

# Blaxland-Glenbrook Probus Inc.

## Newsletter – July 2025



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

## Happy birthday to our members born in July!



**Bill Atkin**

**Jonathon Bayley**

**Greg Bullivant**

**Mary Byrne**

**Catherine Gordon**

**Garry Lane**

**Sandra Leach**

**Ann Lincoln**

**Terry Marshal**

**Pat Marshall**

**Beth Miller**

**Dos Morris**

**Cathy Phillips**

**Jeanette Richardson**

The official birthstone for July is ruby. Rubies are a regally beautiful, highly valued and popular gemstone.

In ancient India, ruby was called the “king of precious stones” for its rarity, hardness (second only to diamond), beauty and seemingly mystical powers. Long associated with the life force blood, ruby was a symbol of power and youthful energy in Indian jewelry. In past centuries, some believed this birthstone could predict misfortune or danger, and others claimed it would cure inflammatory diseases and soothe anger. Burmese warriors believed it made them invincible in battle. Medieval Europeans maintained that rubies bestowed health, wisdom, wealth and success in love.

## **Membership Matters**

### **Induction of New Members**



At the June club meeting in the absence of Robert Tam, Vice President Alan Pope inducted Melba Kildea, Marie Leech and Lindsay Williams

### **July's Member Profile: Peter Langby**



Peter was born in Parramatta in 1949. He went to kindergarten at Greenacre Public School before attending Lakemba Public School and Punchbowl Boys High.

During his school years, Peter was interested in cricket, and soccer at Lakemba Methodist Church where he played competition soccer. After school he played soccer for Punchbowl Methodist Church. Peter left high school after the Intermediate Certificate. However his first job was delivering the local Lakemba News around Greenacre during his high

school years.

Peter met his wife Christine whilst involved with the Greenacre Methodist Youth Group and they were married after several years. Together they have three wonderful children and three grandchildren. After renting houses for several years, the Langbys moved into a Department of Housing experimental village at Bonnyrigg where there were thirteen cottages involved in a University of NSW trial in which tenants use of resources was monitored. After several years the couple relocated to St Clair until 2000 when they moved to their current home in Glenmore Park.

Peter started fulltime work at Clark's Kitchens but left to do an apprenticeship in Carpentry & Joinery with R J Green & Lloyd in Belfield. After finishing the apprenticeship he went to TAFE to obtain the Clerk of Works Certificate.

To further his knowledge in the building industry Peter worked as an Estimator for Vetro Glass and Wunderlich Window at Villawood. He then worked as a carpenter at A W Edwards Pty Ltd

and worked on sites such as Channel 10's Studio and rebuilding Her Majesty's Theatre. After work slowed down, he left and did maintenance work at W D & H O Wills at Kensington.

In 1975 Peter applied for a Quantity Surveyor position in the NSW Housing Commission. During this time he returned to TAFE to gain the Building Certificate which was needed for entry into a degree in Quantity Surveying. Whilst working in this role he became involved in computers. In 1987 the Housing Commission office was relocated to Liverpool. Peter decided to return to TAFE to gain a Diploma in Computers only to be made redundant.

In 2000 Peter gained employment with the Department of Defence at Richmond. In 2007 the IT Section was outsourced to a private contractor (Unisys Australia) which was required to employ all staff with mandatory security clearances. When Unisys needed assistance in an annual exercise Peter was redeployed to Darwin for six weeks. On his return he became second in charge of the IT area. Next he gained a position at the Immigration Offices in Sydney. In 2017 Peter retired .

Christine and Peter have travelled extensively within Australia and the West Coast of Canada. They travelled from Seattle to Alaska on a seven-day cruise and met some fantastic people including locals from Leonay and Warragamba. They have travelled to Europe, enjoyed a river cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest and also holidayed in Hawaii.

Today Peter's interests are monitoring the scores of the AFL, Rugby League, National Soccer League and Basketball teams. Since 1994 he has been involved in social golf , still playing once a month and is in charge of the social golf club's handicapping system.

