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# PROBE

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Bulletin of the Probos Club of Bendigo Inc.



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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

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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, 29 Woodbury St. Bendigo 3550.

**A MAN WHO NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION** is our Guest Speaker today. Federal MP JOHN BRUMBY is one of the younger candidates making his mark in the Canberra College of Knowledge. What he has to say will be most interesting and, we hope, enlightening.

**"ON THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA"** best describes your Editor today. The Speaker last month supplied enough material to fill 3 full issues of 'Probe', which regrettably must be precised down to size.

First surprise was the uniform worn by Senior Constable ROGER WHITMAN. A pair of jeans, a long-sleeved jumper and at least three days growth of fungus on the face seemed to be the very opposite to what a well-dressed member of our gendarmerie could be expected to wear. Yet when he explained that he was one of four members of a special duties squad in the war against drugs and that he had just completed a 14 hours straight shift which included raids on two homes it became apparent that this was, indeed, his 'working dress'.

Roger is well qualified. After 6 years in the Army SAS he found himself haunting the environs of St.Kilda making the acquaintance of pushers, peddlers and partakers of the insidious passport to lullaby-land.

Any thoughts that we may have had that 'it can't happen here' were quickly dispelled when our guest produced an impressive array of marijuana (both green bushes and sticks), heroin, LSD and other

delectable drugs. Most of them were collected the night before - in Bendigo! The value of the Heroin? \$5000!

An alarming feature is the spread of drugs in our schools. At least two local schools are affected. Peddlers meet the kids at the school gate and Peer Group pressure takes care of the final distribution. Most regretfully, almost all parents deny that a child is affected by drugs, even when the visual evidence is there. Marry that to public apathy and the peculiar 'code of silence' exercised by all concerned and you realise why the trade flourishes.

The medical profession is not blameless. Too many doctors will supply Amphetamines, Mogodon and Vallium on prescription without any real evidence of their need.

We could go on. But suffice it to say that this social disease which affects all of us one way or another requires our constant vigilance, and our willingness to help.

Alan O'Connell introduced the speaker and Tom Roberts registered our thanks.

#### THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME.

**THURSDAY JUNE 16th.** LOCAL INDUSTRY VISIT to Cooper & Cooke Ceramics and Stafford Ellinson Clothing Manufacturers. COACH departs from Strathdale complex at 9.20 AM. Estimated return - 12.30 PM. BYO Morning Tea. COST: \$1.00/person. Tour fully booked!

**WEDNESDAY JULY 6th.** VISIT TO FORD FACTORY (BROADMEADOWS) & MINT (CRAIGEBURN). COACH departs from Strathdale Complex at 7.30 AM. Estimated return - 6.00 PM COST: Coach Fare ONLY - \$7.00/person. MEAL: Arrangements have been made for an excellent Low Cost meal at special 'over 55's' menu. (You pay for meal of your choice). BYO Morning Tea.

#### PAYMENT AT JUNE MEETING TODAY, PLEASE.

**TUESDAY JULY 12th.** FILM MORNING AT R.L. CAMPBELL THEATRETTE and LUNCH AT LAKE VIEW HOTEL. FILM: The sparkling comedy 'Beverley Hills Cop - 2" START: 10.00 AM. COST: Film only - \$3.00/person. Lunch only - \$10.50/person. For the lot - \$13.50/person. Arthur (43 9162) would appreciate booking advise SAP and would appreciate your call.

#### PAYMENT AT JUNE MEETING TODAY, PLEASE.

**SATURDAY JULY 30th.** AUSTRIAN NIGHT AT DAYLESFORD HOTEL - DINNER AND FLOOR SHOW. A visiting Austrian Band will be in attendance. COACH departs from Strathdale Complex at 6.00 PM. COST: \$23.00/person includes Coach fare, dinner and Floor Show. "IT WILL BE A MEMORABLE NIGHT." COACH is fully booked BUT Emergencies required.

#### PAYMENT AT JUNE MEETING TODAY, PLEASE.

**TRIP TO EXPO & BRISBANE.** Departs August 21st for 12 days. COST: \$794.00/person (payment in full required at Houldens Bus Lines of Bendigo by JULY 21st, 1988. Further enquiries to Arthur (43 9162).

