



PROBUS CLUB OF BATHURST INC

President: Charles Fogliani

Newsletter No. 397

JUNE 2020

All correspondence to: The Secretary, PO Box 1664, Bathurst NSW 2795 Ph: 02 6332 2064

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BIRTHDAY BOARD MAY

4	Bill Thompson	5	Warwick Franks
13	Ed Collins who has celebrated his eightieth birthday	15	Hans Jeuken
22	Warren Griffith	25	John Clarkson
Our warmest congratulations to both Warren and John who will be celebrating their ninetieth birthday			

It is appropriate to mark here our sadness at the death of Lou Shehade, one of our most esteemed members. His professional contribution to our city made him a valued citizen and he enriched us all by his presence. Shakespeare might well have had Lou in mind when he wrote "His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world: this was a man."

FROM THE COMMITTEE

1. It is the opinion of the Interim Committee (President, Secretary, Treasurer) that no resumption of General Probus meetings should be contemplated before September this year. The reason for this is that we are entering the season of normal Winter ills, and this, coupled with the current pandemic, might make meeting at close quarters rather problematic. If members are in disagreement with this, please voice your opinion to a member of the Interim Committee.
2. The June Club Newsletter is in the process of completion and should be sent out early next week.
3. Unfortunately the number of attendees at Lou Shehade's funeral was limited to 18 by reason of the pandemic. In the near future we hope to have a copy of the eulogy delivered by Lou's son, David, and this will be relayed to members via the Newsletter. Lou had already paid his annual membership fee, which we offered to refund, but wife Jan has requested that the fee remain as a donation to the Club. Jan is understandably still lamenting Lou's passing, but has strong support from her son and daughter.
4. Don Crapp is now a resident of Cheriton, and requires regular oxygen, so is probably not in a position to receive visitors, except for close family. John Haynes is presently residing temporarily at Opal Retirement Home, but would be pleased to see some of his Probus colleagues. It is however necessary, by reason of Covid-19 restrictions, to make an appointment beforehand.
5. As previously flagged we are issuing a copy of the latest Club Telephone list of members, with the aim of enabling members to keep in touch with each other during this time of isolation. The list is attached to this newsletter.
6. Tentative plans are afoot to stage the usual Yarrabin BBQ in September. Social distancing has been implemented there. No definite date has been set as yet, but stay tuned.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

President: Charles Fogliani

Vice President: To be elected

Imm. Past President: Tom Murphy

Secretary: Michael O'Neill

Treasurer: Joe Buchta

Directors: Bruce Blatch

Robin Price

Richard Seide

Jim Schaerf

Brian Eslick

Newsletter Editor: Warwick Franks

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Eric Hollies, in his first and last Test against Australia, bowled Bradman for a duck in his last Test, when the batsman only needed 4 to finish with a Test average of 100.

Hollies would have turned 108 on the 5th of June.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

July 1985 Archived Newsletters (35 years ago).

Our speaker Lionel Hawkins reinforced the belief expressed by members that many an adventure story lurks under the veneer of low-key "maturity" that many of us present nowadays. Lionel's talk scanned his fifty years with the one company ---- "EDGELL'S",

It was plain that his strengths -- physical, mental and of character had been vital in the company's development from an experimental canner of asparagus (known then as Edgell's curse) to the high tech large food producer it became. Incidentally, this development took Lionel on a career from Gordon Edgells one-man workforce to becoming the company's driving spirit in the guise of co-ordinating director.

In proposing the vote of thanks, Ralph Hamer placed on record the gratitude of the growers for, Lionells fair dealing and generosity of attitude over the years

Other matters discussed at last meeting -----

July 1990 Archives...# 68 Newsletter

Our Guest Speaker Dr Peter Hodgson was introduced by Earl Barnes and gave a most interesting and illuminating talk on south Afrlca whlch he had re-visited after an absence of twelve years. He spoke of the changes that have taken place, the people

and the politics and the gradual breaking down of apartheid (the official Government Polcly of racial segregation). He considers that South Africa is undergoing irrevocable change and is confronted by immeasurable social problems with the likelihood of more bloodshed before these problems are resolved. It was important for us to hear the opinions of a person such as Dr Hodgson who has close ties with South Africa and he was thanked in this vein by Frank Smith.

MEMBERS SPOT

Bruce Emmerson gave a most humorous sketch of his working life, which he termed "an autobiographical tale". First, of his work in a Bank, then as a Medical student, later as a fully-fledged Doctor, and finally as a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Barbecue and Bowls. The Barbecue following last months meeting (6th. June) was well attended and greatly enjoyed by members of whom there were approximately 40. The Barbecue was activated by Geoff Aubin, Gordon Oliver and members including Ken

Smart, of those who remained to play bowls, both regular Bowling club members and a few beginners, the game was a great experience for the new comers altogether a very good day.

Parkes telescope visit takes place on 20 June and will be reported in next month's Probus News.

