

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 355
held at Kincumber Uniting Church on Tuesday 22 October 2013

In President Thelma Leonard's absence, Vice President John Sutton opened the meeting at 9.30am, welcoming Members.

At John's request the meeting stood in silence for one minute to honour former member John Eager who has just died.

Induction: John introduced Ineke Esveld to the Members of the Club. Ineke came to Australia from The Netherlands in 1969, and worked for Arnotts Biscuits as an Office Manager for 23 years. John then inducted Ineke and welcomed her to 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; critique of the Probus organisation from the PSPL Reform Group.

Treasurer's Report: Assistant Secretary Yvonne Chandler presented Treasurer Barry Riley's 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>September</i>	
Income	\$2540.00	\$210.00	
Expenses	\$2243.17	\$84.20	
		Balance	\$609.41
<i>Savings account</i>			
	Balance at 1 March 2013	\$1006.14	
	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>September</i>	
Deposits	\$500.00	nil	
Interest	\$23.87	\$3.26	
Withdrawals	nil	nil	
		Balance	\$1530.01
Combined net balance at 30 September 2013			\$2139.42

Barry's report was accepted.

President's Report: John referred to President Thelma's report in the News Sheet. Thelma also advised that there has been a positive response from several other Probus clubs to the suggestion that we have a joint Friendship Day in March. On 13 November representatives from several clubs will meet to discuss this matter further.

Membership Report: Membership Officer John Rudd reported that there were 43 Members present out of a total membership of 77 (including 2 Life Members and today's Inductee). There were 14 apologies: from Stan and Rhoda Roberts, John and Barbara Orme, Diane Rudd, Barry Riley, Ann Madin, Patrick and Thelma Leonard, Bruce and Irene Dunlop, Alan and Isabelle Drew, and Denise Lawrence..

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Marie Riley referred to her report in the News Sheet. At her request, Richard reported that organisation is proceeding with the January meeting debate between members of the Club on the topic: "That professionalism is ruining sport". Richard is still looking for a third speaker for the Negative.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor Ruth Charlesworth reported that the trip to the NSW Mounted Police had been very enjoyable. After lunch, several of the group took a ferry to see the tall ships. In November we will hold our annual bush picnic at MacMasters Beach Surf Club; in December we will have our annual Christmas lunch at Tree Tops restaurant; and in January we will have our annual Recovery lunch.

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

Welfare Report: Joint Welfare Officer Elizabeth Butler welcomed Ken and Velda Robson, and Jean Johnson, who had not been at meetings for some time. She advised that Janet Smith is settling in at Beecroft, and Bruce Dunlop is in Matthew John Nursing Home at Erina. Barry Riley and Ann Madin are having surgery today.

Bushwalking Report: John Sutton said that last Tuesday 28 people had enjoyed the walk to the Allen Strom lookout overlooking Hardys Bay. He thanked David and Elizabeth Butler for welcoming the group to their home for lunch.

Golf Report: Golf Organiser John Rudd advised that Bev Tysoe had won last week's golfing outing, and John Orme won this week.

Theatre: Richard Collins informed Members about the Tempo Terrific Friends' Concert on 18 November.

Constitution and Standing Resolutions: Richard reminded Members that the last News Sheet had contained Notices of Motion to amend the Club's Constitution and Standing Resolutions, and that copies of both draft documents had been circulated electronically or as hard copy. Fred Leake had suggested several amendments to the draft Standing Resolutions. These are recommended by the Committee and appear in the News Sheet.

Richard moved that the draft Constitution be adopted. This was Seconded by David Kenny. There was no discussion. The Motion was adopted.

Richard then moved that the draft Standing Resolutions, including the amendments in the News Sheet, be adopted. This was Seconded by Lawrie McLure. There was no discussion. The Motion was adopted.

General Business: John said that we now need to start thinking about the membership of next year's Committee, and who will serve in other Club management positions. He exhorted all Members, particularly newer ones, to consider becoming involved in some capacity.

Bill Clark spoke about the morning walks from Broadwater Park on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Profile talk: Wendy Coney spoke about her mother. On 1 May 1915, she boarded the Lusitania in New York, bound for Liverpool. On 7 May the ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat, and sank in 15 minutes. Carrying a baby, her mother was given a life belt by a man who was amongst the 1198 people who subsequently drowned. Her mother was among the 805 people who were saved, but her baby was lost. Her mother never spoke of this ordeal, but on 1 May each year, a man whom she later learned was the Master of the ship, Captain Turner, used to visit her mother at her home. Wendy spoke about the controversy surrounding the sinking, much of which will always remain unresolved. For example, there were two explosions, but the second may have been due to ignition of gas in an empty coal bunker, rather than a second torpedo. At the time, Wendy's father was serving with Canadian troops in Europe, and was given special leave to see her mother. However, he then had to return to the front to continue the war.

The meeting then adjourned for morning tea.

Guest Speaker: Marie Riley introduced our speaker Ian Garradd, an energy efficiency consultant. Ian spoke about ways in which we can reduce home energy consumption while maintaining our standard of living. The key factors to be considered in achieving low energy consumption are house design, building orientation, thermal performance, building fabric and windows, window coverings inside and out, roof and wall insulation, the type of hot water system and room heating technology used, simplicity of roofing design, appliances, and lighting. He highlighted several matters in these areas. It is important to keep the sun off walls in the summer, and to allow sunlight into the rooms during the winter. All north-facing windows should therefore have eaves. Trees are also a very effective way of keeping a house cool. Whirly birds usually diminish thermal performance because of uncontrolled air leakage around them. Air tightness is also essential in ceiling light fittings. Pelmetts above curtains greatly improve their thermal insulation performance. LEDs are by far the most energy efficient lighting technology. Smart meters, which permit time-of-use charging for electricity, enable most people to save money by programming appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines and water heaters to use electricity at the cheapest times (between 10pm and 7am), and avoiding energy use at the most expensive times (between 2pm and 8pm on weekdays). Ian pointed out that an initial capital investment in appropriate technology can save significant money in ongoing energy costs. Examples include rooftop photovoltaic panels, solar hot water systems, and heat pumps which, Ian claims, can make electricity cheaper than gas for home heating. Ian also argued that many common beliefs relating to energy in the home are incorrect. For example, he believes that all energy needed for our homes can be generated on site. In addition, although some lives were tragically lost in the Federal Government's roof insulation program, many more lives have been saved since because of the improved living conditions resulting from the insulation. Ian discussed many matters raised by the audience during his talk and afterwards. Joyce Kenny thanked Ian for a most interesting talk.

The Lucky Door Prize, drawn by Ian Garradd, was won by Max Newman.

John reminded members about lunch at Kincumber pub after the meeting and the next General Meeting on 26 November. He thanked all who had helped with morning tea and setting up the venue for the meeting. He also thanked all for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 11.40am.

Signed as a correct record: Thelma Leonard, President