

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 306
held at Avoca Bowling Club on Tuesday 22 September 2009

President Kevin Southgate opened the meeting at 9.35 am welcoming Members and guests

Patrick Leonard then introduced our speaker Carl Blimm. Carl, a motor engineer who has been with the NRMA since 1964, spoke about driving and road safety. He emphasised that crashes, as distinct from accidents, are always caused by people. We all want to stay on the road for as long as possible, but it is our responsibility to ensure that we are fit to drive and familiar with the latest road rules. In general, older drivers are more experienced, courteous and law-abiding, take fewer risks, and are involved in fewer accidents than younger drivers. However, those over 70 who are involved in accidents are six times more likely to be injured or killed than younger people. This is particularly the case for pedestrian accidents, most of which are caused by the pedestrian. Carl emphasised that driving today is complex with new road signs and road rules constantly being introduced, and heavier traffic, roundabouts, variable speed zones, and freeways and motorways. Drivers over 75 must have an annual medical examination. Drivers over 85 must have a driving assessment every two years which can be a test by the RTA or by a driving school. An alternative is to opt to have a restricted license. Carl discussed several examples of correct and incorrect driving behaviour at roundabouts and intersections and when changing lanes. He also discussed the importance of considering safety issues when choosing a new car and securing objects within the vehicle. Barry Riley thanked Carl for a most interesting and informative talk.

The meeting then adjourned for morning tea.

Minutes of previous meeting: Secretary Richard Collins read a synopsis of the Minutes of the last meeting. The Minutes were accepted as a correct record. There was no business arising from the Minutes.

Correspondence: News Sheets from other clubs; travel and tour brochures; Annual Probus Club Directory.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Barry Riley provided the following information about the Club's accounts with unrepresented cheques included in the figures:

Balance at 1 March 2009	\$1,757.28	
	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>August</i>
Income	\$2195.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$1753.56	\$95.00
Balance at 31 July 2009	\$2193.72	

Barry's Report was accepted.

President's Report: President Kevin welcomed visitors Ruth and Reg Charlesworth. Referring to his report in the News Sheet, he emphasised that we still need members to fill two vacant positions: Junior Vice-President and Assistant Social Convenor. Kevin mentioned that Life Member Keith Austin has qualified for a 25 Year service certificate, but was unfortunately not present to receive it. Kevin also congratulated Anne Mulford who was in Tamworth receiving a prestigious Environment Award for her work over 14 years creating and convening the MacMasters Beach Bush and Dune Care Group. At Kevin's request, Ken Robson then commented on the Hawkesbury River Historical cruise on 8 September. Ken said that it had been an excellent day and congratulated David Dennison for arranging such a successful event. Kevin also read a card sent from former member Murray Couttes, which thanked the Club for their good wishes on his recent illness.

Membership Report: Membership Officer John Rudd reported that 35 Members (54% of the total membership of 65) were present. There were 3 visitors and 10 apologies.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Patrick Leonard said that next month's speaker will be Anne Mulford.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor David Dennison thanked those who attended the Hawkesbury River cruise on 8 September. On 13 October there will be a barbeque at MacMasters Beach. He is collecting money for the Bushwalking Christmas lunch on 10 November. Next January's Recovery lunch will again be at Janet Smith's place on the waterfront at Woy Woy. David also mentioned two upcoming Remembrance cruises on the Hawkesbury River.

Editor's Report: Editor Wally Tuffs had nothing to report.

Welfare Report: Joint Welfare Officer Mione Dunbar referred to the material in the News Sheet, and mentioned that Frances Goddard is in hospital.

Bushwalking Report: Bushwalking organiser Richard Collins said that last week at Crackneck Point walkers had been treated to an excellent display of wildflowers and commended the walk to all members. Next month's walk will be at Chittaway Bay.

Golf Report: Golf Leader Mike Ryan congratulated John and Diane Rudd for coming first and second at this month's golf. The Club Golf Championship will be at Everglades on 20 October.

Bowls Report: Bowls Leader Reg Davis had nothing to report.

Theatre Report: Theatre Convenor David Dunbar referred to the News Sheet. He also mentioned the Premier's Concert on 8 December which unfortunately clashes with our Christmas lunch. He spoke of an excellent visit that he and Mione had made to the Hunter Valley Gardens.

Profile talk: Mione Dunbar gave a most amusing account of an incident two years after she and David had arrived in Australia in 1966. They were living in the Manly Warringah area at the time with their children aged 2½ and 5, and David worked nearby. One day she was driving David back to work after lunch when she saw that a circus had set up in Warringah Mall. She returned home, collected their children and took them there for the experience. A friend with her children accompanied her, making 7 kids in all. The children really enjoyed getting close to the animals. However, while they were there, a camel broke loose and knocked Mione unconscious while charging through the Mall. An ambulance was called and she remembers being carried on a stretcher through the mall with the kids trailing behind. David was very surprised when she called him and said that she "had been knocked unconscious by a camel". She remembers wondering what her mother would think. After she returned home by taxi, her friend said "Imagine if it had been an elephant!" On the Channel 9 News that evening, the incident had escalated to having 3 people sent to hospital and children trampled by the escaped camel. Mione received \$41 reimbursement for her ambulance, dry cleaning and taxi costs.

General Business: Nev Owen commented that there had been an article in the local press on last month's debate, but that our Probus Club had not been mentioned.

The Lucky Door Prize was won by Wally Tuffs.

Kevin thanked Heather Ryan and Mione Dunbar for their help with morning tea. Mike Ryan and David Dunbar volunteered to help with morning tea at the next meeting of the Club on 27 October.

Kevin then thanked Members and guests for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 11.45 am.

Signed as a correct record: Kevin Southgate, President