

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting Number 329
held at Avoca Bowling Club on Tuesday 23 August 2011

President Rhoda Roberts opened the meeting at 9.30am, welcoming members and the participants in the debate.

Profile talk: Pat Fordham spoke about her life. She was born in Cornwall. In 1936 she and her sister were sent to Wales when her father needed medical treatment in London. To cope with the eventuality that he might not recover, her mother built a hotel which the family ran without assistance all through the war. In 1939 she had her first flight in a plane – a 10 seater de Havilland Dragon. They were the last passengers on the flight from Wales to Cornwall before the war started. Life was quiet during the War despite the fact that there were two large air force stations nearby. Many London schools were evacuated to her town and some took over large hotels. The schools didn't have playing fields so they marked out pitches on the beach. The family sold their hotel in 1946. Many years later in 2005, Pat saw it again just before, and immediately after it was demolished! In 1949 Pat went to London to do her nursing training and in 1954 joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (now Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps). She spent a year near Oxford and a year in Germany. In May 1956 just before she was due to return from Germany she met her future husband Jim. They were married just 7 months later. They had 3 boys and were married for 54 years until Jim died last year. In 1967 the family emigrated to New Zealand. As the boys got older, Pat went back to nursing. Most of her 45 years working was in operating theatres. Before her retirement in 1994 she worked for 7 years in North Gosford Private Hospital and was running the endoscopy unit. In 1986 Pat and Jim moved to Australia to be closer to their children. She now has 5 granddaughters, 1 grandson, 1 step granddaughter, and 1 great granddaughter. After Pat retired, they joined Radio Five-O-Plus and Jim became a broadcaster. While there they met Stan and Rhoda Roberts. After they retired from the station they moved to the lower Hunter but came back after 8 years to be closer to their son. Pat has now been settled in Brentwood Village for almost a year.

Debate: Rhoda then asked Richard Collins to Chair the final of the 2011 Debating competition. Richard welcomed the debating teams from Erina High School and Central Coast Grammar School. These teams reached today's final by winning debates against teams from Green Point Christian College and Kincumber High School at East Gosford Probus Club and Avoca Beach Probus Club respectively. The topic of these debates was: "That Australia should abolish the States". Richard also welcomed the teachers accompanying the teams, Paul White from Erina High School and Emma Henshaw from Central Coast Grammar School, and he introduced and thanked Sue Macneil who had generously given her time to adjudicate all 3 debates. The topic of today's final debate was: "That life was better before Facebook and Twitter". We were treated to 6 excellent presentations which raised many thought-provoking issues, both positive and negative, associated with the new phenomenon of social media. A feature of the debate was the way in which the speakers presented rebuttals against the arguments of their opponents. Following the debate, Paul and Emma spoke briefly about their schools and current educational issues. Adjudicator Sue then gave her comments on the debate, and provided a detailed critique of the performance of both teams. Sue awarded the debate to Erina High School. Before handing the Chair back to Rhoda, Richard thanked Lerryn Mutton who had initiated the Debates in 1994, remarking that he had done something very worthwhile with lasting benefits. Rhoda congratulated the teams and thanked all involved in the debate, commenting that it had been a most enjoyable and stimulating experience. She also remarked that the quality of the young people that we had been privileged to hear today should give us all a great deal of confidence for the future. Rhoda then presented the shield to the winning team from Erina High School.

The meeting then adjourned for morning tea.

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; tour information; thank you card from Rhonda and Col Laybutt.

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

Balance at 1 March 2011	\$994.47	
	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>July</i>
Income	\$2070.00	\$30.00
Expenses	\$1158.00	nil
Balance at 31 July 2011	\$1906.47	

Barry's report was accepted.

President's Report: President Rhoda thanked Pat Fordham for agreeing to take on the job of Catering Officer.

Membership Report: Acting Membership Officer John Rudd said that there were 2 Life Members and 36 Members present out of a total membership of 66. There were 13 apologies.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Marie Riley said that next month John Ralph will speak on photography.

