

November
2024

PROBUS NEWS

The Probus Club of Burnie



A Word from the President

October's meeting was very enjoyable.

Club Speaker: Ian Broad

Ian's topic was the arrival of the popular TE20 Massey Grey Fergie Tractor. After some technical problems with our computer Peter Ansell rushed home to get his, as ours was unable to show a video supplied by Ian Broad. The video showed an overview of the mighty Grey Fergie Tractor in the Burnie and Ridgley areas in the 1950's. This very popular little Fergie was born in England in 1956, designed and engineered by Henry Ferguson. It was built in York by the Davis Brown Company. The video showed us scenes of tractors being railed into Burnie in the 1950's. Jack Townsend sold many of these to eager Northwest farmers. It was a very versatile tractor and could be used to plough, pull headers and balers etc.

Our members really appreciated seeing old scenes of this tractor from years ago being driven through the streets of Burnie and fully laden rail carriages of the tractors arriving in Burnie. Also, there were scenes of field days where the tractor is ploughing a 3 bladed plough! The Fergie was very much used in the planting of potatoes, a very popular crop at this time to make a good profit!

Thank you Ian for showing this to us; I'm sure it brought back memories to many of us!

P.S. This little gem of a tractor can still be found on properties along the NW Coast.



Guest Speaker: Grant Youd

Grant started his career as a station porter and eventually rose to the position of a senior train driver with The Tasmanian Government Railways.

In the early days of rail in Tasmania a large workforce was needed to maintain and operate the steam engines, carriages, rails, and to have plenty of coal on hand.

The railways were started by 3 barons from England who perhaps did not communicate well enough and ended up each having different rail gauges, hence they all failed!.

Eventually however a railways system evolved, forming the TGR. There was a passenger service operating in Tasmania from Burnie to Launceston and Hobart but due to lack of passengers it ceased in 2009.

Grant reminisced about the good old days when there were many people employed with the railways and the camaraderie and larks he enjoyed at this time. He recalled that in the early days there was always a job available at the railways, whether you could read and write or not.

Grant also mentioned the difficulties/dangers he endured in driving today's diesel engines from Burnie to Rosebery where it takes a some expertise in operating the brakes going up and down steep grades, not going too fast in negotiating bends!, and yes rails do bend and do stretch due to usage, particularly when on the West Coast run! *Gradus*

October Meeting The smaller meeting room made for a convivial morning.



President Gradus welcomed new member Robert Haslock to the Club.



Ian Broad spoke about Fergie Tractors, Mark Lord thanked Guest Speaker Grant Youd

Images: Kirby Cunningham

Coffee in October

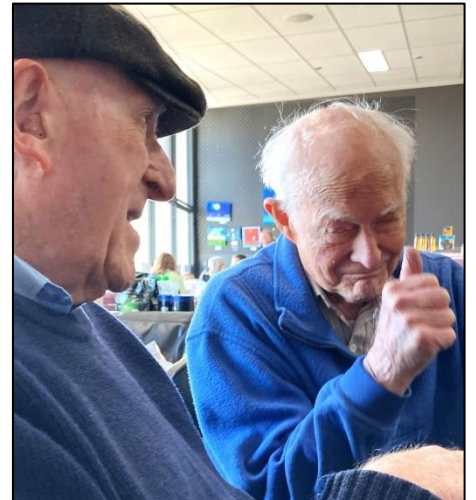
Was the coffee good??



Let's see



Ahhhhh



Yes!!



Considering Mark's quiz questions



Their answer made him smile!



Images: John Lamb



A Day at the Don

Our Club was pleased to give support to our colleagues, the Devonport Men's Probus. Our eleven representatives were made very welcome.



The train ride, the sausage sizzle the tour of the museum and workshop and the vintage car display were enjoyable and informative. *Probus at its best!*

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Making a payment to the Club.

If you wish to pay by direct transfer, the codes are: BSB 633-000 Account 112668025.

Living in the modern world from Ian Lancaster.

I feel sorry for parents today: *You have to be able to explain the birds and the bees ... The bees and the bees ... The birds and the birds ... The birds that used to be bees ... The bees that used to be birds ... The birds that look like bees ... Plus bees that look like birds but still have a stinger!!*

For Your Diary

Thursday November 14th: Coffee at Delish at 10:00 am.

Monday November 18th: Club Meeting, Upper Burnie Sports Centre at 10:00 am.

Club Speaker: Mike Peach, continuing his excursion to Melaleuca.

Guest Speaker: Chris Clark, discussing his life in journalism.

Thursday November 28th: Lunch at Furners, Ulverstone at 12:00 for 12:30.

Friday December 6th: Committee Meeting at 10:00 am (venue to be advised)

Monday December 9th: Christmas Luncheon at South Burnie Bowls Club
at 12:00 for 12:30. Cost - \$35 per person.



Newspaper Headlines (from Peter Ansell)
Is this what they meant to say?

IRAQI HEAD SEEKS ARMS
VOTERS APPROVE URBAN RENEWAL BY LANDSLIDE
MARCH WILL NOW BE IN APRIL
MINERS REFUSE TO WORK AFTER DEATH
RED TAPE HOLDS UP NEW BRIDGE
REAGAN WINS ON BUDGET, BUT MORE LIES AHEAD
LUNG CANCER IN WOMEN MUSHROOMS
... and they are all genuine!



Did you know ... There is an international Probus periodical??

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