



# REBUS NZ INCORPORATED

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## NEWSLETTER NO 4

Dear Club President and Secretary,

This is to bring you up to date on “**REBUS**” matters. Support continues to come in from around the country, with the concept of a simplified structure gaining much appeal. Yes, some concerns have been expressed at the fragmentation which may occur as the result of yet another entity offering to service former Probus Clubs.

It seems clear that there are four likely options for Clubs to consider:

- 1) Remain with FNZI
- 2) Return to PSPL
- 3) Affiliate to **REBUS**
- 4) Go it alone.

Only you can decide if FNZI will meet your Club’s future needs. Option 2 seems unthinkable to most Clubs with whom we have spoken – unless there is no satisfactory outcome in settling on a viable and non-bureaucratic NZ Service Centre.

The temptation to adopt Option 4 is understandable as it will remove all the time-consuming effort in dealing with political issues that seem to inevitably arise from complex structures. A down-side from such a choice is to be no longer part of a NZ wide family. As well, the ability to purchase such things as Public Liability Insurance, Travel Insurance for seniors (which covers pre-existing health conditions), and Regalia, is made much more difficult and expensive.

We do of course hope that your Club will give careful consideration to what **REBUS** can offer:

- A much simplified structure with an initial committee composed of dedicated, capable and experienced former Probian. Additions, especially ladies, from the regions will be sought.
- Regalia. We have secured a local manufacturer who is keen to service future needs.
- Ongoing protection of Public Liability Insurance covering all **REBUS** affiliated Clubs.
- Access to specialist Travel Insurance for our age group.
- A **regular** Newsletter.
- Our absolute commitment of prompt attention to all email, phone and written inquiries - 24/7.
- Widespread consultation on a regular basis for improvement or addition to any services.
- No requirement for Clubs to belong to local Associations in order to affiliate with **REBUS**.
- A website ([www.rebus.nz](http://www.rebus.nz)) with a library of sample forms for download, Club News, Directory of Clubs, links to individual Club’s websites etc, all in a “members only” section.

To date, we have finalised the design of our logo (as at the head of this Newsletter) which will be trademarked along with the name of **REBUS**. This was achieved with the assistance of our Regalia provider. Utilising our contacts in the Insurance industry, we are able to ensure continuance of the protection to which Clubs have been accustomed. A designer for our website has also been located and will shortly commence work.

We thought it important to tell you about all of this as we know that decisions on future affiliations are on most Club's agenda as we approach the end of the current Probus year. We have also been asked if we would be prepared to sit down with FNZI and discuss ways in which the possible fragmentation earlier referred to, could be avoided. Our answer has been to confirm our willingness to at least listen to any proposal FNZI may wish to put to us. You may recall our earlier offer rejected by PNZI to share a name (**REBUS**) which we had reserved in the event that re-branding became necessary.

However, with the two organizations having quite different philosophical approaches as to which is the best type of structure to service NZ Clubs, we are not optimistic about a solution.

We have been asked if membership of the **Rebus** Committee will be determined by an election. Our RULES make no such provision as we believe that would not necessarily provide the best result. **Also, the Incorporated Societies Act, allows only individuals or other Societies to become members, not unincorporated Clubs.** We believe that the adoption of the 6 Rotary Districts, whilst convenient at the time, has proved impractical. They are geographically too large and the process by which 6 Councillors were selected, one for each District, was flawed. A Motion which the Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast put to the first AGM of PNZI, to correct the position and provide extra assistance to Councillors, was ruled out of order on the basis that these issues were currently being attended to. Were they?

Good intentions are one thing, ability and time availability are another. The first Chairman of PNZI resigned shortly after his appointment and another Councillor failed to serve out his 12 month term. The former Steering Group Treasurer became the Administrator, but also resigned his position earlier this month. And then, the Councillor for District 9940 was acrimoniously removed from Council last December. **(Stop Press –The FNZI Council have just announced that they have “reluctantly” revoked their decisions to remove Russell Tether.)**

***We feel this is evidence enough to seriously question whether the PNZI structure, with the benefit of hindsight, was right for the NZ Probus movement.***

A visit to the Probus UK website ([www.probus.org/uk](http://www.probus.org/uk)) reveals an entirely different approach. With in excess of 1100 Probus Clubs in the UK, there is no governing body, just a service centre where regalia can be ordered and contact made with other Probus Clubs and their websites through a National Directory. Discussions we have had with some of these Clubs confirm that they pay no affiliation fees, do not need Rotary to form new Clubs and the centre is self-supporting from regalia sales and some advertising revenue.

In the first instance, **REBUS** set up costs will require affiliated Clubs to pay affiliation fees which we have initially set at \$2.00 per member. A budget construction suggests that **REBUS** will be viable even with only a modest number of Clubs and perhaps, in the future, something along the UK lines might emerge.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month, a meeting of all 9940 Clubs is being held in Palmerston Nth – primarily arising from concern over the dismissal of Russell Tether as Councillor for that District. **REBUS** has been invited and I will be attending as a guest speaker, along with **REBUS** committee member Murray Dunbar from Christchurch. FNZI have also been invited to speak. They are understood to have declined but are prepared to submit written answers to written questions. We will keep you informed as to the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

*Graeme McIntosh* (Chairman)