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# PROBE

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Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President: Jim Aitken

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Secretary: Bob Chenery

Phone: 42 4546

A Special General Meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday each month at 10.00 a.m.  
at the Masonic Centre, Melvor Road.

All correspondence to the Secretary, 49 Emmett Street, Golden Square, 3555.

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## GUEST SPEAKER

Today we have stock broker Michael McCartney to speak on "Investing for Pleasure and Profit."

Our last meeting seems a long way in the past, but we can still clearly remember the Guest Speaker, Ken Haymes, from State Trustees, who told us a lot about making wills, about executors and trustees, and the problems which can arise (Ken was introduced by Ray Downey). State Trustees was formerly Public Trustees, they are a State Government body who advise, make wills, act as executors, can be appointed to act with Power of Attorney and all at bargain basement prices.

The average length of survival after making a will is 15 months, and since State Trustees average 5000 wills a year they are working hard to nullify the population explosion.

The work of executors was described in some detail, and one of the risks of this job is that executors may be sued if they make a mistake, so it is better to make use of a Trustee Company, or State Trustees, in this capacity.

Ken explained the problems which arise when a person dies intestate. There is a complicated "family tree" which has to be traced out to find relatives, and, all else failing, the State of Victoria takes all after seven years.

Ken's description of these weighty, and potentially boring details, was enlivened by amusing anecdotes, some of them true, and he concluded by answering questions which proved that he had kept his audience not only awake but attentive. Bill Jacka expressed the thanks of the meeting, and made the presentation in the usual form.

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## TRIP TO SWAN HILL

When we departed Bendigo on Tuesday 8th November for our three day trip to Swan Hill, little did we envisage we would be treated to a most comprehensive and educational tour to places that most of us would not have otherwise thought of visiting.

A husband and wife team, Graham and Phyl Pickering planned the trip, with our hosts at Swan Hill Lazy River Motel – also husband and wife Bill and Laura Smith, and of course vetted by Arthur.

Swan Hill was named by the explorer Major Mitchell in 1836, who spent a restless night on the banks of the Murray due to noisy swans. Today Swan Hill has a population of 23,000, and most of the buildings appear relatively new – unlike Bendigo with its fine stone and brick structures. Apparently the sandy soil at Swan Hill was not brick making material hence all buildings were timber and the pioneer settlement depicts all structures in timber.

The trip after lunch to Murray Downs Homestead had been organised and a special guide, a young lady, entertained us with anecdotes of life in the late 1800's.

Like Fortuna, the original homestead has been added to with guest bedrooms and a tower in the centre which provided a great view of the rose gardens, the animal paddock of ostriches, goats and deer, and in the background the Murray River and the huge red gums. The tower walls are fifteen inches thick and a lookout was posted when the aborigines were a little too inquisitive. Our guide, dressed in the maid's uniform of by-gone days had an infectious giggle as she told us that important guests had their beds warmed up by the maids prior to retiring.

Priceless furniture and paintings in the dining room, 18 foot long dining table and the original brass four poster bed brought out from France over one hundred years ago.

The roses were brought from Italy over one hundred years ago and there is a pagoda covered by grape vines also over one hundred years old and laden with young grapes.

We had ample time to walk amongst the animals, and Arthur managed to hand feed a deer.

Back to the motel prior to enjoying a delicious Chinese meal at the Swan Hill club. Then on to a night cruise on the P.S. Pyap, quite spectacular with both banks of the river flood-lit from powerful lights on the boat. Silhouettes played on the imagination and the log-strewn banks seemed to take on grotesque shapes and one Herb Hesse was sure he saw a crocodile poised to dash into the water.

Day two we returned to the Pioneer Settlement for a guided tour of 'Heritage Park' and then we had time to wander at our leisure to browse over the many exhibits – a working bakery, a penny farthing bicycle hurtling around with a rider I think named Arthur and the music house with a working model of a wurlitzer, which set our feet tapping. The writer was enthralled with the music and revisited the music house and met Thelma Dingle, also very interested. We forgot the Pyap was due to leave for a daylight tour on the Murray. Alan had already gone aboard, but hurriedly disembarked to find his lady. We three called to hold the boat but the Skipper thought otherwise.

Our entire group lined the railing and with great merriment waved us goodbye. We were not deterred and spent a pleasant hour with the lady guide over a cup of tea and heard a good deal of the history of the pioneer settlement and the part played by the late Leo Cohn and son Jack in its establishment.

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After lunch we travelled westward through luscious pastures well watered, with many large herds of Herefords and dairy cows. One farmer was milking 1000 cows. The rotary milking shed operated 8-10 hours a day non-stop.

Across the river to Kyalite – a great contrast – a dry parched land and the old Kyalite pub with its photo memorabilia was interesting. There was a photo of a bloke who made a blunderbuss out of water piping, the muzzle was 12 foot long and the stock cut out of a solid block of red gum. This was mounted on a raft, covered with branches and drifted out into the river. The first and only blast shot down 50 ducks and the raft shot back 40 feet in recoil.

Then on to the Pistachio Hut farm where we were met by an American lady from California. She and her husband have established this farm of 400 acres with 64,000 trees, each with its own sprinkler. The trees are all grafted to a stock from a desert tree and it was intended that 6% would be male and the rest nut producing females. The nuts grow in clusters and present a real problem to harvest. At present hand-picked or shaken onto a tarpaulin placed under each tree to collect the nuts, hence extremely labour intensive but later they hope to mechanically harvest. There are many problems, galahs love them. In their first season some 40% of trees turned out to be male, necessitating replanting 34% with female trees. Demand exceeds production so they import from Iran.

