



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probis Club of Bendigo



Published Monthly

Issue No. 11, 16th April, 1986

Editor: REG BROCK (Phone 434888)

Annual Subscription: \$8. Registered by Australia Post No. VBH 7101

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO

President: BOB CAMPBELL

Phone: 439211

Secretary: NORM SPURLING

Phone: 433942

Meets 3rd Wednesday each month - 10 am at Bendigo Club.

All correspondence to the Secretary, 5 Cambrian Cres., Bendigo, 3550

Ex-MHR JOHN BOURCHIER is the speaker today. His subject; "11 years in Parliament - 5 as Government Whip".

John is too well known to warrant any introduction here!

DRUG ADDICTS NEED HELP ... This is the studied opinion of a man who should know. CHIEF INSPECTOR JOHN DUPEROUZEL, our last guest speaker has 28 years service in the Police Force to back his view.

Punishing addicts is not a solution to the problem, says John. The community has to determine why people take to drugs in the first instance and then treat the cause. In other words, "Why do kids go on drugs?" Answer that one and you are on the way to solving the problem.

He blames the sixties attitude to Marijuana, the 'harmless' drug is in great part responsible. So-called 'pot' is not harmless and it does lead to the use of stronger, more potent drugs. The contribution of marijuana to the road toll must be examined. It is a fact that two 'joints' (the drug mixed with tobacco) can achieve a condition comparable to alcohol .05 and the condition may be extended ad infinitum by the intake of one 'joint' per hour thereafter. One-third of road fatalities in Canada are drug-related.

The Police Force is seriously undermanned, particularly in this area. The quaintly-held view that all criminals operate in the Capital City is

*****REMINDER! MEETING TODAY, WEDNESDAY, 10th APRIL AT 10.00 A.M.

DRUG ADDICTS NEED HELP (Cont.) ... a misnomer. Criminals have infiltrated into the country in strength and special Task forces have taken many operational policemen. 57,800 burglaries last year confirm this view.

A powerful address, backed up with some most peculiar 'exhibits' showing drug-smoking apparatus made the talk of John Duperouzel a worthy contribution to our gallery of speakers.

Jim Aitken made the introduction and Hugh Ward conveyed the thanks.

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING was well attended and resulted in the following officers being elected:- President; BOB CAMPBELL, Immediate Past-President; RAY DOWNEY, Vice-President; ARTHUR EATON, Secretary; NORM SPURLING, Treasurer; JACK WATTS, Committee; REG BROCK, CYRIL MICHELS, GORDON GLOVER, KEN GLOSTER, KEITH INGLIS, GEORGE JENNINGS. Auditor is HARRY CLIFTON.

It was almost the unanimous decision of the meeting that the recommendation of the executive reducing the annual fee to \$10.00 be adopted.

Representatives of Rotary Clubs Bendigo/Strathdale (KEN JOHNSTONE) and Bendigo South (KEN BRIGGS) attended and were welcomed by the President.

THE EXECUTIVE PLEASE NOTE: There will be a meeting at 9.15 a.m. SHARP immediately preceding all regular meetings. President Bob will appreciate your attendance at this time TODAY.

TO ALL MEMBERS: Your subscription of \$10.00 is now due. Please let your Treasurer, Jack Watts have it today. If you have changed your address or phone number since joining, Secretary Norm Spurling is anxious to know about it. Please let him know immediately as a directory of all members is being prepared for distribution.

IF THERE WERE AN AWARD For efficiency in organization we would nominate Arthur Eaton for it. The first Melbourne visit was an exemplification of what should be done. Not only were we delivered to the various venues right on time but we were expected - and welcomed - by all the 'receiving officers'. This was an achievement, particularly as Arthur was not present on the trip.

Each venue was different in its interest. The weather was perfect for the voyage in the MV Commissioner so no-one was seasick! Probably none of us had seen the Port from this viewpoint and all were impressed by the vastness (and inactivity - it must have been a quiet day) of the many berths for ships from around the world.

The brand-new Trade Centre is vast and still developing. 2,700 are permanently employed there already and this will greatly increase when the new Hotel and Conference Centre now in construction is completed.

Continued Page 4.

A MAN WHO SPENT all his working life as an Officer in the Forestry Commission, survived a 'baptism of fire' in the forest holocaust of 1939 and by his expertise in plant husbandry probably contributed more to the preservation of the forest environment than a battalion of well-meaning (but unskilled) 'Conservationists' is the subject under our microscope today. He is

GEORGE HENRY JENNINGS

and the contribution to his chosen vocation is outstanding.

