

MINUTES  
Of A Meeting Convened To Discuss The Formation Of  
Probus Club Of Melbourne North.

Held At The North Melbourne Football Social Club, Fogarty Street, North Melbourne,  
At 10.00 a.m. On Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1994.

Present: Invitees -

Mary Anderson	Norman Gamble
Peggy Bennett	Bernice Handley
Annie Bucknell	Joan Larsen
Jack Burns	Kathleen Lynch
Elsie Cavies	Mary McKimm
Margaret Chesser	Dan Murphy
Joan Chrystal	Edith Sloan
Keith Chrystal	Gwenyth Strasser

Members of Rotary Club of Melbourne North Inc. -

P.E.	Ray Brown	Chairman
P.D.G.	Ray Salmon	Probus Club Convener
P.P.	Arthur Emerson	Registration
P.P.	Marcel Kaye	Host
P.P.	Leo Kennedy	"
P.P.	Mal McCandlish	"
	Jack McKimm	"
P.P.	John White	Recorder

Member of Probus Club of Balwyn Central Inc. -

P.P. Norman Houghton Speaker

Apologies:

Invitees -

Lois Luby	Derek Tribe
Vladimir Nelsky	Elizabeth Tribe

Members of Rotary Club of Melbourne North Inc. -

Pres. Howard Hutchins P.P. Peter Strasser

Member of R.I. D.9800 Probus Promotion Committee -

P.D.G. David Wills

## Call To Order

After a short period for registration and fellowship, the meeting was called to order by Ray Salmon at 10:15 a.m., and the Chairman, Ray Brown, introduced.

Chairman: The Chairman extended a welcome to all present and pointed out that the hosts were from the sponsoring club, Rotary Club of Melbourne North Inc., but the venue and refreshments had been kindly provided by the North Melbourne Football Social Club. Both Clubs view the development of Probus as a community service. A list of apologies was read out.

The purpose and objectives of the meeting were explained, with some emphasis on informality and desire for questions and discussion. The main objective is to acquaint the audience with Probus so that each can make an informed decision about joining. A second objective is to establish whether the degree of interest shown is sufficient to justify the formation of a Probus Club to serve the North Melbourne area.

Apologies were announced and the sponsor club representatives introduced. The Chairman then gave a brief explanation of the Rotary International organisation and of the <sup>history and</sup> work of the Rotary Club of Melbourne North.

Ray Salmon: The Probus Club Convener opened his address by pointing out that invitations to the meeting had gone out to 51 persons (23 men and 28 women) whose names had been suggested for membership or who had replied to the two local newspaper advertisements. The number present was not as good as hoped for but sufficient to justify proceeding.

He went on to discuss -

- the origin of the Probus name;
- what Probus offers its members;
- the benefits of peer group companionship;
- the origin and development of Probus Clubs;
- Probus growth around the world and particularly in Australia;
- statistics on Rotary and Probus Clubs around Melbourne;
- the extent of the area surrounding North Melbourne in which there is no Probus Club;
- the relationship of Probus to Rotary;
- Rotary's right to grant (and withdraw) the use of the Probus name;
- the autonomy of Probus Clubs;
- the need for care in the selection of Probus Club members;
- the key clauses required in a Club constitution;
- the ongoing assistance available to Probus Clubs from Rotary; and

### • Membership eligibility.

It was explained to the meeting that the choice of member gender was for the members themselves to decide and that a ballot on the question would be taken during the morning tea break. Indications so far suggested that a mixed gender club would be the most popular. If there was sufficient demand, the sponsor club would be prepared to establish a mixed club, an all-male club and an all-female club.

Another important question that needed to be resolved quickly was that of the meeting venue and date. On a show of hands, it was agreed that the morning of the fourth Tuesday in each month suited everyone present. It was noted that those ~~present~~ who have indicated a probability of joining the new club come from -

Abbotsford	1	Heidelberg	1
Carlton North	1	North Balwyn	1
Caulfield	1	North Fitzroy	1
Clifton Hill	1	North Melbourne	7
East Melbourne	1	Parkville	2
Flemington	1	Richmond	3

The distance of many of these localities from North Melbourne  $\nabla$  raises a question of whether North Melbourne is the most suitable place to meet, but it was agreed that for the time being the North Melbourne Football Social Club venue should be used.

A recommendation was put to the meeting that the charges to members be an admission fee of \$15, a subscription at the rate of \$24 p.a. and a meeting fee of \$2. These figures were based on a detailed budget but it was important to note that the budget was based on an initial membership of 40 persons. The Rotary Club of Melbourne North has undertaken to meet at least the first \$1,000 of the formation expenses.

An invitation was extended to anyone who felt so inclined, to donate a piece of equipment to the new club. A few Rotarians intend to do so.

Norman Houghton:

The Chairman, in introducing Mr. Houghton, spoke of his considerable Rotary and Probus experience.

Mr. Houghton discussed -

- how a typical Probus Club is administered;
- the functions of the Committee of Management;

- The typical structure and functions of sub-committees;
- some of the matters on which Clubs have to determine their own policies;
- some of the hobby and interest groups that are often formed within a Club;
- the sort of social activities that a Club might engage in; and
- examples of publications produced for members by some Clubs.

The meeting then adjourned for morning tea.

Ballot Result: On resuming, the Chairman announced that the ballot on the question of the preferred club gender showed an almost unanimous preference for a mixed gender club.

Question Time: Jack Burns asked whether Probus Clubs carried out any work for charities. In answer, it was pointed out that the proposed constitution would bar the Club from engaging in fundraising but the members were individually free to engage in any service activities they wished. Many forms of charitable (or service) work do not involve fundraising but a Club Committee would need to consider carefully before committing the Club to being involved.

Further questions only sought clarification of matters already discussed.

Ray Salmon: Mr Salmon said that the mood of the meeting was obviously in favour of forming a Probus Club forthwith. He then went on to discuss the things that would need to be done to establish the Club. They include -

- the identification of more potential members;
- the completion and return (with \$23) of an application for membership from each person who wishes to join;
- the establishment of a list of the foundation members;
- the holding of an Organisation Meeting (on 9<sup>th</sup> November) to approve a number of resolutions and elect the first Club officers.

There was further brief discussion on the merits of incorporating the Club and the style of constitution it might have.

This segment concluded with a plea to those present to seriously consider volunteering for one of the ten Club offices that will have to be filled.

Question Time:

In response to a question about the membership application form, it was pointed out that -

- the form was designed for use in the future;
- foundation members do not require a proposer and seconder;
- all persons present were considered eligible for membership;
- the question on age does not have to be answered; and
- full answers on work history are not essential.

A further question was asked as to when the fees are payable, and the answer was by 9<sup>th</sup> November if the applicant wishes to be a foundation member.

A final question asked the minimum number of members required to form a Probus Club. Mr. Salmon replied that there is no official minimum (other than five for incorporation) but experience shows that if a Club cannot get 25 to start, it has to question how long it will take to grow to a viable size of about 50 members.

Chairman:

The Chairman reminded those present that an Organisation Meeting will be held at the same venue and time on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, and that any new member prospects will be welcome to attend.

Those so inclined were invited to stay on for a light lunch.

Copies of "Probus News", a membership application form, a draft constitution, <sup>and "Rotary Down Under"</sup> were distributed to everyone present.

A vote of thanks was extended to the N.M.F.S. Club for the use of its venue, to the Rotarians (and particularly Norman Houghton) for their help, and to the general audience for their time and interest.

Close:

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.00 noon.

Ray Salmon