



PROBE

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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, 49 Emmett Street, Golden Square, 3555.

DR. WESLEY BLACKMORE, who will be our Guest Speaker at today's meeting, has had a great diversity of interesting experiences in the field of education. While his academic career and professional qualifications are relevant to the Melbourne University, he has lectured in the U.S.A., United Kingdom, Japan, and for two years, 1982 and 1983, in the Peoples Republic of China. Together with this, Wes Blackmore is also the author of thirteen books. Following his retirement he was again called to China in 1988 where he remained for a period of three years before returning to Australia and taking up residence in Bendigo recently. Wes will relate some of his impressions of China today in his talk entitled "Communism - Capitalism and Courage in Contemporary China".

The Speaker at the May Meeting was the Chief Executive Officer of Strathfieldsaye Shire, MR. BARRY EDWARDS. After CYRIL MICHELSEN's introduction, Barry proceeded to give a few answers to the question - "Did You Know?" Municipal government is the third tier, below the Federal and State governments and hence is closer to the people. The two higher tiers tend to forget local government. One third of Strathfieldsaye Shire is State Forest, and consequently yields no income in the form of rates. The Shire's yearly budget was \$10 million, of which \$1.6 million was payroll. The remaining moneys were devoted to many activities; fire hazard eradication \$35,000, Home Help \$250,000, Meals On Wheels, garbage collection, and so on. Garbage disposal is a problem in the Bendigo area as it is everywhere. The use of the Eaglehawk tip, the last remaining in the area, costs \$120,000. When this tip is no longer

usable, the next tip will be 20 kms outside city limits, and planning permission for it has spread over 8 years. The electric power for street lighting costs the Shire \$88,000 a year, paid to S.E.C. The total Rating income at present is \$5.5 million, from the lowest rates in the Bendigo area. In the 1970's and 1980's, under the Whitlam and Fraser governments, Government grants were good; but the present Federal and State Governments believe that local governments have been treated too well. Over the last 20 years the population of Strathfieldsaye has increased 500%. In local government council elections candidates have no affiliation to the political parties, and it is to be hoped they never will. Shire Council meets every 3 weeks, and there is an agenda running to 100 pages for each; being a Councillor takes much time and commitment on the part of the incumbent. The Council sets policy and the professional staff implements it. A 5 year plan for capital was worked out aiming at the Shire being debt free in 1993. The debt free state has already been achieved, and a Capital Works Reserve is being built up. Council sent out a Questionnaire to rate payers which produced a good response. Environment protection was the main point of concern in the responses. Amalgamation with other local authorities is not popular. Mr. Edwards ended his talk by quoting Abraham Lincoln's; "Eight Cannots" he may have given them over 100 years ago, but they are still very relevant.

- ... You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
- ... You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
- ... You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.
- ... You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
- ... You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.
- ... You cannot further brotherhood by inciting class hatred.
- ... You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative.
- ... You cannot help men by having the government tax them to do for them what they should do for themselves.

TRIPS AND ENTERTAINMENT :

TUESDAY JULY 21ST. - GOLDEN DRAGON MUSEUM TOUR : 10:15 a.m.

CHINESE BANQUET MEAL - HOUSE OF KHONG - 12:00 NOON

Guided tour of Chinese Golden Dragon Museum followed by a "Chinese Banquet Meal" at the House of Khong, a selection of 15 courses, eat as much as you are able. **Own Transport :** meet at Golden Dragon Museum, Bridge Street, 10:00 a.m. for 10:15 a.m. tour start. **COST** per person : Museum \$3, Meal at House of Khong \$8.00 - total \$11.
LIST TABLED TODAY - PAYMENT JULY MEETING PLEASE.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26TH. : MELBOURNE TRIP

GUIDED TOUR NEWPORT RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, WILLIAMSTOWN AREA
AND SCIENCE MUSEUM AT SPOTSWOOD (RECENTLY OPENED)

Guided tour of Newport Railway Workshops presenting an opportunity to see some of the latest technology within that industry should prove very interesting. Arrangements for ladies to see another suitable attraction while men are at Workshops. (A guided tour) Afternoon portion : Ladies & Men - a tour of the recently opened Museum at Spotswood, should be of interest to all. A hands on experience. **Approximate Cost** : \$15 - take own picnic lunch. **LIST TABLED TODAY** : PAYMENTS JULY OR AUGUST MEETING.

