

Blaxland-Glenbrook Probus Inc.

Newsletter – May 2025



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

Happy birthday to our members born in May!



Julie Corderoy

John Craft

Linda Ford

Emily Gaynor

Lorna Gradden

Lesley Hillyard

Christine Langby

Bev Leaney

Alan Pope

Robyn Pope

June Taylor

The month of May was named after the Greek goddess, Maia. She was the daughter of Atlas, a Titan who was responsible for bearing the weight of the heavens on his shoulders, and the mother of Hermes, the messenger of Gods. Maia was considered by the early Greeks to be the goddess of spring and growth. May never begins or ends on the same day of the week as any other month.

May's flower is the Lily of the Valley. Its birthstone is the emerald. Emeralds are known for their vibrant green color and are often associated with rebirth, renewal, and growth that occur in the Northern Hemisphere's Spring rather than our Autumn season.

Membership Matters

Management Committee 2025-26.

President Robert Tam	Vice President Alan Pope	Secretary Peter Minahan	Assistant Secretary Ann Lincoln
Treasurer Robyn Pope	Membership Bronwyn Ryan	Social Activities Kerry Desailly	Welfare Officer Marea Paul
Guest Speaker Alan Pope	Safety Officer Garry Lane	Publicity Officer John McGilvray	Newsletter Editor Marie McGuinness
General Member Zelda Harman	General Member Sandra O'Connell		

Vale: Mary Stines



Mary Stines was a member of our club from 2007 . Unfortunately Dementia set in and she had to leave in 2019. Bob, her husband left also to care for her. She was in care for the last four and a half years. She passed away on 20th March this year

Interest Groups

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

Games On	Fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons	Contact: Kerrie Fitzpatrick
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

May's Member Profile: Neil Guinery

Neil was born in Penrith at Nepean Hospital in 1955 to Frank and Nola Guinery. He went to preschool at St Stephen's before attending Penrith Infants, Primary and High schools.



Neil was dux of the boys at Penrith Primary. His interests included tap dancing, soccer and tennis. In High School, he was involved in the ISCF and was a member of the school band playing the Tenor Horn. He also played Tenor Horn in the Penrith City band. For sport he was captain of a successful 2nd grade Hockey team and also a member of the successful First grade team. After school he learned both guitar and organ.

Neil's first job was at Lowes, Penrith when jobs were simply Thursday night and Saturday morning. After finishing High School in 1972, he started working for Penrith City Council before accepting a scholarship at Mitchell College of Advanced Education, Bathurst, for a degree in Mathematics/Music. Computing was an interest at that time, although, he did some subjects in Computing Studies and FORTRAN. At College he was involved with the ICTHUS Christian group, radio 2BS and radio 2MCE-FM. He bought his first car, a Hillman Minx, to travel to and from Bathurst.

After graduating he was appointed as a teacher at Merewether High School and lived at the YWCA. He also taught at Doonside, Dunheved, Cambridge Park and Jamison High Schools, before accepting a Head Teacher role at Whalan and Glenmore Park. Both roles continued his involvement in computing.

Whilst at Dunheved High School, he did ballroom dancing, demonstrating many dances, and studying to silver bar level. It was here that he met Vivi Ann. She met his requirements: 5'2", blue eyes, long, curly blonde hair, plus more and their first date was at one of the social dances. He was involved in a group called IMAGE and worked with 2NCR-FM as they tried to get a community radio license.

Neil and Vivi Ann wed in 1981 at St Paul's Emu Plains and together have two wonderful children Louisa and Chris and now have 5 grandchildren. After living in units in Penrith, the Guineries bought their first house in Cambridge Park, where the children started school and Neil also worked for Mount Druitt TAFE and continued involvement in the local Anglican church. Eventually they moved to Emu Heights. It was while living here he taught Viv to drive. Holidays at this time were mainly at a friend's house at The Entrance, where the family came first in an SUFM fun run (they were the only family).

In 1998 the Guineries built a house in Glenbrook and have lived there ever since. However they now know the house is too big, but can't work out whether to LOVE IT or LIST IT.

Since retiring from teaching in 2015, Neil and Viv joined Blaxland/ Glenbrook Probus. He now works casual, as a Presiding Officer for all exams at a local high school. Both Neil and Viv have travelled extensively overseas including to Denmark twice, river cruising from Amsterdam to Budapest, New Zealand, travelled on the Ghan, toured Tasmania and many tourist attractions in every state of Australia.

Neil's hobbies are jigsaws and knowing that Guinery is an unusual surname and that his mother's side have lived in Penrith since the mid 1800's has been researching chasing family history. He also has supported the Penrith Panthers rugby league team since 1968.

As he sees life from a glass half full perspective Neil and Vivi Ann are looking forward eagerly to their future.

May's Cartoon



Recent Social Highlights:



Queensland Outback Coach Tour

Twelve Probus travellers accompanied by 11 others thoroughly enjoyed their 9 night/10 day holiday to Outback QLD visiting iconic places such as Longreach, Winton, Carnarvon Gorge, Moree and Gunnedah

This group photo was officially taken at the Qantas Museum in Longreach. Some other highlights included the

historic Emsco Big Rig at Roma the Gateway to the Outback and a unique collection of machinery, drills and equipment. Roma's largest Bottle Tree, the unique Gunnedah Museum and the Sculpture Outback exhibition



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

May- Club colours- Mauve, purple, pink

Tuesday 20th	TAFE Wentworth Falls Lunch 11 45am for Noon
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

Tuesday 3rd	TAFE Werrington Dinner
Wednesday 11th	MJ the Musical – Sydney Lyric Theatre
Tuesday 17th	A Day at the Trots- Menangle Park by coach - Over 55s buffet lunch, refreshments and Race Book \$80 pp.

July- Club colour- Orange and Yellow

Tuesday 1st- Thursday 3rd	Christmas in July- coach trip to Orange, - 2 night accommodation etc
Wednesday 9th	Cats the Musical at Theatre Royale
Friday 11th	Dale's Walk- New Metro line to Rouse Hill
Wednesday 23rd	Christmas in July Lunch- Lakeside Restaurant - Regatta Centre Penrith

April's Guest Speaker: Ted Dickson



Ted Dickson is honorary historian of the historic Valley Heights Railway Depot Museum. He presented a power point video and spoke about the difficulties of building a railway from Emu Plains to Katoomba over terrain which has a gradient of 1:30, the steepest in Australia.

As the early colony expanded settlers looked west beyond the Cumberland Plain hopeful that beyond the Great Dividing Range fertile land suitable for farming could be found. Their hopes were answered in 1813 by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth and soon afterwards in 1814 a crude road was built by the William Cox and thirty convicts in a staggering six months. Soon tent settlements were built along the road. However the unsealed road and horse drawn vehicles were unsuitable for the transport of heavy loads across the mountains and so a railway line was seen as the solution.

In 1863 John Whitton was appointed to oversee construction of a line which and in spite of many difficulties by 1867 the single track railway was ready for trial. Over time thirteen gatehouses including one at Glenbrook were constructed along the line. The station we know as Valley Heights was opened in May 1875 as Eagers Platform. Public facilities and a waiting shed were erected in 1877. The name was changed from Eagers Platform to The Valley in 1877; and again to Valley Heights on 19 August 1880. The main western line over the mountains from Glenbrook to Springwood was duplicated in 1902, when the present brick platform at Valley Heights was opened.

The Valley Heights Locomotive Depot was completed in December 1913 and officially opened in January 1914 to support locomotives using the much-needed duplicated railway line. It operated as a steam locomotive depot, housing the 10-stall roundhouse, a 60-foot turntable, and various other facilities. Water, vital for the steam engines was pumped from a dam built across a stream in Wentworth Falls.

The depot played a crucial role in providing pilot engines, especially during the electrification of the Main Western line in the late 1950s. It remained operational until the introduction of more powerful electric locomotives in the early 1980s. With the electrification of the Main Western line, the depot transitioned to electric locomotive operations.

In 1988 the depot was closed after 75 years and was destined to be bulldozed. However a team of keen volunteers including Ted Dickson agitated for it to be classified as a heritage site and were successful in their venture. Today the historic depot, now a museum, continues to preserve and showcase the history of the Blue Mountains railway and the

depot's role in the area's transport history. It is open to the public on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

May's Guest Speaker

'From the Ridiculous to the Sublime: true travel tales'



Author Jo-Anne Berthelsen will share funny, scary and wonderful experiences from her five visits to Turkey, as well as Germany and the UK, hopefully stirring our own travel memories too. She is a Sydney-based author of seven novels and three non-fiction works. She holds degrees in Arts and Theology and has worked in teaching, editing and local church ministry. Jo-Anne loves encouraging others through both the written and spoken word and is a keen blogger.

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.**

