



Probis News: District 9600

from Rotary District Probis Chairman David Allen
January 2010



Greetings and a happy and fulfilling new year to you all. I hope you have had a well-earned break over the Christmas / New year period and are refreshed for the opportunities and challenges of 2010.

Information Days in April

By now all clubs should have received their invitations and registration forms for the 2010 information days to be held as follows:

Brisbane Northside clubs: Wednesday 21 April, Arana Leagues Club, 247 Dawson Parade, Keperra

Sunshine Coast clubs: Thursday 22 April, Caloundra Power Boat Club, Woorim Park, The Esplanade, Golden Beach, Caloundra.



The information days are for incoming management committees to be elected at the March AGMs. There will be presentations on a range of Probis issues, a chance for fellowship with lots of other Probians, and opportunities to exchange ideas in the break-out groups. Plus some generous lucky door prizes from our sponsors who will be there to tell us about some of their travel products.

I hope all clubs will be represented this year at either of these events. See you there!

Annual General Meetings

Yes, it's getting towards that time of the year when clubs make their annual reports and elect office bearers for the coming year. By now all clubs should have nomination forms available to members. This is an important time in the life of a club when a new leadership team is installed.

Management committees seem to work best where there is a blend of experience and fresh ideas. Think about some of your newer members and the skills they could bring to the management of your club.

If you need sample General Meeting or AGM agendas, nomination forms and proxy forms contact PC-SP and they will email them to you.

Anniversary celebrations

Probis Centre South Pacific and I are again recognizing clubs celebrating milestone anniversaries (10, 20 and 25 years) in 2010. Clubs celebrating in the first half of the year are:

10 years: Kingaroy and Ithaca

20 years: Carseldine, Nambour 90, Stafford, The Gap, and Pumicestone Passage

25 years: Buderim East, Caboolture Mens', Redcliffe Peninsula Mens' and St Lucia Mens'.

Congratulations to all of these clubs. They will receive certificates of recognition.



Healthy clubs

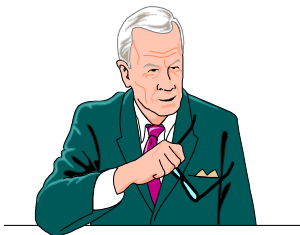


A few clubs have asked me for a copy of the Club Health Questionnaire and have told me that it has been a useful tool in checking on the health of their club. Contact me if you wish to have a copy for use in your club.

Healthy clubs are clubs that:

- have interesting guest speakers, and a range of outings, interest groups and activities for members to enjoy;
- are friendly, welcoming and caring;
- are attractive to new members and have a regular intake of younger retirees;
- have meetings that are interesting, friendly and efficient;
- listen to members and take account of their views; and
- take membership development seriously.

Guest speakers



Looking for something different by way of a guest speaker or topic? *Queensland Probian* lists guest speakers and topics, obtained from monthly news letters of affiliated clubs. PC-SP also has a list of speakers, as submitted by clubs. The list for Queensland is available from PC-SP on request.

Administration and insurance fees

Club secretaries have been informed that there are fee increases in 2010. Admin fees are now \$2 per year per member and insurance fees are \$3. These are the first increases since 2004 and reflect increased costs over this period, plus some increased insurance covers and strengthened services from PC-SP. The new fees are still a

bargain when you consider the range of services provided to clubs and members.

Fees and statistical forms are due in at PC-SP by 30 April.

Magazine subscriptions for 2010-2011 are due for renewal 1 April – the subscription rate remains at \$6.00 pa.

Membership development

If you are planning a membership drive PC-SP has some useful resources including Probus posters, balloons and brochures. Contact 1800 630 488.

Don't forget your local community newspapers. Most of these are happy to publish news and events for Probus clubs, especially if accompanied by photos of active retirees having fun.

It's a good idea to place spare copies of the Probus Magazine and the *Queensland Probian* in your local community center, library, doctors' surgery, etc. (with permission). This helps spread the good news about Probus. Remember to insert club contact information for the benefit of potential new members.

Nambour Mens' Probus Club recognized

I was pleased to visit Nambour Mens' Probus Club in November and to present a special award. This club was drawn as one of the winners from clubs that have maintained 100% subscription rate to the Probus magazine. I hope you guys are enjoying the Bunnings voucher. Well done!!

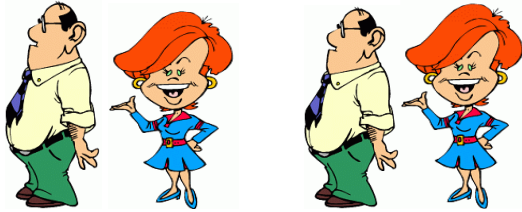
Probus - the Magazine

Remember that this is YOUR magazine. Send articles and photos to the magazine editor so that you can share news about your club with other Probian. Arrange for someone to mention highlights of the most recent issue at each club meeting.

Twining with another Probus club

As I mentioned in last newsletter, Probus Club of Pelican Waters has "twinned" with East Coast Bays Probus Club in Auckland. In the meantime Redcliffe City Mixed have twinned with Probus

Club of Navan in Ireland and the Probus Club of Harbour City Nanaimo in British Columbia, Canada. Congratulations to Pelican Waters and Redcliffe City Mixed for their initiatives.



Twinning offers possibilities for club visits as well as sharing newsletters, ideas, and local information. Twinning also highlights the breadth and depth of the Probus movement. If any club would like to make a twinning arrangement outside this District, let me know and I will do my best to facilitate this.

Upcoming events

Information days (see above)

Ecumenical Church Service: Thursday 29 April at St John's Anglican Cathedral

Rendezvous Darwin: 29 August to 3 September. Bookings are now open. Plan to be there!!

Probus reaching out

We all know that Probus is about the three Fs – Fun, Friendship and Fellowship. So keep the doors open and share the three Fs. Give others opportunities to build friendships. What about some of your former work colleagues? Let's share our good fortune of friendship by showing we care. Word of mouth is often the best way to keep refreshing your club with new members and new ideas.

Legal and financial advice

From time to time, Probus Centre has obtained legal, taxation and/or financial advice on a range of matters that may affect Probus Clubs. If your club has an issue that you need advice on, contact PC-SP before seeking any outside advice. PC-SP may already have sought advice on a similar matter in the past. PC-SP will seek professional advice on a particular issue if necessary. This will save your club time and money. It's part of PC-SP's service to clubs.

A Dave Allen joke

The minister decided on a visual demonstration to make a point in his sermon. He put four worms in separate jars. The first worm was put in a jar of alcohol, the second in a jar of cigarette smoke, the third in chocolate syrup, and the fourth in clean soil.

At the end of his sermon the minister reported that three worms were dead but the worm in the good soil was alive and well. He asked the people: What do we learn from this? A woman in the front row replied: as long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate you won't have worms!

Contact details:

David Allen
Rotary District 9600 Probus Chairman
PO Box 2251
Graceville East 4075
tel. 07 3278 5251
allen3651@iinet.net.au

Probus Centre –South Pacific
tel. 1800 630 499 or 02 9806 0100
probus@probus.com.au