



THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF VALENTINE Inc

'The Young, Friendly, Fun Club'

**NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2022**

Club Website: www.ajcnsw.com/mpcov

The official publication of the Men's Probus Club of Valentine Inc.
Private and confidential for Probus use only and no other purpose
The Club meets in [The Tingira Community Church at 13 Neridah Road Belmont North](#)
4th Monday of each month at 10 am

NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 27 JUNE - (SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS)

APOLOGIES to Robert Rae on 0411 141 823

and our GUEST SPEAKERS are:

June '22	Jessica Kyle	<i>Topic</i>	Cost of Living
July '22	Paul Mcfarlane	<i>Topic:</i>	Newcastle Airport update
Aug '22	Bob Cook	<i>Topic:</i>	William IV Ship

CURRENT ACTIVITIES (*SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS*)

WALKING GROUP - Meets every Wednesday morning, contact Ron Tooney our coordinator on 4958 7910 for more details.

GENTLEMEN'S LUNCH - First Monday of every month, contact John Benson our coordinator on 0437 043 014 for more details.

OUTINGS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION:

- August: Hi-Vis factory tour at Carrington
- September: Gosford Regional Gallery and Japanese Edogawa Commemorative Garden
- October: A two night stay in a guest house at Katoomba
- TBA: Cruise from Ettalong to Palm Beach (would be a long day)
- TBA: Lake Macquarie Light Rail at Toronto

If you have any other suggestions please let John McGrath know.

President's Report

What's been happening since our last newsletter. We have:

- enjoyed a lunch at Brownsugar Restaurant on 19 May
- visited (some of us) Lake Mac Open Studios on the weekend of the 4th and 5th of June taking in some of the local artists' paintings

Of course we have continued to enjoy our Gentlemens lunch on the first Monday of each month and our Wednesday weekly walks and coffee.

Your committee has been busy discussing and investigating future outings, please let the committee know what outings you are most interested in to allow arrangements be made. Your responses can be placed in the suggestion box located on the table at the back of the church hall or speaking to John McGrath.

Winter has definitely launched itself upon us. It is time for the log fires, combustion fires, heaters and air conditioning. There has been a number of recent house fires and it is a timely reminder to take care and be mindful of the operation of heaters. From the Fire Fighters I have been informed that 60% of house fires are either caused by heaters or rechargeable batteries.

Until next time take care and be safe.

Trevor

Book Corner from Ted

Unfortunately Ted could not attend our last meeting due to family commitments. Take two from Ted:

Author for this month is Lee Child. The following books are available to borrow:

A Wanted Man, Blue Moon, Die Trying, Echo Burning, Gone Tomorrow, Killing Floor, Make Me, Never Go Back, Night School, One Shot, Nothing to Lose, Past Tense, Personal, Persuader, 61 Hours, The Affair, The Enemy, The Hard Way, The Visitor, Without Fail, Worth Dying For.

If you borrowed a book would you please bring it along to the meeting and return it to Ted.

Guest Speaker Section

Kevin Hepplewhite is presently compiling the minutes and incorporates a brief synopsis of our guest speaker. Kevin was kind enough this month to expand on his synopsis and has provided the following for our newsletter. A big thank you to Kevin.

Guest Speaker from our May meeting :

Roger Wakefield introduced Gary Herrett who spoke on the 200 years of Coal Loading In Newcastle.

Gary had worked around the Port of Newcastle for 45 Years and had an extensive knowledge of the subject from the first discovery of coal by runaway convicts to the current high tech coal loading in the port. In 1797 coal outcrops were identified along the coast by convicts. Coal River was the original name for Newcastle. Horseshoe Beach was the first area for coal collection. In 1804 a convict station loaded coal to ships by carrying wicker baskets and wading to the ships. 1817 saw the first mine shaft on the hill at the now James Fletcher Hospital. By 1828 the area was declared a free port but still had many convicts with a goal at Newcastle Beach. During 1846 and 1861 breakwalls were developed due to the dangerous entrance to the river with over 120 ships lost on the Stockton side.

