

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 360
held at Kincumber Uniting Church on Tuesday 25 March 2014

President Thelma Leonard opened the meeting at 9.30am, welcoming Members and visitors Henry and Jill Rogers, Phil Hill, Ruth Mills and Debra Creswell. She also welcomed back Arthur Adeney after his recent surgery, and congratulated Tony Kelly on his 80th birthday.

At Thelma's request the meeting stood for one minute's silence in respect for former member Perce Fitzpatrick who died recently.

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.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Barry Riley presented the following report on the current state of the Club's finances:

<i>Cheque account</i>		
	Balance at 1 March 2013	\$312.58
	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>February</i>
Income	\$3180.00	\$100.00
Expenses	\$3142.13	\$108.73
	Balance	\$350.45
<i>Savings account</i>		
	Balance at 1 March 2013	\$1006.14
	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>February</i>
Deposits	\$500.00	nil
Interest	\$36.62	\$2.00
Withdrawals	\$500.00	nil
	Balance	\$1042.76
<i>Combined net balance at 38 February 2014</i>		<i>\$1393.21</i>

Barry's report was accepted.

Barry said that he would be happy to receive next year's membership fees.

President's Report: Thelma said that the Lord Howe Island trip had been splendid. Also, the inter-club Friendship Day on 11 March had been very successful, with 124 people attending. She thanked all who helped stage this event. Thelma hoped that the comments in her President's message about the Club's membership limit would stimulate thinking about how the Club will address future challenges of ensuring that there will be enough people willing to take on management jobs.

Membership Report: Membership Officer John Rudd reported that there were 53 Ordinary Members and 1 Life Member present out of a total membership of 74. There were 14 apologies: from Ann Madin, Colin and Rhonda Laybutt, Ken and Velda Robson, Rhoda and Stan Roberts, Nanette Steanes, Laurie and Pam McClure, Heather and Michael Ryan, Jan Gee and Jahne Peart.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Marie Riley said that in April the Singing Hands Choir will perform. Members will be asked to make a donation to defray the cost of their \$80 fee. In May she hopes to have a talk from David Rosenberg on Pine Gap.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor Ruth Charlesworth thanked all who had contributed to the inter-club Friendship Day at Breakers Country Club. Because two teams had obtained equal winning scores in the trivia competition we had run out of wine. She presented their winnings to Fred Leake and the Rudds. In April we will take a trip on the Newcastle tram. We will visit an exhibition on Afghanistan's ancient culture at the Art Gallery in May. Ruth concluded by thanking everyone for the support that she and Reg had received during her 4 years as Social Convenor.

Editor's Report: Editor Wally Tuffs thanked everyone who had provided the material needed to prepare the News Sheets during his 6 years as Editor.

Welfare Report: Joint Welfare Officer Elizabeth Butler said that our thoughts will be with John and Babbara Orme during his surgery tomorrow. She also said that it is good to see Arthur Adeney and Anne Mulford back.

Bushwalking Report: John Sutton reported that 10 people enjoyed last week's walk from The Entrance to Sensory Garden and back. Next month, Ruth and Reg will take us on a walk to Rumbalara Reserve.

Golf Report: Golf Organiser John Rudd said that Perce Fitzpatrick had been an excellent golfer and had won the Club Championship 4 times. He and Diane will be away twice in coming months. During these absences, Colin Laybutt will handle membership matters and John Orme and George Costigan will look after golfing.

Books: Jenny Baker informed members about the books available today.

News Spot: Thelma congratulated Denise Lawrence on having received an honorary degree and being made a Fellow of the College of Specialist Music educators.

Ralph Brown invited members to participate in the Four Village Walk on 6 April to introduce them to the Shipbuilders Memorial Walk.

Pat Fordham told us about the considerable savings possible with Foxtel for Seniors.

Gerry Turner said that XXX is participating in a walk in Nepal.

General Business: John Rudd advised that the new Constitution has been printed and is available at the Membership Desk.

John Sutton has information on the 6 day trip in October to the Bellingen area, including Grafton's Jacaranda Festival. Diane Rudd said that one of the responsibilities of the Junior Vice President is to organise Profile and Five Minute talks. She encouraged all members to support new Junior Vice President Arthur Adeney in this task.

Thirtieth Anniversary of the Club: Thelma said that to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Club, Jean Johnson, Anne Mulford and Fred Leake will speak about its earlier times. In addition, Diane Rudd presented photographs of showing past activities of the Club.

