



NEWSLETTER

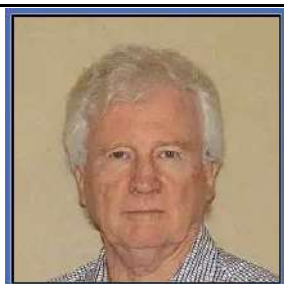
May 2023: Vol 33 No 2

Probud Club of Newcastle Inc.
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To print from the Website, click [NEWSLETTER](#)

President: **Marty Rowland 0431 124 292**
Secretary: **Frank Rice 0418 611 195**
Treasurer: **Keith Lynch 0409 537 225**

Activities: **Geoff Morris 0412 613 591**
Luncheons: **Steve Wines 0428 670 581**
Editor: **Peter Rickford 0412 495 575**



President's Report: Marty Rowland

Gentlemen,

Welcome to the May 2023 Newcastle PROBUS Newsletter.

Our club commemorated ANZAC Day at our April meeting which had to be brought forward one week as ANZAC Day fell on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Thank you to Dave Leach who conducted the ANZAC ceremony and read The Ode.

Frank Rice was our Special Interest speaker, giving us a history of Patrol Boats in the Royal Australian Navy. Of particular interest to Frank was HMAS Maitland, a RAN patrol boat which was decommissioned last month at a ceremony he and Jackie attended at HMAS Coonawarra in Darwin.

In keeping with a military theme, our guest speaker was Commander Paul Taylor of the RAN. Not only was Paul a reservist in the RAN, but he was also a vulcanologist and geologist in civilian life and spoke about moving between those professions and the RAN throughout his working life. He currently works as a consultant to governments of several Pacific Ocean nations who daily face the reality of active volcanoes in their midst.

Congratulations to Dave Leach who was unanimously voted to life membership of our club. Dave was presented with a commemorative plaque by President Marty Rowland. Thank you Dave for your past and ongoing contributions to Newcastle PROBUS.

A reminder to members that 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of Newcastle PROBUS, for which the publication of a commemorative book is being planned. Members who have anecdotes, photographs, or other memorabilia which may be of interest, please contact one of the committee members.

Brian Prior has been conducting a recruitment campaign which is starting to bear fruit. Brian's efforts notwithstanding, members are encouraged to bring along a friend, neighbour, or family member who may be interested in joining us.

Friendship, Fellowship and Fun in Retirement

Special Interest: Marty Rowland

Allan Stace – The Rainbow Club – an Update

Rainbow Club is a network of social swimming clubs for children with a disability. With NDIS Provider status and our unique Swim the Rainbow program, Rainbow Club offers a fun and safe community for children with a disability to have personalised swimming lessons catered to their needs.

The next General Meeting of Newcastle Probud Club is on 27 June 2023 at Souths Merewether

Treasurers Report: Keith Lynch

Bank Reconciliation end April 2023: Opening Balance \$12,919, Income \$264, Expenditure (\$3,666), Closing Balance \$9,517, Term Deposit \$ 7,500

Payments:

Internet Banking: Newcastle Permanent Building Society, BSB: 650000 AC No: 943213300

Cash: To Treasurer (in envelope with name, purpose and amount). **Cheques:** Mail to our PO Box

Walking Group: Phillip Ryan

Our walking, talking and coffee is on Tuesdays except for General Meeting days.

It is now almost winter, so it really is still a pleasant walk along the side of Throsby Creek, and then time to enjoy a coffee at the NCYC and the stimulating discussion. Come and enjoy the friendly banter on the day. All welcome, we start our walk at NCYC at 9.30 am sharp. Coffee is from around 10.00 am.

“Everyone who attends enjoys the outing”

Luncheons: Steve Wines

RESERVE THE DATE FOR LADIES LUNCH

4TH AUGUST.

NORMALLY THE LAST FRIDAY IN JULY.

IT CLASHED, SO NOTE THE NEW DATE.

VENUE CLUB MACQUARIE.



**PLEASE ADVISE ATTENDANCE AT CLUB MEETINGS WITH ROSS COX OR PHONE 0432 295 793.
STEVE IS OVERSEAS IN JULY SO ROSS WILL BE ORGANISING**

Website: Lindsay Threadgate

The website has minor updates only. Any feedback on our Website from our Probus members?

Guest Speakers: Keith Hole

May: Garth Russell “The power of storytelling”.

June: Dr Jeanette Dixon “Space exploration”

Precis from Dr Jeanette Dixon AM “The Amazing Apollo Discoveries” as my talk. This was my featured talk as the VIP speaker at Parkes Radio Telescope on behalf of the Australian Government and US Embassy for the 50th anniversary of the Apollo landings.

I will also present NASA’s precious lunar sample disk containing six different lunar samples collected during three Apollo missions (15, 16, and 17) and also show some other relevant resources. These samples were loaned to me by NASA in 2004 as the only educator in Australia and the first outside of the USA to receive this honour.

July: Tracy Kelly. Tracy is a travel expert with specialist knowledge of small group tours.

Brent is a local photographer from Port Stephens who is passionate about travelling around Australia and Africa and would like the opportunity to present to our club.

Tracy and Brent are both originally from South Africa. Brent is a full-time professional photographer.

