



# NEWSLETTER

**November 2023: Vol 33 No 8**

**Probud Club of Newcastle Inc.**  
**PO Box 597 The Junction NSW 2291**

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To print from the Website, click **NEWSLETTER**

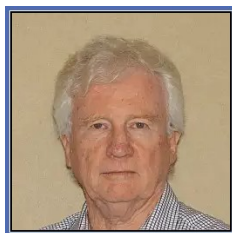
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President: **Marty Rowland 0431 124 292**  
Secretary: **Frank Rice 0418 611 195**  
Treasurer: **Keith Lynch 0409 537 225**

Activities: **Geoff Morris 0412 613 591**  
Speakers: **Keith Hole 0419 219 193**  
Editor: **Peter Rickford 0412 495 575**

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**GENERAL MEETING 28<sup>th</sup> November – Programme:**  
**9.30 am – General Meeting, Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, Induction**  
**9.45 am – Member Special Interest/Autobiography**  
**10.00 am – Coffee and Tea**  
**10.30 am – Guest Speaker – Sandra Keen – ComputerPals Newcastle**



## **President's Report: Marty Rowland**



Good morning fellow Probians.

Welcome to the Newcastle PROBUS Newsletter for November 2023, our last for the year.

Our biographer last month was one of our newer members, Max Smith, who gave an interesting and very informative talk about his early life as a teacher and educator in NSW. Thank you Max.

Talking about one's life in 15 minutes in the autobiography/special interest section of our monthly meetings can be an inadequate means of introducing one's self fully to members, so we have asked Barney Whitehead to return at this month's meeting with "My Life Part 2". Thank you Barney.

Last month, our guest speaker was South African born Travel Photographer Brent Mail who gave a fascinating account of "The Highs and Lows of His Artistic Journey". Brent has travelled extensively throughout South Africa leading safaris and photographing the ubiquitous wildlife. A highlight for me was his shot of a lion taken two metres away from an unenclosed vehicle. Brent also advised that he intends to lead a similar safari next year, however, I am not sure I want to be unprotected that close to a lion.

Members and their partners enjoyed two outstanding activities this month and last. First was a train and ferry trip on 26 October to Davistown RSL for a very enjoyable lunch, and a visit to the Westpac Engineering Base at Broadmeadow on 16 November where, while enjoying a magnificent but unexpected morning tea, members heard an interesting talk about the operations of the Base and, afterwards, viewed a helicopter undergoing maintenance.

As our forthcoming meeting will be the last for the year, I would like to acknowledge your committee for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year. The monthly meetings, lunches, guest speakers and activities we all enjoy would not be possible without their dedication. Thank you gentlemen.

On behalf of Margaret and myself, I wish members and their families a very merry and happy Christmas, and we hope that the New Year brings you all that you would wish for. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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*The next General Meeting of Newcastle Probus Club will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at Souths Merewether*

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**Special Interest:** *Marty Rowland*

Our special interest for this month is Barney Whitehead – My Life Part II

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**Treasurer's Report:** *Keith Lynch*

**Bank Reconciliation end October 2023:** Opening Balance \$10,103, Income \$1,020, Expenditure (\$188), Closing Balance \$10,935, Term Deposit \$7,500

**Payments:**

**Internet Banking:** Newcastle Permanent Building Society, BSB: 650000, A/c No. 943213300

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

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**Guest Speakers:** *Keith Hole*

**November** – Sandra Keen --- “ComputerPals for Seniors”

**January** – Alan Broadfoot --- “NIER”

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**Luncheons:** *Steve Wines*

**OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY at Souths**



Friday 1st December.

11am Arrival Tea and Coffee.

11.30am Entertainment

Lunch 12.30pm

If you are coming, then have you paid?

Preferred Payment by funds transfer \$50 per person

BSB 650000 A/c 943213300 with your name.

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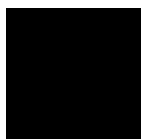
**Membership:** *Brian Prior*

Pleased to announce our newest member Alan White. Alan was a guest of Graeme McIntyre at a couple of meetings and decided to join us. His membership application was approved at the November committee meeting.

Please make sure you make an effort to get to know Alan at our meetings and also we should all try to emulate Graeme by bring visitors to our meetings.

