



ROTARY DISTRICT PROBUS NEWSLETTER

From the Rotary District Probis Chairman

February 2016

ACTIVE RETIREES – *Tomorrow's Vision for PROBUS*



Dear Probis friends,

This year will be a memorable year for Probis, being the 40th anniversary of Probis in Australia.



I'm not aware of any of our District 9700 Clubs which are celebrating 40 Years of Probis but PSPL tells me that Hunters Hill Inc have just celebrated their club 40th anniversary in style with 95 guests in attendance at the Killara Golf club.

I encourage clubs to also mark this memorable year by celebrating 40 years of Probis in Australia with your club members. How about letting me know what you are doing, And while you are about it please let PSPL know of your celebration plans too so they can be added to the 2016 Calendar of events. For more details please visit the website:

http://www.probussouthpacific.org/pages/about_probis_probis_celebrating_40_years

In the meantime, in this newsletter, I again focus on membership. Some important points to think about include:

Membership Growth – PSPL provides a range of complimentary resource material to assist your club in membership drives. The secured administration section of the PSPL website lists the resources available to your club. Please visit the website for more details www.probussouthpacific.org . I have had samples sent to me and welcome enquiries – in fact I'll be taking a bag full up to Coota to the 31st March Friendship Day so see me there.

Programs and activities must be interesting and attractive – This is always a given. Without interesting and stimulating programs and activities Probis Clubs, like any other similar community organisation, will wither away. President Nancy Sims of Cootamundra Ladies Probis, has written, "Here in Cootamundra we organise monthly days out...and (trips away)...On Monday 29th February we, all thirty of us, are heading to Beechworth and surrounding areas for a week. We are travelling by coach. Last year we went to Broken Hill and surrounds. Next year we might organise a trip to Merimbula on the South Coast. We also go to the Civic Theatre in Wagga Wagga and we are going to Sydney twice this year, to see *The Fiddler on the Roof* and *My Fair Lady* at the Sydney Opera House." (Wagga is half way between Sydney and Melbourne and not quite 500kms from the coast, less to Beechworth).

I know that Griffith Club featured fully in my January *Newsletter*, but a couple of weeks ago Secretary Dick sent me great pics of their recent Club visit to a new Sikh Temple in Griffith and since I haven't received photographs from other Clubs lately (hint, hint, hint) and I happen to know about the large Sikh community in and around Griffith. After World War One when my bullocky grandfather's business hauling wool etc to the Darling River paddle steamers went broke because of the then modern railways he and the Sikh cameleers who were his friends and business competitors moved to the new Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area as farmers. Accordingly, I was able to cobble together an article for *Active Retirees* to go with the photographs. I mention this because it is the kind of serendipitous connection Probis people often come across as they meet up with other Probians. The article and pics haven't yet been published or put on the web-site so I'm putting it in this *Newsletter* too.

Griffith Probus Club Breaks New Ground with Significant Club Visit to Sikh Temple

For over 180 years there has been a small but growing, permanent Sikh presence in Australia. As British subjects, members of the Sikh community from their native Punjab region (part of the then British



Empire) have had relatively easy access to emigration to Australia. Those from a farming background tended to choose rural regions into which to settle, for example, the North Coast of NSW and the Western Riverina regions. The former often became banana growers while the latter tended to be general agricultural workers, hawkers or Camel teamsters. Sikhs fought with distinction at Gallipoli in World War I, and later on in Malaya and Singapore in the Second World War, in both cases alongside Australian soldiers. It was only natural that as the railways took the trade of the Sikh cameleers (often mistakenly called Afghans) some of them moved to the new farming area around Griffith in the post World War One soldier settler irrigation areas from the 1920s on. In the first instance, here the Sikhs were farm workers but sometimes they were travelling traders with horse-drawn “caravans” full of assorted products for the new settlers and their families as the towns and villages around Griffith arose after the brand new irrigation farms came into production.



It wasn't until towards the end of the 20th Century that the Griffith Sikh population grew large enough to establish its own Temple, in the first instance in the village of Yoogali by purchasing and renovating the then Coronation Hall which had been an Italian Club since 1937.

In recent time the former temporary Yoogali building has been sold and an imposing and much larger brand new \$3,000,000 Sikh Temple has been built in the village of Hanwood. The new Temple was officially declared open in July 2015 and one of the first groups of visitors to undertake a guided tour was the Griffith Probus Club. Twenty eight members and partners attended the very



impressive event on 12 December. All were enthusiastically welcomed by the Elders and apart from the tour of the worship area on the top floor, the visitors were magnificently entertained with a traditional Sikh breakfast prepared and served by the Sikh ladies downstairs in the entertainment area. As is customary in Sikh Temples, all footwear was removed at entry to the worship area and head scarves were donned.



Hey! And I hear on the grape vine that Blayney Club, many of whom Margaret and I met complete with Probud name badges on a flight to Cairns a couple of years ago en route to a week or so in the tropics, are currently organising to go to Yamba for a few days!

Handling membership enquiries – It is important when you receive an enquiry to join your club that the potential member receives a warm welcome at your club meeting and you advise them of your activities and outings they can participate in should they join your club. Your club should review your waiting lists if you have one and advise me as your RDPC if people are waiting a lengthy time to join your club. Nobody should have to wait to start their Probud journey and in some cases I can help your club to form a new club in your town or a neighbouring one to meet the requirements of retirees in your community.

