



ROTARY DISTRICT PROBUS NEWSLETTER

From the Rotary District Probus Chairman

April 2016

ACTIVE RETIREES – *Tomorrow's Vision for PROBUS*



Dear Probus friends,

The Changeover season having finished, I trust that the members of your Management Committee for 2016 – 2017 have settled into their roles. If anyone would like to have a chat about specific tasks or operating procedures, please don't hesitate to contact me (one of my favourite 'text books' is *Yes Minister*, and my favourite character in that series is Sir Humphrey). Joking aside though, one of the things I really can help a Club with is meeting procedure and all that goes with it.

If your club has experienced difficulties in filling its committee positions I encourage you to contact me so we can discuss the options available to you. There are some mandatory positions which need to be filled in order for your club to continue. And remember, once a new Probus year has commenced, these mandatory or indeed any vacant positions can be filled by appointment of the Management Committee.



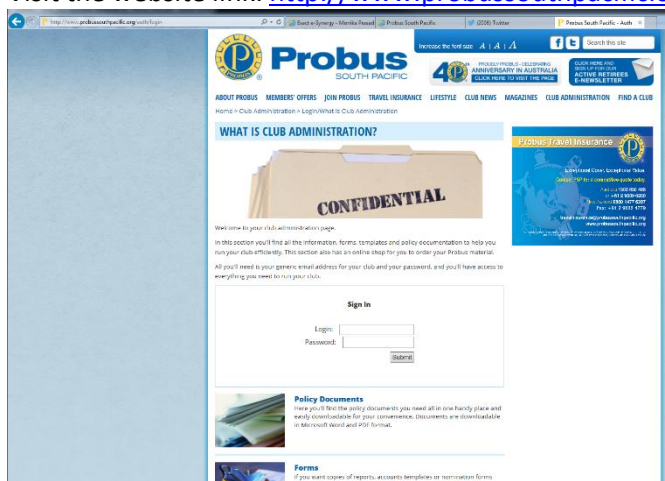
Wagga Ladies outgoing President Dawn (LHS) about to hand over to Margaret (Centre)

I've enjoyed reading the various Club Bulletins/Newsletters I've received (please keep me in the loop with these so that I can appreciate and share your good and interesting work/activities). For example, this month I was most interested to read of Bathurst Mens Club's Changeover: 83 members, guests and friends present; an excellent Grace said by Bishop Richard Hurford; and the superb John Nicoll as compere (it was all Greek to me Secretary Mike, but then, as a maths whizz I guess that you know all about Greek mathematical symbols at the very least!)

Speaking of Bishops, did you know that our District 9700 has within its boundaries, three Cathedral Cities, Bathurst, Griffith and Wagga Wagga? That's more than most Australian regional Probus/Rotary Districts have.

Meanwhile, for those Probians who are on the net and reasonably familiar with Information Technology (that just means folk who can use a computer) Probus South Pacific Ltd (PSPL) has many resources available to Probus Club committees and individual Probus club members through the secured administration section of the PSPL website.

Visit the website link: <http://www.probusouthpacific.org/auth/login>



For club officers and members - the secured administration section of the Probus website contains vital information, resource material and documents that may assist management committees in effectively running their individual Probus club.

Probus club committees are provided with a username and password to access the secured administration section which includes the Online Directory of Probus

clubs and the Online Shop. If you do not know your login details, please contact the PSPL Team.

Probus club members can access the secured section of the website with the member card number as the username and the password. Probus club members do not have access to the Online Directory of Probus clubs due to privacy of the contact information however Probus club members can view the online shop. Orders via the online shop can be placed through Probus club committee members only.

Some of the information in the secured section includes:

Policy Documents

Here you'll find the policy documents you need all in one handy place and easily downloadable for your convenience. Policy documents available include:

- Probus Club Handbook
- Sample Risk Management policy
- Sample Tours Policy
- Sample Privacy policy

Forms

If you want copies of reports, accounts templates or nomination forms for office bearers, you'll find them here. Want to recognise a member for appreciation of service, induct a foundation member or acknowledge a life membership? Examples and templates of possible certificates downloadable include:

- Annual Capitation forms
- Membership database amendments
- Incident, injury, accident template
- Accounts
- Application for membership
- Sample certificates including induction of new members

Directory of Probus Clubs

This section allows for Probus committee members to access contact details of clubs including meeting venue details.

