

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee
held at the home of Thelma Leonard on 7 June 2011

The meeting opened at 4.00pm. Those present were John Rudd (Senior Vice President), Thelma Leonard (Junior Vice President), Barry Riley (Treasurer), Richard Collins (Secretary), Wally Tuffs (Editor), Ruth Charlesworth (Social Convenor) and Reg Davis (Membership Officer). Rhoda Roberts (President) apologised for her absence.

In President Rhoda's absence, Vice President John Chaired the meeting and welcomed members of the Committee.

Minutes of previous Committee meeting on 5 April 2011: The draft Minutes had previously been circulated and changes requested by members had been made, including correcting the payment to Probus Centre from \$780 to \$700. (Treasurer Barry reported that the overpayment had been refunded.) The Minutes were accepted.

Business arising from Minutes: None

Correspondence: News Sheets from other Probus Clubs; Travel brochures; material from Probus Centre (see below); letter from Lindsay Wyndham (Gladys Pike's daughter) advising that Gladys should no longer receive News Sheets.

President's Report: Vice President John thanked Richard for his help in Chairing the last General Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Barry Riley provided the following information about the Club's accounts with unrepresented cheques included in the figures:

Balance at 1 March 2011	\$994.47	
	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>May</i>
Income	\$1890.00	\$190.00
Expenses	\$1139.30	\$18.70
Balance at 31 May 2011	\$1815.17	

Barry has investigated the possibility of using electronic funds transfer with our bank account. St. George had advised that this would necessitate reducing the number of signatories or authorisers from two to one for all transactions. The Committee agreed with Barry's recommendation that we make no change to our banking procedures at this time.

Membership Report: The Committee accepted Membership applications from John and Annette Pagett. They will be inducted at the next meeting.

The Committee accepted a verbal resignation from Ken Jones who is no longer able to attend meetings.

The Committee removed Gladys Pike and Beth Messner from the widows' mailing list for News Sheets.

The Committee accepted Ken Gosby's resignation. Richard will write thanking him for his contributions to the Club. The Committee deferred action on Bruce Dunlop's nomination of Ken as an Honorary member until the Club had adopted a policy on this matter.

The Committee decided that the total membership numbers (Life, Honorary, Ordinary, and Non-active) should be given at each meeting and included in the Minutes.

The Committee discussed Honorary Membership. Probus Centre has advised that it is up to each individual club to decide what to do about Honorary Membership. Some clubs use this as a mechanism to maintain contact with retired members. Others use it to bring into the club an external person who could be useful to it. Some clubs have decided not to have Honorary Members. Honorary members are not included in the club's membership count. However, they must be included in the number used to calculate the amount of annual fees payable to Probus Centre. Honorary members therefore constitute an ongoing financial liability for the Club. Over its life, our Club has appointed only 3 Honorary Members: Alan Lucure, Ron Coleman and recently, George Burt. Each of these appointments was made for a different reason. The Committee formed the view that, in developing a policy on how to deal with this matter in the future, the Club should not be bound by what has occurred in the past. In response to the Committee's request, submissions on Honorary Membership had been received from John Mulford, John Orme and Fred Leake, and these had been circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting. The Committee formed the view that in the future Honorary membership should not be used as a mechanism to maintain contact with retired members. Adopting this practice could lead to a very large number of Honorary members that will represent a significant ongoing financial commitment for the Club. The Committee decided that, when a member retires, he/she should be asked if they wish to continue to receive News Sheets at a cost of one half of the annual membership fee. The Committee also agreed with John Mulford's view that Honorary membership should not be used as a "lower standard" alternative for Life Membership. Life Membership is rarely

conferred on a member, and then only for “outstanding service”. The Committee sees no need for another honour for service that is less than the “outstanding” required for Life Membership. On the basis of these arguments, the Committee believes that in future Honorary Membership should seldom, if ever, be used in our Club in the future.

Editor’s Report: Editor Wally Tuffs advised that he was having problems re-registering with Gosford Council in their program to subsidise printing costs. (Note: Subsequently, Wally contacted Gosford Council. As a result they informed all existing grantees that they could re-register for the printing subsidy.)

Speaker Convenor’s Report: Speaker Convenor Col Laybutt had advised Richard that, due to health reasons, he is resigning from all of his Committee responsibilities, including within the Probus Club and elsewhere. Vice President Thelma said that Marie Riley would be prepared to take on the Speaker Convenor job. The Committee was delighted to accept Marie’s offer and, subject to President Rhoda’s agreement, appointed Marie to fill the casual vacancy. Due to Marie’s prior commitments, in the future Committee meetings will be rescheduled to the afternoon of the first Tuesday every 2 months.

In June Marilyn Collins will speak on Orchids and in July Bruce Dunlop will talk on Bouddi National Park. There will be no speaker in August due to the Debate.

Social Convenor’s Report: Social Convenor Ruth Charlesworth advised that approximately 40 people will participate in the June bus trip to Williamtown Air base. In addition to 23 from our Club, there will be 8 visitors and 9 from Blue Waters Probus Club. In July we will visit a hydroponic rose farm at Warnervale. Ruth will be away in August and has organised lunch at Breakers Country Club in Terrigal. There will be a visit to historic Luna Park on Friday 16 September. Ruth also advised that she has made a provisional booking for our Christmas function at Empire Bay Tavern. Following discussion of alternatives, the Committee supported Ruth’s proposal. Ruth accepted Thelma’s offer to arrange a trivia quiz during the lunch.

Bushwalking Report: No report.

Golf: No report.

Theatre: No report.

Web site: Webmaster Barry had contacted Probus Centre about the web sites that they will host. Although there will be some cost saving in the longer term if the Club were to use the Probus web site, the arrangement will be very much less flexible and convenient than with our present site. The Committee decided that we should not change to the Probus web site. Richard advised that he had recently received very positive comments on the web site from the past President of Gosford West Probus Club. The Committee also noted that some of our new members, including John and Annette Pagett, had become aware of our Club through the web site.

Meetings: Thelma advised that Irene Dunlop will give a Profile talk in June. Fred Leake will present a historical talk in July. The next Profile talk will be in August.

Richard advised that the organisation of the debates is in hand. He is keen to have suggestions for topics. So far no one has offered to take over the responsibility of organising the debates.

Probus South Pacific: The Committee agreed that we should accept Probus Centre’s offer to provide an email address for the Club. Richard will arrange this.

Probus Centre is establishing a Membership data base for all clubs and has circulated a pro forma document for this purpose. Wally will put our Club’s membership details into the pro forma and Richard will send it to the Probus Centre. Probus Centre has advised that, following changes in the Government legislation governing Associations, all clubs must change their Constitutions. Richard has obtained a copy of the proposed new Constitution and associated By-Laws or Standing Resolutions. A considerable amount of detailed work will be required before it will be possible to recommend a new Constitution to Members. The Committee formed a sub-committee consisting of Vice President John, Secretary Richard, (possibly President Rhoda, if she wishes) and one other member of the Club, to prepare a draft Constitution for consideration.

General Business: Richard has written an article for the Probus magazine on the Club’s experience in Becoming Combined. The Committee is happy for this article to be submitted with minor changes, subject to Rhoda’s approval.

The next meeting will be held at 2.30pm on Tuesday 2 August at John Rudd’s place: 71 Copacabana Drive, Copacabana.

On behalf of the Committee, John thanked Thelma for hosting this meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.25pm.

Signed as a correct record: John Rudd (Vice President):