



PROBE



Bulletin of the Probust Club of Bendigo

Published Monthly

Issue No. 58

18th July, 1990.

Editor: KEN COLES (Phone 43 8590)

Annual Subscription: \$8. Registered by Australia Post No. VBH 7101.
PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President: GORDON GLOVER

Secretary: BOB CHENERY

Phone: 43 4843

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 the July meeting will be of special interest to dog fanciers (and of interest to all). "Dobermans" is the subject of the address by Ian Alexander of V.E.F. fame.

New members inducted at the June meeting were BOB HOLLOW and JACK KELLY. Both were introduced by HARRY HIGGINBOTHAM and pinned, congratulated and welcomed by PRESIDENT GORDON.

Noted with some delight was the fact that the meeting date coincided with our president's 48th wedding anniversary. The proximity of this date to the 'shortest day' - and thus the longest night caused some rather odd comments that may be best left to the imagination (memory?).

Not noted, but perhaps worthy of more sincere congratulations, was the recent 50th Anniversary of Alistair McLean's ordination as a minister at Cobden on 14th March 1940.

Members and guests at our June meeting were addressed by TED RANKINS Postal Manager for the Bendigo Area.

The first part of this talk was devoted to the history of the Post Office in Australia and its relationship to Australian History and the application of historical inventions.

Australia's first Post Master was appointed in 1809 - just 21 years after the first fleet arrived in 1899. Delivery of mail would not have been too much of a problem as the first crossing of the Blue Mountains did not occur until 5 or 6 years later.

Application of overseas inventions was rapid. A telegraph line to

Bendigo was operational in 1857 - just 13 years after its use in America, and Australia's first telephone line was in use in South Australia just 2 years after A. G. Bell's invention of the system in 1876.

Tribute was paid to the men who completed the overland telegraph link from Adelaide to Darwin in 2 years. This line, when connected to the submarine cable linking Darwin to most countries of the world, had a great impact on communications to and from our southern states. Messages from London could be in Sydney or Melbourne within hours of transmission rather than weeks, or even months.

The impact of telegram delivery - particularly during wartime - on the numerous delivery boys who worked long hours and on all Public Holidays was also recognised.

At a local level reference was made to the manner in which the Post Office building was renovated. The original proposal to spend \$60,000 was extended to \$1,500,000 and the work was completed in time for the building's centenary in 1987. What was installed as temporary floodlighting to show off the renovations at that time now seems to be accepted as a permanent arrangement!

People who host visitors to Bendigo were encouraged to take them to the Post Office to inspect the postal chamber and the philatelic section as these areas are regarded as first class, and not cluttered with 'queuing ropes'.

On the question of response to public criticism Ted advised that one problem he was trying to solve was that recently highlighted access to service by the physically handicapped. It was stated that access to service did not necessarily mean access to the postal chamber.

In response to a question concerning the reason for the non-establishment of an office at Strath Village, members were advised of two reasons for this decision - the over-serviced nature of Bendigo already and the proximity of the office in Somerville Street.

Ted was introduced by ALBY COOPER and thanked by REG BROCK.

TRIPS AND ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY AUGUST 5th, 1990 "OPEN DAY AT THE NEW LODDON REGIONAL PRISON AT CASTLEMAINE (conducted tour of prison)

Current information from Prison Authorities indicates the proposed "Open Day" is now to be Sunday August 5th (I hope to have confirmation at our Meeting).

Subject to sufficient support a Probus Coach will be arranged with Houldens to visit the Prison on above date.

COST: based on 40 minimum \$5 per person coach fare.

Depart Strathdale Community Centre at 12.45 p.m.

Arrive home approximately 5.00 p.m. (LIST TABLED TODAY)

TUESDAY AUGUST 21st: VISIT TO BENDIGO BY FORREST HILL PROBIANS AND WIVES

Invitation to Bendigo Probians and wives to bring along a picnic lunch and own drinks and meet with them during their lunch break, approximately 12.15 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. (LOCATION FOR PICNIC LUNCH BENDIGO POTTERY (Forrest Hill bringing their own picnic lunch).

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 17th TO MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24th, 1990 - "TRIP TO HUNTER VALLEY/HAWKESBURY RIVER AREA-GOSFORD/RETURN VIA BLUE MOUNTAINS"

(8 day/7 nights - Cost \$470/person includes: Dinner, Bed, Breakfast, Coach fare and entry fees.

CURRENTLY Full bookings with (7) emergencies. **Enquires Arthur 43 9162)

Please note: Final payments are to be made direct to Houldens Bus Lines, Charing Cross, one month prior to date of travel (ie. due: Friday August 17th).

