

Membership Forum

Issue 5 December/January 2008/9

This edition covers the PCSP Discussion Forum - Christchurch Rendezvous

Chairman Bob Bensley discussed the fee structure for 2009-2010 and the structure and financial overview of the Probus organization, Vice Chairman George Wyman spoke on the purpose/benefits and how to host a Probus Information Day and Treasurer John Thorne AM spoke on the importance and usability of PROBUS – *the magazine*, the major role the magazine takes in our financial position and the acceptance of surplus funds being recognized not as accumulated funds but as funds to be utilized in our growth for the future.

A précis of questions presented by delegates:

Q. How many delegates registered from each area for the 2008 Rendezvous?

A. AUSTRALIA: ACT – 13, NSW – 49, NT – 2, SA – 30, WA – 53, QLD – 39, VIC – 82, TAS – 7

NEW ZEALAND NORTH ISLAND – 91 NEW ZEALAND SOUTH ISLAND – 273
JAPAN – 6

Q. Rendezvous Registration Fees – escalating registration costs concerns.

A. Rendezvous Committees and PCSP continue to monitor the registration and associated costs to attend the annual Rendezvous and recognize the needs of individuals and work to make the Rendezvous affordable to all.

Only through these efforts and the generosity of sponsors can the costs be effectively managed.

Q. Could Rendezvous event organizers establish an incentive/ prize to offer to the club who has the most delegates at each Rendezvous? Perhaps a similar offer like the early bird prize.

A. This will be passed onto future Rendezvous organizing committees for their consideration.

Q. If there was a register of delegates available at this Rendezvous as promised from last year, where was it? If not, why not?

A. No register has been made available this year. The matter will be passed onto the next Rendezvous for their consideration.

Q. As Probus is all about friendship; could a list of delegates be posted on a notice board so we could catch up with old friends?

A. This will be considered for next year by the hosts.

Q. How much money should a club have in its bank account?

A. Club members discuss and determine – usually based on recommendation from committee - consideration of club expenses such as hall hire etc.

Q. Is there a recommended ratio of club member numbers to numbers on the committee?

A. This is a decision of members and forms part of club rules.

Q. Why do some members wear “red” label badges? Can any member wear one? What is the history behind this issue?

A. Originally, Men's Probus club badges were blue. When ladies Probus clubs were formed they used red badges. Since 1990 combined clubs have used blue badges.

Q. Multiple issues with insurance for the club when cheques and cash are received for trips and functions etc, with no receipts written. Where do members stand?

A. Receipts should be issued for all monies paid.

Q. Can a club distribute name/ address lists of members to other members with in the club?

A. The club should establish a policy whether or not members wish to have such a list distributed. All members have the right under the Privacy Act to not have their details circulated.

Q. What is the ideal size of a club?

A. Clubs need to determine the maximum number of members. This is usually based on the numbers allowable at a venue related to insurance and also the number members are comfortable with maintaining.

Q. If a club sets a ceiling of 130 members but only ever 90% members attend the meetings, how many members should a club insure for?

A. The club would need to determine the legal limit restrictions at their venue and the number the club membership is comfortable in accepting.

Q. How are PCSP addressing the reluctance of members to take office which must lead to clubs winding up?

A. Suggest clubs develop portfolios for each office bearer and to utilize the recommendations in the Probus Club Hand Book. Probus Centre is constantly working on strategies to assist clubs.

Q. Why is it that PCSP does not inform clubs that are not accredited?

A. There may be some confusion here – all clubs are **accredited** by PCSP on formation. Not all clubs are incorporated – this remains a decision by individual clubs and is not a requirement of accreditation.

Q. Non-active membership category

A. Non Active membership category is detailed in the Standard By-Laws for clubs consideration. Although not being a very attractive title the category is useful in moving non active members from the member count thus allowing those on the waiting list to be inducted into membership.

Q. Do members have to fill out a form when attending social activities or can we mark a roll?

A. *Where possible* – an attendee list should be maintained for all activities and events. This should form part of a clubs Risk Management Policy.