

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 347
held at Kincumber Uniting Church on Tuesday 26 February 2013

President John Rudd opened the meeting at 9.30am, welcoming Members and guests Cecilia Donnelly, Jenny Godfrey, Alan and Isabelle Drew, Bill Clark, Phillipa Hudson, and Donald and Lindy Black. He also requested that mobile phones be turned off.

John then inducted Wendy Coney and Susan Schmid and welcomed them into the Club.

Minutes of previous meeting: Secretary Richard Collins read a brief synopsis of the Minutes. The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

Business arising from the Minutes: None.

Correspondence: News Sheets from other Probus Clubs; travel brochures; letter from Pat Atkinson, General Manager of Probus South Pacific Limited, advising that PSPL has abandoned its attempt to change the principal purpose of Probus to be to “relieve loneliness and isolation”. Richard spoke briefly about the objections to the proposals from many Probus clubs, including our own, that had led to this decision, and remarked that it is an indication of the value that we all place on our Probus clubs.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Barry Riley presented the following information about the Club’s accounts:

	Balance at 1 March 2012	\$1075.00
<i>Cheque account</i>		
	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>January</i>
Income	\$2610.00	\$10.00
Expenses	\$3085.50	\$9.35
Balance		\$599.50
<i>Savings account</i>		
Deposits	\$1000.00	
Interest	\$3.62	\$3.62
Withdrawals	nil	
Balance		\$1003.62
<i>Combined net balance at 30 January 2013</i>		<i>\$1603.12</i>

President’s Report: President John asked for helpers at morning tea – Roy Bird and David Dunbar volunteered. John also said that we are still looking for people to organise the Club’s Bushwalking and Theatre activities. After today’s meeting we will have lunch at Kincumber Hotel to farewell Heather and Michael Ryan who have moved to Sydney. The Committee has decided that we will plan to have such an informal lunch after every General Meeting – all Members will be welcome to attend.

Membership Report: Membership Officer John Pagett reported that there were 46 Members present out of a total membership of 68 (both figures including today’s inductees), and 8 visitors. There were 15 apologies: from Janelle and George Costigan, Rhonda Laybutt, Ralph Brown, Anne Madin, Lorraine and Kevin Southgate, Barbara and John Orme, Marie Riley, Arthur Adeney, Wally Tuffs, Rhoda and Stan Roberts, and Pam McLure.

Speaker Convenor’s Report: In Speaker Convenor Marie Riley’s absence, President John referred Members to the material in the News Sheet: Today we will have a speaker from Vision Australia. At the March meeting Pat Skehan to speak about the book “Lest I Forget” that she has ghost written for Lerryn Mutton about his war experiences. In April Diane and John Rudd will speak about their trip to South Africa, and in May we will have a return visit from Little Pattie.

Social Convenor’s Report: Social Convenor Ruth Charlesworth said that the visit to the Heart Research Institute in Newtown had been informative and enjoyable. In March Ruth has arranged a visit to Margins mushroom farm. Lunch afterwards will be at the Empire Bay Tavern. In April we will visit to the Alexander the Great exhibition, and in May we will go to the Gosford Regional Gallery. Ruth also gave advance notice of the July Social event – a sing-along at Thelma and Patrick’s place on the evening of Saturday 13 July.

Editor’s Report: No report in Editor Wally Tuffs’ absence.

Welfare Report: Joint Welfare Officer Hermione Dunbar said that it was great to see Ken and Velda Robson here today after 5 months’ absence. Bruce Dunlop is also here today and looking great. Peggy Horton is doing well and hopes to be back soon. Marie Riley has injured her ankle playing tennis. We received a thankyou card from Robyn Armytage’s family. Several Members attended Gloria Board’s funeral last Monday. Stan Roberts has had a fall – he needed to have several stiches, but is recovering well.

Bushwalking Report: In Bushwalking Convenor Kevin Southgate’s absence, Barry Riley spoke about next month’s walk that he and Marie will lead around Watson’s Bay.

