



PROBE

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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO

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Meets 3rd Wednesday each month - 10 am at Bendigo Club.

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JOINING OUR GALLERY of splendid speakers our guest today will prove a worthy choice.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DON SWINEY is the Commanding Officer of the Army Survey Regiment. A Western Australian by birth he comes from a farming family.

Joining the Army at the age of 17 and after recruit survey training he first came to the Army Survey Regiment in 1960. In 1962 he spent a year at Maralinga and was selected for officer training, graduating from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea in 1963. After more training he served in Papua New Guinea and Sabah, Malaysia with an Engineer Construction Squadron. A series of Staff postings followed leading to the staff of Headquarters, First Australian Task Force in South Vietnam.

He studied for, and gained, his Degree in Surveying at WA Institute of Technology leading to command of a Field Survey Squadron in Irian Jaya, Indonesia from 1976 to 1978.

Back in Bendigo, he served as Second-in-Command of the Army Survey Regiment for three years. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1982 he was Senior Survey Officer at H/Q Field Force Command in Sydney and returned to Bendigo in October last year to assume command.

*****REMINDER! MEETING TODAY, WEDNESDAY, 21st MAY AT 10.00 A.M.

JOINING OUR GALLERY (Cont)....With distinguished War Service in both Borneo and South Vietnam, he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his Unit's activities in Indonesia.

Married, in 1964, to a Bendigo girl who he met in 1960, Don now lives with his wife and three teenage children in Kangaroo Flat.

Look forward, with pleasure, to our next Guest Speaker!

LISTENING TO GUEST SPEAKER, ex-MHR JOHN BOURCHIER it is easy to understand why he has announced that he is a candidate for a further term in politics. We tend to visualise 'pollies' as groups of dour warring factions intent on destroying each other. But John dispelled this illusion by presenting the 'human' face of parliament.

Politicians, it would seem, are not always the implacable enemies demonstrated in the House. In private life, many protagonists are fir friends and one of the fringe benefits not reflected in the Salary estimates is the development of a sense of humour.

A typical example is the Fred Daley - Jim Killen relationship. On opposing sides in the House each used his considerable talent for spontaneous wit to discomfort the opposing benches. Yet they have formed a lifetime friendship in their private lives.

John recalls, with relish, the time when, after a particularly enjoyable prank, as Government Whip he was summoned to the presence of the 'prefect' and confronted with the charge, "Alright, who did it - you or Kellen?"

As a result of John's talk, many of us, at least, will tend to modify our outraged feelings towards some of our own particular parliamentary enemies!

EVENTS:

THE TRIP TO MELBOURNE on 21st April was a carbon copy of the first one, except that it was slightly larger. Due to the great demand for accommodation the party was stretched to the limit of 48 and all expressed delight with the total arrangements.

THE VISIT to the Bendigo Advertiser was well attended. As it was a night visit, members were able to see the 'tiser in the throes of being produced. Production Supervisor Ken Saunders was unstinting in his explanation of the many processes involved and answered many questions. Managing Editor Reg MacDonald was able to spend some time with the party before dashing off to a meeting.

Most impressive was the new techniques of production and the fact that most of the skilled technicians were young in years. Thanks to the management and staff of one of Australia's leading provincial newspapers.

ARRANGEMENTS have already been made for our next Christmas Dinner to be held on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17th. With last years' function as a blue print it has been wisely decided to serve up more of the same ... something to look forward to in the cold winter months!

JUDGED EVEN BY TODAY'S HIGH STANDARDS of sophisticated slaughter and torrid terrorism, the Massacre of Glencoe in 1692 stands as an exemplification to all who are intent on the violent decimation of the human race.

Here the Macdonalds and their fellow clansmen, having lavished hospitality on their enemies as a peace offering were betrayed by their Guests in circumstances of 'peculiarly revolting treachery' (as history records.) 40 were slain.

Among those involved in this dastardly deed were the ancestors of a well-known Bendigonian,

WILTON CAMERON McKEAN

Originally the name was pronounced 'McKean' and fortunately for Bendigo Wilton has not inherited the ferocity of his Scottish forbears. A quiet, peace-loving individual, his only experience of mass slaughter has been the annihilation (through his connections as manager of Mayfair Hams and Bacons) of tens of thousands of hapless porkers whose demise has contributed to the enjoyment of our family breakfast.

