BENDIGO
PREMIER TOWN
VICTORIA 1982-1985

PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo

Published Monthly Issue No. 20. 18th February, 1987.

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

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President: BOB CAMPBELL
Phone: 439211

Secretary: NORM SPURLING
Phone: 433942

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, 5 Cambrian Cres., Bendigo, 3550.

OUR SPEAKER TODAY is Bendigo Goldfields Librarian, Miss. BEVERLEY PORTEOUS. Skilled in her vocation, Miss. Porteous has been a great asset to Bendigo over many years during which time she has developed the library from humble beginnings to the splendid facility which we all enjoy today.

"I AM A 'HEINZ 57' VARIETY!" In these terms Mayor of Bendigo MICHAEL CURRIE introduced himself to Probians at our last meeting. In a good-natured and entertaining way the 'dark horse' of Bendigo City Council outlined his background and early family history.

His grandfather, an Irishman, wandered abroad to Portugal, met and married a local lass, then wound up in India, where Michael's father was born. Michael was born in India in 1949; his mother is an Indian lady. He received a good education as a British subject until, at the age of 18 he accepted Indian nationality under the new Self-rule conditions. With the rumblings of impending unrest the family sought sanctuary in another country and went to Toronto, Canada in May 1967. They were permitted to take only £2 sterling per adult out of India.

In Toronto they met a couple of Australians who just happened to be from Bendigo and their glowing reports of 'the Aussie way' was enough to bring the family here.

***** REMINDER! MEETING TODAY, WEDNESDAY, 18th FEBRUARY at 10 a.m.*****

In 1968, seeking a career Michael joined Telecom as a Linesman in training, became a technician and finally entered the area of Administration.

He always had a strong yen to run a restaurant so in 1977 he left Telecom to take up the franchise in the new McDonalds Bendigo venture. By the strangest of coincidences the name given to a kitchenhand by the Scottish Clan McDonald is --- "Currie" !!

Michael is enjoying his association with the Council and his term as Mayor. He answered a number of questions related to his civic duties.

He concluded his address by describing a meeting of a municipal council as similar to a mating of elephants -- 'They meet in high places with a lot of grunting and it takes two years to produce a result' !

RAY DOWNEY made the introductions and KEN BURCH tendered the thank.

TOMORROW IS THE DAY for the big Eildon trip and a life (if brief) on 'the ocean wave.' A reminder: park car at the club, leave 7.30 a.m. partake of morning tea at Yea and verily no vacuum flasks are required since hot pots for tea and coffee will be provided. Ingredients only are needed (tea, coffee, sugar, milk) and paper cups will be there to hold them. Bon Voyage !

SALUTATIONS & GREETINGS to Strathfieldsaye's new 'Citizen of the Year' - our Foundation president, RAYMOND SINCLAIR DOWNEY. Ray's career is well-known to us (it was covered in Issue No. 1 of 'Probe') but his remarkable efforts in the nurturing of Strath-Haven Home for the Aged should be especially noted.

Ray attended the first planning meeting in 1972 when he was appointed Honorary Treasurer, a position which he has held ever since. Through the years of planning and research he saw the realisation of the dream in 1979 when the first wing of the Home was opened.

In an effort which would occupy a large part of the working life of a professional accountant Ray was personally responsible for the handling of money, payment of bills, investments, recording of transactions, preparation of budgets and compilation of balance sheets for the past 14 years. Some idea of the magnitude of the task may be gained from the overall figures. This year the turnover is expected to be $420,000, and the present value of the buildings is $2,500,000 !

RAY - we salute you.

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET that we record the passing of fellow Probian, HEC SUTTON, and we send sincere sympathy to Angela and family.

OUR BULLETIN EDITOR

HELLO! I am fellow-Probian Cyril Michelsen here to tell you about our competent Scribe and star Bulleting Editor, Reg. Brock and what makes him tick.

All Probians congratulate Reg for his monthly production of Probe in such a newsy and professional manner. Each issue has had a touch of class containing accurate accounts of club doings and coming functions and narrated in such an entertaining way and always with a touch of the Brock humour.

Reg Brock spent the greater part of his life as a top and highly skilled photographer but I have a feeling that had he set a course to be a photo-journalist he would have been a great asset to any daily newspaper, as he has outstanding talent in both fields.

Born at Newcastle, N.S.W. in 1914 Reg is a 'north of the border' foreigner; but we won't hold that against him as he saw the light early, came to the Garden State, and 'bloomed'.

He has had 40 years continuous employment in the photographic profession making a great contribution to the industry wherever he served. His debut was in the Reg. V. Brock Studio in Geelong in the early thirties. Later he joined the Watt Telfer Studios to gain further experience. After five years he left to join the RAAF and, as Reg quipped in characteristic fashion, "The Allies at that time did not appear to be winning and needed some help."

In five years of service Reg was first stationed with Survey Flight in Canberra in aerial photographic duties. Then followed three years in Victoria Barracks, Melbourne in the Directorate of Technical Services. As 2/ic he worked on the establishment of a new Plan Reproduction section and also worked for various Courts of Enquiry, supplying photographic evidence. His last posting was to Morotoi (the Japanese surrendered as soon as the news got to Tokio - Ed). On discharge he held the rank of Sergeant.

In the post war period Reg again showed good 'hoss sense' in selecting a place of residence - he settled in the Golden City of Bendigo and has been here ever since.

Tracing his career in the city reveals that RVB has been a busy and contributive citizen. Firstly, he established and conducted, for fifteen years, his own photographic studio building it to be the largest Provincial Studio in Australia at one time with a staff of fourteen people.

