

Steering a safe course



through our retirement years

REBUS NZ INCORPORATED

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NEWSLETTER NO 22.

In our October Newsletter No 20, we made mention of our motto – “*Steering a safe Course through our retirement years*” and we make no apology for returning to it. A ship needs a helmsman who is fully committed to the safety of the vessel and with the necessary skills to guide it safely. So too does any organization that seeks success, need to have a supportive team – not just the skipper alone. In this respect, our Chairman has been very capably assisted by the **REBUS** Board with special mention of Secretary *Peter Odendaal* and Treasurer *John Humphries*.

As well, *Harley Gray* has been of considerable help in dealing with Clubs in the old District 9920 (Auckland City and South) along with *Russell Tether* for the lower half of the North Island, and *Murray Dunbar* for the Canterbury and Southern areas.

Achievements to date. Rebus started the year with well-defined objectives and our course was carefully charted. We have not found the need to deviate from it and derive a good deal of satisfaction from having provided an alternative affiliation option for those former Probus Clubs who do not wish to return to Probus South Pacific Ltd. (PSPL). We believe that we have fully delivered on all the objectives as outlined in the **REBUS “PLEDGE”**. In particular, this is our 22nd Newsletter during 2016 and has provided regular communication and review of events as they have progressed.

Our Rules (Constitution). The 1908 legislation under which Incorporated Societies operate, does not allow membership of a Society to include a non-incorporated organization. As by far the majority of Probus Clubs in NZ have **not** been incorporated, they are consequentially precluded from Membership of **REBUS**. However, the Act does allow an **individual** to achieve Membership and in our desire to demonstrate that **REBUS** wishes to be a fully democratic entity, amendments to our Rules have recently been made which allow the “**President for the time being**” of an affiliated Club to become a Member with the right to attend **REBUS** meetings with full voting rights (including the option to register a proxy vote where attendance is not possible). These may be found on the **REBUS** website under “Documentation”.

Finances. Neither have we been beset by successive changes of leadership or failure to adhere to a carefully designed budget. We will in fact end our first financial year with a modest surplus of income over expenditure and look forward to 2017/8 **where we see no need to make any provision for legal expenses**, whether or not associated with the loss of the Probus name. That matter is behind all **REBUS** affiliated clubs who have now accepted that there is life after “Probus”.

Affiliation fees for 2017/8. Although we have (and will continue to) warmly welcomed donations which have covered some of our establishment costs, **REBUS** does not intend to make the holding of affiliation fees at \$2 for the coming year, conditional upon obligatory donations from our Clubs.

Who caused the fragmentation of Probus in NZ? Yes, there have been some critics of the supposed role **REBUS** has played in the “fragmentation” of the NZ Probus movement. However, PSPL must accept that it was their intransigence that was the primary factor. The defection of 2/3rds of NZ Clubs should have sent a clear signal to the PSPL Board that some degree of compromise was called for. But no, perhaps blinded by the tunnel vision of the former CEO, they dug in and set out to further cement their dominance over those “dissidents” across the ditch by spending huge sums of money in gaining the trademark rights to the name – which many consider were in fact stolen from us.

Compromise between Rebus and FNZI? It has been suggested that an accommodation between **REBUS** and the organization which grew out of the Steering Committee’s efforts, should have been negotiated by sitting down and finding a way to work together in the best interests of the clubs they seek to serve. As you will know from previous newsletters, we signaled our willingness to explore such a possibility but it was rejected.

Co-existence. With time having now passed, it seems clear to us that there is no reason why the two cannot co-exist, with Clubs making the decision to align with the party whose style of service and philosophy best meets their needs. We hope that FNZI might also adopt this view and let Clubs make their own decisions. In support of that outcome is the decision taken by the North Shore and Northern Association, to welcome all Clubs as members, regardless of their affiliation choices. We hope that pragmatic view will be adopted in kindred Associations.

Website – www.rebus.nz. **REBUS** has made it clear that we see ourselves as an uncomplicated “Service Centre” in the true sense of that expression. We are geared to provide services and facilities which Clubs can utilize over and above those which they provide to their members “in-house”. We have received many compliments on the ease by which our website and its contents can be accessed. We are progressively adding more sample documentation in formats which Clubs can chose to download and amend for their particular needs.

Rebus Chronicles. This is a monthly publication exclusively for our affiliated clubs and contains a variety of information. A “one off” copy of the November edition (without attachments) is included with this email.

“Independent Associate” Rebus accredited Clubs. The option given to Clubs seeking accreditation with **REBUS**, which allowed them to retain their name, was exercised by some 9 Clubs out of the total who came on board his year. **REBUS** is delighted to report that 7 of these Clubs have subsequently sought **full** affiliation with us and have accordingly changed their Club name. One other is going through that process. This vote of confidence in **REBUS** ensures their ongoing support for the years ahead, along with those that fully affiliated from the outset - and the others still to join us in 2017.

REBUS Information days. As previously announced, two days will be held in the New Year. The first for Clubs North and West of the Harbour bridge will be on Friday the 27th January at the Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Church Hall, 10 Penzance Rd, at 10.00am. The second will be at the Remuera Club, 27 Ohinerau Street, Green Lane for Auckland City and Southern Clubs, on Friday 10th February at 10.00am. Reminders will be sent to all Clubs in these districts a little closer to the time. Other days may be considered for Districts 9930 and the Canterbury area as opportunity allows.

Car Rally. Orewa – Muriwai. One of our affiliated clubs recently ran this event – no doubt a first for a



REBUS CLUB in NZ! It was attended by 43 members and partners and provided an exciting challenge to solve 39 clues during the 90 plus km trip. The winner correctly identified 38 and was suitably rewarded with a fine bottle of wine. Grahame Boot, who had run many similar events in past years, was the organizer on the day and his expertise was much appreciated by all who participated.

Best wishes from the **Team at REBUS.**