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# PROBE

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Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo



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PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President: ARTHUR EATON

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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, 5 Cambrian Cres., Bendigo, 3550.

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THE FASCINATING STORY of future gold mining in Bendigo will be the subject of an address today.

Mining Engineer GEORGE WHITE qualified as Master of Science at the Leicester University in 1968 and joined Western Mining as an Exploration Geologist for the Nickel industry. He is now concerned with the possible re-development of the Bendigo Gold Field.

With the price of gold reaching dizzy heights the future of the Golden City could be as bright as the light reflected from the shining metal!

PAST MONTH we delved into a different kind of gold mine - the Television Industry - when the GM of TV8 IAN WRIGHT took us through the intricacies of running a TV station.

TV8 and the role of the station in the community was the theme adopted by Ian as he outlined the six basic concerns of his job. These consist of the News Service, Community Service, Sport, Local Documentaries, Programming and Local Activities.

With 200 employed in the network which consists of stations in Bendigo, Traralgon, Mildura, Swan Hill and a string of Translators in the coverage area TV8 is a significant industry; but one which could be seriously affected by the proposed 'aggregation'.

TV8 has a proud record for local production winning 7 Penguin Awards including one for the Best Television News in Regional Australia. It

takes a full-time staff of 20 to produce and present the nightly ration of news.

Ian supplied impressive figures to demonstrate the value of TV8 to the community, e.g; Sporting sponsorship of \$50,000 and freetime commercials totalling \$250,000 in station time value each year. Add to this Documentaries featuring local matters and telecast on other channels wedded to the general programme content of top quality shows makes our local TV channel a force to be reckoned with.

Frank Budge introduced the speaker and Neil Richardson tendered the thanks.

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS! No doubt many of our members (and some of the wives, too) will stand to attention tomorrow when we hit the Parade Ground at Puckapunyule. With recollections of the last Great Stoush we will no doubt be bewildered by facets of the modern Army. A great time is planned, and maybe a Recruiting Officer will be on hand to sign us up into Dads' Army!

Fee; \$7 per head and payable TODAY, please. This includes BBQ lunch and entrance to Museum, etc. Departure: 9.00 am from Bendigo Club. Booking full - but emergencies needed!

CONGRATULATIONS to Super Veteran TOM ROTHACKER who has reached the Golden Age of 80 years!

WELCOME to new member CLAUDE MASKELL. Glad to have you aboard, Claude.

MILDURA, CITY OF SUNRAYSIA belied its proud title somewhat when it turned on a shower or two of rain for our Probus visitors; but, by all accounts this did not dampen the spirits or mar the pleasures for the packed busload of 43 who made the journey.

Accommodation was excellent but at least one member, JIM McADAM left a very confused lass who could neither cope with his writing or his name, finally settling for the pronunciation of 'MIKADAY'. Looks like we have an unlisted member!

If justice was not seen to be done at least mayhem was when the party invaded the old Wentworth Gaol. Supplied with raiment suitable to the occasion and the historical period of the House of Confinement some of our visitors cavorted at length to the amusement of their fellow travellers. Saturday night at the 'Pokies' allowed many Probusians to contribute to the future welfare of the district. No one broke the bank and a good social time was had by all.

More evidence of the value of Probus as a vehicle for enjoyment and fellowship.

STATISTICS ON TASSIE TRIP: Date - SUNDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER. Period, 8 days, 7 nights. Travel by Air to and fro. Price - \$710 to \$740 per person includes Airfares, Accommodation of dinner, bed and breakfast (luncheons extra as required) and admissions to all attractions.

STATISTICS ON TASSIE TRIP: So far we have 25 expressions of interest. Decisions must be made at the June meeting to enable a firm booking to be lodged.

"I HOPE I DON'T GET THAT (deleted) O'CONNELL - THEY RECKON HE'S TOUGH!"

Such were the spoken thoughts of a young malefactor as he awaited the moment of truth for his misdeeds.