Ever prominent in photographic circles, Reg served as president of the Institute of Victorian Photographers for five years and the professional Photographers Association of Australia (two years) during which time the first and subsequent photographic Trade shows were held in Melbourne Town Hall. For his distinctive service in these organizations he was awarded Honorary life membership in the PPA of A and Fellowship in the IVP.

In 1956 our Bulletin editor was appointed the first 'stringer' (casual) cameraman to ABC Television News and served until 1961. In that year, seeking new experiences Reg sold his Bendigo studio and joined local TV studio BCV8 as one of four senior Executives charged with the initial planning and establishment of the station.

In 1963 he became Programme Manager and also had an active role the production and direction of live programmes and promotions. As manager of the photographic department in 1974 he was prominent in the big exercise of converting the station to full colour operation.

In every phase of his life Reg. V. Brock has believed in complete service and loyalty to his work or any community organization to which he was associated. His motto has always been 'If you are going to do a job - do it well.' A glance at his record of service in our community stamps him as a true Bendigonian who has not spared himself to make his adopted city a better place in which to live.

How is this for commendable activity:-

- Councillor, Shire of Strathfieldsaye; President, Bendigo Rotary Club (member for 36 years), President, Air Force Association (Bendigo Branch) Foundation member, Central Victoria Ambulance Service committee, member of Bendigo High School Advisory committee, member of Council of Bendigo Chamber of Commerce, member, Bendigo Art Gallery committee, Past Master, Masonic Lodge; Elder, Uniting Church.

Perhaps the crowning achievement of his busy career came in December last when he was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship - the Highest International honour for Rotary service. Reg, a Bendigo Rot / member for 36 years well deserved this award for service to Rotary, his club and his community. He is only the fifth member of the Bendigo club to be so honoured in 62 years of its activity.

Bendigo Probians are unanimous in their praise of Reg for the excellence of his Probe bulletins - always entertaining.

BEWARE, Mr. EDITOR! If you maintain your present high standard of production we may have to fight off a take-over bid from either Rupert Murdoch or Holmes a' Court.

On second thoughts, Reg, you're safe. The bid would be doomed to fail - no Bendigo Probian will sell his share!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The foregoing article is published without prejudice, unexpurgated, and statements made and views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor).

IN CASE YOU BECOME ALARMED at the prospect of a 'Special' General meeting we hasten to inform you that this is the term dictated by the new Incorporation Act in which all meetings other than the Annual General meeting shall be so designated.

TWO NEW MEMBERS for the record:
RALPH MICHELL (Marjorie) 5 Rodney Street, Bendigo Ph: 43 3514.
JOHN McCOY (Vivien) 3 Raymond Avenue, Bendigo Ph: 43 3631.
we extend a sincere Probian welcome to Ralph and John.

THE TRIP TO MILDURA is well under way with more than half the complement reached already (You've got to be quick!) Details are: 3 days (2 nights) leaving 7.00 a.m. on FRIDAY MAY 1st. Accommodation at Sunland Motel includes dinner, bed and breakfast (not lunch). Cost ALL UP including Bus, Bed and all admissions to all activities is only $120 per person. A real Fringe Benefit is this one! Call Arthur on 43 9162 NOW to make sure you are in it.

THE FILM DAY last month was another winner with lunch, accommodation at Pinkies taxed to the limit. The Oscar winning movie 'Out of Africa' was enjoyed by all and the sight of the lions enjoying their meal (a buffalo - not the heroine) whetted the appetite for most of us.

A MESSAGE FROM HEADQUARTERS: Those of you who have your Ladies name badges tucked away in the bottom drawer PLEASE return them to RAY DOWNEY, Official custodian of the nomenclatures. They will be available whenever you want them. Those members who still wish to make a presentation of a handsome badge to the little Lady may order one from JACK WATTS for the nominal charge of $3.

WORTH REPEATING:

Remember when "hippie" meant big in the hips,
And a "trip" involved travel in planes, cars and ships?
When "pot" was a vessel for cooking things in,
And "hooked" was what grandmother's rug would have been?
When "fix" was a verb that meant mend or repair.
And to be "in" meant merely existing somewhere?
When "neat" meant well organized, tidy and clean,
And "grass" was a ground cover, normally green?
When "groovy" meant furrowed with channels and hollows,
And "birds" meant winged creatures like robins and swallows?
When "roll" was a bun and "rock" was a stone,
And "hangup" was something you did with a Phone?
When lights (not people) were "turned on" and off,
And the "pill" was something you took for a cough?
When a "swinger" was someone who swung in a swing,
And a "pad" was a soft sort of cushiony thing?
When "far out" meant distance, a long way away,
And no one thought twice when you said they were "gay"?
IF YOU DO, YOU'RE SHOWING YOUR AGE !

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting of the Probus Club of Bendigo Incorporated will be held on 18th March, 1987 at the Bendigo Club at 10.00 a.m.

AGENDA

President's Report
Consideration of Financial Statement pursuant to
Section 30 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981
Election of Officers (a) President
(b) Vice President
(c) Treasurer
(d) Secretary
Election of 7 Committee Members
Determine entrance fee
Determine annual subscription
Appointment of an Auditor

Special General Meeting 18/3/87 following the closure of the Annual General Meeting.

AGENDA

Minutes of February Meeting
Reports
General Business

N. Spurling, Secretary.

Election of Officers and Committee members.
Rule 23.1. Nominations for candidates for election as officers of the Association or as ordinary members of the Committee

(a) shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination) and
(b) shall be delivered to the secretary of the Association not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting.