

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Probus Club of Kincumber Inc. held at the home of Richard and Marilyn Collins at Macmasters Beach on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

President Mike opened the meeting at 9.30am

Those present were President Mike Ryan, Vice President Richard Collins, Secretary David Kenny, Treasurer Nev Owen, Membership Officer John Orme, Speaker Convenor Stan Roberts, Editor Barry Riley, and Harry Green standing in for Social Convenor, David Dunbar.

Apologies were received from David Dunbar.

The Minutes of the previous Committee Meeting, having already been circulated were taken as read on a motion from David Kenny and seconded by Nev Owen.

#### Matters Arising

- a) The results of the Life Member vote at the October monthly meeting were briefly discussed and it was noted that there were 5 abstentions.
- b) The matter of issuing Certificates of Appreciation, brought up by Fred Leake at the October monthly meeting was discussed and it was decided that it was still too early to think about issuing any certificates. The prototypes prepared by Barry Riley were given to the Secretary for safe keeping and the matter will be raised again in October next year.
- c) The matter of the Probus Club of Ettalong suggesting that their newsletter be sent by email was again discussed. The Secretary had contacted them and found that their Club does not have Microsoft Publisher 2003, which is the programme Barry uses to produce our newsletter. After considering these issues and privacy concerns raised by Barry, it was decided not to pursue the matter. It was decided however, to swap newsletters with the Probus Club of Stockton as requested by Vice President Richard.

#### Correspondence

- a) The correspondence from Probus Centre- South Pacific concerning our submission for proposed changes to the Constitution was discussed and it was noted that there might be a review of Incorporated Constitutions in February 2005.
- b) The email from Ed Board to Richard Collins concerning the future of the CSXG was discussed. It was noted that Ed Board has conceded very few members of our Club are interested in it and so he does not intend to continue updating the members email addresses. It was agreed that once a year the members email addresses will be issued by Barry Riley on a separate sheet stapled to the membership list. As regards the formation of a Kincumber Probus web site, it was decided to put the question to a vote of our members at the January meeting to see if they are interested in contributing extra fees of around \$2.00 each to pay for the setting up of our own Club website. Richard Collins suggested that Geoffrey Veel could be interested in being our webmaster.
- c) Newsletters were received from other Probus Clubs and these were handed to President Mike
- d) The Secretary sent a letter to Avoca Beach Bowling Club booking the meeting room for next year and a copy of our meeting dates for 2005 was distributed to all Committee members. It was noted by the Secretary that no Christmas Party venue had been booked for next year and this should be decided early in the new year to enable a booking to be secured.

All correspondence was accepted on a motion from David Kenny and seconded by John Orme.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Nev Owen submitted his financial statement showing a closing balance of \$2412.00 for the Administration Account. Nev also submitted his statement of Budget Income & Expenses month by month together with a chart of the Actual Cumulative and promised to print copies for all the Committee members in future. It was decided to accept the request by Life Member Keith Austin to pay an amount equal to annual membership fees but this would be shown as a donation. It was clarified that Stan Ford was an ordinary member, and not an inactive member. President Mike requested that Treasurer Nev provide in next year's budget a little more funding to be expended on friendship & fellowship e.g. newsletter postage. The Treasurer's report was accepted on a motion from Nev Owen and seconded by Stan Roberts.

President's Report President Mike circulated a very nice card prepared by Barry Riley to be given to Colin Sheumack on his retirement from our Club.

President Mike suggested that long standing existing members be given an opportunity to re-present their profiles in the future. This was agreed to be worthwhile and the Vice President will arrange this some time in the future. It was suggested that new member Kevin Duker be approached to give his profile at the January 2005 meeting and the Vice President will also arrange this.

President Mike suggested that the Committee should discuss the various issues surrounding the vote to be taken by our members at the January meeting on the Probus Centre proposed changes to the Constitution to help members understand the background to the proposed changes and the following recommendations were agreed.

