



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

NEWSLETTER

October 2026: Vol 36 No 7

Website: newcastleprobus.org

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

President: **Stephen Pead 0411 471 118**
Secretary and Public Officer: **Keith Hole 0419 219 193**
Treasurer: **Keith Lynch 0409 537 225**

Activities: **Robbie Robinson 0417577780**
Speakers: **David Tarento 0434 133 697**
Editor: **Peter Rickford 0412 495 575**

GENERAL MEETING 22nd September - Programme

10.30 am - Welcome, Apologies, Visitors, Induction
10.45 am - Member Special Interest – David Tarento
11.00 am - Coffee and Tea
11.30 am - Guest Speaker – Alan Playford



President's Report:

Welcome to another edition of our club newsletter.



We have joined with four other local clubs in staging a 50th Anniversary Lunch on 12 November at Souths. Hopefully, you will have seen the email I circulated earlier in the month. I urge you to bring your partner along and celebrate with us.....details below.

On the subject of lunch, our Annual Christmas Luncheon is also coming up on 27 November. Our entertainer is the amazing Ron Man who'll "channel" the Big "O" Roy Orbison. Should be an excellent day!!

I can advise members that Geoff Morris has stepped down from the committee to concentrate on some health issues. Robbie Robinson has taken over the activities portfolio. On behalf of the committee and club I thank Geoff for his committee service since 2019.

Our guest speaker for the October meeting is a trailblazing local paramedic, Alan Playford. This is a man who has seen it all and is strongly recognised for his extraordinary contributions. I guarantee he'll have plenty of amazing experiences to tell us!

This month our member speaker is David Tarento and he'll share some interesting stories on his life.

I'm off to Tasmania on a break so will miss this meeting, however vice-president, Brian Prior will take the chair.

To finish here's a thought "Live your life to the fullest. It only happens once"

See you soon.

Cheers

The Next General Meeting of Newcastle Probus Club will be held on 24th November 2026 at Souths Merewether



Bank Reconciliation end July 2026: Opening Balance \$9,568, Income \$2,056, Expenditure \$2,340, Closing Balance \$9,284, 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: *Robbie Robinson* 0417577780

sarniaboot1@gmail.com

TAFE DINNER

Twenty-five of our members with their partners enjoyed a wonderful dinner experience at the Hamilton TAFE on Tuesday 20 Oct. Despite external building works we all managed to navigate our way into the building and to the restaurant. Following pre-dinner drinks, we were ushered into the Restaurant at 6pm. The Set menu offered a choice of two Entrees, a Mains and Desert, which were beautifully prepared and the students from the Certificate III Commercial Cookery Course excelled in providing a high level of table service. At the end of the evening the Chief Chef introduced us to the students, and I took the opportunity to thank them for an excellent evening and wished them well for their future careers.

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable and convivial evening which those attending the second TAFE Dinner evening can look forward to on 17 November.



BOWLS

Our gallant Bowls Team, comprising Barney (Whitehead), Brian (Prior) and Robbie (Robinson) set out early on Monday 19 October for Scone to attend a further round in the Inter Probus Bowls competition. Arriving early, thanks to Brian we had time to enjoy a cuppa in the very well-appointed Scone Bowls Club before the competition got underway at 0930. Twelve teams were listed for this competition, which included Six from Scone! The competition comprised two games of ten Ends, all played before lunch.

Playing on grass greens required considerable adaptation as most of our games to date had been played on artificial greens. Both of our games were played against Scone teams and whilst we failed to prevail against the locals, we had got the measure of the grass greens by our second game.

Although we did not win a game, we did not come away empty handed with winnings in the Raffle and won the Losers prize of \$30, which was put towards Brian's petrol costs! Whilst it was a long day, involving a two-hour drive to Scone, weather conditions were excellent and it was as always good to catch up with many familiar faces. Our day concluded with a quick trip around Scone with Barney pointing out many familiar sights, including homes he and Jill had built and live in.