## Interest Groups

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

<b>Games On</b>	Fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons	<b>Contact:</b> Kerrie Fitzpatrick - 0458 536 044
<b>The Crafty Girls</b>	3rd Friday of month	<b>Contact:</b> Cath Gordon - 0417 765 965
<b>Ladies' Coffee and Chat</b>	1st Friday of Month TBA	<b>Contact:</b> Zelda Harman – 0404 851 678 zrharman@gmail.com

## July's Cartoon



## Recent Highlights:

### A Day at the Trots- Menangle



On a sunny Tuesday in June, twenty eight members enjoyed a comfortable coach trip through the many new suburbs on Sydney's SW outskirts before reaching their destination Menangle Parkway. The club's restaurant welcomed O/55s from various Sydney social clubs to their monthly event. Our band of happy punters was eager to place their bets between courses. The more experienced in our group brought their own form guides but willingly shared with others.



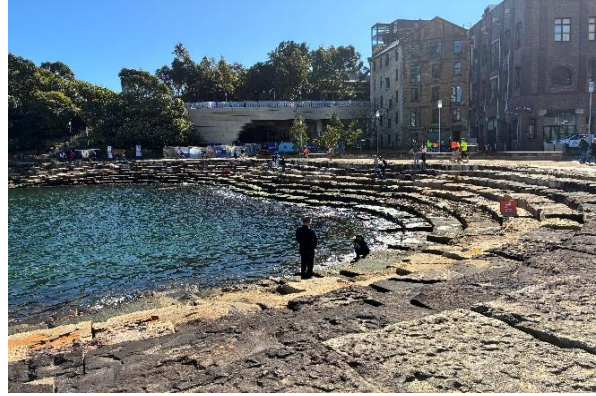


### **Dale's Walk- Barangaroo**

A sunny day in early July was a great opportunity for the Probus Walking Group to explore the Metro line and impressive views of the harbour. They began by catching the driverless train from Central to Barangaroo. This area was important for hunting and fishing for the Gadigal people.

In the first half of the 19th century it became a major industrial shipping port before Port Botany was needed. In 2003 the government announced the area's redevelopment with an international design competition. In 2007 the area was named after Barangaroo a prominent Cammeraygal woman who was significant in early settlement days. The 6-hectare waterfront greenspace was officially opened to the public in 2015.

As it was NAIDOC week members were able to enjoy a special treat watching the First Nation dancers in the performance space before taking the Rivercat a to Circular Quay and a comfortable trip home on the intercity rail.



## Christmas in July in Orange

The Orange Trip was thoroughly enjoyed by 17 travellers. Setting off at 9.30am in slightly damp conditions as the dreadful weather swept into Sydney & the Lower Mountains. However after Little Hartley area, travellers were blessed with cold but fine weather for 3 whole days.



The Christmas in July meal was enthusiastically enjoyed by all on the first night. Next day a local guide joined the coach for an informative tour of the city of Orange including a visit to Banjo Paterson's birth place. Then on to Lucknow for morning tea and an opportunity to browse and purchase

local countrywares like Akubra hats.

Mt Canobolas had low level cloud at the top but still afforded good views. A superb lunch & wine tasting followed at Rowlee Wines where a number purchased wines to bring home. Afternoon was spent in Manildra - a hamlet of 529 people which has the largest flour mill in the Southern Hemisphere providing employment for all in the town plus for 1000 more from the surrounding area. An short, old time movie & advertising movie reels at the Olde worlde Amusu were shown before people explored the attached Museum jammed packed with all things film, photography, TV, radio, LP records, sheet music followed by a delicious country style afternoon tea in the tea room. The departure from Orange in fog on Day 3 was soon brightened by sunshine In

Bathurst as a local guide joined the coach for another informative tour of a



regional city steeped in history and beautiful architecture. A tour of the National Motor Racing Museum was thoroughly enjoyed by all before the coach did a lap of the Racing Circuit at a speedy 40kms!

