



PROBE

Bulletin of the Probos Club of Bendigo



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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

A MAN WITH A DISTINGUISHED CAREER in Agriculture and Veterinary Science is our guest speaker today.

He is Dr. IAN A. CUMMING, M.Agric.Sc. (Hons., Massey NZ), Ph.D. (Melb.) M.A.I.A.S. and he is the Regional Director of the Loddon Campaspe/Mallee Region of the Health Department, Victoria.

After graduating from Massey University, New Zealand, he was awarded the Sir James Gunsan Scholarship and later an Australian Wool Board Post-graduate scholarship which gained him his Ph.D. at Melbourne University.

For ten years he was an invited lecturer at Melbourne and Latrobe Universities, and his early career was as a research scientist with the Department of Agriculture working at the Animal Research Institute, Werribee.

Since early 1980 Dr. Cumming has been involved in administration serving variously as Chief Environmental Studies Officer in the Ministry of Conservation, Director of the Arthur Rylah Institute Environmental Research and Acting Deputy Director of the Fisheries and Wildlife Division.

Our speaker has been very active in community affairs, particularly those connected with Health and he has played an active role in the Uniting Church. He has been appointed President of the Council of the

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

THE SPEAKER SAYS (Continued)

Bendigo College of Advanced Education.

We look forward with pleasure to the address by Dr. Ian Cumming.

A SOJOURN IN THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC with the Army Survey Regiment was our pleasant experience last month as Guest Speaker, Lt. Colonel DON SWINEY, Commanding Officer of the Regiment (better known as 'Fortuna') outlined a little-known but important facet of their activities.

Known as the Defence Co-Operative Mapping Project it provides maps of the area for the people who are totally unable to produce their own. With fishing as the main industry and the possible development of offshore oil drilling, the territorial rights of the islanders can only be established with the aid of accurate maps which Australia provides. Only does the Survey Regiment carry out mapping in the field but it also trains islanders, many of whom attend schools in Australia - and notably Bendigo.

The project takes on a new significance as we note the growing interest of Russia in the South Pacific.

As a result of this activity Australia is held in high esteem by the citizens of the many islands in the area.

Don spoke of his experiences in the islands some unfamiliar to us, and others, like Vanuatu and Irian Jaya better known by their frequent references in the media. We enjoyed the humour of the quaint (to us) behaviour of the inhabitants whose trusting ways extended to even allowing a convicted murderer to travel unescorted and admit himself to a distant gaol!

The 64-dollar question, as always, was the future of the Regiment in Bendigo. No doubt to the delight of most of us, Don assured us that the Army Survey Regiment will remain in Bendigo. In fact, he is at present developing plans for the extension of the buildings which at present house the largest camera in the world as well as the most modern printing press. Conservationists may remain calm, however as the former residence of Bendigo's golden boy, George Lansell will be preserved - a very satisfactory state of affairs for a city which benefits so much from the \$7M annual payroll.

JOCK CROOK performed the introductions and ALF RYALL conveyed our thanks for an excellent and informative talk.

PROBING AROUND

MEMBERSHIP MOVEMENTS: We record the resignation of Clive Miller and Tom Errington and welcome to the club new members Frank Budge, of 1 Osborne Street and Harold Butler of 213 Neale Street.

VALE, MAX: It was with great regret that we learned of the death of fellow-member Max Trevean, and to his wife, Voila and family we extend our sincere sympathy.

AT OUR MAY MEETING we welcomed a fellow-Probian, Cyril McDonald a member of the Probus Club of Warrnambool. Cyril is a former Bendigonian and was the guest of Alan O'Connell.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE! We have been invited by the Probus Club of Doncaster to join them at dinner on Thursday evening, July 17th, at the Bendigo Motor Inn at a cost of \$14 per head. This is a social visit by Doncaster whose members will tour the fleshpots of the Premier Town on the following day. PLEASE advise Arthur Eaton TODAY if you are able to attend.

WHILST ON THE SUBJECT of planned visits, those members who indicate that they will attend a Probus function and fail to arrive at the nominated time - or not at all - and who do not tender an apology in advance make life very difficult for the person in charge (as well as their fellow-members). Arthur Eaton is just at the end of your telephone line on 439162. Its just so easy to phone!

A FILM MORNING is being planned for the Regional Library theatre. It will probably run from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and it is suggested that we may then adjourn to a local hostelry for an appropriate counter lunch. More later.

Lt. Col. DON SWINEY supplies us with this little gem; A young hopeful in a Bendigo street remarked to his mother, "Look at the soldiers, Mummy." To which his fond Mum replied, "They're not soldiers, darling, they're only from Fortuna!"

FROM THE OTHERWISE EXCELLENT little booklet recording the names of members we note the following omissions: BILL ALLEN, 81 Hargreaves Street, Ph. 431500 and JACK WOODMAN, 276 High Street, Golden Square, Ph. 432173. Please add these to your list.

Incidentally, we seem to have a new office on the executive - that of Past Assistant and occupied by Ray Downey. Fortunately it does not say Past Assistance for we may be assured that Ray has not yet reached that deplorable condition!

IT SEEMS THE REFERENCE to the Glencoe massacre in last month's Bulletin calls for further mention to keep the record straight. We hasten to point out that the McKean clan were the victims, not the aggressors in this historic skirmish. The villains of the piece were led by - wait for it - Captain CAMPBELL!

It seems that much must be said for the Probus Club that, even in this Year of Peace Wilton and Bob can sit in the same room - and not a claymore in sight!

