



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

NEWSLETTER

November 2024: Vol 34 No 8

Website: newcastleprobus.org

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

President: **Lindsay Threadgate 0419 230 236**

Secretary: **Frank Rice 0418 611 195**

Treasurer: **Keith Lynch 0409 537 225**

Activities: **Geoff Morris 0412 613 591**

Speakers: **Neil Latham 0488 166 355**

Editor: **Peter Rickford 0412 495 575**

GENERAL MEETING 26th November – Programme:

9.30 am – Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, Induction

9.45 am – Member Special Interest/Autobiography

10.00 am – Coffee and Tea

10.30 am – Guest Speaker – Gil Gordon – Financial Advisor



President's Report: Lindsay Threadgate

Welcome to the November 2024 Newcastle Probus Newsletter.



Since we now all know about competing in the Sydney to Hobart and lone sailing around the world I expect to see an upsurge in interest in sailing or **NOT**. What a story, Tony Mowbray is certainly inspirational, motivational and either unbelievable or outstandingly courageous.

To survive Bass Strait under the conditions that prevailed in late 1998... Snipped direct from Wikipedia:

Storm and rescue [\[edit\]](#)

On the second day of the race (27 December)^[9] severe weather conditions struck the fleet off the coast of south-eastern Australia. An unusually intense low pressure depression developed which resulted in unseasonal mid-summer snow across parts of south-eastern Australia. The weather system built into an exceptionally strong storm with winds in excess of 65 knots (+32.8 m/s, +118 km/h, +73 mph, **Force 12**)^[10] and gusts to 80 knots.^[11] The rising storm caused the sinking of five boats; seven were abandoned and 55 sailors had to be rescued from their yachts by ships and helicopters.^[12] Overall, the rescue efforts involved 35 military and civilian aircraft and 27 **Royal Australian Navy** vessels. It proved to be Australia's largest-ever peacetime rescue operation.^[2]

Tony gave a personal account of this experience and had the courage to embark on an around the world solo in his yacht **Solo Globe Challenger** less than 2 years later.

We were entertained, amazed, inspired and whatever other superlatives you might want to add.

Yours truly presented a very condensed precis of my 40 years in the employ of BHP. I hope this outline gave you all some appreciation of my working life experience.

Our "end of year" activities have started now, kicked off with a very pleasant sausage sizzle at Brickworks Park, Wallsend. It's hard to go anywhere around Newcastle with Tony Cooke without a bit of a history lesson and so was it on that day. I thank Geoff Morris and his helpers. By the end of the week we will have, hopefully, enjoyed our Christmas Luncheon at Club Macquarie with some entertainment by the **Waratah Male Choir**.

Peter Rickford has a challenge for us all. That is to put a few words together on the origin of your surname for publication in our Newsletter. Start thinking and researching if necessary. I am sure you will enjoy putting it together and the readers will be enlightened. (don't let the truth get in the way of a good story).

It seems early, however this is our last newsletter for the year. I wish you all SEASON'S GREETINGS, I hope all of you and yours enjoy the Christmas, New Year period and are back for our January meeting to enjoy 2025.

The Next General Meeting of Newcastle Probus Club will be held on 28th January 2025 at Souths Merewether



Special Interest: Marty Rowland

Our autobiographer this month is Clive Jensen



Treasurer's Report: Keith Lynch

Bank Reconciliation end October 2024: Opening Balance \$7,506, Income \$1,888, Expenditure \$266 Closing Balance \$9,128, Term Deposit \$7,500

Payments: Cash: To Treasurer (in envelope with name, purpose, and amount).

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



Activities: Geoff Morris

As we near the end of 2024 it is a time to review the club's year of activities.

- March: Koala Sanctuary at Port Stevens*
 - June: Visit to Kurri Kurri Hospitality Training Centre*
 - July: A visit to HMRI*
 - August: 2 dinners at Hamilton Tafe*
 - September: A visit to displays of historical military machines*
 - October: An end of year barbecue lunch to provide an opportunity for an informal get together towards year end. Plans are in hand for 2025. Watch this space.*
-

Do not forget the Christmas Luncheon this Friday - if you have booked and hopefully paid.

