



# NEWSLETTER

February 2026: Vol 35 No 10

**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 24<sup>th</sup> February– 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 – Deborah Wallace**



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

Welcome to our February Newcastle Probus Newsletter.



A final reminder that your Annual Subs of \$30.00 are overdue if you have not already paid them.

Please pay to the Newcastle Permanent Building Society, BSB: 650000, A/c No. 943213300

We lost another long-term member last month, John Fear who joined in 2018. John was 86. Members are invited to a remembrance gathering at the Grand Hotel, Church St Newcastle East on 7<sup>th</sup> March from 2-4pm.

Thanks to Brian Prior with his special T-shirt and now his poster promotion that you will certainly see on arrival at the meeting on Tuesday our membership is slowly increasing.

Our March meeting is our Annual General Meeting, and all members are encouraged to attend.

My challenge from late 2024 for members to submit some information on the origin of their surnames seems to have slowly faded away. We did have some interesting submissions in the first few months, but they seem to have died away, and I would like to reissue the challenge for any member to send me some information, and I can publish it in an upcoming edition.

We will be welcoming David Tarento to our committee this year and look forward to being able to tap into his expertise.



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



**Special Interest:** *Marty Rowland*

This month's speaker is Stephen Pead – Topic – The lighter side of doing business in India

---



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

**Bank Reconciliation end January 2026:** Opening Balance \$6,718, Income \$1,268, Expenditure \$262, Closing Balance \$7,724, 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*

0412613591

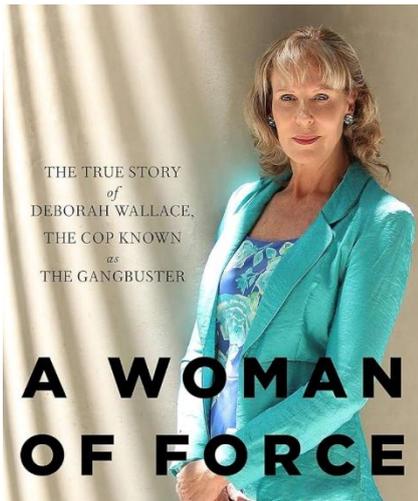
[morrisgeoff@y7mail.com](mailto:morrisgeoff@y7mail.com)

### **GET TOGETHER BARBECUE Thu Feb 12**

The almost traditional year start barbecue saw 30 members and partners enjoy a lunch in Brickworks Park in tune with nature. Despite forecasts of possible showers, the heavens were kind enough to not turn a little water on until mid-afternoon by which time it was time to go. A simple outing to start a new year of activities.

Many thanks to Robbie Robertson and Mary Morris for their assistance with arrangements.

---



### **GUEST SPEAKER 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

#### **They Called Her "THE GANG BUSTER"**

The police force is a tough place for a woman, but Detective Superintendent Deborah Wallace rose to the top in her incredible 36-year career with NSW Police. Wallace took on murderers, drug dealers, and dismantled the state's most nefarious gangs. She commanded a range of police crime squads, bringing order to the wild west of 1990s Cabramatta and busting criminal bikie gangs with Strike Force Raptor, until her retirement in late 2019. She was a constant go-to for some of the state's toughest cases, and her poise and compassion earned her a special place in the lives and hearts of her colleagues.

---

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update - February 2026 – Stephen Pead**

- The first Probus club in Hunters Hill (Sydney) celebrated their 50th Birthday on 3rd February. The event was a huge success and launched our Anniversary activities for the year. Club members and guests have since provided very positive feedback.
- Those members who ordered the Chandon commemorative sparkling wine have had their orders confirmed and delivery is expected in late April.
- Another exciting keepsake is the Australia Post 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary envelope. It will be available at Australia Post outlets in late February/early March.
- Events are now being organised in all states culminating in October which is Probus Month. Once details are available, I'll pass this onto members.



## **REMINDER!!**

# **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)

---

### **Lindsay’s Latest Computer Tip:**

Got a Windows 10 Laptop that is no longer supported by Microsoft.and SO AT RISK.  
Why not turn it into a Chromebook? It is straightforward, does not take long and it just works! Ask me for more detail, Lindsay.



**A USB, a few minutes**  
**A little bit of Guidance**  
**A Google Account**  
**and Voilla**  
**A ChromeBook**



## Upcoming Guest Speakers

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 - 'Australia under Attack'.



Sign on a plumber's truck 'We repair what your husband fixed.'

---

The teacher gave an assignment to her fifth-grade class: Get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it.

The next day, the kids came back and, one by one, began to tell their stories. There were all the regular types of stuff: spilled milk and pennies saved. But then the teacher realized that only Janie was left. ...

"Janie, do you have a story to share?"

"Yes ma'am. My daddy told me a story about my Mommy. She was a Marine pilot in Desert Storm, and her plane got hit. She had to bail out over enemy territory, and all she had was a flask of whiskey, a pistol, and a survival knife. She drank the whiskey on the way down so the bottle wouldn't break, and then her parachute landed her right in the middle of 20 Iraqi troops. She shot 15 of them with the pistol, until she ran out of bullets, killed four more with the knife, till the blade broke, and then she killed the last Iraqi with her bare hands.

'Good Heavens,' said the horrified teacher. 'What did your Daddy tell you was the moral to this horrible story?'

"Stay away from Mommy when she's drunk."

---

I thought it may be fun to reflect on Australia and Newcastle in 1976, the year of the establishment of PROBUS: - Brian Prior.

1. Brian Prior became an Australian citizen - GROANS ALL ROUND?
2. Malcolm Fraser was PRIME MINISTER following the Dismissal in November 1975
3. Australia had won the last Ashes 4-1 with 1 draw
4. The Eastern Suburbs (now Sydney) ROOSTER were the NSW Rugby League champions
5. The All Blacks held the Bledisloe Cup
6. The average annual wage was a massive A\$10,000
7. The median house price in Sydney was A\$36,500
8. BHP Newcastle steel works was commissioning new equipment, such as the BOS furnace. The steelworks were the dominant industrial employer in the Hunter region estimated 12,000 – 16,000 through the 70's
9. The Newcastle Knights did not exist (no further comment from me as a **MANLY** supporter!)
10. Newcastle City Council voted to rescind an invitation for Governor-General Sir John Kerr to open a new administration building due to local opposition following the 1975 constitutional crisis.



---

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

---