

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 323
held at Avoca Bowling Club on Tuesday 22 February 2011

President David Dennison opened the meeting at 9.30 am welcoming Members and visitors Laurie Maclure (introduced by Bruce Dunlop) and Nanette Steanes (widow of former member John Steanes).

The meeting stood for one minute's silence in respect for former member Ron Sinclair who died recently.

David then inducted new members Pat Fordham, Judith and Don Blight and welcomed them to the club.

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

Correspondence: News Sheets from other Probus Clubs; travel and entertainment material. Richard also said the Probus South Pacific had advised that the Constitution of all clubs will shortly need to be changed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Barry Riley was absent, but provided the following information about the Club's accounts:

Balance at 1 March 2010 \$1064.01

Year to date January

Income	\$1855.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$1801.14	\$0.00

Balance at 31 January 2011 \$1117.87

Barry's report was accepted.

President's Report: President David reminded members that nominations for next year's Committee close at the end of today's meeting. He also informed members that George Burt would no longer be able to attend meetings due to ill health.

Membership Report: Membership Officer Reg Davis said that there were 48 Members present out of a total membership of 67, and 4 visitors. There were 3 apologies.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Patrick Leonard said that today's speaker will be Senior Constable Carina Hassett, and in April our speaker will be from the Cancer Council.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor Ruth Charlesworth thanked all who had attended the visit on 8 February to the Marine Rescue Centre at Point Clare. She had received a letter of thanks from the Centre for the amount of \$150.50 donated by members of our group. On 8 March there will be a visit to Sydney Town Hall. There will be no social function in April due to the Blackheath trip. Future trips will be to the Museum of Ancient Culture at Macquarie University in May, and Williamtown Air base in June.

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

Welfare Report: Joint Welfare Officer Lorraine Southgate advised that Bev Tysoe had recently had a foot operation and was recovering slowly. She and Kevin had recently visited Peter Goddard and Eric Waldegrave in Gosford Private Hospital. Peter is doing well with his new knee and is currently in rehabilitation. However, Eric is very unwell.

Bushwalking Report: At bushwalking convenor Richard Collins' request, John Orme informed members about the walk on 15 March at Hardys Bay. President David advised that he has almost completed a Probus sign that may be useful to direct members to future club events, including bushwalks.

Golf Report: Golf Leader Mike Ryan invited all Club members to the golfers' Awards lunch at Empire Bay Tavern on 24 February. Mike distributed information to participants in the golf/bushwalking holiday at Blackheath from 29 March to 1 April 2011.

Theatre Report: Theatre Convenor David Dunbar reported that this year's theatre events will begin on 6 March with the play Underpants at Woy Woy Little Theatre.

Historical Presentation: Historian Fred Leake spoke about foundation member Jim Price. In preparing his talk, Fred said that he had consulted with his close friends Shirley and David Lester. He had hoped that they might attend today, but David was not well enough, and Shirley could not leave him. Jim was born in Wales in July 1915. He joined our club on 27 March 1984 as a Foundation member. On his Application form, he gave his vocation as “Engineering and design consultant”, and his hobby as “Model engineering and design for the disabled”. He described himself as an inventor. He had been Head of the Woomera Rocket Range. At the inaugural meeting he was appointed Morning tea organiser – Fred said that this was an example of the Probus philosophy that we are all equal. Jim shortly became Publicity Officer, Editor of our News Sheet (distributed at the June 1984 meeting) and Welfare Officer. As our first guest speaker, he spoke about “Guided missiles”. He was a major contributor to our first Constitution, accepted in August 1984. At the December 1984 Committee meeting, Jim’s morning tea responsibilities were transferred to Gordon Fensom. That same meeting also agreed that members would automatically become Life Members when they reached age 80, but that decision was never implemented. In March 1986, the requirement of “outstanding service” was implemented for Life Membership. Jim also organised a Register of members and established a record of members’ details. Jim was elected Vice President in March 1985 and President in March 1986. During the club’s April 1987 trip to Norfolk Island, Jim was guest speaker at the local Probus club. During a 1987 trip that Jim and his wife Doreen took to Canada and the UK, Jim spoke about Probus to local Rotary clubs which resulted in the establishment of 4 Probus clubs in Canada. Before leaving on their trip, Jim prepared draft News Sheets for use during his absence, and Shirley Lester was appointed Acting Editor during his absence. Fred remarked that it was the only time that a non member has taken over the role of a Committee member. In 1988, Jim gave a thought-provoking talk on Alternatives to Atomic Energy. After a period of ill health, Doreen died in February 1990. At the March 1990 AGM Jim became our first Life Member. Jim died on 29 September 1990. Fred read President David Lester’s report in the October News Sheet that summarised Jim’s contributions to the club. Fred concluded his talk by saying that Jim was a very enthusiastic and tireless worker for our club. During his 6½ years with the club, he had been our most frequent guest speaker, and a great ambassador for Probus.

General Business: President David thanked Vice President Rhoda for presiding at last month’s meeting while he was absent in New Zealand.

The meeting then adjourned for morning tea.

Guest Speaker: Our guest speaker was Senior Constable Carina Hassett. Carina has been in the Police force for 30 years, the last 6 at Gosford Police Station. She has served in many capacities, but is currently Crime Prevention Officer at Gosford. Over 200 police are attached to Gosford station, 100 of which are “general duties” which includes interacting with the public, and the remainder have operational duties. Carina stressed the importance of reporting all incidents to the police. For urgent matters, call 000 or the Police Assistance Line: 131444. For non-urgent matters call Gosford Police Station. Carina spoke about strategies for keeping yourself safe, including: keep handbags close to you; be aware of other people in your surroundings when using an ATM; lock front doors when at home; put locks on windows and deadlocks on doors; get a dog; have sensor lights installed on your home; pre-program phones with emergency numbers; and don’t let strangers into your home. In vehicles, you should keep doors locked when driving, and don’t put handbags or valuables on seats. Carina summarised her talk by saying that personal safety is all about assertiveness and alertness. John Orme thanked Carina for a most interesting and relevant talk.

President David thanked Heather and Mike Ryan for helping at morning tea. Lorraine and Kevin Southgate volunteered to help with morning tea at the next meeting.

The Lucky Door Prize was won by Janet Smith.

President David reminded members of the next meeting on 22 March, which will also be our Annual General Meeting. He thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.45am.

Signed as a correct record: David Dennison, President