



# News and Notes

## WELCOME TO THE JULY 2022 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES

*This newsletter is private & confidential, for Probus use only and not to be used for any other purpose.*



Greetings to all WA members of Probus: I hope you are all ok these wintery mornings. PAWA successfully completed the first of a series of Building Better Clubs Workshops on 23<sup>rd</sup> June with more to come during July and August. Please nominate for these workshops designed to provide active discussion amongst participants on a wide range of topics affecting their Clubs today.

I have been out and about, with committee members, visiting many Clubs to experience the activity each one is providing to our members. There are some great guest speakers out there...let us know so we can update the PAWA guest speaker list.

It is very pleasing to note that many are trying different approaches to meetings and increasing the “fun factor” for members to experience. We all need more fun.

One clear message demonstrated throughout the clubs is “the best new member source is by word of mouth with friends and neighbours; sharing experiences with others has proven worthwhile. Invite them to meetings!

Birthdays and anniversaries are important; it’s GOOD for people. Celebrate achievements; give yourself a pat on back for them. There are a few clubs that are 40 this year – well done.

Remember that acknowledgement of success, breeds positive energy and motivation to continue with the next task and goal. Success is a feeling, not a series of “tick” marks and goals.

A big hit with several clubs is Mah-jong. Many Clubs are celebrating “Christmas in July” which marks an exciting time of the year for Friendship and Fun. Many Clubs are planning trips and tours to various places near and far particularly after the COVID restrictions....

HAVE A FUN TIME!

PAWA has been assisting WA Clubs since 1984. – Wow 38 years.

*In friendship and fun*

*Peter Olney PSM*

*President*

*2022-2023*



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE PROBUS CLUBS CELEBRATING IN JULY

<i>Canning Vale Probus Club Inc.</i>	<i>10 years</i>
<i>York Probus Club Inc.</i>	<i>12 years</i>
<i>Combined Probus Club of Mosman Park Inc.</i>	<i>15 years</i>
<i>Port of Albany Ladies Probus Club Inc.</i>	<i>32 years</i>
<i>The Probus Club of Claremont Cottesloe Inc.</i>	<i>38 years</i>

### PAWA FORUMS OUTCOME SUMMARY

As part of its reinvigoration process, PAWA determined that it needed to take a more active role in supporting its WA member clubs, than had been the case over the last number of years.

Before any strategy could be formulated, PAWA acknowledged that it needed to gain a first-hand understanding of the issues of concern to clubs and their views on how best PAWA can be assist in supporting them. It was agreed that the most effective way to gain this knowledge was to have a number of face-to-face meetings with groups of Clubs i.e. a Forum.

In February, May and June of 2022, PAWA undertook three WA Club Forums. Forty-five Clubs were invited and 38 sent representatives. As a sample, these Clubs represent around 47% of the total WA Probus Club membership of around 5,300 Probians.

The Forum was essentially an interactive, but guided, question and answer session over a 3.5-hour period covering a number of subjects, viz:

- Background - about Club operations
- Events and Activities – what Clubs do?
- Information - collection and dissemination within Clubs
- Visits/Forums – get together
- Subsidies – funding from PAWA, and
- Regionalisation.

*At the conclusion there was a general opportunity for attendees to raise any other issues that were of concern to their Clubs and that had not surfaced during the Forum session. There was good exchange of information and many issues surfaced and were discussed.*

*The key outcomes of the Forums are summarised below and reflect the views of the Probus membership.*

## KEY OUTCOMES

- The community in general has virtually no knowledge or understanding of what Probus is. Coupled with this are that Clubs do not have a clear and concise definition of “what the Probus product is” that can be given to the community.
- The general view was that PSPL has the primary responsibility for increasing awareness of Probus in the community but that both PAWA and Clubs themselves can contribute.
- Word of mouth is seen as being the best way of promoting Probus Club and bringing in new members.
- Mail drops, advertising in shopping centres etc. were not seen as being of value.
- PAWA’s initiative in arranging advertising in the Little Aussie Directory (now Community) was seen as being of value.
- Many Clubs are comfortable with limited membership and have their own views as to an acceptable membership number.
- Once established, very few Probus Clubs have an ongoing relationship/contact with their sponsoring Rotary Club.
- Ageing membership and members taking on Club Officer roles are a major concern for most Clubs. Attracting younger members is seen as a key priority.
- Information Days, as conducted in the past, need to have more focus on the breakout groups and sharing of information and less on the preliminary speeches.
- The concept of having the Information Days conducted via Zoom was poorly received and seen as unworkable.
- There is varying interpretation of the standard Probus Club Constitution and the purpose of Standing Resolutions.
- Too many Clubs perceive the PSPL Probus Club Handbook as a “rulebook” rather than a helpful guideline.
- Information sharing and dissemination and decision making within Clubs varies considerably and is very much tied to the monthly meeting cycle.
- Many were not aware that PSPL offered a Club micro website facility.
- The PSPL publications Active Retirees and Staying Connected were not seen as being of great value to WA Clubs as their focus seemed to be on the Eastern States.
- PAWA’s Probus West publication was also seen as being of limited interest.
- PAWA’s other publications (Directory, News & Notes, Outings Guide and Guest Speakers list) were considered to be of value albeit less so for country Clubs.