The journey home via the Bells Line of Road involved the obligatory visit to The Bilpin Fruit Bowl where many hot Apple Pies were purchased.

## 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*

### July- Club colour- Orange and Yellow

<b>Wednesday 23rd</b>	Christmas in July Lunch- Lakeside Restaurant - Regatta Centre Penrith 11.45 for Noon sitting
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### August- Club colours - Black and White

<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Dale's Walk – Cockatoo Island TBA
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Melodies at the HUB Springwood 10 00 Morning Tea 10.30 concert
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Kingfisher Grove Retirement Apartments Jordan Springs Refreshments and presentation. Own transport 10.30-12.30
<b>Friday 29th</b>	Dale's Walk- Central Station to the Goods Line. TBA



## September- Club colour Florals

<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Sydney Water Quakers Hill- Carpooling. Lunch possibility at Quakers Hill Inn
<b>End Of September</b>	Tulip Time Southern Highlands Coach Trip TBA

## June's Guest Speaker: Michele Corin



Michelle Corin was born and grew up in Lapstone before moving overseas. However she returned to her roots 2 years ago and continued with her research into the 'hidden gem'. From her book *Secret Suburb*, she provided an account of how Lapstone began in 1954, when Arthur J Hand purchased 116 acres of vacant timbered land known as "Stephen's Paddock" on the rocky slopes above the Nepean River's western shore. The name Lapstone came from the river stones which were found across the steep, ancient and extensive Lapstone Monocline. In the 1820s cobblers used these

stones held in their lap to stretch leather for shoes, bags etc.

'Lapstone's Father', Arthur Hand was an Alderman on Blue Mountains Council and a real visionary. He had lived in the Cronulla area, served as an alderman on the local council and was a champion golfer. However he decided to retire to Blackheath in his 50s because he loved the golf course there. Not content with retirement he went on to become the developer and founder of Lapstone.



In 1954 Arthur purchased 116 acres of vacant land and today is credited with creating a 'model suburb', 'another Castlecrag' with unique features some of which were only found in the north shore suburb of Castlecrag. These included underground utilities, distinctive red brick kerbing, the construction of Lapstone train station and a real sense of community.

In the mid-1950s, Arthur travelled in his 'Twin Spinner Ford to work each day on his project along a small team of just four individuals - a bricklayer and two labourers. The distinctive red brick kerbs and gutters were primarily laid by a local, Frank Davis.

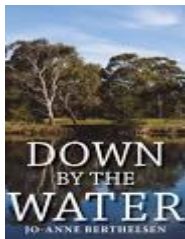


In 1957 the first advertisement for Lapstone Estate appeared. Many of the first land buyers, including the first family Norma and Harry O'Brien, soon began to build their homes especially along Governors Drive. Arthur named most of the streets after early explorers in the area, rather than Governors. Marion Street however was a tribute to his wife.

In 1949 the RAAF had purchased the beautiful and popular art deco Lapstone Hotel. Many RAAF families were keen to purchase land when the Lapstone Estate first opened. Arthur Hand lived up to his promises of a garden suburb and chose 3 main street trees viz., crepe myrtles, jacarandas and Japanese Maples. He also self-funded another promise the construction of Lapstone Railway Station which after 3 years was opened in 1964.

Since its inception Lapstone has developed a real sense of community. A babysitting club was an early innovation in the '60s followed by many other community projects including the pre-school, primary school, netball and tennis courts, the Lapstone fire brigade, Scout Hall etc. A group of local stakeholders also met with NSW premier Neville Wran and local member Bob Debus in an effort to have Darke's Common listed as Crown Land for its historic significance and were successful in their endeavours.

## **July's Guest Speaker: Jo-Anne Berthelsen**



Jo-Anne is an author of 7 novels and 4 non-fiction books. At the July meeting she will share humorous, terrifying and awe-inspiring moments from her international travel.

## **Reminder:**

- **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.**

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