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This book has been inspired by the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast which falls due on 19 October 2017. Your Committee considered it fitting that this event should be commemorated by the publication of a short history of its existence.

We were fortunate to secure the voluntary services of Club members Peter Odendaal, Malcolm Vincent and Graeme McIntosh to undertake its compilation and our thanks go to them as well as all those members who contributed content.

I am sure that this book will be of interest to all members of the Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast and serve as a lasting record of events which, with the passage of time would otherwise be lost.

Gu Freijda

George Tregidga (President 2017/18)

19 October 2017

It All Started Here
Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast
1982 – 2017



Constructing a narrative which includes absent people is by definition a difficult task. The archived records deliver bare-boned facts and only leave clues to the personalities which make up the human interest element and they require some extrapolation and interpretation to breathe life into a story. I am indebted to those past officers of our club who left behind the volume of records covering the last three and a half decades and any error in interpretation is my own.

19 October 1982 was the date on which Probus came to the Hibiscus Coast. Prior to this date there were only two clubs in New Zealand, Kapiti Coast formed in 1974 and St Heliers Men's Club formed in 1981. Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast was a pioneer within the Rodney District and it was followed within a year by twelve new clubs from Mahurangi, Wellsford, Warkworth, Orewa and six clubs on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.

The founding of Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast was due to Tom Kincaid of Rotary who later joined the club when he retired, and original founder member Bob Boyd who was still with us until quite recently. Within a short time the club had 37 enthusiastic members and some positive coverage in the local press no doubt contributed to the growth in numbers:

“Every retired man passes through that traumatic experience of discovering after two days of his farewell gathering that the world is still turning – the sun is still rising – the rain is still falling – and worst of all, his old organisation is still sailing along without his hand on the helm. Some never recover from the shock and spend their remaining years, those that should be the most satisfying in life, in loneliness and isolation. Probus was conceived to gather together such persons and any other who still have the inclination, in

informal fellowship. No organisational structure, no fund raising projects, just sheer togetherness to share the joys and sorrows, the hopes and fears of a lifetime.”

Gilbert Johnston had been the President of Orewa Rotary and it was fitting that he should become the founding President of the new Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast. It is important to note here that he was considered to be an autocrat, albeit a benevolent one, who guided the fortunes of the club through its early years. President Gilbert had been a Chaplain during the War and when needed to convince members to volunteer for committee duty he would liken the committee experience to that of St Paul on the road to Damascus!

He was a brave founding President who issued the following notice to celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary. Retired newspaperman Frank Sneddon took over as the next President for the 1984-1985 year. By this time membership had grown to 78 members which must be evidence of the role the Probus movement played and continues to play in our society.



In the 'N.Z. Herald' of 10'5'66 I placed a Public Notice which included the following: 'After 25 years of happy married life I will be cheerfully responsible for all debts contracted in my name by my wife **'GLADYS EVA JOHNSTON'**'.

Now after another 25 years of loving, caring and at times argumentative married life I will not only be responsible for such debts but will pay them 'till death do us part'. Thank you, Gladys, for 50 Golden Years!

Signed - Gilbert J. Johnston, Manly. 10'5'91

In a speech President Frank said he viewed Probus as a time for members to rest on their oars, and of guest speakers, he said that members frequently found that they were at school together, or at the war together or were at loggerheads with each other! He had never noticed a visitor or a member standing alone during the tea break which was something to be proud about. It illustrates how little the grand values of our club have changed.



New leader

New president of the Probus Club of the Hibiscus Coast, Mr Frank Snedden, wearing his medal of office.

Mr Snedden was elected at the club's annual meeting at the Red Beach Surf Club last week. Out-going president was Mr Gilbert Johnston.

Officers elected at the annual meeting were:

President, Mr Snedden; vice-president, Roger Manuel; secretary, C. V. (Bogey) Harris; treasurer, Jack Freeman; committee, Gilbert Johnson, Jack Kurney, George Culliford, Bill Arkell, Stan Cressey; auditor, Noel D'Audney.

R.T. 15/5/84

At that time, the club was meeting at the Red Beach Surf Life Saving Club on the second Tuesday of the month but it switched to the Bridge Club in Manly from September 1990. Bearing in mind that this is a men's club it is no less remarkable the bulletin issued to its members reads "*Ladies, please drum into your husband's head that we are now meeting at a fine new venue from now on. Your reward Ladies – you are invited to accompany your husband to this meeting*"

A quick resume of the guest speakers illustrates how exciting were the times!

A few shots were put across the bows of peace campaigners Owen Wilkes and Dr Helen Caldicott by retired Admiral Laurie Carr, when he addressed our club on the merits and realities of the ANZUS treaty. It is reported in the Coaster of 17 April 1984 that he told an assembled group of mainly middle aged, white, retired, professionals that "some people are so intent on anarchy that they go to extreme limits". He continued to speak on the need for discipline in the younger generation and the need to give them the "right" information on world security. He is also reported to have accused Owen Wilkes of among other things unprintable, "having a beard and sticking his nose into places he shouldn't" and "Probus have a

duty to set the record straight". Why don't we have interesting speakers like this anymore?

Another speaker that year also commented that sections on the Peninsula were being sold at \$50,000.00 and he had worked out that all sections will have been sold off within three years but planning hassles and red tape made the developers job a nightmare. Other speakers that year included Civil Defence and a Presbyterian Minister who conducted overseas tours.

Lady Thea Muldoon addressed the club Christmas 1984 luncheon at the Sugar Loaf Restaurant in Waiwera about the most interesting trip that she ever undertook, which was to Antarctica. She confided that they were expecting to use their Hatfields Beach bach much more in their retirement. After a standing ovation she was thanked by Past President Gilbert Johnston who wished her and Sir Robert and their family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and undertook to send a message of support to Sir Robert whose greatness was "not understood".

Coaster 18/12/84



President of the Hibiscus Coast Probus Club Mr Frank Sneddon with Lady Thea Muldoon at the end of year luncheon

Lady Muldoon in from the cold

Being the smallest person to visit Antarctica posed problems in finding suitable gear for Lady Thea Muldoon when she was preparing for the trip last year.

Lady Muldoon told members of the Hibiscus Coast Probus Club and their wives that the experiences of getting about in several layers of clothing was all part of the fun during the most interesting trip she had ever taken.

'To visit the coldest, driest and windiest spot on earth is a truly wonderful experience', she said.

Certificates of medical and dental health are required by everyone who goes there and Lady Muldoon said you're only allowed to go if you are pretty fit.

Before she left for Antarctica Lady Muldoon said she had just returned

from the extreme heat of New Delhi so the contrast was even more noticeable.

Travelling in a USAF Star Lifter meant wearing woollen socks and sheepskin lined boots.

As the temperature dropped, additional layers of down overalls, down waistcoat and extra socks went on, with a final layer of down parka and woollen gloves when the plane landed.

Lady Muldoon told the Probus members she had been most impressed with the organisation and precautions everyone who visits the region is advised about.

'You may not go even a short distance from the base without a medical kit, sleeping pad, food and ice pick', she said.

During her four day visit, she saw many aspects of the work being done by different groups

and nations in Antarctica. She visited historical sites as well such as Shackleton's and Scott's bases.

Her memories of encounters with husky sled dogs, '55ks of friendly furry animal reeking of seal meat', meeting Emperor penguins 'posing majestically for the cameras', and the American PX store 'where you can buy a stuffed penguin toy for a souvenir' were graphically described for the interested gathering.

Past president of Probus Mr Gilbert Johnson thanked Lady Muldoon who he described as 'one of the most respected and honoured ladies in our country' for her fascinating talk and he wished her and Sir Robert and their family warmest wishes for a merry Christmas and many happy new years.

Dare I mention it? Chauvinism was not unknown in our club. This was a men's club and wives were welcome to provide the morning tea and coffee at the monthly meeting, the kitchen, the tea making, the serving was their domain. But nowhere else. And they were not welcome to remain behind to hear any speakers so it was not long before the men found themselves making and serving their own tea and coffee.

There was a change of heart when the club was later addressed by the Mayor, Dame Cath Tizard and wives were invited to the meeting and then permitted to attend a lunch afterwards. Dame Cath struck a few blows for feminism when she related overhearing a man (I hasten to add, not at our club meeting) suggesting that the job of Mayor was a man's job, to which she replied perhaps he should mention it to the Queen! She also mentioned that she was waiting to be invited to be an honorary member of Rotary which does not allow women in the normal course of their events, so that she can decline! Take that you misogynists! She confided that unfortunately her responsibilities as Mayor include numerous social events which have contributed in no small way to the 9 kgs she has put on since taking office.

Notwithstanding, the men stood firm and the ladies remained in the background. It was only later as the

club modernised, that they were included in the outings and trips around the districts and the mid-year and Christmas luncheons.

The original format has not changed much over the years and indeed why change something if it is working well? This took the form of guest speakers and regular trips. There was also some reference in the archives to speakers who failed to show up for some reason or other but at such times all was not lost and club members were prevailed on to step forward and speak about themselves and not without some coaxing and flattery the result of which was always worthwhile.

Nowadays committees tend to steer away from issues that may prove contentious so as not to offend, however, it is notable that this sensibility was not regarded and a number of political and apolitical spokespersons were invited to address the club. An early coup was a former Governor General, Sir Dennis Blundell but the comment of the decade must go to the editor of the NZ Herald who was recorded as saying “The professional journalist tries to mirror the world as he sees it, and that is why he is not everyone’s favourite pin-up”. Really?

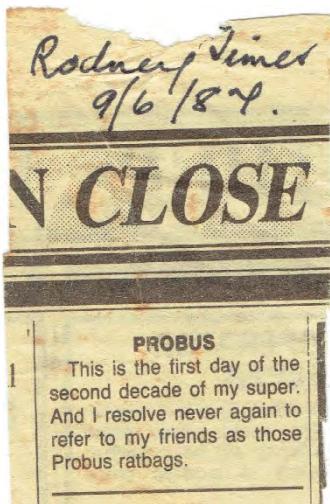
The archives are a mine of interesting information. Andrew Barney, the son of a Vice-President related his experiences at a Uni dormitory in South Wales. He found himself housed together with a Muslim Malaysian who prayed next to his bed every morning at 4.30am, a red-necked chain-smoking wealthy Canadian and a well-dressed Italian playboy who could not speak English but who had well established tastes in wine, women and song, none of which was permitted in the dorm but somehow found its way there. This is not a joke! Unbeknown to each other they had all asked to be re-located to another dorm. Their requests were refused and after a few years they all became firm friends. Would that be the outcome today? Yes, it would and I speak from personal experience.

Speaker –
Andrew Barney



In introducing a guest speaker, the Under Secretary to the Minister of Finance, President Frank Sneddon remarked that members were going to feel the “cutting edge” of some of Labour’s policies. Nothing apolitical here. The Under Secretary, Mr de Cleene observed that \$3bn of the \$4bn paid out by Social Welfare was paid to superannuitants and it was unsustainable. He also commented on the GST that was to be implemented in 1986.

Where did this come from? An advertisement in the Rodney Times dated 9 June 1987 and preserved in our archives but with no other reference or explanation.



