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# PROBE

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Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



Published Monthly

Issue No. 84

Nov. 18, 1992

Editor : ALEC CROTHERS (Phone 43 2642)

Annual Subscription : \$15 Registered by Australia Post No. VBH 7101

**PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO**

resident : CYRIL MC DONALD

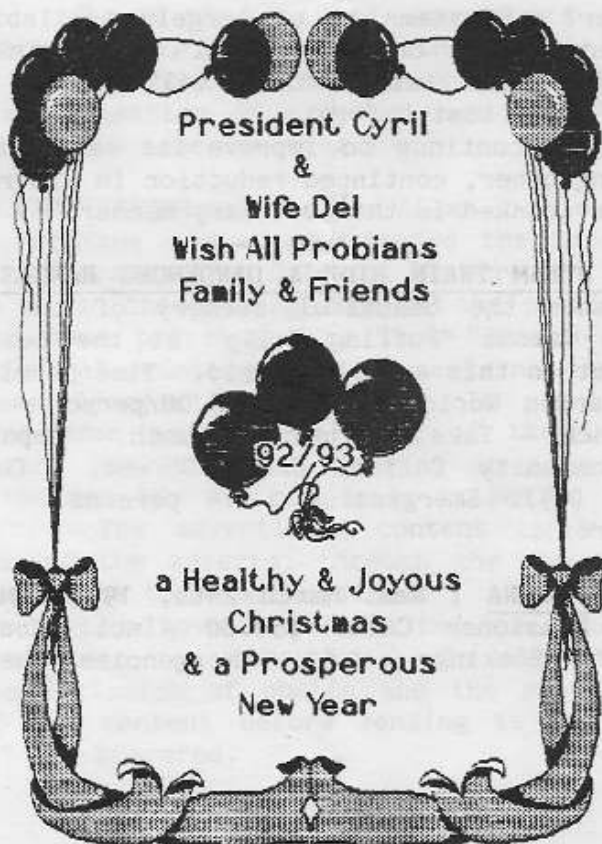
Phone : 43 9534

Secretary : BOB CHENERY

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.



The Guest Speaker at today's meeting is Riaan Van Rooyen, a Rotary exchange student from South Africa who will be presenting a different view of the history of South Africa.

The Guest Speaker at our last meeting, Graeme Davies, the Regional Manager of Telecom Australia, was introduced by Reg Marslen. The title:

#### **TELECOM FACING THE CHALLENGE**

Telecom came into existence in 1975.

Its return last year was \$90 million and its annual growth rate is greater than 10%.

There is a potential for \$40-50 thousand million worth of business in the Asia-Pacific basin. One of the modern innovations, mobile telephones, now total 550,000 and the number is increasing rapidly.

So it can be regarded as a thriving concern. After the Coles Myer Group it is the largest employer in Australia, in the Bendigo area alone 130 new jobs were created by Telecom in the field of customer service.

Telecom will now have to face competition from OPTIS. What can OPTIS offer? It seems to be largely availability of mobile 'phones and advantages on "long haul" STD, linking Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra initially. OPTIC will use the Telecom network and it will be below cost.

Telecom aims to continue to improve its services over the long term with, among other, continued reduction in STD rates.

Mr Davies was thanked, in the customary manner, by Os Watson.

**PUFFING BILLY STEAM TRAIN RIDE & DANDENONG RANGES : Thurs. Nov. 26th.** Experience the beautiful scenery of the Dandenongs and travel on the famous "Puffing Billy" at the best time of year - don't miss out on this excellent trip. Time permitting - perhaps a visit to "Garden World". **Cost \$19.00/person** - includes Coach & Train. **Lunch** - Take own picnic lunch. **Depart** - 7.30 a.m. from Strath Community Centre, Crook Street. **Current bookings** - Coach full (49). **Emergencies** : (4 persons). **Arrive home** : 6.30 p.m. (approx).

