

MUNDARING PROBUS BULLETIN

No. 478



December 2025

GUEST SPEAKER: STEPHEN SATCHEL



WHAT DO I KNOW?

That was the catch cry of our speaker on Monday 10th October, "Steve, the Cabby".

Steve took us on an entertaining tale across his life as a taxi and limousine driver covering over 50 years.

SOME INTERESTING POINTS!

In the 20th century women were not allowed to own a taxi or hold a licence.

Taxi plates can cost up to \$370k. Share ride drivers (eg Uber—currently 32% of rides are these) didn't have to pay that price. Consequently, in some cases, the price has dropped due to the share ride companies not paying. In Steve's opinion deregulation has ruined the Taxi industry. However, there are some plus points including getting a fixed fare when you first get into the vehicle and state your destination and the other, a set fare from the airport into the city, is on the cards. WA was the first jurisdiction to introduce cameras in Taxi cabs.

The pensioners subsidised taxi scheme system has changed Australia wide so it is best to get information from your GP or Department of Transport.

CELEBRITY PASSENGERS!

Probably at the top of the list was Shirley Bassey. Steve described her as a real 'diva', who was extremely particular about what she wanted and where she wanted to go. He did calm her down by taking her to Kings Park to look over the city and have a beer.

Meatloaf always had his Harley Davidson on stage - others of note were Elton John and Tom Jones. Perhaps the tale about Tom could have been censored - I can't imagine him au-natural but that's how Steve remembered him!

We heard about beach parties and midnight flits; women escaping domestic violence; conversations about goods and services between politicians, and giving advice to young and old customers. In his many years of driving, Steve has also been a Wine Tour Guide.

Steve did a strip-tease flourish to reveal his catch phrase:

What would I know?
EVERYTHING!



Robyn Cain

FROM THE PRESIDENT

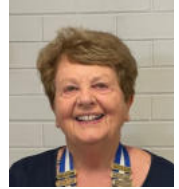
As we come to our final event for 2025 at the Kalamunda Hotel for our Christmas lunch, I would like to thank all our members for their continued support this year. We are gradually increasing our number of paid up members, 48 at present, and we have four more who will be joining us in 2026. Guests at our meetings have all remarked on our friendliness, interesting speakers and our sumptuous morning teas.

Our Guest Speaker on the 12th January will be Tania Park—"Every One Of Us Has A Story". Tania is an author of 15 novels and is a Creative Writing Facilitator at the Kalamunda Community Learning Centre. She will be encouraging everyone to get their Life Story or novel down on paper before it's too late! Please bring a pen and paper to participate.

Wishing you all an enjoyable relaxing time over the Christmas holiday.

Yours in Fun, Friendship and Fellowship. Take care.

Helen White



PASTA IN THE VALLEY

On the 31st October some of our members joined other Probus Clubs for the PAWA annual Pasta in the Valley event. Due to the large gathering, our members (and others) were well and truly ready for their pre-ordered meals, having watched those who ordered al la carte enjoying their second course! The food was good, as were the choice of drinks available—and the desserts were YUMMY!

Some of us were able to meet up with friends from other clubs. There was a raffle draw and while the winner was from another club it added to the enjoyment of the afternoon.

Mary-Helen Smith



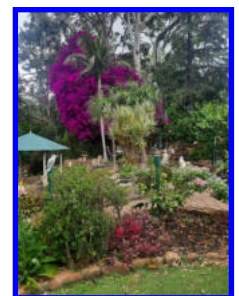
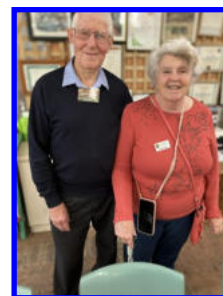
ROMANCING THE STONE—About 12 members visited this amazing garden on Monday and met with the very talented owner, Tom Hogg. Not only has Tom designed and built this garden himself, he is also an exceptional artist. When he bought the property in 2000 the garden was an absolute mess but Tom (with his artistic mind) had envisioned what it could be and after importing 2,000 tons of rock, (goodness knows how many hundreds of bags of cement!), wearing out six wheelbarrows and 3 cement mixers, not to mention the back-breaking work building rock walls, paths and an amphitheatre, he has created a beautiful oasis which has won many awards. His efforts in opening the garden to the public have resulted in \$655,000 in donation to 23 different charities including \$385,000 to the Amanda Young Foundation. Each year he holds 24 annual Open Garden Events and 74 concerts for charity at no charge to the entertainers. At 85 and still spritely, he is an inspiration to all.

Pat Moxon

"ROMANCING THE STONE and THE PAST" by Arlene Collings

THE SUN WAS SHINING IN THE SKIES
WHEN I GOT A BIG SURPRISE.
IN THIS GARDEN OF BEAUTY AND STONE
I SAW MY PAST WAS NOT ALONE.
FOR TOM HOGG. THE OWNER AND CREATOR.
I HAD MET BEFORE, I FOUND OUT LATER.
IT WAS 1960'S IN BUSSELTOWN
TOM WAS THERE TOO, FULL OF RENOWN
SO AMID THE HAPPY PROBUS MEETING
MEMORIES WERE NOT SO FLEETING.

THANK YOU TOM AND PROBUS
FOR ARRANGING THIS.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025/2026

For our monthly meetings, we suggest you aim to arrive at 9.30/9.45am for a cuppa. Our actual meeting will start at 10.00am sharp.

December 27th

No morning tea this Saturday.

Monday, 12th January

9.30/9.45am Meeting at Glen Forrest Sporting Club. Guest speaker will be Tania Park, "Every One Of Us Has a Story".

Saturday, 31st January

10.00am Morning Tea at The Hive, Darlington.

CHRISTMAS DINNER KALAMUNDA HOTEL MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER

*Reminder for payment (\$45) to Sue, please,
with preference for either
traditional dinner or fish and chips.*

*Lucky door prize included—several attractive
raffle prizes to win!*

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MORNING TEA ROSTER

A huge thank you to those members who contributed to our morning tea this year. There has been a wonderful variety of food—we really have been spoilt.

Elaine has done a wonderful job arranging this, with the help of our amazing kitchen organiser, Eileen. Thank you both for your tireless commitment.

As we ask for six members to bring food to each meeting, this means you need to contribute only twice during the year.



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
WEAR YOUR BADGE TO ALL
MEETINGS AND OUTINGS.**