Membership Development

Focusing on the health of your club ensures you have a succession plan for the future. This section will provide you with a range of material which can assist you with membership development for your club.

Probus Online Shop

Want to order merchandise for your next club function? What about recruitment or membership drive information, or even *The Probus Story*?

You will find all your merchandise needs here with a quick and easy way to order and complete your purchase.

PSPL Correspondence

This section includes copies of recent correspondence forwarded to Probus Club Committees for dissemination to Probus Club members. Correspondence is sent to Probus Clubs via email or where no email is provided, by post.

I encourage clubs to access the secured section of the PSPL website which will assist you with the resources you require in running your clubs. If you require more information about this section, please contact the PSPL team.

PROBUS INFORMATION DAYS

Still no Club has come back to me on this. **Remember**, I can get some funds (\$\$\$) for these very useful days!

HOWEVER, AN EXCELLENT AND VIBRANT FRIENDSHIP DAY WAS HELD AT COOTAMUNDRA IN MARCH

COOTA CAPTURES FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Under the superb stewardship and guidance of President Ken Smith and Secretary Joy Reynolds of the joint Probus Friendship Day Committee, on Thursday 31st March the two Cootamundra Probus Clubs combined to hold an excellent Friendship Day. Some 160 Probians from twenty two Clubs travelled from east, west, north and south to meet in the lovely, Rotary District 9700 centrally located town... As with one exception, no one had to drive

more than 300 kilometres each way, most people came to the event in day trips, except for Belrose (Sydney) Combined Club.

Members enjoyed the fun, fellowship and friendship so much that during a break in the excellent lunch six or eight reps from five or so Clubs snuck out into the vestibule and decided to hold another Friendship Day at Cowra in the 2017 year and also authorised “messengers” to suss out a 2018 venue and organising Club. Good stuff! But please remember that a Probus **Information Day** usually recruits **more new members**. Call or email me.

Blayney is always there (below & RHS)



And so is Bathurst Plains (below)



Deputy Mayor's Civic Welcome

Koorinal was one of seven Wagga Clubs present

The organising committee made sure that all members and their guests were provided with a welcoming morning tea on arrival and that as far as possible the members of the different Probus Clubs were well distributed around the meeting space. A sincere welcome to the town was proudly given by Deputy Mayor Dennis Palmer; newly elected Cootamundra Ladies Probus President and outstanding organiser June



Rees gave the Probus welcome; while Elder Bob Glanville welcomed us to this part of Wiradjuri Country – the Wiradjuri Nation actually extends right across the entire District 9700 and beyond.

Before lunch the assembled members and guests moved down to the pre-arranged coach tours and for the more energetic the shanks' pony town expedition around the recently purpose built pedestrian friendly town CBD.

Margaret and I, as frequent passers through the town, but not really getting much beyond the famous Coota coffee strip, found Cootamundra to be a really

lovely heritage town! But the highlight for us was the visit to Bradman's birthplace and the associated memorabilia-filled museums and to the Captain's walk (where of course, we proudly pointed out the statues of the Wagga cricket greats, Lawson, Slater and Taylor.)



After the luncheon, the entire group was entertained by two musicians from the Choir of the Southern Cross from Young Regional School of Music, Murray Russell, a talented singer from Cootamundra Combined Probus Club, accompanied by Yvonne

Tredinnick, piano teacher and graduate of Sydney Conservatorium. They were followed by the Cootamundra New Vogue Dancing Group who specialise in ballroom room dancing demonstrations. Good stuff!

At the end of the day, the committee presented all of with Coota sample bags, and then new President of Cootamundra combined Club, Neville Cave, gave a very sincere thanks and farewell until next we meet.