There must be an interesting story here. Was this the forfeit being paid by a new Club member? It definitely appears to be a case of someone eating their words!

It was in 1983 that discussions commenced with Rotary Club of Warkworth to establish a Probus club there and in addition to promoting the establishment of the Warkworth Men’s Club in 1983, there is a record of

help being given to establishing the Orewa Club which was led by the then President of Orewa Rotary and current member of our club, Bala Balasundram. Probus Club of Orewa was established in June 1987 where a number of members of the Hibiscus Coast Probus Club also joined but there was still no provision for lady members. Membership of our club by this time had steadily increased and a limit had been set at 110 members.

It is interesting to note that former bulletins usually contained a Treasurer's report. That implies that club members were kept up to date on the club's finances as a few examples that follow, illustrate:

“ Purists who query the spelling of Current are advised that Treasurer John is not thinking of raising a loan” 1 May 1990

“Still perniciously anaemic” 4 September 1990

“Kitty suffering from a wasting disease” 2 October 1990

“Ask not for whom the till rings” 5 February 1991

“ Please come prepared to feed the golden eagle on the 5th” March 1991

“To save the committee from hearing tales of woe from Hon Treasurer please pay up” 2 April 1991

“Adequate but still not enough to stop John complaining that 32 have not paid their subs” 7 April 1991

“Healthy but 6 members have not yet paid up” 4 June 1991

“Adequate even for Ruthless Ruth but only barely satisfying John” 3 September 1991

“Buoyant enough to even keep J.S. quiet. It has been established on investigation that the amount of subsidy paid for odd outings is less than the surpluses from other activities” 1 October 1991

“Still able to pay our bills but hard to get money from our Treasurer.” 5 November 1991

“John is happy to report that the finances are sound and in good health” 3 December 1991

“De mortuis nihil nisi bonum” 4 February 1992

“28 members have not paid current subs. John cannot take his vacation until you do” 2 June 1992

“John is unwell at present but funds are bristling with health” February 1993

“We will announce the good news at the next meeting.

Be there” 2 March 1993

“No problems but John is strangely subdued” 6

April 1993

*“..... we cannot report the exact state of the “Kitty” but
we have ascertained that there is no sign of anaemia”*

7 September 1993

“Holding our own (and quite a bit of yours)” 2

November 1993

“Slightly anaemic but surviving” 7 December 1993

And that, dear Club Members, is why we now have a sophisticated accounting procedure to ensure accuracy.

The Early Years

The inaugural meeting took place on 19 October 1982 at the Orewa Surf Club lounge and was chaired by the President of the Rotary Club of Orewa, Gilbert Johnston, assisted by Tom Kincaid, also of Rotary Club of Orewa who outlined how the club would be run. The meeting was addressed by a number of Rotary officers before adjourning for tea to enable those present to get to know each other. After the break Gilbert Johnston asked the assembly if they were interested in forming a Probus Club. The response was positive and it was proposed by Keith Bogue and seconded by Basil Prout that the Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast be duly formed and it was carried unanimously.

It was settled that the club would meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 10.00am, subscriptions were \$10.00 pa with officers to be elected at the next meeting. All in all, 37 applications for membership were handed in on the day.

The Club got off to a flying start with the first guest speaker at the next meeting held on 9 November 1982. Miss Charmaine Pountney, Principal of Auckland Girls' Grammar School, addressed the Club on the subject of Education and was loudly applauded. The minutes reflect that, "A vote of thanks was made very adroitly by Ed Stanton."

By the end of March 1983 there were 14 Probus Clubs established in New Zealand, some of which had decided to restrict membership, usually at the 60 to 80 level. The early meetings of our club had decided the venue, subscription and constitution. Following meetings were devoted to membership policy, meeting style, size and responsibilities of the committee.

At the third successive meeting run by Gilbert Johnston held on 14 December 1982, he informed the members that at the next meeting a Committee will have to be elected and so on 8 February 1983 the first Committee was elected at a meeting attended by 60 members. The President was confirmed and the Officers' duties were decided. This process has been followed ever since. The Officers were :

Gilbert Johnston	President
Roger Manuel	Vice President
Bogey Harris	Secretary
Jack Freeman	Treasurer
Peter Paulton	Visits and Entertainment
Frank Sneddon	Programmes
Jack Kurney	Membership
Frank Capper	Community
Arthur Irvine	Publicity and Bulletin

At the AGM held on 10 May 1983 it was noted that the rules allowed for an inaugural committee to continue in office for another year and it was duly agreed with no changes.

It was during this period that the cost of name badges shot up from \$1.80 in December 1982 to \$2.00 in February 1983! Investigations commenced into arranging a day trip and the cost of a 40 seat bus was \$120.00.

Ladies at our Club? This comes from no more of an authority than the official minutes of the meetings. President Gilbert Johnston introduced his wife, Gladys, who formally presented the President (but not in his capacity as her husband) with a Probus gold medallion and President's collar and stated that she was happy to be in charge of the meeting's domestic arrangements as it gave her an opportunity to meet many more gentlemen, whereupon her husband, the President, ordered her to return to her tea making duties. At the meeting close a "further plea" was made to members to ask their wives for volunteers to assist on a roster for tea making duties and it was reported a year later that a small pool of volunteers was now available.

A new committee was only elected at the AGM held on 8 May 1984 with the following taking office:

Frank Sneddon	President
Roger Manuel	Vice President
Bogey Harris	Secretary
Jack Freeman	Treasurer
Bill Arkell	Programme and guest speakers
George Culliford	Bulletin and Publicity
Stan Cressey	Community Liaison

Jack Kurney
Gilbert Johnston

Membership
Immediate Past President / Visits
and Entertainment

During that year it was decided that should members fail to show up for a trip after having put their name down, they are still liable for the cost and refunds would only be made in special circumstances. The problem of no-shows and balancing how to recover the incurred cost of trips occurs regularly in the minutes from hereon. On a lighter note but of significance was that the Club's first cheese and wine "session" occurred which became a fixture of the August meetings. And the inclusion of a talk by a club member was commenced at Club meetings.

Minute taking is a difficult task, not only must the decision be recorded but also the sense of the debate which precedes it. Dame Cath Tizard was the guest speaker in April 1985 and the wives of members were invited as guests of their husbands (no mention made of "partners") and a committee was established to co-ordinate a buffet luncheon following the meeting and generally organise any extra activity for that day (whatever could they mean?). And I quote from the minutes ... "It is to be placed on record that your Committee volunteered their wives' services before actually seeking permission to do so, and for this action far beyond the call of duty we feel all members

should not be indifferent to the fortitude and dauntlessness displayed on their behalf."

The AGM held on 8 May 1985 the following were elected:

Bogey Harris	President
George Culliford	Vice-President
Gilbert Johnston	Secretary
Jack Freeman	Treasurer
Bill Arkell	
Stan Cressey	
Andy Grey	
Geoff Markham	
Peter Rogers	

It was noted at this AGM that juvenile delinquency was not a recent phenomenon! And much later the committee unanimously declined a tearful apology from President Bogey Harris for missing a Bowls Day. His extenuating reason was that he was unable to find where he left his watch, claiming that one sign of three gold balls looks pretty much the same as any other.

Although there were many lighter sides, the actual running of the Club was serious business with Bulletin preparation, guest speakers arranged and trip venues selected and booked for the membership which had grown so much that by mid 1986 it was agreed to set a limit of 110 members.

To accommodate the Club meetings the venue was shifted to the Lion's Club Hall commencing with the next AGM held on 8 May 1986. The new committee elected then was:

George Culliford	President
Gilbert Johnston	Secretary
Jack Freeman	Treasurer
Bill Arkell	Vice President and Trips
Bogey Harris	Immediate Past President
Peter Rogers	Speakers
Danny Daniels	Bulletin
Eric Williamson	Membership
Jim Avenell	Probus extension
Bob Newland	

It was agreed at the Committee meeting immediately following the AGM to send a bouquet of flowers to Vi Harris in appreciation for organising and supervising the morning tea for the 1985/6 club meetings. Significantly, the establishment of a new club was also considered but it was decided that this should only occur when the waiting list for our club reached 16-20 names. Later in the year the Secretary reported that moves were under way to form a new club in 1987 which prompted a "spirited" discussion with some committee members preferring no limit and instead establishing territorial limits for clubs. The temperature was reduced by agreeing to convene an interim meeting to draw up terms of reference, and compile an order sheet for members' information. The Secretary

was instructed to stop any further action by Rotary until further notice, if any!

The Minutes of a “Spirited” Special Committee meeting (and recorded as such in the minute book but without the detail!) took place on 22 January 1987. The outcome was

- In the event of a second club being established in the area, consideration be given to changing the name of our club to the “Whangaparaoa Probus Club”. This was carried with two dissenting votes. (Which did not happen).
- That the meeting venue at the Whangaparaoa Lions Club Hall be changed to the Whangaparaoa Community Hall to accommodate larger numbers. Carried unanimously. This was now the third move of the venue for meetings in this year due to growth in members, which originally started at the Orewa Surf Club.
- That the monthly members meeting be held on the first Tuesday of each month except January. Carried unanimously.
- That the membership of the Club be unrestricted. Rejected with two dissenting votes.
- That our representations to Rotary recommend the establishment of a new club and suggested that it be known as the Orewa Probus Club. Carried unanimously.

A new club, known as the Orewa Probus Club was established in May 1987 with 60 members and our support. A letter of congratulations was sent at the time but unfortunately a search in the correspondence file of that time did not find a copy of this letter.

Monthly trips were a regular feature and a measure of the popularity was the booking of the entire theatre for "My Fair Lady" on 26 September 1986. The 120 seats were first allocated to club members, wives and guests at \$18.00 per head which included a happy hour, dinner and the show. Thereafter they were sold to the public. It is not clear if the public were included in the happy hour and dinner. Probably not! Also, our club booked the entire theatre for the "Music Hall" show and the excess tickets were sold to the new Orewa Probus Club. Our club regularly attended the Peninsula Players productions at the Whangaparaoa Hall and over the succeeding years these included "How the Other Half Lives", "Annie", "Salute to Broadway", "The Sound of Music", "Oklahoma", "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Sarsparilla and Soda".

Chas. Steele proposed a more formal welcome for new members and tabled an induction programme which included remarks on the ideals and goals of the Probus movement with a pamphlet and a name badge. This format, with which we are familiar today, was adopted.

Special Interest Groups were also established in 1987. Travel, Rose Culture, Hydroponics, Handiman, Hobbies, Chess and Investment Advice Special Interest Groups were destined to have a short life (apart from Travel) as the varied alternative activities available on the Hibiscus Coast provided a distraction. But trips were undertaken in 1988 to Chelsea Sugar Refinery, The Steel Mill, Cook's Vineyards and Lion Brewery. Other than the Steel Mill, it seems trips focussed on the good things in life!

In these early days, the former Probus Centre South Pacific did not levy a capitation fee but relied on donations from Clubs. The recommendation was \$1.00 per club member and with our membership subscriptions standing at \$12.00 in 1989 our Club donated \$68.00. The first record of PCSP requesting a levy was noted in March 1990 when any decision by our Club in this regard was deferred. Eventually our Club made a \$50.00 donation to PCSP with no further mention of a levy.

