



Bill's Taxi Tales



The Rotary Club of Canterbury “Let’s Stay Connected Project” has been developed as a response to an identified need within the Aged Care sector.

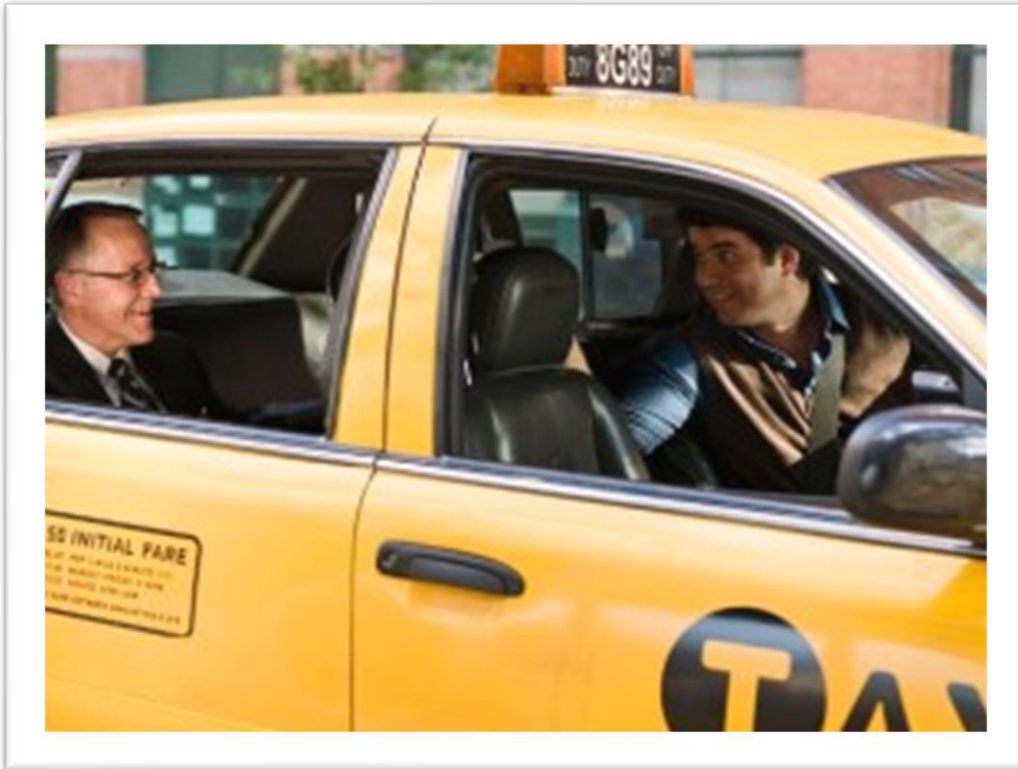
At times when it’s difficult to connect in person with family and friends, the Rotary Club of Canterbury has pleasure in offering you this booklet, designed to promote conversation, recollection and engagement for those who are in isolation and without their usual social activities.

The booklets have been designed for people in an aged care residence, village or at home to read by themselves, or to have a family or staff member share the booklet with them.

You can download this and other booklets from the Rotary Club of Canterbury website (www.canterburyrotary.org).

Source references for this book are held at the Rotary Club of Canterbury. Contact president@caterburyrotary.org for further details.

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G'day, I'm Bill.

I'm retired now, but I used to own and run taxis, 18 in all. For every taxi you need four drivers: day and night for weekdays, and the same for weekends. I drove the cars when I didn't have a driver for a shift.

These tales really happened, though names and places have been changed to protect identities.

I hope you enjoy reading my tall tales, but true.

Regards, Bill

LUCY

I could see that Lucy was a mature lady when I arrived to pick her up at the Day Centre.

“Good Afternoon, Lucy”, I said. The nurse with her told me Lucy was blind and deaf.

I helped Lucy into the taxi and asked the nurse where I should take her. The nurse replied that Lucy would show me the address on a piece of paper when she got into in the taxi, and that is what happened. So off we went to Box Hill.



LUCY

But then I had the terrible thought: how was I to tell her the fare at the end of the trip?

By the tell-tale movement of the car and the elapsed time, Lucy had a very good idea as to where we were as she must have done the trip many times. As we neared her destination, she handed me a note which said, “Write the fare on my hand with your finger”. I did and she paid the fare.

I helped Lucy out of the taxi and onto the footpath which she felt carefully with her feet.

She knew she was home and waved me away.

