

Blaxland-Glenbrook Probus Inc.

Newsletter – April 2025



President Robert Tam	Vice President Alan Pope	Secretary Peter Minahan
Treasurer Robyn Pope	Social Activities Kerry Desailly	Welfare Marea Paul
Guest Speaker Convenor TBA	Membership Convenor Bronwyn Ryan	Fees: BSB 062 640 A/C 1011 4975 Social Activities Payments: BSB 062 640 A/C 1011 4983

If you're unable to attend a club meeting held on the 4th Friday of each month at 10 00am please contact the Membership Convenor listed above with your apology.

Happy birthday to our members born in April !



Members born in April include:

John Choma Allison Ormella Marea Paul James Pope
John Mc Gilvray.

Famous people born in April include Queen Elizabeth II, Charlie Chaplin, Barbra Streisand, William Wordsworth, Russel Crowe, Leonardo da Vinci, Miranda Kerr and Ben Mendelston

People born in April are said to have a mix of standout traits. They're outgoing and often adventurous, with a romantic side. They might stay up late and could be more resistant to some diseases. April-born individuals are amazing humans who bring a vibrant energy to the

world, making it a better place. The traditional birthstone for April is the diamond, known for its brilliance, hardness, and association with strength, love, and enduring beauty. It is thought to provide the wearer with better relationships and an increase in inner strength.

Member matters:

2025-6 Management Committee



Peter Minahan, Robyn Pope Alan Pope, Robert Tam Bronwyn Ryan, Sandra O'Connell, Marie McGuinness. Kerrie Desailly, Ann Lincoln, Zelda Harman, Marea Paul.



Inset John McGilvray



Acknowledgement Award

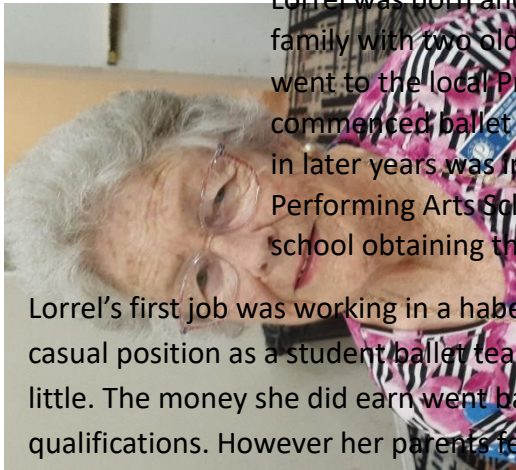
Dale Cole won this well deserved 'Mother Hen' award for her tireless efforts in researching, preparing and leading her monthly walks at the club meeting in March. Dale never fails to ensure that her 'adventures' are interesting, appropriate for senior members and also that each member remains safe and comfortable throughout.

The 100% Group.

According to the Membership Convenor the following members have joined this group as they attended every club meeting in the 2024-25 club year:

Lorrel Cameron, Julie Corderoy, Kerry Desailly, Henry Dowie, Lorna Gradden, Pat Marshall, Marie McGuinness, Sandra O'Connell, Robyn Pope, Jennifer Skoech, Robert Tam, Judy Vandervelden, Richard Vandervelden.

March's Member Profile: Lorrel Cameron



Lorrel was born and grew up in Croydon Park, the youngest child in the family with two older brothers. She attended the local public school and went to the local Presbyterian Church/ Sunday school. Aged eight she commenced ballet lessons at Anne McDonald College of Dancing, which in later years was instrumental in including ballet in the syllabi of Performing Arts Schools. Lorrel attended Burwood Girls Home Science school obtaining the Intermediate Certificate at almost 14 years of age.

Lorrel's first job was working in a haberdashery shop but after six months she was offered a casual position as a student ballet teacher which, although she enjoyed greatly, she earned little. The money she did earn went back into private lessons to obtain higher ballet qualifications. However her parents felt she should get a 'proper' job so after six months she took a position as junior office girl at Angus and Coote in the city. Ten months into this job the manager offered to train her as the next 'Diamond Girl' to look after the loose diamond and gemstone stock. The current girl was leaving to get married, as was the custom in those days married women did not work! Lorrel's new position was on one condition that being to study for a Diploma in Gemmology something very new in Australia 74 years ago. After qualifying just before her 19th birthday she became the first qualified person to hold that position. Lorrel found this job very interesting particularly around the time when A&C were required to supply the diamonds and gemstones for the opening shots of Treasure Island a film produced at the Pagewood Studios Sydney around 1953-4. Ever gem had to be weighed for insurance purposes. She was escorted to the studios by armoured vehicle and a security guard watched the highly valuable stock all day.

