



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

NEWSLETTER

August 2026: Vol 36 No 5

Website: newcastleprobus.org

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Secretary and Public Officer: **Keith Hole 0419 219 193**
Treasurer: **Keith Lynch 0409 537 225**

Activities: **Geoff Morris 0412 613 591**
Speakers: **David Tarento 0434 133 697**
Editor: **Peter Rickford 0412 495 575**

GENERAL MEETING 25th August - Programme

10.30 am - Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, Induction
10.45 am - Member Special Interest – Bruce Devir
11.00 am - Coffee and Tea
11.30 am - Guest Speaker – Kerrie Jeffreys



President's Report:

Hello once again fellow club members and welcome to the August edition of our newsletter.



The 2026 Ladies Luncheon was a great success - Miss Kim was at her brilliant best and the feedback on the delicious meal has been very positive. Many ladies commented favourably on the "honey gift" too.

At this month's meeting our member speaker is Bruce Devir, and he'll talk on home storage batteries - should be interesting. Our guest speaker is Kerrie Jeffreys owner of the Original Tea Gardens Ferry, and she'll share stories of the ferry service between Tea Gardens and Nelson Bay as well as lift the lid the many colourful characters and fantastic living history around Port Stephens and the Myall River. This is sure to be an excellent presentation! By the way, you can invite male or female friends and/or partners to our meeting if the guest speaker or subject is something they want to hear about. Maybe then join the usual crowd for a Souths lunch after the meeting?

I've previously mentioned the new PSPL website and its value to us. The new member access section is now complete and well worth checking out <https://probussouthpacific.org/> On the subject our websites. Lindsay Threadgate and Alan White have been working on our club website to ensure it remains relevant and informative. How long since you visited it? <https://www.newcastleprobus.org/>

I'll leave you with a thought from the amazing Walt Disney who said; "growing old is mandatory, but growing up is optional".

See you at the meeting.

Cheers

The Next General Meeting of Newcastle Probus Club will be held on 22nd September 2026 at Souths Merewether



Special Interest: Bruce Devir



Bank Reconciliation end July 2026: Opening Balance \$7,653, Income \$3,936, Expenditure \$398, Closing Balance \$11,191, Term Deposit \$7500

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
Robbie Robinson

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HAWKESBURY RIVER HISTORY AND HERITAGE TOUR THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

(major details in last month's newsletter)

There are 43 registered for this day but registration sheet will be at Tuesday's meeting for any more starters. About half have paid the \$40 per person and others should all be paid by 1 September.

Other costs to be paid on the day are your rail fare and optional lunch at the Anglers Rest.

Geoff Morris morrisgeoff@y7mail.com 0412 613591

Upcoming Guest Speakers

25th August: Kerrie Jeffreys, Tea Gardens Ferry
22nd September: Mark Apthorpe, Logistics and Supply Chain Challenges
27th October: Alan Playford, Working in Rescue and Overseas

Probus Website Update

Lindsay has updated our website to include a link to our Ruby Jubilee Book. It is on the Membership page near the top right. A Ruby red button which will (or at least should) open a new browser page displaying the book.

Please let me know if you have any issues when you try.

<https://www.newcastleprobus.org/membership/>

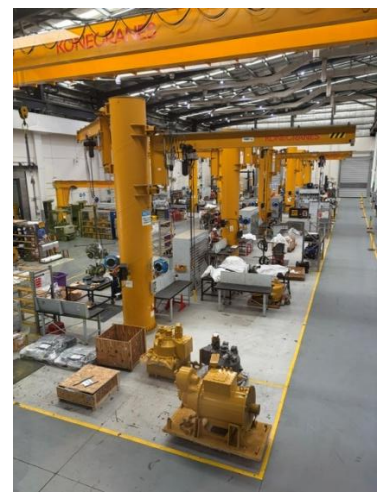
Important Information. We have been alerted to the fact that there needs to be notification of the name of the Public Officer under NSW regulations.
Our Public Officer is our Secretary Keith Hole.

