



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo



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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

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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, 49 Emmett Street, Golden Square, 3550.

GUEST SPEAKER at the April Meeting will be COLONEL BRIAN FLORENCE (Ret.). Col. Florence's topic will be "A Sapper's View of Vietnam."

The FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the PROBUS CLUB of BENDIGO INC. was held on 21st March. In Summary the highlights of the meeting were:
NEW COMMITTEE

President - GORDON GLOVER

Vice-President - BOB HOLMES

Secretary - BOB CHENERY

Treasurer - JOCK CROOK

Immediate Past President - REG BROCK

MEMBERS: C. McLean, C. McDonald, D. Martin, A. Dingle, A. Cooper, Coles (Ed) and J. Aitken.

REPORTS: The President reported a successful year and thanked his committee and others for their contribution to the well-being of the club. Particular tributes were paid to retiring members RAY DOWNIE, ARTHUR EATON, and JACK WATTS.

The Treasurer's report showed that the balance of the Club's General Fund had dropped from \$339.72 to \$168.43 during the year. During the same period the balance of the Trips and Entertainment Account had increased from \$576.42 to \$598.69.

Following this latter report, the advice that the budget forecast on the General Fund would show an improvement in the 1990-1991 financial year on the current membership fee it was agreed that the current Membership Fee be retained at \$15 but that the joining fee be increased to \$10.

THE TREASURER HAS REQUESTED ME TO ADVISE MEMBERS THAT THEIR 1990-91 FEE IS NOW DUE AND PAYABLE AT THIS MEETING.

"Good evening wash-basins and urinals" is a greeting reportedly given by a speaker who didn't wish to rely on an interpreter for every word of an address.

DENHAM GRIERSON included this gem as part of his address in which he related some of his observations concerning the provision of aid in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Denham, who is Executive Secretary of the Victorian Council of Christian Education, and a former critic of the World Vision Aid Program was invited to accompany Bishop Ken Sport on a visit to these countries to assess the value of current aid programs.

Zambia was found to be an exceedingly poor country whose currency had been deflated by 260% and whose people were queuing for what food was available. Many who were desperate for food ate boiled mice - yes mice - not rice!

Health is also a problem. Obvious illnesses related to malnutrition are accompanied by a rapid spread of AIDS. 95% of the Zambian Army was reported as being H.I.V. Positive!

Aid to Zambia is helpful when as in one instance it provided a medical clinic with 2 nurses, a school, and a crushing mill for 20,000 people living in a small community, but can cause difficulties when grain is supplied as this may put local farmers out of work and unable to provide an income.

Money provided to support "a child" has to be re-directed to community projects because of the relationships in a rigid tribal community where all share the small amount available.

Conditions in Zimbabwe are not as difficult as those in Zambia - but life can still be difficult. Many children are extremely anxious to gain an education. A case was quoted of a lad who jogged for 2½ hours to get to school.

This enthusiasm stems from the low employment rate (30%) of the 360,000 who leave school annually.

Health is also a problem, but not at the same level. Health facilities are generally better than in Zambia but treatment is often slow because of a lack of equipment.

One worthwhile project was the establishment of an orphanage for 90 children. The orphanage which was established from an Aid grant conducted a number of instructive and productive programs such as a piggery and a market garden.

Denham concluded his talk by stating that despite 70¢ of every \$1 collected in aid was being taken up by administrative costs, he was now convinced that the remaining 30¢ was well spent.

Denham was introduced to members by Cyril Michelson and thanked by Don Kerr.

TRIPS AND ENTERTAINMENT

TUESDAY APRIL 24TH: BARMAN FORREST/LAKES, DISCOVERY BOAT CRUISE

Depart: Strathdale Community Centre, Crook Street at 8.00 a.m.

Estimated arrival home Bendigo: 8.00 p.m.page 3.

COST: \$20 per person. Includes: Coach Fare, Boat Cruise and Devonshire Tea. (TAKE OWN PICNIC LUNCH) Current bookings (45) plus 12 emergencies. Coach Capacity: 45.

SATURDAY MAY 19TH: TRIP TO DAYLESFORD-"AUSTRIAN NIGHT & DINNER"

Depart: Strathdale Community Centre at 5.45 p.m. "Austrian Band - "Oom, Pa, Paa Music". COST: \$28.00 per person. Includes: Coach Fare and Dinner. COACH CAPACITY: (45). Current Bookings: (32).

PAYMENTS: Required today Wednesday April 18th. (And list will be finalised). If not booked, then remainder of seats will be returned to "Houldens". "An opportunity for a very good night out".

