

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 16

The inevitable has occurred. Probus South Pacific Ltd has today written to all NZ Clubs who are no longer affiliated to PSPL. The message is quite clear – ***re-affiliate or immediately cease using the Probus name and regalia!***

Those who have read our many communications on this subject may now appreciate the accuracy of our prediction that the continuous use of a trademarked name without consent of the owner, could only lead to one conclusion. *Well, that time has arrived.*

A copy of the PSPL letter is attached which may or may not reach you depending on how up to date PSPL's records are for those Clubs who have left them.

We quote below, the three most important paragraphs from the letter:

"However, despite the High Court decision about the use of the Probus name, it is clear from various communications that there are some clubs that are no longer affiliated to PSPL which continue to use the Probus name.

We understand that many clubs have been misinformed and are of the belief that continued use of the Probus name is permissible. This is not so, as any club or organisation that is not affiliated with PSPL does not have the right to use the Probus name, regardless of whether or not the club is incorporated. We are also aware that some disaffiliated clubs are referring to themselves as 'formerly Probus', and this is also not permissible.

PSPL now stipulates that all Clubs which are no longer affiliated to PSPL must cease using the name Probus and the Probus regalia immediately. However, should your Club wish to be recognized as a "Probus Club" and receive PSPL support and benefits then we would be pleased to welcome you back into the Probus Community".

Fellowship NZ is the party to which PSPL refers as having “misinformed” Clubs that continuous use of the name was a proper course of action. Suggestions that legal avenues were being explored with a view to resolving the issue, have clearly amounted to nothing and the advice conveyed to Clubs has been misleading and reprehensible.

We believe that those Clubs who have placed their faith in **Fellowship**, should now review their allegiance.

Fellowship having stated that this name has been adopted only as an interim measure, we predict that there will now be endless meetings around the country in an attempt to find a consensus on a more suitable name. Those Clubs still using Probus regalia will now need to discard all stocks and request that members stop wearing pins, badges etc. There will be an inevitable delay in the design and manufacture of replacement stocks.

Still to be resolved by Fellowship, is the adoption of a new Constitution with the promised consultation among affiliated Clubs, yet to take place.

By contrast, **REBUS** has:

- *A name and it has been trademarked*
- *A Constitution which is designed for a non-political Service Centre*
- *Regalia already designed and available*
- *A philosophy of prompt responses to all communications*
- *Regular Newsletters keeping affiliates fully informed*
- *A very “user friendly” website*
- *Lower affiliation fees at \$2 per member.*

REBUS stands ready to welcome any Club which has been uncertain as to its affiliation options for 2016/7 and indeed, any who may now see us as a viable alternative for the ensuing year.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Very best regards,

Graeme McIntosh (Chairman)