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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

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.

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This month we have no guest speaker; instead, the interest is provided by our members. Inspired and organised by Walter Ashburn and Ray Downey we have Hobbies and Special Interest Day.

Our Hobby and Special Interest Day has arrived and we look forward to sharing these interests with our fellow members. We trust that you will have an interesting morning.

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At our August Meeting the speaker was introduced by John Griffin and he was Michael O'Burtell who presented the subject Experiences of an Air Traffic Controller.

He began by explaining Air Traffic Control. When you have seated yourself in an aircraft you put yourself into the hands of an Air Traffic Controller. The prime concerns of this man (or woman) are: 1. Safety 2. Orderly flow of traffic 3. Expedition, rather like a traffic policeman but complicated by the extra dimension of height, and the fact that traffic can come from any direction.

When the jet engines are running, with the aircraft on the ground they use fuel at three times the rate of consumption of cruising speed when aloft, hence the expedition.

For safety the separation standards, in 3 dimensions, are 1000 feet, or 2000 feet above a height of 20,000 feet for vertical separation; the metric system has not entered this field.

Lateral separation is a problem because of the convergence of paths, and the Longitudinal separation is 15 miles for aircraft on the same track moving in the same direction. Radar is a wonderful aid in this business, and now can indicate the height as well as the position of the aircraft.

The Controller must be in touch with the Fire Service, and Ambulance Service.

Because of the possibility of the airport needing to close down because of weather conditions the aircraft must carry a reserve of fuel sufficient to take it to an alternative aerodrome.

What academic and other qualifications are necessary for an Air Traffic Controller? At least Maths and Science at VCE level, a background in aviation is a help and it is necessary to have the ability to make quick and accurate decisions. Psychiatric tests have been devised to eliminate those not possessing the right ability, but to pass the test does not guarantee the ability to succeed with the job.

Three languages are used internationally, English, French and Spanish, and all cabin crew must have 200 words of English - but what those words are Michael did not say.

Norm Phillips thanked the Speaker and made the usual presentation.

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**TRIPS INFORMATION - SEPTEMBER 1992 "PROBE"**

**TRIP OF THE YEAR : FLINDERS RANGES/ROXBY DOWNS.**

**Saturday Sept. 26th to Saturday October 3rd. (8 days/7 nights).**

"An interesting trip with variety".

**COST : \$760/person.** Includes: Coach Fare, Accommodation D.B.B. plus morning, afternoon teas and all entry fees. Itineraries available from Houldens Tours.

**CURRENT BOOKINGS:** Coach Full. **Payments** now due at Houldens. **Emergencies:** Nil - Emergencies invited for this excellent trip.

**Insurance Cover:** Available, approx \$20/person, enquiries Houldens.

**DEPARTURE:** 7.00 a.m. Saturday Sept. 26th from Strathdale Community Centre, Crook Street.

**STATE ELECTION:** -----don't forget your arrangements to vote -----

**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 (I have reserved train bookings). **COST: \$19/person** - includes Coach and Train. **LUNCH:** take own Picnic Lunch. **PAYMENTS:** September meeting. **CURRENT BOOKINGS:** Coach Full. Emergencies (10) Further emergencies invited.

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 22ND: CONDUCTED TOURS BENDIGO ADVERTISER & SANDHURST DAIRIES: (MAX: 40)**

Bendigo Advertiser: Assemble 9.15 a.m. - Tour 9.30 a.m.  
Sandhurst Dairies: Travel from Advertiser & Tour : 11.00 a.m.  
Transport: use own Cars. Current bookings (41)  
Will be a very interesting morning - Emergencies invited.

**PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: WEDNESDAY MARCH 24TH, 1993. (MAX: 35)**

**COST: \$80/person, Pensioner Card: \$50 (Incl Coach & Entry)**  
A great show - A block of 35 seats held at Houldens Tours for Bendigo Probus. Basis: First in first served - book direct at Houldens Tours, payment on booking. Mention - BENDIGO PROBUS  
\*\*\*\*\*Ticket block has a time limit: if interested - book now\*\*\*\*

Inquiries to Arthur: (43 9162)

Our trips Liaison Officer, Arthur Eaton, organised another successful excursion for Wednesday, August 26th. The husbands explored the Newport Railway Workshops at Williamstown, while the wives had a conducted tour of Williamstown, Melbourne's best - guarded secret. The whole group were united for a picnic lunch. In the afternoon we all went into the Science Works exhibition at Spotswood. As usual Arthur provided us with excellent weather for an interesting outing.

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The members who collect the money, payments for trips and for the monthly contribution have a hard task, please make their task easier by having the exact money.

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There will be no committee meeting this month, but committee members are asked to arrive at the usual time to help in setting up the exhibits.

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**MEMBER PROFILE:**

**WALTER ASHBURN**

Born at Sandon, near Newstead in 1923, attended Sandon State School then Castlemaine Junior and Senior Technical Schools. Commenced employment in 1939 with the Victorian Railways as an Apprentice Electrical Fitter in the Signal and Telegraph Branch. In 1944 returned to the family farm and experienced the 1945 drought at first hand. In 1959, due to the downturn in rural returns, sought employment with the then Country Roads Board at Ballarat as Divisional Draftsman.

Appointment to the position of assistant to the Shire Engineer at McIvor Shire followed, then when the Shire Secretary became terminally ill and subsequently died, acted as Shire Secretary for eighteen months. Assisted the Shire Secretary at the Shire of East Loddon for the next two years before accepting a position as a Superannuation Supervisor with AMP and moving to Bendigo in 1963. Obtained the Diploma of the Australian Insurance Institute during this time. In January 1968 began teaching career as a Maths and Science teacher at White Hills Technical School where the interest in Meccano was expanded from that of earlier years. A severe illness at the end of 1974 brought the teaching career to an end and was superannuated out of the service. After six months convalescence obtained the position as Clerk of Works when the Hyett Block was built at the Bendigo Base Hospital. When this project finished returned to the Superannuation field with City Mutual combined with some journalistic work with a Newstead produced Motoring Magazine. Walter and his wife Peggy are keen lawn bowlers with the White Hills Bowls Club where Walter is a Life Member. A Past President of the Bendigo District Bowls Association Walter is now the Association representative on the Royal Victorian Bowls Association Council.

Walter is also an "A" Grade Motor Mechanic and has built up an extensive workshop for both metalwork and woodwork where he spends his spare hours making replica Meccano parts putting them together as models not to be dismantled.

Walter also has a collection of model steam engines and Bowls Club Badges. "Not enough hours in the day," he says.