15 members attended our planned visit to Westrac on Wednesday 19 August:

The visit commenced with a comprehensive brief by the General Manager Customer Relations, Mr Brad Drinkwater on the organisation and functions of Westrac. Following the issue of white helmets, safety glasses and high viz jackets we commenced a walkthrough tour of the extensive site, occupying 35 hectares and due to time and safety constraints it was only possible to visit a few areas. The first area to be visited was the Westrac In-house Laboratory that undertakes the analysis and assessment of the oils and lubricants used on

the many machines that Westrac either build or service. Lauren, the Lab Manager provided us with a detailed brief on the workings of the laboratory. A visit to the vast storage and dispatch area followed where an extensive range of all parts are catalogued, stored and organised for easy identification and access. The entire system is electronically codified for automated recovery and dispatch. A most impressive operation with items being continuously dispatched in what appeared to be a seamless and meticulous manner.

A visit to the main engineering workshop followed where behind an elevated viewing room we were able to look down into the two separate machine areas. The first being the 'dirty' area where machines were brought in from their work sites for cleaning, repair or servicing. The other part of the workshop was designated the 'clean' area, which was kept spotless and dust free, thus ensuring no contamination to machines or parts as they were assembled. The final part of the tour was to the extensive outdoor storage area where a vast range of machines and equipment were held. The tour ended at 12 noon with nine of the group going on to the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club for a pre-arranged lunch. All in all, an enjoyable and informative visit.



Bowls: Robbie

Barney (Whitehead), Brian (Prior) and Robbie (Robinson), participated in the Kevin Bainbridge Shield competition at the East Maitland Bowling Club on Monday 10 August.

The competition comprised 24 Probus Club Bowls teams from across the Hunter region and comprised two games of twelve ends before lunch. Whilst the fully covered artificial greens provided excellent playing surfaces, strong windy conditions proved to be a challenge for all. Despite a promising start in the first game, an early loss of points proved hard to recover from. The second Game was even more problematic and despite some great Bowling by our team, it was not enough to prevail.



Despite the loss, it was an enjoyable day out, no prizes for us but old acquaintanceships renewed and the general skill level of our Bowls team is definitely improving.

The next Bowls Meet will be held on Monday 14 September at the Cessnock Men's Probus Club. We are still waiting for a few more of our members to come forward and help form our Second Bowls team. If interested please talk to Barney, Brian or Robbie.

Cheers, Robbie

Quiz: Remember these?

From the following list, count all the ones that you remember. Not the ones you were told about!

1. Juicy fruit chewing gum
2. Cigarette Lollies
3. The "good room" that no one was allowed to use
4. Milk bars with jukeboxes
5. The Argonauts Club
6. Rotary dial telephones
7. Lining up for a polio injection
8. Newsreels or cartoons before the main movie
9. Slingshots or Shanghais
10. 45, 33 and 78RPM records
11. Milk delivered in glass bottles by the "milko"
12. Mantle radios
13. Fax paper on rolls
14. Empire Day
15. Blue flashbulbs for cameras
16. Telephone numbers with either one or two letters
17. IXL Tinned Jam
18. Newspaper delivery boys on bicycles
19. Chrysler Valiants
20. Kerosene refrigerators and kerosene heaters
21. Drive-in theatres
22. Laundry tub wringers
23. Playing "what's the time Mr Wolf?"
24. Capstan brand Cigarettes
25. A "deener"



If you remembered

0-5 = You are still young

6-10 = Getting older....

11-15 = Your age is nobody's business!

16-25 = Oops. You're officially old!

Why do people say "Sleep like a baby when babies wake up at all hours?"

Why is it called "Chilli" if it is served hot?

Do fish ever get thirsty?

If you are waiting for the waiter, aren't you the waiter?

Your first birthday is technically your second.

If FEDEX and UPS merged, would they become FEDUP?

Why do we call it the human race if it is not a competition.

Why is the word "abbreviation" so long?

If 7-11 is open 24 hours, why do they have locks on the doors?

Life is unfair to everyone. Does that mean that life is actually fair?

If a candle shop burns down, does it smell amazing or terrible?

If you are in a competition by yourself, do you come first or last?

If you expect the worst and it happens then does that mean that things went as planned?

If money is the root of all evil, why do they ask for it in church?

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