Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 296
held at Avoca Bowling Club on Tuesday 25 November 2008

President Reg Davis opened the meeting at 9.30 am and welcomed Members and ladies, and one guest, Alec Taylor.

Richard Collins introduced Colin Laybutt to Members. President Reg then inducted Colin into the Club.

Minutes of previous meeting: Secretary Richard Collins said that the Minutes of the previous meeting were available for reading on the Membership table. 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: News Sheets from other clubs; travel brochures; announcements of concerts.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kevin Finn advised that the Club's finances were:

Balance at 1 September 2008	$1964.23
Income	$0.00
Expenditure	$287.30
Interest	$0.00
Balance at 31 September 2008	$1676.93

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

President's Report: President Reg had nothing additional to report.

Membership Report: In Membership Officer Tony Kelly' absence, David Dennison stated that 28 Members (58% of the current membership), 16 ladies and 1 visitor were in attendance. There were 6 apologies.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Patrick Leonard said that he was working on the speaker program for 2009. He thanked all who had helped him since he started the Speaker Convenor job in April of this year.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor David Dennison reminded members of the Christmas party at the Avoca Beach Bowling Club on 9 December (cost $30), and the Recovery lunch at Janet Smith's on 13 January 2009.

Editor's Report: Editor Wally Tuffs requested copy for next month's News Sheet by 2 December.

Welfare Report: Sid Holmes and Lerryn Mutton were recovering well. Stan Roberts was recovering from carpel tunnel surgery.

Bushwalking Report: Bushwalking organiser Richard said that the Bushwalking Christmas lunch at Bruce and Irene Dunlop's place on Tuesday 18 November had been very enjoyable. He thanked Bruce and Irene for hosting the event, and Janet Smith for her delicious Christmas cake. Bushwalking is now in recess until March.

Golf Report: Golf Leader Mike Ryan was very pleased that we have a new golfer in the Club – Colin Laybutt.

Bowls Report: Bowls Leader Reg Davis had nothing to report.

Theatre Report: Theatre Convenor David Dunbar discussed the 2009 program at Woy Woy Little Theatre. He also had tickets for The Pyjama Game at the Laycock Street Theatre in February.

Historical Presentation: Historian Fred Leake gave a most entertaining two-part presentation entitled 'Shirley Sinclair – A Brush With Fame". He prefaced his presentation by remarking that all of the material for his talk came from the Minutes of meetings at the time, and emphasised to Secretary Richard the importance for future reference of the Minutes of our current meetings. During Fred's Presidency, the May 1997 meeting of the club was addressed by Shirley Sinclair, wife of the previous Governor of NSW, Peter Sinclair. Shirley spoke about her book "Elizabeth Cook, The Captain's Wife". She also recounted some of her experiences as wife of the Governor. In particular, she spoke of an occasion when she and the Governor had attended a function at a Naval Establishment on the South Coast. At the conclusion of the function the heavens had opened and they were both drenched. The Governor's fine white uniform became see-through and Shirley's expensive clothes and shoes were ruined. On the way back to Sydney, Shirley stopped the car by the roadside and started to change her clothes. Fred commented that it was good that there were no active paparazzi in the area. This led to the second part of Fred's presentation. He had insisted that

he give the vote of thanks to Shirley for her presentation, and he spoke about an incident that had occurred on 18 November 1991 during a bushwalk from Taronga Park to Clifton Gardens. The walkers were having morning tea on a wharf when the Governor's barge pulled up and Peter Sinclair stepped out, resplendent in his "see-through suit" (Shirley's words), and complete with Aide-de Camp. He was on his way to the dedication of a memorial to HMAS Sydney at Bradley's Head on the anniversary of the sinking of that ship. Seeing the walkers, the Governor came over and spoke to them. Janet promptly offered him a cup of tea – in Fred's words, "with a No-Frills tea bag, styrofoam cup and luke-warm water". The Governor politely declined and headed off to perform his duties. As he walked away, Janet was heard to say "Who was that?" Later the walkers joined the ceremony to dedicate the Bradley's Head memorial.

General Business: Secretary Richard drew Members' attention to the proposal in the News Sheet to amend the Constitution in line with the outcome of the recent Constitutional review by Probus South Pacific. The amendments will be voted on at the January meeting.

After morning tea, President Reg introduced Marie Riley who spoke on some of the history of the Central Coast. Marie began by commenting that she was uncomfortable to be speaking after Fred's earlier consummate performance. She acknowledged material that she had obtained from the excellent books by writer, reporter and photographer Gwen Dundon. Five weeks after the arrival of the First Fleet, Captain Arthur Phillip led a party that rowed north from Port Jackson and into Brisbane Water. Their visit is commemorated by four plaques including one near the South end of the Rip Bridge. The heavily wooded hilly countryside and the lack of fertile ground of the area made it unattractive for settlement. The subsequent discovery of the Hawkesbury plains caused the Central Coast to be left undisturbed until the first white settler, James Webb, came here in 1823. More settlers followed and the timber and lime (from shells) industries developed. In 1830 the township of Point Frederick (later renamed Gosford by Governor Gipps) was established. Henry Donnison was the first of the timber entrepreneurs on the Central Coast. The first schoolteacher at Kincumber, William Davis, had four of his sons – Thomas, Edward, Ben and Rock become shipbuilders at Davistown. Another brother George lived there; his widow Jane (later known as Granny Davis) kept a shop at Davistown. She is said to have been responsible for planting the (now) huge Davistown pine trees near the water. George and Jane's sons, George and William, were pioneer butchers.

The four shipbuilding brothers owned large areas of land at Davistown and later extended their holding to many places around and beyond the Central Coast, including Terrigal, Bensville, Blackwall, Point Frederick, Pearl Beach and Nambucca Heads. Marie herself is the great granddaughter of one of the brothers, Thomas. The legacy of the ships that these brothers built remains to this day. The ferry Lady Chelmsford, which was completed in 1910 by his son Rock was still working in Sydney harbour in 1971. She was subsequently relocated to Adelaide and then to Melbourne where she became a floating restaurant. The Lady Chelmsford sank at her moorings this year! Marie also talked about the development of other parts of the Central Coast, including Saratoga, originally called Mount Pleasant, and explained how this suburb got its name.

Marie's talk was illustrated by many excellent slides, including historical photographs, and was followed by an interesting discussion. Bruce Dunlop thanked Marie for an excellent talk.

The Lucky Door Prizes were won by Bruce Dunlop and Heather Ryan.

President Reg thanked Members, ladies and guests for their attendance. He reminded the Committee of the next meeting on 2 December, and Members about the Christmas lunch on 9 December and the recovery function on 13 January. Reg then closed the meeting at 11.40 am.

Signed as a correct record: Reg Davis, President ……...