

ABOUT PROBUS – A ROTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

WHAT IS PROBUS

Probus is about **Friendship, Fellowship and Fun** in retirement.

Probus provides the opportunity to join together in clubs and to progress healthy minds and active bodies through social interaction and activities with retirees in the community.

Probus opens the door to new experiences and friendships. Good informative guest speakers, companionship and activities provide value adding opportunities to members and 'attractiveness' for prospective members.

To quote a recent Probus Club member *"the day I joined my Probus Club, I instantly had 100 new friends"*.

HISTORY OF PROBUS

Probus has its origins in the United Kingdom, with the development of two community-based social clubs in the 1960s.

Both clubs were formed to meet the social and intellectual needs of retired businessmen. The first Probus club in the South Pacific region was the Probus Club of Kapiti Coast, New Zealand. The club was formed in 1974 and was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Paraparaumu. This was soon followed by the formation of the Probus Club of Hunters Hill, NSW in 1976.

The first Probus club for women in the region was the Ladies Club of St Heliers, New Zealand in 1982. This was closely followed by Bateau Bay, NSW later that year. Following the advent of single gender clubs, the concept of combined gender clubs was developed. Today, there are men's, ladies' and combined clubs.

Since the first clubs were established in New Zealand and Australia, Probus has grown at an astonishing rate, and is administered by Probus South Pacific Limited, based in Parramatta NSW. Probus is a worldwide movement in 23 countries.

WHAT IS THE ROTARY PROBUS CONNECTION

Is there a relationship between Rotary and Probus?

YES - Probus is a Community Service Activity of Rotary clubs.

Probus is an association of retired and semi-retired people who join together in clubs, the basic purpose of which is to provide regular opportunities for them to keep their minds active, expand their interests and to enjoy the fellowship of new friends.

Probus clubs may only be formed/sponsored by a Rotary Club.

Each Probus club is aligned with a Rotary District.

Once Rotary sponsors a Probus club and it is accredited by Probus South Pacific Limited (PSP) it operates within the parameters of its' Constitution and accreditation requirements.

The vision of the Probus South Pacific Limited (PSP) is to co-ordinate the growth, development and on-going support for Probus clubs, as the most widely recognized organisation for active retirees, in fostering the true spirit of Probus – *friendship, fellowship and fun.*”

PROBUS IN AUSTRALIA HAS CELEBRATED 40 YEARS



The first club formed in Australia was the Probus Club of Hunters Hill in February 1976. It celebrated its 40th anniversary February 2016.

ABOUT PROBUS IN ROTARY DISTRICT 9800

There are **89 Probus clubs** in District 9800 with a **total membership of about 7100**. Club sizes range from 30 to 200. There are many clubs with over 100 members and a few clubs with waiting lists.

Some Characteristics of Strong Probus Clubs

- Good membership age profile and capabilities.
- Good meeting venues and access.
- Value adding activities and meetings.
- Attractiveness to prospective members particularly newly retired.
- Noticeable **Fun, Fellowship and Friendship** (Probus core values).
- Capacity and capability for succession planning.

Maintain the Bridge – Rotary and Probus

Both organisations change their leadership every year. It is highly likely that with the passage of time some Rotary clubs may not be aware of having chartered a Probus club and similarly a Probus club may not remember what Rotary club chartered them. Sadly also there are cases where the charter Rotary clubs has returned its Rotary charter: in these cases we need to replace the original Rotary charter club with a current club so we have the opportunity for current connection and recognition.

Recommended Bridge Maintenance

We will display a list of District 9800 Probus clubs and charter Rotary clubs in the D9800 members area. Your assistance to consider the following 'bridge maintenance' is encouraged and requested:

- ☀ *Make connection with Probus club(s) your Rotary club has chartered.*
- ☀ *Invite the Probus club President to the annual DG's visit*
- ☀ *Attend one Probus club meeting per year*
- ☀ *If you see a Probus club with a non current Rotary charter club, consider chartering the Probus club.*

And District 9800

Mark Schürmer

Rotary International District 9800 Probus Chairman

Rotary Club of Laverton Point Cook

Probus Club of Sanctuary Lakes Point Cook

Mobile: 0408 995 768

Email: mark@hyp.net.au

Rotary