## KEY OUTCOMES Continued

- Not many Clubs utilise the PSPL marketing material.
- Clubs generally are unclear about the roles and responsibilities of PAWA and PSPL and little understanding of the roles of WA PSPL Director, Probus District Chair, Rotary District Probus Chair and Ambassadors.
- There was little value seen in formal Regionalisation as Clubs have their own informal relationships.
- Most agreed that Forums, enabling interchange/sharing of ideas involving a number of Clubs, are of benefit and perhaps should be conducted 2-3 times per year.
- PAWA should organise multi Club social events/activities perhaps 2-3 times per year.
- PAWA needs to improve its website to enable sharing of information between Clubs particularly information relating to PAWA and Club events.
- Probus Day needs to be promoted well in advance of October to facilitate wide community awareness. However, rather than a big multi Club event, Clubs are more than likely to celebrate within their own Club or with another Club with whom they have a close relationship.
- Generally Clubs are in favour of PAWA Officers visiting their Clubs more frequently
- PAWA should not subsidise Clubs and Club events only those events/activities that involved many Clubs or that promoted Probus.

### **“HAVE a GO DAY”**

#### **The Premier Event in WA for the over 55's**

**Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 @ 8.30am-3pm**

**Burswood Park, Resort Drive Burswood**

“HAVE a GO DAY” is held under the guidance and organisation of the Seniors Recreation Council of WA, a live-lighter event. It is a FREE annual **activity / information day** for over 55's. The theme each year is to encourage seniors to keep active and healthy in their later years. There is a lot of free entertainment throughout the day and many activities in which to participate. PAWA will have a marquee at this event to showcase our brand to encourage newcomers to Probus.

*The PAWA Committee requests clubs become involved in this event by spending a short time on the stand to promote Probus in WA.*

*Please contact the PAWA organiser, Helen Hardy, if you can spare an hour.*

Contact Helen Hardy

[helenhardy@westnet.com.au](mailto:helenhardy@westnet.com.au)



### **PLEASE NOTE**

We are aware that some Probus clubs have a generic email address.

PAWA, when sending notices and correspondence, will use this generic email address as we assume that the generic email address is managed by the Club Secretary who is responsible for all incoming correspondence.

### **BUILDING BETTER CLUBS WORKSHOPS**

Based upon the feedback from WA Probus Clubs at the Forums, PAWA has decided to drop the traditional Information Day format, as held in the past, and has restructured these as Building Better Clubs Workshops. As requested, we have reduced the speeches up front and focused more on the breakout sessions for the various Club Officers.

The information being presented will provide Committee members and others with the opportunity to learn more about Probus, about running your Club and about the roles of your Club's Management Committee. In particular, attendees will have the opportunity to network with other Club members and hear and share ideas and alternative approaches relevant to running a thriving Club.

**The first of these three-hour Workshops was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Yokine and others are scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> July in Floreat, 4<sup>th</sup> August in Bunbury and 19<sup>th</sup> August in Albany.**

**There is no charge for attendance and brunch is provided.**



PAWA: is proudly sponsored by Villa

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## Welcome to our newest Committee Member

### LORRAINE REED



My life in Western Australia began on the 22nd of May 1973, emigrating with two young boys. I came from East Grinstead in Sussex UK. The accommodation was a two-bedroom unit, until building a house in Kallaroo.

I had fostered children in the UK, but never did I think that I would be fostering an Indigenous boy two weeks after arriving, an experience that I will never forget learning Australian culture.

In 1974 I started work in a Medical Practice in the Northern Suburbs and later joined a Medical Laboratory overseeing the office and the laboratory. My husband, Ed Reed, and I purchased an Environmental laboratory in 1992 both in Western Australia and Indonesia, which kept us traveling around Australia and Indonesia monitoring many commercial and public enterprises to ensure safe health practice.

In 1986 I joined Inner Wheel (Rotary equivalent ladies only), as my husband was involved with Rotary, I have now been a member for 34 years and have served all management positions including being on the District Committee.

The highlight was founding a club in the Swan Valley, which is very successful.

My husband was Rotary District Governor 2002-2003 and later the PAWA committee both of which I supported him fully and enjoyed the challenge. I have been honoured with a prestigious Paul Harris award, which is presented for outstanding service to Rotary and the Community.

The Rotary Club of Swan Valley has awarded me Life Membership of the Club.

I was a Foundation member of Ellenbrook Probus Club who just celebrated 15 years of fun and fellowship. I have made so many great friends, having various management positions during this period.

I have been honoured recently to join the Probus Association of Western Australia's Committee.