How to protect yourself from phone scams

- Don't answer if you don't know who it is. ...
- Don't reply or click on any links in text messages.
- Don't ever send money.
- Don't ever tell anyone your personal details—passwords or other sensitive information.
- Don't ever let someone take control of your computer.

Source: Australian Communications and Media Authority <https://www.acma.gov.au/phone-scams>

Membership: *Brian Prior*

All members are encouraged to bring along visitors to our meetings.

Membership: 55 – April meeting attendance: 28 members

Activities: *Geoff Morris*

Hunter Valley Observation Drive Wed 24 May

Meet at McDonalds Hexham at 10.30 am. Mary and I drove the planed route again this week and it looks good. Amazing Autumn colours and roads better than the last time– the workers have been (and still are) doing a great job. We added a few new questions to test the observers a little more. The hotel kitchen at Paterson has been rebuilt and all looks good. A cold drink at the Pokolbin finishing point was also very pleasant overlooking the farm and vineyards. Great day weatherwise but no guarantees next week—we do our best. There are currently 10 cars participating but for this outing we can take starters until our general meeting on Tuesday 23 May. Cost is \$15 per car to cover the ENORMOUS prizes. (Payable in cash at Hexham). There is no limit to numbers in cars other than standard road rules and if you wish to travel with someone else that is most welcome. (Dick Delbridge would like a second navigator and there may be others)

Awaba Greenwaste Facility Wed 14 June

There is a limit on the number who can attend for this visit and there are still a few vacancies. Register at Tuesday's meeting or at morrisgeoff@y7mail.com.

August (date TBA) Dinner at Hamilton TAFE

OBSERVED FROM THE CYCLEWAY ALONGSIDE THROSBY CREEK

12 Seniors, all men, all drinking (coffee that is), obviously in an engaging debate.

The subject could not be discerned but by the focus and volume it was quite serious.

A PRIZE WILL BE OFFERED FOR WHO CAN OUT VOLUME THE LEAD DEBATER AT NCYC anon



Editor's note:

This Newsletter has been jointly compiled by Peter and Lindsay. It has been an interesting and challenging process and a bit frustrating.

*Seniors Mastering
Technology*



The AA Company and Merewether

Edward Christopher Merewether (1820–1893), public servant and company superintendent, was born on 20 February 1820 in London. In the Stratheden, Merewether arrived at Sydney in September 1841 and became aide-de-camp to Governor Gipps next January. He also served as aide-de-camp to Sir Maurice O'Connell and Governor Fitzroy. In 1846 he resigned to become colonial secretary in the Port Curtis colony which lasted for only a few months in 1847. At Earl Grey's direction the New South Wales government made him commissioner for crown lands in the Lower Darling district.



E C Merewether circa 1841

In 1848 he was moved to the Macleay River district. Stationed at Belgrave, near Kempsey, he was sent to Sydney in 1854 as acting agent of the Church and School Corporation's estates and acting chief inspector of distilleries. In 1856 he resumed duty as commissioner of crown lands for the New England and Macleay districts with headquarters at Armidale. He was soon recalled to Sydney as clerk of the Executive Council and in 1858–59 was in England to negotiate for steam postal communication from London to Sydney via Panama. The chairman of the committee assisting him was E. W. T. Hamilton. On 11 April 1860 he married Augusta Maria, elder daughter of Dr James Mitchell, the owner of the Burwood estate.

In 1861 Merewether accepted Hamilton's offer to become general superintendent of the Australian Agricultural Co. and moved to Newcastle where he built The Ridge on the Burwood estate. His good management restored the company's fortunes. He overcame labour troubles in coal-mining and with James Fletcher helped to arrange the 'vend' system. Merewether closely supervised the company's large stations.

Merewether had become increasingly involved with management of the Burwood estate (owned by his father-in-law). In 1869 he assisted the family's counsel in litigation that eventually wrested control of Mitchell's estate from the confidence trickster, William Ernest Wolfskehl. Later as owner of the estate he had to negotiate with himself when the company wanted to mine under it. In 1876 he left the management of the estate to Robert Scott junior, and moved his family to Sydney where he built Castlefield at Bondi and Dennarque at Mount Wilson. For some years he was a local director of the London Chartered Bank and occasionally visited Newcastle. He was president of the New South Wales branch of the Royal Geographical Society and in 1889 published his presidential address. In 1887 he had generously financed exploration in New Guinea by T. F. Bevan who gave his name to the Merewether River. He became president of the Australian Club, the Sydney Lawn Tennis Club, and vice-president of the Belvedere Cricket Club in Sydney. He paid for building St Augustine's Church of England in the suburb named after him. He died on 30 October 1893 and was buried in the Anglican section of Waverley cemetery. He was survived by his wife, six sons and three daughters, to whom he left his estate valued for probate at almost £235,000.

Extracts of an article by C. E. Smith, published: in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 5, 1974.

In 1824, AA Co was established as a land development company with the assistance of the British Parliament's Crown Grant of 1,000,000 acres in the Port Stephens area of the Colony of New South Wales.

The Australian Agricultural Co. was granted 2000 acres of land in Newcastle. The company operated mines in Newcastle and Hamilton. Today, AA Co is focused on the production of premium beef products for export and domestic consumption. The beef feeds more than 1,000,000 people throughout the world every day.

The next General Meeting of Newcastle Probus Club is on 27 June 2023 at Souths Merewether

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