**PHANTOM OF THE OPERA : Wed. March 24th, 1993. (Max 35). Cost: \$80.00/person, Pensioner Card: \$50.00 (Incl. Coach and Entry)** "A Great Show" - Bookings - full. **Emergencies:** Check at Houldens.

**ANNUAL PROBUS XMAS DINNER AT BENDIGO CLUB - Thurs. Dec. 17th 92.**

Our Annual Xmas Dinner will be held at the Bendigo Club on Thursday Dec. 17th 1992: Pre Dinner Drinks 6.30 p.m.; Dinner: 7.00 p.m.

Cost : \$22.00/person (incl. Dinner, pre dinner drinks/savouries)

**\*\*\*PAYMENTS: November Meeting - please check booking list.**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 18TH 1992: HOULDENS TOURS ANNUAL XMAS TRIP TO RICH RIVER - Depart 5.45 p.m.** The much sought after, popular, low cost, final trip for 1992. Cost: \$6.00/person. Includes Coach travel and Xmas Dinner. Maximum to travel (49). Current Bookings (49); Emergencies (13). **Departure: 5.45 p.m. - from Strath Community Centre. Arrive home 12.30 a.m. (approx) \*\*\*PAYMENTS: November meeting please.**

**\*\*\*SUGGESTIONS INVITED FOR A POSSIBLE TRIP OF THE YEAR\*\*\***

Suggestions are invited of possibilities for a trip of the year: taking into consideration: Destination, time of year, duration of trip, cost range. Listing at November Meeting, please place your suggestion thereon.

**NORFOLK ISLAND :** Should there be any expressions of interest for a Trip to Norfolk Island, please let Arthur know. Bendigo Ladies Probus were endeavoring to organise such a trip. (Refer to October Probe for "an approximation of expected costings.") (Two couples expressed interest at October meeting.)

**VISIT TO BENDIGO ADVERTISER** reported by Allan Dingle.

Nearly forty Probians and wives visited the Bendigo Advertiser on the morning of Thursday 22nd October. We were met by Ken Saunders who escorted us on an interesting tour of the premises. For those of us who had been privileged to look "behind the scenes" of some of the "old time" printing works it certainly was a revelation. Our memories were "jogged" by the very old printing press just inside the front door and the painting of the former editor of the Women's Pages, Amy Huxtable, hanging in the reporters room.

Ken took us through the various daily stages in the compilation of each "Tiser". The advertising content is determined as is the distribution of the adverts. through the paper, thus allowing for the number of pages to be ascertained.

Meantime the reporters have been compiling their numerous stories and feeding them into the computers. An allocation of space is made for the inclusion of photos and the sub-editors meet for an overview of the content before sending it to the compositors where "mock-ups" are prepared.

Each page is photographed and from page-sized negatives the plastic plates are made for transfer to the large printing press which originally came from "The Argus". It was built in 1926 and was modified in 1985 to accommodate plastic printing plates.

Over 5½ million papers are printed every year, the Saturday editions being the largest - usually around 25,000 copies. The press uses over 80 gallons of ink each week and approximately 1,000 tonnes of newsprint each year. The newsprint comes from Albury and is made from pine wood pulp from plantations near Albury and the Snowy Mountains.

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**SANDHURST FARMS** After (metaphorically) bathing in printers' ink at the Bendigo Advertiser we turned black into white in a more PhysICAL way at the heart of Sandhurst Farms.

With two excellent guides, Operations Manager Paul Issac and Laboratory Manager Rose Galea we were able to learn that this important Bendigo Industry is one of Australia's leading agribusinesses producing and marketing a range of dairy products. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Q.U.F. Industries Ltd. The company is a market driven fresh food manufacturer which aims to develop products using superior technology. With a turnover (in 1990) of more than 120 million dollars Sandhurst is one of Victoria's major food processors. It employs some 210 people, 180 at the Bendigo milk processing plant.