During this time US entertainers came to Sydney and often appeared as a guest on one of two very popular radio shows, the Jack Davey and Bob Dyer quiz shows on which the prizes were Australian black opal, which were selected and prepared by Lorrel for A&C. A good marketing opportunity for the company that created many sales to the Americans.

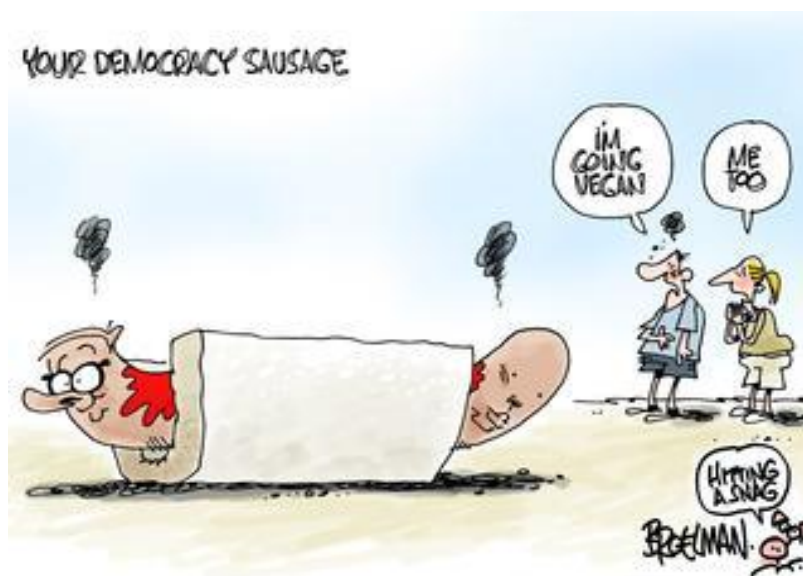
Kel and Lorrel announced their engagement at her 21st Birthday party and two weeks later bought a small house in Bexley which remained empty until they were married in 1957. By 1962 the Camerons had produced three sons Stuart, David and Bruce. They realised the need for a larger home. In the mid 60s they purchased a large block of land in Glenbrook which at that time was more like a country town. They lived in a fibro garage/weekender on the block until their new home was built.

When their boys joined the local Cubs and Scouts their parents became involved fundraising activities such as progressive dinners to raise money to build a Scout Hall. They also raised money for St Andrews their local church.

Lorrel decided to return to parttime work when her youngest son was in Year Six. She first worked as a Baby Photographer at Nepean Hospital, then 4 years at Blaxland Post Office and eleven years at Glenbrook Pharmacy. The year she commenced work at the Pharmacy Kel needed a change so the Camerons opened a Sport and Camping Store in Glenbrook and worked together. After 10 years they sold the business and then both worked part time for the National Park Service until retirement. On retiring they were presented with a young seedling gum which they planted at Euroka campsite. Their grandchildren christened the clearing 'Cameron's Corner.'

Over the next ten years Lorrel and Kel travelled extensively through Europe and UK. Over the years they both enjoyed watching their beloved grandchildren playing sport on Saturdays. Although Kel lost his battle with cancer in 2016 Lorrel has continued to live in Glenbrook close to her extensive family including 7 great grandchildren. She still keeps in contact with friends she has known for over 85 years and lunches each month with friends as well as attending Probus regularly

April's Cartoon



Interest Groups

Members interested in joining any group please contact the relevant person:

Games On	Fortnightly on Tuesday	Contact: Kerrie Fitzpatrick
----------	------------------------	-----------------------------

	afternoons	
The Crafty Girls	3rd Friday of month	Contact: Cath Gordon
Mens' Coffee Bash	3rd Tuesday of month Ori Hotel Springwood- regular venue	Contact: Robert Tam
Ladies' Coffee and Chat	1st Friday of Month Ori Hotel Springwood	Contact: Zelda Harman

Recent Social Highlights:

Change over Lunch at Blaxland

Traditionally many members attend the post AGM change over banquet lunch at the Thai restaurant in Blaxland.



