

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello, Kia Ora, G' day

Welcome to my first Chairman's message from Auckland, New Zealand on a fine but chilly winters day. First, I take this opportunity to say a special thank you to my fellow board members for the privilege to lead the Probus Centre South Pacific team of board directors and the Secretariat office in Parramatta for the next 12 months.

To the newly elected board directors, Ken Brand, Anne Loutitt and Veronica Semmler congratulations and welcome aboard, please enjoy and contribute to your journey over the next 3 years. As the board of management we are here to co-ordinate the growth, development and on-going support for PROBUS clubs to enable all Probians to enjoy the fun, fellowship and friendship of PROBUS.

At the Probus Centre South Pacific AGM last month, Treasurer John Thorne reminded us that we had just completed the first full year of independent operations in our own premises including an increased PROBUS magazine size and unforeseen insurance premium increases all leading to an operating loss of \$137,254 for the year. This means that at the next board meeting in September, board members will have to look at ways to address this including setting membership fees for 2010-2011.

Well, the year has started full of action and enthusiasm, with twenty-five Rotary District Probus Chairman (RDPC) from Australia and New Zealand meeting in Parramatta, NSW last month to take part in the annual 2009 Probus Briefing weekend. These voluntary RDPC's are briefed on all things PROBUS like, "How to form a New Probus Club", "How to hold Information Days" and how the Probus Centre South Pacific (PCSP) can assist your club with resources and other useful information like travel insurance, risk management, privacy and even membership ideas.

Can I suggest that if your PROBUS club is looking for an informational guest Speaker then your local Rotary District Probus Chairman is just the person to give your members an update on the story of PROBUS.

Please be sure to read in this magazine the breaking news about the new **Paul Henningham Award** for "a literary contribution of outstanding merit" in PROBUS - the magazine. The award has been named in honour of PDG Paul Henningham as the early editor of Probus News and the driving force behind the success and growth of the magazine.

Finally, may I wish all the new Probus Club and Association Presidents courage to lead your club over the next 12 months and implement any new ideas that you have as this is your time and your year at the helm.

Enjoy PROBUS – Tomorrow's Vision for Active Retirees

*George Wyman
Chairman 2009 -2010*