Of course, one's opinion of a Stipendiary Magistrate must be governed by the geographical position at the time - whether inside or outside the 'dock'.

To the multitude of law-abiding citizens smarting from the depredations of some ignorant louts the thought of a 'tough' magistrate has its own thrill of pleasure. At least there is some possibility that the punishment may be made to fit the crime!

Whatever the merits or otherwise of the sentences handed down by

MR. ALLAN O'CONNELL, S.M.

he is well qualified to award them.

Allan was born in 1906 at Mungindi, on the New South Wales/Queensland border and spent most of his early years at Sale, Victoria, where he attended St. Patrick's College. From the beginning of his career the Law beckoned and he spent his entire working life tangling with the judiciary - on the right side, of course!

First duties were with the Courts Branch of the Law Department and in the City Court he qualified as a Clerk of Courts. After a few months in Geelong he spent 20 years virtually as a legal tourist - he visited practically every Court of Law in Victoria either as a relieving or

expecting Clerk. Allan reflects on how little value was placed on historic documents at that time. Most of them ended down a mineshaft or providing fodder for the rats on the local tip. Times have changed - and today more care is taken of these invaluable records.

In the 1930's there was a thing called 'The Great Depression' - remember it? The goldfields provided a novel alternative to the Dole. Selected candidates from near and far were given a rail pass to Castlemaine, a Miners' Right (5/- per week) and a pick and shovel and despatched to make their fortune. Strangely enough, the old dredge dumps yielded enough specks to enable the hard worker to keep himself in food. The local Clerk of Courts in those days had to learn his mining Law - but fast!



In 1950 Allan was appointed a Stipendiary Magistrate, Warden of the Goldfields and Coroner and stationed in Maryborough - Mildura District. Later he transferred to Eaglehawk - Bendigo where he spent the last 20 years of his Legal service. By this time the Golden City had grown on the family and they decided to make their residence permanent.

Retirement did not bring idleness. Allan was appointed by the Chief Secretary to investigate and tender an Annual Review on the activities of the Police as they affected relationships with the general public. As a totally independent investigator he followed up complaints made against actions by the Police. This was the fore-runner to the principle of an Ombudsman and when the Ombudsman Act was passed Allan worked closely with the first incumbent of that office, helping him to set up the machinery and appointing Staff. Finally, he retired - but permanently!

On the personal side, Allan married wife Ann at Kew in July, 1937 which puts him on the last furlong in the Golden Wedding Stakes. Three sons, John, Pat and Shane have provided 14 grandchildren.

Allan admits that he is now a Sporting enthusiast but has, at various times, shown some prowess in Football, Cricket, Golf and Lawn Bowls. He has been a member of South Bendigo Bowls Club for 36 years but does all of his bowling at the 'Round Table' on Friday nights!

Soon after retirement the lure of travel was strong, and he and Ann travelled extensively overseas for four months and later visited New Zealand. They have toured all Australian states but now content themselves with an annual visit to Tugan on the Gold Coast.

A member of the Bendigo League Tribunal for some years, and a Bendigo Lion for 24 years, Allan O'Connell is now, most importantly, a member of The Probus Club of Bendigo.

PROBUS IS NOT A SERVICE CLUB but many members use their considerable talents and experience to assist community interests through other clubs and church organisations. Members not fully committed in their daily round may like to consider "Bridging The Gap" with the good citizens of Bendigo in a job. Plan is to provide a panel of good citizens each with a wealth of experience in their own particular trade or profession who may be called upon to advise individual job applicants on the best and most effective way to approach an interview. Many promising careers are stillborn because the youngster did not know how to go about the initial approach. In other words - he blew it! Vocational guidance is also needed.

Interested? Then contact RICHARD GUY on 43 1911 (business or 49 3326 (home) at any time; he will be delighted to hear from you.

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\*\*\*\* NOTE! MEETING TODAY, WEDNESDAY, 20th. MAY at 10 am \*\*\*\*

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