The cruise on Thursday 26th was enjoyed by our members and partners and the following outlines just a couple of the many interesting sights on the day. Special thanks to Captain Vic and historian Peter Rea for a great day. (Lunch at the Anglers Cove was also pretty good and NSW rail excelled by running on time on the day)

The Parramatta ran aground near Milsons Island and about 1 kilometre from Hawkesbury River Road bridge on the western side. In 1973 the bow and stern were cut of the wreck and mounted at Garden Island and in Parramatta Park respectively.

The HMAS Hawkesbury & Swan were Australian River Class Torpedo boat destroyers built between 1909 & 1915. They were moored in the Hawkesbury River until a storm caused them to break anchor and drift, both sank, The Hawkesbury opposite Danger Island and the Swan west of Juno Point. Avoiding the ignoble fate of her sister, which sunk in deep water, Swan lays under just 10 metres of water, until recently, all but forgotten.

(K363/F363) was a River-class frigate of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). Parramatta saw action during World War II. She entered service with the RAN in mid-1944 and was decommissioned in 1955.

HMAS Parramatta used in reserve for a second time on 14 February 1955. She was declared for disposal in early 1961 without having been recommissioned, and was sold for scrapping in September 1961, on her way to Asia for scrap she was moored in the Hawkesbury River and ran aground.

Among more innovations to protect the only feasible transport route between Southern NSW & Victoria, the Hawkesbury Road & rail bridge.

A submarine net was set across the river as close to the entrance as possible, in addition to a minefield also strung across the river.

Numerous gun emplacements were built in impossibly steep locations, particularly Juno Point and West Head.

Geoff Morris



50th Anniversary Lunch
Thursday 12th November 2026
11.30am-2.30pm
Souths Merewether

In celebration of Probus Australia and its first 50 years five local Probus Clubs are joining together for a celebratory lunch and fun gathering. All members and their partners are invited.

The clubs:

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- ✚ Newcastle Probus Club
 - ✚ Merewether Seaside Probus Club
 - ✚ Merewether Ladies Probus Club
 - ✚ Adamstown Ladies Probus Club
 - ✚ The Junction Combined Probus Club
-

This is your chance to meet other local "Probian" and to share in the celebrations.

Members and partners are invited

Cost: \$56 per head and includes a welcome glass of bubbly, delicious buffet meal, celebratory cake, tea & coffee. A cash bar will also operate.

Please RSVP by 31st October 2026 to Stephen Pead - luncheon coordinator

At club meeting or email peady@y7mail.com or phone 0411 471 118

Payment of \$56 per person by funds transfer:

BSB 650-000 / Account Number 943213300 (please include your name)

Upcoming Guest Speakers

24th November: Lucas Coleman – Port of Newcastle

19th January: Ross Kerridge – Former Newcastle Lord Mayor

Probus 50th Anniversary Coach Tour - Sunshine Coast and Montville 26th to 30th September 2026

Our journey commenced with being picked up at Brisbane Airport with approximately 46 other Probians from around Australia. We had people from Gympie in the north of Queensland, down through South Queensland, NSW and Victoria to Hobart in Tasmania and across to Adelaide in South Australia.

After leaving the airport, we were coached to Pelican Waters Tavern for lunch, followed by a boat cruise along the waters of the Pumicestone Passage past Pelican Waters canal homes, Bribie Island National Park, and Caloundra, with views of the Glasshouse Mountains. Our accommodation for the next four nights was at the Mercure Kawana Waters.

Day 2 commenced with a tour and tasting at the Buderim Ginger Factory at Yandina, the world's largest Ginger Factory. From there we travelled to Tewantin at the head of the Noosa River, boarded a hybrid powered ferry for lunch and a cruise downriver to Noosa Heads, where we had time to explore.



On day 3 we visited a Glasshouse Mountains lookout, followed by a visit to Maleny, and lunch at the Mary Cairncross Park (a 52-hectare subtropical Rainforest Sanctuary) with views over the Glasshouse Mountains. After lunch, we travelled to Montville with a range of local stores and views of the Sunshine Coast.



