



# PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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A Special General meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am at the Masonic Centre, Melvor Rd, Bendigo.

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Tour organiser and Activities Co-ordinator Arthur Eaton, 4 Maxwell Crescent, Bendigo  
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## **Guest Speaker: Today we have a talk presented by Steven Young. Subject: Care of Commercial Clocks.**

Last month, January, we had as speaker, John Jones, who was introduced by President Bryan. Subject: Wonders of Technology for Disadvantaged Children.

John is the former principal of Comet Hill Primary School. His experiences there and elsewhere led him to take up an interest in educationally disadvantaged children, who, for a variety of reasons, did not make a good entry in the early years and have not made further progress.

Because of the missed opportunities early on, they can make little headway in later, more advanced work. John has studied the problems which are world wide and has participated in symposia, locally and overseas, while still actively teaching, and continually since retirement.

He is now in charge of the Eaglehawk Focus Centre. Here, with colleagues, he is engaged conducting learning plans. The programmes are computer based, working on computers donated by RMIT. The description of the programmes is Autonomous Learner Models. These are conducted at up to four sessions per week, after school hours.

The customers are not only current students, but school dropouts come in off the street to participate. Besides these sessions a computer club for kids is held on Monday nights. Also a scheme "Computers for Others" is conducted, some of the others may be parents of the above types. Funds come from Microsoft and the Smith Family among others. The scheme has resulted in improved school attendance. Ted Driscoll thanked John, on behalf of all the members, and made the usual presentation.

## FOUNDATION MEMBERS LUNCHEON

Following the Special General Meeting of January 18, the Foundation Members held their luncheon, at the Mt. Edgecombe Hotel. This time there were only club members present, eighteen in all, together with Molly Rothacker, widow of our late member.

The food was excellent, but unfortunately for me the portions were so large I was unable to sample either of the two marvellous desserts presented.

For our next luncheon, at 12.15am on February 15, 2006, we return to the Mt. Edgecombe Hotel at 8 Olinda Street. Two courses and tea or coffee, at \$9.50 per person. As always, widows of Foundation Members are most welcome.

## President's Comments

The January meeting was a successful one with quite an input from members re-membership, a nomination for Vice President and a good deal of discussion from the floor. No doubt, considerable benefit was derived from that meeting, it was encouraging to hear the contributions from the floor, the question we now have to ask is, "where does our club stand at this present time and where are we heading", it is now time to take stock of our present membership situation and ask ourselves, "what do we want?" do we continue at our present level and eventually, I am reluctant to suggest, cease to exist because of the lack of members/numbers or, do we look at combining with another all male club, of which there is only one other than ourselves or maybe we look at inviting women to join us?

It is vital we all be very mindful of the alarming decline in numbers, as stated at the January meeting, our present membership is 77. We do have the regrettable situation of some five or six members, because of health reasons find it difficult to attend meetings, which reduces our active numbers to 71. I believe this figure to be an all time low since our formation in 1985. Your Committee has held a special meeting (February 6th) to discuss at length, the ongoing problem of numbers, it is therefore very important that all members make a special effort to attend the February 15th meeting to express your views.

It was with regret we learnt of the death of Trish White, wife of Club Member John White. Trish has been ill for a long time, our sympathy and thoughts are extended to John and family.

Last meeting you will have noticed two small tables and chairs were placed in the hall for the convenience of elderly members to sit and enjoy morning tea, trust you will take advantage of them and maybe enjoy your morning tea/coffee and fellowship a little better and easier.

News that Jack Davies returned home last Monday after seven weeks in hospital was great to hear only to be saddened by his return to hospital on Wednesday the 1st. It is a trying time for Joyce who is not in the best of health. Pleased to hear our Welfare Officer, Herb Hesse has been in constant touch with Joyce and had visited Jack in hospital.

## BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to the following members who celebrate their February birthdays.

<b>February</b>	2nd	Tom Roberts	85	6th	Cyril Slade	84
	18th	John Hardy	82	25th	Cliff Neivandt	80
	26th	Ken Proud	85			

# NOTICE OF MEETING

Under Rule 14(c)... All nominations AND acceptances of nomination shall be made in writing, signed by two nominators AND the candidate/s.

Note: Preliminary advice of above was given in last months "Probe", together with appropriate nomination form; further copies available from Secretary. Completed forms to be in the hands of the Secretary not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting.

Notice is hereby given as follows:

The Twenty First Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Bendigo Incorporated will be held on 15th March, 2006 at 9.30 am at the Club's Meeting Venue.

## AGENDA

1. Confirm minutes of preceding A.G.M.
2. President's Report
3. Consideration of Financial Statement pursuant to Section 18 (d) of the Constitution October 1998. (Club's Balance Sheet).
4. Election of Executive Officers:
  - a) President
  - b) Vice-President
  - c) Treasurer
  - d) Secretary
5. Election of 5 Committee Members.
6. Determine fees/subscriptions for 2006/07.
  - a) Joining Fee (Present \$25 once only)
  - b) Annual Subscription (Present \$25)
  - c) Nominating Fee (Present \$25 once only)
  - d) Annual Nominee Fee (Present \$10)
  - e) Per Meeting Attendance (Present \$3)
7. Appointment of Auditor
8. Appointment of Public Officer.
9. Other business as directed by the President.
10. Close of A.G.M.

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING TO FOLLOW CLOSURE OF THE A.G.M.