BACKGROUND TO DEATHS OF GEORGE FLOYD AND RAYSHARD BROOKS

USA: POPULATION: 331 million: White 68%; Hispanic 18%; African-American 13%; Native American 1%

SLAVERY is referred to as “the Great Stain” on the life of USA because it meant the literal ownership of one human being by another.

*1607: first European settlement in North America at Jamestown (James I was the British monarch) in the area which later became the state of Virginia, named after Elizabeth I, “the virgin Queen” who had died in 1603 and had never married.

*August 1619: first slaves arrived in America aboard a British ship owned by the 2nd Earl of Warwick (no relation to me) which was flying the Dutch flag and carrying slaves stolen from a Portuguese ship.

*All of the original 13 states practised slavery but it gradually became most prominent in the southern states where plantation crops of cotton, sugar cane and tobacco became the staples of their economies. By 1860, these states accounted for 75% of the world’s cotton production. Slave owners argued that they required large labour forces to work the crops and that the use of slaves therefore made unavoidable economic sense.

*Many owners made excellent money in selling slaves at auction.

*About 500,000 people were taken as slaves to the USA, with many more being taken to the Caribbean and Brazil. About 20% of slaves died on the sea voyages across the Atlantic.

*By the time of the Civil War (1860), slaves comprised nearly 4 million in a white population of 12 million.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY AND SEGREGATION

*President Abraham Lincoln signed an Executive Order abolishing slavery on 1 January 1863. The last authenticated slave death was that of Alfred Blackburn who died in 1951 aged 108.

*While former slaves were now technically free, many states began to pass laws which directly affected almost every aspect of the life of African Americans. These were called “Jim Crow”, laws and were named after a character from Black Minstrel Shows, a childish rascal but essentially a racist concoction of Africans as being childish and contemptible people.

*Jim Crow laws dictated where “coloured” people could live, where they could go to school or college, where they could sit on a bus, and which carriage they would occupy on a train. They were disenfranchised and dealt harshly with by the law: most judges and police were ex-Confederate soldiers and juries were almost always all white. Gaols were actually labour camps where the chain gang, corporal punishment and sub-standard food were universal. Oklahoma even had segregated telephone booths, while the US Armed Forces were segregated (black servicemen, though were led by white officers) until 1950. When American troops were in camp in Australia during World War Two, the camps were segregated.

*Lynching was a common extra-judicial means of enforcing racist views of white supremacy and black inferiority and is often associated with the Ku Klux Klan, a white supremacist hate group whose main target was African Americans but among other groups who drew their ire were Jews, Catholics and nearly all immigrants. The judiciary and the police were generally sympathetic to the Klan so that the latter would often make arrests on trumped-up charges which would almost inevitably result in a guilty verdict as white juries would not convict white men of killing black people. Both arms of the law were present at a large number of the actual lynchings which were often characterised by acts of gross and obscene cruelty on the bodies of the victims, both before and after death. The most reliable figures conclude that between 1882 and 1968 there were 4783 provable lynchings, 3446 of blacks and 1273 of whites. The latter were sometimes lynched for being too pro-black, murdering another white person or cattle rustling.

The last reported lynching was in 1981 when Michael Donald of Mobile, Alabama, was abducted by three men who lynched him to express their disgust that a jury had released a black man who had killed a policeman. In 1997, one of Donald's abductors, Henry Hays, became the first man to be executed for a white on black crime since 1913.

CIVIL RIGHTS

*In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled segregation in education to be unconstitutional. The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People decided to test the decision through 9 African American students presenting themselves for enrolment at the Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. Rather than permit them to do so, Governor Orval Faubus called out his National Guard, beginning a prolonged campaign of intimidation of the students which lasted for some years. Despite this, the students persisted and eventually graduated from the school.

*In December 1955, Rosa Parks refused on principle to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. A 381 day boycott of the bus company ensued and in 1956 the Supreme Court ruled bus segregation to be unconstitutional. During this campaign, Reverend Dr Martin Luther King, a young Baptist minister, emerged as a dynamic leader.

*In 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower secured the passing of a Civil Rights Act which aimed to guarantee Civil Rights for all Americans but it was too limited in scope and subsequently too watered down to be effective for the African American population.

*In August 1963 a multi-racial crowd of 200,000 people converged on Washington DC aiming to force further civil rights legislation. Its highlight was the Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

* 4 April 1968: Martin Luther King assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

NATURE OF POLICING IN USA

Currently, there are 18,000 police departments and about 800,000 police officers in the USA. In general, policing is distinguished by physical aggression as a first response, the prolific use of firearms and overpolicing of African American communities through arrests for trivial offences.

2017-2020: Numbers of fatal shootings by police:

White 1398; African-American 785; Hispanic 542; Other 133; Unknown 588

African-American males are 2.5 times more likely to be shot by police than white males.

It has been noticeable that a good deal of our television coverage concentrated on the What? of these events rather than the Why? which is vital to a more complete understanding of them.

Real Headlines Mixed Meanings:

Red Tape holds up Bridges

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Local College Dropouts Cut in Half

Hospitals sued by 7 Foot Doctors

Typhoon Rips through Cemetery: Hundreds Dead