**Lorraine**

# Wander the Wildflowers this Spring

At least 12,000 varieties grow across WA and Villa's specialist local wildflower guides will help you scout the best displays

<b>Mid West Wildflowers</b> Featuring HMAS Sydney II Memorial & Chapman Valley » Second departure	<b>5 Days</b>	<b>26 – 30 Aug</b> <b>16 – 20 Sep</b>	<b>\$1,635</b> pptw
<b>West Coast Wildflower Explorer</b> Featuring Monkey Mia & the Batavia Coast » Second departure »» Third departure	<b>7 Days</b>	<b>3 – 9 Sep</b> <b>17 – 23 Sep</b> <b>27 Sep – 3 Oct</b>	<b>\$2,615</b> pptw
<b>Wildflowers on the Southern Coast</b> Featuring the Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show	<b>6 Days</b>	<b>12 – 17 Sep</b>	<b>\$1,720</b> pptw
<b>Cervantes Wildflowers</b> Featuring The Pinnacles of the Nambung National Park	<b>4 Days</b>	<b>23 – 26 Sep</b>	<b>\$1,490</b> guaranteed single room
<b>Hyden &amp; the Wheatbelt Wildflower Trail</b> Featuring Wave Rock & Lake Grace	<b>4 Days</b>	<b>4 – 7 Oct</b>	<b>\$1,295</b> pptw
<b>Cervantes &amp; Kalbarri Wildflowers</b> Featuring Lesueur & Badgingarra National Park	<b>5 Days</b>	<b>5 – 9 Oct</b>	<b>\$1,710</b> pptw
<b>Kalbarri Wildflowers</b> Featuring Murchison Gorge Cruise	<b>5 Days</b>	<b>10 – 14 Oct</b>	<b>\$1,695</b> pptw
<b>Southern Wildflowers &amp; Wave Rock</b> Featuring Albany, Bremer Bay & Hyden	<b>5 Days</b>	<b>20 – 24 Oct</b>	<b>\$1,660</b> pptw



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## CHANGES TO THE PAWA SPEAKERS' LIST

### Please remove:

- IAN MOFFAT – magician and mind reader. Ian has retired from visiting probus clubs.

### New Speakers:

- IAN FARRELL. Ian's talk is of comical bush poetry and yarn spinning and is very funny.

Email: [dyn2@westnet.com.au](mailto:dyn2@westnet.com.au) or phone 0408 212 636

Ian will visit Probus clubs in the Bunbury /Busselton area only.

- FRANCES SLABBER at SPECSAVERS: Positive hearing awareness. Tinnitus. Mandurah to Cockburn areas. 0419 093 092
- RHUWINA GRIFFITHS Rhuwina is passionate about writing and will help you write your life story. [Rhuwina@hotmail.com](mailto:Rhuwina@hotmail.com) 0466 967 489
- ROS THOMAS. Author and former TV journalist: 0412 335 178

### PROBUS WEST

Clubs are invited to submit articles for Probus West - which highlights the social events, fun times, and news of activities from around clubs. Articles to be in Word format, with pictures as jpegs.

**Trish Floyd** will acknowledge your story and is happy to give assistance.

Contributions can be emailed to [rpfloyd@westnet.com.au](mailto:rpfloyd@westnet.com.au) or posted to 103a Stock Road, Attadale 6156

"When life throws  
you a rainy day, play  
in the puddles."

- Winnie the Pooh





**Come along to a Committee meeting and give us your ideas to ensure that PAWA is an effective voice of WA Probud Clubs.**

Contact Secretary Ralph Sirmulis for an invitation to attend.

0417 201 867 or [pawasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pawasecretary@gmail.com)

We meet on the 1st Thursday of every second month at the Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre,  
555 Leach Highway Winthrop: 9.30am-12.30pm  
On alternative months, PAWA meets via Zoom.  
Website: [probuswa.wordpress.com](http://probuswa.wordpress.com)

### **PAWA COMMITTEE**

President	Peter Olney PSM	<a href="mailto:pete@gdaygday.com">pete@gdaygday.com</a>
Vice President	Sue Harwood	<a href="mailto:smharwood1@bigpond.com">smharwood1@bigpond.com</a>
Secretary	Ralph Sirmulis	<a href="mailto:pawasecretary@gmail.com">pawasecretary@gmail.com</a>
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#### *News and Notes Editor*

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#### *Probud West Editor*

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#### Points of contact are:

***Peter Olney*** ***PAWA President: 0424 243 503***

***Ralph Sirmulis*** ***PAWA Secretary: 0417 201 867***

### **ROTARY'S PROBUS CHAIRPERSONS**

District 9455 Richard Ladny [ladnygroup@bigpond.com](mailto:ladnygroup@bigpond.com)

District 9465 Graeme Brown [glbrown@iprimus.com.au](mailto:glbrown@iprimus.com.au)

### **WA DIRECTOR PSPL BOARD**

Graeme Brown [glbrown@iprimus.com.au](mailto:glbrown@iprimus.com.au)