

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 344
held at Kincumber Uniting Church on Tuesday 27 November 2012

President John Rudd opened the meeting at 9.30am, welcoming Members and guests Susan Schmid, Cecilia Donnelly, Leonie Bird and Daphne Gnech. He also requested that mobile phones be turned off.

John then inducted George and Pam Pendergast and welcomed them into 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: Richard advised that objections had been lodged to several of the Constitutional changes proposed by Probus South Pacific Limited.

Correspondence: News Sheets from other Probus Clubs, travel brochures.

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Balance at 1 March 2012 | \$1075.00 | |
| | <i>Year to date</i> | <i>October</i> |
| Income | \$2600.00 | \$1.00 |
| Expenses | \$2006.80 | \$150.10 |
| Balance at 31 October 2012 | \$1668.20 | |

Barry's report was accepted. Barry also said that the Committee would shortly consider the likely fees for next year.

President's Report: President John again encouraged Members to think about serving on the next year's Committee. We are still looking for people to take on the responsibilities of Bushwalking Organiser, Theatre Convenor, Catering Officer and Junior Vice President.

John also thanked Kevin and Lorraine Southgate for the excellent bush picnic that we enjoyed last Tuesday, and Janet Smith for yet another of her wonderful fruit cakes.

Membership Report: Membership Officer John Pagett reported that there were 45 Members present out of a total membership of 66 (plus the two inducted at the today's meeting), and 4 visitors. There were 10 apologies: from Ann Madin, Anne and John Mulford, Rhoda and Stan Roberts, David and Elizabeth Butler, Ern Williams, Robyn Armitage and Rhonda Laybutt.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Marie Riley said that today Dr Ibtihal Samarayi will speak about her experiences as a refugee. In January Steve Yeomans will speak on the Panama Canal; in February we will have a speaker from Vision Australia; and in April the talk will be about South Africa.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor Ruth Charlesworth said that the bush picnic last week had been great. Money is due today for our Christmas lunch will be on 11 December at Tree Tops restaurant. The January Recovery lunch will be beside Janet Smith's place on the Woy Woy waterfront. In February we will visit the Heart Research Institute in Newtown. Ruth also gave advance notice of a visit to the Alexander the Great exhibition in April.

Editor's Report: Editor Wally Tuffs said that copy for the next News Sheet is due on 1 December.

Welfare Report: Joint Welfare Officer Lorraine Southgate said that it was great to see several people back today, including Bruce and Irene Dunlop, Peggy Horton, and Hermione Dunbar with her 2 week old new hip. Barry Riley advised that Ken Robson is in hospital and is very unwell. President John then congratulated Marilyn and Richard Collins on their 50th Wedding Anniversary next month, and presented a card to Richard

Bushwalking Report: Bushwalking Convenor Kevin Southgate thanked all those who had assisted with the bush picnic at MacMasters Beach. Bushwalking is now in recess until March when we will walk around Watson's Bay.

Golf Report: Golf Leader Mike Ryan reported that Diane and John Rudd are leading the Championship round of the golfing group. The winner will be decided this Friday. The golfers meet at 10.30am at Terrigal Golf Course each Friday.

Theatre Report: Diane Rudd is organising season tickets for Woy Woy Little Theatre.

General Business: Richard Collins informed members about a concert by Central Coast Concert Band and U-Bouddi Big Band at Laycock Street Theatre at 2.00pm on Sunday 9 December.

The meeting then adjourned for morning tea.

Speaker: Marie Riley introduced Dr Ibithal Samarayi, a research academic in the Faculty of Education and Arts at the Ourimbah campus of the University of Newcastle. Ibithal has a Master of Fine Arts and a PhD degree from that University – her PhD research was concerned with the use of art as therapy for trauma. Ibithal brought with her copies of the book “Refugee to Resident” from which she drew much of the material in her talk. Ibithal grew up in Iraq and said that war had always been part of her life there. The 1980 – 1988 war between Iran and Iraq had directly affected her family – her brother who had been forced to serve in the Iraq army had been a prisoner of war in Iran for 8 years and was a different person when he was finally released. This was a time when criticising Saddam Hussein’s government resulted in persecution or death – Ibithal’s father was gaoled for doing this and not released until he was 75. When Ibithal’s husband was to be forced to fight in the First Gulf War, they decided to flee the country. Snow thwarted their attempts to get to Turkey, so they escaped to Iran where they lived in a UN refugee camp. They were subsequently forced to return to Iraq in separate trucks but, following a prearranged plan, independently escaped on the way and eventually found each other again. They then used jewellery from Ibithal’s mother to pay a guide to take them to Turkey. During the 3 years that they spent there in a refugee camp, their first son was born. Eventually, in 1994 their skills led them to be accepted by Australia. Their second son was born just a few days after their arrival in this country. Ibithal showed us examples of her art work which reflected here extraordinary experiences. She also discussed the art therapy programs that she had developed to assist children who had been forced to live in Refugee Detention Centres. Her talk was followed by an extensive question and answer session during which she spoke of her relatives still in Iraq, and the successes of her family here in Australia. Patrick Leonard thanked Ibithal for a wonderful talk.

The Lucky Door Prize was won by Max Newman.

John thanked Diane Rudd and Gerry Turner for helping with morning tea, and David Dunbar for assisting with setting up the venue for the meeting. Barbara and John Orme volunteered to assist with morning tea at the next meeting. Roy Bird and Col Laybutt volunteered to help set up the venue at the next meeting.

John reminded members of forthcoming activities and meetings. He then thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.15am.

Signed as a correct record: John Rudd, President