During the first 14 years 18,900 tonnes were loaded, which now takes 2 hours by the modern coal loader. The AA company was established and granted 2000 acres of land in Newcastle. The company operated mines in Newcastle and Hamilton. The mines in the colony of NSW had started their spread from the ocean fringe to west and the Upper Hunter. These mines were worked by convicts and immigrants from England, Wales and Scotland. In 1861 Steam Cranes were in use lifting 2 tonne wagons to load ships increasing production to 500 tonnes per day which is miniscule to the current loading rate of this tonnage in 1 minute.

Gary then gave details of how the mines and infrastructure developed over the years up to the present day and how mechanisation and technology has made Newcastle the largest exporter in the world of 170 million tonnes per year of the best quality coal.

The sight of multiple ships waiting to be loaded with coal is common today and has historically been the case. Our largest customer is Japan. He supplemented his talk with historical sketches and photographs which were very informative. As is usual over the years mechanisation and technology has increased production with the consequence of the loss of jobs and a reduced workforce in this industry.

Gary showed he had an extensive detailed knowledge of the history of coal in the port of Newcastle his presentation was informative and enjoyed by members.

Kevin Hepplewhite

Some pictures are on the following page.

HISTORIC AND CURRENT PHOTOS



Travel Section

Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) has developed a Partnership Program with The Travel Corporation (TTC). TTC is now a National Gold Partner with Probus.

TTC has been a family owned business since 1920. Their website is: travel.ttc.com/en-au/probus. Their website talks about Travel Deals, Destinations, Travel Styles and their brand. If you want to talk to a person ring 1300 300 911.

TTC organise tours both within Australia and internationally with awarding winning travel companies. PSPL has negotiated savings if booked through TTC for your travel needs.

Individual trips and groups are catered for through TTC.

You can subscribe to TTC quarterly e-magazine through their website.

Quiz

Answer to our last months quiz is - two of triplets or more. A thank you to those who replied.

Can you solve this:

The water level in a reservoir is low, but doubles every day. It takes 60 days to fill the reservoir. How long does it take for the reservoir to become half full?

What Do You Think

People say that drinking milk makes you stronger.
Drink 5 glasses of milk and try to move a wall.

Can't?

Now drink 5 glasses of wine.
The wall moves all by itself.

GREATER BANK. *Payments to the Club*

Details for making payment either on-line or at a branch.

BSB 637-000 and

Account no. 780356294 and

(record your 'surname' + one word as a brief reference covering the purpose) e.g. 'XMAS',

Share with a Friend

Don't forget to send our newsletter on to a friend or direct them to our website :
www.ajcnsw.com/mpcov

Encourage your friends to come to our meetings. We have very interesting Guest Speakers.

Please send your contributions for the newsletter to the email address of:

probusnews2280@gmail.com

Committee Members 2022

President:	Trevor Brown	0488 469 119
Vice President:	John McGrath	0405 887 881
General Secretary:	Robert Rae	0411 141 823
Membership Secretary:	Robert Rae	0411 141 823
Assistant Secretary:	Bruce Helman	0412 485 610
Treasurer:	Brian Sullivan	0431 068 729
Events Coordinator:	John McGrath	0405 887 881
Ass Events Coordinator:	Vacant	
Program Officer:	Roger Wakefield	4954 4373
Ass Program Officer:	Graham Higgs	0407 658 269
Newsletter:	Trevor Brown	0488 469 119
Webmaster:	Vacant	
Attendance :	John Bear	0477 171 909
Welfare:	Vacant	
Historian:	Kevin Hepplewhite	0420 355 743
Roving:	John Benson	0437 043 014
Roving:	Vacant	

Support Officers - appointed by the Committee

Public Officer:	Brian Sullivan	0431 068 729
Book Exchange:	Ted Tait	0401 397 499
Morning Tea Coord:	Ron Tooney	4958 7910
Walking Group Coord:	Ron Tooney	4958 7910
Computer Support:	Vacant	
BBQ Coord:	Austin Greener	4946 9192