

Probus Club Coorparoo – Annual General Meeting (AGM) Presidents Report

President's Report 2022 – 8 March 2023

I wish to start the report by saying that it has been a real pleasure to serve the members as the President of the Probus Club of Coorparoo during 2022.

My strong belief is that Probus clubs are a vital and integral part of supporting the well-being of seniors, reducing social isolation and providing opportunities for members to interact with colleagues, make new friends and enjoy the social aspect and engagements that Probus clubs offer.

A club such as our Probus club is only strong due to the members within the club. The club has maintained a membership of around 80 (this fluctuates of course), and we are adding new members, while other members leave us for all sorts of reasons.

To gauge the well-being of the club I like to consider the following few key points;

- Has the club enough members to support the activities of that club? That is, are the outings/trips/dine-outs well supported
- Does the club attract very good to excellent 'key note speakers' (presenters)?
- Is there adequate attendance at monthly meetings to warrant key note speakers spending their time with members of the club?
- Are members relatively happy to attend the general meetings and activities of the club?
- Are the Committee members engaged and enthusiastic in their role?
- Are we having fun!; and
- Is the club financial

Members will use their own methodologies to determine the success of the club, decide if they want to be part of the club and act accordingly.

My belief is that the club is in a strong position on all of the above key points... so at this point I want to thank each and all members (present or not today) and congratulate you on being a consistent part of this fantastic probus club.

During 2022 the club looked to introduce the following initiatives;

- *Introduction of our own web page.* This has taken some time to build, it is now operating and I have been receiving emails from that web site where people are wanting to attend our club and see what we have to offer. This web page will grow to be the one location for all upcoming activities/outlining/guest speakers and so on. There has been over 1000 'hits' on the site which I believe is quite positive for the short time it has been up and running

I encourage you all to visit our web page and 'surf' the pages. As always, positive, constructive feedback is welcome and can be directed to any Committee member. There is scope for improvement and I recognise this.

- *Introduction of EFTPOS.* We have secured the EFTPOS machine, however take up has been a little slow in my opinion. As I move about and chat with members, I think the fees (although relatively low) are an issue and I am positive the Executive Committee members of 2023 will review this matter.
- *Introduction of activities.* Members will recall we ran a survey of what additional activities members would like. Book Club/Mahjong and Canasta got top ratings. Book Club is not travelling well, Mahjong and Canasta are going gang-busters! A special thanks to Carole O'Connor for establishing book club and working with members, more people are needed to allow this activity to thrive. Mahjong/Canasta is going well, special thanks to Jude Wingfield and Margo Excell for their work in this area.
- *Walking group.* There have been a few activities for the walking group. The current weather has slowed the desire to walkabout Brisbane, as the weather cools I am sure more of this activity will occur. Special thanks to Maryann Hackett and Stones Corner Rotary for their support to this activity.
- *Review role descriptions.* The Committee members undertook a fair chunk of work to review and update role descriptions for each role in the Committee structure. Thanks for all the input, much appreciated. These Role Descriptions are in fact a *guide* for the Committee members and are not intended to be rigorously followed. They do however, help establish what activities need to be 'covered off' in the day to day operation of this Probus club.

With regards to new and exciting activities in 2023, it is probable that the new committee will run another survey to see if tastes have changed or if new activities will be supported by club members.

I want to just touch on the importance of feedback. Feedback on all aspects of the club and its performance is essential to grow and thrive. However, feedback is best received and acted upon when that feedback is delivered in a positive and constructive manner. Could I just add that it is not possible to be everything to everyone! The club and the Committee consist of hard-working volunteers that deserve to be treated with respect. I know that club members understand and support this.

*With regards outing/dine-outs during 2022.....*I am reluctant to single out any particular activity/outlining that I attending during 2022. However.... a special mention to the 'Christmas in July 2022'. It was a great day, weather was cold, raining and miserable, a perfect time for a hearty meal, a few drinks, great food and great company....and a chauffeur to get us home safe and sound.

Members should not under estimate the importance Probus clubs, like ours, play in the contribution to the viability of bus companies, restaurants and other business... so we are doing our part to keep the economy rolling along.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank a few key people in the club. Firstly, to all the Committee members (Executive and Management) thank you for your support to me and the club during 2022.

For those members that are not standing in 2023 and who have worked to support the club over last year and in some cases, many years, thank you very much.

For those members re-offering your services again for 2023, thank you for your ongoing support to the club.

May I acknowledge Carwyn Arnold for her guidance and support over the past 12 months. Carwyn has an enormous wealth of knowledge of Probus Clubs and their operation and we are fortunate to have her as a member of our club, to help guide me and other Committee members. Thank you Carwyn.

With regards the upcoming election of office bearers, every year at the AGM there is an opportunity to 're-fresh' the Committee membership. This is healthy for the club, as it brings new energy and new ideas to the club. I wish the new committee well.

As I close my report for 2022-23, I want to pay my respects again to all Committee members, Executive and Management. This club is in a very strong position due to the great work by all committee members, irrespective of the role they play. No role/position is insignificant.

Thank you so much for your outstanding work in 2022.

Sincere regards

Murray Excell ASM