



The

Paul Henningham Award

for outstanding literary merit in PROBUS — the magazine

THE Board of the Probus Centre — South Pacific Inc has announced an award to be presented annually to a member of Probus for “a literary contribution of outstanding merit” in *PROBUS* — the magazine.

The award has been named in honour of PDG Paul Henningham, OAM, editor of *Probus News* for many years and the driving force behind the success and growth of the magazine.

The Paul Henningham Award recognises the role that he played in the establishment and development of *Probus News*, from its humble beginnings as a newsletter to a quarterly, 64-page magazine. Today, because of his monumental pioneering work and dedication, we have the bi-monthly, full-colour 80-page magazine which is the flagship publication for Probus members in Australia.

Born in 1921, Herbert Paul Henningham was raised in rural NSW and educated at small country primary schools and Leeton High School.

He was about to enter theological college in 1939 when war intervened. After service as an infantry officer in the AIF, he enrolled at Sydney University, graduating in 1948.

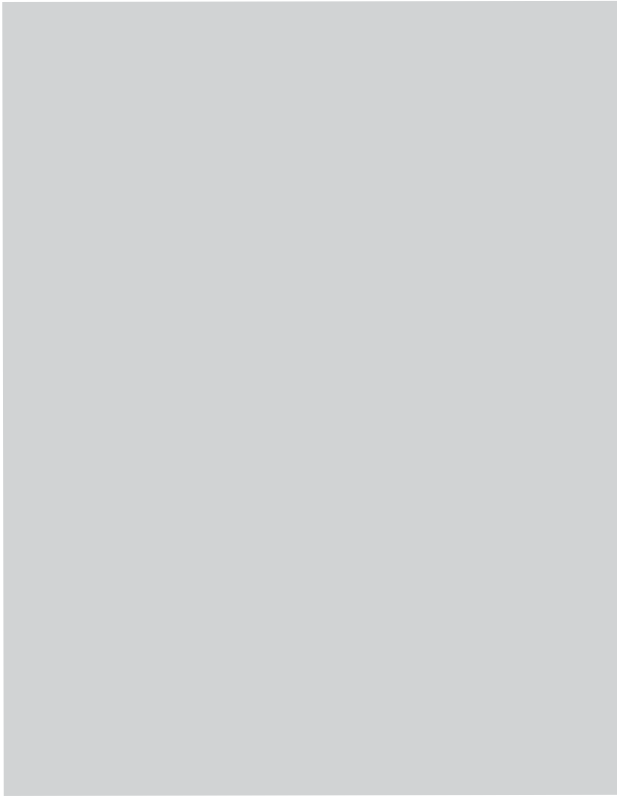
He worked for several years as a social worker, then moved to publishing and journalism, continuing his community service as a voluntary worker and holding office in a number of local, State and National agencies and associations concerned with youth work, mental

health, education, Indigenous welfare and family counselling.

Paul became a Rotarian in 1954 and has served in the Rotary Clubs of Marrickville (1954-62), Newtown (1962-70) and Lower Blue Mountains (1970-). He has held all club offices and has served Rotary International as District Governor, Committee member and Chairman and Seminar Moderator. His principal Rotary interests have been in youth activities and international service. In 1963-64 he led a committee set up to establish a Rotary regional magazine, leading to the founding, in 1965, of *Rotary Down Under*, of which he was appointed editor. He retired in 1984 to undertake research and further education; but his voluntary service in Rotary continues, acknowledged by several awards including a Paul Harris Fellow award, a Distinguished Service Award and the Australian Rotary Health Medal for 2007. He is also a long-serving member of Sydney Legacy, dedicated to the care of the dependants of deceased war veterans.

Paul joined with famous Probus names like Bob Burnett, Cliff Johnstone, Cec Short, Bill Jacobs and Jim Standford, to establish the Probus Centre South Pacific Inc. — to provide the first office for the administrative arm of the organization in the early 1980’s.

After his retirement from *Rotary Down Under* in 1984, he became editor of *Probus News* for more than ten years. He then served as editorial consultant and



Paul Henningham, OAM.

chairman of publications for a further five or six years after he retired as the hands on editor — mentoring other young editors.

Paul was also policy adviser and constitutional expert to the Probus Board for many years.

A member of the Probus Club of Blaxland-Glenbrook, NSW, Paul was chosen to write the brief history *The Probus Story* in 2006. He is also the author of nine volumes of history and biography, including four with Rotary themes.

Amongst all this, Paul also found time to pursue academic interests, completing a PhD in social history.

On his 80th birthday, Australia Day 2001, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the community.

Paul is married to Margaret (aka Peggy). They live in a village on the Blue Mountains, about 80 kms west of Sydney and their many interests include literature, music, drama, painting, gardening and grandparenting.

No one is more deserving of this honour and the Paul Henningham Award is a fitting tribute to his many years of service.

In typical understatement, Paul has reluctantly accepted this honour and said that he would be honoured to serve as a member of the judging panel for the award.

The Paul Henningham Award for outstanding literary merit will be announced each year in Issue 6 of *PROBUS* — the magazine.