The founding Treasurer Jack Freemen finally retired from the Committee at the 1989 AGM.

The AGM held on 7 March 1987 saw the new committee as follows elected.

Peter Poulton	President and Publicity
Ernie Manser	Vice President and Entertainment

Errol Taylor	Secretary
John Snow	Treasurer
Jim Brash	Membership
Peter Clements	Speakers and Programme
Ken Marriott	Speakers and Programme
George Culliford	Bulletin
Keith Bogue	Probus Extension
Gilbert Johnston	Immediate Past President and Welfare

At the meeting held in May there was an organised discussion on whether the proposed Stanmore Bay Sports and Recreation Centre will fulfil a need on the Hibiscus Coast. The outcome of the discussion is not recorded but we know that the Leisure Centre has been a remarkable success.

It was also during this year that a suggestion was submitted to the Committee by a non-committee member to change the name of the Club to the Peninsula Probus Club. This suggestion, like the previous one to change the name to the Whangaparaoa Probus Club was not pursued any further.

The Committee also approved for further consideration the move to establish a Ladies Probus Club in the area, and in February 1990 proposals for its formation were referred to Rotary for action.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 6 March 1990 the proposal to raise subscriptions to \$15.00 per person was unanimously approved and the following were elected.

Ernie Manser	President
David Barney	Vice President
Errol Taylor	Secretary
John Snow	Treasurer
Jim Brash	
Peter Clements	
Gilbert Johnston	
Tim Cocks	
George Halford	
Peter Poulton	Immediate Past President

A significant event this year was the decision to write to Orewa Rotary outlining the current position of our Club with 126 members, and the Orewa Probus Club also enjoying large membership, and with both clubs continuing to receive applications from new members, proposed that another Club in the area be established. Our Club also supplied a list to Rotary of our own members who might like to join such a mixed club. This was to result in the formation of Red Beach Combined Probus Club.

It was in August 1990 that a “lease” was agreed with the Bridge Club and the venue for our Club meetings changed once again. Terms of the “Lease” amongst others, were a booking for the first Tuesday of the

month from 9.30am to 12.30pm, three calendar months' notice. A very successful Christmas lunch on 22 November 1990 was held at the Bridge Club with Hill Top Caterers at subsidised cost to members of \$18.00 per head. 120 members and wives attended.

The Club's AGM on 5 March 1991 saw the subscriptions increase to \$16.00 per member and the following elected for 1991/2.

David Barney	President
George Halford	Vice President and Trips and Entertainment
Ernie Manser	Immediate Past President
Errol Taylor	Secretary
John Snow	Treasurer
Dick Ashton	Trips and Entertainment
Keith Bogue	Welfare
Gilbert Johnston	Bulletin
Gavin Hamilton	Speakers
Colin Crowhurst	Membership

Trips during the year included visits to Tip Top and Arnott's Biscuits thereby maintaining the tradition of culinary preference in the club's visits programme. Sleepyhead also featured on the list and the Melbourne Cup Lottery was inaugurated at the November 1991 meeting.

There is no record of the AGM, presumably held in March 1992. However, at the AGM held on 2 March

1993 it was agreed to maintain the subscriptions at \$15.00 per member and the following were elected with, as is usual, the actual responsibilities allocated at the first committee meeting of the new year.

Gavin Hamilton	President and Welfare
Colin Crowhurst	Vice President and Membership and Raffles
Ernie Manser	Immediate Past President
John Snow	Treasurer
Errol Taylor	Secretary
Vine Collett	Trips
Gilbert Johnston	Bulletin
David Barney	
Frank Morton	Entertainment
Trevor Wynn-Parke	

Trips included attending the ballet to see "Giselle" which no doubt kept many wives happy and improved the tone of the Club and best of all, a visit to the Air New Zealand maintenance hangars and the flight simulator, with a fine lunch at the Aero Club. After all we are a men's club!

You will have read in this account how our Club was the genesis of Warkworth Men's Probus Club, Orewa Probus Club, and Red Beach Combined Probus Club and we can recognise how much in the way of leadership our Club contributed to the establishment of the Probus movement in New Zealand in those early years. And our Club has continued to play a leading

role in the Probus type movement lately, in the separation from Australian control, the interim Steering Committee, Probus New Zealand Inc. and most recently the establishment of Rebus NZ Inc.

It has been a journey to read through the interminable minute books and other source documents such as correspondence files, Bulletins and news clippings. Please forgive the somewhat haphazard relating of the events of our Club. Records have been diligently kept in some places, yet in others there are large gaps mainly from 1993 to 2006. One can only imagine that the Club's documents have been borrowed for some purpose and not returned, or that files have been misplaced and are no longer available. Either way they are no longer there. Any misrepresentation, be it in fact or in omission, must be my own fault - however, it was done inadvertently and unknowingly.

Peter Odendaal

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Odendaal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "O" and "D" being particularly prominent.

The digital age we all now enjoy has made the collation of Club records in recent years, a relatively simple exercise. Regrettably, not so for the Club's earlier years. The photos which follow are short in detail for which we apologize. Our most senior members have been consulted but memories have faded.

When our next milestone anniversary is celebrated, at least those tasked with filling in the intervening years should have a much less onerous task to perform.





Probus Committee - 1984

Back Row - OR Arkell, Unknown, Unknown, SG Culliford, GJ Johnston.
Front row - CV Harris, FG Sneddon.



Probus Committee 1985

Back Row, Unknown, SG Culliford, Unknown, Unknown. OR Arkell.
Front Row - GJ Johnston, Pres CV Harris



Probus Committee 1986

Back row- Unknown, Unknown, CV Harris, Unknown, OR Arkell, Unknown,
Front Row - GJ Johnston, Pres SG Culliford.



Probus Committee 1987

Back row - SG Culliford, FG Sneddon
Front Row - CV Harris, Pres OR Arkell and GJ Johnston



The Committee, 1996

From L-R

Back: Bill Fotherby, Ray Murphy, Victor Martin, Gavin Hamilton, Trevor Wynn-Park, Ken Stewart and Eric Redfern.

Front: Terry Mears, Tim Cocks, Deryck Taylor (President) and Max Edward.

Thoughts, observations and confessions from past presidents!

Ken Stewart, 1998



I was first introduced to Probus by my neighbour, the late Derek Swan.

After only a few weeks attendance I found myself on the committee with “speakers” as my responsibility. At that time the president was Trevor Wynn-Parke and Max Edward as secretary. I was really at a loss to know how to handle this.

The first speaker I engaged was an accountant who spoke on tax and National Super. It was so boring, I was acutely embarrassed, only to be told later that some members thought it was the best talk they had heard, and so very helpful.

At the next AGM I became president and felt that I was in right over my head again. In those days membership was smaller, around 70, and we sat in groups of four around the bridge club tables.

Morning tea was made by a small group of ladies, and lead by the president’s wife. Some of the ladies strongly objected to this arrangement, while others

really enjoyed it. One of our speakers was Dr. Rowlands, who came expecting to be speaking to men only. He was disconcerted to find that there was a group of ladies sitting at the back, but managed to make the necessary changes, and the ladies loved it. To the joy of some and the regret of others, we took over our own morning tea preparation, and very successful it has been.

On another occasion the speakers were to be the crew of the Westpac helicopter, but with the proviso that if they got a call they would have to leave immediately. Fortunately they did get finished without interruption. I had no idea what I would do if they had had to leave in haste.

At that time the combined club was being formed, and it was suggested that we join them to form one big club. As president I had to put the motion that we make the arrangement to combine. It was lost unanimously.

Trips, so much part of the club activities now, were hardly beginning at that time. In my year we tried to arrange several trips but most never attracted enough starters. We did, however, combine with other local clubs to arrange a fast ferry day out to Great Barrier. It was so successful that we did it again, to Coromandel.

By the next AGM we still had no nomination for president, but at the ninth hour, Deryck Taylor offered, and thus became the first member to be president twice.

The committee at that time included three members who are still members of the club, namely, Ray Murphy, Tim Cocks and past president Bill Fotherby. Bill, having been in the car business, arranged the club's first ever "car rally" in 1999.

And so the club continues and prospers. Much of what we now take for granted was still new, finances were shaky, and membership was a problem.

In the past many of the members were ex-servicemen.

Conversations were all about experiences in during and after the war, and funerals featured military tales and military honours. I once arrived at a funeral to hear the strains of "roll out the barrel" and other military songs being played.

Hopefully, today's new members will have experienced less of war and more of the joys of the Hibiscus Coast and a flourishing Rebus Club.

Athol Agnew, 2000



Combined Club, and as a result nearly all our trips were fully booked.

There was one incident that is worth mentioning. One of our members, Ray Mitchell, received a letter from Audrey Leggatt who was a Probus member in Australia, in which she asked him about a Probus song. Ray knew nothing about the song and passed the letter on to me. I then wrote to Audrey and she sent me the words of the song but she didn't have the music. I later got the music from George Main who we found out was the composer of the song. We also found out that an earlier member of our club was another Ray Mitchell who had been involved in some way with the song.

I've attached copies of the song and the music as well as copies of all the correspondence and one of the

Probus bulletins that referred to the song.

I hope this is of some help to your editing committee. It could well be that when they examine the early records of our club they may find more information about the original Ray Mitchell and the Probus song.

Does anybody know of the song? Perhaps sung to the tune of 'Any old iron' or 'My old man's a dustman'? Below is a copy of the correspondence:

Dear Athol,

Thanks you for your reply to my enquiry re "The Probus Song". I am sorry we are unable to trace the music so far, however enclosed please find a copy of the words and note the pre-script on the bottom of same. Therefore I will take a chance and write to Mr.Main in Birchington and see if we can trace it. I will be in touch with you if I have any success.

Yours sincerely etc

The Probus Song

*Now that our youth has long since passed
Life is less urgent not so fast
We've time to sit and think at last
How best to live our lives
Join us at Probus meet with friends
Relax and be happy as nature intends
With such good companions
Your life style extends Probus the Club for you*

*Life does not end at sixty five
We aim to show we're still alive
We'll prove that we've not lost our drive
Our will to serve
Join us at Probus, the time will speed by
Revive your Ambitions and reach for the sky
You may not succeed
But at least you can try
Probus the Club for you.*

By George S Main, Probus Club of Birchington, U.K

The Footnote :-

The Probus Song was written and composed by George S. Main of Birchington, Kent, England, who, since his retirement, has composed many tuneful melodies, including some advertising jingles. An enthusiastic Probus member, he wrote the Probus Song for his own club, but it has proved popular in many more clubs in U.K. and now in New Zealand. The words and music were made available to Probus News, with George's permission, by Ray Mitchell of the Probus Club Of Hibiscus Coast, New Zealand

In view of PSPL trade marking the name Probus, it is recommended that you substitute the word Rebus in place of Probus where it appears above in case you are inclined to sing it in the shower!

Stop Press! A copy of the music has been found in a dusty corner of the internet.



THE PROBUS SONG

George Main

1. Now that our youth has long since passed
 2. Life does not end at sixty five

Life is less urgent, not so fast. We've time to sit and
 We aim to show we're still alive. We'll prove that we've not

F C7
 C7 F
 F F

Bb F F

THE PROBUS SONG

2.

