



CONSTITUTION

®

PREAMBLE

*The **PROBUS** name and emblem are registered under the Australian and New Zealand Trade Marks Acts. They may be used only by Probus clubs, Probus Associations and other bodies accredited by the Probus South Pacific Limited and they may not be used for any commercial purpose without the written approval of the Probus South Pacific Limited. To hold accreditation a Probus club must have been sponsored by a Rotary club and must adopt and comply with the bold and italic typeface wording of this constitution.*

1. TITLE

*The name of this Club shall be **Hobart Probus Club (Mens) Inc.***

2. AIMS and OBJECTIVES

- a. The purpose of this Club shall be to advance intellectual and cultural interests among adult persons who have retired or are semi retired from their former occupations.*
- b. It will hold regular meetings and arrange activities to provide opportunities for fellowship, the development of acquaintance and social interaction.*
- c. It shall strive to be seen as a worthwhile organisation by the local community.*
- d. It shall be non-political and non-sectarian. It shall not endorse any candidate for public office and shall not take corporate action at any meeting with the intention of influencing the policies or decisions of governments; however the merits of any public question may be a subject of fair and intelligent study or discussion at a club meeting for the information of members.*
- e. It shall not be, or be seen to be, a fund raising body. The Club by a majority decision of its members may engage in corporate projects for social benefit provided that any such activity shall not involve the raising of funds and provided that individual participation in any such project shall be entirely voluntary.*
- f. It shall not enter into any contract which involves the use of the Probus name or the Probus emblem without the prior written consent of the Probus South Pacific Limited.*

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership of this Club shall be open to retired and semi retired professional and business people and others from any worthy vocation and who appreciate and value opportunities for social contact with others in similar circumstances.*
- b. Membership of this Club shall be primarily for residents of the **Greater Hobart Area.***
- c. Membership of this Club shall consist of ordinary members as defined in clause 3(a) and non-subscribing members comprising Honorary Members, Life Members or Non-Active Members.*
 - i. Honorary Members may be elected at the discretion of and on such terms as may be decided upon by a majority of members at a General Meeting. Honorary Members shall not be required to pay membership subscriptions, shall not be eligible to hold office and shall not be entitled to vote but shall enjoy all other privileges of membership. The maximum number of Honorary Members shall be as decided by members at any General Meeting.*
 - ii. Life Membership may be conferred upon a member who has rendered outstanding service to the Club. Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Management Committee for consideration, and if approved, referred to the next General Meeting of the Club for confirmation. Life Members shall not be required to pay membership subscriptions but shall enjoy all other privileges of membership. The maximum number of Life Members shall be as decided by members at any General Meeting.*

- iii. Non Active Membership may be conferred by the Management Committee upon a member who because of illness or a physical disability has been granted leave of absence by the Club, such members shall not be included in the member number of the Club during that period of absence. Non-financial membership may be granted to Non Active Members, no maximum number of such members being applicable.
 - iv. The maximum number of ordinary members shall be decided by members at any General Meeting.
- d. The nomination of a person for membership must be made in writing and signed by two members of the Club.
- e. *Nominations for membership must include the written consent of the nominee and be lodged with the Public Officer.*
- f. *Approval of a nomination for membership shall be by decision of a majority of the Management Committee.*
- g. No person shall be denied membership of the Club for reasons of race, religion, or political persuasion.
- h. Upon the acceptance or rejection of an application for membership by the Management Committee the Public Officer shall forthwith give the applicant notice in writing of such acceptance or rejection.
- i. An appeal against rejection of application for membership shall be in writing addressed to the Public Officer and submitted to the next General Meeting of club members for decision.
- j. Membership of this Club shall be contingent upon attendance at regular meetings of not less than fifty per cent in any club year, subject to leave of absence in cases of sickness or on any other reasonable grounds.
- k. A member may resign by giving a written notice of resignation to the Public Officer.
- l. The membership of a member convicted of an indictable offence may be terminated, without right of appeal, by decision of the members at a General Meeting.
- m. The membership of a member may be terminated should such a member not comply with the provisions of these rules or act in a manner considered injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the Club.
- n. The membership of such a member may be terminated at a General Meeting of the Club if a majority of members present at the meeting vote in favour of removing the member.
- o. Before a vote of members is taken about termination of membership, the member must be given a full and fair opportunity to show cause why there should not be a termination of membership.
- p. If after considering all representations made by the member, the meeting decides to terminate the membership, the Public Officer must give the member written notice of the decision within seven days thereof.
- q. Should the member give written notice of appeal to the Public Officer within fourteen days of receiving the written notice of the decision, a meeting to consider the appeal must be held within twenty-one days of receipt of the written notice of appeal. In the event of the appeal being rejected the Public Officer must give the member written notice of the decision within seven days thereof.
- r. At that meeting, before a vote of members is taken by secret ballot, the member must be given a full and fair opportunity to show cause why the application should not be rejected or why the membership should not be terminated.

