



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

# NEWSLETTER

**March 2025: Vol 34 No 11**

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

**Email:** [newsletter@newcastleprobus.org](mailto:newsletter@newcastleprobus.org)

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President: **Lindsay Threadgate 0419 230 236**  
Secretary: **Frank Rice 0418 611 195**  
Treasurer: **Keith Lynch 0409 537 225**

Activities: **Geoff Morris 0412 613 591**  
Speakers: **Neil Latham 0488 166 355**  
Editor: **Peter Rickford 0412 495 575**

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**GENERAL MEETING 25<sup>th</sup> March– Programme:**  
**9.30 am – Annual General Meeting**  
**Followed by - Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, Induction**  
**Followed by – Group Photo**  
**10.30 am – Coffee and Tea**

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## **President's Report: Lindsay Threadgate**



Welcome to the March 2025 Newcastle Probus Newsletter.

At our February Monthly Meeting I informed those present and apologised that I would not be able to attend our March Monthly Meeting which includes the Annual General Meeting. This is due to scheduled surgery for a total hip replacement. It is personally disappointing that I am unable to conduct the first part of the Annual General Meeting and pleasing as I anticipate a recovery from the pain and discomfort of my arthritic hip.

At our February monthly meeting Brian Penfold told us of his journey through life thus far. I found "the life of Brian" fascinating and ending the story with a little lesson on Cochlear ear was a bonus not at all expected. Thanks Brian for sharing your story.

Who does not love a little history, especially when it is told so well by a local historian? Julie Keating demonstrated a very detailed knowledge of our city and told it so well. I am sure all present learned something new or gained a better understanding of something they thought that they already knew. While coal may not be as well regarded as it was through the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries it was instrumental in the establishment and certainly played a big role in the development of Newcastle. The book Julie brought along quickly sold out.

The BBQ in Brickworks Park was well patronised and while a little cool for February everyone seemed to enjoy the snags and chat. Thanks Geoff and Team. I have seen a sneak preview of our 40 year book, soon to be printed. I hope everyone enjoys it and thanks to all who have contributed.

I hope that all who are able to attend the President's Luncheon enjoy the occasion, I of course will not be able to attend and am disappointed about that. I will look forward to the reports and hopefully join in on our meetings and activities with more comfort in the near future.

As this is my last monthly President's report to you, I would like to acknowledge all the committee for their support, and to thank them for their hard work over the past year. It is only through the efforts of each committee member that we have had a successful PROBUS year. Thank you all gentlemen, and I look forward to the coming Probus year, "Fun, Friendship and Fellowship in Retirement".

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*The Next General Meeting of Newcastle Probus Club will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at Souths Merewether*

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## Treasurer's Report: *Keith Lynch*

**Bank Reconciliation end February 2025:** Opening Balance \$8,448, Income \$2,088, Expenditure \$1,228 Closing Balance \$9,301, 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*

### Central Coast History & Heritage Cruise **Postponement**

Numbers for the 17 April cruise are unfortunately not sufficient for this outing to proceed on that date.

The closeness to Easter certainly had a significant effect on bookings so a short discussion at Tuesday's meeting might help decide what happens from here. Obviously all payments will be refunded.

Any suggestions to me before Tuesday would be useful. **Geoff Morris**

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**FINAL REMINDER** Pay or book for the annual President's Luncheon this Friday 28th March from 11am at Apollo International Hotel, Pacific Highway, Charlestown. \$50/head.

Guest Speaker: Dr Ross Kerridge, Lord Mayor of Newcastle.

See Stephen Pead at the meeting or phone 0411 471 118

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

### **THE DELBRIDGE NAME**

The Delbridge family originated in Cornwall, and they lived in Mithian, a village near St. Agnes. The Delbridge men were stonemasons, and they built many buildings for the tin and copper mines.

The early family details that follow were obtained from church records and our direct line has been traced back to the marriage of John Delbridge and Grace Richards in 1747.

A feature of these records was the large families, which in our case began in 1794 when the eldest of John and Grace's grandchildren John Delbridge, married Elizabeth Martyn and they had nine children.

One of their children, Edward Martyn Delbridge married Mary Pearce in 1831, and they had fourteen children, eight boys and six girls of whom ten reached maturity with four dying in infancy.

In the 1840's living conditions in Cornwall had become poor, and that decade became known as "the hungry forties."

The prices of tin and copper ores were declining, and many people lost their farms. Farming too suffered periodic depression with the potato crop failing in the 1840's.

It was difficult to envisage Edward Delbridge, a stonemason, was not affected in some way. The final impetus to make him leave Cornwall concerned a "three lives lease."

When freehold ownership was not available, people in Cornwall could obtain occupancy of a property under a leasing arrangement which specified that the lessee could nominate three lives, the latter would be three generations of people named in the contract, usually family.

A capital sum was paid at the beginning of the contract with a fixed sum due each year. The land belonged to the lessee during the lifetime of the one who lived the longest. On the death of the third person the land, including any improvements, reverted to the owner.

Edward Delbridge entered such an arrangement. He then invested money in a building on the property. But he was unlucky in his choice of the three lives because the last of the three died within five years of his taking occupancy, whereupon the owner reclaimed the property and its building.

Left without land and distinctly poorer, Edward and Mary decided to leave Cornwall and migrate to Australia.

In the late 1830's agents for the South Australian Government conducted recruitment campaigns for suitable migrants. Under the assisted immigration scheme free passages were arranged and help was given on arrival in Adelaide with obtaining work.

South Australia was "the pure state" and it had appeal as it was not a penal colony.

Edward and Mary left Cornwall in late 1849 with six of their children, arriving in Adelaide in January 1850.

Edward was attracted to the copper mining operations in Burra Burra, as his skills as a stonemason were very much in demand.

After a period in Burra Burra, they went to the Victorian goldmines, where they made their fortune. They eventually ended up in Fitzroy, where he worked as a stonemason and a builder. When he built his own home in Fitzroy he painted "Mithian" on the front of the building to indicate to everyone, where his family had originally come from.

He subsequently became the Mayor of Fitzroy.

While in Fitzroy, Edward and Mary had three more children, the last one Joseph Martin Delbridge, was born in 1858.

Joseph married Alice Deslandes in 1881, and they had seven children.

The eldest Edward John Martin Delbridge was born in 1882, and he married Edith Mary Beale on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1907, and they had five children.

Their eldest child was christened Frederic John Delbridge, and he married Elsie Janet Woolson in 1934 and they had four children.

The second eldest of their children was born on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1938 and was christened Richard (Dick) John Martin Delbridge. As Edward caught pneumonia in 1938 and died in Inverell in that year, I never met my paternal grandfather.



**Website:** *Lindsay Threadgate*

The website is active and by entering [www.newcastleprobus.org](http://www.newcastleprobus.org) it should come up.

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1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand-new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.

15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
  16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminium can stuffed with celery?
  17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
  18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
  19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
  20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
  21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb."
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## Members Care

Just a note that the committee is not always informed when a member becomes ill or passes away. This is therefore an appeal to members, when they become aware of a member having a serious illness, accident or passing away, to inform the secretary or a committee member. The secretary will take any action appropriate.

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