



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



Published Monthly

Issue No. 70

August 21, 1991

Editor : ALEC CROTHERS (Phone 43 2642)

Annual Subscription : \$15 Registered by Australia Post No. VBH 7101

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President : ROBERT (Bob) HOLMES

Secretary : BOB CHENERY

Phone : 43 7634

Phone : 42 4546

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, 3555.

GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR August Meeting is Mr. Hugh Wheeler. Members will remember that Hugh was the Speaker at our January Meeting when his account of his stay in Papua New Guinea fascinated, amused and enlightened us. Hugh still has a fund of information about his Papuan experiences which he will be drawing on today.

Did you woo your wife - or girlfriend by offering "Old Gold" chocolates at the pictures? Did you buy a Christmas Stocking for your children? If the answer to either question is yes then you came under the influence of the great Australian company - MacRobertsons.

The story of the MacRobertson company was recalled for us by a personal assistant to MacPherson Robertson - founder of the company - by JOE BROWN.

MacRobertsons was established early this century. As with most companies business started in a small way but by 1924 2,000 were employed, including 70 engineers involved in construction and maintenance.

The wages bill during this period was approximately five thousand pounds per week. Mac paid the "girls" from one pound to one pound, ten shillings per week while he struggled through on one hundred pounds.

Company salesmen - Commercial Travellers - were not paid a retainer, but were reported to make good money on the 2½% commission received on sales. The products were of such quality that demand often out-stripped supply.

"Old Gold" chocolate was one of the company's later lines which was brought into production by a chocolate blender from Germany.

The difficulties of working in the "lozenge department" were noted. Temperatures had to be high - 90° - 140°F.

The only brand names that remain from the MacRobertson range are "Cherry Ripe" and "Columbine".

MacRobertsons was a company that became financially sound. However after the initial period of expansion, much of its profits were put into outside ventures and worthy causes.

MacRobertson profits were used to pay for public amenities such as the "Grange Bridge" and the High School that bears the MacRobertson name. Refurbishment of the Herbarium and the construction of a fountain in St.Kilda Road were also supported.

Company funds were also used to sponsor the MacRobertson Air Race from England to Australia and to support a "Mawson Expedition" to Antarctica.

Nuns from a Convent close to the MacRobertson factory were also known to benefit from the generosity of the company's Managing Director.

MacRobertsons is no longer in existence. The former sweets manufacturer was taken over by Cadbury. The size of the takeover may be gauged by the fact that the MacRobertson factory was valued at five million pounds just prior to World War II.

JOE BROWN was introduced to members by DAL MARTIN and thanked by NORM PHILLIPS who made the usual presentation.

The report of the talk by JOE BROWN is the work of KEN COLES, who put on again his Editor's hat while I was on holiday. Thank you KEN for a job well done, but could it be anything else in your capable hands?

ALEC CROTHERS EDITOR

BY-LAWS : At our last meeting the Club's By-Laws were ratified by the membership. At this meeting an alteration was carried in regard to By-Law Number 9 to add the sentence

"Any proposed alteration shall be advised to members in the Club Bulletin prior to its consideration by the Club."

Would members holding copies of By-Laws please add the above sentence to their copies.

At today's meeting it is believed that another chapter of Probus history will be made when PRESIDENT ROBERT will delegate CYRIL MICHELSEN to induct his son ALAN MICHELSEN into our Club.

This induction will be a unique occurrence; understood to be the first Father and Son combination in a Probus Club.

It is anticipated that the occasion will be recorded by local media. Presidents and Secretaries from all local Probus Clubs have been invited to attend our meeting to share in this historic event.

Members are encouraged to attend and once again demonstrate their support for the Club.

