

MUNDARING PROBUS BULLETIN

No. 475



September 2025



GUEST SPEAKER FOR AUGUST TALITHA HUSTON Author of “Birds of the Perth Hills”



For our August meeting we invited local author Talitha Huston to revisit us with her detailed knowledge of our local birds and amazing photos and videos as several members had missed her previous talk in February 2024. This time it was pleasing to see most of our new members and several visitors in the audience as word had got around about our local ‘David Attenborough’!

Talitha had her first camera at the tender age of 3 and during the next few years her camera became her ‘best friend’, accompanying her everywhere she went in the local bush area on her parents’ property in Gidgegannup. She loved the local fauna, especially those she found near the birdbaths and ponds in their garden. As well as being able to identify each of large variety of birds, she knew all the motorbike frogs in the pond and even gave each a name!.

At the age of 14 she acquired a digital camera with an impressive zoom lens and this inspired her passion for bird photography. By the age of 17 she had written her unique style book, “Birds of the Perth Hills”. This book was written to inspire the growing number of Hills people who were enthusiastic to learn and identify the local birdlife. The handy size of the book, spirally bound for easy accessibility in and out of a pocket with pages printed on glossy photographic paper—so suitable for use in the outdoors. As well as her photos and detailed notes on each bird, she invented “skittish ratings” for each bird species. This rating is from 1 – 10, most timid = 1, then all the way up to the local magpie who rates a 10.

During the last 4 years she has sold over 8000 copies of her book, distributed to 60 different shops. From these sales, she has donated \$4000 to Kanyana Wildlife Centre Lesmurdie. A wonderful achievement from a 21 year old university student.

Talitha then described in detail her tips for taking bird photos:

- * Be patient and move quietly (barefoot is best).
- * Stop and listen to the background sounds around you
- * Position yourself and watch – let the birds come to you
- * Never scare away a bird, the others will fly away too!
- * When viewing a moving bird e.g. a robin on a high fence darting on and off to peck an insect off the ground, stay still and focus on the fence line. It won’t be long till it’s back up there again.

Then it was our turn.:

- * She had recorded several very different local birds' sounds – who could identify them?
- * She showed us photos of male and female birds? Who could identify male from female?

Dead silence except for our Raffle Organiser at the back. Brian won both quizzes, well done Brian!

Finally, we watched a beautiful 5 minute video of close up birds (definitely David Attenborough standard) while she answered all our questions.

What can WE do to help preserve our wildlife?

- * *Help provide nesting boxes for owls and cockatoos, as it will take 60 years to replace our old growth forest lost by deforestation.*
- * *Keep our pet cats inside at night, even better provide them a purpose-built cat run outside. (Yes Robyn we saw your big smile!)*
- * *Be very careful when using rodenticides. Read the small print and only use first generation ones.*

Now studying Environmental Science at Southern Cross University in Queensland, Talitha lives on the Gold Coast, enjoying snorkelling and surfing with a GoPro for underwater photography, and now has a new drone to take in the vast landscapes of our beautiful country.

Since we last saw her, Talitha has done more backpacking in South America. Even though she saw amazing wildlife and forests etc, she is still proud to call Australia home. The Hills area of WA is still her favourite with its extensive and divergent wildlife population.

Thank you, Talitha. We look forward to seeing you on your own wildlife television programme in the future!

Helen White

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I am delighted to welcome two more new members this month: Bill Madlener and Glenn O'Rourke. We also have two more intending to join. This will then bring us back up to 50 members

A big thank you to all members for promoting our Club and creating such a welcoming and friendly atmosphere so that first timers are returning. I have also had many positive comments from visitors and family friends of members. I am so happy that we are now able to offer you all a



FUN DAY OUT TO FREMANTLE
(See details on page 4 of this Bulletin)

Our Guest Speaker for September will be Ron Banks, former Arts Editor at the West Australian Newspaper. He will be reflecting on his memoirs, "Fragments of a 50's Childhood". Ron will then lead a discussion for our members to recount their own stories. A brilliant starting point for anyone thinking of writing their own Life Story for future generations. Be prepared - long lost memories will suddenly come to life.

New Constitution

Our Club is required to update its current Constitution and adopt Standing Resolutions (by laws). Committee had hoped to finalise these ready for a vote at our September meeting but we will have to postpone to another date.

You will receive a copy of both documents together with advice of a Special General Meeting in the near future. We will then vote prior to the commencement of our next meeting.

Helen White



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

August 30th

10.00am Saturday
Coffee morning at The Hive, Darlington.

September 8th

9.30am Monday
Probus meeting at Glen Forrest Sports Club.
Guest Speaker: Ron Banks, former Arts Editor at the West Australian Newspaper.

September 27th

10.00am Saturday
Coffee morning at The Hive, Darlington.

October 13th—No Meeting
Instead, bus trip to the Shipwreck & Maritime Museum. 8.30 at Glen Forrest Sporting Club.

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—car pooling, last date for bookings October 17th. Queries—Mary-Helen.

November 10th

10.00am Monday
Probus Meeting at Glen Forrest Sports Club (tea/coffee 9.45am). Guest Speaker: TBA

November 29th

10.00am Saturday
Coffee morning at The Hive, Darlington.

December 8th

Christmas Lunch—details to follow at a later date.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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MORNING TEA ROSTER

Please let Elaine know if you are able to provide morning tea for the September or November meetings.



We need at least six members volunteering to bring food.

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



MUNDARING PROBUS CLUB

FREMANTLE MARITIME DAY

MONDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2025

8.30-8.45 at the Glen Forrest Sporting Club

(this is in lieu of our monthly meeting)



**We will be meeting at the Glen Forrest Sporting Club
no later than 8.45am as the coach will leave at 9.00am.**

We will then be driven to Fremantle in a luxury 45 seater coach supplied by Rove Charters.

On arrival, morning tea on the Esplanade will be provided
before visiting the Shipwreck Museum.

Lunch at Cicerello's, consisting of a Seniors 2-course fish lunch
and tea/coffee.

A visit to the Maritime Museum will follow, before returning home
(about 4.00pm).

Please Note: There will be room on the coach for storing walking aids/scooters.

Members \$75, Vistors and Friends \$85.

*(This covers the cost of the bus, all entrance fees,
morning tea and lunch.)*

Our Club will be subsidising the cost for all paid-up Members.

**Payments can be made either by direct debit to:
The Probus Club of Mundaring Inc.
BSB 633-000 Account 131464661,
or with card at our next meeting.**

As numbers are limited, please confirm your booking with Sue.

She will be taking bookings at our September meeting and at The Hive on the 30th September.
After that date, any spare places will be offered to friends and Swan View Probus Members.

If you require a lift to and from the Club, please contact our Social Secretary:

**Sue Burton 9299 7046 mh.burton@bigpond.com
who will make arrangements for you.**