Jean told us how her husband Ted and Bruce Dunlop had been friends through membership of Rotary. In 1981 they started a new Rotary Club in Kincumber. In 1983 Bruce proposed that they create a Probus Club. They posted off about 70 letters inviting interested men to come to a meeting on 27 March 1984. This became the Inaugural Meeting of our Club, with 26 men signing up to be members. The number of members increased rapidly over the next few months. Jean concluded by stressing that a club such as ours can only exist if members are prepared to make significant contributions to its management and operation. Our Club has been particularly fortunate in this regard. Anne, who is Historian of the Club, acknowledged the major contributions of Fred Leake in documenting and conserving our history. These records are now with John and Diane Rudd, and Di has commenced the process of digitising them. Anne spoke about the backgrounds of the men who joined the Club in its early years. Most of them had come through the Depression and membership of the Club represented a release for them from the difficulties of the past. When Anne and John became part of the Club 17 years ago, the membership was all male, although women were welcomed to 4 meetings each year and, of course, to all activities. The transition to a Combined club with men and women as full members has been very good for the Club. Anne specifically acknowledged the outstanding leadership contributions of several women, including Rhoda Roberts and Thelma Leonard as Presidents, and Ruth Charlesworth as Social Convenor.

Fred said that it was Ron Coleman who had been responsible for putting the historical records of the Club into order. He passed them on to Fred when he became Historian in 2007. Fred also spoke about the background of the early members. Most were born around the time of the First World War, and many were servicemen in the Second World War. Of the 29 Presidents of the Club, 9 were Foundation Members in 1984. Six of the Foundation Members became Life Members. The annual membership fee was initially set at \$5.00. All of the early records of the Club were hand written. Fred has always regarded ladies as members of the Club – since its first days they have made essential contributions to the Club's activities. (After morning tea, Thelma read the following extract from the Minutes of the inaugural meeting: "When question time was concluded the meeting temporarily adjourned for morning tea, capably organised by Jean Johnson and Irene Dunlop.") By 1986 the Club's membership limit had grown to 60, and shortly afterwards to 70. There was even a waiting list before the membership limit was increased to 80, where it remains today. Over its 30 years, more than 300 people have belonged to the Club. We have had 6 Constitutions, the first typed on foolscap paper. By the end of its first year, the format of Club meetings had evolved to something very close to what occurs now. We have heard a huge range of talks from guest speakers, and Profile talks from most of our members. Our News Sheet is something of which we are very proud. In 1993, Lerryn Mutton started the school debates. Last year, the winner's shield of the debating competition was named "The Lerryn Mutton Shield". The Club has always had an active interest in the welfare of our members. In 1987 Norm Baker started a regular two-up game at each meeting, and this has evolved into our present Lucky Door Prize. Most of our meetings have been held at the Avoca Beach Bowling Club. However, several were relocated to the Surf Club during renovations, and one was held outdoors because the key could not be found. The Club has enjoyed a huge range of social activities – Fred particularly mentioned the Melbourne Cup parties at Gordon and Iris Taylor's place, picnics at the Mulfords, and two very enjoyable evenings at the Leonards. Ed Board established the golfing group in 1988, and there have been regular inter and intra-club competitions since. Alan Lucre started the bowls activity in 1984. Fred himself initiated the bushwalking activity in 1991. John Horton established regular theatre parties in 1991 and led them until 2004. The

Club also had regular cards nights at members for 8 years from 1992. David Dunbar first established our web site in 2007, currently run by Barry Riley. The web site has been very useful in attracting new members. In 1984 the average age of members was 67 – by 2008 it was 81. As then President, Reg Davis initiated the process that resulted in ladies becoming full members of the Club. Despite being an outstanding success, the average age of Club members has not declined much – it now stands at 79. The Club continues to evolve in very positive ways. During the last year, new activities have included occasional morning walks, evening dinners, lunches at the Kincumber pub after our meetings, and an inter-club Friendship lunch. Fred said how much he and Janet have enjoyed their membership of Kincumber Probus Club. Fred concluded by saying that he could find no better words to describe what Probus means to him than those written by Kevin Southgate in the 25th Anniversary booklet:

1. A place where people can meet and discuss various topics in a friendly social atmosphere.
2. A place where our guest speakers stimulate our minds to enable us to look at various topics from all angles, thus enabling us to be better informed and make a clearer, more concise and balanced opinion.
3. A place where we can mix socially and interact with people from all various walks of life and backgrounds, which enables us to enlarge our personal circle of friends.
4. A place where we can extend the hand of friendship.

The meeting then adjourned for a special morning tea prepared by Wendy Coney and Hermione Dunbar.

After morning tea, the meeting adjourned for the Annual General Meeting.

The meeting resumed at 11.30am with newly elected President John Sutton in the Chair.

The Lucky Door Prize, drawn by Past President Thelma Leonard, was won by Jenny Baker.

President John Sutton advised the incoming Committee of the next Committee meeting at his place on 1 April. He then thanked all for their attendance and contributions, particularly in setting up for the meeting and helping with morning tea. He reminded members about the lunch at Kincumber pub afterwards, and closed the meeting at 11.40am.

Signed as a correct record: John Sutton, President