



## ROTARY DISTRICT 9700 PROBUS NEWSLETTER

From the Rotary District Probussouthpacific Chairman

August 2015

ACTIVE RETIREES – *Tomorrow's Vision for PROBUS*

Visit other Clubs!



Dear Probussouthpacific friends,

Where has this year gone? It is hard to believe spring is less than a month away. I hope your Probussouthpacific club members are enjoying the warmth of each other's friendship.

This month's newsletter will focus on enriching your Probussouthpacific club through activities to promote fun, friendship and fellowship.

The secret behind a successful Probussouthpacific club is very simple – *keep your members interested and engaged!*

If members are enjoying their Probussouthpacific experience they will continue to renew their membership year after year and spread the word to their family and friends.

### Here are 6 Steps to help your club thrive through organising club social activities:

1. **Survey your members** – it is the members who participate; so who better to ask - '*what activities would you like within the club?*'.
2. **Invite members to join a "Social Committee"**. Whilst your club may already have a Tours Officer and/ or an Activities and Outings Officer, any assistance they can receive from members will only benefit everyone involved.
3. **Keep costs down** – Remember to cater for all financial circumstances of your members; this will increase participation.
4. **Do something new – something different** – Be creative and organise something your club has never done before; 'shake it up'!
5. **Aim to have at least four activities per month**– Organising interesting activities outside of your club meeting days is important. Not all members will be able to attend the activities on a regular basis but aim for at least 20% of your members to attend each activity and grow that number.
6. **Participation** – Encourage your members to attend and invite neighbouring clubs to join in where possible.

Here are some suggestions for your Probussouthpacific club to consider for weekly, fortnightly or monthly activities;

Afternoon Tea Group	Computer Group	Monopoly Board Game Group
Walk and Talk Group	Craft Group	Model Train Group
Bridge Group	Croquet Group	Poker Group
Tennis Group	Dinner Group	Scrap Booking Group
Theatre Group	Darts Group	Baking Group
Bingo Group	Folk Dancing Group	Sister Club Friendships
Book Club	Lawn Bowls Group	Wine & Cheese Group
Camera Photography Group	Meditation Group	Yoga Group
Chess Group	Lunch Group	
Coin Collectors Group	Kayaking Group	

The list is endless and will depend on the interests of your Probussouthpacific club members. A complete list of activities is also available from PSPL. E: [admin@probussouthpacific.org](mailto:admin@probussouthpacific.org)

It is important to keep your club meetings fun and light hearted. Whilst there are important issues to discuss, it is important to try to get through it quickly so your members can enjoy more time socialising.

### Here are some suggestions to make your club meetings more fun:

- Organise themed meetings such as; Valentines Day, Melbourne Cup, St Patricks Day, Jeans for Jeans Day, Red Hat Day, Bring a Friend Day
- Get everyone to bring a box wrapped in coloured paper or newspaper with a small item placed inside. Then get your members to each select a box (not the one they provided); the fun begins when members open the box and discover the contents. (Box filler ideas; can of prunes, pack of playing cards, an invitation to lunch – *the idea is to be fun.*)
- When members arrive at the meeting give them a playing card. Then during the meeting ask members to sit in the section for each of the suits. (Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs and Spades) This helps members to get to know other members who they may not usually sit with.
- Have a “This is your Life” segment. Select a few members to give a 10 minute overview of their former vocation, places they have lived, countries they have visited, challenges they have met, family and friends.
- Ask six members to bring with them to a club meeting a ‘treasured item’. These will be placed on a table and members will be asked to match the name to the treasured item – see who gets them right. The six members will be asked to nominate their ‘treasured item’ and tell the story behind the item. Image the interest to hear about the *antique diamond ring*, the tattered Golden Book of *Scruffy The Tug Boat*, the *weathered family portrait*, the *jar of coloured buttons*, the *war medal* or the *hand written love letter*.

There are other options which your club can consider including mystery outings, brown bag lunch, day or overnight trips, camping, domestic or international travel.

I hope my suggestions have been useful in assisting your club to focus more on keeping your club alive and well and to uphold the Probus philosophy of enjoying retirement with much fun, friendship and fellowship.

Alternatively if you have some ideas which can assist other clubs please share them with me and I can advise other clubs of your suggestions.

### NEWS SNIPPETS

There are two big news items this month:

Firstly, my article entitled “*Outstanding Probus Club of Forbes Friendship Day*” was placed on the **Probus South Pacific Face Book page** last week – find a photo of the registration desk at the Forbes Day (smiling folk in bright blue/purple bowler hats obviously greeting visiting Probians); then look for and click on the article named as above (“*Outstanding Probus Club of Forbes Friendship Day*”) and as they say, ‘Bob’s your uncle’, or in this case, Forbes Secretary Bruce is “your uncle” not “Bob”, I guess.



