



Merewether Historical Society

"A society aimed at recording memories of the past for the benefit of the next generation."

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The Chronicle

June 2024

Meetings: Next meeting will be at the Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St, on **Tuesday 11 June**, 10.30 for a 10.45 start.

Guest Speaker: Gionni diGravio Archivist at the University of Newcastle who will be talking about the Collections and current work underway.



Birthdays in June Flower and Birthstone are the rose and pearl. Happy birthday to all our members born in June.

Annual General Meeting: July 9th at Merewether Bowling Club. Members must be financial to be able to vote or nominate for the Committee. Fees are due by 30 June 2024 and remain at \$20 single, and \$30 for a couple. **Please consider nominating to become a member of the Committee!**

May 21 Bus Trip:



Guest Speaker Samuel Northe, Aged Crime Prevention Officer attended the last meeting and presented a very informative and helpful session which I have summarised for those who were not in attendance – and also as a reminder for those who were!

A police officer for more than 15 years he worked in several positions before being appointed to his current position which is one of 8 in NSW, supposed to be 54. The Newcastle area is fortunate in that 3 are based in the region. Their aim is to stop crime happening before it does.

Sam covered all aspects of safety – home, travel and technology. Much of keeping

safe is common sense and awareness of our situation at all times.

In order to determine just what IS an easy target police interviewed 207 prisoners, gaoled for Break and Enter, on what they looked for when choosing a house or vehicle to rob. The responses guided the following information on how best to protect yourself, and your belongings.



Make sure you have a clearly visible house number – to assist emergency services

- Do NOT put your name and address on your house/car keys
- Do NOT leave a note on your door telling people you are out
- If you can afford it fit security (preferably crimsafe) screens and screen doors
- Have deadlocks and window locks, also a peephole in front door
- Have sensor lights and a camera doorbell
- Check smoke alarms work
- Have your phone near your bed
- Valuables to be kept in a safe or hidden place – photograph valuables and keep a list of serial numbers/descriptions, engrave valuable items
- ALWAYS lock car and never leave valuables in it. It is actually an offence to leave vehicles unlocked and/or windows down in a public place and could attract a \$116 fine.
- Salespeople – if it sounds too good to be true it probably is: always check the company out, use the telephone numbers provided and

ask for identification; Take time to think the offer over and never accept an offer of a lift to the ATM

- If a 'gift' arrives unsolicited you are not required to pay for or return it
- Maintenance people always check their identification, and if not expecting them, call the company they are from before admitting them
- Unknown visitors, never let them in and direct to nearest public amenities. Make a telephone for them rather than letting them use your phone

Internet/Telephone/Social Media

Watch who you allow to remote access your computer

- Do not use the same password for everything and change regularly and do NOT leave a list of your passwords next to your computer
- If receiving scam emails/phone calls contact the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission Scamwatch on 1800941126. Occasionally you will receive a phone call regarding An Emergency Alert and this is NOT a scam if the phone number is 0444444444 it is a genuine call from Emergency Services

Travel

- If possible travel with a friend – whether holidays or just out for the day. Don't leave your bag unattended and definitely don't keep your valuables in your handbag but DON'T resist if you are held up your safety is more important than your valuables
- Vary your route and time to the bank and ask for smaller denominations – do not display cash in public but put it straight in your pocket or purse



- Have someone collect your mail and keep an eye on your house if away

- Do not leave a message on your answer machine to say you are away
- Use a timer on the television and lights
- Be home when deliveries are expected, if not leave instructions for a 'safe place for parcel to be left
- Only call 000 if urgent otherwise Police Assistance Line 131444 rather than a police station which may be unmanned or busy, and ask for an Event Number
- When driving keep doors locked and windows open just enough for air, park in well-lit areas
- Carry a small torch and have keys out before you reach the door.

The Next of Kin Register is invaluable to emergency services in cases of necessary welfare checks, providing details of who to contact when necessary, rather than those attending having to break in to check on the occupant. It is recommended all seniors, especially those living alone complete one.

Point to Ponder: "Happiness is like a butterfly: the more you chase it the more it will elude you, but if you turn your attention to other things, it will come and sit softly on your shoulder." *Thoreau*

2023/24 Committee:

President:	Geoff Wright
Vice President:	Dennis Hinchliffe
Secretary:	Sue Kenny
Asst Secretary:	Denise Wright
Treasurer:	Greg Struck
Asst Treasurer:	Monica Jordon
Committee	Alison Chapman Iain Kelso Jan Welsman Judy Henry Daryl Boyce

Hon. Solicitor: Nicholas Dan

**Merewether Historical Society
is proudly sponsored by:
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