

Steering a safe course



through our retirement years

REBUS NZ INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 541
Whangaparaoa 0943

www.rebus.nz

Phone 09 424 7115
rebus@clear.net.nz

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NEWSLETTER NO 2017/23

During 2016, the **REBUS** Board met on 10 occasions, with Southern Board Members attending by Skype. Newsletter No 22 brought the total number for the 2016 year to 20 and is a re-affirmation of our Pledge to keep NZ Clubs fully informed on key issues – especially the long drawn-out saga over the use of the Probus name.

We are especially grateful to the 30 Clubs who have now chosen **REBUS** as their affiliation provider and we have every expectation that this number will significantly increase for the 2017/8 year. This prediction is based on the knowledge that a number of clubs have still to determine if they will remain totally independent – i.e. going it alone – or re-affiliate with one of the alternatives now available to them. Some, having made a preliminary alternative choice, can now see that **REBUS** is here to stay. We look forward to welcoming them to the **REBUS** family.

In addition to individual visits made to several Clubs, the two **REBUS** Information Days planned for 27 January at Mairangi Bay, and Remuera on the 10th February will give Clubs further opportunities to meet some of our Board Members and hear first-hand our plans for growing the **REBUS** brand in the years ahead. Further meetings may be held in the Bay of Plenty, Manawatu/Wellington & Canterbury as may be required.

REBUS believes that as a *low-cost Service Centre*, we have made excellent progress in the last 12 months:

- *Our name has long been settled*
- *It has been trademarked*
- *Regalia of high quality has been designed and is now available*
- *A very “user friendly” website has been created to which useful items are being regularly added*
- *Affiliation fees held at \$2 per member – not contingent upon solicited donations*
- *RULES amended to allow membership & voting rights for Affiliated Presidents*
- *Our finances are on a sound footing with a surplus of \$1400.60 available to be carried forward to the 2017/8 year*
- *A Statement of Financial Performance for the year to end 31 December 2016 is attached to this Newsletter – a clear indication of our belief in doing things in a timely manner with absolute transparency. Note – achieved within 10 days of our balance date*
- *Budget provision has been made for a part-time Administrator in 2017 should that be necessary*

At the time of **REBUS'S** establishment, a number of personal attacks were widely circulated throughout the country and sought to impugn the reputation of some members of the **REBUS** Board. These were so blatantly inaccurate and mischievous that libel proceedings were considered.

Three of its members who were the subject of these attacks, had been key players in the success of the Steering Committee's campaign to create a separate identity for NZ Probus Clubs.

It was understandable that some Clubs questioned why, having worked so hard for independence from Australia, would these same persons now undertake activity designed to negate some of that work?

The answer was that ongoing dysfunction among the organization which grew out of the Steering Group, imperiled the success of the independence movement with three Chairpersons quitting over a very short period. In addition, the surrendering of the rights to argue the case in the Intellectual Property Office against Probus South Pacific Ltd gaining the trademark rights to the name, struck a blow from which there was no recovery. Assurances given to Clubs throughout the year that it was OK to continue the use of the name was predictably unsound with PSPL giving a number of warnings as to the legal consequences – finally a **"Stop or Else"** date of 31 October 2016.

Clubs can now make their own assessment of whether their expectations have been met. By contrast, **REBUS** has achieved many goals as covered above. We have a name, a Constitution and regalia. We also note from earlier criticism that its Chairman has a reputation for **"wanting everything to be done in a hurry"** Well, this Chairman makes no apologies for that – and has a Board which wholeheartedly supports the need for action on important issues – which if left alone, do not take care of themselves.

We mention these matters as some Clubs are still confused as to why **REBUS**, as a second organization was formed. Hopefully, those reasons will now be clear.

Very best wishes to your Club for a very successful 2017 – regardless of your affiliation choice.

Graeme McIntosh (Chairman)

REBUS BOARD 2016/7



John Lee (Regalia) Harley Gray, John Humphries, Graeme McIntosh (Chairman) Peter Odendaal, George Tregidga, Pieter Hopkins (Secretary)

Insert – Left, Murray Dunbar
Christchurch

Inset - Right, Russell Tether
Kapiti Coast