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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** : CYRIL MC DONALD

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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.

The Name of this months Guest Speaker unavailable at time of printing.

Guest Speaker : **GRAEME TREWARTHA**, Regional Manager, Northern Region, Regional Development Agency, Department of Manufacturing and Industry Development, Introduced by **GEOFF BILES**.

"What's Developing in Bendigo?" The treatment by the media of Development is usually negative; bad news is given prominence, good news is given obscurity or even ignored. Graeme countered this by speaking of Projects and Developments on the positive side.

Among the important activities carried out by Graeme's department is Advice and Assistance about : Industrial Locations, Business Planning, Assistance Packages. Graeme described some of the successes which have been achieved. Production of tartaric acid in Mildura, where waste products from wine making are the source of tartaric acid, so that from being entirely dependent on overseas supplies Australia is now an exporter. Also in Mildura, Sunny Cliff Wines have an over-production of grape juice and also citrus and apple juice. These are used to make fruit juice concentrate which finds markets in Europe and the U.S.A. Lindemann's also have upgraded production so that now 60% of their production is exported. It is transported to the quay side by means of road tankers. In Pyramid Hill a factory manufacturing pet food has been set up, producing a turn over of \$300,000 a month. The food is made from waste meat supplied by chicken farms in St. Arnaud. Formerly the disposal of this waste cost money, now it is a source of income. Of the production at Pyramid Hill, 50% is exported. Echuca has been able to achieve considerable diversification of activity, and as a result the level of unemployment is only 5%. Plumrose has spent \$5 million on development and employs 300 persons. Another firm

in Echuca engaged in food making, Yoplait; and the making of pasta and ravioli is becoming important. In Maryborough, Allen's (formerly Nestlé) are developing and, eventually \$12 million will have been spent. Machinery formerly used to make licquorice is now used to make mints. In Bendigo, although several textile manufacturers have closed, on the whole there have been increases in activity. Rocklea, formerly Bradmill, are going to invest \$15 - 20 million in developments over the next few years. Bendigo Woollen Mills are planning to double the size of their factory. Jason Underlays are also expanding. Brien's Cherry Berry Farm has contracts to supply their jams to major airlines and to international hotel chains. The biggest boost will be given to the economy of Bendigo by the arrival of the Aluminium Rolling Mill. In addition to the operations at the mill, work will be carried out by the Ordnance Factory making and servicing machinery.

Concluding, Graeme said; "Don't believe all the negative reports."

LES NANKIVELL thanked Graeme for an interesting and informative speech, and made the usual presentation.

#### TRIPS AND ENTERTAINMENT :

TRIP OF THE YEAR : 8 Days/7 Nights "FLINDERS RANGES/ROXBY DOWNS"  
Saturday September 26th. - Saturday October 3rd. (inclusive).

COST : \$760.00/person - Includes Coach Fare, Accommodation - D.B.B., plus morning and afternoon teas and all entry fees. Full trip itineraries available, either from ARTHUR or HOULDENS TOURS.

CURRENT BOOKINGS : Currently Full - Emergencies: 2 persons, further emergencies are invited. Promises to be an interesting trip with variety.

#### POSSIBLE FUTURE TRIPS : LOCAL INTEREST TRIPS

Guided tours of the Sandhurst Dairies and the Bendigo Advertiser Newspapers. (Consider for July)

Guided tour of Chinese Golden Dragon Museum, plus, either a morning tea or light lunch at Museum or a "Chinese Banquet Meal" at the House of Kong.

#### FULL DAY TRIPS : MELBOURNE TRIP

Guided tour of Newport Railway Workshops with arrangements for ladies to see another suitable attraction while men are at Workshops. Afternoon portion : Ladies & Men - a tour of the recently opened Museum at Spotswood. (Perhaps consider - August)

#### PUFFING BILLY STEAM TRAIN RIDE & DANDENONG RANGES :

(Please give me an expression of your interest concerning the above possible trips)

Suggestions: will be welcomed, place your thoughts on paper or advise Arthur.

The excursion to MT. MACEDON, on Wednesday, May 6, was a great success; the foliage, the gardens, the food were all beautiful, even the weather held out fine until the visits were finished.