10

think at last, How best to serve our lives,
lost our drive, Or our will to serve.

F G7 C

13

Join us at PRO-BUS, meet with your friends, Re - lax and be hap - py as
Join us at PRO-BUS the time will speed by, Re - vive your am - bi - tions and

F C7 C7

16

Na - ture in-tends. with such good com - pan - ions your life - style ex - tends
reach for the sky. you may not suc - ceed but at least you can try.

F F C7

19

PRO - BUS the club for you.

C7 F

Barry Gilbert, 2003



Barry was inducted on the 1st May 2000, became the Trips & Events convenor 2001 and Vice President/Trips Convenor 2002. Following his presidential year in 2003, he became the Membership Convenor in 2004 followed by Secretary for the three years 2005/7 as well as the Door prize convenor in 2007. Then he took on Kitchen duties in 2008 as well as becoming the Club's welfare officer for the next 4 years until 2011.

Barry was also our Club's delegate to the North Shore & Northern Probus Assn for 2009/2012 where he represented our Club at all its committee and Club days.

Another indication of Barry's deep commitment to the Probus movement was his and Margaret's attendance (at own cost) at the Annual Probus Rendezvous, most of which were held in various parts of Australia.

Barry often quoted that they were "much ado about nothing" but a great opportunity for Fellowship and conviviality.



With Alan Bolam



Sergeant Tindall



Club Guest Speaker

When the issue arose in 2013 about cutting loose from the apron strings of the former benevolent Probus Centre South Pacific Inc – now a much different entity called Probus South Pacific Ltd, Barry, along with many senior members of the Club, felt the time was right for NZ to run its own ship and fully supported the Club's breakaway. Little did we know at that point that the Australians would not take the move lightly and an unintended consequence was the threat of legal action in continuing to use the Probus name – unless returning to Australian control.

The birth of Rebus NZ Inc, resulted and Barry, whilst regretting the loss of the name, fully supported the Club in its eventual decision to become an affiliate of Rebus.



It was a very real honour for me as President in 2011, to give effect to the Club's unanimous resolution to

bestow a Life membership on Barry at our end of year luncheon that year.

Barry passed away in his 87th year on the 8 June 2016.

(I am privileged to have known Barry for these past 12 years and to prepare his item for our 35th Anniversary publication in recognition of the dedication he had to the Club during his years of membership. Graeme McIntosh).

Kim Hanna, 2004



I was introduced to the Club by Brian Belcher in 1993 when Gavin Hamilton was President.

The Club had a membership of about 60 members. It was held in the Bridge Club but the President and Secretary sat at the South end and the Raffles, Trips, Treasurer and Attendance Recorder, sat at tables at the Northern End. At that time, Max Edward was Secretary and Tim Cocks ran the Raffles. A group of members wives served morning tea.

We had some colourful Members. One was Derek Swan whose father had a small farm on Swan Beach Road. Derek had lived there all his life. Another was

George Culliford who had flown a DC3 into France in the dark behind German lines, landing in a paddock to collect a German Flying Bomb which had not exploded. Paul Evans introduced a Naval friend Burt Garnet who had been in the Merchant Navy in England and had been torpedoed 5 times and had been rescued after each sinking.

Members would meet in the Scout Hall where the Library now stands on Friday at 4pm for a social chat and drink. This was organised by Ray Murphy, Paul Evans, and others. The Club being small had Xmas Socials at member's homes - Ken Stewart's, Brian Dickinson's, Nigel Swaffield's and my Home on 2 occasions. We were fortunate to have Tom Kincaid who had managed for Kerridge Odeon organising our trips. We got to see some great shows in the City, and a great cruise to Pakatoa Island where we had a sumptuous lunch and walk round the Island.

Brian Dickinson organised a cruise leaving from the city around the Gulf ending up at Gulf Harbour aboard a Luxury 150ft cruiser "Pacific Mermaid".



The meetings were very relaxed and very well run. When members were going to be absent for several months they had to ask the meeting for leave of absence. I remember very nervously asking for 5 months leave to tour Europe. I was told it would be granted provided I would be Treasurer on my return. It was all in fun and on my return, I was elected Treasurer which I did for 4 years.

It has always been a pleasure to serve this great Club.



John Groos, 2006



John was inducted on the 20th April 2001. He joined the committee in 2002 on kitchen supply, served as Treasurer 2004 and Treasurer/ Vice President 2005. After a year as President, he took over door prizes in 2007 and became the Welfare officer for three years 2008-10. In 2011 his own health was causing concern. A unanimous Resolution to accord John a Life Membership was conferred at his bedside on the 9 February 2012 by Pres Graeme accompanied by 15 other Club members. Sadly, he passed away shortly after in his 83rd year on the 10 April. His wife Cherry, who was a very supportive partner during John's years of membership, remains a regular attender of Club activities. She also maintains contact with other widows on behalf of the Club.

During John's presidential year, the Club was very active with a number of trips including the Mangere Sewerage Plant, Goodman Fielder Quality Bakers, Matakohe Kauri Museum and Kim Hanna's Brother's modern Dairy Farm at Maungataroto.

A pumpkin competition was run early in the year, won by Max Edward with his 40.5kg specimen.

The RSA was our venue for the Mid-year luncheon with Jennie Court of Seagals Gallery as the Guest Speaker



From L-R (back Row)

Graeme McIntosh, Ray Murphy, Brian Stevens, Brian Dickinson, Sam Hunter, Dennis Turner, David Winks, Gordon Chisholm.

Front Row:

*George Briant, Barry Gilbert - **Pres** John Groos*

The End of Year luncheon was held at the Bridge Club with Yvonne Willering of Netball fame to entertain us. This was of special interest to our ladies.



The winner!



John Groos at
Quality Bakers,
Alias "Leticia"



Presentation -
Yvonne Willering

(The alias was earned from the staff member's name
on the borrowed smock!)



Ray Murphy, 2007



When I think back over the years at the working of our club, I realise the format was almost the same then as it is today with the same challenges.

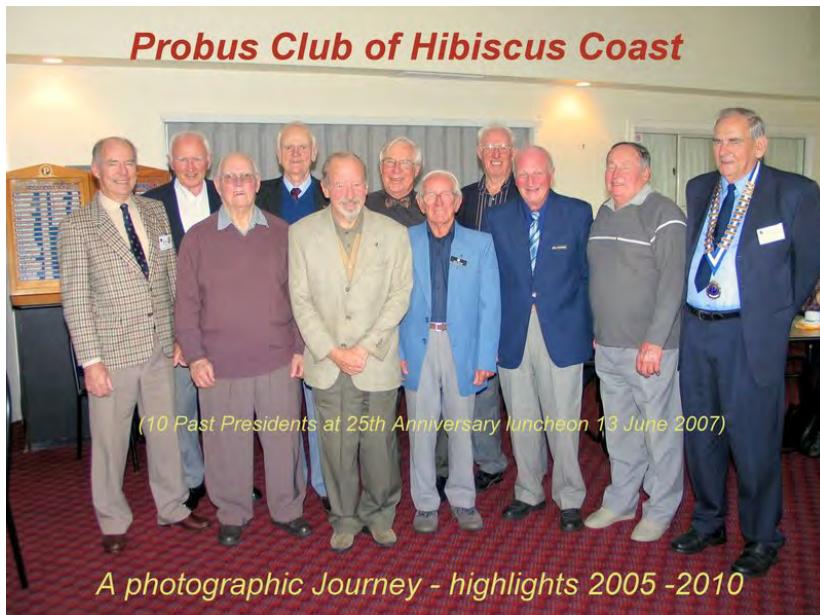
Getting members to serve on committee or take on the President's job has never been easy although in very recent years, we have been fortunate to see all positions filled prior to the AGM

Trips are getting too costly so less people interested and harder to find a venue we have not already visited.

We did not have a great selection of places for Xmas and winter luncheons like we have now, and no one was interested in going off the Peninsula so we used the RSA. But that eventually proved to be too much of the same thing, so people wanted a change of venue. John Carmichael sold up his very popular Stanmore Bay camping ground and it was taken over by the Police who removed all the cabins etc., and turned it into a rather up market police recreation facility, with their own convention centre, which we were fortunate enough to hire for our events. This did not go down too well with some police members, and eventually they gave it up as too costly to run, and it changed hands, so we were back to square one.

We put on a car rally using the Peninsula roads, which was based on the English way, with hidden notes and numbers etc. This proved to be quite hilarious as neighbours, kids, and dogs queried the goings on, and hassled Bill Fotherby who had a lot to do with setting it up, and was putting the notes behind lamp posts etc.

Picnic-barbeque days at Shakespear Park were held once a month, and that went well for quite a while, until the weather cooled down. One very interesting thing was when a member turned up with a croquet set and showed us how to play, which was very good, but I don't think we broke any records.



The Lions had an old hall where the Library is now and the late Peter Rogers and his wife Dorothy had a weekly happy hour with drinks and nibbles which was quite popular. For some reason or other, the powers that be would only allow us to resell cask wine, but due to demand, and after a lot of wangling, we were allowed to sell a small amount of beer.

The late Deryck Taylor and his wife Margaret did a lot for the Club. He was on the committee for a long time, ran the Melbourne Cup sweep and did two terms as President. When there were no candidates to replace him after his first term, he didn't show up for the start of the AGM so we all sat looking at the wall till after a lot of mumbling and fidgeting, he came in and made it very plain that if he was to do a second term, he had to have helpers! And it worked.

The ladies always came and made our morning tea etc until one day, President Deryck stood up and said "What kind of wimps are we men – expecting to be waited on by these ladies who have better things to do than wait on us?" And from that day onwards the men took over the morning tea duties.

In spite of this, the Club's ladies have always had a big input into Club activities and I am sure their help has a lot to do with what the Club is today.



From L-R.

*Graeme McIntosh, Gordon Chisholm, John Groos, George Briant,
George Kitson, Barry Gilbert, Sam Hunter & President Ray
Murphy.*

Graeme McIntosh, 2008, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2008 YEAR.



Bridge Club.

Trips and events – Auckland Fish Market, Lion Breweries, Tip Top Factory, Observatory, Whenuapai Air Base, Sylvia Park, NZ Herald Press Hall, Phantom of the Opera, Kaipara Harbour Harbour Cruise, the mid year Luncheon at the RSA and the Christmas Luncheon at the

One-offs – The Pumpkin Competition and Limerick contest. Much enjoyed by all who participated.



Liaison with other Hibiscus Coast Clubs. The Presidents of the 6 other HBC Clubs were our guests on the 1st July. Although there had been contact via attendance at the North Shore & Northern Assn quarterly meetings, I felt that liaison at a local level could only be beneficial especially with exchange of information on Speakers and Trips. All accepted the invitation and instead of an external speaker, each president gave an account of their own Club activities. We agreed to meet informally in the months ahead.



COMMITTEE. – 2008.

Back row from L-R:

Max Edward, Brian Stevens, Kim Hanna, Barry Gilbert, Jim Kissel, Ray Murphy and Barry Adam.

