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PROBE

Bulletin of the Probus Club of Bendigo

PROBUS

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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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GUEST SPEAKER TODAY is Mr. BOB MORELL,Regional Officer for the Country Fire Authority. His Regions, 19 and 20, covers Municipalities in a wide area including Castlemaine, Korong and St. Arnaud.

Born at Werribee, he first joined the CFA in 1967 and served as Deputy Regional Officer in Melbourne, Swan Hill and Sunbury before being promoted to Regional Officer and stationed at Hamilton. Married with 4 children, Bob came to Bendigo 5 years ago.

THE COURAGE OF MANKIND in contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge knows no bounds. At our last meeting five brave souls (Probians) voluntarily submitted themselves to the ordeal of consuming carefully measured doses of assorted alcohol in order that the infernal machine known as a 'Breathalyzer' may demonstrate its practicability.

The results were interesting-and a good guide for fellow tipplers. We found that, whereas six glasses of standard beer consumed over one hour presented a reading of .05, a similar amount of light beer (2.5%) registered only .002. Six half Scotches made only .02 but six glasses of white wine brought the reading to .06; rendering the volunteer a candidate for 'Booze Bus' statistics.

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****** REMINDER ! MEETING TODAY, WEDNESDAY, 15th October AT 10.00 AM

THE COURAGE OF MANKIND (Cont...)

Advice from the speaker, Inspector ROBIN PEARSE, of the Traffic Operations Branch? Drink only light beers on your infrequent carousels and earn the approbation of the over worked upholders of the Law. Robin related the case of a disciple of Bacchus, amply proportioned and with an appetite to match, who consumed, (under test) no less than 28 light beers in two hours. This must be an amount large enough to satisfy even the keenest drinking school, yet it registered a mere .02 on the Breathalizer!

Speaker Robin was assisted by Sergeant GREG PENNA who demonstrated the latest 'terror' weapon in the war against speeding motorists - the Radar Gun - a device responsible for many thousands of convictions for speeding.

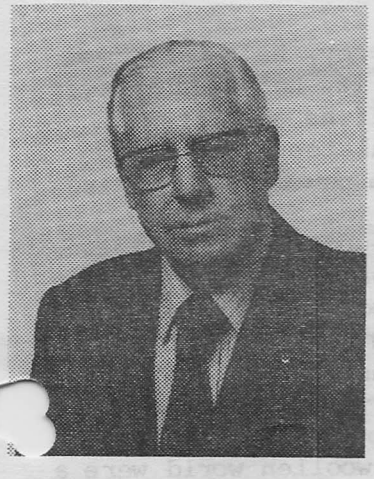
Conclusions;-If you drink - don't drive: If you drive - don't sp[illegible]d: If you speed - don't ride a motor cycle, for these noisy devices do not provide any protection for the proud owners. What they do provide, however, is an ever increasing flow of customers to the Undertaking profession!

Jim Aitken made the introductions and Jim McAdam tendered the thanks.

FROM THE PROBUS CLUB OF MARYBOROUGH came president ALLAN HALL and three of his fellow members to attend our last meeting. Arising from their visit, a trip to Bendigo has been arranged for MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17th, on which date members and their wives will descend upon us. It will be our privilege to act as hosts, conduct them to various items of interest and join them in a barbecue lunch, either at Lake Weeroona or White Hills. ALL MEMBERS should try to join in this pleasant event and so return the hospitality which we received from the Maryborough Probians. Details at the meeting today.

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19th. is a big day for us, signalling a trip to Eildon in the company of Probian[illegible] and wives from the Doncaster Club. Bus will be timed to arrive at Yea at 10 am to join Doncaster in a picnic area for morning tea. At 12 noon we will embark on the MV Explorer for a three hour cruise of Lake Eildon to include Luncheon, Fishing and Boom Netting, if desired (gear provided). Bookings of facilities have been made - and the Bad News is that we can only accommodate 44 persons, so it's a case of 'first in-best dressed' to get a berth on board the Lugger! More later.

THE PROBUS CLUB OF KERANG have tendered an invitation to us to join them in a Bowls Day at Kerang on FRIDAY, 14th November. Nominated Fours include Mens 4, Ladies 4 or Mixed 4. Special Request: No Stacked Rinks, PLEASE!



