

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 311
held at Avoca Bowling Club on Tuesday 23 February 2010

President Kevin Southgate opened the meeting at 9.35 am welcoming Members and guests on “Bring a Friend” day.

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; letter from George Costigan concerning the rejection of Ed Board's application for membership (to be dealt with by the Committee).

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

Balance at 1 March 2009	\$1,757.28	
	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>January</i>
Income	\$2230.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$2383.03	\$0.00
Balance at 31 January 2010	\$1604.25	

The Report was accepted.

Barry also drew attention to the Committee's decision, as stated in the News Sheet, to recommend to next month's Annual General Meeting that annual fees remain at \$30 for the next year.

President's Report: President Kevin extended a warm welcome to our many guests. He encouraged members to make them welcome at morning tea. He also said that visitors would be welcome to attend any of the club's activities. Kevin also thanked John Mulford for organising a register to take Hilda Couttes to visit former member Murray Couttes in hospital, commenting that this is one of the very positive aspects of Probus. Murray is now in Veronica Nursing Home and would welcome visitors.

Membership Report: Membership Officer John Rudd said that there were 2 Life Members and 51 members present (84% of the fee-paying membership of 61). There were 3 Apologies. It was very pleasing to see 16 visitors on our “bring a friend” day:

Jean and Ludwig Geisbauer (guests of Kevin and Lorraine Southgate)
Rene Boyer and Maxine Parker (guests of Peggy Horton)
Fran Mahony (guest of Mione Dunbar)
Robin Armitage (guest of Max Newman)
David and Marcia Charlesworth (guests of John Mulford)
Mike Brown (guest of Rhoda Roberts)
Greg McNiff (guest of Lorraine Southgate)
Helen and John Sutton (guests of Heather Ryan)
Jean Stansfield, David Minchin, Sadie Cummings, Mavis Mutton

John also mentioned that all existing Non Active members had been contacted, as recommended in the recent review of Non Active membership. Bernie Smith and Frank Hebberd had indicated that they no longer wished to remain as Non Active Members and the Committee has removed them from the Register.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Patrick Leonard said that there will be no speaker in March due to the Annual General Meeting. In April Fiona Mealing will speak on organ transplants. The May speaker will discuss the Australian Rotary Research Fund, and in June the speaker will be Senior Constable Scott from the New South Wales Police.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor David Dennison reported that he has \$379 in the Social account. He is collecting names today for the 9 March lunch at the Little Teapot restaurant at Davistown.

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

Welfare Report: Joint Welfare Officer Mione Dunbar referred to the material in the News Sheet.

Bushwalking Report: Bushwalking organiser Richard Collins said that the walk on 16 March would be along the Saratoga waterfront. It will go past Thelma and Patrick Leonard's place and he had been told that their kettle might be on. There will be no walk on the usual day in April because of the Gloucester trip.

Golf Report: Golf Leader Mike Ryan remarked that the golfing group was one of the first formed in our club and has been operating for over 20 years. Last Friday Diane Rudd was the winner repeating her achievement of last October when she was the first woman to do so – and John Orme was runner-up. Mike then talked about arrangements for the 13 – 16 April trip when members and their guests would travel to Gloucester in their own cars to participate in golf and bushwalking activities. So far Mike has 16 starters for this trip. Fred Leake then discussed the planned non-golfing activities including a visit to the heritage area in the town, a bus trip to Barrington Tops, and a visit to an old mine site 15 km out of Gloucester. More details are presented in the News Sheet.

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

Theatre Report: Theatre Convenor David Dunbar referred to the material in the News Sheet.

General Business: President Kevin mentioned that nominations for next year's Committee positions close at the completion of today's meeting.

Kevin asked Richard Collins to speak about the Haiti fundraising concert held at the Laycock Street Theatre on 14 February which several members had attended. Richard said that the Central Coast Concert Band had decided to donate all of the proceeds from this first concert in its 2010 subscription series to support victims of the Haiti earthquake. The involvement of many local Rotary clubs had ensured that the concert had been well supported. Sufficient funds had been raised through ticket sales and donations to purchase 10 Rotary emergency shelters which would provide relief for 100 people.

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.10am.

After morning tea, Patrick Leonard introduced Barbara Orme who spoke about the history of the ABC, and in particular the Gore Hill complex at which she had worked for many years. Television began in Australia in November 1956 in Sydney and Melbourne at a time when only a few percent of families had television. A decade later 95% of homes had television sets. Most early TV shows were presented live which posed significant challenges for the presenters and production staff. In 1962 video tape was developed. In 1966 the first live satellite transmission from England to Australia occurred. 1966 also saw the introduction of Playschool which was one of the areas in which Barbara worked. The ABC has had a long and distinguished history presenting news and they have maintained their hard-won ability to provide independent and unbiased news coverage. The 1960s also saw the beginning of current affairs programs at the ABC. Another highlight of this decade was the coverage of the first moon landings in 1969. Colour television commenced in Australia in 1975. Barbara joined the ABC at Gore Hill in the late 1980s and retired in 2002. She worked there in many areas including arts, documentaries, special programs (such as the millennium broadcast), and finished her career in the children's department. Barbara then introduced a documentary that had been made in 2002 when the Gore Hill studios were closing. We were treated to a delightful trip down memory lane, showing how things had evolved over the years, not only in the technology used to make and present programs and their content, but also in societal standards. The documentary illustrated how the environment at Gore Hill had provided the opportunity for interaction between all staff members. The intermeshing of the many different skills necessary to create and broadcast a wide range of television offerings had resulted in the development of an extraordinary high level of skill and capability amongst all areas of the staff. Many of the ABC's innovations, such as the presentation of live cricket matches, have now been taken over by commercial channels. Barbara concluded her talk by thanking Barry Riley for technical support and John for moral support. Denise Lawrence thanked Barbara for an "amazing" presentation which all present would have found enthralling and relevant.

The Lucky Door Prize was won Janet Smith and/or Fred Leake (it was impossible to tell which).

Kevin thanked Lorraine Southgate and Anne Mulford for their help with morning tea. Keith Tysoe and George Costigan volunteered to help with morning tea at the next meeting of the Club on 23 March. Kevin remarked that he hoped that our guests had learnt something of what we do in our Probus club. He thanked Members and guests for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 11.45 am.

Signed as a correct record: Kevin Southgate, President