Proposal 1- Clause 7 (b) Delete the words "and other contributions".

We recommend that we support this on the basis that if Probus Centre South Pacific really requires more funds they simply raise the capitation fees, insurance fees or magazine subscription contributions so that there should be no reference to unspecified "other contributions".

Proposal 2- Clause 3 (e) Remove the words "sponsored by two members of the Club and".

We recommend support for this as it can be difficult to get two members of the Club to genuinely sponsor a new member if only one member knows the new member and in any case the Management Committee makes the final decision in accepting new members.

Proposal 3- Clause 14 (a) Replace the word "may" with the word "shall"

We recommend we support this as it really only enforces that the Constitution and By Laws are adhered to.

Proposal 4- Clause 3 (i) Replace the word "fifty" with the word "seventy five"

We recommend that we oppose this on the basis that this could be considered too harsh and could force the Committee to drive away existing members who for one reason or another forget to attend meetings or send apologies due to illness or unforeseen circumstances.

Proposal 5- Clause 6 (c) Remove the words "twenty five" and replace with the word "fifty".

We recommend that we support this on the basis it is not considered desirable that a meeting should be held with a quorum as low as 25% where By Laws could be changed or other undesirable practices could be forced on a Club by so few members.

Membership Officer John Orme reported that we now have 67 members and therefore have 13 vacancies. John presented a completed application form from Dennis <sup>Edwin</sup> sponsored by Eric Waldegrave and this was accepted. Dennis will be inducted at the January meeting if John can procure name badges in time.

There is a possibility that membership applications will be received from Kevin Southgate and Peter Goddard from Macmasters Beach in the new year.

There is a suggestion that Ern Williams, one of our inactive members may return to full membership. President Mike then tabled a proposed new membership brochure developed by John Orme and Barry Riley for distribution selectively to various retirement villages and possibly other areas to boost our membership. The idea was enthusiastically received and there was much discussion on the format and content of the new brochure but no finality was reached. A recommendation from Vice President Richard Collins that President Michael and Editor Barry collaborate on the finalization of the format and content of the brochure was agreed.

Speaker Convenor Stan Roberts reported that the next speaker will be Lindsay Denholme talking on the wonders of Antarctica. Stan advised that he is investigating suitable guest speakers for Ladies Day in February and was offered a contact for a speaker on "The History of Irish Whisky"

Social Convenor Harry Green standing in for David Dunbar reported on the proposed arrangements for the forthcoming Christmas Party. Harry advised that there were 93 persons coming and Harry proposes to visit the Davistown RSL later this week to finalise numbers, menus, deposits and table layouts. Harry alerted us that he will require cheque signatures on the day of the party to pay the bills. Harry advised that there will be no bingo machine this year for the lucky door prizes and he will devise another way to distribute the prizes.

Harry also reported on the proposed recovery picnic at Heazlett Park in January and a Dangar Island Ferry trip in February and advised that the numbers are not looking good for the Annual Holiday trip to Broken Hill in May 2005.

Editor Barry Riley advised that he would be publishing the December Christmas Newsletter on green paper this year.

Bushwalking Captain Richard Collins reported that the first bushwalk for February 2005 was to be to Dangar Island but he will now revise this so as not to clash with the Social convenors programme. Richard is considering a bushwalk to Chittaway Bay to be arranged for March 2005.

General Business A brief discussion took place on prospective office bearers for 2005-2006 and Nev Owen advised that he would stay on as Treasurer for another 12 months. David Kenny advised that after 7 years in office as Secretary he really did not wish to stand again. President Mike advised that pressure would be put on some of the newer members to take office and that Don Wiseman would be leaned upon to ensure that he would take the Secretary's job some time next year.

President Mike thanked Richard Collins for the use of his home and for the very nice morning tea provided.

The next Committee meeting would be held at the home of President Mike Ryan at Macmasters Beach on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12 noon.

Confirmed by President.....

date. 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005