

CRONULLA PROBUS CLUB -

As the result of inspiration of ERIC PIDGEON (then a Cronulla Rotarian and High School Principal) an inaugural meeting was convened by Cronulla Rotary under the chairmanship of Peter Warr on Monday, 28th July, 1980 (at the Cronulla Golf Club). There was much vigorous discussion. Eventually Ron Goode put a motion supported by Bill Hamilton-Foster that the Probus Club of Cronulla be formed. This was carried unanimously.

Twenty eight of the men present promptly paid their \$6.00 and are listed in our files as Inaugural Members. Of those, several are still members of this club, - including the Initiator, Eric Pidgeon. A decision was taken at that Inaugural Meeting to allow Foundation membership to include all those who joined by September 30th, 1980. When that date came, a further 38 men had joined (66 in all).

The First President elected was Dick Kahn - still fondly remembered by those of us who play each year for the "Dick Kahn" Bowls Trophy - donated to us by his daughter Mrs. Dianne Scott. (Dick died in March 1984).

The First Secretary was John Forster. The First Treasurer Ron Evans. Cronulla Club continued to grow until its membership exceeded 180 in 1987 when because our resource to accommodate big numbers was being over-stretched, the Management Committee recommended a limit of 150 to be reached by attrition.

In December 1987 Port Hacking Probus was formed and over the next few months about twenty of our members resigned to join the new club. In July, 1988 our waiting list was re-opened.

To Jan. 1995 altogether 325 men have joined us. Our "waiting list" these days is about four people - usually admitted within two or three months.

The Constitution was given life within a couple of months and had a varied career culminating in a major change when we became an Incorporated Body in 1988. Jim Beckett, John Burniston, Allan Pritchard, Vic Cox and Allan Harford had legal help from Warren, McKeon and Dickson, Solicitors, of Engadine, and in May 1988 the present Constitution was accepted. There have only been minor changes since that time.

Membership records have been carefully kept and new lists are issued to members whenever sufficient change warrants, with updates published regularly in our Bulletin. Probably our Membership Officer's biggest problems have been those of people who do not wear name badges to meetings and functions and those who are tardy each year end in paying renewal fees so - Wear Your Name Badges To All Functions and Pay Up Promptly Each Year.

Tours We've visited many interesting places throughout the country. Our first such outing was only five weeks after formation - to Lucas Heights Reactor on September 2nd, 1980.

Our First Movie Party was at the late Gordon Presland's theatre on 31st October, 1980. Gordon died 1994 and so ended an interesting era for us.

Our First Luncheon was at Cronulla Golf Club for Christmas 1980 on Dec. 15th, at which the guest speaker was our late member Clyde Snape!

Our First Mid-Year Luncheon with our ladies was on June 15th 1981 at \$6.00 per member - Ladies Freeli and 136 people were present!

Guest Speakers We've had a whole gamut of interesting speakers unearthed by the member responsible for that activity.

Our First Speaker was Paul French of the M.W.S. & D.B. in August 1980. He was again asked to address us in April 1988.

Sport Primarily our sport has been bowls, with golf now becoming very popular.

In Bowls we currently play annually for three trophies:

- 1) The DICK KAHN Triples amongst our own members.
- 2) The CAMULLA Trophy against Camden Probus Club.
- 3) The HACHON Trophy against Port Hacking Probus.

In Golf we currently play annually for a trophy initiated by Alex Douglas.

Bulletins Various Editors over the years (Alan Pritchard was our unofficial first because the appointee, Eric Pidgeon, went overseas for a while soon after the first meeting). During the first 10 years we had the help of but one typist, Helen Male, daughter of member and Inaugurating Chairman Peter Warr. Ken and Melva Williams have done the work since 1991. on their own Computer in conjunction with a photocopier purchased by our Club. Most of our records including membership are now recorded on a specially designed computer program. Our Historian holds files containing copies of every Bulletin to date.

GENERAL INTEREST.

- a) Our Gong and Gavel were presented to the club in March 1983 by member Vic Whittington. It was refurbished in late '85 by Bill Wotton.
- b) Our Lectern was presented to the club in November '84 by then member Allan Overall.
- c) Our Flag was purchased by the club in March '86 as a result of good work done by then member Dave Andersen.
- d) Our Amplifier was the brain child of Allan Harford in 1989. He still wrestles with some of its idiosyncrasies.
- e) Our Photocopier is also used to produce the Bulletins for The Cronulla Ladies Probus Club and The Port Hacking Probus Club .
- f) Our Tenth Anniversary Meeting was held in July 1990 at which Inaugural Meeting chairman Peter Warr (now a club member) addressed us and gave us many interesting facts and anecdotes about those early days! Where do we go from here? Forward, we hope, to give so many PROfessional and BUSIness retirees a taste of the pleasures our past and present members have enjoyed. Remember our 20th Anniversary will be combined with a very memorable Olympic Year. It will be July 2000. Be there!!

HENRY LANGHANS -
Past President & Historian, February, 1995.

THE PROBUS CLUB OF CRONULLA INC.

BRIEF HISTORICAL INFORMATION ON THE PROBUS MOVEMENT
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRONULLA PROBUS CLUB INC.

The Movement was initiated at Caterham a town about 30 km from London by Rotarian Harold Blanchard in 1966. His Idea of a club for retired or semi-retired PROfessional and BUSInessmen was put to members of the Welwyn Garden City "Campus" Club and enthusiastically supported by local Rotary President Dr. David Goss. It soon took on. Harold chose the name "PROBUS" from his idea that the club was to suit retired PROfessional and BUSInessmen.

In 1976 the first Australian PROBUS Club was formed at Hunters Hill - It was inaugurated with 16 members on 7th February, 1976. Kurlingal was next in November that same year. It took another full year before PROBUS started to develop here from that small foothold - Toowoomba, Queensland was third in February, 1978. In 1978, four clubs were formed, three in N.S.W., one in Queensland. In 1979, eight clubs were formed, seven in N.S.W., one in Queensland. In 1980, twenty five clubs were formed, twenty two in N.S.W., three in Queensland.

The N.S.W. development included Sutherland No.22, the first in the Shire on 29th April, 1980 and our own Cronulla (No. 29) on 28th July, 1980. In 1981, a further twenty seven were inaugurated by which time the movement with constant promotion by Rotary really got moving here and in New Zealand. (Actually New Zealand had the first club in the Pacific area with Kapiti Coast, Nth. Island.)

Apart from movement overseas in Canada, U.S.A., Africa, India and Europe there were many new clubs formed in the Sth. Pacific area. At mid-year 1994 there were over 1600 clubs in the South Pacific area with a large number of both Mixed and Ladies' clubs now developing. This surely shows dramatic evidence of the need and popularity of the Probus movement.

