



ROTARY DISTRICT PROBUS NEWSLETTER

From the Rotary District Probus Chairman

February 2019

Rotary
District 9810 



Dear Probus friends,

This Newsletter is intended to provide information not only to your committee but to all Probus Members. It is a simple matter to forward this to all members having email addresses. Mention has been made by some management committee members that they have not seen a District Newsletter which has been published monthly for some time.

NOTE: some clubs indicate they have not seen or heard of information that other clubs have. Every club receives the same information ... is your email and/or club address correct with PSPL?

Have you checked the website as they are all there under Administration? What happens when information arrives at your club? Where does it go? What action is taken? How do members know about Probus/club and PSPL?

2019 ... what will it bring? Will your Club be increasing membership, continuing to enjoy activities, having fun, promoting your club in your community and extending the hand of friendship and fellowship to others?

Why not be Proactive: Involve your members. Make it simple and fun but important

Have a Health Check (I can provide sample one for your adaptation if necessary) What are the indicators of a healthy Club?

Do a SWOT Analysis of your Club. What are your strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and what are the threats to your club?

Then will you take Action? Apply what is called the Traffic Light approach. **Green Light:** everything is progressing well. **Orange** light indicates some improvement needed. **Red** indicates considerable work and time involved for changes.

Updates from our clubs on Membership Development are:

- A Health Check found our club wanting in some areas
- Development of a website is bringing in results.
- Some members are becoming more proactive with some results after the SWOT analysis because they want their club to survive
- Letter promotional drops also works, provided more than one drop per property is carried out, but on several different dates apart from each other.
- Articles in newspapers also definitely work.
- But the best is **word of mouth**.

Club Networking

All Clubs within the District have been grouped within a cluster of other clubs, typically regional based. Should you not be aware of your cluster grouping, please ask. However, you can liaise with adjacent clubs for information about activities and trips etc. Should one Club find they have insufficient numbers to sustain an activity, joining with another Club in that activity may be the answer. Encourage Club clusters – interchange newsletters with other clubs – don't be a Club in isolation.

Club Development

It is a fact that many potential members peruse the internet when wishing to join Probus, and follow up on those clubs that appeal to them having viewed their webpage. Those clubs who do not have a webpage (saying they are not computer literate) can approach PSPL who will assist them in setting up their own individual website. This can be linked not only to the PSPL website but also that of PAV. PSPL also offer to maintain the site with monthly amendments for a small fee of \$100 per annum.

Publicise your Club in the local district newsletters. Make new members welcome – do not close them out of your group meaning you have a clique which will work against retaining happy members.

Many clubs have already taken advantage and ordered promotional material for membership development. Well Done.

Ambassadors

Volunteers have been requested before for people to assist in the formation of new clubs and to assist other clubs in their membership development. This would ideally suit a past president who whilst having served their Club previously, could assist the Probus movement so others may enjoy the same benefit they have received from joining Probus. If interested in furthering the Probus movement please contact Robert Renshaw on details below.

Speaker Offer

The following offer from Maurice Blackburn Lawyers was received and is passed on for your possible interest.

Is your Club interested in hearing from a Seniors Law expert on the legal issues affecting older Victorians?

Andrew Simpson, a Maurice Blackburn Principal Lawyer with several years' experience in Seniors Law can speak at your club for free.

The guest speaker session is obligation free and is focussed on education and discussing the common issues affecting older Victorians and how you can best protect yourself.

Speaking topics include relevant case studies and question time. Topics can be mixed and matched and include:

- Making and changing a Will
- Estate planning
- Statements of wishes accompanying a Will
- Powers of Attorney
- Advanced care directives
- Financial Elder Abuse

For enquiries or to book a speaking engagement, please contact Alina El Jawhari on 03 9605 2659 or rgeorge@mauriceblackburn.com.au

Previous Correspondence

- ❖ December Probus E Community News sent with helpful information from PSPL and Board during December.
- ❖ All previous Community news are on the PSPL website under the Administration section which you can access by using the number on your Probus card as a username and password. (Secretaries have a club password and if lost please contact Sydney for a new one)

A Thought from a Probus member.... Like any other family

A Probus Family is like any other family and is made up of different generations having a common thread but not necessarily sharing the same household.