TRIP OF THE YEAR : 8 Days/7 Nights "FLINDERS RANGES/ROXBY DOWNS"

Saturday September 26th. - Saturday October 3rd. (inclusive).

COST : \$760.00/person - Includes Coach Fare, Accommodation - D.B.B., plus morning and afternoon teas and all entry fees. Full trip itineraries available, either from ARTHUR or HOULDENS TOURS.

CURRENT BOOKINGS : Coach Full - Emergencies: 2 persons, further emergencies are invited.

PUFFING BILLY STEAM TRAIN RIDE & DANDENONG RANGES :

Investigations being made for a possible mid November trip.

Proposed guided tour of the **Sandhurst Dairies** and the **Bendigo Advertiser Newspapers** - held over, waiting finalization of sale of Sandhurst Dairies.

NOTICE OF MOTION : ROBERT HOLMES has given notice that he will propose the following Motion to alter Sub Clause (a) of Clause 2.(3) of the Club's By-laws at the next Special General Meeting.

(Presently reads)

"Only the top ten (10) nominees will be allowed as a Club "privilege" to attend Club Functions such as, limited inclusion to entertainment, tours, or special functions, etc., that the Committee may approve from time to time. Notwithstanding, all nominee applications held by the Secretary to the close of 23rd. November, 1990 are to be considered as being within the Top Ten category."

(Be amended to read)

"All financial nominees will be entitled to attend meetings and participate in Club activities."

(Secretary's Note - the above Motion requires agreement of two-thirds of the Club members present to become effective.)

BOB CHENERY SECRETARY

A check of the records since our last meeting shows that some Annual Subs. and Nominee Fees remain unpaid to date. The Treasurer wishes to remind members that, in accordance with our constitution, all fees should be paid by July 1st. each year, otherwise memberships with the Club could lapse.

MEMBER PROFILE

JOHN ALISTAIR KENNETH MC LEAN

Alistair was born at Naracoorte, S.A., on August 2nd. 1912, the eldest son of Rev. R.W. and Mrs. McLean. He was educated at St. Andrew's College, Naracoorte and at the Primary and High Schools, Bacchus Marsh and at the Geelong College.

In 1931 he entered Ormond College at Melbourne University where he remained as a student until 1937. He graduated with the Degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Divinity. During 1934 Alistair was Assistant at the Erskine Mission, Carlton and on December 21st. 1937 was licensed to preach the gospel.

He served at Stanley, Tasmania, and Chelsea before being called to Cobden where he was ordained as a Minister of the Word on March 14th. 1940.

On August 2nd. 1942 he married Elizabeth (Betty) Cromie at the Canterbury Presbyterian Church. During 1944 they lived in Melbourne while Alistair studied part of Dip. Ed, was teaching Religious Education in schools and was Assistant at St. Stephen's in Caulfield. For much of his ministry Alistair conducted up to six or more periods of R.E. weekly and was engaged in many facets of youth work.

At the end of 1944 they moved to Benalla where they stayed until 1961. From then they were in the Bacchus Marsh - Melton parish and from 1971 to 1975 at Elmore. On January 5th. 1975 they came to Bendigo and have been active members of St. Andrews Church ever since.

Alistair acted as a Probation Officer in Benalla and Bacchus Marsh for 25 years. For the last 18 years he has regularly visited the Bendigo Hospital, the Anne Caudle Centre and Mt. Alvernia and various Special Accommodation Houses on behalf of the Uniting Church.

Alistair and Betty have two sons - Ian, who is National Sales Manager for a division of B.T.R. INDENG, HUF COR, Architectural Products Division, and Murray who is Consul General for Australia in Shanghai.

They are both involved in musical pursuits and enjoy reading, bowls and golf.

At the ANNE CAUDLE CENTRE a mini shopping and recreation centre has been opened, named the **N.B. PERRIN CENTRE** in honour of our member BRUCE, who was the Chief Executive Officer of the establishment for 14 years.