SUNDAY JUNE 17TH: "GOOD OLD DAYS - CAPITOL THEATRETTE - MATINEE - PM.

A Combined Probus Clubs function. Currently our allocation of (50) seats booked, plus emergencies. (All enquiries to Alan Dingle).

COST: \$8 per person. PAYMENTS REQUIRED:

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH TO MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH: (8 DAY/7 NIGHTS)

"HUNTER VALLEY - HAWKESBURY RIVER AREA TRIP. COACH CAPACITY (44).

COST: \$470 per person. INCLUDES: Coach fare, D.B.B. & all entry fees.

DEPOSIT PAYMENTS: Of \$50 / person required today Wednesday April 18th please. Current Bookings: (43) Coach plus 8 emergencies.

Additional emergency bookings are sought for this excellent trip.

(Copy of Itinerary available for perusal).

TRIP TO GEELONG AREA: (LATE NOVEMBER - Could be Nov 27, 28, 29th).

(3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS).

COST: \$150 / person. INCLUDES: Coach fare, Accommodation, D.B.B.

plus entry fees. A trip specially designed for those who prefer a shorter trip. Day 1: Bendigo-Geelong: Geelong sightseeing. Day 2: Geelong-Apollo Bay. Day 3: Geelong, Port Arlington, St.Leonards, Pt. Lonsdale area and return to Bendigo.

A list will be tabled at the MAY meeting to see if sufficient interest to run the trip.

ROBERT WILLIAM CHENERY (BOB) IN PROFILE

Bob is our Club's new Secretary. To care for the variety of demands from the 100 members of Bendigo Probus should be a breeze for Bob. For on his retirement he was used to plenty of action, having a staff responsibility of 1100 to 1200 persons; an annual expenditure of between 25 & 30 Million Dollars; and all throughout an area covering approx one third of Victoria, as Chief Engineer, (Telecom Aust) North West Victoria.

Born in 1929, and spending his formative years principally in Essendon, Bob's early interests were Scouting; this interest culminated in his representation of Australia at the Rover-Scout Moot in Switzerland in 1953, when he also toured Europe and Britain.

Bob was employed in outside industry for a few years prior to joining the P.M.G. (now Telecom) in 1950. During these early times Bob concluded his studies at night school; as he says, "to gain a couple of Engineering Diplomas, and then begin to learn".

Married to Carol in 1956, and moved from Melbourne to Sale where all four children were born; starting with twins Pamela and Paul; followed later by Susan then Gayle. During 1966 Bob was diagnosed after a short illness as being an Insulin Dependent Diabetic. In 1967 Bob was promoted to Divisional Engineer at Mildura (Telecom). At that time the youngest Divisional Engineer in Country Victoria.

At Mildura, Bob was active in yachting (he built his "Mirror" class yacht); Member of Independent Appeal Board - Sunraysia Football League; Master of Irymple Masonic Lodge; President of Mildura Bowls Club; Member of Mildura Technical School Advisory Council; to mention a few.

1977 saw Telecom change its organisation, and Bob became Mildura's first District Telecom Manager. In 1979 Bob was promoted to head the North West Victorian Engineering Section located at Bendigo (an area from Sunbury Outer Melb. Metro to just South of Broken Hill; from South Aust. border to Echuca) from which position he retired in May 1988 after 38 years service.

Bob's interests include, Treasurer National Trust of Australia (Bendigo); Diabetic Society; St Paul's Cathedral Church; Historical Society; Tennis (2 clubs); Computer Programming; Bread Making; Gardening and when time permits, Bowls.

Bob and Carol have four Grand-children all in Mildura.

BOWLS : Vic Canobie reports that Bendigo Probus Club did well at the inaugural District Tournament winning 2 of the 4 sections conducted. Winning skippers were Reg Marslen and Vic Canobie. However the day's trophy went to the Castlemaine Club which also won two sections but with a better percentage.

Bowlers are reminded that 32 players are needed for the match against Sandhurst Probus Club on 19th April.

BILLIARDS - Peter Goodrich and I have been friends for many years but I can assure other players that we wouldn't mind some company when we play again at 2.00 p.m. on 23rd April at the Eaglehawk room.

U3A - In the fond hope that this issue will be in your letterbox before 3.00 p.m. on 11th April I wish to advise those who thought that they might be interested in participating that the next U3A meeting will be held at McDonald House (Edwards Road) at 3.30 p.m. on that day. The main purposes of the meeting will be to discuss the courses that can be run now and in the future. A management committee will also be established and steps taken to ensure that incorporation is achieved as soon as possible.
