

Blaxland-Glenbrook Probus Inc.

Newsletter – June 2025



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Happy birthday to our members born in June!



Gwen Baker

Dale Cole

Kerry Desailly

Henry Dowie

Mark Farrant

Mary Harrison

Ivan Menzies

Patricia Tam.

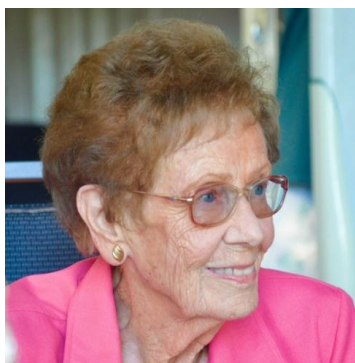
The month of June has 3 birthstones, Pearl, Moonstone and Alexandrite.

Pearl, including closely related Mother of Pearl, is the ancient Birthstone for the month of June. Before pearls could be easily cultured, they were exceedingly rare with a price tag to match. In the time that pearls were only an option for the rich or the royal, moonstone was added as a birthstone. Those born in June then had a gemstone they could hope to own!

Alexandrite, a beautiful gemstone discovered in 19th Century Russia, was added to the U.S. list in the 1950s. This modern birthstone is also incredibly rare, making it more expensive even than diamond. Rarely found in jewellery outside a museum these days, more affordable laboratory varieties mean June babies don't have to miss out.

Membership Matters

Vale: Elin Poulsen



Elin Poulsen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1936 the younger of two children. She had an apprenticeship in a shop for women's clothing before working as an office assistant. After marrying Jens in 1958, she continued to work and lived in the suburbs of Copenhagen where her two children Vivi Ann and Flemming were born. In 1969 the family moved to Australia.

Elin first joined Probus in 2013 with her husband, but he became ill and she did not attend. She went to see her husband in Buckland, Springwood, every day until he passed away in 2017. She then rejoined Probus with Vivi Ann and enjoyed the trips and meetings. She also enjoyed mixing with other members and get togethers such as Christmas in July. She set aside Tuesdays as special mother/daughter days.

Elin loved her family which included 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She was a good, reliable friend. Her soul was called to heaven on May 19th, 2025. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

June's Member Profile: Ann Lincoln



Ann's roles over the past 70 years:

INFANT: July 1955 born in Murrumburrah, lived in Cobargo, then moved to Canberra.

STUDENT: Primary School: I began at St Christopher's in Canberra and completed primary education at Regina Coeli, Beverly Hills, in Sydney. Dad worked at the Bank of New South Wales, and we moved around quite a bit during our early years. High school and off to Ursula's College, Kingsgrove, to achieve my Higher School Certificate

1974- Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College for a Diploma in Early Childhood Education

2000- University of Western Sydney for a Degree in Education

2025- University of Tasmania studying Diploma of Dementia Care

RETAIL ASSISTANT:

Coles at Roselands- China and Glassware department

David Jones City- chocolate and lolly section

WIFE:

I married Phillip in 1976, and after 49 years, we still enjoy life together.

MOTHER:

One of the best roles I've had. Living in Cherrybrook and watching five children grow into wonderful adults has brought great joy. This was a demanding job supporting the football, netball, baseball, dancing, and a myriad of weekend sports in addition to the homework and managing a busy household.

GRANDMOTHER:

I am the proud grandmother of nine grandchildren. Eight boys and one girl. The eldest is ten, so when we get together, it's busy!

EDUCATOR:

1977 began teaching at Villa Maria Primary School, Hunters Hill

1982 Teacher-librarian at this school

1994 Preschool teacher at Pennant Hills War Memorial Children's Centre, where I spent the next 26 years until retirement in 2019.

COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Greenway Baseball Club registrar for many years

Stags football committee member

St Agatha's Art Show Committee

Blaxland/ Glenbrook Probus assistant secretary

TRAVELLER:

We have been blessed with some wonderful holidays. Family trips through the centre of Australia, Tasmania, the Great Ocean Road, Ceduna, and Kangaroo Island. Overseas, we have travelled to China, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Hawaii, Japan, United States. London. Rome, Berlin, Munich, Venice, Florence, Paris & London. And now looking forward to Copenhagen in August 2025

FRIEND: I have collected many friends over the years and look forward to making many more. Each friend is a treasure and holds a special place in my life.

READER: Just love getting lost in a good book



Induction of New Member

At the May club meeting President Robert Tam inducted Elizabeth (Beth) Miller into our club. She was warmly welcomed by the members who attended on the day.

Interest Groups

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

Games On	Fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons	Contact: Kerrie Fitzpatrick - 0458 536 044
The Crafty Girls	3rd Friday of month	Contact: Cath Gordon - 0417 765 965
Mens' Coffee Bash	3rd Tuesday of month Ori Hotel Springwood-regular venue	Contact: Robert Tam - 4754 2384 robert.tam3@bigpond.com
Ladies' Coffee and Chat	1st Friday of Month Ori Hotel Springwood	Contact: Zelda Harman – 0404 851 678 zrharman@gmail.com

June's Cartoon



Recent Social Highlights:

Lunch at Elevation 867 TAFE Wentworth Falls

Recently nine members thoroughly enjoyed the ambience, silver service and fine food provided at Elevation 867. All patrons take part in a live class Restaurant experience to witness the skills hospitality students are learning whilst providing them with valuable opportunities to practice their skills on a sympathetic audience.



Foyer of Elevation 867



Students Juan and Orana



Mocktails offered on entry



Happy 'class members'

Blue Mountains History Discovery Tour with Sue Collins

Thirty nine members joined the energetic and entertaining Sue Collins on her tour from Glenbrook to Blackheath. Leaving Glenbrook on a sunny day we discovered that Glenbrook was named by Sir John Jamieson who in late April 1815 embarked on a coach trip across the newly completed road with Governor Macquarie his wife and other dignitaries, to Bathurst.



Our coach diverted from the highway so that we could see the “Blinky Bill” artwork in Warrimoo where Dorothy Wall the author and illustrator of the classic children’s book once lived. Our party travelled westward like the early pioneers some of whom spent time in the convict stockade at Bulls Camp. Chain gangs from the camp maintained Cox’s road that was built in six months across the mountains to Bathurst.



We stopped at Woodford Academy which was built from 1828 to 1835 by Thomas Michael Pembroke. There we enjoyed morning tea and a guided tour of the historic sandstone building that has served many purposes such as an inn, a family home, a boy’s school and finally a museum over almost 200 years.



We heard many interesting facts about the towns we passed including the original names of Lawson and Wentworth Falls, where the famous Charles Darwin once walked, viz., Christmas Bush and Weather Board and that Bullaburra was derived from an aboriginal word meaning ‘blue skies’. However the blue skies did not extend much further west as altitude increased visibility decreased.

Fortunately we did see the magnificent views of escarpments at Echo Point and the rugged Narrow Neck Peninsula, on one side of which is the wild Jamison Valley and on the other is the lush farmland of the Megalong Valley.

Our coach then headed to the beautiful Art Deco New Ivanhoe Hotel to enjoy lunch and a chance to catch up with other members in the warm glow of an open fire.

The more hardy travellers braved the cold for a group photo at Narrow Neck Lookout





Dale's Walk- The Rocks

We began with a view over our sparkling harbour from the Cahill Walkway and Lookout. The Gadigal people of the area called Sydney Cove "Warrane". The construction of the Shang Ri La hotel in the area uncovered indigenous evidence of camp fires from 300yrs before colonisation. After making our way down into The Rocks we explored "The Big Dig" a site of archaeological importance with foundations and artifacts of around 30 homes and shops from 1795. This area was known as The Lines because of the early habitation with lines of tents and huts.



Susannah Place is the site of the surviving 1840's tiny terrace houses being restored today. Foundation Park displays a "Life Then"

art installation with the remains of eight small 1870's terrace houses Walk, the site of the original 1788 hospital.



