



# Probus Club of Sydney

*Our Strength is Fellowship - Our Success is Participation*

## MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

### Welcome!

On behalf of all members we warmly welcome you as a new member of the Probus Club of Sydney. This guide provides you with basic information about our Club.

Like all other members you have a name badge and one for your partner included in your Welcome Pack. Members are encouraged to wear their badges at club meetings and social gatherings to make it easy for all.

Your badge has a red spot indicating that you are in the first six months of membership. This is to encourage established members to introduce themselves and make you welcome. After six months just peel it off.

The best way to learn about our club is through the Newsletter or the Website.

They are a mine of information and will provide more depth on every topic.

Warm regards

*John Carter*

President

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## Background and History

A full history can be sourced on the Club's website in the Members area, but basically, the inaugural meeting of the Probus Club of Sydney was held on Tuesday 23 February 1982 at The Sydney Club, 9 Rowe St Sydney. There were 25 persons present.

Numbers increased rapidly from the first meeting to reach 87 at the second meeting in the following month and it has continued to climb over the years. The current maximum has been increased to 150. Our members come from across the entire Sydney Metropolitan Region covering almost fifty postcodes.

Membership reflects a range of occupations including, business, finance, defence, the professions, government and academia.

The word PROBUS is derived from the words PROfessional and BUSiness but membership is not restricted to these two groups. It is open to anyone who has had some measure of responsibility or achievement in any field of worthy endeavour. The Club is non-sectarian and welcomes members of any race, colour, religion or political background. All members are encouraged to bring guests and to introduce new members. You may also invite guests and prospective members, with or without partners, to social activities.

Probus Clubs are varied in make-up. Some are just for women, some are mixed, and some, like ours, are male only. It is solely at the discretion of members. A key difference between Rotary, the founder of Probus, and Probus is that we focus on friendship and fellowship whereas Rotary has fundraising as a core function. We have a simple structure without a profit objective.

## Meetings

Meetings start at **10 am on the first Tuesday of each month** to provide fellowship and hear a guest speaker. There is no meeting in January and the November meeting is on the first Wednesday or the second Tuesday. We meet at The Union, University & Schools Club at 25 Bent Street, in the Sydney CBD.

Due to Covid 19 requirements, Registration is required for attendance at meetings.

The meeting begins with greetings from the President and brief updates from the committee. Other business includes member presentations, announcements, and new member inductions.

Club business concludes at 10.30 when we break for morning tea and return for the guest speaker's presentation at 11.00.

## Activity Program

Between monthly meetings, Activities are arranged to visit destinations or organisations of particular interest. Generally these are day events. You will find that you will rapidly enhance your fellowship with other club members by attending these outings and special events. Probus Club of Sydney is for male members, however your partner is most welcome to join you at these informal events and you are also encouraged to bring guests. From time to time overnight or longer excursions are organised.

## Typical Agenda

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>9.30</b>  | <b>Welcome</b><br>Sign in - Registration Desk  |
| <b>10.00</b> | <b>Business Meeting</b><br>Welcome Guests<br>Committee updates & announcements<br>New Member Induction<br>Short talks from members |
| <b>10.30</b> | <b>Morning tea</b>   |
| <b>11.00</b> | <b>Guest Speaker</b>   |
| <b>12.00</b> | <b>Luncheon</b> (Dining Room, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor)   |
| <b>12.30</b> | <b>Coffee &amp; tea</b> (Ground Floor)   |

## Luncheon

A key component of the meeting is the lunch afterwards, which affords the opportunity to get to know others and promotes fellowship.

Whilst not obligatory, we would hope you would generally join us for lunch, which is held in the main dining room on the first floor. The dining room is open immediately after the meeting.

Prices are reasonable, and the food is delicious.

## Expectations of Membership

We look forward to seeing you regularly at monthly meetings and enjoying discussion at luncheon afterwards when possible.

Attendance at social activities is one of the best ways to get to know others and build relationships. Your partner is warmly invited to attend social activities and you are welcome to bring guests along too. Details and prices of events are in the Newsletter and on the Website

In one of the meetings following your induction, you will be asked to give a pre-arranged 5minute talk "Life Before Probus" about yourself and anything you wish to tell us about your life story. The list of social activities is varied but in particular we get a big attendance at the Christmas Luncheon and the Mid-winter Luncheon in July.

If you are aware of an interesting venue for an outing especially if you are interested in being involved with organisation, please contact one of the Activities team.

We find referrals from members to be the best source of new members. You are encouraged to refer the Club to potential new members you think would be a good fit. All you need to do is to bring someone along to a meeting and introduce them as your guest in the opening session.

Through your past work or socially you may have access to an interesting speaker. If so, please contact the Speakers' Officer who will be pleased to discuss your ideas.

We enjoy a wide range of speakers covering a whole spectrum of topics with the result that we are entertained, intrigued and gain new insights. A list of speakers for a few months ahead can be found on the website

New members are encouraged to be nominated for a committee or assistant position to ensure the ongoing successful running of the club

Assistants provide back up for committee members absent or travelling and enable continuity. Serving on the committee ensures you get to know a wide range of members.

Committee members are elected and serve for a one-year term, which may be extended. Please don't hold back if you would be prepared to adopt a role.

## Club Committee and Structure

The running of the Club is managed by a committee that meets monthly, usually just prior to the General meetings. Committee members wear a distinctive yellow badge identifying their responsibility in addition to their name.

## Website

For more detailed information and the best way to learn all about the Club from the Website.

In your Welcome Pack is a guide of how to get into the site and what you will find there. Topics include:

- Home page
- Meetings and Speakers
- Past Guest Speakers Presentations
- Social Activities
- How to Book and Pay for Activities
- Photo Gallery
- Members Area (including the items below)
- Member Directory
- Membership Application
- Management Committee
- Constitution and Standing Resolutions
- Club History

## The Union, University & Schools Club

The Union, University & Schools Club is the third oldest club of its kind in Australia and is the only senior club in Sydney with mixed male and female membership. The Club is 160 years old opening back in 1857. There are strict guidelines around dress code for members and guests as well as for other matters some of which are detailed here.

### **Dress Code**

Gentlemen are required to wear “coat and tie” on Level 1 and 2 of the Club.

**Mobile Phones** - Members and Guests are required to switch off their mobile phones or put to silent mode when entering the Club premises. The ringing of mobile phones or the carrying on of conversations on mobile phones are strictly prohibited at any time. Members and guests are permitted to look at their smartphones and tablets to access diaries or check messages. There are two dedicated booths provided on the ground floor for Members to make outgoing calls.

For more information about The Union Club ask at Reception on the ground floor.

## Probus South Pacific

Further benefits of your membership are available through our governing organisation, Probus South Pacific Limited. It offers travel insurance to Probus members and non-member companions at competitive rates. Their Website has further details.

[www.probusouthpacific.org](http://www.probusouthpacific.org)