Tom Hughes launches biography - bruised ribs and all

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The unbreakable Tom Hughes QC. His biography "A Cab On The Rank" was launched in Sydney, Wednesday *Steven Siewert*

by Bryce Corbett

A gentleman farmer with a property down Goulburn way, Tom sent his publishers into a minor spin in the days before the launch, phoning to tell them he thought he may have cracked a rib whilst climbing over a fence.

He was showing no signs of injury though as he thanked the blue ribbon crowd who had gathered in the basement of the NSW Bar Association to mark the publication of the **Ian Hancock**-authored biography.

Made of stern stuff, these Hughes folk. And, as the father of our current First Lady, **Lucy Turnbull** (but one of a lifetime of accomplishments which also include a stint as Attorney General and as a decorated air force pilot during the Invasion of Normandy) recalled, his has been a full life for which he is "incredibly grateful".

The crowd was a veritable who's who of venerated Sydney legal eagles (with a combined average age of a relatively sprightly 80. In fact you couldn't move without tripping over a walking stick or a former cabinet minister - much less breathe for the heady scent of Yardley English Lavendar).

The redoubtable **Sinclair Hill** was in the house, as was **Ainslie Gotto** and NSW Supreme Court Chief Justice, **Tom Bathurst QC**.

Also on hand to pay their respects – and pick up a signed copy of the new tome - were**Rod McGeoch** and **Deeta Colvin**, **Jane** "Fergie's sister" **Makim**, Seven commercial director **Bruce McWilliam** and **Barry** "Where's The Grange?" **O'Farrell**. With mum and dad busy on the hustings, it was left to Tom's grand-daughter, **Daisy Turnbull** to fly the flag for the First Family.