Club Macquarie, Lake Road, Argenton - 11.00am Arrival - Tea & Coffee/Bar open



Membership: Brian Prior

Brian is continuing in his quest to recruit more members, and his efforts are certainly bearing good results.



Website: Lindsay Threadgate

An issue with our Website has been reported to me. For some reason it was, and maybe still is, not being found by searching.

I have tracked this down to a setting which was wrong. I have no idea how this happened. I have corrected this, and the site is found by Google, at least on my computer. Unfortunately, I cannot report the same success with other search engines such as Bing so I must report this as work in progress.

The website is active and by entering www.newcastleprobus.org in the address bar it should come up.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? This was suggested as something that could be an interesting regular feature, so I am going to kick it off. Feedback would be appreciated along with contributions.

RICKFORD – I have done considerable research into my surname and as far as I know in Australia, we are the only Rickfords here, with only 4 other direct family members: My nephew (also Peter), my son Greg and his two sons, Jack and Cal. My daughter, who now has a different surname has done her bit to keep the name going by including it as one of their eldest son's Christian names.

My father was born in Raymond Terrace in 1899 where his father had obviously immigrated to from Henley in the UK.

There is a very small town in the UK near Bristol named Rickford. It has a pub "*The Plume of Feathers*", a 13th century church and about three houses. I contacted them some time ago and despite them making many enquiries they were unable to shed any light on the name of the town or any former residents with that name. They host a famous annual Duck Race that draws thousands.

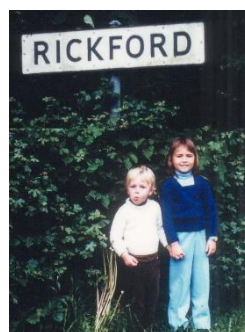
My late wife and I have visited the pub, as have my son and daughter on different occasions. When my son visited some years ago, they re-opened the kitchen especially for him as it was quite late.

Further research has uncovered a few Rickfords, but only in the USA and Canada, and all appear to be professional people. The most famous of whom is Greg Rickford, a member of the conservative party in Ontario.

I have also located a John Rickford, a professor of Linguistics at Stanford University who won the American Book Award in 2000 for his book, "*Spoken Soul: The Story of Black English*".

Yet another professor is Angela Rickford from San Jose University and Rachel Rickford an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse from Little Rock, Arkansas.

So, it appears that although there are not many of us, I have quite a reputation to live up to.



My Rememberer

Contributed by Stephen Pead

My forgetter's getting better
But my rememberer is broke
To you that may seem funny
But, to me, that is no joke.

For when I'm 'here' I'm wondering
If I really should be 'there'
And, when I try to think it through,
I haven't got a prayer!

Often times I walk into a room,
Say "what am I here for?"
I wrack my brain, but all in vain
A zero, is my score.

At times I put something away
Where it is safe, but Gee!
The person it is safest from
Is, generally, me!

When shopping I may see someone,
Say "Hi" and have a chat,
Then, when the person walks away
I ask myself, "who was that?"

Yes, my forgetter's getting better
While my rememberer is broke,
And it's driving me plumb crazy
And that isn't any joke.

P.S. I don't remember who sent it to me!

THIS NEW WRENCH IS AMAZING.

One side is "Standard",



the other side is "Metric".

We truly do live in an age of technological marvels.



John Ramsland's powerfully original exploration of the famous actor's life reveals him to have been a frequently-abandoned, unloved child who couldn't read or write, but picked up perfect oral French while living with his dotty grandmother in a Paris suburb.

In reality, his difficult childhood experiences in England, France, India and Australia was the key to understanding his brilliant memorising acting performances on the silver screen in such films as *The Shiralee*, *A Town Like Alice*, *The Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, *Network* (where he won an Oscar) and *Raid on Entebbe*.

You are cordially invited with family and friends to the Newcastle launch :

When: Saturday, 7 December 2024
2pm-4.30pm

Where: United Service Club
55-57 Watt Street, Newcastle

RSVP: marie.ramsland@newcastle.edu.au
or
tel. 0428 334 704

Gerry Collins, Newcastle's highly-regarded sports broadcaster who has covered six Olympic Games and is the author of *A Fortuitous Foray into France* (Brolga) will launch the book.

The book will be available at the launch for the special price of \$25.00

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