

**Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.**  
**Minutes of General Meeting Number 340**  
**held at Kincumber Uniting Church on Tuesday 24 July 2012**

President John Rudd opened the meeting at 9.35am, welcoming Members and guests George and Pam Pendergast, June Thompson and Rosemary Allison.

John then inducted Gloria Reid and welcomed her to 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. There was no business arising from the Minutes.

Correspondence: News Sheets from other Probus Clubs, travel brochures

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

Balance at 1 March 2012	\$1075.00	
	<i>Year to date</i>	<i>June</i>
Income	\$2190.00	630.00
Expenses	\$1744.93	\$508.43
Balance at 29 June 2012	\$1520.07	

Barry's report was accepted. Barry reminded Members that the \$10 levy agreed at the last meeting is due.

President's Report: President John advised that he will be overseas for the August and September meetings and the October Committee meeting. He thanked Mike Ryan for arranging for us to use the church's PA system. He congratulated Reg and Ruth Charlesworth on becoming grandparents. He also said that, following the visit to Gosford Musical Society's rooms at the Laycock Street Theatre, there were 19 starters to attend a presentation of Jekyll and Hyde. He asked for volunteers to help Reg Charlesworth with setting up the church for the next meeting – Kevin Southgate and Arthur Adeney offered to help.

Membership Report: Membership Officer John Pagett said that the total membership now stands at 67, including the new member. There were 49 Members present, and 4 visitors. There were 10 apologies: from Colin Laybutt, Ken and Velda Robson, Robyn Armitage, Janelle Costigan, Max Newman, Lerryn Mutton, Denise Lawrence, Nanette Steanes and Jean Johnson.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Marie Riley said that today John Sutton will speak about the James Craig. Next month is the Debate. In September Richard Collins will speak on the greenhouse effect.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor Ruth Charlesworth said that it had been a great visit to the Gosford Musical Society's facilities at the Laycock Street Theatre. Future activities will be: lunch at the Breakers Country Club in August, Sydney's Heritage Fleet in September, and the Reptile Park in October.

Editor's Report: Editor Wally Tuffs said that the Club had received another grant from Gosford City Council for printing costs.

Welfare Report: Joint Welfare Officer Lorraine Southgate reported that David Kenny sustained a shoulder muscle injury whilst moving a ladder but is mending well; Ken and Velda Robson are both unwell; Max Newman is having eye problems; and Robyn Armytage has started chemotherapy. President John presented a card to John and Annette Pagett for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Bushwalking Report: Bushwalking Convenor Kevin Southgate said that last Tuesday 30 people and 2 dogs had attended a very enjoyable walk beside Brisbane Water from Kincumber to Davistown and back. Next month John and Anne Mulford will lead a walk at Patonga.

Golf Report: Golf Leader Mike Ryan said that the golf course is drying well.

Theatre Report: Theatre Convenor Anne Swan discussed possible films that we might like to see. Next Sunday the theatre group will see Arsenic and Old Lace at Woy Woy little theatre.

General Business: None

Five minute talk: In the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, John Mulford spoke about a unique event that he had experienced 60 years ago. In 1952 after he had completed his studies, he sailed for England – a not uncommon rite of passage for young people those days. On 6 February 1952 as the ship was preparing to dock at Tilbury after a 32 day voyage, the Captain came on the intercom and informed the passengers that King George VI had died. Princess Elizabeth and Prince Phillip were in Kenya, on their way to Australia, and a plane had been sent to bring them home. The Captain also said that on the following day the Council of Accession would make a decision about whether Elizabeth was to be Queen. Later that day, John disembarked and went to his lodgings at Weybridge, Surry. The next day, 7 February, soon after he set out on a walking tour through London, he was stopped by police outside St. James Palace and then witnessed the proclamation of the decision of the Council of Accession. The same proclamation was made in many other places throughout England, and in the Dominions, including Canberra. John remembers thinking that the new Queen was only a few years older than him and reflecting on the enormity of the task that she was facing. On the following day, 8 February, John heard the Queen's speech of dedication and decided that she would do a good job. Now, 60 years later, John remarked that she certainly had.

After morning tea, Marie Riley introduced John Sutton who spoke about the Sydney Heritage Fleet's James Craig, on which he has worked for many years as a volunteer. The James Craig was built in Sunderland, England and christened the Clan McLeod. She was rigged with 21 sails, square rigged on the fore and main masts, and fore and aft rigged like a yacht on the mizzen mast nearest the stern, making her a 3 masted barque. Her hull (except for her timber deck) and lower masts and yards were made of wrought iron and the upper masts and yards were of oregon pine. The maiden voyage of the Clan McLeod was around Cape Horn from east to west to Peru. Failing to get a cargo there, she went on to Portland, Oregon USA where she took on a cargo of wheat for England. The entire voyage took 15 months – the only woman on board, the Captain's wife, was 2 months pregnant when the ship sailed and she brought back an 8 month old son! Her third voyage was nearly her last. The First Mate was lost overboard during a violent storm between Cape of Good Hope and New Zealand, and while rounding Cape Horn she was battered by huge seas which caused major damage. Her main hatch cover was smashed and large amounts of water poured into her hold. She managed to limp to Rio de Janeiro, where essential repairs took over a month. In 1893 she was sold and subsequently made many passages from New York around the Cape of Good Hope to New Zealand, returning via Cape Horn to New York. In 1905 she was sold to a New Zealand company and renamed the James Craig. She made 35 trips around the Australian coast and across to New Zealand. Eventually as steamships made sailing ships uneconomic, she was sold and became a hulk to store copra in New Guinea. After World War 1, she was bought by Henry Jones Company, restored, and again traded between Australia and New Zealand. The James Craig ended her first sailing life in 1922 when she became a coal storage hulk for a coal mine at Recherche Bay Tasmania. After the coal mine went broke she lay there until a storm broke her loose and she was dynamited and sunk with her stern in 5 m of water. There she lay and was forgotten until she was discovered by chance. Over a 14 month period from March 1972 to May 1973 in an extraordinary achievement of salvage, she was refloated and towed to Hobart. After slipping and repairs she was towed to Sydney where she arrived on 19 January 1981. The Sydney Heritage Fleet then undertook the massive task of restoring her. Restoring the hull alone involved removing 50,000 rivets, taking all the plates off, repairing the frame and replacing most of the upper plates. This was followed by complete fitting out and rigging. After 30 years of work and \$20 million cost with virtually no Government assistance, she has emerged as one of only 4 square rigged sailing ships in the world that can still sail, and the only one that makes regular ocean trips. During his talk John showed many historical slides of the James Craig and some video footage of her restoration and subsequent operation. John Pagett thanked John for an excellent talk.

The Lucky Door Prize was won by John Rudd.

John thanked David and Hermione Dunbar for helping with morning tea. Rhoda Roberts and Arthur Adeney volunteered to help with morning tea at the next meeting.

John thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.30am.

Signed as a correct record: John Rudd, President .....