4. MANAGEMENT

- a. *The club shall be managed by a Management Committee, comprising a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer (collectively "Committee Members"), and such number of other members of the Management Committee ("Officers") as provided in the By-laws or the club's Standing Resolutions.*

- b. Officers and Committee Members shall be elected annually in accordance with the By-Laws or the club's Standing Resolutions. The term of office of the President shall be one year, which may be extended to not more than two consecutive years if required due to special circumstances. Other Officers and Committee Members may serve for not more than three successive years in any one office except as otherwise determined and recommended by the Management Committee to members for decision.*
- c. The Public Officer shall remain in office until a successor is elected.
- d. For the purpose of these rules, the office of an officer of the Club or of an ordinary member of the Committee becomes vacant if the officer or member
- i. Ceases to be a member of the Club or a resident of the State
 - ii. Becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Corporations Law.
 - iii. Resigns the office in writing given to the Public Officer
 - iv. Fails, without leave granted by the Committee, to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee
 - v. Fails to pay all arrears of subscriptions due, within fourteen days after receiving notice in writing signed by the Public Officer stating that financial membership of the club has ceased.
- e. The resignation of the Public Officer shall be in writing given to the Secretary
- f. A casual vacancy on the Committee may be filled by action of the Committee.
- g. A quorum at meetings of the Committee shall be a majority of the members thereof or six members, whichever be the greater.
- h. Voting shall be by a show of hands, a Committee Member having one vote only.
- i. Where there is an equal division of votes at a Committee Meeting, the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.
- j. The minutes of each Committee Meeting, when confirmed at the following meeting must be signed by the Chairman of the meeting verifying their accuracy.
- k. The Committee shall meet monthly to exercise obligations, or as otherwise decided by members when affected by public holidays and the December/January holiday period.
- l. The Secretary shall advise members of the Committee the time and venue for each meeting, at least seven days prior to the meeting, orally, or by mail, electronic transfer or any other method agreed upon.
- m. The Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees to deal with specific matters.
- n. The Public Officer shall convene meetings of an appointed sub-committee.
- o. A quorum at sub-committee meetings shall be three members thereof.
- p. Members of a sub-committee shall be advised the time and venue for each meeting, at least seven days prior to the meeting, by mail, electronic transfer or any other method agreed upon.
- q. The Committee shall exercise general control and management of the club affairs between meetings, reporting on actions taken at the next General Meeting of members.
- r. A member of the Committee may be removed from office at a General Meeting of the Club if a majority of members present at the meeting vote in favour of removing the member.
- s. Before a vote of members is taken about removing the member from office, the member must be given a full and fair opportunity to show cause why removal from office should not be effected.
- t. A member of the Committee has no right of appeal against the member's removal from office under this section.

5. ELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. An annual general meeting for the election of Committee Members and Officers shall be held on or before March 31 of each year.*

- b. *The newly elected Management Committee shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.*
- c. Nominations for positions on the Committee for the ensuing year shall be called for at the meeting preceding the February meeting, such nominations to be lodged with the Public Officer no later than the February meeting. These positions shall be filled by ballot, if necessary, at the Annual General Meeting.
- d. Voting shall be by show of hands or by ballot as decided by members. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes of members present and voting in the election for each office or Committee position shall be declared elected. Proxies are accepted.
- e. Where there is an equal division of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.
- f. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies, the candidates nominated shall be deemed elected and further nominations shall be received at the Annual General Meeting.
- g. If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed elected.
- h. If the number of nominations received is more than the number of vacancies to be filled, an election shall be held.

