



ROTARY DISTRICT PROBUS NEWSLETTER

From the Rotary District Probud Chairman

March 2016

ACTIVE RETIREES – *Tomorrow's Vision for PROBUS*



Dear Probud friends,

March is now upon us and with it comes the change in leadership for most Probud Clubs. I wish the new committee every success in this new Probud year and may your Club continue to enjoy the Friendship, Fellowship and fun that are all part of the Probud ideal.

Around this time of the year, some Probud Clubs experience difficulties with the election of a new committee. If your club is in this category, please contact me or PSPL so that we can assist you in which ever way we can. In the past, some clubs have simply wound up; however there are other options like amalgamation with another club, re-birthing of your club or changing to a combined club if you are currently in a single gender club. A lot of work is involved in starting new clubs and I ask you to please explore all options by discussing them with either me on 6922 3539; 0417 223 539; henrygardiner@bigpond.com or PSPL prior to ever considering the oh so permanent winding up your club.

In this newsletter, one of my focuses is on reconnecting with your sponsoring Rotary club.

We all enjoy our Probud meetings, be it either the monthly meeting or an organised outing. If we didn't we probably wouldn't go to them. Do you ever think how your Probud club was started? Who had the idea to implement a Probud club in your area, and who now is available to help your club, if the need arises?

The answer is Rotary, specifically, your local sponsor Rotary Club.

***Cootamundra Rotary PP Bill Pryce Chairs Coota Ladies AGM: L to R
New President June Rees and Immediate Past President Nancy Sims***

Rotary plays a key role in not only the formation of new Probud clubs, but also in providing assistance to existing Probud clubs through the Rotary District Probud Chairman (RDPC). Probud is Rotary's most successful community service activity.



As the RDPC I can assist clubs in difficult times with advice, support and membership recruitment strategies. And this particular one likes to pop in to visit District 9700 Probud Clubs – our members are great people!

Many Probud clubs have maintained great relationships with their sponsoring Rotary club with the following activities. Please consider these as part of your club's celebration of 40 years of Probud in Australia:

- Invite the President of your sponsoring Rotary club as a guest speaker to provide an update on what is happening in your local community;
- Involve Rotary to share the fun in your club's wonderful milestone events, such as the presentation of life membership certificates, anniversary celebrations and even your club functions;
- Share your club newsletters with Rotary and ask Rotary to do the same with your club. This can help keep your members up-to-date with what is happening in your community; may provide ideas for a guest speaker

- Invite Rotarians to speak on projects in overseas countries such as Fiji, Tonga, The value and use of Shelter Boxes in times of disaster , Interplast
- Your club can hold a Probus open day to drive membership and you can invite your sponsoring Rotary club to attend so they can see Probus in action. Some of them may join you and retain their Rotary too.

Please remember, Rotary is behind your club, and it would be really good to renew acquaintances with the Rotary Club which sponsored you at your next special occasion.

PROBUS INFORMATION DAYS

Probus Information days are now underway around Australia and New Zealand. Regrettably, no Probus Club in District 9700 put its hand up to run a Probus Information Day this past year. Or even enquired about one. Probus Information Days do exactly what the name says – provide information, promote Probus, renews your members' interest in Probus, can save your club from falling membership, can often trigger the start of new clubs. The possibilities are almost endless. Under most circumstances I can secure some funding from PSPL and I can and will always help you run one. With PSPL I can get top of the range guest speakers and loads of information on planning and implementing the Day too. Please discuss hosting an information day in conjunction with me and PSPL with your management committee. Please contact me on 6922 3539; 0417 223 539; henrygardiner@bigpond.com . I'm happy to drive out to discuss ideas with any of our Probus Clubs if we can arrange a mutually acceptable day and date. And if the plan doesn't succeed immediately, then at least I've met new friends and we may well hit the jackpot next time!

NEW Probus Member Benefits Scheme Partner (MBS)

travelticket

TravelTicket

Travelticket was established in 2000 with the idea of creating memories for the holiday maker and providing for the business traveller. Our travel organisers are experienced and most importantly we care. They will organise the holiday you

have dreamt of or organise arrangements for that complicated business trip with ease. We make ourselves available in discussing all details of your travel arrangements. There is never anything too big or too small. We look forward to seeing our old friends and meeting new friends today.

Travelticket is offering Probus members 10% off all insight, Trafalgar, Globus + Cosmos Tours, Uniworld. 7.5% off Bunnik Tours, Albatross Tours, APT and Scenic. Probus members also receive extra \$50 off Business class airfares.

T: 1300 366 390

E: info@travelticket.com.au

W: www.travelticket.com.au

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

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

SNIPPETS FROM AROUND THE TRAPS

The great pics Griffith Club provided me with for my Sikh Temple visit article in my March *Newsletter* have generated a lot of interest, I've had calls from half a dozen Clubs enquiring about such a visit for their members. Good one Griffith Mens!

