



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

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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, 29 Woodbury St. Bendigo 3550

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Not known when going to press!

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN many dry throats last month as PHILLIP LEAMON described the 'Liquid Gold' which has projected him to the top line of successful Vignerons.

To obtain the end product and retain the quality so necessary to survive in a competitive market requires special skills and a devotion beyond the line of duty.

Since it takes 4 to 5 years for a crop to mature special attention must be paid, not only to the site but to the selection of the type of grape most suitable. This means selective cloning and careful pruning, retaining the most vigorous vines for future culture.

Having achieved all that the real work begins. It becomes highly scientific. Timely sprays to prevent mildew, Hydrametric measurements to determine when the sugar content is right for harvest, the addition of anti-oxidents and the selection of the Yeast which requires as much care as the methods required to mate a thoroughbred horse.

For the record, the land for the future 'Chateau Lea Mon' was planted in 1972, it was the fourth vineyard to be registered in Victoria and in 1980 the superb standard set was recognised when it was the runner-up in the prestigious 'Jimmy Watson Award' - the epitome of quality in the wine industry.

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For an address of absorbing interest Harold Griffiths made the introductions and Jim McAdam tendered the thanks.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME: For the Diary:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26th. TRIP TO ECHUCA. Cruise on 'Pride of the Murray' P/S, visit to Tisdales Winery followed by 3-course Lunch at Rich River Club with time to play 'the Pokies (Armed Guard provided for successful Punters - if any!).

COST: Admissions and Lunch, inclusive, \$9.00 per person. Payment at meeting today, please.

DEPARTURE: 8.15 am from Strathdale Complex - parking at South end.

ARRIVAL: at home approx. 5.45 pm.

To accommodate members and friends TWO buses have been ordered. PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16th. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER. For Probians, Wives/Friends. At Bendigo Club. Pre-Dinner drinks at 7.00 pm, Dinner at 7.30 pm. Accommodation RESTRICTED to 120 and rapidly filling.

COST: \$15.00 per person - payment TODAY, please.

TRY THESE ON FOR SIZE: Suggestions only - please indicate interests.

Early January, 1988 -- Trip to Melbourne to view the 'Tall Ships' of the First Fleet re-enactment whilst they are there. PLUS another attraction to be selected.

During February -- A 'Dinner Outing' at Daylesford Hotel. Austrian 'Oom-Pa-Pa' Music with Cossack Floor Show. Estimated Cost: \$20.00 per person.

Sometime -- Trip to Queensland for EXPO (Coach Tour). Expressions of interest please! Time, Duration, etc.

In the Autumn -- Trip to Myrtleford, Bright, Wangaratta areas.

ERRATUM: Gremlins are pestiferous animals - they invade even the hallowed pages of a journal like PROBE.

In the September issue you learned that club member JOE O'SULLIVAN once grew tomatoes. NOT TRUE! It was really tobacco - a somewhat different commodity.

Of course, the long-suffering Editor always has to take the blame; more particularly when the error was his! Apologies, Joe.

IT IS ALWAYS GRATIFYING to view the fruits of one's labours, particularly so when the result is a notable success.

It was with pleasure that past president RAY DOWNEY and Yours Truly attended the first general meeting of the Probus Club of Sandhurst. With an attendance in excess of fifty and an obvious air of enthusiasm present the new Club is well and truly off the ground and running.

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THE NORTHERN TERRITORY in 1944 was not held in the high esteem by the 'Mexicans' (Oz citizens living South of the Border). To many it was the end of the world. Heroic Servicemen, champing at the bit in their anxiety to grapple with the enemy to the North were known to cringe in fear when a posting to Darwin was announced. In fact, such a posting became a punishment for malefactors!

To a young Vic/Railwayman, still wearing the marks of his apprenticeship a posting 'on loan' to the Commonwealth Railways at the fly-blown, dust-laden town of Katherine must have carried its own share of trauma, if not terror.

His worst fears were confirmed. He was called upon to work in appalling conditions in a make-shift workshop with daily shifts extending for 16 to 18 hours at a stretch.



Mercifully, the stint of duty was not long so the victim

CYRIL McDONALD

was able to survive with his sanity more or less intact!

Cyril was the elder of two sons born in Cohuna where his father was a Water Bailiff. Along with fellow-Probian, Jim Aitken he gained his Primary education at Mologa State School. For his secondary education he attended the West Melbourne Technical College.

In January, 1939, he commenced an apprenticeship with the Victorian Railways at Newport, transferring to Bendigo in April 1941. Here he remained until 1960 (with the exception of the short but painful experience outlined above).

In April 1960 he left the Railways to take up a position as Inspector on the Transport Regulation Board in Bendigo. Here his Technical experience enabled him to accept the responsibility for inspecting and enforcing the safety regulations on all buses and taxis as his main duties.

Transferring to Warrnambool in 1972 he was appointed Regional Officer for the area. Here he remained until his retirement in 1983.

He has always been heavily involved in sport, playing competitive football, cricket and tennis and now green bowls. Gardening and motoring fill in the spare corners of his retired life. He is the current Secretary of the Victorian Division of the Sportsmen's Association of Australia and a member of the National Executive.

Married in 1950 and with two children, Cyril was a Foundation member of the Probus Club of Warrnambool which he joined in March, 1984.

Most importantly, Cyril McDonald is now an Executive member of the Probus Club of Bendigo!

IT IS ALWAYS GRATIFYING Cont.

First function will be the Christmas Dinner which is likely to be over-subscribed, since the accomodation is restricted to eighty. We all join in wishing our 'New Baby' a long and healthy life!

A NOSTALGIC JOURNEY into the past was the experience of those attending the last trip 'down South'. First visit was to the exceptionally well-presented Air Force Museum at RAAF base Point Cook. Here we were given some insight into the super-human efforts involved in the establishment and maintenance of the Airforce, particularly during World War 2. Many more hours could have been spent there.

Werribee Park Mansion went further back into history - to the 1840's, in fact. That was when Thomas Chirnside established his vast Pastoral empire embracing a huge slice of the State of Victoria. The Mansion, restored and preserved and now under the control of the MMBW is well worth a visit.

SCRIBE CYRIL MICHELSEN REPORTS:

A huge rubbish tip containing old tennis raquets and ranging to discarded washing machines and motor cars and also infested with dirty cats, rats and the like was visited by a party of Bendigo Probians a few weeks ago and they really enjoyed being there. No wonder - they were at Her Majesty's Theatre visiting that top musical 'Cats' - so spectacular and so different. Bendigo Probians voted -- FIVE STAR MEEOWS!

Doncaster Probians have really established a close fellowship with Bendigo Probus Club members and it was cemented to a greater degree a few weeks ago when tour manager extraordinary Arthur Eaton organised a mine visit and a bush barbeque in the famous Whipstick Forest. After a hearty meal and a few added extras the Doncaster gold seekers armed with detectors, picks and mattocks went into action. The gold retur was nil but the expectant Probians were happy with their finds of old coins, rusty nails, pieces of old plowshares, bolts and fencing wire. The Doncastrians were more than delighted with their rustic ramble and said, "We should do this more often!"

WHEN THE DOCTOR told the patient that the best thing for him to do was to give up smoking, drinking and women, the patient replied, "I don't deserve the best, Doc, what's the next best?"

THE MAN who falls down on the job usually starts from the sitting position.