



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo



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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

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

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"HEAR YE! HEAR YE!" We can almost hear the Town Crier Say, "His Worship the Mayor will be amongst us today. All members of the honourable order of Probians will take heed!"

It is unlikely that our guest speaker, Cr. MICHAEL CURRY will wear his ceremonial robes but it is very likely that his talk to us will be most informative. The life of a civic leader must be heavily laced with Problems! Problems! and no doubt we will learn of many of them today.

THE INCONTROVERTIBLE TRUTH that we have amongst our members learned citizens capable of delivering a memorable discourse at short notice was demonstrated last meeting when Probian LEN HALL 'stepped into the breach' caused by the absence of our allotted speaker, who could not attend.

On the subject of Aborigine Studies, Len gave a brief talk and then answered the many questions fired at him.

An important point: Aborigines are individuals connected to various tribes and cannot be lumped together as one 'Race'. The term 'aborigine' is white man's lingo - it does not occur in the language of any tribe. Talk of conferring 'land rights' is a misnomer. The land BELONGS to the tribal people; they are OF the land and it is part of their genetic make-up. Question! How can you 'give' to a person something he →

***** REMINDER! MEETING TODAY, WEDNESDAY, 21st. January at 10.00 a.m.**

already owns? The white man is an interloper.

Most common problem is alcoholism - a scourge introduced and carefully nurtured by white exploiters (e.g. the taxi driver who, on a slack day, loads his cab with grog and penetrates the defences of the tribal elders, frustrating their desperate efforts to keep it out).

Question: How do you identify a 'true' aborigine? In three ways. He must speak his tribal language throughout the day, he must have 'skinship' and he must participate regularly in the tribal song ceremony.

Question: How do we caucasians help our black brothers? In three ways
1. Do NOT treat them all the same - they are all very different people.
2. LEAVE THEM ALONE. Listen to them but do not try to solve their problems by using 'white feller' methods.
3. Recognise that white man can penetrate the heart of an aborigine which he would h to do as a starting point for understanding.

We are indebted to Len for a timely and excellent address.

TO SECURE THEIR BERTHS voyagers on the good ship Explorer outward bound for Eildon are asked to tender their Passage money (\$27.00) to Purser Eaton TODAY; or they run the risk of being nudged aside by the hordes awaiting cancellations. Bon Voyage to the lucky ones!

FILM DAY is TUESDAY, JANUARY 27th. 10.00 a.m. screening at Public Library; 1.00 p.m. Luncheon at Pinkis. Charges: Film only, \$4.00 @ a splendid meal, \$12.00. Payment TODAY, please!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT! Short trip (9.00 a.m. to 3.45 p.m.) to Puckapunyal with bar-be-que and visit to military museum, etc. Coming up soon.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST, please, in a trip to Mildura (possibly May) for 3 days/2 nights. Arthur wants your views.

STILL ON THE DRAWING BOARD - a trip to Mitchelton, etc. More later.

MELBOURNE ZOO TRIP was most successful due to the happy combination of good weather, good fellowship and the ability of all Probians to avoid being locked in the empty cages! Captain Arthur had to carefully check the bus on return. Someone remarked that a large Ape looked almost like us! The poor animal flinched and it had to be pointed out that such a remark was insulting to the noble beast.

Hoax of the day; on arrival at the Zoo we were asked to check and make sure we all had our name badges on. We complied, to be told (wait for it!) since the animals were all named it was only fair that they should know who we were.

BOWLS TRIP TO KERANG was an outstanding success for the few who went. Fellowship was splendid - hospitality lavish, and warrants careful consideration of all bowlers if an invitation is extended next year.



FOR SEVERAL GENERATIONS we have come to accept the State Electricity Commission as the 'power behind the switch' which confers on us the great benefits of the electronic Age. We seldom, if ever, cast a thought to those pioneers who, in the most difficult of circumstances brought to the towns and hamlets of the State this great boon to mankind.

In 1933 residents of the small Mallee township of Underbool had good reason to be grateful for the efforts of the Gloster family. They established the town Electricity Supply using oil-powered generators to provide the DC service. One member of the family involved is

KEN GLOSTER

and he tells this pioneering story.

Born at Ouyen in 1928 he was educated at Underbool Primary School, Ouyen High School and Maryborough Technical College. After three years with the Education Department at the princely sum of £ 2 per week, he forsook the excitement of the Public Service in favour of Private Enterprise; he joined his father and elder brother in the family business.

By then, the Gloster business must have become the Commercial Centre of the town. As well as operating the electricity plant it maintained the Town Water Supply, ran the School bus services, conducted a G.M. dealership (acquired in 1927), sold Tractors (Bulldog and Case) and wrestled with the problems of a large Freezing works, producing Ice and chilling rabbits for export.

In the passage of time domestic refrigerators replaced the humble ice chests, 1080 and Myxo robbed the chilling works of its major components, the Shire took over the water works and the SEC forcibly acquired the electricity supply which had operated for 30 years. The business diversified; farming at Quambatook and rental property in Bendigo. The GMH dealership was retained and extended to the Ouyen district. In 1948 Glosters sold the first Holden delivered to the area. In the new era of selling Ken won several GMH sales competitions one of which took him and wife, Joan on a pacific cruise with all expenses paid. With 60 years behind it the dealership survives today and Ken, although virtually retired, is still regularly involved in the operations.

A country town makes its own demands on its business leaders →

and Ken took his turn as president and/or secretary of many local public and sporting organizations. Athletics was his main sporting interest but, although he won several 'Gifts' he was never able to make it to Stawell. A keen footballer, he was president of the Under-bool Club for 10 years, was 'best and fairest' 6 times and Captained the Premiership team in 1955. The same year he was president of the local Bowling Club - a unique double! At the age of 44 he was playing for Kennington when he hung up his boots.

With his three daughters now married Ken has made lawn bowls his main sporting interest. A player for over 30 years, 17 of them with the Bendigo East Club (he was in their A1 Premiership team last season), he is currently treasurer and pennant recorder for the BDBA.

Ken Gloster has led a very active life, embracing many activities today, most importantly, he is a member of the Probus Club of Bendigo!

WELCOME TO TWO NEW MEMBERS. Inducted recently, TED DRISCOLL and CLARK JEFFREY. For a little white book: Ted Driscoll (wife Irene) 231 St. Aidens Rd. Ph. 43 6314. Clark Jeffrey (wife Gwen) 120 Crook St. Ph. 41 3537. Glad to have you with us, Ted and Clark.

TALKING OF BOWLS Probus ticked up its second win at South Bendigo in November. Skipper JIM McADAM steered the winning four despite the handicap of a Leader who thought he had to leave enough room around the Jack to let the other players in!

CONGRATULATIONS to two fellow-members: ALAN DINGLE for having the assembly hall at his old College of Knowledge, White Hills Technical School, named after him; and FRANK BUDGE for having been tendered a luncheon by compatriots in the Retired Teachers Association to mark his 80th birthday.

Both honours are well-deserved.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds; and the pessimist fears that this is true.

THE DENUNCIAN of the young is a necessary part of the hygiene of older people - and greatly assists the circulation of the blood.

THE DOCTOR received a call from a golfer friend. "Bill," he said, "baby has swallowed a golf ball."

The G.P. was alarmed. "Good God," he said, "I'll get there as soon as I can - in the meantime, what have you done?"

"Not to worry," came the reply, "I've got plenty of golf balls!"

A REPORT FROM LONDON states that the annual meeting of the Ancient Order of Henpecked husbands was cancelled this year because their wives would not let them attend.