

UK and Australia 'on the same page'

JULY was a busy month for an Australian Probus and ProbusGlobal member Howard Massey, with invitations to seven Probus events in the UK.

The purpose of the trip was in friendship with a strong desire to experience how Probus operates in the country where it originated and continues to flourish. Recognition and sincere thanks are due to the UK hosts for their hospitality.

Howard, who receives a copy of Probus magazine in Australia each quarter, was born in the UK but emigrated many years ago to New South Wales, where he belongs to Kiama Men's Probus Club.

He said he wished to send sincere thanks and recognition to the UK clubs for their warmth and hospitality.

Howard's first visit was to Caterham Probus Club, the first to carry the name Probus. The general meeting he attended was to connect with the original Probus culture and see how it compared to developments in Australia.

"Bill Broadhead, Secretary of Caterham Probus, was instrumental in making this possible," said Howard.

Bill's father was a friend of Harold Blanchard, the founder of Probus.

"President Jim Pedersen remarked that not only had I come 17,000 kilometres from Australia but also drove the M25 to be present – that possibly being the greater achievement," said Howard.

Another visit was to Dunmow Probus Club in Essex where Howard thanked secretary Tim Potter and president Colin Maddock. Howard's father lived in Dunmow as a small child from

about 1902.

Howard congratulated Dunmow on their increasing membership and spoke about ProbusGlobal – a growing community of Probians from Canada, the UK, Australia, Ireland, France, Germany, The Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Japan – visit ProbusGlobal.org to discover more.

At the Zero 4 Probus Club in Botley, Hampshire, president Sally Robinson took advantage of Howard's visit, organised by Jim Watson, by asking him to propose the toast to Probus, with an international flavour.

Loughton Probus Club in Essex and Frinton, Walton and District both arranged social lunches to welcome Howard.

And the UK's voluntary international coordinator, Shirley Roberts, and husband Bryn welcomed Howard to their home to discuss more ways of nourishing Probus globally in challenging times.

ProbusGlobal is available across the world. There is no head office, no structure, no officers, no fees or funding – just communication.

It is organised by volunteers dedicated to extending friendship.

Communication is generally by email or through the ProbusGlobal.org website. Those that sign up to ProbusGlobal do so with their email address and immediately benefit from access to the total membership directory.

The purpose of ProbusGlobal could be described as being simply to bring members of Probus together, to provide global connection and to share best practices across the world. ■



▲ Bill Broadhead, Secretary of The Probus Club of Caterham, with Howard Massey from Kiama, Australia



▲ Shirley Roberts (Voluntary International Coordinator) and husband Bryn were pleased to have the chance of discussions in person with Howard



▲ Malcolm (Jim) Watson, Andrew Negus and Sally Robinson from the Zero 4 club in Botley, Hampshire



▲ Frinton and Walton Probus committee members