



REBUS NZ INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 541
Whangaparaoa 0943

Phone 09 424 7115
rebus@clear.net.nz

26 April 2016.

Dear Club Officers,

NEWSLETTER No 11.

1) Outcome of the Application to trademark the name REBUS.

The Intellectual Property Office (IPONZ) has confirmed that as there has been no objection to the trade-marking of the name REBUS in the three months obligatory advertising period since it was lodged, the Application has now been finalized and our name safely secured.

2) Rebus Regalia.

We have entered into an arrangement with a firm on the North Shore who have an excellent reputation and are aware of the various types of Regalia previously used by Probus Clubs. As PSPL has blocked Rotary Down Under from supplying any Club which is not affiliated to it, new arrangements needed to be made. For Clubs who have already affiliated with **REBUS** or are considering doing so, pins and badges etc containing the **REBUS** logo will be available.

If you would like more information, just send us an email to rebus@clear.nz for indicative pricing and contact details for the supplier.

3) Has REBUS obtained a sufficient number of Clubs to be a financially viable alternative NZ Service Centre?

This is a question which has been asked of us by a number of Clubs in considering their affiliation options. Our answer is an emphatic **“Yes”**. We appreciate that any Club would wish to be reassured on this and we again underline that by adhering to the primary concept of providing a true Service Centre format, expenses are significantly different from what might otherwise be the case. We have covered all our establishment costs, many of which are non-recurring and given the present flow of applications, **REBUS** has a well determined and sustainable future.

We invite you to have courage – take a step forward and support an organization which will not interfere with the way you run your Club or have procedures which will need to involve your committee and members with endless discussions on political matters.

More time for enjoying the three Fs!.

4) The "new look" Probus South Pacific Ltd.

Three items dated 22 April have just been sent to all PSPL affiliated Clubs in Australasia. The first outlines proposed changes to PSPL's own Constitution, the second is a letter from Chairman Geekie to all Presidents and Secretaries on this subject, and the third is a copy of the proposed Constitution itself. (if you would like copies of these, please email us).

Notable is the reduction from two to one in the number of Board representatives for New Zealand (which includes all the Pacific Islands). Perhaps this is a reflection of the reduced number of PSPL affiliated Clubs now in NZ. As well, affiliated Clubs will be invited to become a Member of PSPL. Probus Clubs and Probians are represented at general meetings of Members and on the Board by their respective Representative Members. **However, Probus Clubs and Probians will not be entitled to vote at general meetings of the Company.**

5) Comments by an attendee at the March meeting of the Queensland Probus Association.

These have been added to our website and make interesting reading.

6) Use of the Probus name.

As you will be aware, non-incorporated Clubs in NZ who are not affiliated to PSPL have been counselled to continue using the name until otherwise obliged by the party holding the trademark rights to the name, to desist. You will also be aware of a letter dated 25th February 2016 from the new CEO of PSPL which quite clearly stated "that for a Club to be able to continue using the name without the threat of legal action, it would eventually be necessary to be affiliated to PSPL. (A copy of that letter is attached)

Yet, in spite of this, there are those who still believe that somehow, PSPL would relent and make a concession to those Clubs in NZ who had disaffiliated. If ever such a move was to be made – in whatever form, there is, as predicted by **REBUS**, no sign whatsoever in the latest communications out from PSPL. To the contrary, the proposed Constitution reinforces the need for a Club to adopt the PSPL Standard Constitution for affiliated Clubs, in order to be accredited – and only then entitled to the use of the Probus name.

Consider this: Why would PSPL, having fought legal battles and spent thousands of dollars to cement their sole rights to the name "Probus", force 7 incorporated Clubs under threat of penalties, to change their names, then make it freely available to a rival organization?" There is also the matter of the blocked access to Regalia from RDU.

7) **REBUS website.** We intend to keep adding new relevant material as it comes to hand and will be encouraging our Affiliates and Associates to forward Club news and photos of recent Club activities. Visit www.rebus.nz and click on Club News to see details of an unusual competition recently run by one of our Clubs. More entries please!

8) Application forms for Affiliation or Independent Associateship.

Although downloadable from our website, please find enclosed the most recent version which allows a Club to select which of the two categories is applicable to its needs.

Warm regards,

Graeme McIntosh (Chairman)