Your Club can be seen as the Grandparents and will acknowledge that the younger generation will want to be in their own house.

Every effort is made to assist the older clubs to continue by providing strategies for Membership development so they do not feel left behind, out of the conversation, threatened by new clubs, or not included and not forgotten.

It is important for the continual growth of Probus (the family line) and to counteract the closure of Clubs due to an ageing membership that new clubs be fostered and supported by all clubs.

Yes, the Probus family is no different to any other family ... we want a legacy our name and family to continue through the years.

Information Days

It is intended to have two Information Days this year within the District. Both days will be held in April being held on the Thursday 11th and Friday 12th. Invitations will be extended to the bordering District clubs who may decide that either day better suits them to one being held in their own District. The day is being held to assist all those members in their own committee roles as well as update them on changes that have been occurring within Probus.

This year we are having a limit of 100 delegates attending either location to overcome the crowding experienced last year. Therefore, all clubs are requested to book early to ensure a place. Registration details have been issued to all clubs requesting that clubs make a commitment early and not wait until a new committee is on board. By now, you will have some idea as to who will be part of your new committee – don't wait until too late!

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

All Australian Probus Clubs will be having their annual general meetings in March 2019. In this, all committee positions are declared vacant and each position can be contested. To this end, nominations should be lodged with the Secretary by the February General Meeting.

The AGM is also the time that annual membership and joining fees should be presented for member's consideration and the annual financial statement should also be presented by the Treasurer.

Nominations for committee positions close with the Secretary at the February general meeting.

If you wish to contact your sponsoring Rotary Club to invite a representative to be your Returning Officer please contact me and I will send contact details for you.

Remember any changes to Membership ceiling, joining fee, Annual Subs must be discussed by Management committee and put forward at the February meeting BUT is not voted on until the AGM

Succession Planning... 'Talk the talk'

Have you started????

Encourage every position to have a committee and share the tasks.

Clubs as they become older find that members are not willing to take on the full twelve months in a role ... yes, one **member can be elected** but can act as the Coordinator of the committee for the designated position.

BIRTHDAYS



Congratulations to all those Clubs listed below who are celebrating birthdays during this month of February. The date shown in brackets is the day of the month your Club was accredited and the number in bold text is a special birthday number.

Box Hill South Ladies (1st – 29 years), Dingley Central (11th – 28 years), Glen Waverley Ladies (31st – 31 years), Heathmont Ladies (9th – 29 years), Sandbelt Ladies (21st – 28 years), Sandy Bay Combined (15th – 14 years) and Wantirna South (7th – **1st Birthday**)

Please share our newsletter with your members and include excerpts in your club newsletter for the information and interest of your Probus club members. Should your members be on email, please forward this newsletter.

Rotary District 9810 Probus Chair Robert Renshaw

Tel: 9802 1901

Email: rren2422@bigpond.net.au

Rotary District 9810 Assistant Probus Chair

Bruce Crago Tel: 9870 3197

Email: cragohouse@bigpond.com

District 9810 Probus Ambassadors

Ken Falconer (OAM) Tel: 9898 9053

Email: kenneth.falconer@bigpond.com

Tony Hills Tel: 9560 7968

Email: ahi73056@bigpond.net.au

Mike Ransom Tel: 0417 514 349

Email: mrans6828@optusnet.com.au

Alan Kossatz Tel: 9511 6258

Email: aykossatz@optusnet.com.au

John Bethune Tel: 8803 4270

Email: johndbethune@gmail.com

Anne Oughtibridge (OAM) – Tel: 0422 068 493

Email: oughti@optusnet.com.au

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