



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

NEWSLETTER

June 2025: Vol 35 No 3

Website: newcastleprobus.org

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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 24th June – 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 – Tony Mowbray



President's Report: *Peter Rickford*



Welcome to the June 2025 Newcastle Probus Newsletter.

At our May meeting, we had one of the best attendances that we have had for some time, with a total of members and guests of 35.

We were entertained firstly by our Vice President's talk of his interesting working life and then by the fascinating story of the events of Cyclone Tracey fifty years ago by Kevin Maley who was right in the thick of the disaster where he, his wife and young daughter were seriously injured. We all would have seen television reports at the time of the night and following days, but I am sure that none of us saw or heard of some of the detailed events and images that Kevin shared with us. A brilliant and fascinating presentation thanks Kevin.

Members and our doorkeeper are getting used to our cashless meeting fee system with more than two thirds opting to use card payment rather than cash.

One of our very interesting guest speakers from last year, Tony Mowbray will be our guest speaker again and if his topic is as interesting as last time it will be a meeting not to miss. Tony will be speaking about his newly released book.

This edition of the Newsletter has been compiled while I have been enjoying happy hour at one of the many great hotels I have stayed in in China over the past three weeks.

I have made at least nine trips to China over the past twenty years or so, principally in attending exhibitions and factories as part of my dental supply business.

There have been many differences that I have seen over the years, but the major difference is in the infrastructure, particularly with the modernisation and expansion of the railway network and its influence on the everyday living conditions or the general populace.

The Next General Meeting of Newcastle Probus Club will be held on 22nd July 2025 at Souths Merewether



Special Interest: *Marty Rowland*

Our autobiographer this month is David Tarento



Treasurer's Report: *Keith Lynch*

Bank Reconciliation end April 2025: Opening Balance 5,988, Income \$609, Expenditure \$253 Closing Balance \$6,345, 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

9.55 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 20 names registered so the tour is full, but we will take up to 5 names as reserves if any of the 20 need to withdraw.

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

Visit to NIER requires **enclosed shoes**. Attendees can be dropped off at the main entrance to the NIER building. If anyone needs more information speak to me at Tuesday's meeting.

OBSERVATION DRIVE (Wed 6 Aug)

As a result of the serious water damage to roads (and bridges) on the planned route, I have this week surveyed an alternative route from western Newcastle around Lake Macquarie with the end (and lunch) at a unique venue near Wyong. More next month but keep the date clear if it is of interest. It should be a good day. Registration sheet at Tuesday's meeting.

CENTRAL COAST HISTORY CRUISE Thurs 18 Sept

This date is confirmed and was mentioned at the last meeting. There are currently 22 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

Geoff Morris [morisgeoff@y7mail.com](mailto:morrisgeoff@y7mail.com)



Website: *Lindsay Threadgate*

Now that I am mobile again, the website has been updated, the Newsletter has been 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. We also need a member to take over the video presentation for our monthly meetings and co-ordination with guest speakers with their videos. Steve Tremble is currently filling that position on a temporary basis.

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.

An interesting tip from Lindsay.

Use MedAdvisor to manage your medications. MedAdvisor is a medication management App designed to help users track their prescriptions, set reminders, and manage refills. Reviews on the app store and testimonials suggest that it is a useful tool for staying organised with your medications, especially for those with multiple prescriptions or with difficulty remembering dosages.

Of course, there are other Apps such as MedicineWise and Medisafe. MedAdvisor is the one I use.

No more paper scripts, all sort of reminders and online ordering.

A woman, frustrated because her husband was late coming home from golf yet again, decided to leave a note that read, "I've had enough. I'm leaving you. Don't try to find me."

She then hid under the bed to watch his reaction.

Soon after, her husband came home. She could hear him in the kitchen before he made his way into the bedroom.

She watched as he walked over to the dresser, picked up the note, and read it.

After a moment, he scribbled something on the note, then picked up the phone and called someone.

"She's finally gone. Yeah, about time. I'm on my way. Wear that sexy French nightie. I love you. Can't wait to see you. We'll do all the naughty things you like." He hung up, grabbed his keys, and left.

As she heard the car drive away, she crawled out from under the bed, furious and heartbroken. With trembling hands, she picked up the note to see what he had written.

"I can see your feet. We're out of bread; be back in five minutes."

A husband and wife were grocery shopping together when the husband casually grabbed a case of Budweiser and tossed it into the cart.

"What do you think you're doing?" the wife asked, raising an eyebrow.

"It's on sale—only \$10 for the whole case," he replied, hopeful.

"We don't need it. Put it back," she said firmly.

They kept shopping, and the wife picked up a \$20 jar of face cream and added it to the cart.

"What's that for?" the husband asked, slightly annoyed.

"It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful," she said confidently.

The husband grinned. "So does the Budweiser, and it's half the price."

Generosity amazes visitor

Quest for information on deceased relative proved fruitful because people were willing to contribute

By ERIN SMITH

IN THE past 20 years Brian Prior and his wife, Vivienne, have made four trips to Stanthorpe – the most recent of which was just last week.

Both Brian and his wife originate from England but moved to Australia many years ago.

About 20 years ago, when they were living in Sydney, Brian brought his mother Molly, 80, over from England to visit them.

“While she was down, she told me about her aunt Laura who moved to Australia after the First World War after meeting a Light Horseman named Sam Bebbington,” Brian said.

“She said that they had come to a place called Stanthorpe and taken up a soldiers’ settlement at Amiens.”

Wanting to help his mother learn a little bit more about her aunt, Brian did some research and planned a trip to Stanthorpe with his wife and mother.

All Brian knew was that his great-aunt had lived on a farm called Ravensmore.

The trio stayed at Shadowbox Farm, owned by Debbie and Allan Craven.

When Brian explained the reason behind his visit to the couple, they suggested he try to find more information at the library.

“At the library I asked at the counter if they had any information on the Bebbington family and all of the staff got involved,” he said.

“I walked away with a list of burial plots, a montage the school children had done about the history of Stanthorpe and a contact for someone at the council office who might be able to help me with a map.

“

BRIAN PRIOR

I like to call it the magic of Stanthorpe — everyone is so willing to help.

“The council were more than helpful and were able to give me the names and phone number of the people who now lived at Ravensmore.”

Brian, who had been living in Sydney for a number of years, had a real big city mentality.

“I was thinking to myself what would I do if someone rang me up and said they wanted to come and see the place my great aunt once lived,” he said.

“But, when I spoke to Lorraine and Sam Patti, at Ravensmore Farm, they didn’t even flinch at the idea.”

Brian said it was fantastic experience.

His mother got to walk around the house her aunt had lived in and even see her old bedroom.

The adventure left Brian with many new friends and he made the trip back to Stanthorpe another three times.

Last week he returned for a holiday and visited the grave site of his great-aunt and uncle.

“The coffin had collapsed and there was a big hole,” Brian said.

“I rang a stone mason and he said he would be at the gravesite in five minutes.”

By Saturday, the grave had a new coat of stones on top of it and looked brand new.

Brian also placed a large granite rock on top, which the Pattis had kindly given him from Ravensmore.

“Stanthorpe is the friendliest town I have ever been in,” he said.

“I have had many laughs and made many friends here.

“I feel I have a strong connection with this region.”



MISSION COMPLETE: Brian Prior has gone to great lengths to learn as much as he can about his great aunt Laura Bebbington, who moved to Stanthorpe after the First World War, including tidying up her grave site.

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