



No. 476



October 2025



## **GUEST SPEAKER FOR SEPTEMBER**

**RON BANKS**

**AUTHOR AND FORMER ARTS EDITOR**

Our September speaker, Ron Banks, was arts editor with the *West Australian*, prior to his retirement. He has since written a memoir, *Other Times*, based on his experiences of life in Perth in the 1950's and as a journalist.

He reminded us this was before digital media was the norm and the four pence in the slot, telephone boxes were replaced by smart phones.

Club members recalled their experiences during his talk—and a picture of life in Perth during the 1950's and 1960's emerged.

While Perth was full of mainly "Brits", the post-war boom also included D.P.'s from eastern Europe, and immigrants from Holland, Italy, and elsewhere, which changed demographics. "Ten Pound Poms" and later, sponsored workers, increased the population.

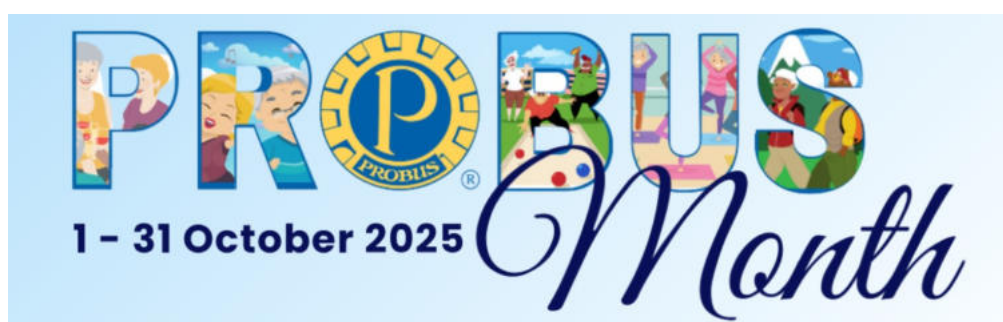
Ron grew up in Mosman Park, then full of factory workers, lumpers and other manual labourers. Members who had arrived from overseas as children, recalled places like Noalimba, Graylands, Wexcombe, Belmont, Pinjarra and outer hills settlements as their initial homes.

There were weekly deliveries of blocks of ice for Coolgardie safes and other coolers,

Milkman delivered milk in bottles; one member remembered milk being delivered weekly, in urns! Bakers' delivered bread (unsliced), Chinese grocers delivered fruit and vegetables, store owners delivered groceries. One member recalled a "to the fridge" delivery to his home, as no-one locked their doors!

Indigenous men sold washing line props. Washing was done in coppers, and Reckitt's blue was a well-known clothing brightener.

Cont. ➡



Outdoor loos (dunnies) complete with newsprint as toilet paper, redback spiders and lane ways were also recalled — but not with fondness.

Society was largely patriarchal with stay-at-home mums and the expectation that boys would complete further studies, while girls would become typists/secretaries. Female teachers were expected to quit their position on marriage. Some members, however, reminded us that this was not the case in the UK where equal opportunities existed for all school children.

In the 1950's, religious instruction was taught in schools and there was a Protestant/Catholic divide. It was also the time of the Billy Graham Crusades. Evangelism still occurs today, recalled one member.

The 1960's were a period of change. In 1964, according to Ron, "Perth lost its innocence" as the serial murderer Eric Edgar Cooke roamed the suburbs. Then people kept their doors firmly locked!

In conclusion, Ron said that "Memories soften, over time" and we tend to forget the hardships.

Perth has certainly come a long way.

*Mary-Helen Smith*

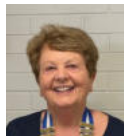


#### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Unfortunately, we have not had a huge response regarding our proposed outing to the Fremantle Maritime Museum so this has been cancelled. Instead, we will have our usual meeting at the Glen Forrest Sporting Club, with a "surprise" morning tea!

Our speaker for November 10 will be Stephen Satchell. Stephen is a retired taxi driver who will be recalling some of his amazing, frightening and unusual passengers. Be prepared for a light hearted hilarious presentation!

*Helen White*



#### OUTING REIMBURSEMENT

**If you have not received a refund in your bank account,  
please contact Frank Smith, Treasurer—[frank@happygardener.com.au](mailto:frank@happygardener.com.au).**



## PASTA IN THE VALLEY FRIDAY, 31ST OCTOBER

You are invited to join members of Mundaring Probus along with members from other Probus Clubs, for the annual Pasta in the Valley event. By now, you will have received the email for this event, which included the menus.

If you are interested in attending please let me know by **Friday 10th October**. For those who are proposing to opt for the Seniors meal at \$25.00, please also indicate in your email your choice of main and choice of sweets. Seniors meals need to be prepaid. If you are unable to do this let me know and we will organise an alternative. Those opting to choose from the menu on the day, you needn't prepay.

Usually members make their own way to the venue but if you are interested in car pooling, please let me know.

#### **Bank details:**

The Probus Club of Mundaring Inc. BSB 633-000 Account 131464661  
Please include your name and "Pasta" on payment advice

*Mary-Helen Smith*

IPP/Publicity Officer





# REMEMBERING NOREEN CAMPBELL

## Vale Noreen Campbell

Noreen Campbell, was Club President in 1998-99, 2005-06 and again in 2014-2015 when our Club celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday. She died on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 aged 94. Noreen was an active and vital member of the committee for many years and guided the Club with her knowledge and experience during her three terms as President. Noreen was made a Life Member in 2015 in recognition of her contributions. Our condolences to her family. She will be missed by all those in Probus who knew her.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

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.

### **September 27th**

10.00am Saturday

Coffee morning at The Hive, Darlington.

### **October 13th**

10.00am Monday

Probus Meeting at Glen Forrest Sports Club (tea/coffee 9.45am) - **Celebrate Probus Month.**

### **October 25th**

10.00am Saturday

Coffee morning at The Hive, Darlington.

### **October 31st—Friday**

PAWA Pasta in the Valley lunch for all WA Probus Clubs. **Last date for bookings October 10th.**

**Queries—Mary-Helen.**

### **November 10th**

10.00am Monday

Probus Meeting at Glen Forrest Sports Club (tea/coffee 9.45am). Guest Speaker: Stephen Satchell.

### **November 24th**

Monday 10.00 am

A visit to "Romancing The Stone".

### **November 29th**

10.00am Saturday

Coffee morning at The Hive, Darlington.

### **December 8th**

10.00am Monday

Christmas Lunch—Kalamunda Hotel.

### **December 27th**

**No morning tea this Saturday.**

## **MORNING TEA ROSTER**

Please let Elaine know if you are able to provide morning tea for the **November** meeting.

We need at least six members volunteering to bring food.



## ***"Romancing the Stone"***

A booking has been made (at last) for us to visit "Romancing the Stone" in Maida Vale on the 24th November at 10.00am. There will be a \$10 pp charge—this includes touring the wonderful gardens, morning tea and a talk by the owner, Tom Hogg. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us!

Please contact Sue if you are interested (9299 7046) - [mh.burton@bigpond.com](mailto:mh.burton@bigpond.com).



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



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