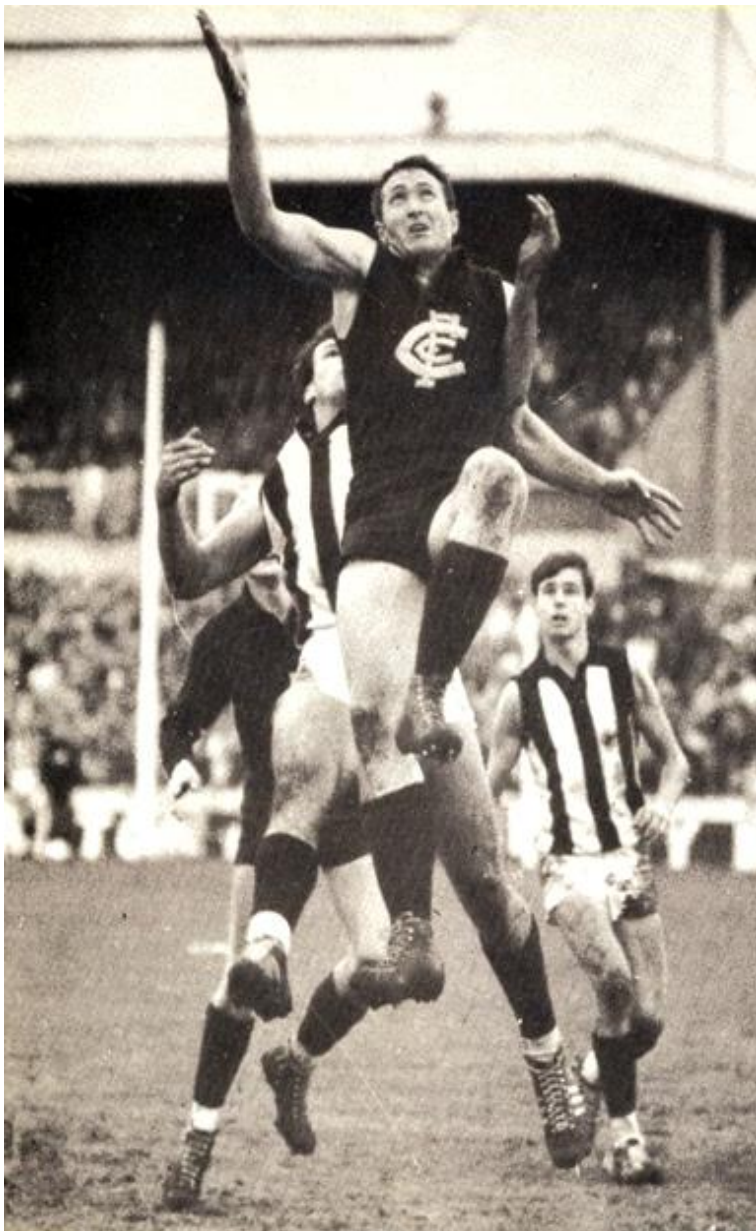
My job was done.



BIG BOB

It was a wintry Saturday afternoon, about 4.30pm and I needed to knock off work soon.

One more little job would help to fill the day's takings.



The Carlton
versus
Collingwood
football game
at Carlton was
just about to
finish.

“That should
give me a fare”
I thought as I
drove to the
Carlton ground
in Royal Parade.

BIG BOB

I stopped behind two late model Mercedes-Benz in the car park. Carlton lost, so there was no happiness among their supporters.



A big guy with a menacing face strode towards one of the Mercs. He looked at his car, then looked at my taxi and growled “Nick off” in a deep and threatening tone. I drove away quick smart. His next reaction could have cost me more than a fare!

ONE HUNDRED

It was one September and I picked up a lady from a residential aged care home.

She was going to an adjoining suburb to play Scrabble.



ONE HUNDRED

We started talking about age. She told me it would be some time before I was her age. She would be 100 years old next week.

I reported the conversation to Depot Management.

On her birthday, they sent her a big bunch of flowers and \$100 in taxi vouchers.



AN UNUSUAL OCCUPATION

I was hailed by a well-dressed businessman wanting to go to the airport.

As well as being bigger jobs, paying more, jobs to or from the airport give the driver a good chance for a chat with the passenger.

“What do you do”, is often a good way to get the ball rolling.



AN UNUSUAL OCCUPATION

“I'm a car spotter or broker”, he said. “I look around in car sales yards, newspaper ads, the internet, for cars that are for sale, and which I know can be sold for more somewhere else, perhaps interstate, perhaps just in a different dealership.”

“Then I ring the second dealer, tell him about the car, and if he is interested, put the seller and the second dealer in touch with each other. Then I send them both an invoice for \$250.”



QUICK QUIZ – WHO'S ON THE BANKNOTES



1. She cuts a regal figure



2. The house on the hill



3. The man from Snowy River



4. Journalist (Canberra suburb of Gilmore named for her)

QUICK QUIZ – WHO'S ON THE BANKNOTES



5. Convict turned business-woman



6. The flying doctor



7. First Aboriginal author to be published



8. First Australian woman elected to parliament (in WA)

QUICK QUIZ – WHO’S ON THE BANKNOTES



9. Famous opera singer. (Hint: has had more farewell concerts than....)



10. Military commander and engineer (Hint: has a university and a freeway named after him)

QUICK QUIZ – ANSWERS

Note	Features
\$5	1. Queen Elizabeth II
	2. Parliament House
\$10	3. Banjo Paterson
	4. Dame Mary Gilmore
\$20	5. Mary Reibey
	6. Reverend John Flynn
\$50	7. David Unaipon
	8. Edith Cowan
\$100	9. Dame Nellie Melba
	10. Sir John Monash