



# NEWSLETTER

**April 2025: Vol 35 No 1**

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

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President: **Peter Rickford 0412 495 575**  
Secretary: **Keith Hole 0419 219 193**  
Treasurer: **Keith Lynch 0409 537 225**

Activities: **Geoff Morris 0412 613 591**  
Speakers: **Neil Latham 0488 166 355**  
Editor: **Peter Rickford 0412 495 575**

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25<sup>th</sup> March – Programme:

9.30 am – Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, Induction

9.45 am – ANZAC Address – Saxon White

10.00 am – ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION

10.30 am – Coffee and Tea

11.00 am – Guest Speaker – Juan Mahoney



### **President's Report:** *Peter Rickford*



Welcome to the April 2025 Newcastle Probud Newsletter.

Well, this is a new experience for me. I have been elected as your President for our 41<sup>st</sup> year and I am very proud and honoured to accept the position and challenges.

Our committee is essentially unchanged with the exception that our long-standing secretary Frank Rice has chosen to resign, and we thank him for his many years of excellent service. The other committee member that has decided to relinquish his position on the committee is Dick Delbridge and we thank him also for his years of service.

Another gentleman that we owe thanks to for his years of dedication is Arthur Coleman who has been welcoming members and collecting meeting fees. The fact that we are replacing cash with a machine has nothing to do with his decision.

As I have taken over this position from Lindsay Threadgate, I would like to thank him for his valuable contribution over the past twelve months. He is still on the committee so we will not be losing out on his contributions.

We do have two vacancies on the committee, and we would encourage any members who may be interested to contact one of the existing members.

Our annual President's Luncheon, expertly arranged and coordinated by Stephen Pead was very well attended with almost sixty members and partners. The venue was excellent and the guest of honour our Lord Mayor Dr. Ross Kerridge gave us an interesting insight into his career.

Brian Prior has been actively promoting our club through many venues and his efforts are bringing good results.

Hopefully we will be able to accept meeting fees (\$10) this month using our new technology Square Point of Sale machine.

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*The Next General Meeting of Newcastle Probud Club will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Souths Merewether*

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Our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book has finally been printed after a number of delays and editorial changes.

Many thanks to Frank Rice for the management of this and to the many people who contributed to it, particularly Ross Cox for his perseverance and patience in compiling the final version from many different inputs, in a range of formats, and changes.

Thanks also to those people that helped to proofread the various drafts, including those non-members who did so in the background.

I hope you all enjoy reading it. Every member will be able to get their copy at Tuesday's meeting.



**Special Interest:** *Marty Rowland*

Our speaker this month is Saxon White.

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

**Bank Reconciliation end March 2025:** Opening Balance \$9,301, Income \$2,931, Expenditure \$1,782 Closing Balance \$10,450, 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

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**Activities:** *Geoff Morris*

**Visit to N.I.E.R Thursday 26 June**

We have an opportunity to revisit the Newcastle Institute for Energy Resources for a tour of approximately one hour conducted by the Executive Director Professor Alan Broadfoot. As there will be a maximum number of 20 for this visit we will need to restrict it to members only. More details and registration sheet at Tuesday's meeting.

**Central Coast History Cruise.** I hope to have the new date for Tuesday's meeting

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**Luncheons:** *Stephen Pead*

Thanks to all members and the ladies who attended the President's Luncheon. The feedback was very positive and I'm sure attendees enjoyed the speech from our Lord Mayor Ross Kerridge.

Now to the future. Please talk to your lady friends and/or partners about getting a table together. It's the annual Ladies Luncheon on **Friday 25th July at Club Macquarie**. The guest speaker is a very well-known Newcastle media icon - radio, television, advertising "guru", and today in his retirement an amazing wildlife photographer. A speaker you'll find riveting.

The theme, the ladies' gifts and raffle prize are "top drawer" so mark it in your planner or you'll miss a memorable day!

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**Website AND helpful information from:** *Lindsay Threadgate*

The update following the AGM has been done, so there is a new face on the home page. There are several little tweaks here and there but no prizes for finding them. I have been the editor for some 7 years now and am interested in a trainee to take over at some stage. Any aspiring webpage editor out there? If so please contact me Ph: 0419 230 236

**Wi-Fi Calling** allows you to make and receive calls over a Wi-Fi network instead of your mobile data network. It's useful when you have a strong Wi-Fi connection but weak mobile coverage. To enable it, you typically need to: connect to a Wi-Fi network, go to your phone's settings, find the "Wi-Fi Calling" option (which might be under "Phone", "Network & Internet", "Calls, or "Cellular") and toggle it on.