Membership: 57 – Attendance October General Meeting: 35

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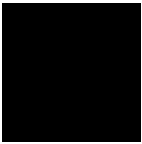
**Walking Group:** *Phillip Ryan*

Assembly for walking is, “on the blocks” and the starter’s gun goes at 9.30 am sharp. Coffee from 10.00 am, the members are usually all assembled by 10.30.

This group is gaining strength with new members joining in. The debate commences with no formal agenda, there being no “Speaker” to control the decorum, however debate there is plenty and on the topical subjects of the state, nation, and world.

All disagreement is adjourned and dissolved so as not to inhibit the debate of the following week.

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**Website:** *Lindsay Threadgate*

Minor updates only. Feedback and contributions are always welcome.



**Newsletter:** *Lindsay Threadgate (for Peter Rickford)*

Feedback or contributions to Peter would be most welcome.



**Activities:** *Geoff Morris – Dick Delbridge*

**Westpac Rescue Helicopter Engineering Base Visit, Thursday 16 Nov**



15 members, partners and friends enjoyed a relaxing and most enlightening visit to the Broadmeadow Engineering Base of the Northern NSW Westpac Helicopter organization where the servicing is carried out on the group's 5 helicopters. Despite the delightful morning tea provided at the base the majority of our group moved on to the Nags Head Hotel, Adamstown for a pleasant lunch.

Over the last 12 months the club has enjoyed the following activities:

December	Morning tea in Brickworks Park	✓
January	Tour on Newcastle's Famous Tram	✓
March	Visit to Kurri Kurri Hospitality Training Tafe	✓
May	Observation Drive in Lower Hunter	✓
June	Visit to Awaba Green Waste Facility	✓
August	Dinner at Hamilton Tafe	✓
October	Train/Ferry trip to Davistown	✓
November	Westpac Helicopter Engineering Base	✓

Q: Why did the old man put wheels on his rocking chair? A: Because he wanted to rock and roll!





## How is your local knowledge?

In 1930 a man was assaulted and robbed on the corner of Morgan and Llewellyn Streets Merewether. He staggered to the nearest Police Station at about half the normal walking speed of a man and it took him 5 minutes to arrive to report the assault.



Almost 100 years on, although no longer a Police Station, the building is still there. Q: Where was this Police Station and when was it built?

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## The Newcastle Williamtown Air Show 2023: *Robbie Robinson*

18 – 19 November

'What a blast' – were the words uttered by my son when I showed him the video sequences that I filmed at Nobby's beach on Saturday 18th November. Under clear blue skies and warm temperatures, the vast crowds that had assembled on and behind Nobby's beach and at Fort Scratchley were treated to a spectacular display of airmanship by an extensive inventory of current and former RAAF aircraft.



A defined area just offshore from Nobby's beach, became the stage over which the participating aircraft conducted an impressive array of breathtaking aerial manoeuvres. With aircraft entering the designated controlled area from the South, we were treated to an extraordinary display of aircraft capabilities at close quarters. A live commentary kept us well informed of the various aircraft types, their respective roles and capabilities.

The scene was set with a flyby by a number of historical wartime aircraft from 100 Sqn RAAF including the Wirraway, Winjeel, Hudson, Mustang, a Canberra and the ubiquitous Spitfire. The sight and sound of this aircraft, always so evocative of the young fighter pilots of World War II, was a reminder that modern sophisticated fighter aircraft, are flown by a new generation of highly capable and dedicated young men and women. A series of fast and breathtaking manoeuvres by an F-35, flying at over 1300kph and firing anti-missile flares, dramatically demonstrated the awesome capabilities of this amazing aircraft.

A spectacular air display by the Roulettes as well as the appearance of a number of the larger RAAF aircraft demonstrated the wide range of capabilities now available within the RAAF. They included the E-7A Wedgetail, for airborne command and control as well as a P8A Poseidon and P3C for Maritime Patrol and surveillance. These larger aircraft all conducted low passes and turning manoeuvres in front of the crowds which was impressive. All in all this was a spectacular display, well planned and conducted under perfect weather conditions in front of a huge and very appreciative crowd.

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