



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo Inc.



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A Special General Meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00 am at the Masonic Centre, McIvor Road, Bendigo.

All correspondence to be addressed to The Secretary, P.O. Box 1217, Bendigo, 3552.

For today's meeting the guest speaker will be Joan Smith from the Guide Dog Association of Victoria. Joan is the Association's Public Education Co-ordinator to schools and community groups throughout Victoria.



Our speaker at last month's meeting was Chris. Gobel of Bendigo Aviation. His company provides all aspects of flying from flying training at all levels to charter work. He was introduced by Arthur Cowling.

Chris came to Australia when he was seventeen with his family. He learned to fly at Moorabbin Airport, gaining his flying instructor's rating in three years and became a flying instructor at Moorabbin, Ballarat and Deniliquin before joining the airlines.

His experiences as an instructor/charter pilot were many and varied, including a very hazardous flight from Deniliquin to West Wyalong through cloud and rain and becoming bogged at the West Wyalong airfield. This necessitated obtaining help to lift the aircraft from the clay into which it sank. After a trip to Cootamundra he returned to Deniliquin to find that he was out of a job.

This was a turning point in Chris's career as he returned to Ballarat before applying for a position with Trans Australian Airlines as a pilot. He was successful and started flying Focker Friendships then went on to Viscounts, DC9s, 727s as first officer then the same again as captain, finishing as an instructor on 737s.

In ferrying aircraft from the United States, Chris had some interesting tales to tell, including problems with a jet engine which culminated in the finding of a lack of bolts and a surplus spanner in the offending engine.

Chris spent twenty-five years with T.A.A. (then known as Australian Airlines) before the pilot's strike that resulted in most of the pilots resigning from the airlines. After an unsuccessful attempt at regaining his old job Chris saw that there was a flying school for sale in Bendigo that, after some deliberation, he bought. His main reason for buying was to provide a starting point for his two sons within the flying profession.

In summing up his career, Chris felt that the broken hours and inferior quality food contributed greatly to pilots leaving the airlines and he was now looking forward to developing the Bendigo Aviation Service.

Chris was thanked by Ian Nixon for his talk and made the usual presentation.



VALE

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of two of our esteemed foundation members namely Reg Brock and Arch Scott who both died recently. We extend our deepest sympathy to their spouses and families.

ACTIVITIES

PROBUS BOWLS

Any Probian wishing to play bowls in the coming season please notify Bill Clemens to ensure that you are on the list of members available.

The first game is against Eaglehawk on Tuesday, 26th of October, 1999, followed by South Bendigo on Tuesday, 23rd November, 1999.



Bill Clemens

NOTE

Do not forget that the partners of Probus members are invited to our next meeting and to listen to Joan Smith. Luncheon afterwards will be at the Bendigo Club.



TRIPS INFORMATION

LUNCHEON AT BENDIGO CLUB AFTER PROBUS MEETING WED SEPT 15th for Members & Ladies. ***Outstanding Payments at Sept 15th meeting.

*** If you wish to check names listed, phone Arthur 5443 9162.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24th, 1999. Maximum: (49) Current (54)

TRIP TO TESSELAARS TULIP FESTIVAL & RHODODENDRON GARDENS

Depart: Strath Community Ctre Crook St: 7.30am Home: Approx 6.00pm

** First we visit the Tulip Festival, tens of thousands of tulips, thousands of daffodils, - a breathtaking tapestry of colour.

LUNCH: Buy own. A selection of hot foods, ice creams, soft drinks, "Dutch Treats" available, or take own picnic lunch - lawn areas.

** Second a visit to the "Rhododendron Gardens" covers many acres, a blaze of colour.

COST: \$25.00 per person, includes: Coach & entry fees, plus Morning Tea/Coffee & Biscuits.

*** Outstanding PAYMENTS: At Sept 15th meeting please.

TRIP OF THE YEAR - NEW ZEALAND - WED MARCH 29,-TUE APRIL 11, 2000

EVERGREEN TOURS "14 DAY CLASSIC NEW ZEALAND" - NTH & SOUTH ISLANDS

MAXIMUM: 50 CURRENT BOOKINGS: 48 Vacancies: 1 Lady to share with Lady & 1 Gent to Share with 1 Gent.

Excellent Group Price: (15 - 30) \$2420.00; (30 - 37) \$2390.00; Over (37) passengers: price will decrease. Price represents a saving of approx \$700+ / person from original brochure price.

Price Includes: Transport Bendigo-Tullamarine-Bendigo, Air Fares, Accommodation / Four Star: Dinner, Bed, Breakfasts, Tours & Entrance Fees, Aust. Airport Departure Tax & Trans Alpine Rail also included.

PASSPORTS: Required. For information & "renewals," phone 131232. "New" Bdgo P.O. 5443 0755 Cost: \$126.00 each, valid for 10 years.

INSURANCE: Discounted Group Insurance available. Pamphlet / Applications, Forms: For Over 70's & Pre Exist Medical condition avail.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 28th, 1999: TRIP TO GEELONG. **Don't miss this Trip.

Depart Bendigo: 8.00am. Arrive Home: Approx 5.45pm.

Visits to: Ford Discovery Ctre, a new, highly acclaimed attraction, cars from the T Model to latest models hot off production line.

LUNCH: Either buy or take Picnic Lunch. Our second visit to the National Wool Museum (winner of 6 tourism awards,) a wealth of interest for all here. On to the Cunningham Pier area, view the bollard sculptures. COST: \$25/Person, includes: Coach fare & Entry Fees.

PAYMENTS: Sept 15th meeting

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25th, 1999: TRIP TO MELBOURNE. Maximum: 49
Approx \$26 / person. Includes: Coach & Entry Fees.

Depart: Bendigo: Approx 8.00am. Arrive Home: Approx: 5.45pm

***** Visits to: Imax Theatre & Emigration Museum & or City Link. *****

LUNCH: Buy or bring your own.

LISTING: At Sept 15th Meeting. PAYMENTS: At October 20th meeting

*** Please tender correct money when paying for trips. If payment is by cheque, then please endorse detail on back of cheque.

*** Trips enquiries to Arthur (5443 9162)

REPORT

Trip of the Year to "SUNGOLD" HARBOUR-SIDE RESORT - SOUTHPORT, QLD.

Herb Hesse has prepared a "Full", informative and interesting report, which will be printed in full & distributed at September Meeting.

Forty Three Probians, wives & friends of Probus travelled.

TRAVEL:

From time of departure from Bendigo by Road Coach Sun 25/7, Air Travel both ways until return on Sunday 8/8/99.

All spot on.

SUNGOLD HARBOURSIDE RESORT - SOUTHPORT QLD.

RESORT: 4 Star, All had apartment accommodation, modern conveniences.

Meals, great variation and of high quality.

Staff: Very helpful & friendly.

TOURS: Driver/Guides: Excellent on all accounts. Great variety of top quality tours.

FREE DAYS: Transportation provided by Sungold to & from attractions, venues in Surfers Area.

RESORT PROPRIETORS:

Lyn & Len Olson gave what they promised and a "great deal more"

Lyn is a very capable, efficient and most friendly person who gave her all "to ensure the members of our tour group were well looked after and given a most enjoyable holiday." Supported by very friendly & capable staff.

RESULT: After fourteen days at Harbourside Resort, all 43 persons voted it a great trip & could not understand how "they got so much "of high quality meals, tours, attractions provided in the cost of trip.

** Excellent in all respects, one of our best.



Arthur Eaton (Tours Organiser)