You may be prompted to confirm your Wi-Fi connection or provide your address for emergency services. While Wi-Fi calling can be beneficial, it is essential to remember that emergency calls might require a mobile network connection to ensure accurate location information is available.

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

### **THE DELBRIDGE NAME**

The Delbridge family originated in Cornwall, and they lived in Mithian, a village near St. Agnes. The Delbridge men were stonemasons, and they built many buildings for the tin and copper mines.

The early family details that follow were obtained from church records and our direct line has been traced back to the marriage of John Delbridge and Grace Richards in 1747.

A feature of these records were large families, which in our case began in 1794 when the eldest of John and Grace's grandchildren John Delbridge, married Elizabeth Martyn and they had nine children. One of their children, Edward Martyn Delbridge married Mary Pearce in 1831, and they had fourteen children, eight boys and six girls of whom ten reached maturity with four dying in infancy.

In the 1840's living conditions in Cornwall had become poor, and that decade became known as "the hungry forties." The prices of tin and copper ores were declining, and many people lost their farms. Farming too suffered periodic depression with the potato crop failing in the 1840's.

It was difficult to envisage Edward Delbridge, a stonemason, was not affected in some way. The final impetus to make him leave Cornwall concerned a "three lives lease."

When freehold ownership was not available, people in Cornwall could obtain occupancy of a property under a leasing arrangement which specified that the lessee could nominate three lives, the latter would be three generations of people named in the contract, usually family.

A capital sum was paid at the beginning of the contract with a fixed sum due each year. The land belonged to the lessee during the lifetime of the one who lived the longest. On the death of the third person the land, including any improvements, reverted to the owner.

Edward Delbridge entered such an arrangement. He then invested money in a building on the property. But he was unlucky in his choice of the three lives because the last of the three died within five years of his taking occupancy, whereupon the owner reclaimed the property and its building.

Left without land and distinctly poorer, Edward and Mary left Cornwall to migrate to Australia.

In the late 1830's agents for the South Australian Government conducted recruitment campaigns for suitable migrants. Under the assisted immigration scheme free passages were arranged and help was given on arrival in Adelaide with obtaining work.

South Australia was "the pure state" and it had appeal as it was not a penal colony.

Edward and Mary left Cornwall in late 1849 with six of their children, arriving in Adelaide in 1850.

Edward was attracted to the copper mining operations in Burra Burra, as his skills as a stonemason were very much in demand. After a period in Burra Burra, they went to the Victorian goldmines, where they made their fortune. They eventually ended up in Fitzroy, where he worked as a stonemason and a builder. When he built his own home in Fitzroy he painted "Mithian" on the front of the building to indicate to everyone, where his family had originally come from.

He subsequently became the Mayor of Fitzroy.

While in Fitzroy, Edward and Mary had three more children, the last one Joseph Martin Delbridge, was born in 1858. He married Alice Deslandes in 1881, and they had seven children.

The eldest Edward John Martin Delbridge was born in 1882, and he married Edith Mary Beale on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1907, and they had five children.

Their eldest child was christened Frederic John Delbridge, and he married Elsie Janet Woolson in 1934 and they had four children.

The second eldest of their children was born on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1938 and was christened Richard (Dick) John Martin Delbridge. As Edward caught pneumonia in 1938 and died in Inverell in that year, I never met my paternal grandfather.



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## 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.

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### **The Bowls Team. *Robbie Robinson***

On Monday 7 April our Bowls team, comprising Barney Whitehead, Brian Prior and Robbie Robinson headed from Newcastle to the East Cessnock Bowls Club to participate in the third match of the Hunter Regional inter Probus Bowls competition, hosted by Cessnock Probus.

The East Cessnock Bowls Club (ECBC) is an extensive, modern and well-appointed facility, located in the heart of Cessnock comprising two artificial Greens, one covered and one open. On a hot clear day two matches of 12 ends were played by the 24 participating teams.

Our gallant team played their first match against Maitland No 3 team on the covered green, which had a very fast surface and was a serious challenge, with many Bowls overshooting the Jack. Whilst this was a common problem for all, our team were unable to prevail, with long ends having to be consistently played. The second match of twelve ends against Morpeth was played on the open green before lunch and was a more familiar surface, being slower and providing the opportunity for shorter ends to be played. Despite some inspired bowling by Barney and Brian it was not enough to win the match.

Despite losing both matches, it was a most enjoyable day out and allowed our Bowls team to better get to know our neighbouring Probus bowls teams. The next Hunter Regional match is scheduled to be played at Morpeth in August.

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