Born in Bendigo, Wilton was educated at Gravel Hill State School, Camp Hill Higher Elementary and Bendigo High, leaving the halls of learning in the late twenties. At the age of 14 years and with the Intermediate Certificate under his belt he went to work as an office boy with W. McKean & Co., Stock and Station Agents, of which his father, William, was a senior partner.

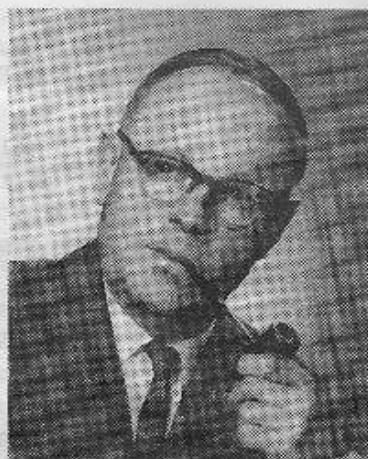
He continued his studies with night courses at Bendigo Business College and by correspondence so that, at the age of 21 he obtained his Accountancy degree and later, the Degree of Business Administration. He became a Junior partner in the firm.

Came the War, and in 1941, after a year with the VDC (Dad's Army) Wilton resigned his job to enter the RAAF as a Navigator. He was subsequently rejected due to a developing eye defect. He volunteered for overseas service in the Army - with the same result.

Obviously considering that the munitions industry was the next best thing, he joined the Department of Munitions in Melbourne and became one of the pioneers in the establishment of the Bendigo Ordnance Factory, being the 17th employee transferred to the Golden City. He held the position of Examiner of Accounts until the end of World War II.

Then meat took precedence over munitions and Wilton became an accountant with a new meat packing firm, Poels and Co. P/L, later to become Mayfair Hams and Bacon.

His career with Mayfair was a particularly busy one. In 1951-52, as



WILTON CAMERON MCKEAN (Cont.) ... Manager, he opened a Company plant in Queensland and later undertook a study trip to America to make contacts and further the interests of the company. As the Chairman's Special Representative he undertook the purchase of properties and development of the vast Huntly piggery project and his efforts were to hasten the establishment of the project to a considerable extent. By this time he was a Director of two other companies.

Wilton's 'retirement' in 1969 must be accepted with reserve. The land and its products had always been close to his interests in life and with time on his hands he became a Grazier, owning properties in the Western District and in Gippsland, and taking more than a passing interest in his investments. Today, these properties have been sold, but Wilton has now become a suburban developer, building monuments in brick in the form of residential units.

In private life Wilton has been equally active. As a Rotarian for many years he has served on a number of Boards. He is a Government appointee and Life Governor of the Home and Hospital for the Aged, Freemasons' Homes, Bendigo Institute of Technology, as well as a Life Contributor to the Bendigo and Northern District Base Hospital. A member of the Bendigo Chamber of Commerce for many years, he has served on the Bendigo Decentralization Committee, and on the committee of the Bendigo branch, Australian Institute of Management.

In a full and busy commercial life Wilton has not neglected his sporting interests. A member of no less than 8 Premiership teams in Athletics, Cricket, Basketball, Rope Quoits, Indoor and Green Bowls, he has also played Tennis and Golf. A broken ankle ended his training for the Stawell Gift!

His marriage to wife, Jean, for 47 years, is something of a record in itself, judging by today's standards.

Maybe his tenacity of purpose, vigorous activities and dedication to an active life reflects the sustaining qualities of Wilton's Feroious Forebears.

BUT - most importantly, he is a member of the Probus Club of Bendigo!

CONGRATULATIONS to Probian JACK HILL for recognition of his stirring efforts on the Golf Course. A man of terse words, Jack must have exercised much restraint over the years in that most frustrating of games!

NOT ONLY - BUT ALSO! Not only does the Probus Club of Hunters Hill, NSW, have the honour of being the oldest club (No. 1) in Australia, but it also numbers in its membership the oldest Probian! At 100 years of age HARRY GERMER has been made an honorary Life member of his club. It will be some time before the Bendigo Club can match Hunters Hill on the second count!