



## Probud News: District 9600

from Rotary District Probud Chairman David Allen  
May 2009



Hello fellow Probudians and greetings. We are now into a new Probud year. Congratulations to all incoming club management committees and a special welcome to those who are on your club's committee for the first time. I wish you all a happy, fun-filled and fulfilling Probud year.

This newsletter highlights some current Probud issues which I hope you find interesting and useful. The newsletter is primarily for club officers but if you wish to circulate it, along with your club newsletter, to all club members please feel free to do so.

Have a great year. Probud is all about having Fun, Friendship and Fellowship. Enjoy!!

### Probud Information Day



On Friday 1 May, 128 Probud club officers representing 39 clubs gathered at the Arana Leagues Club at Keperra for an information day. This was an opportunity to discuss many topics including constitutions, incorporation, membership, insurance/ risk management, meeting procedures, Probud resources, interest groups, and the relationship between Rotary and Probud.

These sessions were lead by Merv Richens (Queensland representative on the board of Probud Centre - South Pacific) and myself. We also heard presentations from Probud Association of Queensland and official Probud sponsors.



**Merv Richens**

The break-out groups for presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, treasurers and outings coordinators were popular and, for the first time, we had a break-out group for guest speaker coordinators. All groups were pleased to take advantage of the opportunity to exchange views and experiences.

Our four newest Probud clubs (Pelican Waters, Chapel Hill, Taringa and North Lakes) were all represented at the information day.

Evaluations by participants at the end of the day showed that all sessions were well received. My sincere thanks to Carolyn Yates and her team at Mitchelton Probud Club for their great work in hosting the event. And thanks to all participants for coming and sharing your ideas and helping to make it a great day.

Next year we hope to be able to arrange two information days, including one on the Sunshine Coast.

## Adoption and registration of new club constitutions



By now all clubs should have adopted a new club constitution and standing resolutions (by-laws) that conform to the documents approved by PCSP in early 2008.

All clubs are required to provide a copy of their constitution and standing resolutions to PCSP, and incorporated clubs are required to register their new constitution with the Queensland Office of Fair Trading, together the OFT's Form 8.

If any clubs have not yet completed these steps please let me now if you need any assistance.

## Risk management



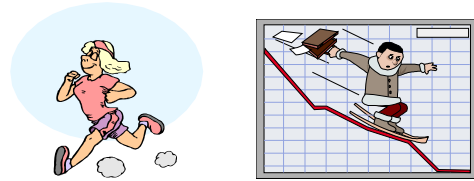
By now all clubs should have a risk management policy and steps to ensure safe practices at club meetings, outings and other activities.

Probus is all about the three Fs: Fun, Friendship and Fellowship. Taking steps to reduce risks will help us all to continue having Fun, Friendship and Fellowship.

Risk management is about minimising accidents at Probus meetings and activities, ensuring food and beverage services are to acceptable hygiene standards, and having sound money-handling practices.

See the PCSP website for a risk management policy template, a model risk assessment plan and action procedures in case of accident, as well as an article on risk management.

## Healthy clubs and membership development



How healthy is your club? I'm not talking about cholesterol levels, or what you eat at morning tea, or your physical mobility!! Healthy clubs are clubs that have interesting guest speakers, and a range of outings, interest groups and activities for members to enjoy.

Healthy clubs are friendly and welcoming clubs, caring clubs that stand by members going through hard times, clubs that are attractive to new members and have a regular intake of younger retirees to help keep the club young at heart.

Healthy clubs have interesting meetings, conducted in an efficient but friendly manner. Healthy clubs listen to members and take account of their views rather than simply announce decisions. Healthy clubs take membership development seriously.

Does your club tick all these boxes? If your club is not as healthy as you would wish, the solutions may well lie within (how things are done). The solution may be found in a membership recruitment program to attract new members (particularly younger retirees). The solution may well mean looking both inside and outside.

The *Probus Club Handbook* has many useful suggestions in the section on membership development. PCSP has some useful promotional material to help clubs recruiting new members.

If your club wants to talk more about these kinds of issues give me a call or send me an email.

## Interest (activities) groups

Most Probus clubs have a range of interest groups that provide opportunities for members to share with other Probian. What a variety of interest groups there are!

At the information day I listed some of the possibilities: gardening, movies, theatre, sports, luncheon, fine dining, wine appreciation, books, board and card games, and digital photography. When I asked for other examples many hands shot up: computing, genealogy, Sunday lunch, armchair travel. The list seems endless.

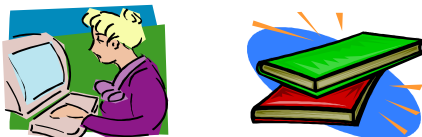


What are the requirements for setting up an interest group? First, take someone (not necessarily a committee member) with a passion to organise a group, add some members with an interest in the topic, and garnish with enthusiasm and encouragement. Another recipe for building friendship, fellowship and fun.

## Probus Centre is there to help you!

PCSP has many resources to help clubs. These include:

- The PCSP website at <http://probus.com.au>. This has a list of all resources available to clubs, many of which can be downloaded from the site. The site includes news items and coming events and has a useful membership forum-- frequently asked questions and answers. Check it out.



- *Probus Club Handbook, Helpful Guidelines for Club Officers*. This is

an excellent source of information about responsibilities of club officers. The 2008 edition can be downloaded from the PCSP website. A slightly updated 2009 edition will be available soon.

- *Probus, The Magazine*, issued six times a year—this keeps you up to date with Probus issues and activities throughout Australia. Read *Probus* and see what other clubs are doing.
- *Presidents' kits*- these will be sent to presidents shortly.

## The Probus family

When you join a Probus club you also join a very large family of 143,000 Probian in 1800 clubs throughout Australia, and many more in New Zealand and around the world. The next Probus Rendezvous, Perth, 13-18 September, is an opportunity to meet and mix with Probian from around Australia and NZ. Come and meet some more of the family!

In Queensland we have a host of opportunities through the many initiatives of the Probus Association of Queensland (PAQ). Check out the *Probian* magazine for information about tours, friendship days, sports events, ecumenical church services, the Probus choir, and so on.

## Contact details:

**David Allen**  
**Rotary District 9600 Probus Chairman**  
**PO Box 2251**  
**Graceville East 4075**  
[allen3651@iinet.net.au](mailto:allen3651@iinet.net.au)

tel. 07 3278 5251

### *A Dave Allen joke*



*A painter was in the habit of thinning down his paints with water to save on costs. One day he was painting the local church when it started to rain. Can you imagine the sight! There were streaks of paint and water everywhere.*

*The painter looked skywards and prayed. Lord, what should I do now? And God said: repaint, repaint, and thin no more.*