Front row: David Flavell, Graeme McIntosh, Dennis Hart and John Groos

Guest Speakers – A wide selection covering an interesting range of subjects culminating with The Right Hon Don McKinnon on the 3 February 2009. (Now Sir Don). I knew Don from Jaycee days when we had both been members of a debating team against prisoners at Paremaremo, so prevailed upon him to speak to us following the conclusion of his term as Secretary General of the Commonwealth. The turnout of members, their spouses and other guests on this occasion was unprecedented and tested the capacity of the Club Rooms to accommodate in excess of 100 attendees.





COMMITTEE 2011

Back Row – from L-R:

Gary Jay, Bill Anderson, John Salmon, Neil Douglas, Frank Shelmerdine, Len Harris, John Groos, John McColl and JV Brown.

Front Row – L-R:

John Lee, Graeme McIntosh and Frank Coggan

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2011 YEAR

Trips and events – Manukau Heads and Bird Park, NZ Refinery Marsden Point, Southern Paprika

Nurseries and Warkworth's Kauri Museum, Upper Harbour cruise to Riverhead, Traffic Operations Centre and Naval Museum, Telstra Events Centre and Buddhist Temple, Miranda Bird Sanctuary and Clevedon Oysters, a Mystery Trip which included the Kea Mobile Home factory, a re-scheduled visit to Hampton Downs racing circuit and Eion Scarrow's nursery and finally a further Upper Harbour trip to Riverhead for those who missed out on the earlier cruise.

Nonagenarians Celebration. We paid tribute to our fourteen "over 90 years" members at our April meeting. They subsequently received an individual copy of a photograph taken on the day, into which photo inserts had been placed of the five who were unable to attend the celebration.



The five missing from the photo were: Dr David Barney, Chas Bowmast, Murray Caldwell, Bill Shearer and Bill Saunders.

Our Mid-year lunch returned to the Silverdale RSA and the Christmas luncheon was held at Queendom Garden, Wainui being an experimental departure from the Bridge Club venue of previous years. Both events were very well attended. It was at the Christmas luncheon that we had the opportunity to bestow on Barry Gilbert a well earned Life Membership. Another Life Membership was awarded in July to Dr David Barney.



Guest Speakers – A wide selection covering an interesting range of subjects including a demonstration by Chris & Tony Harris, Police dog handlers and their dogs, Ian Hedley on the very relevant subject of Prostate Cancer, Graeme Walls from Mercy Ships on

the magnificent work this organization is performing in third world countries, David Veart from DOC on the Forts of Auckland, Chris Orr with his dog "Riley" from the Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind and Peter Busfield from the Marine Industry Association..

Club Membership. When I joined the Club in March 2005, our membership was sitting at around 80. On becoming the membership Convenor in 2009, I set a goal of 100 members and with the help and support of the 2009 and 2010 committees, this target was finally achieved and today stands at 110 plus. An added benefit was the lowering of the average age by some 3-4 years which has assisted in greater participation in Club activities. However, any Committee which becomes complacent over the need to constantly strive to introduce new quality members, does so at its peril. Natural attrition, health and ageing all take their toll to say nothing of the competition our kind of organization faces from Retirement Villages, many of whom have very successful in-house entertainment and a wide range of social activities.

David Flavell, 2009



I was inducted into the Probus Club of Gisborne in February 1994 and became President in March 2003. In May 2004, as immediate Past President of

the Gisborne Club, my Wife, Janet and I shifted to the Hibiscus Coast joining this club in June. I say “joining” because of one of our visits to our Whangaparaoa home before our shift Janet arranged a dinner party to introduce me to some of her friends who included Kim and Jane Hanna. A week after our shift in May 2004 Kim rang to enquire of I was intending to join as he was off to a meeting to update the membership list and would include my name. I attended the June meeting to find Kim was at a funeral in Cambridge, I paid the \$20.00 subs but knew no one. I was never introduced, nominated, elected or inducted into this club.

At the 2008 AGM and in the absence of any other nomination I agreed to become Vice President of the Club and was elected President for 2009 – 2010. The events of that year are reported in detail in my Annual Report presented at the AGM in March 2010.



16/12/2009

Some interesting thoughts about my year:

1. There were 65 members when I arrived in 2004 and membership reached 100 during this year largely due to the promotions arranged by my predecessor Graeme McIntosh.
2. There were 17 Inductees during the year.
3. Brian Stevens produced another year of memorable trips and one show "My Fair Lady".
4. The election to Life Membership and presentation of a plaque to four very deserving members, Bill Fotherby, Kim Hanna, Ray Murphy and Max Edward.
5. Presentation of four 20 year pins.
6. There were two resignations from Committee, Ashley Crampton who arranged some most interesting speakers was called to a Fijian village as a Methodist Minister, while my Vice President was caught up with family matters.
7. During the year a reprint of all Bulletins from the inception of the Club were deposited with the Silverdale and Districts Historical Society Archives.
8. Full replacement of both knees had the President arriving at the August meeting and the 2010 AGM on crutches in each case 8 days after surgery.

Whilst a member of the Hibiscus Coast Janet and I enjoyed attending three Probus rendezvous where we met and made many friends. They were Gold Coast 2007, Perth 2009 and Darwin 2010.



Back row – Brian Stevens, Ashley Crampton, Bill Anderson, John Salmon, Frank Shelmerdine

Front row – John Groos, David Flavell, Barry Adam, Graeme McIntosh

John Salmon, 2010, 2013



I joined the Probus Club in August 2008, and by the next year found myself on the Committee, responsible for morning teas. Then, later that year the Vice President resigned and at the final meeting of the year the Committee appointed me to take his place. So, at the 2010 AGM I became President. With no background in Rotary and only about 18 months contact with Probus, this was daunting. I found the style and expectations totally unfamiliar, and fumbled my way through the year.



2013 Committee. Rear L-R John Humphries, Alan Bolam, John McColl, Murray Patterson, Gary Jay. Front L-R John Lee, John Salmon, Bill Anderson, Graeme McIntosh

One aspect I found especially difficult was the fairly rigid meeting style – even in Committee, with movers and seconds and a vote on every item. My background sought a more relaxed but still careful approach to meetings and procedures generally. Gradually, I think the style has changed over the years since, to a way of working more relevant to a present-day social organisation.



Bill Smith receiving a certificate for his 100th birthday with his wife Mary, QSM, from John Salmon, assisted by Bill Anderson.

It was around this time that disquiet developed over the activities of Probus South Pacific – the Australian-based organisation that provided resources and oversight of Clubs in the region. Expectations, requirements, costs, etc, all began to be increasingly 'out of sync' with many NZ attitudes and requirements. Australia could not or would not recognise the differences in culture and law that meant Kiwis looked for something different. Eventually this led to a

‘rebellion’, with many of the NZ Clubs in 2015 seeking to form a more relevant local structure.

In 2012, the Club had not been able to find a vice President, with the result that I was again appointed to the role by the Committee during the year, and picked up a second term in 2013. The ‘feel’ of the Club (to me) was quite different in just a few years. It was more relaxed and at the same time heavily engaged in the political and organisational changes taking place. Increasingly, I recognised the quality of the organisation of the Club, which I think is one of the best in the movement. However, as changes in the activities and priorities of retirees began to change, some of the organisation needed to change as well. One move made during my second Presidency was to have more than one person in key roles – such as Trips organiser – to enable members to travel, and to spread the load (or no one would pick up the roles). This also assisted in succession planning for these roles. Another approach was to have some tasks covered by members who were not on the Committee. This seems to have worked well.

I became interested in the North Shore and Northern Probus Association after being introduced during my first Presidential term, and was elected to the Committee in 2011. The Association provides support and advice to Clubs, as well as opportunity for networking and the possibility of linking Clubs with similar interests in the region. It was a creation of PSPL, with a fairly strict set of guidelines for meetings.



Once the issues between Australia developed, the Association (in my view) was able to assist Clubs in understanding some of what was going on with the particular issues involved. As far as possible (with the local PSPL Board Member often present), these were examined from both sides. Increasingly, helping answer questions and providing information became a major aspect of Association meetings, and once the divisions were finalised, the Association determines to continue to accept Clubs that functioned 'in the spirit of Probus', whatever their affiliation. Our Club has appreciated the fact that meetings now include member Clubs affiliated to Rebus, PSPL, and Friendship NZ, and independent Clubs. I believe this enables healthy interaction between Clubs with similar aims, even if separated by their formal linkages.

As 'Baby Boomers' become a larger part of the retirement community – having generally had much

less interest in joining clubs (and if joining, less preparedness to take leadership) through their lives – pressure is on Clubs like ours to maintain membership, good leadership, and relevant activities. Other changes in society also impact such Clubs, and In that environment the Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast is one Club that remains strong and vibrant.

John Lee, 2012

Club's 30th Anniversary



2012 was the 30th Anniversary of our Club. This was commemorated at our mid-year luncheon in June. It was attended by Richard Thumath, President (accompanied by wife Kay), from our sponsoring Rotary Club, Orewa Rotary Club; North Shore and Northern Probus Association Chairman, Sydney Shepherd (accompanied by wife Judith).

Guest speaker for the luncheon was Wendy Hawkins, CEO, Rodney Health Trust. Entertainment was provided by three members of the Orewa College

Choir. A photograph of surviving Past Presidents and Life Members was taken during the luncheon.

Further commemoration was held in the month of formation, October with the cutting of a cake, and attendance on behalf Orewa Rotary by founding member, Bill Earwaker

Club

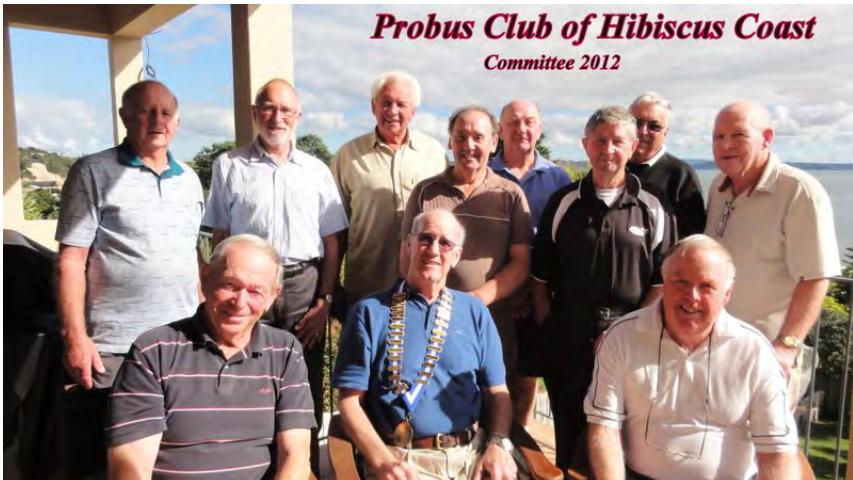
Sixteen new members were inducted during the year, three of these have gone on to become Club President, Pieter Hopkins, Peter Odendaal and George Tregidga. Unfortunately two members passed away during the year, Past President John Groos and Paul Evans.



Notable amongst an excellent array of six guest speakers was the Hon. Lockwood Smith, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Club trips were well attended with an interesting selection arranged by Len Harris. For example the Thames Trip to the Toyota Signature Class Factory and Goldmine Experience.

