



COAST

Combined
Organisation
Actively

Forresters Beach Probus Club Inc.

Socialising
Together

CLUB HISTORY THE BEGINNINGS

The Continuing Story of Forresters Beach Probus Club

By Club Historian and Founding President John Ramsay



The Club's purpose is set out in the acronym – COAST - Combined Organisation Actively Socialising Together.

This objective has been observed particularly due to the efforts of the numerous Committee and Sub Committee members and the support provided by members to their efforts.



In September 2004 Max Taylor (left) (then Treasurer of The Entrance Rotary Club) and Joy Taylor after consulting Ross Paddon, President of the Club, asked Judy and John Ramsay whether they would be prepared to launch a new combined (male and female membership) Probus Club based at Forresters Beach.



Judy (left) had an association with Rotary for over 20 years. John, (picture at top of page) a member of Terrigal Probus Club, had recently resigned after three years as Secretary of that Club which was a male only. Both agreed to be Convenors of a new club. Their belief was that there was a need for a mixed club as the majority of existing Central Coast Clubs were single gender (almost exclusively male) and with an aged membership. New arrivals on the Coast and residents retiring found these Clubs did not meet their needs.

Judy and John recognised that a mixed gender club, which both husband and wife could join, would provide an opportunity to meet new friends and develop a rewarding social life. They saw the target market area as newly retired or semi retired people, whether married or single, living on the coastal strip or its hinterland.

Judy devised the club motto COAST as detailed above.

The Convenor group was Ross Paddon, Joy and Max Taylor (right) and Judy and John Ramsay. Ross, proprietor of The Forresters Beach Resort, offered its premises as a home free of charge. Its ambience was seen as a distinct plus.



Marketing of potential members commenced. Newspapers, radio and letter drops were used. A great deal of effort was made to contact people known to the Ramsays and individuals were asked to inform their own friends.

An Information Meeting to ascertain the degree of interest in forming the new Club was set down for Tuesday 9th November, 2004 at the Forresters Beach Resort.



Looking for a younger image for the club, John asked Bev and Murray Walsh (left) to pose for a picture in the Central Coast Advocate and to act as Program Managers.

Many enquiries and a flow on of awareness to potential members resulted from an article and photo in the "Central Coast Advocate". It brought a flood of phone enquiries which were answered by Judy who became known as "The Voice at the end of the phone about the Coast Club"

For the Information Meeting 165 "Information Packs" were prepared and on the day 240 people attended and 100 who were unable to attend registered their interest. All were sent information.

Recognising the competing commitments of the Christmas/School Holiday period the Club's Inaugural Meeting was set for Tuesday 8th February, 2005. The Entrance Rotary Club had agreed to Sponsor the new Probus Club.

At the Information Meeting 106 people submitted an application for membership.

To maintain enthusiasm and to develop membership further a Christmas Party was held at the Resort in December and 175 attended. Bev and Murray Walsh, robed as Santa and Mrs Claus, distributed sweets to all.