Incidentally, we regret to report that Wilton is suffering from ailments which have resulted in his admission to Mt. Alvernia hospital. Our best wishes go to him and we hope for a speedy recovery so that we may again enjoy his company at our meetings.

A QUESTION OF COMMUNICATION. The School Principal wrote and sent the following message to his Deputy: "On Thursday evening at approximately 8.00 p.m., Halley's Comet will be visible in this area, an event which occurs once every 75 years. Please have the students assemble in the area outside the canteen, and I will explain the phenomenon to them. In the case of rain we will not be able to see anything, so assemble in the hall and I will show a film of it."

Deputy Principal to Science Master:

"By order of the School Principal, on Thursday at 8.00 p.m. Halley's Comet will appear above the area outside the canteen. If it rains please assemble the students and proceed to the hall where this rare phenomenon will take place, which occurs every 75 years."

Science Master to Science Teacher:

"By order of the School Principal, at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday the phenomenal Halley's Comet will appear in the canteen. In case of rain, assemble in the area outside the hall and the School Principal will give another order, something which occurs every 75 years."

Science Teacher to Roll Teacher:

"On Thursday at 8.00 p.m. the School Principal will appear in the canteen with Halley's Comet, something which happens every 75 years if it rains. The School Principal will order the Comet into the area outside the canteen."

Roll Teacher to Students:

"When it rains on Thursday at 8.00 p.m. the phenomenal 75 year old Bill Halley, accompanied by the School Principal, will drive his Comet through the area outside the canteen to the hall."

- Courtesy Rotary Club of Corowa Bulletin

"THAT IN RECOGNITION of the superlative contribution made by Mr. Holmes to the College, and in particular, to the development of the Edwards Road Campus, the new residential units recently completed on the Wirth Street frontage of the Campus be titled "Robert Holmes Village" and that a sign to this effect be erected at the main entrance to the Village."

This extract from a motion passed by the Council of the BCAE reflects the 26 years of continuous service rendered to the College by Council member

ROBERT HOLMES

first at the Bendigo Technical College, then the Bendigo Institute of Technology, and, finally, the Bendigo College of Advanced Education, where he served continually for 10 years as Vice-President of the Council.

But this citation does not adequately reflect the life of Robert Holmes.

Born at Crows' Nest, Queensland, in 1909 Bob found his school-days confusing as the family moved around Victoria. He finally came to rest at a remote Mallee township 12 miles from Quambatook where he was one pupil in a total enrolment of eleven, and as a young man he found himself with a ringside seat at the Battle of the Great Depression.

As the only son in a family with an invalid father the name of his birthplace became significant. Like the birds he found himself with mouths to feed, as he became the breadwinner for the family.

The City seemed to offer the best chance of a job so he migrated to Bendigo where he found many with the same idea. The going was tough.

Then his luck changed and he was selected for an apprenticeship with the Victorian Railways where his devotion to the job made him, in his third year, the top apprentice in the State railway system. This was to stand him in good stead. As most of his fellow-apprentices completed their terms they were drafted to minor jobs - a poor reward for 5 years of conscientious effort! But Bob survived to serve all but two years of his working life at the Bendigo Railway workshop.

These two years were spent at Newport where he learned new techniques in steel fabrication to cope with a new exciting era of all-welded rail wagon construction. Then there was the challenge of building what was then Australia's finest passenger train - the "Spirit of Progress" with its mighty streamlined 'S' class locomotives.



ROBERT HOLMES (Continued)

The depression, a tragedy to so many, did have the effect of bringing out the best in many of its victims. People were friendly and helped each other and entertainment had to be self-motivated. Bob joined a small group calling themselves the 'Wiregrass Younger Set' who performed in the interests of charity. They gained a following that filled the Bendigo City Hall, and became a regular feature of the Easter Fair. Their satirical display lampooning everything from the current VIP's to the 'Wiregrass Police Force' won a number of awards for the most humorous entry.

World War 2 found the Workshops working around the clock and producing such diverse things as surgical instruments, tugboats and Air craft components as well as constructing new rolling stock and rehabilitating worn-out vehicles. They were declared a 'reserved occupation' which made entry into the armed forces out of the question.

Post War, and Bob was a Supervisor in a boomtime which involved the building of the massive 'X' class locos for freight haulage. With arrival of the Diesel era steam was phased out and his section was called upon to produce one fifty-ton wagon per day in addition to structural steel work for buildings and bridges.

Robert Holmes is a product of the Great Depression - an ordinary citizen lacking any special privileges, who struggled against adversity and by his own ability and devotion to duty has set an example to others and won the respect of the Community.

The development of projects seems to have been a large part of Bob's Community service with a strong accent on Education. From the offices of president of both the Bendigo North School committee and the District Schools Committees Association he graduated to the technical side to become one of the prime movers in the BCAE.

Elected to the Governing Council of the Bendigo Technical College in 1963 he became president in 1965 at a time when profound changes were being made and the clamour for a University in Bendigo was accelerating.

Although the hopes for a University were not realised, the site at Edwards Road was acquired for a brand-new College of Tertiary Education. It was to be the first College in Victoria funded by the Federal Government and set the path for all similar adventures in Education.

In this manner the Bendigo Institute of Technology was born and, with the merging of the Institute with the State College in 1976 it became the Bendigo College of Advanced Education - not a University, but as close to it as it is possible to get.

In all this, Bob had a leading part, but the effort did not deny him the pleasures of a happy home life with his wife, Bendigo girl Lucy Bode' and 2 sons and a daughter who, between them, have made him a proud grandfather seven times.