

Probus Club of Kinumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 287
held at Avoca Bowling Club on Tuesday 25 February 2008

President George Costigan opened the meeting at 9.35 am and welcomed members and ladies. George also welcomed Roy Bird who was to be inducted at this meeting, and a visitor, John Rudd, who is interested in joining the Club

Induction of Roy Bird: President George introduced Roy to the Club, saying that he had played golf with Club's group for some time. From 1961, Roy successfully ran his own butcher's business. Following his retirement to the Central Coast a few years ago, he and his wife Leone worked as cook and assistant cook for an outback touring company. George inducted Roy to the Club and presented him with name badges for Leone and himself, and a copy of the Club's Constitution.

Minutes of previous meeting: Secretary Richard Collins reminded Members that the Minutes of the previous meeting had been made available, and that some parts of the Minutes are now routinely included in the News Sheet. The meeting agreed that the Minutes should be taken as read and accepted as a true record.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Correspondence: Secretary Richard advised that letters had been received from several local Probus Clubs (Newsletters); and operators of possible tours.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kevin Finn advised the meeting that the details of the Club's finances over the past month were as shown in the News Sheet:

Balance at 31 Dec 2007	\$1785.77
Income	Nil
Expenditure	\$68.00
Interest	\$0.00
Balance at 31 Jan 2008	\$1717.77

Kevin's report was accepted.

President's Report: President George informed the Club of the death of Inactive Member Frank Heberd's wife, Jean. A card expressing sympathy on behalf of the Club had been sent to Frank. George reminded members that nominations for the 2008 – 2009 Committee close today. He also drew attention to the Committee's decision to alternate Profile talks and Historical presentations at future General Meetings. Finally, he stated his view that Membership fees should remain at their present level for the next year, and that the present low income level could be supplemented through fundraising activities.

Membership Report: Membership Officer Tony Kelly informed members that 33 Members (68% of the current membership) and 13 ladies were in attendance. There were 8 apologies.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Stan Roberts said the all was in order for today's talk.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor David Dennison reported that the balance in the Social Account was \$531.62. The 14 February combined bus trip to Tobruk sheep station was very successful. There will be a lunch at Davistown RSL Club on 11 March. On 8 April there will be a Fish & Ships trip to the Maritime Museum. On 13 May there will be a Hawkesbury Valley Heritage bus trip, and a barbeque on 10 June.

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

Welfare Report: President George advised the meeting that Ken Robson had had a fall. Frank Davis is having problems with his eyes, and Dorothy Stockman has broken her wrist.

Bushwalking Report: Bushwalking organiser Richard Collins said that the first bushwalk for the year would be along Bullimah Spur on 17 March.

Golf Report: Golf Leader Mike Ryan referred to the News Sheet and further remarked that this was the 20th anniversary of the formation of the golfing group.

Bowls Report: Bowls Leader Reg Davis had nothing to report

Theatre Report: In the absence of Theatre Convenor David Dunbar there was no report.

History of the Club: Historian Fred Leake introduced Past-Secretary David Kenny who gave a talk entitled "A Miscarriage of Justice". The full transcript of his talk is recorded here for posterity:

A Miscarriage of Justice by David Kenny

This is a true story about how one of our Club Members won the lucky door prize in highly suspicious circumstances. This happened about 7 years ago when I was the Secretary of the Club, so after 7 years I feel the time has come to reveal the truth.

What happened was quite illegal and was hushed up at the time and not many members know about it, although, I made sure at the time that a reference was made to it in the Minutes.

I will now tell you what happened and if you listen carefully, try to work out how it happened. We used to have a member in our Club by the name of RON BAKER, no relation to Norm Baker. I am sure the older members will remember Ron. He was very popular and was always telling jokes just like Norm Baker and was always saying that he had been a member of our Club for ten years and had never won the lucky door prize.

On this occasion Ron Baker was the assistant membership officer and handed out the raffle tickets for the lucky door prize, just like Harry Goodban and still telling everyone he had never won the lucky door prize himself.

Our membership officer at the time was Ken Robson, who brought the carton of raffle tickets up to the President just as Tony Kelly does. Ken used to have a tea towel over the top of the ice cream carton so no one could see inside the carton.

John Mulford was President at the time and as you know we usually ask the guest speaker to draw the raffle but for some unknown reason John asked me as Secretary to draw the lucky door raffle.

President John held the carton up so I could not see inside and I put my hand in the carton to draw the raffle. After feeling around in the carton I realised to my horror there was only one ticket inside!

Now I had to think quickly what to do. If I told the members there was only one ticket in the carton all hell would break loose. So I said nothing and drew out the winning ticket and you can guess that the winner was, RON BAKER!!!

Now as you can see my involvement was quite innocent, but I have strong suspicions who the real perpetrators were and I can tell you that they are in this room today. I am not going to name them. They know who they are.

Finally I just want to say I have been a member of this Club for 15 years and have never ever won the lucky door prize.

David's talk was received with great hilarity!

General Business: None

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.05 am.

After morning tea, Rhoda Roberts introduced our speaker, Melissa Duane. Assisted by her father, Melissa gave a splendid talk about the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Initially, the computer failed to cooperate, so she adlibbed until the technology came on board. For the past 8 years, Melissa has been a guide for Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb and has climbed the Bridge over 3000 times. She talked about the events that led to the establishment of Bridge Climb. It was an idea of Paul Cave who had to overcome strong bureaucratic opposition – his original proposal resulted in a list of 62 reasons why it couldn't be done! When these had been countered, the development was required to meet very stringent conditions, including making no permanent change to the structure of the Bridge. The whole process took 9 years and cost \$26 million. Melissa also spoke of some of the celebrities that she has taken over the Bridge. Since the start of Bridge Climb on 1 October 1998, over 2 million people have climbed the Bridge, including one woman on her 100th birthday. After the computer behaved, Melissa showed some wonderful historical photographs of the construction of the Bridge and provided many interesting statistics: the total cost of construction was £4,217,721/11/10; the original design was nothing like the present bridge; the pylons play no structural role, but cost about one third of the total amount. They contain 40,000 blocks of granite, which were mined at Granitetown, near Moruya on the NSW south coast and shaped by hand; 6 million rivets were used in the Bridge and about 10-15,000 missed their target and lie in the harbour below; the construction took 8 years and about 1500 people were employed on the project over that time; 16 lives were lost in the construction of whom 6 died from falling from the Bridge itself – there were essentially no safety measures such as anchor ropes or safety fences; one man survived the fall!; the Bridge rises and falls 18 cm due to temperature changes; the total weight of the Bridge is 39,000 tonnes. In thanking Melissa for her excellent presentation, Mike Ryan said that it was the second time that he had heard her talk, and it was just as good as the first time

President George then invited Melissa to draw the lucky door prizes. In what appears to have been a highly irregular process, the number announced for the men's lucky door prize was held by David Kenny. Given the statement that David made in his talk, this caused uproar! David said that, under the circumstances, he was unable to accept the prize. On a second drawing, Sid Holmes won the prize. The ladies' lucky door prize was won by Barbara Rushton. (It is noted that Barbara also won the ladies' lucky door prize at the General Meeting on 21 May 2007. The significance of this may need to be addressed in the future.)

President George reminded members that the next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 25 March. He thanked members and ladies for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.45 am.

Signed as a correct record: George Costigan, President