



PROBE



Bulletin of the Probis Club of Bendigo

Published Monthly

Issue No 22. 15th April, 1987.

Editor: REG BROCK (Phone 434888)

Annual Subscription: \$8. Registered by Australia Post No. VBH 7101

PROBUS CLUB OF BENDIGO INC.

President: ARTHUR EATON
Phone: 439162

Secretary: RAY DOWNEY
Phone: 434550

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.

TELEVISION is the subject of-talk today when TV8 Manager, IAN WRIGHT will take us through the intricacies of this most complex industry.

With 'Aggregation' (or is it Aggravation?) a hot subject today, his talk will be most enlightening.

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO we learned how the 'Booze Bus' saved lives by applying disciplinary action and last month we learned of the activities of another and most vital life-saving organisation - The Ambulance Service.

Superintendent JACK ROWE of the Central Victorian Ambulance Service talked on the proposed reconstruction of the Service and the possible new boundaries. He traced the history of the service from one lonely and highly-inefficient van housed at the Bendigo Fire Station to the present fleet of 43 units with a staff of 93 and travelling well in excess of one million kilometres each year.

Training Officer JOHN D'OVIRAL demonstrated some of the modern equipment used today particularly an airbag and traction splint, of uncomplicated design but enormous value. With equipment like this the death-rate has dropped from a staggering 60% to 10% of all accident victims.

JOE O'SULLIVAN made the introductions and CYRIL McDONALD tendered the thanks for a most informative and interesting talk.

***** NOTE! MEETING TODAY, WEDNESDAY, 15TH APRIL AT 10 a.m. *****

FIRST THE BAD NEWS! Subs. (\$15) are now due and payable. Treasurer BOB HOLMES will be in a prominent position today - hand extended - so please don't disappoint him.

MIGRANTS TO MILDURA! Please tender the balance of your fares to Treasurer BOB today. If you have already paid \$40 that means another \$80 pp. Full fare: \$120. NOTE CAREFULLY: Cyril McDonald will provide parking for your car at 10 Edwards Road, Maiden Gully if you wish. As this is en route to Mildura the bus will pick you up and deposit you there on return. BUT - you must phone Cyril in advance on 49 6321. Have a good trip!

WANT A TRIP TO TASMANIA? President Arthur wants to know your interest in a low-cost trip to the apple isle in the spring. Would you prefer 5 days? 7 days? Would you like to chance it with Ansett or slip on the ship? Sounds attractive! Opinions to Arthur. Please.

A PLEASUREABLE EXPERIENCE is made more so by the element of surprise. Few of us on the Mitchelton trip could have known that 'Noorilim' the Italian-style 'homestead' would turn out to be a magnificent mansion, circa 1879, and furnished in the most elegant manner appropriate to the era. With two stories and a turret someone thought it looked like a scaled-down version of Blenheim Palace.

Classified by the National Trust and the Heritage Commission it is nevertheless a private home - wholly owned and occupied by a delightful couple, Zola and Bruce Thomson, who made us most welcome. From morning tea on the terrace & the 40-minute personally-conducted tour inside to the walk through the 'park' (it looked more like a botanical garden) and the rose garden in full bloom it was a morning of sheer enjoyment. A fitting introduction to the pleasures of lunch in the Tower at Mitchelton and the savouring of fine wines in the tasting room.

A splendid experience for those fortunate enough to attend.

DOMESTIC CATS are amiable and popular creatures - except when they perform an oratorio in the backyard at 3 a.m.! Thespian cats are more considerate - they sing at less catastrophic times.

If you would like to see 'CATS' (theatrical kind) let Arthur (43-9162) know. Maybe he can organise a bus (Matinee?)

TRIP TO PUCKA is still on; only the date has to be confirmed with the Army. Mid-May to end of month. Times: 9.00 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. Cost: approx. \$6. inc. barbeque. Names TODAY, Please!

STOP PRESS! There is a vacancy for 4 more persons in the Mildura trip and emergencies are required. Interested? Contact Arthur (43-9162) NOW!

CONSIDER THIS! A well-developed mobile sense of humour encased in a frame, six-feet plus and resembling a stringy-bark tree surmounted by a mind full of Bendigo memorabilia and wearing a permanent grin!

If you think that this refers to the Bendigonian son of a near-Bendigonian

CYRIL JOHN MICHELSEN, MBE

you will be right - dead right; and the reason that he is not a second-generation Bendigonian is because his father, John, showed poor judgement by being born in Orange, NSW. It took him five weeks to claw his way to the Golden City!

Cyril himself showed better judgement and it was in 1904 when he first saw the poppet heads of the town of his choice.

It would be remiss to begin a story on Cyril without reference to his father, beloved of a whole generation of Bendigo citizens. Miner, Engineer, Sportsman, Journalist, City Councillor for 32 years (Mayor three times), JOHN ANDREW MICHELSEN was awarded the OBE in 1945 for Civic, Community and Sporting activities. His name is perpetuated by the Michelsen Medal, Bendigo Football League's most prestigious award.

With a father so famous it is easy for a son to be swallowed up in the community. Not so Cyril - at an early age he started to carve out a career for himself. After tours of duty at North Bendigo Primary and Bendigo High Schools he embarked on the four year course in Applied Chemistry at the School of Mines. With the course almost completed he survived a serious car accident that almost cost him a leg. He changed direction and went into journalism.

The Bendigo 'Sun' commenced publication in 1922 and Cyril joined as a cadet journalist. The 'Sun' set in 1925 when it was taken over by the pioneer 'Bendigo Advertiser' but he remained on the literary staff doing 'rounds' - courts, councils and cricket with allied subjects thrown in. With the revival of mining in the thirties his expertise in this field made him a natural for mine reporting.

After 10 years as Chief of Staff he was appointed Editor in 1962. This proved traumatic, for it was the fatal year when fire ravaged the newly built Advertiser building and, as Editor, Cyril found himself quite definitely in the Hot Spot. The burden of keeping the show on the road fell mainly on him and it is a matter of pride that with emergency production, first at Echuca and later in Melbourne the Advertiser did not miss ONE issue; perpetuating a tradition held since the first issue of the paper hit the roads!

