

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 316
held at Avoca Bowling Club on Tuesday 27 July 2010

President David Dennison opened the meeting at 9.30 am.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Barry Riley provided the following information about the Club's accounts:

Balance at 1 March 2010	\$1064.01	
	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>June</i>
Income	\$1770.00	\$60.00
Expenses	\$1156.89	\$148.43
Balance at 30 June 2010	\$1677.12	

Barry's report was accepted.

President's Report: President David began his report by remarking that, in the light of the recent political assassination of Kevin Rudd, he had been concerned with the security of his position as President. However, Senior Vice President Rhoda has assured him that she has no plans for a coup at present, even though she will be delighted to Chair the January 2011 meeting in David's absence. David also drew attention to the definition of the Latin word Probus in the last issue of the Probus magazine: virtuous, upright or good. Later David gave yet another meaning: Prostate Removed, Other Bits Under Suspicion.

Membership Report: Membership Officer Reg Davis said that there were 48 Members present out of a total membership of 59, and 2 visitors. There were 8 Apologies.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Patrick Leonard said that today's speaker will be John Holt from the Friends of the Performing Arts Precinct. The debate will be held in August. In September it is planned that someone from the Crime Prevention unit will speak on personal safety.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor Ruth Charlesworth thanked Lorraine and Kevin Southgate for managing the financial and booking side of the Social activities during her absence, and Mione and David Dunbar for the excellent soup and damper day at MacMasters Beach Surf Clubhouse. She inquired if there was interest in a "Morning Melodies" social event at the Laycock Street Theatre, but few indicated that they would attend such a function. The August event will be a day at Wyong races. Ruth is planning an outing to Alison Homestead, Wyong for September. The Christmas function will be on 14 December.

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

Welfare Report: Joint Welfare Officer Lorraine Southgate mentioned that Peter Goddard and Harry Green are recovering well. We have re-established contact with Brenda Austin, wife of Life Member Keith Austin. Lorraine also proposed that we establish a register of contact names for members, including seeking this information on the Membership Application form. There was general support for this idea.

Bushwalking Report: Bushwalking convenor Richard Collins thanked Marie and Barry Riley for a very enjoyable walk near Edogawa gardens area last Tuesday. Rhoda Roberts said that the lamingtons are ready for next month's walk around Fagan's Bay at West Gosford.

Golf Report: Golf Leader Mike Ryan lamented the weather. He also sought indications from golfers of whether golf or the races would be more attractive in August.

Theatre Report: Theatre Convenor David Dunbar's report was as in the News Sheet. He also told members about the forthcoming performances of Ben Hur. He is taking names today for the play Menopause.

Historical presentation: Historian Fred Leake gave a most interesting Profile talk about past member Dick Pickett. Dick joined our Probus club in August 1984, only two months after its formation. At that time he

was 78 years old – much older than most of the other members of the club. His Application form listed his former vocations as postmaster and musician, and his interest as lawn bowls. He had also been a Life Member of Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving club, a Past President of the Sea Scouts, a Patron of the Red Cross, a Life Member of the Avoca Beach Progress Association and Senior Citizen of the Year for Gosford in 1983. He had also received an Anzac Award. Dick gave his Profile talk in February 1990 in which he mentioned his early life, including seeing Halley's Comet at the age of four in 1900. At its fourth meeting Dick was the second guest speaker of our Club. He talked about the history of the area with particular reference to Erina and Kincumber, where his family had lived since the 1870s. In researching this talk, Fred looked for a history of the Pickett family in the library, but apparently it has not been written. However he did find that a Henry Pickett was convicted at the Essex Assizes in 1803 and transported to Australia as a convict. His wife came on the same boat as a free settler. In 1806, they had a son William Sampson Pickett. In the 1830s, William, who married Ann Humphries, was granted 60 acres of land at Cockle Creek. William and Ann had a family of 13 and lived at South Kincumber. Although Fred had the name of Dick Pickett's parents he couldn't connect them to William and Ann's family. He eventually obtained information this from the Family History Society, and has drawn up a family tree. Fred learned that the Pickett family had lived in this area since the 1830s, even longer than Dick had said in his Profile talk. Picketts Valley was named after William Sampson Pickett on 25 October 1991. Dick Pickett became an Inactive Member of our Club in 1991 and resigned in 1995. He died in 1998 aged 91.

General Business: Webmaster Barry Riley asked for photos for the web page. He also asked for suggestions about how we may more effectively use the web page.

Barry also congratulated Wally on obtaining a grant from Gosford Council to cover some of the costs of printing the News Sheet.

The meeting then adjourned for morning tea.

Guest Speaker: After morning tea, Speaker Convenor Patrick Leonard introduced our speaker John Holt, Secretary of the Friends of the Performing Arts Precinct (FoPAP). John is a retired teacher having taught at Erina High School and The Entrance High School. As a teacher he was always interested in the performing arts and concerned that the Central Coast lacked a really good performing arts facility. In its early years, the Gosford Musical and Dramatic Society used the Dwyer building at the Gosford Showground which was very basic. In 1970 Gosford High School built an excellent auditorium. The Dolphin Theatre at Long Jetty, built around the same time, has three halls which can be flexibly configured seating up to 1000 people. Wyong has a fairly basic Memorial hall, and Woy Woy has a School of Arts hall. In addition the Gosford Leagues Club had a very large auditorium, but this no longer exists because of the financial difficulties faced by the club. In the 1980s the Gosford Musical and Dramatic Society started to plan the Laycock Street Theatre and this building came into being in 1988 through a Bicentennial grant. The Central Coast Conservatorium still operates out of the old 1850s Police Station in Gosford, where students have to practice in the old cells. On the Central Coast, we are very fortunate to have Chris Bearman as the dedicated leader of the Conservatorium. FoPAP was formed in 2004, and contributed to the 2005 Gosford Vision statement. A proposal now exists to split the Leagues Club into 3 sections, one of which would be a 1000 seat hall and one the Conservatorium. The recent Gosford Strategy concluded that a Performing Arts Centre was a very high priority. John's talk was followed by a lively question-and-answer session. Mione Dunbar thanked John for a most interesting talk.

President David thanked Janet Smith for helping Marie Riley at morning tea. Anne and John Mulford volunteered to help with morning tea at the next meeting.

The Lucky Door Prize was won by Lorraine Southgate.

President David reminded members of the next General Meeting on 24 August when we will have the final of the 2010 Debating competition. He thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.20am.

Signed as a correct record: David Dennison, President