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# PROBE

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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.

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The guest speaker for today's meeting is Professor Xuezhui Bai and his subject will be "China Today".

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Burt Byleveld, Senior Sheriff's Officer, was the guest speaker at our June meeting. He spoke of the work of the Department of Justice and was introduced by Jim Aitken.

Burt was born in Holland, came to Australia at 10 years of age and, after his schooling was completed, was employed in the banking system. He later moved to Bennett's Machinery in spare parts and the office before joining the Justice Department in Melbourne. He returned to Bendigo 9 years ago as a Sheriff's Officer. Burt studied accounting and is now a qualified accountant.

Burt traced the history of the Sheriff's Office from its inception in 992 AD in England making it one of the oldest professions in the world, but definitely not the oldest. The duties in those days were far reaching from collecting taxes, apprehending criminals to raising the army if the then King decided to go to war.

The Sheriff's Office in Victoria today is responsible for the enforcement or execution of warrants or court orders from courts within the state of Victoria. These include the Supreme Court, the

County Court, Magistrates Court, Children's Court and Family Court. Court Orders may be made for the non-payment of civil debts, both personal and business and the recovery of property for non-payment of fines for criminal offences. In the case of businesses they could close the business, lock the door and clean out the contents. For a private individual they are governed by very strict regulations and must leave the debtor with certain articles.

Possession warrants are the most difficult to serve as it means the removal of people from their business or property. The Media do not help when they print "SHERIFF TAKES" but do not say what the business owes. Some debtors will go to extraordinary lengths to prevent eviction. The bulk of Sheriff's Office work involves Civil Warrants and they handle about 750,000 warrants each year. The Officers now have the power to suspend driving licences, and also have the power of arrest, for the non-payment of fines. One Melbourne council is owed \$9,000,000 in fines.

When Burt applied for his present position the main attribute was the gift of the gab - an ability to communicate. Their equipment consists of handcuffs and a collapsible steel baton.

Arthur Cowling thanked Burt for his interesting talk and made the usual presentation.

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### NOTES

Ken Coles will be acting secretary during the absence of Arthur Cowling.

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### ACTIVITIES



### CHRISTMAS DINNER IN JUNE

This dinner was held on Tuesday night, 23<sup>rd</sup> June at the BRIT Hospitality Centre in McCrae St. and was attended by 79 Probians and friends. Four members of the White Hills Probud Club enjoyed the festivities with us. It was a traditional Christmas dinner with choice of entree, a ham, turkey and beef, with veg., main course and choice of sweets. The icecream plum pudding was superb.

Entertainment was provided by Elfi Willman, a vocalist of German songs, and accompanied by Graham Knight on piano accordion.

The evening was excellent and a tribute to Glen Thomas and his students and also to Cliff, Clive and Arthur for their organisation and presentation.

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## TRIPS INFORMATION

Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm-10.45pm. "DINNER AND CONCERT"

\*\*\*FUNCTION CANCELLED\*\*\* Due to lack of numbers. Refunds by cheque.

SUN. AUG. 23RD, 1998. 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Maximum (156). Current (46) (C.Binks)

### "FILM AFTERNOON AT CAMPBELL THEATRETTTE".

An excellent program has been arranged, including :

Feature film "Road to Nhill" - An Australian Comedy, supported by -

"Marvellous Melbourne" - a prosperous period (1910) - 5 mins.

"The Back Of Beyond" (1954) - 66 mins. - an Australian Classic and most notable award winning production.

We seek your support. Other Probus Clubs have been offered specific ticket allocations. Nibbles, finger food, etc will be provided at interval.

\*\*\*Further bookings urgently required - You may bring other family members or friends - we seek your support. Phone Arthur up to July 15<sup>th</sup> (5443 9162) and Cliff Binks (5443 5281) after meeting.

COST: \$7.00/person. LISTING/PAY: July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

MON. SEPT. 28TH TO FRI. OCT. 2ND. Inc. \*\*TRIP OF THE YEAR\*\*.

5 day/4 night staying at PINNACLE VALLEY RESORT. (Mansfield area).

Max 48 Current 54. \*\*\*EMERGENCIES REQUIRED\*\*\*

"A first class trip" - you will enjoy this one. I recommend it. (AE)

COST: \$420/person. Include: Coach (5 star), Accommodation (4 star) twin share, all meals, morning and afternoon teas, tours, entry fees.

NOTE: M/tea, lunch commence from day 1 and cease after lunch on day 5.

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS:** (\$420 - \$50 Deposit. Payment = \$370/person due for payment at \*\*\* August 19th meeting \*\*\*.

\*\*\* If going north, please ensure arrangements made for payment.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> 1998 TRIP TO MELBOURNE. (Tentative)

### LIVE STAGE SHOW - "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF"

Matinee performance at 1.00 pm. Maximum: 48

COST: Approx. \$67/person. Includes: Coach and admission to show.

\*\*\* An award winning live musical comedy show at the Regent Theatre, Melbourne - a cast of 40 singers, actors and dancers.

Depart: 9.00 am - Arrive home 6.00 pm (approx)

\*\*\* Listing will be tabled at July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting seeking expressions of interest. (is not a commitment)

\*\*\* For those away at present - Please write a note to reach me at 4 Maxwell Cres. Bendigo by Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> August.

Another item of interest which should appeal to the many woodwork hobbyists amongst the Probians is "The Timber and Woodworking Show" to be held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, 1998. This is an annual show and covers all aspects of the industry, including demonstrations and the ability to purchase tools and equipment.

The railways are prepared to arrange concession rail tickets for the Friday (\$20.20) travelling on the 7.50am or the 9.20am and returning on the 3.50pm. Cost of entry to the Show is yet to be determined.

Expressions of interest will be taken at the July meeting and, if sufficient, a list will be tabled at the August meeting. Payment will then be required at the September meeting.



\*\*\* To assist collectors, please tender correct money. If payment by cheque, please ensure details written on back of cheque.

\*\*\* All enquiries to Arthur (5443 9162)



The editor's creed:

The moving finger writes; and, having writ,  
Moves on: nor all your Piety and wit  
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,  
Nor all your tears wash out a Word of it.

with apologies to Omar Khayyam.