That evening we spent at the Tooleybuc Sports Club, dining there and playing pokies. Arthur had a vision and persuaded all of us to buy raffle tickets. His vision came true as one of our members won first prize – Les Nakivell became proud owner of a set of golf sticks and buggy, worth \$800.

And now to our final day – when the ladies were let loose in Swan Hill's modern shopping centre. However, before doing so our motel hosts escorted us to Speewa Island. The Speewa ferry makes 75 crossings per day and is free – it has been operating since 1919. We were driven to a punt which transports farmers and produce across the Murray to the Island. The Island supports about 24 farmers on about 4000 acres. A visit to Bullers Winery was a welcome break for the wine buffs.

The barbecue lunch at the motel turned out to be a sit down luncheon during which the proprietor Bill Smith presented Arthur with a rebate cheque of \$100. Presentations were made to our motel host, Bill Smith and our coach driver, Graham Pickering and wife Phyl by Alf Ryall and Alec Crothers respectively.

Present also at the luncheon with us were Mr & Mrs Bill Dunstone, the President of the Probus Club of Swan Hill and his consort.

We laughed our way back home with 90 minutes of Irish jokes recorded on cassette. More hospitality by the coach driver Graham and wife Phyl where afternoon tea was again produced at Serpentine.

Arthur excelled himself again – a truly memorable three days.

Bob Holmes acted as Badger, and we hope the real Badger and the founder of our club, Ray, will grace us with his presence on our next trip.

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## TRIPS INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 1995

### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23rd, 1995 – Trip to Shepparton Area

(Maximum to travel 49) *Cost:* \$22.00/person (take own picnic lunch)

*Depart:* 8.00 a.m. from Strath Community Centre. *Arrive home:* 6.15 p.m.

The trip includes visits to: Shepparton Equestrian Centre to be entertained by "Spanish Andalusian Dancing Horses". From the Centre we proceed to Shepparton International Village and whilst there have our lunch. Then on to Campbell's Soups and S.P.C. door sales for some good buys. Finally, we visit the recent opened "Fruit Connection" near Mooroopna, with its displays of local crafts-people and other attractions, and to be served afternoon tea.

*Cost includes:* Coach fare, entrance fees and afternoon tea.

*Payments:* January 18th Meeting *Current:* 49 *Emergencies:* 2

### TUESDAY MARCH 21st, 1995 – Trip to Royal Melbourne Zoo

(Maximum to travel 49) *Cost:* \$11.00/person for Coach (bring own picnic lunch)

*Depart:* 8.00 a.m. *Arrive home approx:* 6.00 p.m.

This trip is timed on advance information received and coincides with Senior Citizens Week activities in Melbourne.

We visit the zoo, where at 11.00 a.m., there is a free concert by the R.A.A.F. Central Band at the Rotunda. Afterwards wander around and see some of the 350 kinds of animals from around the world. On this same day there is a Senior Citizens Expo in Melbourne Town Hall – 50 exhibitors.

*Entry to Zoo is free on this day (bring your Senior Citizen card)*

*List:* At January 18th Meeting *Payment:* February 15th Meeting.

### THURSDAY APRIL 27th – Trip to Donald:

*Full Cost:* \$11.00/person. *Depart:* 8.00 a.m. *Arrive home:* 6 p.m.

Donald welcomes Clubs to visit for an exciting and interesting trip. A "fun filled day" with inspections of local industries and direct to public sales, under guidance of local hostess Mrs. Janet Wood. First visit Kooka's Country Cookies factory; inspection, free coffee & tasting of biscuits. Visit Maxwell's old style bakery. Take your own picnic lunch, Donald inspection tours is free.

*List posted:* January 18th Meeting.

### THURSDAY MAY 18th – Trip Around "Gun Swamp"

(Maximum 49) *Cost:* \$20.00 approx/person. *Depart:* 8.30 a.m. *Arrive home approx:* 6.00 p.m.

An interesting and enjoyable trip is assured. We first travel to Waranga Basin Caravan Park for morning tea, then on to Tatura German War Cemetery (tour & guide). Visit Dhuringil Homestead/Prison (tour/talk); Passing Goulburn Weir, to Chateau Tahbilk for a Tour, Wine Tasting and afternoon tea.

*Listing:* February 15 Meeting *Pay:* March 15th Meeting

*Cost Includes:* Coach, tours, pack lunch, morning and afternoon teas.

ARTHUR EATON (PHONE 43 9162)

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## PRELIMINARY NOTICE

Members are reminded that the Club's Annual Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 15th March 1995. All positions on the Committee will be declared vacant at the Meeting and members are invited to apply to any position to join the 95/96 Committee. Nomination forms are enclosed within this issue of "Probe". Completed forms are to be in the hands of the Secretary prior to Wednesday 8th March '95, (seven days prior to the A.G.M.).

Further blank copies of the nomination form are available from the Secretary upon request.

BOB CHENERY  
Secretary

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## WANTED... SECRETARY

After five years of Secretarial service to our Probus Club our present Secretary Bob has given notice of his intention to retire from the position at the next A.G.M.

Bob has indicated that he will be more than pleased to speak to any member interested in nominating for the job as Secretary.

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We regret the passing of Albie Cooper. Albie was a foundation member of our club, his death will leave a great gap in our membership.

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