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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.**

Acting President : Jim Aitken

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Secretary : Bob Chenery

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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, 3555.

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**VALE CYRIL McDONALD**

This month we are without a President. As we all know, Cyril McDonald collapsed and died while playing bowls. Our sympathy is extended to Del and the rest of Cyril's family, in their loss. Bendigo Probus Club has lost an esteemed leader and member.

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As today's meeting is the Annual General Meeting we do not have a guest speaker, since the business to be transacted is longer than usual. Instead we will have a talk from our new member, Rupert Reynolds, who will give some anecdotes from his very varied and interesting career.

At the last February Meeting, the Guest Speaker was Ken Briggs, who talked to us about the construction of the Dartmouth Dam.

Ken was introduced by Ray Downey who told us that Ken had a career of 44 years in the Water Supply industry and was now the General Manager for the Loddon-Coliban Region. Also, from his close association with the Rotary Movement, Ken was instrumental in organising the foundation of the Bendigo Probus Club in 1984-85.

The talk was organised into two parts, first the process of planning and construction of the dam, and then two films which were made during the construction.

The name of the dam was taken from the nearby old mining town, called Dartmouth. The construction was put into the hands of Theiss Brothers, the cost being shared by the Federal Government and the three states, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. The main purpose of the dam is storage, with a supplementary role of generating hydro- electric power to cope with peak demand under the control of Mount Beauty.

A further purpose is the control of salinity on the Murray, the water being of high quality of purity. Besides these reasons there is also Flood Control in the Mitta Valley and the Tourist potential.

Detailed preliminary investigations were made, examining the topology, hydrology, geology as well as the ecological and environmental effects. Following this detailed designs and specifications were made, tenders were called and Theiss Brothers selected as the contractors.

A first step for the project was building a 24 kilometre highway with concrete bridges, then the town to accommodate the construction workers, a force of 1,200 men. The dam is earth and rock filled, with an impervious clay core. The foundations had to be made impervious also by grouting to a depth of 60 metres. The finished dam is 180 metres high and 30 million tonnes in weight and is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, with a storage volume of 14.1 million cubic metres and a surface area of 62 square kilometres.

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**TRIPS AND ENTERTAINMENT Wednesday March 24th, 1993: Trip to Melbourne**  
- **"Phantom of The Opera" Matinee Show.** Cost: \$80.00/person (\$50 on show of Pensioner Card). Depart: 9.00am. From: Strathdale Community Centre. Crook Street. Arrive Home: Approx 6.15pm.

Tickets for Bendigo Probus Club Members/Wives (who booked and made payments direct to Houldens), will be available for distribution at March 17th Probus Meeting. Houldens have advised that in event of cancellation, the persons booked have to find own replacements.

**Note:** Arthur (43 9162) has names of persons seeking tickets.

**Thursday April 22nd, 1993: Trip to Ballarat - Sovereign Hill.** Dinner plus sound and light show. (Max To Travel 49). Cost: \$31/person. Includes: Coach Fare, Dinner, Sound and Light Show  
**Depart Bendigo: 4.00pm. Arrive Home: Approx 11.30pm. Dinner: 6.45pm, Sound and Light Show 8.00pm. - finish 9.20pm.**

The "Sound and Light Show" is an exciting new show which takes place across the whole 25 hectare panorama of Sovereign Hill, it is an outstanding experience which involves and surrounds the audience. Clever use of sound and lighting effects stirs the imagination. **\*\*\* (This show is proving very popular with patrons) \*\*\***  
**Current Bookings : 49 + 8 emergencies. Payments March 17th meeting.**

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**Friday/Saturday, 14th/15th May, 1993: Trip to Mornington Peninsula Area. (2 Day/1 Night) (Maximum 44 persons). Current bookings: 44 + 4 emergencies (more required). Cost: \$120/person. Includes: Coach Fare, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast, Picnic Lunch (2nd Day), Entrance Fees. Depart Bendigo: 7.30am on Friday, arrive Portsea 12 noon. We take an historic tour of Pt. Nepean on the Tractor/Train (2pm to 4pm) after which we travel to Hastings, our stop for the night, at the Harbour View Motor Inn (6 year old Motel - all ground level twin share - Motel has 4 acres of gardens).**

On Saturday: Depart Motel 8.30am and pay a visit to the famous Emu Plains (Red Hill Community Market), travel around the Peninsula to see items of interest. **LUNCH:** At Thelma & Dal Martin's beach-house. We travel home via Sorrento, travel on the Car Ferry from Sorrento to Queenscliffe and continue homeward through the Bellarine Peninsula and Geelong.

Note: When the plan was floated, there was overwhelming support for a return home via "Car Ferry". **Payments:** Deposit of \$20.00 at March 17th meeting, with final payment to Houldens Tours by Friday April 16th.

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Running the following two trips, April 1st and April 4th, depends upon support shown at meeting on Wednesday 17th. In both cases a booking listed would be a commitment. (If need to cancel - find own replacement). **Payments:** would be made on day of travel.

**Thursday April 1st, 1993: Trip to Melbourne. Melbourne Zoo, National Gallery or Museum. Cost: \$10.00/person. Admissions Free - Take own Picnic Lunch. Depart Strath Community Centre at 8.00am. (Minimum 40, maximum 49). As Senior Citizens week is from Sunday March 28th to Sunday April 4th, entry to Zoo and National Gallery, Museum etc is free to holders of Senior's Card. "All booking to have a Senior's Card". List tabled today, 17.3.93.**

**Sunday April 4th: Trip to St. Arnaud. "The Way Of The Cross" Passion Play. (Proved popular, conducted annually for past six years) Play commences 2.00pm, duration 2 hours 15 minutes) Depart: Strath Community Centre 10.00am. PROPOSAL: Run a Mini Coach (18 persons) or if bookings warranted a Coach minimum 40. Cost: Coach \$10.00/person, Play \$5: Total \$15/person. Take own Picnic Lunch. List Tabled today 17.3.93.**

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**GOOD OLD DAYS**

Sunday May 16 at the Capital Theatre, 2pm. Cost: \$10.00 each. Book your seats at this meeting and pay at the April Meeting. This will be a new programme and you are assured of an entertaining performance.

### PROBUS COMBINED PICNIC, 1993

The Combined Picnic, to be held on Friday March 19, is at Canterbury Park, Eaglehawk, time 11am. On arrival register, when colour tags and song books will be given out. People will be asked to dine in the areas designated by colour, husbands and wives will receive the same colour. Lunch will be taken at 12 noon, bring your own food and drinks but chairs and tables will be available.

After lunch there will be the Official Welcome, followed by the entertainment. Finally afternoon tea will conclude the Picnic.

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### BOWLS

Bendigo Probus Club won the Shield at the District Probus Championships.

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