6. MEETINGS

- a. *The general meetings and the annual general meeting of the club shall be held as provided in the By-Laws* or the club's Standing Resolutions. General meetings of the club shall be held at monthly intervals, except as otherwise decided by members when affected by Public Holidays and /or the December/January holiday period.
- b. General Meetings of the Club shall be held at such a time and place approved by members.
- c. Notice of a General Meeting stating the time, date, venue and business to be conducted at the meeting shall be given at the previous meeting and advised to members by the Club newsletter or by mail, electronic transfer or any other method agreed upon by the members.
- d. A quorum at meetings of the Club shall be twenty five per cent of the total club membership (excluding Honorary Members and Non Active Members) or fifteen members whichever be the greater.
- e. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called on the request, in writing, of not less than ten members or ten per cent of the membership, whichever be the greater (excluding Honorary Members and Non Active Members). Such a meeting shall be held within thirty days of receipt of the request by the Committee. Notice of the meeting being given to members at least twenty-one days before the meeting is to be held with a statement setting out the purposes for which the meeting has been called and any motions submitted.
- f. *An Annual General Meeting shall be held on or before the 31st March of each year* at such a place and time as may be determined by the Committee and at least twenty-one days notice of such a meeting shall be given.
- g. Notice of an Annual General Meeting stating the time, date, venue and business to be conducted at the meeting shall be given at the February meeting and advised to members by the club newsletter or by mail, electronic transfer or any other method agreed upon.
- h. Voting shall be by a show of hands, or by ballot if required by a majority of members (excluding Honorary Members and Non Active Members).
- i. At General Meetings, Extraordinary General Meetings or Annual Meetings of the Club a member shall have one vote only. Proxies not accepted.
- j. Where there is an equal division of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.
- k. The President, or in the absence of or the inability of the President to do so, the Senior Vice President shall preside at all meetings. In the absence of both officers the other Vice President shall preside and in the absence of all three Officers the members present shall elect a Chairman.

- l. The minutes of each meeting, when confirmed at the following meeting, must be signed by the Chairman of the meeting verifying their accuracy.
- m. Any notice of motion (other than to amend the Constitution) must be submitted to the Secretary, in writing at least fourteen days prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be formally proposed, where it must be read to members prior to discussion.
- n. Any notice of motion to amend the Constitution must be submitted to the Secretary in writing at least twenty-eight days prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be formally proposed.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a. *Members of the club shall pay* a joining fee (if any) and *an annual subscription as provided in the By-Laws* or the club's Standing Resolutions.
- b. *The subscription shall include such capitation and insurance fees as may be required by Probud South Pacific Limited.*
- c. The joining fee (if any) and annual subscription payable by members shall be determined each year by members at the General Meeting preceding commencement of the financial year.
- d. The annual subscription is due and payable on the 1st day of the financial year. Should a member have not paid the annual subscription three months thereafter the Committee may recommend to members termination of membership.
- e. The subscription of a person joining the Club is to be paid pro-rata on a quarterly basis. That is where a person joins the Club during the:

First Quarter of the Financial Year	Subscription is payable in full
Second Quarter of the Financial Year	Three-quarters of subscription is payable
Third Quarter of the Financial Year	One-half of subscription is payable
Fourth Quarter of the Financial Year	One-quarter of subscription is payable
Notwithstanding the date upon which a person joins the Club, the joining fee (if any) is payable in full.	

8. FINANCE

- a. The funds of the Club shall be derived from joining fees, annual subscriptions, donations and such other sources as the members determine.
- b. The financial year of the Club shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the last day of December.
- c. An Income and Expenditure Account (and Balance Sheet if appropriate) together with the auditor's report for the twelve months to the end of the financial year shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting after being audited by the person(s) appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting.
- d. The Treasurer shall deposit all funds of the Club to the credit of the Club's account in the bank or other financial institution approved by the Committee.
- e. Cheques in payment of accounts approved by the Committee shall be signed by the Treasurer (or the President, Vice President or Secretary in the absence of the Treasurer), and counter signed by the Public Officer.