EDITORIAL

AUSTRALIA TODAY, more than ever before, is in the grip of the 'Damn You, Jack - I'm Alright' syndrome. Everybody agrees that the economy is in bad shape. Everybody agrees that something must be done. Everybody asserts that "Sacrifices must be made - so long as I don't have to make them!"

This verse was written for the Rotary Bulletin several years ago as a reflection of the times. Now it is even more relevant than it was then:

"UTOPIA REVISITED"
or
"PIGS MIGHT FLY"

There was Panic in the Parliament, for the word had got around
That the Treasury was depleted - no money could be found.
"We'll give up all our salaries," said the Patriotic Pollies,
"Our Pensions, Perks and Travel Lurks, and all our foolish follies"

There was Panic in the Boardroom, for the word had got abroad,
"We are making too much profit," said the Chairman of the Board
"We must cut back our prices; all our taxes we'll pay double,"
"We'll drop our Harbour Schemes, to get our country out of trouble."

There was Panic in the Unions, every man was at a loss,
To justify the huge amounts he'd wrested from the boss.
Big Normie said, "we'll set the pace - the credit will be ours,"
There'll be no more strikes, or wages hikes, and we'll all work
longer hours"

There was Panic in the Underworld, Godfather had been told
That nasty drugs like 'Pot' and 'Coke' were freely being sold.
"Burn all the stocks," he said, "Before they spoil our reputation,"
"And stop all violence, graft and sex, for they're ruining our Nation."

There was Panic in the Sunshine State, for Joh'B had been lax.
He'd given the entire State of Queensland to the blacks.
"And if you want to live here, Rus," he said, "It's plain to see"
"You'll have to pay a rental - just the same as Flo and me."

There was Panic in the Heavens, all the angels were a-glow
As they madly tried in vain attempts to stem the traffic flow,
For all the pigs in all the world and every earthly Nation,
Were flying round and round the world in orderly formation !

- - Reg. V. Brock.

THE PROBLEMS OF MONEY: If a man runs after money, he's money mad; if he keeps it, he is a capitalist; if he spends it, he's a playboy; if he doesn't try to get it, he lacks ambition; if he gets it without working for it, he's a parasite; and if he accumulates it after a lifetime of hard work, people call him a fool who never got anything out of life!

FROM THE BOWELS OF BUSTLING BENDIGO to the Boundaries of Bountiful Boonoke came Probians and their Ladies (two busloads of them) anxious for a taste of Country Life. They were not disappointed. Meandering through the Merinos (Carpets and cardigans on the hoof) it was obvious that we were in the company of many solid citizens of the Land. Some of them had come in their private planes from as far away as Longreach (Qld) and Western Australia.

Prices for the 4 - legged aristocrats of the woollen world were a bit beyond the average Probian - so we were spared the embarrassment of sharing the ride home with a prize ram. But, with the human race divided into two categories it became necessary to quickly distinguish between Rams and Ewes (although at least one Probian did not know what a 'wether' was - to the destruction of one of Ray Downey's best jokes).

Lashings of good country fare in brilliant sunshine made lunch a most pleasant experience on this annual 'Evaluation Day' at one of Australia's leading sheep properties.

After lunch it was on the bus to Deniliquin and the Rice Mill (second largest in the world) where the multitude of rapidly pulsating 'shakers' made a noise rivalling the best efforts of the largest Rock Band !

At the Deniliquin RSL Club we replaced the 'shakers' with the more gentle sound of the plunging Pokies, and a quiet cup of coffee for those less inclined to seek instant wealth. Prize of the day went to our Quiet Achiever, Albie Cooper who, with a minimum of effort managed to induce a friendly machine to disgorge $70 into his unreluctant hands.

Lack of space prevents a full recital of the many joys associated with the trip but it can be recorded that not one complaint was registered - a tribute to the organising ability of our most valuable Probian, ARTHUR EATON.

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A PATIENT WHO COMPLAINED of feeling constantly tense, irritable and on edge was given some tranquillising pills. He was asked if he felt any better. "No," he replied, "I feel just the same; but I find that other people behave much better. They're more relaxed, less provoking and more considerate."

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