Closest to the camera are Veronica and Keith Windred, Elin Poulsen and her daughter Vivi Ann Guinery, Robert Tam, Mark Farrant and partner. All enjoyed the hospitality and friendship of the staff and fellow members.

Jim and Margaret Pope and the Tams also enjoyed the occasion.

Ann and Phillip Lincoln dined with Annette and Henry Dowie and others at the Change over Lunch.

Dale's Heritage Walk

Kerry, Graham, Zelda, Annette, Cath, Richard, Jan, Allison, Leonie, Tim, Peter, Terry and Pat joined Dale to see a small glimpse of St Marys past and future. Wianamatta or "Mother Place" was a significant area of water, camp sites, ceremony and stories for the indigenous people.

From the early 1800's colonial settlers also found the creek, alluvial soils and access over the mountains good for travel, agriculture and industry. The original township was part of a land grant for Mary Putland, William Bligh's daughter and was known as South Creek until in

1885 the name was changed to St Marys after St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church on the Great Western Hwy. The arrival of the railway in 1863 only enhanced the area's appeal. The group paused to look at the heritage listed Brontë House an 1889 home built for James Bennett and Mimosa House built in 1894 for master tanner Andrew Thompson. Both were significant business people at the time. George and James Bennett were builders of "the best heavy transport wagons" on the market. They saw some of the huge wagons in South Creek Park.

Andrew Thompson owned two tanneries and his home Mimosa House was named for the bark of the Mimosa plant he imported from Africa for the tanning process. This home was said to be the costliest building in the Nep

Duration Houses (the small fibro cottages with corrugated iron roofs) built as temporary dwellings for industrial workers during the second world war are still seen today. However these will surely disappear with progress.

Overview of Upcoming Events!

For further details always refer to the Social Activities sheet published each month on line, obtain a hard copy at next club meeting or contact our Social Convenor

April- Club colour Red

Wednesday 16th	Australiana Pioneer Village Wilberforce -Carpooling -\$5 cash payment required for entry on day.
Tuesday 29th	Lunch- TAFE Wentworth Falls – 11 45 for Noon

May- Club colours- Mauve, purple, pink

Sunday 4th -14th	Longreach, Winton, Carnarvon Gorge, Queensland coach trip
Monday 26th	Blue Mountains History Discovery Tour and Commentary
Friday 30th	Dales Walk – The Rocks, Sydney TBA
Saturday 31st	Come From Away Musical - Springwood Hub all tickets sold

June- Club colour- Spots

Wednesday 11th
Tuesday 17th

MJ the Musical – Sydney Lyric Theatre
A Day at the Trots- Menangle Park by coach - Over 55s
buffet lunch, refreshments and Race Book \$80 pp.

April's Guest Speaker:

Ted Dickson will speak about the history of the Valley Heights Railway Workshop. After the NSW railway administration closed the Valley Heights Locomotive Depot in 1988, a group of locals lobbied the NSW Government to preserve the loco depot as a heritage museum. Thanks to the efforts of the local community and a host of dedicated volunteers, the site has been conserved and transformed into a museum.



Reminder:

- **April's club meeting will be held on Thursday 24th not on Friday because of Anzac Day**
- **Members are invited to: become newsletter contributors Please send a photo, cartoon, joke, report on a club event, personal celebration or volunteer for a member profile etc.**



Now that we oldies can text, here are some helpful texting ideas. Young people have their acronyms, now seniors have their own texting codes:

Top 10 Senior Texting Codes:

* ATD - At the Doctor's

* BTW - Bring the Wheelchair

*** BYOT - Bring Your Own Teeth**

*** DWI - Driving While Incontinent**

*** FWIW - Forgot Where I Was**

*** FYI - Found Your Insulin**

*** LOL - Living on Lipitor**

*** TOT - Texting on Toilet**

*** ROFL...CGU - Rolling on the Floor Laughing...Can't get Up!**

*** WWNO - Walker Wheels Need Oil**

*** GGLKI - Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking in!**