

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING
PROBUS CLUB OF TEMPLESTOWE VALLEY Inc.
Held at Ajani Centre, 284 Thompsons Road Lower Templestowe, 3107
On Monday 10th November 2014

1. **Welcome:** President, Craig Lukeman opened the meeting at 9.45am and welcomed members and the 5 guests to the meeting.

2. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Craig Lukeman proposed that the minutes of the October 2014 Meeting as circulated be confirmed

Moved: Margaret McGregor

Seconded: Elaine Hayne

Carried

3. **President's Report**

The Committee has been following the activities of what is called the PSPL Reform Group for the past couple of years and want to inform you of the current situation.

This Group was set up by a number of Probians who are dissatisfied with the way Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) has been performing and who have been seeking a variety of reforms to the governance and structure of PSPL.

PSPL was originally set up as a service centre to provide assistance to Probus Clubs in Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines. However over the years it has moved into commercial ventures such as selling travel insurance and the Active Retirees magazine.

This has led to profits being generated and wherever there is a sniff of profit the Australian Tax Office inevitably takes an interest!

You may recall that PSPL disingenuously attempted to avoid tax liability by trying to amend the aims and objects of Probus to read "to help members of the community by relieving isolation and loneliness associated with ageing etc." and replacing the original aims of promoting Fun, Fellowship and Friendship. Clubs were asked to endorse this change but resoundingly rejected it and as a result PSPL lost its tax exemption status and became liable for tax on past earnings since 2010.

An allowance of \$230,000 was made for the tax liability for the years 2010-2013 but the recently published Annual Report for March 2014 shows that this was insufficient and that an additional provision of \$127,807 was necessary. Various other expenses were also incurred with the result that PSPL revealed a net loss after tax of \$421,634 for the year ending 31 March 2014 and that as of that date, current liabilities exceeded current assets by \$402,490.

The accounts note that:

"These results give rise to some uncertainty which may cast significant doubt over the Company's ability to continue as a going concern."

It is also noted that total assets are \$3,023,429 exceeding total liabilities by \$683,924. The main asset is the lavish offices PSPL has obtained through entering into significant debt.

PSPL is proposing to further increase capitation fees in order to reduce losses and to undertake some unannounced cost reductions in their operations.

An increasing number of Clubs in New Zealand have opted out of PSPL in recent times and this will reduce PSPL capitation fee income during this current year.

Questions and explanations from the floor regarding the President's report.

PSPL = Probus South Pacific Limited

1. Kerry McInerney asked if Rotary have any input into PSPL these days, as he knew that Rotary set up Probus in the South Pacific region and wondered if they were still involved.

Answer. Craig Lukeman (President) replied that Rotary is still involved

2. John Mugridge asked why Members had not been informed about PSPL

Answer Ellen Boyd (President 2013) replied that there has been nothing to report to the Members, as neither the Rotary representative for our area, Robert Renshaw nor PSPL have replied to any or our requests for explanations or clarification of matters.

3. Bob Anderson (President 2012) stated that the Travel Insurance had been \$200,000 in the black, but had now failed, and was now in debt. Travel insurance through PSPL was more expensive than many other insurers available to Members. PSPL needed to get back to basics.

4. Phil Mithen asked what was the situation with the Probus Clubs that had opted out of PSPL in New Zealand.
Answer. Craig Lukeman said that they had set up Probus New Zealand and were still part of Rotary.

5. Guy Tuddenham asked how much the capitation would be increased and what were the Probation numbers involved with PSPL.

Answer. As it appears that a PSPL representative was unable to answer this question at a recent (31.10.2014) meeting for the Manningham Probation Interest Group, the Committee was unable to answer Guy's question.

Guy Tuddenham asked that on the Agenda for January 2015 Club Meeting it be put "to discuss PSPL and the number of members that are involved with Probation" Request Actioned by Libby Jones

Lunch: At Yarra Valley Country Club, Templestowe Road, Bulleen

Birthdays: Alan Baker, Laurel Bishop, Anne Doull, Patricia Edwards, Anne Franklin, Wendy Knight, Craig Lukeman, Dorothy Macaulay, Keith Marsh, Philip Mithen, Denis Wheeler, Faye Williams, Gwen Young

4. **Vice President's Report:** Wendy Fishley

Information on First Aiders:

I requested some information on the appointment of First Aiders and what can be expected of them in an emergency.

