



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

NEWSLETTER

January 2025: Vol 34 No 9

Website: newcastleprobus.org

Email: newsletter@newcastleprobus.org

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 28th January – 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 – “Sly” from Warners Bay Probus



President's Report: Lindsay Threadgate

Welcome to the January 2025 Newcastle Probus Newsletter.



It is hard to believe that it is now January 2025, another year has passed so quickly. I hope everyone had an enjoyable festive season and are refreshed for 2025.

What interesting lives we all have had, I want to thank Clive Jensen for sharing his via his autobiography.

We finished the Probus year with what was an interesting and thought-provoking presentation by Gil Gordon. I hope you have given appropriate thought to your Estate Plan as a result. I found Gil's presentation to the point and with some challenges. “Thanks Gil.”

I was very pleased with our Christmas Luncheon on at least three fronts, the attendance was the best for some time, the Waratah Male Choir was most entertaining, the organisation superb, thanks Stephen, the food was very nice, and the cake topped it off. Thanks again Stephen Pead.

A sad note is that two of our members passed away just prior to Christmas, Jim Smith and John Peschar. Jim had 20 years membership and John 19 years. They happened to have been good friends.

With only a couple of months now till our Annual General Meeting we are reviewing those matters that are needed for the new year. The Committee must be decided, and a couple of members have submitted that they will be retiring. Some new committee members will be sought, so think about it. Most committee members serve several years, they start by getting to “know the ropes” and take on roles that really contribute. If you think you might like to join then seek out any of the present committee.

Our Activities officer, Geoff Morris, is active as always (cannot help the pun) and lining up activities for 2025. Keep a lookout, there should be something that appeals. If not and you have some ideas then let Geoff know.

Moving towards “Cashless”, we are here between plastic and metal or is that electronic and real money. In any case it does not matter, we the committee have been discussing how to do it, i.e. to go cashless and to that end have purchased a Square Terminal. The “Square” will allow payments for meetings etc. via electronic means. It will not be sudden changeover, rather a transition. Peter Rickford and Brian Prior are progressing this change.

Our annual membership fees are due on the 1st of February and the fees are still \$30.

The Next General Meeting of Newcastle Probus Club will be held on 25th February 2025 at Souths Merewether



Special Interest: *Marty Rowland*

Our autobiographer this month is Tom Sobb.



Treasurer's Report: *Keith Lynch*

Bank Reconciliation end December 2024: Opening Balance \$12,213, Income \$110, Expenditure \$3,826 Closing Balance \$8,497, 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*

BBQ in Brickworks Park to start year: Thursday 20 Feb 11am

A chance to get together in a convenient location to get the year started. Details to follow but basically \$5 pp payable on the day. A registration sheet at Tuesday's meeting or email to morrisgeoff@y7mail.com

History and Heritage Ferry Cruise on Brisbane Waters Thursday 17 April

A special departure for our group plus public from Woy Woy to Broken Bay, Empire Bay, Gosford, etc with a representative of the local history club to provide commentary. Concessional cost is \$40 per person payable in advance to confirm booking. Rail around 7.30 from Newcastle and a little later from other stations (Hamilton, Broadmeadow, Cardiff, etc). Cruise ends around 12.30-12.45pm and optional lunch at Woy Woy could be at wharf or Bayview Hotel before train return to Newcastle. (Morning tea on board ferry is included). Geoff Morris morrisgeoff@y7mail.com

2025 PRESIDENTS LUNCHEON - INVITATION



Members and Ladies are invited to the annual Presidents Luncheon.

Apollo International Hotel, Pacific Highway, Charlestown

Friday 28th March 2025

11.00am: Arrive - Tea & Coffee/Pre-Lunch Drinks

11.25am: Welcome - Introduce 2025 Committee

11.30am: Guest Speaker

12.30pm: Lunch

1.30pm: Fellowship

Please RSVP by 21st March 2025 Stephen Pead - luncheon coordinator

At Club Meeting or email peady@y7mail.com or phone 0411 471 118

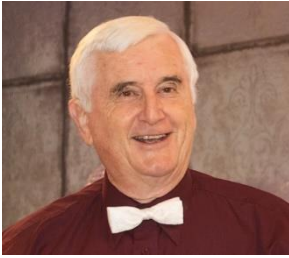
Payment of \$50 per person by funds transfer BSB 650-000 A/C 943213300 (your name)

Or Cash/Cheque



Website: *Lindsay Threadgate*

The website is active and by entering www.newcastleprobus.org it should come up.



