



NEWSLETTER

May 2025: Vol 35 No 2

Probus Club of Newcastle Inc.
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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**

GENERAL MEETING 27th May – 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 – Kevin Maley



President's Report: *Peter Rickford*



Welcome to the May 2025 Newcastle Probus Newsletter.

I am sure that you will all by now be sick of the endless rain over the past two weeks. Fortunately, in our immediate area we have not suffered the devastating floods that our near northern and western neighbours have.

Our 40 year book has been very well received and several people have made complimentary remarks about it. Copies will be available at this meeting for any financial members who were not able to attend the May meeting.

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

Our April ANZAC meeting was well attended, and I would like to thank Saxon White for his address.

Following a moving ANZAC Commemoration, our guest speaker Juan Mahoney shared some very interesting stories from his latest publication. Thank you, Juan.

Stephen has arranged a very special speaker for our Ladies Luncheon in July and details are set out in this publication.

The walking group as always meets every Tuesday when it is not a meeting day and although there is not a lot of walking, there is plenty of talking.

After our last meeting, Brian Prior sent me an interesting article about the story of his great aunt Laura and her husband Light Horseman Sam Bebbington and his involvement in restoring Sam's grave site in Stanthorpe Queensland. I shall publish this if possible in the next newsletter.

The Next General Meeting of Newcastle Probus Club will be held on 24th June 2025 at Souths Merewether



Special Interest: *Marty Rowland*

Our autobiographer this month is Stephen Pead



Treasurer's Report: *Keith Lynch*

Bank Reconciliation end April 2025: Opening Balance \$10,450, Income \$315, Expenditure \$4,776 Closing Balance \$5,988, 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*

VISIT TO NEWCASTLE INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY & RESOURCES - Fri 26 June

9.25 for 10.00 am (address 70 Vale St, Shortland on Road to Shortland Waters Golf Club).

A special opportunity being offered for us to review some of the world leading energy research projects undertaken at this venue.

There is a maximum number of 20 attendees so offer is for members only and there are already 12 names on the list which will be at next Tuesday's meeting.

Parking at the Golf Club and optional lunch at the club after visit.

Visit to NIER requires **enclosed shoes**.

OBSERVATION DRIVE (Tentatively Wed 16 Aug)

The planned route is through areas currently badly affected by weather so the route will need to be reviewed again closer to the proposed date to consider if practical at the time.

CENTRAL COAST HISTORY CRUISE Thurs 18 Sept

This date is confirmed and was mentioned at the last meeting. There are currently 15 names of members and partners but room for many more.

Registration sheet will be at Tuesday's meeting) Cost of ferry cruise is \$40 per person to be transferred to Club account (includes morning tea).

Rail fares \$2.50 for those with seniors Opal Card. Optional lunch in Woy Woy before rail return to Newcastle stations

More next month Geoff Morris morrisgeoff@y7mail.com



Website: *Lindsay Threadgate*

Website has monthly update and Newsletter uploaded so that it is available from the Website Menu.

Archived Newsletters available by request to: Lindsay Threadgate, lindsaythr4@outlook.com

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: 0419 230 236

Members Care

The committee is not always informed when a member becomes ill or passes away. So, if you become aware of another member having a serious illness, accident or passing away, inform the secretary or a committee member. The secretary will take any action appropriate.



Luncheons: Stephen Pead

2025 LADIES LUNCHEON - INVITATION

Members, Ladies and guests are invited to our annual Ladies Luncheon.

Club Macquarie, Lake Road, Argenton

Friday, 25th July 2025

11.00am: Arrive - Tea & Coffee

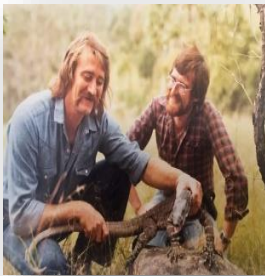
11.30am: Welcome - Guest Speaker

12.30pm: Lunch



Our Guest Speaker: Art Ryan

Newcastle and the Hunter's well-known media and advertising icon, Art "Poppa" Ryan.....2HD and 2KO; NBN breakfast show, producer and director of "Beating Around the Bush" and advertising guru. Today in his retirement a passionate wildlife advocate and photographer. Art will share interesting, funny and thought-provoking stories.