9. DUTIES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. The Secretary shall keep the records of membership and attendance at meetings, shall record and preserve the minutes of meetings, and perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office.
- b. *The Public Officer shall keep a register of members in which shall be recorded their names, addresses, telephone numbers, date of joining, date of death or resignation and such other information as the Club may require.*
- c. The Secretary must ensure full and accurate minutes of all questions, matters, resolutions and other proceedings of each Committee Meeting and General Meeting are entered in a minute book.

- d. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Club accounting for same to the Club annually, shall submit monthly reports to members and perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office.
- e. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the Secretary shall keep custody of or keep under control all books, documents and securities of the Club.
- f. All accounts, books, documents and securities of the Club shall be available for inspection by any member of the Club upon request.

10. COMMON SEAL

- a. The Public Officer shall maintain custody of the common seal of the Club.
- b. The common seal shall not be fixed to any instrument except by authority of the Committee and the affixing of the common seal shall be attested by the signatures of either two members of the Committee or of one member of the Committee and of the Public Officer of the Club.

11. POWERS

In addition to the basic aims and objects of the Club, the aims and objects of the Club shall include the following:

- a. The purchase, taking on lease or in exchange, and the hiring or otherwise acquiring of any real or personal property necessary or convenient for any of the objects or purposes of the Club.
- b. The buying, selling and supplying of, and dealing in, goods of all kinds.
- c. The construction, maintenance and alteration of buildings or works necessary or convenient for any of the objects or purposes of the Club.
- d. The accepting of any gift for any one or more of the objects or purposes of the Club.
- e. The taking of any step the Committee or the members in a General Meeting consider expedient for the purpose of procuring contributions to the funds of the Club.
- f. The printing and publishing of any newspapers, periodicals, books, leaflets or other documents the Committee or the members in a General Meeting consider desirable for the promotion of the objects and purposes of the Club.
- g. The borrowing and raising of money in any manner and on terms –
 - i. The Committee thinks fit OR
 - ii. Approved or directed by resolution passed at a General Meeting
- h. Subject to the provision of the Trustee Act 1898, the investment of any moneys of the Club not immediately required for any of its objects or purposes in any manner the Committee determines
- i. The making of gifts, subscriptions or donations to any of the funds, authorities or institutions to which section 78(1)(a) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 of the Commonwealth relates.
- j. The establishment and support, or aiding in the establishment and support, of associations, institutions, funds, trusts, schemes and conveniences calculated to benefit servants or past servants of the Club and their dependants, and the granting of pensions, allowances or other benefits to servants or past servants of the Club and their dependants, and the making of payments towards insurance in relation to any of those purposes.
- k. The establishment and support, or aiding in the establishment or support, of any other association formed for any of the basic objects of the Club.
- l. The purchase or acquisition, and undertaking, of all or any of the property, assets, liabilities and engagements of any association with which the Club is amalgamated in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the rules of the Club.
- m. The doing of any lawful thing incidental or conducive to the attainment of the basic objects of the Club or of any of the objects and purposes specified in this rule.

12. DISPUTES

- a. The disputes procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these rules between
 - i. A member and another member
 - ii. A member and the Club
- b. The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the dispute within fourteen days after the dispute comes to the attention of all parties.
- c. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must have the dispute determined by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Commercial Arbitration Act 1986.

13. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

- a. A complaint may be made to the Management Committee by any person that a member of the club:
 1. has refused or neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of this constitution, or
 2. has wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the club.
- b. The Management Committee may refuse to deal with a complaint if it considers the complaint to be trivial or vexatious in nature.
- c. If the Management Committee decides to deal with the complaint, the Management Committee:
 1. must cause notice of the complaint to be served on the member concerned, and
 2. must give the member at least 14 days from the time the notice is served within which to make submissions to the Management Committee in connection with the complaint, and
 3. must take into consideration any submissions made by the member in connection with the complaint.
- d. The Management Committee may, by resolution, expel the member from the club or suspend the member from membership of the club if, after considering the complaint and any submissions made in connection with the complaint, it is satisfied that the facts alleged in the complaint have been proved and the expulsion or suspension is warranted in the circumstances.
- e. If the Management Committee expels or suspends a member, the Secretary must, within 7 days after the action is taken, cause written notice to be given to the member of the action taken, of the reasons given by the Management Committee for having taken that action and of the member's right of appeal under clause 14.
- f. The expulsion or suspension does not take effect:
 1. until the expiration of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal against the resolution concerned, or
 2. if within that period the member exercises the right of appeal, unless and until the club confirms the resolution under clause 14,

whichever is the later.