Day 4 consisted of an all day visit to explore Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo. The highlight was the crocodile experience in the Crocoseum. We were very lucky in that the 'four Irwins' Terri, Robert, Bindi and her husband Chandler had all gathered together to do the show. The crocodile involved was one of their biggest.





On Day 5, we visited the renowned Eumundi Markets before heading to Brisbane for lunch. Our tour ended when we were dropped off at the airport.



It was great to meet and chat with other Probus members from far and wide. Being likeminded people, everyone mixed well and had a great time.

Overall, the trip was a wonderful short break with a fabulous guide, and we feel the price was great value as all meals, cruises and entry tickets were included. This tour was conducted by Coach Holidays and Tours, a Probus Partner.

Frank Rice

***This is an App available for Android and Apple Phones.
It can be a great benefit in the management of your prescribed medicines.***

🚨 Emergency Use

Having this app on your phone acts as an immediate digital health record. In an emergency, you can quickly open your automatic medication list to show attending paramedics or doctors exactly what you are prescribed, preventing dangerous drug interactions.



MedAdvisor app

The MedAdvisor app is a free digital medication management tool that connects you directly to your local pharmacy. It functions as a virtual pharmacist in your pocket, automating how you track, order, and take your prescriptions.

Here is exactly how the app works from setup to daily use:

1. Account Setup

- ***Download the App: You can download MedAdvisor for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.***

- **Connect to Your Pharmacy:** Search for and select your preferred local pharmacy within the app.
- **Get an Activation Code:** To fully sync your prescription history, you request a unique activation code directly from your pharmacy (in person, via phone, or email). Once entered, your profile securely links to the pharmacy's dispensing system.

2. Script Wallet & Tracking

- **Automatic Medication List:** The app builds a live list of your medications. Every time you fill a script at your pharmacy, this list updates automatically.
- **Real-Time Visibility:** You can see exactly how many repeats you have left, how many days of supply you have remaining, and information about what the medication is for. [
- **Digital Script Wallet:** It securely stores your e-scripts (tokens) so you don't have to scroll through old text messages or emails. You can also upload photos of paper scripts.

3. Ordering & Refills

- **Tap-To-Refill:** When you are running low, you can access the app to see your current supply and order your next script or repeat with a single tap.
- **Skip the Queue:** The pharmacy receives the order and prepares it in advance. The app notifies you when it is ready so you can walk in and collect it without waiting.
- **Flexible Fulfilment:** You can pre-pay through the app and choose between Click & Collect or Home Delivery (if offered by your pharmacy). You can also add regular front-of-shop items like vitamins.

4. Smart Reminders

- **Take-My-Meds:** You can set daily alarms that prompt you when it is time to take specific doses throughout the day.
- **Fill-My-Scripts:** The app automatically alerts you when your current supply is running low or when you need to see your GP for a brand-new prescription.

5. Managing Family Members (Carer Mode)

- If you look after children, elderly parents, or a partner, you can activate Carer Mode. This allows you to view, track, and order medications for multiple family members all from within your single primary account.

2026 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Members, Ladies and Guests are invited to the Probus Club of Newcastle Christmas Luncheon



Club Macquarie, Lake Road, Argenton

Friday, 27th November 2026

11.00am: Arrive – Tea/Coffee/Pre Lunch Drinks

11.25am: Welcome

11.30am: Speaker

12.30pm: Lunch

1.30pm: Fellowship

Our Guest Entertainer: Newcastle's very own Ron Man!

At last year's Christmas Luncheon Ron wowed us with his Elvis tribute show this year he's back again performing hits from "the Big O" Roy Orbison. Billed as "the closest voice to Roy Orbison anywhere on the planet", his journey as a headline artist covers festivals, corporate events and cruises all around Australia and New Zealand!



Please RSVP by 24th November 2026 to Stephen Pead luncheon coordinator-At club meeting or email peady@y7mail.com or phone 0411 471 118

Payment of \$60 per person by funds transfer:

BSB 650-000 / Account Number 943213300

(please include your name)