AUGUST 1990 - VISIT TO TELECOM COMPLEX SHORT ST. BENDIGO

Anticipated date to be determined between August 22nd to 31st, (hope we have set date on our meeting day) and time of visit.

Transport: (Own) Maximum number for visit (40) anticipated, visit in groups of 10.

Visit would include inspection of: Electronic Trunk Equipment, Manual Assistance Centre and Iterra (Satellite Service Main Earth Station).

WATCH OUT FOR A LISTING AT MEETING TODAY

TUESDAY OCTOBER 23rd, 1990 - VISIT TO DANDENONGS - OLINDA RHODODENDRON GARDEN & WILLIAM RICKETTS SANCTUARY

An opportunity "not to be missed", see the Dandenongs at their best, the trip has much to offer. The Rhododendron Gardens (many acres) will be a blaze of colour with Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Camelias and many other varieties. Anticipated take picnic lunch (for those who desire lunch may be available).

COST: Approx. \$16.00/person (based on minimum 40 travelling) includes: Coach fare, Entrances to both attractions (coach capacity 45).

(LIST TABLED AT MEETING) - TODAY

SEPTEMBER 27th, 28th & 29th, 1990 - TRIP TO GEELONG AREA

8 days/2 nights COST: \$150 per person, includes: Coach fare, Accommodation D.B.B., plus entry fees. Especially designed for those who like shorter trip: Day 1: Bendigo Geelong with Geelong Sightseeing. Day 2: Geelong to Apollo Bay and return to Geelong. Day 3: Geelong to Pt. Arlington, Indented Heads, St. Leonards, Pt. Lonsdale area and return to Bendigo. ACCOMMODATION Geelong: Buena Vista Motor Inn, with John & Erin Ligerwood (including concert hour with John "Songs of Old")
LIST: was tabled at May and June meeting (will be again tabled today), currently (34) booked, require further bookings (cost based on 40).

DEPOSITS OF \$20 PER PERSON REQUIRED TODAY'S MEETING PLEASE

Houldens require a decision on this Tour by end of July

YOUR COMMITTEE is considering the following as possible policy:

'That a Probus Club member belonging to a Probus Club which is located outside the Bendigo area will be permitted to become a full member of the Probus Club of Bendigo independent of the waiting list that may

apply at the time and any limitation on membership. This policy will only be effected after committee consideration of each case.'

Members are also advised that the current waiting list - in order is: - Jack Rose, Len Roy, Stan Woodman, Ray Fitzgerald, Robin Watkins, Alan Michelson, Alan Court, Ern Waterworth, John Neil, Phillip McKean, Don Donaldson, Colin Mooney, John Dunstan, Noel Barningham, Peter Thornton, Lindsay Douglas (16).

The following quotation is from issue No. 1 of Probe and is thought worthy of repetition. -

"It is a club exclusively for men who have held executive positions in their business or professional lives and who have retired at whatever age from the thrust and parry of the market place. Probus off a sanctuary where we may go about the business of enjoying each other's company without the limitations and obligations placed upon us by an exacting job or a demanding Service Club. So let us enjoy this fellowship to the fullest extent.

DALLAS LOUIS MARTIN (Dal) IN PROFILE

Born in Melbourne Dal attended school at Elwood Central School and Scotch College. His basic education was completed at the Wool School of Melbourne Technical College where he topped his class.

In his younger days Dal worked in various wool stores and shearing sheds in N.S.W., Vic., and Tas. This experience together with his wool school training eventually led him to Bendigo in 1950 when he joined the firm of F. Ferguson Wool Co.

This company was later purchased by Dal and now has branches in Kerang, Kyneton and Shepparton. The company is now controlled by a manager - but guess who keeps an eagle eye on things!

Sporting interests have always been strong. Dal has played soccer for Victoria as a junior, Australian Rules football for a Victorian Army team during his three years in the army. Since coming to Bendigo he has been actively involved in tennis, sailing, and bowls and has held executive positions in clubs associated with each of these last three sports.

In addition to having a commitment to sport he has also been actively involved in community affairs being at various times - President of Bendigo Junior Chamber of Commerce, Past Master of Lodge Composite, Director of Eaglehawk Co-Op Housing Group, Secretary and President of Bendigo Rotary Club. He is also a Life Governor of The Bendigo Base Hospital and The Masonic Hospital. In many of these positions Dal has accepted positions that have required special skills and/or knowledge.

Spare time (!!) activities include gardening, travel and "footy". He is currently looking forward to the privileges bestowed on those who have been members of the M.C.C. for fifty years. (Claims to have missed only 1 Grand Final in that time).

Dal and Thelma have three children and six grandchildren.