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A Special General meeting is held every 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am at the Masonic Centre, McIvor Rd, Bendigo.

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**There will not be a guest speaker at the
March Meeting owing to the A.G.M.**

Well known Bendigo identity Ted Rankin was the guest speaker at the February Meeting and was introduced to the members by President John. Ted was born and raised in Ultima and spent his 12-14 years at a Boarding School in Ballarat, Settling in Bendigo in 1963. Ted spoke with passion about his years as Post master in the old GPO in Pall Mall which opened in 1887 and he emphasized that it is lucky we still have the building in its present format as there were plans years ago to keep the facade but redevelop the remaining sections.

Ted also spoke of Council plans to use the Shamrock Hotel Building for a multi story car park, but thanks to the Govt. of the day who purchased the Hotel and later sold it to a private company. He also spoke of plans to demolish the Town Hall and the Conservatory, which fortunately did not occur. Alan Court made the usual presentation on behalf of the members.

- Editor

**WE NEED NEW MEMBERS AND WE NEED
YOUR HELP TO FIND THEM.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I pass on the Presidency to Ern Holland with gratitude and confidence. Gratitude for the support my fellow office bearers and committee have given me, and for their capable and diligent service for the continuing effective functioning of the club.

Confidence in the members' resolve to maintain the vitality of the club and to contribute to that end. Trips and entertainment continues a cornerstone. But persusal of birthday lists illustrates the difficulty in maintaining participation levels within the club. Thanks to Arthur Eaton's PR skills, enterprise and dedication. Co-operation with kindred organization is providing wider and enjoyable activities and associations.

Having got their wind back, Ray Fitzgerald had restored bowlers' activity and organization. We look forward to receipt of Probe each month, thanks to Barry Hargrave's capable editorship and his encouragement of profile, anecdotal and humorous contribution from members.

Barry O'Brien has maintained supply of guest speakers, highly rated among them for interest and enjoyment, the presentations of our Foundation Members, Arthur Eaton and Ken Gloster. Unwell and absent members are kept aware of our concern for them by the thoughtful and sensitive inquiry and attention of Peter Randall.

We have a much improved sound system thanks initially to Rupert Reynold's initiative and presentation in gaining a Council Grant and co-operation and the expertise of he and Max Shipp in its installation. With Max's continuing role as Electronics Guru, guests and members, can now enjoy much more effective and satisfying audio communication.

Mayor at the time David Jones and his parents Geoff and Margaret and Bendigo Rotary Club President at the time Hugh Wheeler were guests at our May meeting. The occasion was the recognition of the long and sterling service of Arthur Eaton to the club. He was introduced by Foundation Member Allan Dingle to be presented with Long Service Certificate by Hugh and Long Service Medal by David.

Sandhurst President Bob Schultz and I were guests of Bendigo Ladies Probus at their twentieth birthday luncheon, a very impressive and enjoyable function held in the BRIT Restaurant, McCrae Street Bendigo.

With the accomplished musical accompaniment of Norm Dack, the enthusiastic goodwill, organization and conduct - and dubious choral and theatrical talents - of your committee members, our Christmas party was a happy and enjoyable event.

The choice of venue, the Foundry Arms with its fine accommodation, cuisine and service contributed to the success of the occasion.

I thank the members for the honour and privilege of being President and wish Ern an enjoyable and rewarding year.

- John White (President)

President's Piece - The Mooch O'Life

"Look fer yer profits in the 'earts o' friends,

Fer 'atin' never paid no dividends."

'elpin' others on the way

Is gold coined fer your profit-

- C.J. Dennis

Let's be grateful to the mirror for revealing to us our appearance only.

- Samuel Butler

Politeness is like an air cushion - there's nothing in it, but it softens the bumps in life.

- Arthur Schopenhauer

Intelligence is when you spot the flaw in your bosses reasoning.

Wisdom is when you refrain from pointing it out.

- James Dent

Foundation Members Luncheon

Last month's Luncheon, the last of Foundation Members' Luncheon was a great success, a world record 19 people attended and participated at the Belmont Hotel. The service was great, the food was good and the conversation and fellowship were first class.