Golf Report: Golf Leader Mike Ryan introduced his final Golf Report by commenting on their introduction to Sydney traffic as he and Heather had driven up from Mowll Village this morning. Mike said that he had particularly enjoyed leading the Golf group for 6 years, and was happy that it would be in John Rudd's capable hands in the future. He exhorted Members to become involved, and wished the group, and the Club, well.

In thanking Mike for his report, President John said that we are all sad that this is the last meeting that Mike and Heather will attend as Members. Mike joined the Club on 20 February 2000. He was President in 2004 and has managed the Golfing activity for the past 6 years. Mike was instrumental in arranging for us to move our meetings to Kincumber Uniting Church. Heather was one of the first group of ladies to join the Club on 24 February 2009 after we became Combined. On behalf of all of us, John wished them both well in their new life. Anne Mulford then read a poem that she had composed to farewell Mike and Heather. It could be (but was not!) sung to the tune "Botany Bay".

GOODBYE FOR NOW
by Anne Mulford

Farewell to our friends Mick and Heather
Who leave for a new life so soon.
We've shared many good times together
Near our beautiful beach and lagoon.

No more of the local Sorooptimists,
But more of the Rabbitoh's teams,
For their David, a longstanding loyalist,
Can share more with Mick their great dreams.

They've been treasures for our small community
Their involvements so deep and so wide.
Their friendship and warm hospitality
Will be missed by us all – undenied.

They'll now be much closer to family,
There'll be garden and new friends to make.
Go now with our love and best wishes,
As your new life you now undertake.

General Business: John reminded Members that nominations for next year's Committee close after today's meeting.

Barry said that the Committee will recommend to the March AGM that fees for next year should be set at \$40.00.

The meeting then adjourned for morning tea.

Speaker: Marie Riley's absence, Denise Lawrence introduced Jacky North and two volunteers, Nathalie and Lawrence, from the Gosford Branch of Vision Australia. Jacky began by stressing the importance of the 40 active volunteers for the work of her Branch of Vision Australia, two of whom – Fred Leake and Janet Smith – were here today. Vision Australia is the largest provider of blindness and low vision services in Australia. It was formed in 2004 by amalgamating several other service organisations, including the Royal Blind Society. The mission of Vision Australia is to give people with blindness and low vision the opportunity to participate in any aspect of society that they choose. The 2011 Census revealed that there are 330,000 people in Australia with low vision, 10% of whom are legally blind. A person is defined as "legally blind" if they satisfy either of two criteria: firstly, they are unable to read the largest letter on an eye chart at 6 m (which a normally sighted person can read at 60 m) or, secondly, their vision is limited to a 10° angle in front to them (a normally sighted person can see over an angle of about 170°). Vision Australia can be contacted on 1300 847 466. They offer a wide range of services, including aids to enable vision-impaired people to function better, occupational therapy, and "talking books". They also provide services specially tailored for the 2400 legally blind children in Australia. All services, except hardware, are free. The organisation enables people to meet and discuss strategies for coping with vision loss, and to interact socially. Nathalie, who has had limited vision for all her life, spoke about her work as a volunteer in which she assists vision-impaired people to participate in many activities, including ballroom dancing, tandem bike riding, horse riding and walking. Nathalie's husband, Lawrence, was instrumental in introducing the volunteer system on the Central Coast. He commented that men often do not handle loss of eyesight as well as women. Jacky encouraged everyone to offer assistance to a visually-impaired person if they seem to be in difficulty, but only in a way that gives the person the opportunity to accept or refuse. People should never interrupt a working seeing-eye dog. The presentations were followed by an extensive question and answer session. Heather Ryan remarked that their vision-impaired son, David, obtained great pleasure from playing snooker. Pat Fordham talked about her involvement with Sailability, an organisation that provides the opportunities for people with all sorts of disabilities to sail. In thanking Jacky, Nathalie and Lawrence for their excellent presentations, Fred Leake remarked that he had been impressed with their enthusiasm for the work that they do.

The Lucky Door Prize was won by Louise Hooworth.

John thanked all who had helped with morning tea and setting up the venue for the meeting.

John reminded members of the lunch at Kincumber hotel, and next month's meeting, including the Annual General Meeting. He thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.30am.

Signed as a correct record: John Rudd, President