Some photographs from 2012 are below :-





Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast

30th Anniversary - July 2012

Life Members & Past Presidents.



Bill Anderson, 2014



During my year in office, Members enjoyed 11 Guest Speakers, (including Harold Bennett) and 14 Club Speakers. Our 1st speaker in March was Kathy Peake with her Golden Retriever, and told us about her work with the Mobility Assistance Trust.

In April 14, Harold Bennett shared some of his adventures

after being involved with America's Cup challenges for the previous 20 years.

In May, Sylvia Jones described the wildlife she witnessed on her journey through Kenya.

In June, Jack Long, a 20 year member of our club, described how the Douglas Dauntless Dive bombers, had to dive through heavy cannon fire from ships which they were targeting with their 1600lb or 2x 650lb bombs. At the same meeting, Neill Herbert, senior lecturer at the Leigh Marine Laboratory, discussed their responsibility for bio-security and Aquaculture Research.

In July we heard from one of our members Frank Emtage, who lived for the first 9 years of his life on Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Then we had the chance to hear Stephen Bugden talk about his association with Svitzer Salvage (worldwide salvage specialists) and their work on the Bay of Plenty stranding of the "MSC Rena".

At our August meeting, we heard from 4 of our own members, Bob Hagan, Robert Mann, Grahame Boot and Peter Odendaal in lieu of any external speaker.

In September we heard a talk from member Peter Lamont who specialised in water treatment. Guest speaker was Peter Lange (brother of David Lange) who made kilns for local artists.



Graeme McIntosh, accompanied by Jean, receives a Life Membership Award from Pres Bill Anderson at the 2014 End of Year Luncheon.

October Colin Cathro was the club speaker and he gave a good account of his life involving milking cows from an early age, sporting interests of Rowing and Hockey and his vocation as a Cabinet Maker.

Our guest speaker John Clarke spoke of his three years served in the Mounted Squadron of the Household Cavalry.

November saw Roger Leadbeater discuss his role as support staff for 'Angel Flight New Zealand'. who provide assistance for people with medical disabilities. Our Guest Speaker was Capt. John Briand who was involved in rescuing 983 passengers from MS Achille Lauro which caught fire and sank in November 1994 with the loss of only 2 lives.

December we heard from 4 club members, Peter Bishara, Ray Watkins, Gren Jones and Graham Larsen.

February 2015

As a TV technician, Roger Brentnall felt the moon landing in July 1965 was one of his most challenging events.

Member Dr. Robert Mann, became our main speaker and discussed the lawsuit against Nuclear testing in the Pacific by the French. He was a scientific adviser to Cabinet.

Trips and Events 2014/5

April saw us visit the Ports of Auckland Container Terminal after which, onto Govt. House, where we were given a tour of the beautifully manicured grounds.

In May, the Dargaville Museum gave us an insight into the historical role played by the Wairoa River, particularly for gum diggers and Kauri logging.

In June we also visited the Rosedale Water Treatment Plant, and saw how the effluent is treated so it can be released safely into the sea.

Then on the same day we visited the Devonport Museum, which we had to examine by torchlight due to a power outage.

The September trip visited the 'Wild West' in the Waitakere Heights. Then on to the Arataki Visitors Centre, overlooking the Manukau Harbour

The October trip was to the 'Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre; the centre is an extension of the University of Auckland .

The November outing saw us travelling to the Kaipara Harbour where we visited an Alpaca farm.



Below, L to R - John Salmon, Peter Odendaal, Frank Shelmerdine, Pres Bill, John McColl, Graeme McIntosh, John Humphries, Alan Bolam. Absent – Pieter Hopkins (Vice President)





Then to Helensville to see Jeff Thompson's corrugated iron sculptures which have made him famous around the world.

Our Feb trip was to the Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens which was well received.

Luncheons. Our Mid-year luncheon was at a new venue – St Stephen's Church in Stanmore Bay. It was very well attended. Guest Speaker was Roland White of the Neurological Foundation

The end of Year Luncheon on the 3rd of Dec was held at the Whangaparaoa Golf Course and was very well supported with over 100 members and guests.

The speaker on the day was Wing Commander Phill Bedford who was Mission Commander for the veteran's trip to Normandy to mark the 70th D. Day commemorations. Special Guests included three of the Veterans who made the trip to Normandy.

Membership. During the year, I had the pleasure of inducting 13 new members. However, in the same period, we lost 8 through illness, death, and relocations. Nevertheless, a gain of 5 – so important for the health of the Club.

Committee.

I am indebted to each and every member of the committee who made a very worthwhile contribution to the Club's success.

Pieter Hopkins, 2015



I joined Probus after deciding I needed to widen my circle of friends and develop a new interest.

I was officially signed up as a full, fee-paying member on the 4th Dec. 2012. Bill Anderson called me some time during the following year. After the initial pleasantries, he came to the

point and asked if I'd consider becoming his Vice-President once he took over as president in the coming year, 2014.

I said no, but made the fatal error of adding that I wouldn't see him stuck if he couldn't get anyone else.

If you know Bill, you'll know that he's very persuasive and persistent. I'm sure he didn't try very hard, because within a couple of days, he said in effect that he was stuck, and would I oblige? Being a man of my word, I said yes. That was the start of my time on the Committee, catapulted straight away into the role of V.P.

Many times before the fatal day when I would become President, I had huge doubts. At least on a couple of occasions, I discussed with Sarah the fact that; "I don't think this Presidency-thing is for me!", and that I would advise the Committee accordingly. Obviously, I didn't follow this through and rationalised it knowing that it would be only one year out of my life. Deep down inside, I knew that although the experience would be challenging, it would also be a highly stimulating experience.

When it was my turn to take over from Bill in 2015, and without too much tutoring (thanks, Bill!), I stumbled through my first meeting.



One of the "Pieter-ism's" that I bequeathed to the Club early on in my term was saying in front of the assembled Club members that a certain new member was about to "be induced" rather than "be inducted". Our membership delegate, Ray Watkins, nearly had a fit, but most of the members thought it was a deliberate error to get them laughing.



After much agonising and organisation, we had my President's Christmas Lunch at the Whangaparaoa Golf Club. The guest speaker, Dame Dianne Robinson, had been given a big build-up and we were all looking forward to hearing her speak about her time at the City Mission. Well after the time we all sat down and well after she was due to appear, there was no sign of our much anticipated guest speaker. A moment of mild panic ensued as we scrambled to remember what "plan B" was. It was about then we recalled that



there was no "plan B"! I'm sure my huge sigh of relief could be heard by all the guests when the good Dame finally appeared, and proceeded to deliver an excellent thought-provoking speech. Whew!

During my Presidency, we saw big upheavals in Probus N.Z. Inc., and especially in our Club, when our Australian Probus cousins flexed their muscles, spent huge sums on legal fees and decided it was time to bring these pesky New Zealand Probus Clubs to heel. The law decided in Australia's favour and we were instructed not to use the name "Probus" unless we re-affiliated to the Australian organisation, Probus South Pacific Ltd.

After much lobbying and discussion our club voted with significant majority to become an Independent Affiliate of Rebus NZ Inc, deferring the decision to become a full Affiliate for six months. In September 2016 a significant majority once again agreed to change the name of our club to Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast.

These were interesting days for me. As part of the group assisting Graeme, I was witness to the angst and bewilderment that our Club members found themselves exposed to. In addressing the Club meetings at that time, I often tried to help the members understand that even with a name change, it would be "business as usual". To this end, I called on my old friend, Bill Shakespeare, and paraphrased one of his famous lines "*A rose by any other name smells just as sweet*".

I'm pleased to say that under the Rebus banner, our Club continues to thrive, and note that Rebus is flourishing, rapidly gathering a growing support base



from many former N.Z. Probus Clubs. Thanks, Graeme.

Here's a little trade-off of the Rebus saga, which is not widely known. Some time before all the legal battles and name change, the Committee ordered 200 quality pens bearing the legend: "Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast", because our previous supply had run-out. If you look closely at my hands today, you'll notice that a couple of my fingernails are well worn from labouriously scraping the name "Probus" off said pens, and carefully replacing it with "Rebus".

In conclusion, I want to thank the Committee and the many Club members who supported and encouraged me so ably during my Presidency. It was an exciting ride, not as frightening (well most of the time) as I'd expected, and one I wouldn't have changed in spite of my original doubts.

Peter Odendaal, 2016



I reflect back on my year as President of our Club with a great deal of pleasure. Not only because the members showed so much confidence in allowing me the privilege of being President but also because of how much fun it was for me, where else could I get to wear my bow tie? The time spent on

Club affairs and indeed on the affairs of Rebus NZ Incorporated, filled a gap in my life for which I am grateful.

I recorded in my annual report that it was sad to decide to disaffiliate from FNZI at the AGM during the year where I assumed the Presidency, and then to change our name, necessitated by our Club. I was

aware of the emotional nature of losing the name Probus and I was conscious of the need to undertake the process as sensitively as possible. Each of the two general meetings that took place during the year to decide to affiliate with Rebus NZ Inc and then to change our name from Probus to Rebus, the periods leading up to them and afterwards occupied a great deal of time and energy.

Now, with the benefit of hindsight the value of having made those changes at the time are evident with our Club reflecting back on our time as a Probus Club with affection and the future as a Rebus Club, with satisfaction. And I did get my name on both Probus and Rebus President's Boards!!



Receiving their Certificates of Appreciation at the 2016 Christmas Lunch.
L to R - Malcolm Vincent, Paul Wilkinson, Grahame Boot, John Steel, presented
by President Peter Odendaal

Apart from the constitutional changes we had a busy year with visits to Kawau Island on a perfect day, to the Packard and Pioneer Museum and who amongst us does not enjoy looking at all those beautiful motor cars, then a barbecue at Wenderholm, the Maritime Rescue Centre, Zealong Tea Estate, Howick Historical Village, the puppies at the Foundation for the Blind, Whenuapai Air Force base and a Motor Car Excursion. Finally, the trip to the Classic Motor Car Museum in Hamilton was outstanding with all those beautiful motor cars again!



Headless men were spotted inspecting an Alvis...

Our speakers were relevant to our interests and we were addressed by Nola McGowan on retirement villages, a handwriting analyst, keeping our Peninsula pest free and from two authors, Lynley Smith and Robin Robilliard. Graham Beeson brought one of his

ship's models to illustrate his talk and our Club member Roger Leadbeater illustrated his very interesting presentation on the restoration of a Catalina flying boat. Of particular note was the DVD of our club member Tom Beale's war time memories. It was an interesting and moving account.

It was gratifying to see how the Special Interest Group, Rebus Ramblers grew over the year. Not only did it



Visiting the Foundation for the Blind-Dog Centre, Manurewa

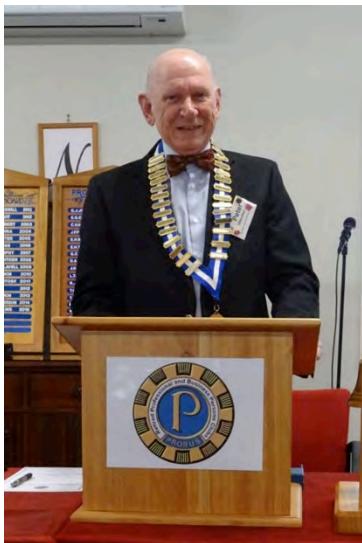
provide an opportunity for regular social walks around the beautiful Hibiscus Coast area that we live in but over time others who attached themselves to our

group during our rambles, went on to become members of our Club.

