



Merewether Historical Society

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

Email: secretary@merewetherhistorical.com

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The Chronicle

June 2026

The NEXT (July14th) meeting is the Annual General Meeting.

ALL committee positions will be vacated.

Only FINANCIAL members can vote, nominate and second a candidate.

The regular monthly meeting will be held after the AGM.

Meeting: Next meeting will be at the Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St, on **Tuesday 14th July at 10:45.** Please try not to arrive too early as the Club doesn't actually open until 10:30. All are invited to join us for lunch at the end of the meeting.

Guest Speaker For JULY: Eric Villary on "Growing up in Australia".

Once again we would really appreciate it if one of our members could put their hand up **to become our Secretary** – every assistance will be offered!!

2025/26 Committee:

President: Geoff Wright
V President: Dennis Hinchliffe
Secretary: **Vacant**
Treasurer: Greg Struck
Other Committee Members:
Denise Wright, Monica Jordon,
Iain Kelso, Alison Chapman
Jan Welsman, Judy Henry
Darryl Boyce, Chris Marshall
Hon. Solicitor: Nicholas Dan

Our guest speaker at our last (JUNE) meeting was Dr. Rob Smith who spoke, with a slideshow presentation, on the history of and his lifetime journey in, the field of "Paediatric Neurology".

Wow, this talk was a real eye-opener for me. Rob was an entertaining, knowledgeable and empathic speaker. I bet he has a great 'bedside manner'.
Some of the major points that stick in my mind are:

That medicine in general and neurology in particular have really benefitted from the worldwide advances in technology since the 1950s. First EEG - recording electrical impulses in the body, then CT – Computer Tomography – ability to create detailed 3D images of bones, Soft tissues and organs, and then MRI – Magnetic Resonance Imaging does not use any ionising radiation. It 'manipulates' water molecules already in your body to form images. These techniques allowed people to see in detail what was going on inside a body - to FIND the problem. This then formed the basis for theories and the theories lead to possible solutions.

Drug development was the next huge boon for the treatment of medical conditions – particularly neurological problems. Specific, highly effective, targeted, drugs with minimum side effects have been developed in exponential numbers. Lastly the development of genetic knowledge and the ability to target and modify what specific genes are doing has added another pathway to modify, cure and eliminate neurological problems.

The development of Paediatric Neurology in Newcastle region has been one of Rob's life goals – along with developing the skills in various Pacific Island countries.

I came away with the feeling that Paediatric Neurology in Newcastle was a growing, hardworking, friendly, professional, group of colleagues whose first concern was their patients. Great Talk!