In reply it was mentioned that there is always 000 or "Nurse on Call" who can be contacted in an emergency and they will give advice over the phone.

It was pointed out that in using defibrillators, Probation Insurance does not cover the patient but the user may be covered by the "Good Samaritan Act."

If a club owns a defibrillator, they need to look after it and ensure it is properly serviced.

The need was stressed to have a number of members enrolled in First Aid courses and to keep up their level of efficiency in First Aid. Maybe we need to have a few more members doing the First Aid course.

Some clubs have performed evacuation procedures and this was seen to be a necessary action.

There are five actions I wish to tell you about regarding the Christmas lunch:

- 1) Please bring your own camera if you wish to be photographed at this function as the official photographer will be busy with other jobs.
- 2) Bring your own drink and glasses for the table.
- 3) Please put your bags on the chair or under the table and not on it.
- 4) Take your bottles and cans home with you and don't leave your rubbish for others to clean up.
- 5) Please book today for the lunch if you haven't done so already. This is your last chance!

Thank you and enjoy your Christmas lunch!

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| 5. Treasurer's report: | David Moodie | |
| | Balance brought forward as at 30/09/2014 | \$11,123.51 |
| | Total Income | \$ 7,146.74 |
| | Total Expenditure | \$ 6,167.85 |
| | Club funds | \$ 4,233.17 |
| | Activities Funds | \$ 7,869.23 |
| | Balances on hand | \$12,102.40 |

David Moodie proposed that the Treasurer's report be received

Seconded: Les Thompson Carried

6. **Welfare Report:** Laurine Eames nil

7. **Secretary's Report:** Libby Jones

Committee members and Group Leaders are requested to email their report to Libby Jones by January 12th 2015 to enable her to compile the Annual Report for 2014

Margaret Campbell requested that anyone with a spare wheelchair please contact her. It would be used for a young person in need of a kidney transplant.

Yvonne Boyall requested that a note of thanks be read out to the members acknowledging sewn items and the wonderful rocking horse that had been donated by Ron McBain for the Peter MacCallum raffle.

8. **Correspondence Report:** Libby Jones

Several appropriate letters were read to the members.

La Trobe Uni. Regarding volunteers for a hip study,

MPC newsletter, and a message from PSPL regarding fashion and photos for the Active Retirees magazine.

Libby also has PSPL membership cards for some members. - Shirley Sims, Rhonda and Neil Sinclair, Liz Nauman.

Any member requiring a card to be ordered is asked to speak to Libby.

Alan Baker thanked the Activity Group Leaders for all their work and the variety of things made available to the Members, he then thanked the Members for supporting the Activity Group Leaders.
Alan then told a joke about croaking like a frog.

Entertainers Margaret Campbell and Wilma Pontefract spoke about the singing group, which meets at Wilma's home on the first Monday of the month at 7pm.

The entertainers group meets during the day on the last Tuesday of the month, at the Finns Reserve Scout Hall. Margaret encouraged members to join in the fun next year, she said performing takes you out of your comfort zone and we have a lot of fun. Margaret thanked all the existing members for the extra time, effort, sewing and skills that they brought to the group.

To show the expertise of some of our members, Margaret then presented the Screening of the Synchronized Swimming skit performed by some of the Entertainment cast in June 2014. This was greeted with much hilarity and appreciation.

10. **General Business:**

Attendance Report:

Present: 117 No Show: 1 Apologies: 32 = 150 plus Visitors: 5

Fellowship Break

11. **Introduction of Speaker:** John Reid introduced Mollie Sasson who spoke on "My life and ASIO"
Mollie has also written a book which is now available called "More Cloaks than Daggers" - Mollie Sasson
Thank you given by John Reid

Meeting closed at 12.05pm

Next Meeting to be held on Monday 8th December 2014 and will be the Christmas Luncheon in the Ajani Centre starting at 10am.

Signed by President: _____ Dated _____