Secondly, the other big news was my visit yesterday to Narrandera Combined Probus Club to share in their magnificent 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and festivities. My first communication on their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary was with Secretary Judy Crowe in September 2014...yes, it does take a lot of planning to put on a function as excellent as Narrandera’s was. However, if thought out well and in good time, just like Blayney did last year and Temora early this year, let alone the two Forbes Clubs with their Friendship Day, there is no reason why just about any Probus Club can’t put on a spectacular event. When your Club starts thinking about a special Probus event I’m sure that the Clubs mentioned here would be only too pleased to be of assistance, as will I and don’t forget that friendly and highly skilled team at PSPL in George St Parramatta!

For me, one of the highlights of the Narrandera day was the conferring of Life Membership on Geoff Sullivan. Although not quite a Charter Member, Geoff has been an absolute tower of strength for the Narrandera club for about a quarter of a century. And it was wonderful to meet up with his brother, John Sullivan, again. John not only represented the Club’s sponsoring Rotary Club, Narrandera, but he was also instrumental in that formation all those years ago and is still involved and going strong. Then too, a fairly frequent non-Narrandera visiting artist donated a magnificent painting on an

easel for a raffle as a thank you gesture for the friendship given her by the Club members on her visits. (See the photo below of President Gwen on LHS of the photograph, and Secretary Judy, on the other side of yours truly). Incidentally, the raffle was drawn by Marie Cahill, a very sprightly 95 year old member!

A very nice touch was the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coffee mug, one of which was presented to every person who attended the dinner. Then too, as befitting the home town of John O'Brian, of "Around the Boree Log" fame, as well as a several items from a lovely local trumpeter, member Marge Anslow delighted all present with a very clever recitation of a selection of very witty poems by Pam Ayers.



**New Life Member Geoff Sullivan**



#### **MESSAGE FROM PSPL** **CALL TO ACTION**

Nominations are called for Probus club members interested in nominating for;  
PSPL MEMBER/DIRECTOR 2016-2019 – Queensland, Victoria/Tasmania and New Zealand (Districts 9910, 9920 and 9930)

2016 PSPL NOMINATING SELECTION COMMITTEE

For more details visit Probus website – [www.probussouthpacific.org](http://www.probussouthpacific.org)



### TRADE TRAVEL BONANZA PRIZE PAGE

Each issue of “**Active Retirees**” magazine provides Probus club members with an opportunity to enter the draw to win an amazing holiday package.

Entries close 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 for the trip to New Caledonia.

Entries close 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 for the trip to Longreach, Queensland.

### TAKE THE CHALLENGE – PROUDLY PROBUS

#### ENTER THE PROBUS NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

An amazing prize pool valued at \$35,000

For details on how to enter see Active Retirees magazine or visit the Probus website.

### JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PROBUS IN AUSTRALIA 1976-2016

Be the first to order your 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PROBUS IN AUSTRALIA – 1976 – 2016  
COMMEMORATIVE Tie \$25.00 +postage, Scarf \$25.00 +postage, and Pen \$7.00 +postage

#### Postage charges;

*Order 1-3 of the same or different commemorative item – flat rate \$4.00*

*Order 4-10 of the same or different commemorative item – flat rate \$7.00*

*Orders 10+ - contact PSPL for postage charges*

T: 1300 630 488 E: [accounts@probussouthpacific.org](mailto:accounts@probussouthpacific.org)

*Orders for delivery to Norfolk Island and international – contact PSPL for postage charges*

T: 1300 630 488 E: [accounts@probussouthpacific.org](mailto:accounts@probussouthpacific.org)

Soon to be announced – **PROBUS 40<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION OUT-BACK TOUR** to Longreach – April, 2016.  
Expressions of interest to:



Toll Free: 1800 034 439 or +61 3 5022 7993

Email: [groups@tradetravel.com](mailto:groups@tradetravel.com) Website: [www.tradetravel.com.au](http://www.tradetravel.com.au)

Remember, if you would like to arrange for me to visit your Probus club please do not hesitate to contact me.

Henry Gardiner



Rotary District 9700 Probus Chairman

T: 0417 223 539; E: [henrygardiner@bigpond.com](mailto:henrygardiner@bigpond.com)

**“Wear your Probus badge with pride”**

**PROBUS is PROUD to be A Community Service Activity of Rotary Clubs.**