WHAT's IN A SURNAME – PRIOR

Growing up with your surname have you ever wondered what its origins and history might be?

I have, and decided to do a little bit of research on my surname which I would like to share with you.

Firstly, may I say that I have long wondered if there were religious associations with my surname as I grew up in a street in England where part of the street was walled off and referred to as the old Priory.

In my career I have been able to use my surname as a humorous introduction to a presentation. The highlight was when I was Product Manager for a new line of computer servers released by our parent company Fujitsu. I was sent on a nationwide tour of our sales offices in company of a salesman and a support technician. I was able to start the presentation by saying “We have religious zeal driving our desire to show you what tremendous product the PRIMERGY Servers are. That is why we have a team of Prior, Friar and Pentecost!”. My sales rep was a Friar, and my technician was a Pentecost!

It has taken me more than 79 years to finally do some research on my surname hoping that it would have some substance worthy of my time. I was not disappointed!

From the House of Names website:

“The name Prior reached English shores for the first time with the ancestors of the Prior family as they migrated following the Norman Conquest in 1066. Prior is a name for a monastic official immediately subordinate to an abbot having derived from the Old English word prior, meaning superior, and indicates that the original bearer of the name held this position.

Religious official with a name implying SUPERIOR! I should had researched earlier maybe. However, the Norman kink worries me – am I going to be hit with reparation charges from some descendants of ancient Brits?

Names such as Roger le Prior and Nicholas le Prior appear in early 1200 English documents which seems to conform the Norman connection. Maybe I have an early ancestor who was an Aristocratic member of the ruling Norman elites?

Prior's however have not always been members of the elite. The first Prior's to arrive in Australia came on the First Fleet as convicts.

From the People Australia website:

“Thomas Prior and William Kilby were found guilty, on 16 January 1784 at the Abingdon Quarter Sessions, Berkshire, of stealing 10 turkeys, 13 fowls, 5 ducks and 2 geese in a linen bag. The pair were sent to the *Censor* hulk on the Thames River. They arrived in Sydney in January 1788 aboard the *Alexander* as part of the First Fleet.”

However maybe he was a well-behaved convict as he received a liquor licence in 1798. He lived to the ripe old age for those times of 88.

Just a few things I found on my search – what are the stories connected to your surname?

By the way – I now wish to be known as “**BRIAN – the Superior!**”

Members Care

Just a note that the committee is not always informed when a member becomes ill or passes away. This is therefore an appeal to members, when they become aware of a member having a serious illness, accident or passing away, to inform the secretary or a committee member. The secretary will take any action appropriate.

Everyone likes to save money. Here are a couple of tips.

United Petroleum App. 4 cents off for seniors.

Zyft App. Shows cheapest prices and supplier for anything from rice bubbles to a caravan.

Pay your Telstra mobile phone charges a year in advance for a big saving.

Skyscanner App. For airline flights.

NSW Government Services App. Many links to money savers and rebates



The Bowls Team. *Robbie Robinson*

The Bowls team comprising Barney Whitehead, Brian Prior and Robbie Robinson continues to participate in practice sessions on Monday afternoons and Gala Tournaments each Friday at the Lowlands Bowls Club. This is in preparation for the team's participation in the Greater Newcastle Probus Open Pennant competition, due to commence on 15 February.

The Pennant Competition involves the participation of Probus Bowls teams from throughout the Greater Newcastle area, with events being hosted by respective Probus clubs. As a participant in the Pennant Competition, it is planned that Newcastle Probus will act as Host for one of the events, at a date yet to be confirmed. Lowlands Bowls Club has offered its facilities to us as the chosen venue. Assistance will be sought from non-playing members to assist in the management of the competition on the day.

The Pennant Competition offers competitors an opportunity to meet and participate with other Probus members in an enjoyable and friendly day out at a variety of lawn bowl venues throughout the region. Competition whilst competitive is lighthearted and a convivial lunch and prizes completes an excellent day out.



Going Cashless

How many of you regularly pay by electronic means for small transactions? I know of no retail outlet that does not have a POS (point of sale) system for EFTPOS (Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale). Well, your Probus Club is moving to having a mobile POS system. We have purchased a Square Terminal and are in the process of setting it up. Look for it to appear at the check in desk. No surcharges apply.

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