CLUB VISITS SINCE MARCH

What with the very successful Friendship Day and the Easter break straight after my Cootamundra Ladies Club visit (see the March *Newsletter*), I've only had time to visit two of our District Clubs these past few weeks: Junee and Wagga Ladies. However, I've had an invitation to drive up to Parkes in the next month or so. As neither of us has been to that Club before and because we have always enjoyed visiting the Parkes Rotary Club and know a few of their members, we are looking forward to a visit there

Junee Combined Probus Club visit was yet another very pleasant occasion. Actually, I was invited to be the guest speaker and I found the more than forty folk who were there a very good group to chat with. As I guess that all of you are aware, giving talks as the guest speaker to a community group varies depending on the interaction between the speaker and the group – some groups are very formal and a bit of a challenge to speak to because of that characteristic, and at the other end of the spectrum, some groups are friendly, positive and enjoy a constructive interaction with the speaker and are a delight to be with. Junee was and is such a Club. Indeed, all of the Probus Clubs to which I have spoken so far fall into this latter classification, which makes my job when a guest speaker quite a delight. I call these kinds of meetings, "Fireside chats with friends"



Junee Secretary Nan & President Bob



Anyway, Junee has now completed its first year as a Combined*** Probus Club. It has been an outstanding success in that each of the two "old Clubs" had been having a bit of trouble with somewhat falling membership and the consequent difficulties in filling Club offices. In the new Combined Club these difficulties have fallen away and in President Bob's first meeting since the Changeover he even had the pleasure of inducting new members Carmel Mees and Jan Burns (*see photograph at the left*). Although my visits are in no way shape or form "inspections", rarely have I been with a happier, friendlier group of people. And you know what? They sing a Probus song each meeting! What a great idea! It's not every Club's cup of tea, but I really liked it. Mind you, the first of the Rotary Clubs to which I belonged in my many work-related moves around the world in years past actually had a Club Songbook. OK, so maybe I live in the past sometimes (GOD = **g**ood **o**ld **d**ays) but do you know what? I lived there when I was young and I'm happy that they didn't throw the baby (i.e., "me") out with the bathwater.

And, as Margaret Gardiner went into the Chair for the third time in her more than thirty years as a member Wagga Ladies Probus Club last week, I also visited their Changeover.

The photo on the RHS is of Wagga Ladies' new executive.



*** Last month the two Wagga Men's Clubs successfully amalgamated for the same reason. Their new name is Wagga Wagga Koorungal Men's Probus Club Inc and the inaugural President is Peter Simfendorfer.

NEW Probus Member Benefits Scheme Partner (MBS)



The Burning Log

Comedy Theatre Restaurant - Located at two venues in NSW (Windsor and Bankstown), The Burning Log provide entertainment shows (live) with a 2 course meal.

An exclusive offer of \$5.00 discount off admission price day or night for each Probus Member at all shows quoting Probus membership number

at the time of booking. Burning Log Head Office Tel: 1300 843 564 Website: www.theburninglog.com.au



Travman Tours

Travman Tours specialise in offering great value small group tours to China, India, Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos. Probus members who book directly will

save 10% on all Travman Tours or tailor made holidays. Tel: 03 8199 1116 Website: www.travman.com.au

Please visit the PSPL website to view a list of all the MBS partners and offers available to Probus members.

http://www.probusouthpacific.org/pages/members_offers_member_benefits_scheme

PROBUS NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

It's on again! The theme of the Probus South Pacific 2016-2017 national photographic prize is:

40 years of friendship, fellowship and fun!

Get your camera out and take a shot at being in the running to win part of the amazing prize pool of more than \$35,000.

First prize, valued at \$23,990: A 24 night Grand Voyage from London to Rome for two aboard *Aegean*

Odyssey including return airfares for two from Australia to Europe and transfers to and from the ship thanks to Cruise Traveller and Voyages to Antiquity.

Second prize, valued at \$7,000: A seven night trip for two to Mauritius, in addition to seven nights accommodation, a full day tour of Casella Nature Park including interaction with lions and cheetahs and a half day Grand Bassin and Chamarel Tour thanks to Trade Travel.

Third prize, valued at \$3,000: A three night escape to Auckland for two including return airfares from Australia to New Zealand, three nights accommodation in Auckland, breakfast, airport transfers and a New Zealand travel guide thanks to Grand Pacific Tours.

Runners-up: three runners-up will each receive a \$500 voucher for accommodation at Golden Chain Motor Inns. With more locations than any other hotel chain in Australia, Golden Chain Motor Inns provide family-style hospitality.

Visit the PSPL website or read the Active Retirees magazine for more information.

That's it for this month. Please share our newsletter with your members and include excerpts in your club newsletter for the information and interest of your Probus club members.

Until next time....FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP....

Best wishes,

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PROBUS IS PROUD TO BE A COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITY OF ROTARY CLUBS.