1. Confirmation of February Meeting Minutes
2. Reports
3. General Business
4. Close

*Bob Chenery (Secretary)*

Congratulations to Ted and Irene Driscoll who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on January 26 last, a lovely photo of both Ted and Irene.



*Irene and Ted were married on Australia Day, 1946.*

Please do not forget that next month is the end of our 2005/06 year and the election of Office Bearers. All positions become vacant and nominations are to be in hand to the Secretary before the 9th March, please volunteer or nominate a member for one of the nine positions available, remember, this is about what is an existing problem in our club, getting members to accept office, show your support for our club and put your hand up to fill one of the positions vacant (see January Probe form for nominations).

Hoping to see as many members as possible at the 15th, February meeting, in the meantime kindest regards to all, please take care and keep well.

W.B. (Bryan) Armstrong

## **PAST 2 PRESENT**

Born in 1929, the son of Ewart & Vera Chenery in Ivanhoe. Following the return from world war one, my father purchased a service station in Ivanhoe (Melbourne) and studied at night school in engineering. One of his interesting day jobs was to maintain Mr Squizzy Taylor's distinctly yellow car, but that's another story. My Grandfather and his father were also engineers employed in the armaments factory in Arsenal England.

My first job was employed to deliver medicines etc, for "Bach's" Chemist in Essendon; then to "Commonwealth Aircraft Factory" at Fisherman's Bend (Melbourne); then for "Advance Small Tools", Moonee Ponds. During these years I studied mainly at night school for an engineering qualification. I then joined the then named P.M.G.s Department in 1952; and stayed with the firm until I retired. I worked on the design of the early T.V. aerial towers in Gore Hill (Sydney); Mt Dandenong (Melbourne). (Still Standing & Working!) and other military establishments in Australia. Also a few years on design details in the telephone transmission equipment field.

Married in 1956, twins Pamela & Paul born in 1958, Susan in 1960 and Gayle 1962. All who are happily married but now living away from Bendigo. I have three Grand-daughters and one Grandson.

I worked in Sale (Gippsland) for approx 12 years; then promoted to Divisional Engineer Mildura where I spent another 12 years. At that time I was the youngest person to be so appointed. My other interests include Bowls (past President Mildura Club) and Match Director, 3 years; Chairman of Appeals Board Sunraysia Football League (3 years); Member Lake Cullulleraine Yacht Club; St Margaret's Anglican Church (Mildura) and Tennis Club.

I was promoted to Chief Engineer, North West Victoria and South West N.S.W.; stationed in Bendigo, responsibility: 1100-1200 staff (depending upon works programme); Annual expenditure approx. \$60-70 million. Area equal to approx one third area of Victoria.

My final appointment was Engineer-in-Chief of Forward Planning of future Telephone National Customer Eight Digit re-numbering Scheme; involving re-design of Telephone Area Codes and Charging Zones; Long term (10 years) annual planned implementation of necessary circuits, equipment and buildings provisioning; Telephone Directory re-design information needs and Directory contract rearrangements; changed telephone numbering Public Relations. These efforts resulted in successful full implementation in 1996.

I enjoy my association within the Probuss Organisation generally and the Bendigo Club in particular.

**Bob Chenery, (Secretary)**

**Dip. Elect. Eng.; Dip. Mech.Eng.; A.M.I.E. (Aust); A.F.A.I.M.**



## **PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO**

***TRIP TO TASMANIA - Don't miss out on this !!***

***WEDNESDAY 26th APRIL TO THURSDAY 4th MAY, 2006. (9 Day/8 Nights)***

***COST: Pensioner Concession: \$1285; Seniors: \$1390; Adults: \$1455. Single Supplement: \$455.***

***\*\* Pensioner Concession Card Numbers & (in case of Seniors Card Numbers/ Birth Dates are also required.) Maximum to travel: ( 50 ) Current Bookings: (45)***

***Cost Includes: Transportation Bendigo to Bendigo - Bendigo Coachlines. Overnight Boat Trips (2 Nights) with Cabin accommodation on the boat to & from Tasmania.***

***Dinner, Bed & Cooked Breakfasts, entry to attractions as per the itinerary.***

***Lunches on (3) days. Note: (meals not included on the boat segment of travel.)***

***Feature attractions: the famous ABT Railway trip with spectacular scenery, now world acclaimed, and also a Gordon River Cruise, but there is much more. "It will be a great trip with consideration being made to cater for our age group."***

***(45) Bookings have been received from:***

***I. Bennett (2), C. Binks (1), G. Bloomfield (1), B. Bruhn (1), R. Chenery (1), A. Cowling (2), A. Court (2), A. Crothers (2), A. Dingle (2), A. Eaton (2), O. Faderson (1), R. Fitzgerald (2), G. Glover (2), P. Goodrich (2), F. Himsforth (3), Z. Hughes (2), D. Laity (1), R. Barty (1), R. Michell (1) M. Miller (1), C. McLean (1), L. Nankivell (2) K. Proud (2), A. Stephens (2), W. Spicer (1), D. Spicer (1), W. Winzar (1), J. White (1), I. Truscott (1), W. Truscott (1), M. Williams (1), Mary Donaldson (1)***

***Balance of Payments due: At or by meeting Wed 15th March, 2006***

***Tours Organiser Arthur Eaton.***

***For inquiries telephone Arthur : 5443 9162***