Representing our Club at the North Shore and Northern Association meetings revealed to me just how well our Club was managed when compared to so many other Clubs in our district. We have numerous capable people willing to take on various roles and no shortage of volunteers to assist where required and our membership is strong.

Unfortunately, our participation at the 7 Hibiscus Coast Club Forum was interrupted mid-year and our Club withdrew as it no longer has the same value. Perhaps it can be revived again at some future stage however, the change eased the introduction of our Club's own web site which now provides a great source of information and is also designed to attract new members.

For its continued existence and success, a Club such as ours relies on a regular inflow of new members as our older members "move on" and whereas so many social clubs of the day are struggling to attract new members, it is pleasing to see our Club holding its own with a membership constantly hovering around 110. The best advertisement for any club is its own members, so keep up the good work and keep the newbies rolling in!



A most enjoyable year.



Rebus Ramblers visiting
Guantanamo Bay at
Shakespear
I did let them out...



*L to R - David Gatland, Ray Watkins, John McColl, Graeme
McIntosh, President Peter Odendaal, Pieter Hopkins, John
Humphries, Bob Hagan, Malcolm Vincent.*

George Tregidga, 2017



I was inducted on the 4th of September 2012, and joined the committee in 2015 as the speaker convenor. I became speaker convenor / Vice President 2016.

With writing this at the end of June, it covers only four months of my year. During this time we have continued with monthly trips under Les Wistrand and his subcommittee, with trips to the Hamilton Car Museum, a cruise on the Kaipara Harbour with lunch at Shelly Beach, Clapham Clock Museum in Whangarei, which included a stop at a modern milking shed where one person can milk 500 cows per hour, and Te Awamutu Museum to see the Dambusters display.

We again have had some very interesting club speakers, Frank Emtage on the history of the Rewa sailing ship, Rob Mann on his meetings with Sir Robert Muldoon, Graeme Wake on Maths in today's high tech environment and Ron Archer on his life as a builder and his involvement in off-shore power boats.

Guest speakers have been Mike Sim on bumble bees in horticulture, Holly Royal on Osteopathy and Sir Ruud van der Zwaal on his involvement with the Japanese Red Army hijacking in the Netherlands.



*President George accepting delivery of our defibrillator
from **Scott Lewis**, The Business Development
Manager, Northern Region, of St John*

The highlight of the year so far has been the purchase of the defibrillator from St John. This was achieved by members' generosity donating the majority of the

money required. The defibrillator is available at every club activity.

The Rebus Ramblers continues to grow under the supervision of John Stringer. This walking group, which is made up by members plus friends, has been a source of new members.

A book exchange table has started under Len Harris' supervision where members can exchange books.

This year's mid-year luncheon was held in July at the Manly Bowling club with Angela Macpherson of the Public Trust Office as guest speaker.



Trip to Clapham's Clock Museum, Whangarei.



The Good, the Bad and the Ugly 2017

*L to R (rear) Pieter Hopkins, Malcolm Vincent, Bob Hagan, Eric
Ritchie, Les Wistrand, Graeme McIntosh.*

*(front) David Gatland, President George, John Humphries, Peter
Odendaal*

Thoughts, observations and confessions from Life Members!

Tim Cocks (born 28th November 1923) now 94 years old. Life Member 2003



The Hibiscus Coast Men's Probus Club was formed in 1984, and I joined in 1988 after being proposed by the Secretary at the time, Jack Freeman. In that year the membership stood at 114 members.

The only other club on the Hibiscus Coast was Orewa Men's Probus and both clubs faced the challenge of mixed clubs being formed, which depleted some male members.

It was the practice of the club that the wife of the current President was responsible for organizing morning tea services for club days. These ladies were not even allowed to stay and listen to speakers so eventually a stand on principle was taken and thereafter, the men were told to make their own arrangements.

I was nominated for committee by John Snow about 1990 when the President was Ernie Manser who was President for two years, 1990 and 1992.

George Culliford and Tim were on trips, but George collapsed and died after drawing the raffle at a meeting which featured a lady canoeist. In spite of recent courses in first aid by St John they were unable to revive him.

After a one year rest, I re-joined the Committee and went on to serve for several more years eventually being replaced by Derek Swan who took over the portfolio of trips leaving me with Raffles. I recall one member made a lovely clock out of swamp kauri which the club raffled off at \$5.00 a ticket. Hamish Craig won the clock at the Christmas lunch.

In 1990 the club did their first and probably last overseas trip, to Norfolk Island with door to door transport laid on. The detail and responsibility proved to be more than any committee member wanted. I was not in favour of overseas travel for at the time, all detail had to be handled by letters or phone, but the club members voted in favour of the trip. With relatives living on the Island, June set up the program – but when it was all jacked up, two additional members put up their hands – at the last minute and were fortunately squeezed in.

Once on the Island, some members wanted to go on a fishing trip and because it was so weather dependent caused a lot of additional work.

One of the most interesting speakers was an inventor from Taupo who had developed the concept of a flying

car. He took off to Canada to sell his concept and was never heard from again.

I had a 14 year involvement with St John and in conjunction with Dr. Cook was involved in raising money to buy an ambulance for Silverdale as Auckland said that Silverdale did not need one.

Max Edward, Life Member 2009



It's difficult to recall significant matters but here are one or two:

A feature of trips that disappeared somewhere but was always appreciated. As we travelled on the homeward journey a packet of sweets was passed around to the delight of everyone on board. So far as I am aware no reason was ever given for ending this special 'add-on'.

Gilbert Johnston (1988) was a most enthusiastic President. He was an ordained Congregationalist Minister but had given this away for a manufacturing business. He had a pilot's license and found a niche where his services were welcomed, a job few wished to take on. He flew caskets and the 'enclosed' for funeral directors et al who required this service! This would need to be verified but I think he came from the

Kapiti area where, of course the first NZ Probus Club was formed.

The early tradition re morning tea was that the incoming President's wife organised the team of ladies who prepared, and served the refreshments. They were not invited to stay and hear the Guest Speaker! At the time when women were taking the view that clubs like Rotary, Lions etc., were discriminatory by excluding them, this arrangement came under scrutiny. I believe that I am correct in affirming that Ken Stewart's wife, Juliette finally drew the line and said: "not under my watch"!

John McColl – 2016 Life Member



On retiring from our positions at Macleans College, my wife and I moved from Pakuranga up to Manly in March 2009. After recuperating from a back operation I made an approach about attending a meeting of the Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast. This I duly did and after just one meeting was most impressed with an excellently run meeting and the friendliness of everyone. It was an easy decision to join and I was inducted on 6th July 2010. At the following March AGM in 2011 I was

cajoled into joining the committee as Membership Convenor. With my previous experience in databases I set about creating a membership database and continue to this day to look after this.

In August 2012 I created “The 3rd Page”, an electronic bulletin of items not able to fit in to the single page monthly club bulletin, plus links to various sites that I thought members might enjoy as well as at times enabling me to display my oddball sense of humour. This I continued monthly until May this year having produced 54 editions of The 3rd Page.

With the dissatisfaction of various clubs with PSPL and a steering committee being set up to break away, I was, at the request of Graeme McIntosh, instrumental in setting up a database of NZ Probus Clubs for the Probus New Zealand Inc (PNZI) committee.

Incensed at PSPL’s decision to take legal action against the clear majority of NZ Clubs, support of Rebus became a priority. With the departure of PSPL’s CEO in December 2015 and little further action from PSPL for the first half of 2016, I had thought PSPL had come to its senses. How wrong I was. Perhaps it was ironic in that opposing the decision to change our Club name when we did, PSPL recommenced its legal activities which of course then changed my mind entirely.

After PNZI gave away the name “Probus” in 2015 I became one of the founding members of the newly formed Rebus NZ Inc. and committee member assisting with the database and the building of a website, in a very short time, having had no previous experience in web design. I stepped down from RNZI in 2016 and the Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast Committee at the 2017 AGM, although continuing the support of the Membership Databases with continuing interest in the wellbeing of both our club and the society.

Being awarded last year (July 2016) with Life



membership was completely unexpected. Although a shock at first, it took some time to realise it was an honour. On reminiscing, I still think of many members,

past and present who quietly in the background do so much to make our club compelling.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the uplifting speakers, memorable trips and luncheons, and especially the camaraderie of fellow members of our great Club. And who could forget the quality of some of our own club speakers, David Webb for example on the Aero Industry and the Concorde. During my short years with the club I have to say that I was very much moved by the wartime experiences that were shared of some of our members such as Jack Long, Hamish Craig, Victor Martin and Tom Beale.

Tom Beale **(by Peter Odendaal)**



I am partly indebted to an article which appeared in the 30 April Sunday Star Times for this tribute to Tom Beale and to the pleasant afternoon I spent with Tom doing a bit of reminiscing.

Tom, aged 93 is a World War 2 Royal New Zealand Airforce Ground Staff Veteran living at Evelyn Page Retirement Village, with a daughter now living in Auckland. In his day he was a champion jitterbugger, he sailed races in his Davidson 28 from Weiti Boating

Club and he is a man's man who does not readily admit to also being a bit of a ladies man, but who does? Tom grew up in Devonport surrounded by a large family of cousins and then forged many friendships during the war through "shared danger" but he recounts that most of his old cobbers have meanwhile died.

Members will remember Tom's filmed war biopic DVD sharing his war experiences shown at our club meetings in September and October last year. Tom is a modest war veteran and after the war was stationed at Iwakinu 18 miles from Hiroshima as part of the occupying force.

After the war Tom first saw his "darling wife Joan" boogying to the *Chattanooga Choo Choo* in an Auckland dance hall and his mate Charlie bet him 10 bob that Joan would decline his bid for a foxtrot. She didn't and three weeks later they were engaged. Tom recalls we were corny in those days and we would tell the girls "snuggle up close and dance your way to heaven." Corny or not, even today which girl could resist that line! Charlie passed away not so long ago and still owes Tom that 10 bob!

Tom and Joan had a son Gary and daughter Lorraine who has a serious illness. They were married for 45 years before Joan passed away in 1992 and Tom

admits that the only times he felt lonely was when he was without Joan. Unfortunately, Gary passed away at the age of 44, 11 months after Joan.

Tom later met his second wife Leonie and they were together for 12 years before separating but still today, remain the best of friends. Tom now faces a new challenge of loneliness and old age. The RSA and the Rebus Club can do something about the loneliness but not the old age yet!





From Probus to **REBUS**

The first attempt by NZ Clubs to leave Australian control took place in 2004. A vote held among the Clubs failed to reach the 2/3rd level Rotary had set as the trigger point.

With the change in structure in 2012 from a less aggressive Probus Centre South Pacific Incorporated - to Probus South Pacific Ltd, (PSPL), came an increased degree of control being exercised over its affiliated Clubs. This gave rise in 2013 to another attempt at self-determination for the 453 NZ Clubs in existence at that point.

The Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast played a significant part in this second attempt. Our motivation arose from PSPL's insistence that we divulge personal details of our membership including contact numbers and postal addresses. Reference to the Privacy Commissioner confirmed that only with the specific consent of each member, could we safely conform with that requirement. When put to members at a Club day, there was a unanimous vote against the release of this information.

Accordingly, the Club, when signing up to PSPL's mandatory Constitution review, amended that section

from obligating us to pass on personal member details, to limiting such information to that which was not in breach of NZ Privacy Laws. PSPL rejected that amendment and did not bank our cheque for the ensuing year's capitation fees. Inevitably, our affiliation came to an end and we, along with several other Clubs were informed that we could no longer use the Probus name unless conforming.

In conjunction with some of these Clubs, a Steering Committee was established for the purpose of resuming a bid for independence. Graeme McIntosh, assisted by John McColl, contributed to the Group's campaign by establishing a database of as many Clubs for whom contact details could be obtained.

Several mail-out working-bees were conducted by our Club with a view to harvesting as many email addresses as possible to avoid the postal costs.



Over a 15 month period and many Newsletters later, some 272 Clubs left Australia to become affiliates of the - to be formed – ***Probus NZ Incorporated***. With

the Steering Group's work done, elections were held throughout NZ to find the Councillors to make up the Board of PNZI.

The first interim Chairman was Ross Gurney, who had headed the Steering Group. He however was replaced by Bryan Monks following the election for Councillors. Bryan stepped down after only 5 weeks in office and was replaced by Dr Denys Boshier. Yet another change took place in February 2016 when without any announcement, Graeme Pierson became the 4th Chairman.

With all these changes occurring, it became apparent that the Council had become somewhat dysfunctional and lost its focus under the Chairmanship of Dr Boshier. This was very disappointing to the Clubs who had bravely left Australia, as they were looking for good leadership and an end to the bureaucratic malaise to which they had previously been subjected.

Whilst all of this was going on, PSPL brought a case in the NZ High Court which sought to obligate PNZI and 7 other Incorporated Clubs to remove the word "Probus" from their name.

PSPL, whilst having successfully trademarked many Probus terms and regalia items in NZ, had overlooked the actual name itself. An application before the NZ Intellectual Property Office to rectify the position was subject to an objection from PNZI. Until PNZI withdrew

that objection, PSPL was unable to achieve its objective.

In November 2015 PSPL made an offer to PNZI to pay the High Court Costs awarded against it of some \$15,300 in consideration of PNZI withdrawing its objection. Without consulting other members of his Council, let alone the 265 Clubs to be affected, Dr Boshier accepted the offer and on the 4 December 2015, PSPL became the owner of the Probus name in NZ.

Graeme McIntosh and Bill Anderson of our Club who sat through the High Court case earlier in the year, came away feeling somewhat pessimistic about the outcome. PSPL's QC was a far superior advocate for his client than was PNZI's Barrister – regardless of the merits of the case itself which should surely have favoured PNZI.

A **Plan B** was hatched in case that pessimism was well founded. A new name was needed if Clubs were forced to drop the Probus name.

Rebus – an amalgamation of **Retired Business** came out of a brainstorming session with credit going to the wife of a past President of our Club. The name was similar to Probus and was likely to gain name recognition reasonably quickly given that it is somewhat unique. The slogan "**Steering a Safe Course through our Retirement Years**" was also adopted and a Ship's Wheel employed as a basis for

the logo. Crown Engravers of Torbay produced a professional version of the sample presented to them by Graeme McIntosh.

Prior to the release of the High Court judgement on the 17th September 2015, an offer we made to PNZI allowing them the use of the name, was rejected. The judgement which came some 4 months after the Hearing held on the 21 May 2015, was regrettfully in favour of PSPL.

In case someone else might secure the name, our Club had in July 2015, reserved **Rebus** in the Companies Office. In December when we saw that PSPL had gained the trademark rights to the Probus



Peter Odendaal, Harley Gray, George Tregidga, Graeme McIntosh, John Lee, John Humphries, Pieter Hopkins
Murray Dunbar attended on Skype. Russell Tether - overseas.

name, we went ahead and registered **Rebus NZ Incorporated** with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

As 15 persons are required to establish a Society, these were chosen from the Past Presidents, Life Members and the current President of our Club. The

initial committee of Rebus NZ Inc chosen from the 15 were Graeme McIntosh (Chairman), Peter Odendaal (Secretary), President Pieter Hopkins, Past Presidents - John Lee, John Salmon and David Flavell, together with George Tregidga, John McColl and John Humphries.

Early in 2016, A campaign was commenced to offer **Rebus** to any NZ Club as an alternative affiliation provider in place of PNZI, which in the meantime had been re-named Fellowship NZ Inc. (Later again re-named Friendship NZ Inc).

Acting on behalf of PSPL, their trademark attorneys in NZ, AJ Park early in 2016, commenced an aggressive campaign targeting Clubs who had failed to change their name.

Notwithstanding that PSPL were now the owners of the Probus name, FNZI throughout the greater part of 2016, encouraged Clubs to ignore the threats of legal action and to continue calling themselves a Probus Club. It finally accepted that their advice to Clubs was flawed and then encouraged the adoption of the term “Fellowship” as an interim measure pending the adoption of a permanent name to be selected by a poll. Finally, with “fellowship” not finding favour with the majority, “friendship” was unilaterally chosen without any club input.

Our Club had become a PNZI affiliate in 2015 and the question of whether we should leave PNZI and accept **Rebus** as our accrediting agency, was first considered at the March 2016 AGM. There was a degree of opposition to the move with a few of our senior members expressing their reluctance to part with the name until faced with a specific legal threat.

The Motion to move to **Rebus** was moderated to becoming an “Independent Associate”. Whilst It was agreed to disaffiliate from PNZI at that point, becoming a **Rebus affiliate** which would involve changing the name of the Club, was agreed to be considered later in the year.

In September 2016, a new Motion for our Club to become a full affiliate of Rebus was passed by a significant majority of members at the Club day. **And so we commenced a new chapter in the Club's history.**

The old Chain of Office complete with the bars for each Past President has been affixed to a new board and it, together with the old Presidents' Board and the Life Members' Board are now displayed at each meeting and represent an important part of our Club's history.

New Boards bearing the **Rebus** name and logo have been provided thanks to the excellent craftsmanship of Colin Cathro and are also displayed at our meetings.

President George now wears a new Chain of Office complete with the **Rebus** medallion.

Forecasts that suggested the change of name would adversely affect the fortunes of our Club have proven groundless and it would be fair to say that the Club has never been in better heart.

Rebus NZ Inc's Board, in keeping with its development plan, now consists of only 4 members from our Club, the balance comprising two members of the original Steering Group, Russell Tether - Kapiti Coast and Murray Dunbar – (Christchurch) together with Norma Parker, the current President of Orewa Rebus and Harley Gray, Past President of Mt Hobson Rebus.

Summary

Given all the hard work put in by the Steering Committee and the handing over to the newly formed Probus NZ Inc of 272 Clubs and \$30,000 in funds, it was a keen disappointment that PNZI failed to consolidate that success.

The subsequent fragmentation which has occurred as a consequence, is a matter of regret. However, the stability of **Rebus NZ Inc** and the standard of performance it has achieved, will allow further increases to the number of Clubs choosing Rebus.

When the new affiliation year commences in April 2018 we expect a significant increase beyond the present level. **The future for Rebus looks great!**

Graeme McIntosh Chairman



Information Day Murray's Bay 27 Jan 2017

Rebus Board 2016/17 prior to changes at the 2017 AGM
L-R Harley Gray, Russell Tether, John Lee, Graeme McIntosh, Pieter Hopkins, George Tregidga, Peter Odendaal



The first AGM held at Remuera 27 May 2017

The Last 15 years. (Tongue in Cheek!)

It is always easier to write about the past than it is to write about the future so it is with pleasure that I tackle my keyboard to type this final chapter to our 35th Anniversary Commemorative book issued 15 years ago, to bring it up to date to the 50th Anniversary in 2032 that we will be celebrating later this year.

In 2017 all sorts of predictions were being made about the future, threats from PSPL, the fractured state of the Probus-like movement in New Zealand and Pensink, and how this would impact on our Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast. It is welcome therefore to note that notwithstanding these disturbances, our Rebus Club of Hibiscus Coast has proved to be remarkably robust. No doubt the resilience and determination of the gentlemen of the Hibiscus Coast has in no small way contributed to the ongoing success of our Club.

PSPL, flushed with their success in denying New Zealanders the right to use the name Probus, went on to successfully trade mark the Probus name in the UK, Canada and South Africa. At first there was considerable disquiet around the Probus world with advice being sought from the Rebus organisation in New Zealand and it was very gratifying to witness our Club being the genesis of the new world wide Rebus movement. PSPL over reached itself by not fully anticipating the antipathy felt by so many to the Australian hegemony and within the first decade, the former Probus Clubs world-wide had for the most part defected to the Rebus organisations that were established by us in those countries. I am happy to record that the name Rebus is now in more common use

around the world than Probus which only exists in small parts of Australia.

Today, few people remember the Fellowship aka Friendship affiliation society that announced itself with great fanfare but is now only known in remote parts of New Zealand.

Penlink has enjoyed the same lack of success but residents of Whangaparaoa are delighted to learn that the new National Government under the Prime Minister-ship of Max Key, the son of the popular former Prime Minister, Sir John Key, has made an election promise to build the Penlink connection within the next decade.

Shortly after celebrating our 35th year Anniversary in 2017 you will recall that in order to avoid the unbearable traffic congestion on Whangaparaoa Road our Club tried a number of alternatives. The decision to meet at 10.00pm to finish promptly at midnight did not prove to be so popular and it lasted until the “virtual reality” tool that became so freely available soon after, enabled us all to participate in our monthly meetings from the comfort of our own home. This served us well for a number of years but now that we are able to safely levitate around the neighbourhood we are once again able to convene in person. The old Bridge Club room which had fallen into neglect due to non-use has now been fully refurbished back to its old standard.

The full benefit of our club members meeting in person once again is evidenced by the number of members who have joined the new “Tactile” Special Interest Group. Such is the excitement of once

again connecting with a human being rather than a computer robot that people are really enjoying touching each other again!

Our monthly midnight trips are equally popular as it allows us to actually leave the Peninsula in our new electric powered coach. I have to add that the last trip to K' Road, whilst proving very popular with Club members, was not quite so well liked by our partners who accompanied us. The ladies in fact refused to accompany the men on any such trip in future which, as it turns out is an acceptable solution to all.

Our Club has the distinction of being the last remaining "men's only" Rebus Club in the world today. We have managed to resist the worldwide onslaught of aggressive feminism and opprobrium from the politically correct for well over a decade but we should not allow a sense of complacency to invade us. To quote Winston Churchill (in a letter dated 1909)



"Nothing would induce me to vote for giving women the franchise. I am not going to be henpecked into a question of such importance."

Famous last words!

Best wishes for the next 50 years!

Peter Odendaal
October 2032