TRIPS AND ENTERTAINMENT :

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH. TRIP TO MALDON

(Join with Castlemaine Probus)

Maximum to travel : **Not Limited. Cost** : \$13.00/Person Includes Coach Fare, B.B.Q. Lunch, Inspection of Carmen's Tunnel, Maldon Vintage Train Ride, tour of Maldon's items of interest. Departure : 9.00 a.m. From Strathdale Community Centre. Current Bookings : 50 Vacancies Exist. "Should be an interesting and enjoyable trip.". Estimated arrival home : 4.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. **PAYMENTS** : Please ensure your payments are made today (Aug. 21st. meeting).

TUESDAY OCTOBER 8TH. Trip to Melbourne

CONDUCTED TOURS OF GALLERY OF SPORT

MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB AND TENNIS CENTRE

Cost : \$20/person includes Coach Fare, a light lunch, and admissions to : Gallery of Sport, M.C.G. & Tennis Centre. Departure from : Strathdale Community Centre at 7.30 a.m. Estimated arrival home : approximately 6.00 p.m. Maximum to travel : 49 Current Bookings : 54. **NOTE** : In regard to some entry fees, we are required to pay in full 2 weeks prior to date of visit. **Emergencies Required in order to cope with cancellations.** **PAYMENTS** : to be made at today's meeting (Aug. 21st.) please.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12TH. to SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17TH. INCLUSIVE

"TOUR OF THE YEAR" - TRIP TO SNOWY MOUNTAINS/LAKE EUCUMBENE"

Cost : \$383.00/person 6 days/5 nights, Includes : Coach Fare, Accommodation, All meals, Tours, Excellent mountain scenery, an enjoyable trip assured. Maximum to travel - 47. Current bookings registered - 81 **PAYMENTS** : by the first 47 persons booked to travel, are required in full 30 days prior to travel : i.e. : October 12th. Payments to be made to Houldens Tours, 15 Charing Cross, Bendigo. TOUR ITINERARIES: will be on hand at August meeting.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH. : PROBUS CLUB OF MARYBOROUGH

"COMBINED PROBUS PICNIC AT MARYBOROUGH"

B.Y.O. Basis for Food and Drinks. Coin in slot B.B.Q's available. Commencing time 12 noon. Picnic staged as part of "Golden Wattle Festival". **LIST TABLED TODAY TO OBTAIN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** if sufficient interest, a Coach will be arranged.

WINTER BOWLERS AT MILDURA : A party of Bendigo Probians took the bowls out of storage to try their luck in the Mildura sun on Wednesday July 3 and performed very well in a triples event for Probians from the northern areas of Victoria. A team consisting of CYRIL MICHELSEN, RAY DOWNIE and WARREN WINZAR (C) were undefeated after three rounds, but failed to take out a prize, on percentage. Teams skippered by ARTHUR EATON and TED DRISCOLL each won two games.

The Bendigonians did not come home empty-handed - scoring some well-known Mildura products - a bagful of mandarins for CYRIL MICHELSEN for the first beating "toucher" of the day, and RAY DOWNIE with a bottle of Trentham Tawny Port for winning a raffle.

Highlights of the trip were a Chinese banquet on the Tuesday night and a barbecue at Mildura Bowling Club on Wednesday evening, and here again our members acquitted themselves with distinction.

Wives of Probians were also well-catered for by the local hosts, a feature being the Irish Christmas dinner on Wednesday.

A good time was had by all.

Cyril Michelsen.

It's a recession when your neighbour loses his job, it's a depression when you lose yours.

Just about the time you think you can make both ends meet - somebody moves the ends.

Among the things that money can't buy, is what it used to.

Australians are getting stronger. Twenty years ago it took two people to carry ten dollars worth of groceries. Today a five-year old can do it.

We owe a lot to Thomas Edison; if it were not for him we would be watching television by candlelight.

Modesty is the art of encouraging people to find out for themselves how wonderful you are.

Money isn't everything; usually it isn't even enough.

I hope we never live to see the day when a thing is as bad as some of our newspapers make it out to be.

Terrible tragedy in the South Seas:

Three million people trapped alive in New Zealand.