Social Convenor's Report: In Social Convenor Ruth Charlesworth's absence, Lorraine Southgate said that 23 people had attended a very nice lunch at Breakers Country Club on 9 August. Today she is collecting names and money for the visit to historic Luna Park on Friday 16 September. In October we will visit Henry Kendall Cottage. On 15 November a combined Social function and Bushwalking bush feast will be held at MacMasters Beach Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse and she is now taking names and money (\$15 per person).

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

Welfare Report: Welfare Officer Lorraine Southgate said that John Mulford has broken some bones in his foot, but is recovering. Jean Johnson has had another spell in hospital but is on the mend.

Bushwalking Report: Bushwalking convenor Kevin Southgate asked Fred Leake to speak about the visit that he had led to the Kokoda Memorial Walk at Concord on 15 August. Fred commented that it had been a very pleasant day. He had chosen the date for the walk to allow participants to attend a memorial service that was held on that day. After the service, the group walked past historic Dame Edith Walker homestead and then ate lunch overlooking the river. During lunch they enjoyed cup cakes sold to them by some young people raising money for the RSPCA. Only 9 people had been able to come to the walk because of the change of date, and Fred suggested that the walk be repeated next year. John Orme thanked Fred for organising such a good day. During the walk someone had noticed that the majority of those present had come from the other side of the world. John then conducted a straw poll at the meeting which showed that a substantial proportion of those present were from the UK.

Golf Report: Golf Leader Mike Ryan said that the heavy rain had forced him to give up trying to organise the Club golf championships in September – they will now occur in November.

Theatre Report: Theatre Convenor David Dunbar was absent. However, President Rhoda urged members to suggest to him possible theatre activities.

General Business:

Honorary Membership: At President Rhoda's request, Secretary Richard discussed Honorary Membership. As stated in the News Sheet, the Committee had considered this matter over the past few months. During this process the Committee had invited submissions from members, and the three received had been most helpful. The Committee now proposes the following Standing Resolution:

Honorary Membership may be awarded if the Committee and membership deems it appropriate. However, Honorary Membership should not be used as a "lower standard" alternative for Life Membership, nor as a mechanism to maintain contact with retired member.

Richard moved that this Resolution be adopted, and this was Seconded by John Orme. Speaking to the Motion, Richard referred to the material presented in the News Sheet, including the Committee's recently developed mechanism for keeping in touch with members who resign from the Club. He also said that, if approved, the Standing Resolution would be included in the set of Standing Resolutions which would be an adjunct to the new Constitution shortly to be considered by the Club. Supporting the Motion, Seconder John Orme said that he was pleased that the Club would retain the possibility of conferring Honorary Membership in the future, and agreed that the Resolution was an appropriate way for the Club to deal with the matter. The Resolution was adopted unanimously.

New Constitution: Richard then drew the attention of Members to the material in the News Sheet relating to the new Constitution. He said that Notice of Motion would be given at the September meeting that the new Constitution and Standing Resolutions be approved at the October meeting. In order to reduce printing costs, the Committee proposes that the draft Constitution and Standing Resolutions be sent electronically to Members with email, and that hard copies be distributed at the September meeting only to those who wish to receive them. The meeting was supportive of this approach. Four members at today's meeting indicated that they would like to have hard copies of the documents. Richard therefore proposed that 10 copies of the documents would be available at the next meeting and this was agreed.

Sid Holmes suggested that the Committee give consideration to reviving the waterfront barbecues that had been very successful in the past.

Keith Tysoe thanked the Club for the notice in the News Sheet congratulating him and Bev on their 60th wedding anniversary, even though it was one year early.

The Lucky Door Prize was won by David Kenny. In collecting his prize, David said that, in all of his time in the Club, he had never previously won the lucky Door prize.

President Rhoda then thanked David Kenny and Bev Tysoe for helping at morning tea. Rhonda and Col Laybutt volunteered to help with morning tea at the next meeting.

Rhoda reminded members of the next General meeting on 27 September. She thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.30am.

Signed as a correct record: Rhoda Roberts, President