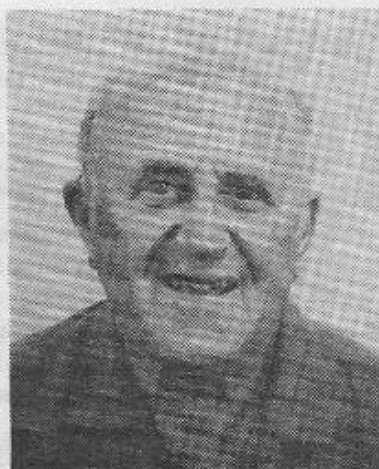
Born in 1917 at Ringwood George spent his childhood on the family farm at Bayswater where he attended the local primary school and later Box Hill High School, at both of which he was a foundation pupil. In 1935 he was awarded a scholarship to the Victorian School of Forestry at Creswick. After a three year course he was appointed as a Forestry Cadet on the princely pay of 150 pounds per year!

It was in Powelltown, in the path of the disastrous fires of 1938/39 where George, still a Cadet, received his torrid initiation into the horror of the forest fires. He was stationed only 15 miles from Noojee, a township totally destroyed in the holocaust. It commenced in November and rose in a crescendo of destruction to the infamous 'Black Friday' - January 13th, 1939. This is still regarded as the prime example of total destruction and resulted in the violent deaths of 72 citizens and fire-fighters.

By the time the fire reached its peak, George had experienced the agony of the violent deaths of two of his superior officers as well as the physical and mental breakdown of several others. This left the young cadet virtually in charge of the operations in his area. He recalls that at the extremity of the situation he slept in a bed for only four hours in the course of a week. As his mother remarked at the time THAT was when George grew up!

By that miracle of survival that so often happens in these circumstances the young forestry officer, although he escaped death many times in the wake of the flames, lived to complete his working life in the forests

As a result of his experiences George has little patience with many of the self-styled 'Conservationists'. He blames some of them, at least, for the severity of the Ash Wednesday fires. Obsessed with 'the preservation of the environment' at all costs, and in their ignorance of the natural forces governing the forest they continually frustrate the Forestry Commission in their efforts at fire prevention. Houses are built and hazardous conditions created around them and too often the local Councils



GEORGE HENRY JENNINGS (Cont.)... support the 'Conservationists' in their fight against the Commission.

On a happier note, the vast amount of work done by Commission officers in the rehabilitation of the forests is impressive. As a District Officer, George was stationed, at various times, in Yarram, Neerim, Heywood, Mildura, Stawell, Barham and Bendigo. Highlights of his career were the salvaging and utilization of fire-killed Mountain Ash, the purchase of 100,000 acres of abandoned farm land in the Gippsland hills for re-afforestation, the development of a 40,000 acre Pine plantation and the establishment of a plant nursery.

On the more personal side, it was at Neerim that George met and married his wife, Heather, and they have two sons, both of whom live in the Northern Territory. Ian is a Flight Service Officer out on the Gulf Peninsular and Russell is an Engineer with the Electricity Commission at Darwin. As George puts it, his winter holiday accommodation is assured!

He has a 40 year record with the Scouting movement and holds a Certificate of Merit for services to Scouting. He has been a valuable member of Rotary for 25 years and his dedication to Service Above Self is widely recognised. In particular, his work in obtaining and planting many hundreds of trees at the Rotary Youth Camp has not only enhanced the area but will remain as a permanent record of his efforts.

Demonstrating his versatility, he may be seen (and heard) every Wednesday morning at Mirridong Home for the Aged Blind where he conducts community singing and is affectionately known as 'Mr. Musicman'.

In saluting George Henry Jennings we point out that, most importantly, he is a member of the Probus Club of Bendigo.

IF THERE WERE AN AWARD (Cont.) ... The Arts Centre was a different experience, made perfect by the presence of our 2 delightful guides - Wilma and Rachel - who made us feel that country visitors were most welcome.

Copy deadline precludes a report on the 2nd trip but it may be assumed that it was just as pleasant an experience. The most frequent question: 'When is the next one?'

IN OUR LAST ISSUE we reported the presence of a village in Cornwall called 'Probus'. Further information has now come to hand in the form of a publication, 'Life in Cornwall 1881' and under the title of 'The Dip Wells of Probus' we read this fascinating information;

"In Probus there was an absence of sewers, and slop nuisances were frequent. Water was chiefly from dip wells. Of these, one had been roofed over by the sanitary authority, but above it, and only 10 feet distant was a refuse heap; above another of these wells and about 20 yards distant, was a privy, and a third was on the edge of a churchyard and below its level. A fourth of these wells had a pigstye 18 feet, a privy 27 feet, and a large manure heap 30 feet distant."... It is safe to conclude that there was no Probus Club in Probus in 1881. The citizens would not live long enough to form one!