Margaret and I were very fortunate to be able to attend the 25th Birthday Meeting of the Cootamundra Ladies Probus Club this month. It was a delightful experience for us and for all who attended. Outgoing President Nancy Sims and her Committee organised a beautiful birthday cake and program including morning tea and lunch. And of course, they also arranged for a *Cootamundra Herald* photographer/reporter to be present. The photographer even succeeded in organising well over 40 Probians in a group around the cake for photographs – as we all know, getting a troop of Probus people into position for taking pictures is a bit like herding cats, but she did it with no fuss and bother at all.





Members had to be over ninety to be eligible to cut the cake at the Cootamundra 25th



Outgoing (in both senses of the word!) President Nancy personally greeted members & guests



New Coota President June Rees has hit the ground running, having inherited an excellent club

Two new members were inducted during the meeting, making three in the past couple of months. Cootamundra has two Probus Club, the other one being a mixed club. Both clubs have combined to run the Friendship day on Thursday 31st March. The considerably more than one hundred and fifty Probians booked to attend will be very well looked after indeed, Cootamundra being the progressive, "live wire" town that it is. I look forward to catching up with you on the Day.

Blayney Club's Innovative use of the Local Paper

Did you know that not all of our 40+ Probus Clubs in District 9700 have monthly *Newsletters*? Blayney Club is one of the very few that do not have a regular *Newsletter*. They have an excellent relationship with the *Blayney Chronicle*, their local newspaper. In lieu of the usual in-house Probus *Newsletter* Blayney runs their news and informational material each month in the local paper. Throughout 2015, Immediate Past President Greg Hooper wrote a jovial, clever and attractive column, often featuring signing-off-by-lines such as:

"Retired from work – not from life. Probus does retirement better".

And what about these lines from the Thursday 10th March 2016 edition: "As next meeting, 17th March, is also St Patrick's Day, members are encouraged to wear green for the meetings – to be sure to be sure" (I had a bit of a problem making my spell check and grammar/syntax computer program leave that sentence alone, to be sure, to be sure!!!). And in the same March edition an excellent, serious para, **"Probus members, by definition, have the good fortune, denied to many, to be chronologically privileged – and be active in our senior years. With our extensive life experiences and skills, we remain very important members in the spectrum of our community."** Greg, that one is really worth bottling, as they say, to be sure, to be sure. You will all believe me as I tell you that one of my Great Grandmothers was Mary Ryan from Tipperary...her son Alex Joseph Gardiner married Jane Sheather in Cootamundra in the 1880s. Of that I am doubly sure. To be sure.

MESSAGES FROM PSPL

Presidents Kits & 2016 Handbook

All clubs will shortly start to receive the President's kits which will also include the 2016 Probud Club Handbook. Additional copies can be ordered through PSPL once the stock becomes available for \$12 each.

Annual Capitation forms

Reminder to management committees; we request annual capitation forms be returned to PSPL office by the 30th of April, 2016. If you require a copy of the forms please visit the website or contact PSPL office.

Club news for Active Retirees magazine and PSPL website

Does your club participate in various activities? Wouldn't it be great to share your photographs and stories with not only your members but other Probud clubs and potential members? PSPL is actively engaging with clubs to share your photographs and stories on the Probud website, Facebook and twitter page. Please send in your photographs to admin@probussouthpacific.org or via post to PO Box 1294, Parramatta NSW 2124

Facebook



Please like our Facebook page to keep up to date and Check out what activities other clubs are doing.

<https://www.facebook.com/ProbudSouthPacific/>

Please share our newsletter with your members and include excerpts in your club newsletter for the information and interest of your Probud club members.

Until next time...**FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP...PROBUS DOES RETIREMENT BETTER**

(Thanks Blayney Past Probud President Greg Hooper)

Best wishes...see you at the Coota Friendship day on 31st March!
Please make yourself known to me.

Henry Gardiner

RDPC, District 9700

Email: henrygardiner@bigpond.com

Tel: 6922 3539; 0417 223 539



My signature pic this month is yours truly leaning on my Rotary Club's newly commissioned BBQ trailer at its first run. We designed it; lots of stainless steel working surfaces; great cool bins and other storage. We commissioned inmates of the Junee Correctional Centre who are taught such skills while resident there to make it for us. After a few smaller trial runs during 2015, including a Rotary BBQ Dinner Meeting, we fed more than 3,500 people at the Wagga "Australia Day Breakfast on the Beach" in January. A couple of us old retired from work members made and served the tea and coffee all morning....we put the four big urns on before dawn to be ready by 7.00am and re-filled them in relays thereafter!

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