Come from Away – Blue Mountains Musical Production



Come From Away tells the story of the small Canadian town of Gander, Newfoundland, whose residents took in 7000 strangers from around the world when 38 flights were suddenly diverted and forced to land in the small fishing town following the closure of US air spaces in September 11 2001.

A diverse cast of actors told the story of both the 'Islanders' and the 'Plane People', revealing the fear and uncertainty that came with the terrorist attacks as well as the generosity and compassion of the villagers.

Members thoroughly enjoyed the latest production from BMMP.

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

June- Club colour- Spots

Tuesday 17th	A Day at the Trots- Menangle Park by coach - Over 55s buffet lunch, refreshments and Race Book \$80 pp.
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July- Club colour- Orange and Yellow

Tuesday 1st- Thursday 3rd	Christmas in July- coach trip to Orange, - 2 nights, accommodation etc
Friday 11th	Dale's Walk- New Metro line to Rouse Hill
Wednesday 23rd	Christmas in July Lunch- Lakeside Restaurant - Regatta Centre Penrith 11.45 for Noon sitting

August- Club colours - Black and White

Friday 8th	Dale's Walk – Cockatoo Island TBA
Wednesday 13th	

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

May's Guest Speaker:

Ron Ray OAM, Maritime Museum | The Teddy Sheean Story



Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean, was just 18 years old and the lowest-ranking crew member aboard HMAS Armidale, a thin hulled but fast Corvette when he gallantly gave his life for his country. Like Teddy the Armidale had only been in service for six months. Teddy displayed extraordinary bravery when HMAS Armidale was attacked by 13 Japanese planes in the Timor Sea approximately 500 kilometres from the Australian coast on December 1 1942.

HMAS Armidale and her sister ship HMAS Castlemaine as well as HMAS Kutu were participating in the ill-fated 'Operation Hamburger'. Their task was to evacuate soldiers and civilians from Timor as Japanese forces has captured the capital, Dili. Armidale usually had a complement of 80 sailors and 5 Officers aboard. However after being ferried to the ship by the Kutu the evacuees increased the number to 149.

Despite orders by the captain to abandon ship after fatal hits from two Japanese torpedoes released by a **Nakajima B5N**, which was the standard carrier-based torpedo bomber of the Imperial Japanese Navy for much of World War 11, Teddy refused to leave. He helped launch emergency boats and was severely injured in the process. He then strapped himself to the aft Oerlikon anti-aircraft gun, and continued firing at the attacking Japanese aircrafts. He reportedly shot one down and damaged at least two others. Despite his injuries, Sheean continued firing at the enemy aircraft as the *Armidale* sank within 3 minutes, helping 49 of his ship mates to survive by drawing enemy fire away from the escaping life rafts.

In Australia Teddy's heroism was later recognized with the naming of Collins-class submarine HMAS Sheean in February 2001. However no RAN sailor had ever received a Victoria Cross (VC), despite the Royal Navy awarding 50 VCs in World War I and 23 in World War 2 to its own servicemen. Finally on December 1 2020, seventy eight years after Teddy's sacrifice and after many years of persistent advocacy from family, politicians, and comrades, he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross 'For the most conspicuous gallantry and a

pre-eminent act of valour in the presence of the enemy during a Japanese aerial attack on HMAS *Armidale* in the Timor Sea on 1 December 1942'.

This was the first Victoria Cross awarded to an Australian in history. Teddy's family later donated the Victoria Cross medal to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Today 2 of Teddy's grandnieces serve in the Royal Australian Navy.



June's Guest Speaker:

Michele Corin, Author

Local historian and author Michelle will uncover the rich history of Lapstone in her new book **Secret Suburb- Lapstone**. She will explore the role of Arthur Hand who in 1954 acquired 116 acres and his tireless efforts to shape a close-knit community known as Lapstone.

Reminder: Please be a contributor to our newsletter

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.

Contact: mariemcguinness41@gmail.com or 0410045631