

Probus Club of Kincumber Inc.
Minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee
held at the home of Rhoda Roberts on 5 April 2011

The meeting opened at 9.30am. Those present were Rhoda Roberts (President), John Rudd (Senior Vice President), Thelma Leonard (Junior Vice President), Barry Riley (Treasurer), Richard Collins (Secretary), Wally Tuffs (Editor), Ruth Charlesworth (Social Convenor), Col Laybutt (Speaker Convenor), Reg Davis (Membership Officer), and David Dennison (Immediate Past President).

President Rhoda welcomed members of the Committee to the meeting. She particularly welcomed Past President David, and thanked him for attending.

Minutes of previous Committee meeting on 4 March 2011: The draft Minutes had previously been circulated and changes requested by members had been made. The Minutes were accepted.

Business arising from Minutes: None

Correspondence: News Sheets from other Probus Clubs; Travel brochures; Nomination of George Burt as Honorary Member by Fred Leake; resignation from Ken Gosby; Nomination of Ken Gosby as Honorary Member by Bruce Dunlop (last 3 dealt with under Membership below);

In future, Richard will forward to the Committee any News Sheets that he receives from other clubs.

President's Report: President Rhoda read her Report that will appear in the next News Sheet. She also asked Richard to outline his views on the role of President. Richard said that, apart from the obvious responsibility of Chairing meetings, he felt that it is most appropriate for the President to assume a true leadership role in the Club, and that he/she should decide where he/she wants to take the Club during his/her year in office.

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>March</i>
Income	\$1270.00	\$1270.00	
Expenses	\$116.78	\$116.78	
Balance at 31 March 2011	\$2147.69		

Barry said that 40 members have so far paid their dues.

Membership Report: The Committee confirmed its acceptance of the membership application by Nanette Steanes. The Committee accepted the Membership applications from Laurie McClure and Pam Robertson. They will be inducted at the next meeting.

At the February General meeting, President David announced that George Burt would no longer be able to attend meetings and would not be renewing his membership. Shortly after that meeting, Fred Leake nominated George as an Honorary member. The Committee considered this matter out of session, and most members supported this Nomination. This view was conveyed to the Club at the March General meeting and the Club resolved at that meeting to appoint George as an Honorary member. At the March meeting, Ken Gosby tendered his resignation from the Club. Subsequently, Bruce Dunlop nominated Ken Gosby as an Honorary member. During the Committee's consideration of Ken's resignation and Bruce's nomination, several members were concerned about the way in which the matter of honorary membership may develop in the Club in the future. The Constitution specifies that Honorary members do not pay fees, and they cannot vote or hold office, but they enjoy all of the other benefits of membership. (It should be noted, however, that the current Probus Handbook states that whether Honorary members pay some fees is "at the discretion of the membership", which seems inconsistent with the Constitution.) Honorary members are required to be included in the Club's member count, and Annual Capitation fees must be paid for them. (Capitation fees include a component for the cost of insurance, which seems to imply that it would normally be expected that honorary members would participate in the Club's activities.) Having a large number of Honorary members could therefore become a significant financial burden on the Club. Until last month, only 2 people had been elected as Honorary members of our Club – Alan Lucre and Ron Coleman. The purpose of Honorary membership is unclear – should it be regarded as an "honour", or does it have another purpose? Many organisations use honorary membership to develop a close association with a person who could be useful to it. Despite these uncertainties, the Constitution makes it very clear that decisions about who should be made honorary

members are made by the Club, not the Committee. Because of these complex issues, the Committee decided that it would defer action on Ken Gosby's resignation, and also on forming a view to put to the Club on Bruce Dunlop's nomination of Ken for Honorary membership. The Committee believes that the Club membership should first decide how to take a consistent approach on Honorary membership in the future. Richard will prepare material for the next News Sheet which will outline the issues involved and ask members to give their views on this matter. The Committee will then develop a draft policy on Honorary membership for consideration by members at a subsequent meeting.

Editor's Report: Editor Wally Tuffs advised that Ken Bailey will receive a 20 year certificate at the next General meeting. Wally has circulated an Emergency Contact List. This is certain to change in the future and Wally will continue to maintain it and send any changes to Richard. Richard will attach a copy of the current List whenever he sends an email to Committee members activating a ring-around. Richard requested that all Committee members acknowledge receipt of any request to do a ring-around.

Speaker Convenor's Report: Speaker Convenor Col Laybutt advised that in April Trevor Phelps from the Cancer Council will speak. Col raised the matter of paying for speakers. In the past the Club has never paid a fee to a speaker, and has only infrequently paid a speaker for expenses incurred in attending the meeting. The Committee confirmed that this practice should continue, and set a limit of \$60 on the payment to any case.

Social Convenor's Report: Social Convenor Ruth Charlesworth advised that the balance in the Social account is \$239.78. There will be no Social function in April because of the trip to the Blue Mountains. In May Ruth is planning a trip to the Museum of Ancient Culture at Macquarie University, and in June she is organising a bus trip to Williamtown Air base. Ruth is also starting to plan our Christmas function.

Bushwalking Report: Kevin Southgate has matters in hand.

Golf: No report.

Theatre: The Committee decided not to proceed with the idea of combining our theatre activities with Avoca Beach Probus Club, and to leave theatre matters in the hands of David Dunbar.

Web site: Webmaster Barry said that the web site is up to date. Richard will send Barry a complete list of all of the Club's speakers, and he will consider whether to put this on the site under "History".

Meetings: Junior Vice President Thelma agreed to take over the responsibility of organising Profile talks. Richard will send her all of the information needed to do this. There will be a Profile talk in April and a Historical presentation in May. Fred Leake has been requested to decrease the length of future historical talks. Richard is seeking someone to take over the responsibility of organising the debates. Mione Dunbar was suggested as a possibility. Rhoda will be away in May, and John will Chair that General meeting.

Annual Return to Department of Fair Trading: Richard has completed this and will send it off (cost \$48.00).

Annual Return to Probus South Pacific: This return has been completed. There were 67 members at the date of the AGM (Capitation cost \$7.00). The Committee decided to purchase 35 Probus magazines (\$7.00 each, for 6 issues during the year). The total cost of the Probus return will be \$784.00. Richard will submit the return.

General Business: The Committee confirmed that the draft Minutes of the March AGM are accurate. The Committee decided to ask Diane Rudd to take individual photos of all members, and keep them on file for use as required.

The next meeting will be held at 9.30am on Tuesday 7 June at Thelma Leonard's place: 52 Henderson Road Saratoga.

On behalf of the Committee, Richard thanked President Rhoda for hosting this meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.

Signed as a correct record: Rhoda Roberts (President):