The raffle prize is one of Art's amazing and ready to hang, wildlife photographs which he has kindly donated - so, this is a luncheon NOT TO BE MISSED!

Please RSVP by Friday 18th July

Stephen Pead - luncheon coordinator

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

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



A woman was flying from Melbourne to Brisbane when, unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sydney. The flight attendant announced there would be a delay and gave passengers the option to get off the plane, which would re-board in 50 minutes. Everyone got off, except for one lady who was blind.

A man noticed her as he walked by and realized she was blind because her Seeing Eye Dog lay quietly under the seats throughout the flight. He also noticed the pilot, who approached her and greeted her by name, asking if she would like to get off and stretch her legs while the plane was on the ground for an hour.

The blind lady replied, "No thanks, but maybe Max would like to stretch his legs."

At that moment, all the people in the gate area froze when they saw the pilot wearing sunglasses walk off the plane with the Seeing Eye Dog.

Panic ensued. People rushed to change planes and even airlines!

The moral of the story: Things aren't always as they appear, a day without laughter is a day wasted!

An elderly gentleman, very well dressed, immaculately groomed, great-looking suit, flower in his lapel, smelling of a good aftershave, walked into an upscale cocktail lounge. Seated at the bar was an elderly lady. The gentleman walked over, sat alongside her, ordered a drink, took a sip, turned to her and said: "So tell me, do I come here often?"

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

LATHAM - When meeting a new friend I am often asked, "Are you related to Mark Latham?" I usually reply with, "I hope not!"

As a teenager I was told that 'Latham' was an Anglo-Saxon name. Recent research on Google has revealed that it has Scandinavian origins. When converted to Anglo-Saxon English in Lancashire the suffix 'Ham' was added. Nothing to do with the meat but refers to an estate, a hamlet.

There are dozens of English surnames ending in 'Ham', such as Wickham, Hexham, Farnham, Denham, Nottingham and Birmingham. There are some exceptions, such as 'Abraham' is Hebrew, and 'Graham' is Scottish.

My father told me that both of his grandfathers were George Henry Latham and George Henry Wood, and they both had the same trade. They were "wheelwrights". My great grandfather came to Australia as a child in the 1870's as free settlers. The family settled in Port Macquarie. There were several sons and daughters. If looking for a family connection, one would have to find a Port Macquarie link. Having the same surname doesn't mean one is closely related. For example, both of my parents came from the Anglican faith and were married by the Reverend Walter Latham, not a close relative.

As a teenager I was told that the term "lathe" took its name from 'Latham'. This made sense to me as the family were "woodworkers". This impressed my son-in-law who works as a fitter in the mines.

So, the name Latham means, "dweller at the barns". How boring, now let me tell you something more interesting.

My father was born in January 1925. When the Japanese bombed Darwin (19/2/41) he wanted to enlist. He went to the RAAF, but his parents wouldn't sign the papers as he was only sixteen. He tried the RAN and then the Army. His parents refused to sign as he was a minor. The youngest of four. His two older siblings were married with families, and another brother was a Police officer. Eventually his parents signed the papers which put his age at seventeen and he was in the RAAF. During the battle of the Coral Sea my father was stationed in North Queensland. Towards the end of the war, he was sent to British North Borneo. He stayed with the clean-up crew for several months before returning to Australia.

There was an Australian politician by the name of Sir John Latham. He became a High Court Judge and was probably knighted at that time! My father, being a sixteen-year-old trying to act like a mature seventeen-year-old, said to his mates, "Sir John Latham is my uncle!" But he wasn't! Eventually the Group Serjeant found out about it and started treating my father with favour. My father told me that he just couldn't bring himself to tell the truth!

My father witnessed a murder when the Yanks and Aussies clashed. The Aussies were being shipped off overseas and they were saying goodbye to their wives and sweethearts and a Yank called out, "Don't worry Aussie's we Yanks will take care of them!" A fight erupted and an Aussie lay dead. My dad stayed out of it, being young! The Yank who did the dirty deed was an American serjeant and was quickly whisked away back to the States.

According to Google 60% of all Latham's live in the United States. There are Latham's in all the English-speaking countries, England, Ireland, Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

The Latham family coat of arms reads, 'Expertus fidelem', which translates as 'Having found him faithful.'

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