Staff training is important at Sandhurst and relations between management and staff is first-class and innovating, resulting in the abolition of the 'them and us' attitude. No worker is an 'Employee' - he or she is an 'Associate', vitally necessary to the smooth function of the project.

Producing some 75 million litres a year in Bendigo (300,000 litres/day) collected from 110 dairy farms, Sandhurst Farms is Victoria's third largest milk processor.

Recently, a new activity was added to the plant - the manufacture of plastic bottles as containers for the various products. Against the advice of some 'experts' who held the view that only plastic manufacturers could do this, Sandhurst put in a moulding mill which has proved most successful.

Much more could be said about this most progressive contribution to the economic health of Bendigo and district. It may be summarised by quoting the firm's official claim:

"This processing facility is now regarded within the industry as one of the most sophisticated and efficient of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere."

## BOWLS

Teams to play against Bendigo on Tuesday Dec 1 at 9.30 a.m. at Bendigo are:-

- \* W. Bell, E. Driscoll, L. Roy, A. Eaton(s)
- \* J. Rose, R. Holmes, J. McAdam, W. Winzar(s)
- \* J. Kelly, A. Scott, E. Waterworth, C. McDonald(s)
- \* B. Rothacker, O. Watson, J. Mc Coy, K. Barker(s)

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## MEMBER PROFILE :

### **ALEXANDER KIRKWOOD WILSON**

Born at Parkdale, Melbourne, in 1930 of a Victorian Railways father and a nursing sister mother, Alex was educated at a succession of primary schools, Frankston High School and Mentone Boys Grammar School, where he boarded for the last two terms when his parents were transferred to Lake Boga.

After his arrival at Lake Boga at the end of 1946, Alex became involved with the restoration of 2 PBV Catalina aircraft for a Melbourne based enterprise, which subsequently collapsed; followed by a period with the Ford dealership in Kerang and then 12 months service with the R.A.A.F. Apprentice Training Squadron at Wagga N.S.W. On release from the Air Force in 1949 he came to Bendigo and worked for varying periods at Cohn Bros., S.E.C., Hanro, Australian Swiss, et al before joining the Ordnance Factory as a fitter in 1952.

From here stability in employment set in and Alex spent 2 years working on 4.5" gun mountings and marine gear cases before transferring to the Personnel Office as a Clerk for 9 years followed by a further 3 years in charge of the Registry. (Talk about chasing paper).

During his employment at the O.F.B. Alex discovered computers, having completed a 3½ year part-time course in Electronic Data Processing at the Bendigo Institute of Technology. He was then offered a teaching position at the College in the Business Equipment and Computing fields where he worked with the first computer system to come to Bendigo, an I.C.L. 1901.

In 1971 Alex was offered the chance to develop and prove the viability of Educational Technology in the tertiary environment. This included audio and television systems and later, computer linked learning. Under his guidance the B.I.T. had an operational outside recording vehicle before the local television station.

After about 6 years in the Media Field, Alex transferred to the Finance Department of the College where he became responsible for the development of a computerised Asset Register; vehicle acquisition, maintenance and disposal; staff housing; insurance portfolio and other mundane activities.

During these years, Alex saw a vast change in the Bendigo College, from a small, integrated community made up of trade, commercial and tertiary areas to the large, and still growing, campus at Edwards Road, which incorporates the Bendigo Teachers College and the Victorian School of Nursing (Bendigo). The prospect of a further hiatus caused by a possible amalgamation with a Melbourne University was enough to convince Alex that an early retirement was in order. So, in 1988, after almost 22 years with the College, Alex bade the "Halls of Learning" farewell.

To return to the dusty past for a moment. Alex married his wife, Beryl - a Bendigo girl - in 1954. They have 4 daughters, 3 now married, and a grand-daughter.

Alex now spends his time with his family, hobbies, the conversion of a small bus to a camper and travel.

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