14. RIGHT OF APPEAL OF DISCIPLINED MEMBER

- a. A member may appeal to the club in general meeting against a resolution of the Management Committee under clause 3, within 7 days after notice of the resolution is served on the member, by lodging with the Secretary a notice to that effect.
- b. The notice may, but need not, be accompanied by a statement of the grounds on which the member intends to rely for the purposes of the appeal.
- c. On receipt of a notice from a member under subclause (a), the Secretary must notify the Management Committee which is to convene a general meeting of the club to be held within 28 days after the date on which the Secretary received the notice.

- d. At a general meeting of the club convened under subclause (c):
 1. the Management Committee and the member must be given the opportunity to state their respective cases orally or in writing, or both, and
 2. the members present are to vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- e. The appeal is to be determined by a simple majority of votes cast by members of the club.

15. INFORMATION

- a. *On formation and thereafter each year, the club shall provide the information required by Probus South Pacific Limited concerning membership, meeting arrangements, Committee Members and Officers for the ensuing year.*
- b. *The Club shall provide the information on other matters as and when required by Probus South Pacific Limited.*

16. NON-PROFITABILITY

- a. *The income and property of the club howsoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives of the club and no portion thereof shall be paid to or transferred directly or indirectly to the members of the club provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any Committee Member, Officer or member of the club for any services actually rendered to the club, or reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the club.*

17. PUBLIC OFFICER

A Public Officer shall be appointed in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act.

18. AUDITORS

- a. An auditor or auditors who are registered company auditor(s) or such other person(s) as the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs may approve shall be appointed each year at the Annual General Meeting as auditors for the ensuing year.
- b. The Public Officer is to cause to be delivered to the Auditor a list of the accounts, books and records of the Club.

19. OFFICE ADDRESS

The office of the Club shall be at the Secretary's address or such other place as the Committee decides.

20. BY-LAWS & STANDING RESOLUTIONS

The club may by a majority decision of members adopt by-laws or standing resolutions not inconsistent with this constitution, embodying additional provisions for the management of the club. Such by-laws shall be amended from time to time as provided therein.

21. WINDING UP

- a. *On winding up, the funds of the Club shall not be distributed to members but shall be donated to a charitable organisation, which prohibits distribution of its funds to members.*
- b. The liability of a member to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Club or the costs, charges and expenses of winding up of the Club is limited to the amount, if any, personally owed by the member to the Club.
- c. The liability of a person, who within the period of twelve months immediately preceding the commencement of the winding up was a member of the Club, to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Club or the costs, charges and expenses of winding up of the Club is not to exceed the amount of ten dollars except for any amount personally owed by the former member to the Club. Such a former member of the Club is not liable to contribute in respect of any debt or liability of the Club contracted after the date of resignation.

22. AMENDMENT

- a. Except as provided in this Article (b), the bold and italic typeface wording in this Constitution may be amended only by the Probus South Pacific Limited.*
- b. Article 1 (Name) of this Constitution may be amended by a Special Resolution at a general meeting of this club, a quorum being present, by the affirmative vote of not less than three quarters of the members present and voting, notice of such proposed amendment(s) having been published to all members at least twenty one (21) days before such meeting.*
- c. Proposed amendments of this Constitution shall require pre-approval by Probus South Pacific Limited (prior to submission to members and prior to submission to Department of Justice (Tasmania) Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading) and shall not be effective unless amended at a general meeting of this club, a quorum being present, by the affirmative vote of not less than three quarters of the members present and voting, for acceptance by Department of Justice (Tasmania) Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading as being in compliance with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act* ("the Act") (including subsequent amendments).

March 2015