This month, March, we have a reservation at the Bendigo Club. Repeating that any member or any one connected with the club is welcome. If you intend to attend please let us know, phone 5443 2642. No later than Tuesday March 17. Hope to see you.

- Alec C.

Treasurer's Report

Captain Scrooge our astute money manager advises that the annual \$25.00 subs are now due. As this is his last appeal he would appreciate a good response as the last payment on his BMW is due end of March.

- Editor

Tributes

To Ken Coles and Barry O'Brien who are both retiring from their positions on the Committee. Ken who is a life member has served in many positions since he joined in 1988 including Secretary, Probe Editor and Treasurer since 2001, and Barry for his efforts in securing Guest Speakers and also his input on the Committee.

- Editor

Useless Information

- Sea otters in habit water but never get wet because they have two coats of fur.
- A typical double mattress contains as many as two million house dust mites.
- Rattle snakes gather in groups to sleep through the winter, sometimes up to 1000 of them will coil up together to keep warm.
- The Kansas city railroad used to stop their trains in 1868 to allow passengers to shoot at passing buffalo.
- Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.
- In Miami Florida roosting vultures have taken to snatching poodles from rooftop patios.
- During World War II the Navajo Language was used successfully as a code by the USA.

- Editor

Sub-Prime Lending

Following the problems in the sub-prime lending market in America and the run on Northern Rock in the UK, uncertainty has now hit Japan.

In the last 7 days Origami Bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up and Bonsai Bank has announced plans to cut some of its branches.

Yesterday, it was announced that Karaoke Bank is up for sale and will likely go for a song, while today shares in Kamikaze Bank were suspended after they nose-dived.

While Samurai Bank is soldiering on following sharp cutbacks, Ninja Bank is reorted to have taken a hit, but they remain in the black.

Futhermore, 500 staff at Karate Bank got the chop and analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank where it is feared that staff may get a raw deal.

Speeding Car

A police officer pulls over a speeding car. The officer says,
'I clocked you at 80 miles per hour, sir.'

The driver says, 'Gee, officer I had it on cruise control at 60,
perhaps your radar gun need calibrating.'

Not looking up from her knitting she says: 'Now don't be silly dear,
you know that this car doesn't have cruise control.'

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls,
'Can't you please keep your mouth shut for once?'

The wife smiles demurely and says, 'You should be thankful your radar detector
went off when it did.'

As the officer makes out a second ticket for the illegal radar detector unit,
the man glowers at his wife and says through Clenched teeth,
'Damit, woman, can't you keep your mouth shut?'

The officer frowns and says, 'And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir.
That's an automatic \$75 fine.'

The driver says, 'Yeah, well, you see officer, I had it on, but took it off
when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my back pocket.'

The wife says, 'Now dear, you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on.
You never wear you seat belt when you're driving.'

And as the police officer is writing out the third ticket the driver turns to his wife
and barks, 'WHY DON'T YOU PLEASE SHUT UP??'

The officer looks over at the woman and asks,
'Does your husband always talk to you this way, Ma'am?'

I love this part....

'Only when he's been drinking.'

- *Rupert R.*

Little Johnnie

Little Johnnie's neighbour had a baby.

Unfortunately, the baby was born without ears.

When mother and new baby came home from the hospital, Johnnie's family was invited over to see
the baby.

Before they left their house, Little Johnnie's dad had a talk with him and explained that the baby had
no ears.

His dad also told him that if he so much mentioned anything about the baby's missing ears or even
said the word ears, he would get the smacking of his life when they came back home. Little Johnnie
told his dad he understood completely.

When Johnnie looked in the crib he said, "What a beautiful baby."

The mother said, "Why, thank you, Little Johnnie."

Johnnie said, "He has beautiful little feet and beautiful little hands, a cute little nose and really
beautiful eyes. Can he see?" "Yes", the mother replied, "we are so thankful; the Doctor said he will
have 20/20 vision."

"That's great", said Little Johnnie, "Coz he'd be in trouble if he needed glasses".

- *Rupert R.*