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The Probus Club of the North

Newsletter

Issue No. 202

March, 2006

Dear Member,

THE MARCH MEETING

Attendance: Members: 28; Apologies: 13; AWOL's: 5; Guests: Nil; Total: 46

SPEAKER OF THE DAY - MARCH: Member *Laurie Tyrrell*.

Laurie provided us with an absolute wealth of information regarding the size and importance to South Africa of the "Silent Colossus - Coal". The statistics were mind boggling with the sheer annual tonnage mined, coupled with the number of grades and quality of coal and the "mixing and matching" to suit industrial requirements. Those 17 massive train sets, each with their 5 engine units, going back and forth, day after day, moving the "black gold", smoothly and efficiently is impressive. Finally, the foresight in the site location and sizing of the Richards Bay Terminal, plus the design of the railroad to meet tonnages of the future, has paid enormous benefits to South Africa.

The presentation was well received by the members and *Peter Cooper*, a mining man himself, gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Club. Thank you *Laurie*.

THE FORTHCOMING APRIL MEETING: April 13th. 2006



Alan Rose
Will deliver an
Absorbing Talk on the
History and Mystique
Surrounding

Chocolate

"Went Down Well!" - Germiston Probus Club

THE MAY MEETING - THE LADIES LUNCHEON AT BRYANSTON COUNTRY CLUB.

Once again, we confirm that the May Ladies Luncheon will be at Bryanston Country Club, on Thursday, May 11, 2006. The Cost is R 80 per head, including 2 glasses of wine and gratuities. Let's make it a Bumper Event!

CLUB VISIT:

The Club visit to 702 Radio's Studio is now fixed and all attending members have their directions and timings. They will report back as to how it all goes.

BIRTHDAYS:

To the following members and wives:

The Very Best of Days!

Apr	02	Dan Blake
	05	Ian Madden
	07	John Bing
	08	Gloria De Walder
	10	Leslie Tucker
	19	John Sampson
	22	Joyce Cullum
	25	Bruce Jackson
	28	Doris Cramp

May	01	Pixie Guest
	15	Julian Uhlig
	16	John Cramp
	24	Italo Bernicchi

DID YOU KNOW! (from Laurie Tyrrell)

Starting with the birth of Christ, the first doubling of knowledge occurred in 1750, the next doubling by 1900, the third by 1950 and the fourth by 1960. Taking the last 50,000 years of man's existence, approximately 800 persons (life-spans) would cover the entire period. Of these 800

- 650 would have spent their lives in cave
- Only the last 70 would have had any means of effectively communicating with their fellows.
- Only six would have seen the printed word.
- Only four would have measured time with any accuracy.
- Almost everything that makes up our material world as we know it today was invented during the life-span of the 800th person.
- And, more technological progress will be made during the first half of the life of the 801st person than during the entire lifetimes of all the previous 800.

If the time when man first stood on two feet to the present day, is encompassed into one year.

- He began to communicate in the late Autumn
- And it really all happens at about five to midnight on the 31st December.

Wow! Thanks Laurie for the input

NEWSLETTER:

The Newsletter is always looking for input from the members. If you have something of interest, submit it to the Secretary.

Put-Downs & Insult Quips of the Month:

"If you were my husband I'd poison your coffee."

- Lady Astor to Winston Churchill

His reply: "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

I wouldn't say she's a bitch but when she calls for a taxi, the SPCA van arrives. - Anon

RESIGNATION:

Due to business commitments, member Roland Rankine has resigned. We wish him well for the future.

MEMBERS DIRECTORY:

Please find attached the latest issue of the Membership Listing - Status Date: Mar.'06. The Committee is still working towards giving the Club a hybrid listing which gives something between the full details of the old "Who-Who's" Directory and the attached.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

- March 30, 2006 Visit to the Sandton studio of **702 Radio**. Attendance List - Closed. Those attending have received a Directions Map.
- April 13, 2006 **Alan Rose** will talk about the history and mystic surrounding - **Chocolate!**
- May 11, 2006 **Mid-Year Ladies Luncheon**. Venue: Bryanston Country Club.

<p>Menu</p> <p>STARTER: <i>Smoked Trout Fillet</i> <i>Served with a Mustard Dill Sauce</i> <i>On a Summer salad</i></p> <p>MAIN: <i>Crumbed Chicken Breast</i> <i>Filled with Spinach and Feta</i> <i>On a Provençal Sauce</i></p> <p><i>Served with Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes Du Jour</i></p> <p>DESSERT: <i>Lemon Meringue Ice Cream on a Strawberry Conlis</i></p> <p>FILTER COFFEE</p>

- June 8, 2006 **AGM**. (We will need some nominations at the next meeting)
- Aug 10, 2006 Being finalised. Potential speaker currently abroad.
- October (?), 2006 **PROBUS Council Day - Guided Bird Watching Stroll**
The venue will be the Marievale Bird Sanctuary, near Springs.
Details & Date at a later date. Mark your Diary.

REGARDS: JAC (PRES/SEC)

Apologies to Julian (462 8785) or John (706 3438) **(So as to aid us with the catering - please advise before the event!)**

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