If your club has set a gender balance, you should ensure members are inducted in the order of membership applications received. Couples should not receive preference over single people.

Options available for clubs requiring assistance with membership – Some options include changing to a combined club if your club is a single gender club; your club can also consider amalgamating with another club in the area if they are also experiencing difficulties with increasing membership. Going into recess is another option to consider. Winding up of the club should be the last option, however I encourage you to contact me as your RDPC as soon as your management committee identify your club is struggling with membership or committee positions.

Membership Development Page – PSPL has created a page on the PSPL website, providing a range of documents and templates to assist clubs with membership development. I encourage management committees to visit the page http://www.probusouthpacific.org/pages/club_administration_membership_development or contact me so I can assist your club with membership.

How does PSPL handle membership enquiries from potential members? – PSPL receives numerous enquiries from members of the community wanting to join a Probud club. PSPL responds to these enquiries by providing the contact details of the club secretary and some information about the Probud organisation. Club secretaries and me are copied into the response from the enquiring potential members. If they don't contact your club to enquire about joining, we encourage your club secretary to contact them and invite them to attend a club meeting.

Potential members looking to join a club from the PSPL website Club locator page will be able to view club websites if the club has one. I encourage clubs to consider the offer from PSPL to set up a complimentary website to showcase your clubs specific activities that will encourage potential new members to your club.

The offer includes the ability to manage this website at club level or to engage PSPL to assist you by uploading your editorial and photographs on a monthly basis for a charge of \$100 annually.

I hope some of the tips I have provided you with will be useful to your management committee. It is vital we as an organisation continue to recruit members from the community to join the Probus organisation to ensure we continue for many years in the future.

PROBUS INFORMATION DAYS

If you are interested in attending or holding a Probus Information Day, please contact me regarding setting one up and how I can help with funding. As regrettably, no information days have been scheduled in our district this year, please encourage your management committee to host one in conjunction with me and PSPL. Please contact me if you have any questions relating to information days. For the towns in north east/central D9700, don't forget that Young still has no Probus club.

ACTIVE RETIREES™ MAGAZINE

Does your Club have members who, for one reason or another, decided not to subscribe to the Probus flagship magazine, Active Retirees™? The beginning of a new year is an opportune time to display copies at your monthly meeting so they are able to see the improvements that have been initiated which may prompt them to change their mind.

Active Retirees™ magazine contains a range of great articles, competitions and club news so you can stay in touch with what is happening within the family of Probus.

Probus club members are encouraged to contribute articles and photographs and clubs are encouraged to utilise the magazine as a membership development tool for new members. Active Retirees™ magazine supports the image of Probus as an organisation which has status, dignity and respect.

PSPL is also now offering digital magazine subscriptions. You can order these on behalf of your club members when filling out the annual return forms. Please contact PSPL for more details or visit the website: http://www.probussouthpacific.org/pages/about_active_retirees_digital_subscriptions

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTIONAL TOOL



Complimentary stickers are available on request from PSPL (10 labels per sheet). These stickers can be used to attach to the front cover of the Active Retirees™ magazine. Spare copies of the magazines can then be delivered to local libraries, council offices, real estate agencies, hairdressers, pharmacies, banks and doctors/dentist/ waiting rooms for wider promotion of Probus and awareness of local clubs; **a great membership tool.** Just add your club's contact details to the sticker.

NEW Probus Member Benefits Scheme Partner (MBS)

Fergusson Winery and Restaurant



Located in the beautiful Yarra Valley, about an hour's drive from Melbourne and home to some of the oldest vines in the valley, planted in 1968. This family vineyard features a Cellar Door where you can purchase award winning wines, the Restaurant, Barrel Room, Australiana Shop, Bed and Breakfast Studios, Conference facilities and Weddings with its own

chapel.

For picturesque scenery and the home to the signature dish "prime aged charolais beef cooked over the turning spit", visit Fergusson Winery and Restaurant - Real Food, Real People"

Probus Members will receive a 20% discount in restaurant, excluding public holidays and a 20% discount in cellar door, off regular retail price.

Probus Member Number must be quoted at time of booking or produced at cellar door.

T: (03) 5965 2237

Email: info@fergussonwinery.com.au

Website: www.fergussonwinery.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

RDU Merchandise & Promotions

RDU Merchandise & Promotions is an authorised licensee to Probus South Pacific Limited. Please note RDU has now moved from their premises and orders can only be placed over the phone or through the website. **Margaret and I are now the proud owners of respectively, a 40th Probus Anniversary scarf and tie – we'll wear them to the Friendship Day at Coota on 31st March too.**

T: +61 2 9674 6855 Fax: +61 2 9624 2148

Website: <http://www.rdushop.org/products.cfm/category/probus-merchandise>

Please share our District 9700 *Newsletter* with your members and include excerpts in your club *Newsletter* for the information and interest of your Probus club members. And please share your info and news with me!

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

Best wishes

Henry Gardiner

[RDPC](#)



(In Rotary Past District Governor's drag today)

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