



# NEWSLETTER

**January 2026: Vol 35 No 9**

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

**Website:** [newcastleprobus.org](http://newcastleprobus.org)

To print from the Website, click **NEWSLETTER**

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**

## GENERAL MEETING 27<sup>th</sup> January— Programme

10.30 am – Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, Induction  
10.45 am – Member Special Interest/Autobiography  
11.00 am – Coffee and Tea  
11.30 am – Guest Speaker – Elisabeth Sacco, Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone



### President's Report: Peter Rickford

Welcome to the new year and the January Newcastle Probus Newsletter.



I trust that you and your families have enjoyed the Christmas break and have been able to catch up with some people who you only see at this time of the year.

We can look forward to another year filled with interesting speakers, get togethers and outings.

On going through some past newsletters, I noted that in June 2023 our membership was 57 and thanks to the good work and promotions that Brian Prior has been involved in, even having a special T-shirt printed that promotes the club and the average age of our members increasing, in spite of the sad passing of some members, that our current membership is relatively stable with a slight increase to 59.

Our guest speaker for our last meeting in November, Kathy Edwards, the local poet was able to entertain us with some very interesting poems and anecdotes, and I am sure that members enjoyed what was a different and interesting promotion.

We have decided to include information on upcoming guest speakers in the hope that upon reading this newsletter that is circulated to all members some occasional attendees may be encouraged to make a diary note to attend a future meeting where a subject of particular interest is to be discussed.

It has been my experience since joining that even though an upcoming speaker is mentioned in the Newsletter and I am not particularly interested in their subject it has always been interesting. And no matter how old you are it is never too late to learn something.

We are always happy to have a new member join us and encourage all members to bring along a neighbour or friend to sample our friendship.

***The Next General Meeting of Newcastle Probus Club will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Souths Merewether***



## Special Interest: *Marty Rowland*

Our speaker this month is Brian Prior

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

**Bank Reconciliation end December 2026:** Opening Balance \$10,913, Income \$165, Expenditure \$4,360, Closing Balance \$6,718, 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*      0412613591      [morrisgeoff@y7mail.com](mailto:morrisgeoff@y7mail.com)

**Thursday 12 February   Get Together Barbecue   Brickworks Park**  
**10.30am \$10 per person**

At the start of another year this is the opportunity to get together over a cuppa and a special "better than Bunnings" sausage sandwich (all the sauces AND onion). Also cake-all inclusive.

Registration sheet at Tuesday's meeting. Payments to club account or \$10 pp cash on the day. Please let us know you are coming to assist catering.

There will be a special notice closer to the date re navigation, etc

### **Thursday 24 September   Hawkesbury History and Heritage River Ferry Tour**

After the Brisbane Waters Ferry tour last year, we have a tentative booking for the Hawkesbury River tour. More details later.

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## **50 Years of Probus in Australia!**

2026 is going to be one of the most exciting years in Probus' history - 50 years of providing connection and friendship since 1976. An incredible achievement!

The official launch of the 50th Anniversary will be on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 when the very first Probus Club in Australia, the **Probus Club of Hunters Hill and District** in NSW will celebrate with a special morning tea to mark the occasion. In attendance at this very special event will be the Honourable John Howard OM AC.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate what is great about our organisation and to showcase the benefits of joining Probus.

If you have friends or associates who are retirees or semi-retirees, what a great time to encourage them to be part of *our* Probus Club.

At the club meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January, I'll share more information on our anniversary year.

Stephen Pead

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### **Bowls:** *Robbie*

Barney and I have continued to participate in the Weekly Friday Bowls gala at Lowlands Bowls club and hope to commence weekly training soon.

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# 2026 PRESIDENTS LUNCHEON INVITATION

Members, Ladies and Guests are invited to the  
Probus Club of Newcastle Presidents Luncheon  
Apollo International Hotel, Pacific Highway,  
Charlestown on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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

**11.25am: Welcome - Introduction of 2026 Committee**

**11.30am: Guest Speaker**

**12.30pm: Lunch**

**1.30pm: Fellowship**

Our Guest Speaker:

**Newcastle Magistrate - Ian Cheetham**



Some interesting stories of "law and order" will be shared! Having served as a Magistrate since 2009 Ian Cheetham has seen it all, presiding in 40 separate NSW Courts, including, Coroners Court, Children's Court and most recently Newcastle Local Court.

In a fascination contradiction, his great, great, grandfather was a convict transported to Australia in 1833 to serve his sentence for robbery. His predecessor was a criminal and Ian became the Magistrate.

**Please RSVP by 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Stephen Pead - luncheon coordinator**

At club meeting or email [peady@y7mail.com](mailto:peady@y7mail.com) / phone 0411 471 118

Payment of \$55 per person by funds transfer:

BSB 650-000 A/C 943213300 (include your name)

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## Upcoming Guest Speakers

24<sup>th</sup> February: Deborah Wallace, former detective. To discuss, 'Her Life of Crime!'

24<sup>th</sup> March: No speaker, our Annual General Meeting.

28<sup>th</sup> April: Lorraine Dunn, speaking on 'Brain fitness'.

26<sup>th</sup> May: Peter Plowman, President of World Shipping Australia, His subject, 'Australia under Attack'.

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A woman was driving with her husband when a police officer pulled her over.

"I'm really late!" she cried.

The officer said calmly, "I understand, ma'am. But I have to ticket anyone over 60."

"That's discrimination!" she shouted.

The officer smiled. "No, ma'am. I meant the speed limit."



Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

### **Golden Anniversary of Probus in Australia**

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I am delighted to extend my warm congratulations to Probus Clubs throughout Australia as you celebrate 50 years of service to our community. The strength and longevity of Probus Clubs reflect the dedication of your members and the tireless efforts of those who have given their time to leadership and service.

Since the establishment of the first Probus Club in 1976, your organisation has played a vital role in enriching the lives of retirees and semi-retirees by fostering friendship, fellowship and active engagement. For half a century, Probus has helped Australians remain socially connected, intellectually stimulated and involved in their local communities.

As Governor-General, I promised to put care, kindness and respect at the heart of my work. I talk about care in all of its forms across our country, from care for each other and for those who care for others, to care for our democracy and institutions, care for the way we discuss the issues of our time, not with anger, but with respect and kindness.

At Probus, you have care, kindness and respect deep in your commitment to inclusiveness, volunteerism and lifelong learning. As a community, you make a lasting contribution to wellbeing across cities, towns and regions nationwide. I have seen and continue to celebrate the profound impact of Probus in the lives of many of my family members, and in the communities I have visited across Australia.

I hope all Probus Clubs will celebrate this significant milestone throughout 2026. I thank all involved with Probus for your enduring contribution to Australian life and wish you every success in the years ahead.



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### **TWELVE COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS**

1. Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
2. "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write it down. I'll remember it."
6. "On time" is when you get there.
7. Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound.
8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
9. Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
10. Growing old should have taken longer
11. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
- 12 - You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.  
... And one more:  
"One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house

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