



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

NEWSLETTER

February 2025: Vol 34 No 10

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 25th February – 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 – Julie Keating – Local Historian



President's Report: *Lindsay Threadgate*

Welcome to the February 2025 Newcastle Probus Newsletter.



Well, we soon got through January and are off and running for 2025.

At our January monthly meeting Tom Sobb told us of his interesting and diversified life so far. Those of us who are Novocastrians or have lived most of their life in Newcastle will of course remember Sobb's as a furniture store. Tom spent some time there, but a much more diverse life was revealed. I keep realising what interesting lives we all have had. Thanks Tom for sharing yours.

From our guest speaker Syl we learned a lot about writing and self-publishing, at least the approach that Syl took and his interesting approach. I am sure we all gained some insight and maybe even some inspiration.

As we are approaching the end of February our minds turn to our changeover and Annual General Meeting. There will be some long-standing members of our committee retiring and therefore the need to recruit some new members. I never aspired to being on the committee, however when invited to come on to do the Probus website I was very pleased to do so. I have a strong belief that anyone who joins the committee should do so expecting to have a "job" which gives the role meaning. Don't be put off with that sentiment, the committee has good comradery, and it is important to keep our club ticking along. Interested? Then talk to any of the committee members.

We will have had our first "activity" by the time you are reading this, however the timing is such that while writing this I can only anticipate the BBQ in Brickworks Park and hope for an enjoyable occasion. Don't forget to thank our Activities officer, Geoff Morris.

Our preparations are well on the way for the Presidents Lunch, See Stephen Pead, he is the man in charge. I hope this will be another enjoyable occasion.

Our Square Terminal is set up to receive payments for our monthly meetings. I am anticipating a transition, not too long and we will be there, no more coins or difficulty in giving the change to a \$50 note. Peter Rickford and Brian Prior are progressing this change.

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



Special Interest: Marty Rowland

Our autobiographer this month is Brian Penfold.



Treasurer's Report: Keith Lynch

Bank Reconciliation end January 2025: Opening Balance \$8,497, Income \$863, Expenditure \$920 Closing Balance \$8,441, 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

PICNIC BARBECUE REPORT Thu 20 Feb



I am watching the rain outside my window whilst writing this and am so thankful we had a good weather morning for the picnic barbecue in Brickworks Park earlier today. The weather was cool (not a bad thing), but a little more wind than we wanted but tolerable-no global warming here). Lunch was enjoyed by the 23 that attended with some photos in this newsletter. (9 cancelled or didn't show up)

History and Heritage Ferry Cruise on Brisbane Waters Thursday 17 April (pre Easter)

*Train from Newcastle at 7.31, Hamilton 7.34, Broadmeadow 7.37, Cardiff 7.47 and 23 other stations
A short walk to Ferry Wharf for 9.30 cruise departure*

Brisbane Waters History and Heritage Cruise

Audio visual presentations on a large monitor, displaying historical photographs and live commentary by local historian. From Woy Woy to Broken Bay, Empire Bay, Gosford and back to Woy Woy.

Morning tea on board is included.

Departing Woy Woy Wharf 9.30am - Return will be 12.30 to 12.45.

Optional lunch at own expense at the Bayview Hotel on walk from wharf to station for return train to Newy.

Cruise cost \$40 per person to be deposited into Probuss club account to confirm booking registration.
morrisgeoff@y7mail.com or text to 0412 613591

Reminder: Annual Membership Fees (Still just \$30) are due.



Website: Lindsay Threadgate

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

REMINDER!!
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: Entertainment

12.30pm: Lunch

1.30pm: Fellowship

Please RSVP by 21st March 2025

Stephen Pead - luncheon coordinator

Email peady@y7mail.com or phone/SMS 0411 471 118

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

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.

The Bowls Team. Robbie Robinson



WHAT'S IN A NAME? (Contributions from members welcome)

My name is **LINDSAY MAXWELL THREADGATE**, I was born in 1944. I know where Lindsay came from, my father's cousin, Maxwell from my mother's brother. But where did Threadgate come from?

Of course, it came from my father and in turn his father etc. My grandmother told me that two Threadgate brothers came out from England but only one had any family. In those days I was not very interested.

About 1980 it was becoming popular to trace your ancestry, scrolling through microfiche and reels in the Local History section of a Library. One had to become a Reader, once so, hours could be whiled away in front of a Reader at the Library. Birth records, death records and marriage records were all there, that is "local" records.

I was searching for my Great Great Grandparents marriage and found an almost illegible microfiche with Thomas Trudgate, widower, married Rebecca Grills, spinster, with the permission of the Governor. "You have "STRUCK GOLD" a fellow reader declared, you have a CONVICT. Great but the name was not Threadgate... All other clues fitted, I accepted "Trudgate" had become "Threadgate". Searching the records of the Superintendent of Convict records in Sydney, I found the "Governor's permission", the ship, "Recovery (3) 1836", Native Place, "Norfolk", the date of the trial etc. And the Sentence "DEATH". He obviously was granted clemency and survived the transportation.

By this time my contacts with like interest had expanded and information sharing was interesting and exciting. A Second Cousin, Jim, had paid for some research in England. This had produced a newspaper article from 1835. An extract of that article reads...

"The Norwich Mercury Saturday 4th April 1835 ... "His Lordship asked Mr. Johnson if he knew anything of these men? Mr. Johnson said... the person called Trudgate, but whose real name was Cushing, came from Cossey, a village about 4 miles from Norwich... His Lordship said he had directed the sentence of death to be recorded against them... and although an application would be made to His Majesty that their lives might be spared, that was all they could expect;..."

I had become quite convinced that Threadgate was a variation, through illiteracy or deliberately of Trudgate with variations along the way of Thrudgate, Thredgate and the origin of the name was Norfolk, England. I was not prepared for my true family name to be Cushing. A whole new search was to ensue.

To be sure John Cushing married Sarah Trudgill at Cossey, Norfolk in 1805. Sarah was born in the village of Tibenham, about 20 miles from Norwich. The records show Trudgill and Trudgate as well as other phonic variations on the gravestones in Tibenham as well as Cushing.

Where did my name "Threadgate" originate? Answer: Wee Waa, NSW in 1849 when my Great Grandfather was baptised. This was shortly before my Great Great Grandfather received his Conditional Pardon on 9 February 1850 and his name was Thomas Trudgate. As for Cushing: From all my research I have concluded that Thomas Trudgate was most likely really Thomas Cushing and he used an alias which was a variation of his mother's maiden name originating in the village of Tibenham, Norfolk, UK in the mid-18th century. Lindsay Threadgate - **I am lucky!**

NEW SOUTH WALES.	
CONDITIONAL PARDON.	
No. 59/179	By His Excellency Sir Charles Augustus Fitz Roy, Knight Companion of the Royal Honorary Guelphic Order, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.
Name:	Thomas Trudgate
Birth Year:	1810
Pardon Date:	9 Feb 1850
Vessel Name:	Recovery
Year of Arrival:	1836
Place of Origin:	Norfolk
Date of Conviction:	28 Mar 1835
Record Type:	Conditional
Pardon Number:	50/179

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