**A LEGAL EAGLE** who spent 43 years of his life in service to the Crown faced the greatest test of his career in Geelong when, as a fledgeling Coroner he faced his first case. It was a most difficult one demanding the right verdict, since the wrong decision would have far-reaching consequences. To mark the importance of the case no less than 8 of the State's top Barristers appeared.

The hapless Coroner was

**JAMES RAY (JIM) AITKEN**

and the case was the famous 'Hong Kong Flu' quest.

A local company engaged a doctor to administer Anti-Flu injections to the staff. He used the common method of multi-dose syringes and in some way cross-infection occurred resulting in a number of employees becoming infected with the dreaded 'imported' flu. Two died and they were the subjects of the Coroner's enquiry. After much agonising Coroner Aitken brought in a verdict of 'Accidental Death' and recommended that in future Multi-dose syringes be abandoned - with positive results.

Born in Bendigo in 1925 Jim is the eldest in a family of five and was raised on the family farm at Mologa where he attended Mologa Central Primary School, (he was a school mate of Probian Cyril McDonald). He matriculated at Bendigo High School in 1941 and commenced employment at the Courts' Branch, City Court, Melbourne.

After a month he transferred to Geelong, the largest 'all jurisdictions' Court in the State. Here he lived for forty years, qualifying first as Clerk of Courts and later passing the examination which made him a Stipendiary Magistrate. This resulted from his studies as an external student of the Melbourne University.

Between 1942 and 1969 Jim filled a variety of positions on promotion in the courts at Geelong and Melbourne, (on duty in the Capital he commuted daily by train). Senior posts achieved were as Chief Clerk, City Court - he was in charge of 75 staff members - and Clerk of Courts at Geelong, specialising in Supreme Court and Probate work. In 1952 he married Miss Jean Kelly of Geelong, who died in 1974. There is one son of the marriage - Richard, an Architect.

Appointed to the Bench in 1969 he served as an SM for 16 years. Three years were spent at the City Court and on relieving duties and eleven years at Geelong and Western District Courts.



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In 1979 Jim re-married, to the former Mrs. Dorothy Claridge (nee Bynon) and he and Dorothy returned to Bendigo in 1983, where he served as the Senior Magistrate for two years before retirement in 1985. He has three step-sons: Bruce (a pastor), Ian and Noel (both teachers), and three grandchildren.

His Community activities in Geelong included a variety of offices at Wesley Church, membership of the YMCA Board of Directors for 15 years, (2 years as President), Cricket and Tennis in Geelong Churches' Association and lecturing in law to Child Care students, Justices of the Peace and Probation Officers.

In Bendigo he is Chairman, Bendigo West Uniting Church Parish and McKenzie Street congregation; Chairman, Bendigo District Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, alternate Chairman of Bendigo District Football Appeal Board and a member of the Sandhurst Club.

Most importantly, Jim Aitken is a member of the Probus Club of Bendigo.

#### SCRIBE CYRIL MICHELSEN REPORTS:

How many times have you passed through Castlemaine and not given one thought to the wealth of history that exists within the boundaries of our neighbouring municipality?

Bendigo Probians, (a party of 57), who made the trip agreed it was a top day with the organisation superb as usual topped off by informative talks from our enthusiastic guides, Margaret Rilen and Yvonne Graham, (many thanks, Ladies - you were great!).

Buda, the historic Leviny home was beautiful, the Market Museum another real winner - as was the Art Gallery. Then came the Finale; 'The Pub with no Beer' - the Old England Hotel at Barker's Creek. What a stunning finish! This Hostelry was established in 1864 and de-licensed in 1922. Just a few years when it was just about ready for demolition it was restored to its original state by its proud owners, Zara and Don Latimer.

We had a fascinating glimpse of a world long forgotten, and were agreeably surprised at the magnificent authenticity of the restoration both in the Hotel itself and in the adjoining museum - once the General Store.

Lunch in the delightful Castlemaine gardens was an added extra. So, all in all, the day got top ratings, so much so that we could go back again and still enjoy it.