



The Probans Association of the Western Cape

Chairman's Report – 2007 / 2008

Fellow Probans,

It is my pleasure to present the Chairman's Report for the period 25th June 2007 to 30th June 2008

Preamble

As we celebrate our tenth birthday we remember the passing of our fellow Probian and dear friend Charles Spindler at the age of 92. Charles died peacefully in his sleep late on 11th December 2007 in Somerset West.

A Rotarian & Probian, Charles participated in and contributed meaningfully to both organisations throughout his long life and merits the title of Father of Probans, certainly in the Western Cape if not the whole of Southern Africa. With his boundless enthusiasm and tireless energy, he was responsible for the establishment of most of the 44 Probans clubs in the Western Cape and served the Region for many years with his participation on the Executive Committee as well as representing Rotary District 9350 on that committee. A few years ago Charles was made a life member of Exco and regularly attended our meetings always playing his elder statesman role to the full and giving us valuable lessons drawn from his long experience. Charles epitomized Probans in our Region and will be sorely missed.

While remembering Charles our heartfelt sympathies and condolences are extended also to the families and friends of those Probans called to Higher Duties during the past year

Executive Committee

Your Executive Committee members for the past year were as follows:

Chairman	Bob Goebel
Secretary:	Mike Underwood
Treasurer:	George Patchett
Database, Newsletter:	Mike Underwood
Buzz Group:	Derek Erickson
Member:	Dave Black
Member:	David Gamsu

Retiring Membership

It is with regret that we bid farewell today to Dave Black, who in his quiet though most efficient way has made a significant contribution to the affairs of your association. Dave, you will be sorely missed and we wish you well in your retirement.

Exco Membership

For an association of clubs to prosper a strong Exco is needed. We need to provide 4 new members.

Executive Committee Meetings

During the year the committee met seven times. The standard agenda at these meetings includes "Club Liaison". Each Exco member has a portfolio of clubs to contact. This can be in the form of an e-mail message, a phone call to the President or Secretary or a visit. The report-back is usually very interesting and acts as a guide to our actions and deliberations. Some of the many important matters dealt with were:

Membership numbers. Due to the nature of Probus we expect to lose members from time to time. The recruitment of new members is therefore of major concern. The traditional method of recruitment, (personal introduction of a friend), is just not working and the answer may lie in publishing club activities in the local press and encouraging interested persons to apply for membership. Some Exco members feel that the idea of soliciting, (through the media), for members goes against the spirit of Probus. This was debated fully in Stanford and we reached the conclusion that each club should endeavour to publicise the benefits of being a Probian by submitting photographs of club events to community newspapers.

Insurance risk. Outings constitute one of our most important activities and the transporting of members is thus a necessity. After seeking legal council the answer appears firstly in making sure that the lift giver has adequate personal liability cover in case of getting sued, secondly get passengers to sign a waiver of liability, thirdly don't accept any money at the commencement of the journey, if the accepted practice in the club is to pay for petrol, accept it as a tip or gratuity at the journey's end.

The Probus Manuals.

The Member Edition of the Probus Manual continues to be customized by clubs and offered to new members as part of their introduction into Probus. We continue to receive complements from predominantly Afrikaans speaking clubs all over South Africa for the Afrikaans translation of the Manual..

The Management Committee Edition is now available with ideas on expanding and improving fellowship, the technicalities of running a club and strengthening the Probus Movement. The four Probus Manuals can be downloaded from the Website, www.probus.org.za.

Probus Council Matters

As you know, The Council is "Hosted" by a regional association for a three year period. The current host is the Gauteng South Association. Following a request we agreed to them continuing to host Council for a further three years. This period will terminate at this time next year. KZN is due to take over the reigns and we await a final decision on this score.

I continue to be a member of Council where I hold the portfolio of "Income Tax and Education" and "Development Facilitator", this in essence means that I control the Website..

The problem of assisting, encouraging and guiding clubs that fall outside the boundaries of our three existing associations has not yet been solved. You gave us your blessing, last year, to take the twelve Eastern Cape Clubs under our wing. The problem of overcoming inertia, resistance to change and getting autonomous clubs to realise that joining our association will in no way damage their autonomy is holding up the process.

The International Directory of Probus Clubs in Southern Africa will be with you in two weeks time. Many thanks for making my job of compiling our section so easy this year.

Probus Waffle

Four issues were published during the year. Our most able Editor, Mike Underwood continues, in the coming year, to produce our colourful, readable and informative newsletter

New Clubs

It was for me a great pleasure to officiate in the accreditation of a new club in Stanford. Those of us who participated in the Buzz Gathering in February will have had the pleasure of meeting Tony Roper and Elaine Teague in that quaint, historically significant village on the Southern Cape Coast. If you have not already done so, I highly recommend a relaxing holiday in Stanford. Tony and his fellow Probians will make you feel most welcome.

Finance

Our thanks are due to our most able Treasurer, George Patchett. George has done a sterling job of controlling our money matters over the past year.

Our thanks to Neville Shutt for auditing our books once again.

Inter-Club Activities

The Buzz Group session held for the sixth time this year proved to be a great success. The report, to be found on the Website, is comprehensive and our thanks go to Dave Black and David Gamsu for the compilation thereof. We resolved at our last AGM to make the Buzz a biannual function and so the next gathering will be held in 2010.

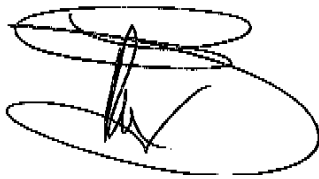
Directory, Speaker and Outing Update

You will be receiving your copies by e-mail as soon as Mike gets the submissions of a few late submitters.

Thanks

The Association's thanks go to the Mowbray Golf Club for their assistance in the organization of this meeting.

Finally, my personal thanks to a very enthusiastic Executive Committee for their support

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Goebel', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval border.

Bob Goebel
Chairman
30th June 2008