEBRUARY.

TRIP TO EXPO BRISBANE: Dep. AUGUST 21st. for 12 days. 'Kingstone of Stawell' will provide Modern Air-conditioned Coach with Air Suspension, Reclining Seats, and toilet on board. COST: \$794.00 includes Coach Fare, Accommodation with cooked breakfasts and dinner at night; also Admissions to Expo and other attractions. All seats have now been booked BUT emergencies are invited.

TRIP TO MYRTLEFORD/BEECHWORTH/BRIGHT: in the Autumn. For your consideration. Many requests have been received for this (despite Expo trip) and possible dates are April 15th, 16th & 17th. COST: \$65 per person per day includes DBB and all lunches (except first day) and all admissions. Plus Coach. Trip is recommended as 4 day/3 night but can be reduced to 3 day/2 night. Tour would include Glenrowan & Kelly Country, Drag World, Air Museum (with aircraft in flight), Hop and Tobacco growing with Ovens Valley in all its Autumn splendour. ACCOMMODATION IS AT A PREMIUM and decision would need to be made TODAY. LIST ON TABLE.

A MAN WHO GAINED his education the hard way by riding his bicycle from the humble family home at Strathfieldsaye along dirt roads in all weathers had an almost unbroken record for attendance in four years of schooling at the Camp Hill Primary and Bendigo High Schools. Persistence in Cricket, Tennis and Football gained him the coveted 'School Sports Badge' as well as the appointment as Prefect in the final (8th) year. He is

ALFRED THOMAS RYALL

and the home that gave him his infant nature is still standing in 'Ryall's Lane' as if to demonstrate the durability of family life 70-plus years ago.

In a period when jobs were hard to find, in the early 1930's, Alf passed his Matriculation and landed a position with the Victorian Public Service. He was drafted to the Law Department, Melbourne commencing duty in the Titles Office where he soon learned the name of every Legal Firm in Victoria.

Transfer to the Courts Branch took him to Echuca Court and the position of Court Assistant there, a stepping stone to the Bendigo Law Courts where he passed the necessary exams to qualify as a Clerk of Courts.

The war intervened and enlistment in the 28th. Battalion resulted in his appointment as Pay Sergeant - one of the few popular jobs for a Sergeant in the Army!

The army released him to the RAAF where he became involved in the development of what was to become one of the most important - and secretive - weapons of the war; Radio Location (commonly known as R.Lar). Eight months of intensive training with many bright boys from all states ended at Richmond (NSW) Air Base where Alf gained third place in the Course. This enabled him to undertake further training in the introduction of new equipment from the RAF and the installation into Australian aircraft.

Alf recalls his time spent in Darwin with the Spitfire Squadron commanded by the famed 'Bluey' Truscott where the new Radar equipment enabled Bluey to shoot down the first Japanese Night Bomber to raid Australia - a significant break-through in our defences.

After some time on Tropical Service with the 31 Beaufighter Squadron ('Whispering Death' to the Japanese) he ended the war at RAAF Headquarters, Melbourne, involved in the Radar Counter-measures section.

Cont. /4.



After the excitement of his RAAF career life at the Bendigo Law Courts must have seemed an anti-climax. He passed the examination which qualified him for the position of Stipendiary Magistrate but preferred to stay in Bendigo rather than accept a higher position elsewhere.

As a Civil Celebrant of Marriages Alf has, (for better or for worse), launched some 300 happy optimists on their journey into wedded bliss. But the wedding that he remembers most is probably his own, when, in 1944 and still in the RAAF he married Joan Somerville - daughter of a well-known Strathfieldsaye family, (her father was Cr. Arthur Somerville). Two sons and a daughter was the result of this happy occasion.

Ryall's involvement with the Community would require a full issue of 'Probus' to properly relate. School Committees, Bendigo High School Advisory Council, the BIT and BCAE, the YMCA, the Bendigo Home and Hospital for the Aged, (he is currently President), the RSL and Legacy Club, the Rostrum Club, Strath-haven Home, Rotary Club of Bendigo and many sporting clubs - all have good cause to appreciate the seemingly untiring efforts of this human dynamo!

BUT - most importantly - he is a member of the Probus Club of Bendigo.

REPORTING ON THE TALL SHIPS TRIP President Arthur has this to say: Three coaches with a total capacity load of 147, half of them from the Probus Club of Sandhurst, made the trip.

Lunch was taken at the 'Yacht Club Hotel' on the waterfront at Williamstown - one of the older-style Hotels. Although a little crowded good value for money was received with the Head Waitress anxious to please.

Access to Port Melbourne was via Westgate Bridge providing excellent views and a geography lesson on the Port. With many roads blocked off some difficulty was experienced in finding the Coach Parking Area. Thankfully this was only a short distance from the Pier and 'the Ships' so we were able to receive our History lesson with a minimum of effort.

Weather conditions were excellent and all who travelled enjoyed the outing.

* * * *

THE INSURANCE AGENT was writing a policy for a farmer. "Have you ever had an accident?" he asked.

"No" answered the prospect. "In fact, the only things that have happened to me were; I was once bitten by a mad dog, kicked in the ribs by a horse, and sat on a red-back spider."

"Don't you call those accidents?" asked the Agent.

"No", was the reply - they did it on purpose!"