We were met at the C.W.A. Hall by the President of the Mt. Macedon Primary School P.F.A., MARGARET COLE, and straight away we had a Devonshire Tea. Margaret was then our Guide for the morning and gave us a commentary as we were driven along to our first stop, "Drusilla". This house is now the property of the Marist Brothers who have made it into a Retreat Centre. The property has had several owners who have developed the gardens and the house, but the present building dates from 1931, when the Grimwades commissioned architects to draw up plans. The large building and surrounding grounds has many interesting features; rosewood panelling, wrought iron work, unique chimney stack, lead light windows, to name but a few. Mrs. Grimwade died in 1943 and her husband soon after, with the result that the property was purchased by the Marist Brothers in 1945. When we returned to the C.W.A. Hall there was a lungh waiting consisting of delicious casseroles and tempting sweets. After lunch we were taken first to the Memorial Cross. We then saw Cameron Lodge, now owned by Mr. Stoneman. We only saw the outside of the house, but the gardens surrounding it are magnificent, with flowers, plants, trees and a Greek-style temple; The Temple of the Winds. Our Guide here was MALCOLM from the Bonsai Nursery, who was able to give names to all the plants. And so back to Bendigo after another of ARTHUR EATON'S excellent excursions.

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On the 16th. April, BENDIGO PROBUS played SANDHURST PROBUS at WOODBURY for the BOWLS TROPHY. Unfortunately Bendigo lost the Trophy, Sandhurst winning 112 shots to 83. The best performing team for Bendigo Probus was ;

D. OPIE            A. MORRIS        G. RAYSON        F. O'CONNELL (S)

I wish to thank all players for their support during the Bowls Season.  
TED DRISCOLL

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SOUTH MILDURA PROBUS are holding a BOWLS DAY (Triples) on JULY 15 at Mildura Bowls Club. All bowlers must be Probus members. This date happens to be the same as our July Meeting, unfortunately. Anyone who is interested, contact TED DRISCOLL.

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THE 2ND. ANNUAL PROBUS GOLF TOURNAMENT organized by the Bendigo Probus Club, will be held at the Neangar Park Golf Club on Friday 29th. May, 1992. Play will commence at 12:00 noon and it is anticipated that 4 tees will be used so that all players will finish within a reasonable time of each other. Afternoon tea will be provided at the conclusion of play. The total charge for the afternoon will be \$8 per player. The Tournament is open to all Probians, male and female, as well as those on waiting lists. Request intending players to advise RALPH MICHELL prior to 20th. May. Wives of members are invited to participate, as players, cheerleaders or whatever, but they are NOT needed for the catering.

This month our PROFILE is that of **RALPH MICHELL**. Ralph was born at Long Gully in 1920, of Cornish descent. He was educated at Long Gully and Violet Street State Schools to Merit standard. This was the end, temporarily, of formal education as he commenced work at the age of 13 in the Building Industry, where he remained, apart from his time of service in the Army, until retirement. Although his formal full-time education ended at 13, his real education then began. He had 10 years training doing evening classes at the Bendigo School of Mines. At the same time he did 3 years with correspondence courses conducted by International Correspondence Schools, and also short correspondence courses while he was in the Army. (As he drily points out, in those days you paid for your own education, and attended classes in your own time.) At the age of 18 he joined the 17th. Light Horse Regiment and later the A.I.F. serving with the Engineers on construction work which include railway, road and air-field building. His service took him to the Middle East and New Guinea, where he built the airstrip at Madang for Peter Goodrich to land on. After the War he and his brother carried on business as Building Contractors, specialising mostly in Government, Commercial, Institutional and Banking premises. That is the career record for Ralph, but it is not the full story by any means. In his youth he was a member of the Eaglehawk Rifle Club, and later the South Bendigo Rifle Club and also played football. After the War Ralph took up golf and later yachting. He was a foundation member of Bendigo Yacht Club, was Commodore for 3 years and served on the committee for 14 years. Ralph's present interests includes membership of Quarry Hill and Veterans Golf Clubs, Bendigo Society of Model Engineers, Victoria Miniature Steam Locomotive Society, Life Member Bendigo Yacht Club. He attends Continuing Education classes, builds miniature steam engines, carves and turns wood, manufactures old-style furniture and potters about with orchids and begonias. Ralph has been associated with the Independent Order of Rechabites for 63 years and is at present the Chief Ruler of the Star of Bendigo Lodge. He has been married to Marjorie for 45 years and they have 2 sons, 2 daughters and grandchildren. In addition to all these things, he is of course a Member of Bendigo Probus Club.

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**ALF GRIERSON'S** wife **DOLL**, has had a heart attack which necessitated hospitalisation, but happily she is now well enough to be home again.

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If any member is interested in the proposed **HOBBIES DISPLAY**, please complete the form and return it to **WALTER ASHBURN** or **RAY DOWNEY**. So far no date has been proposed.

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If any member is sick, it would be helpful if word is passed to the Secretary or the President, by his spouse or friends.