



Probud Association of W.A. Inc.
Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson ACAPM
Governor of Western Australia

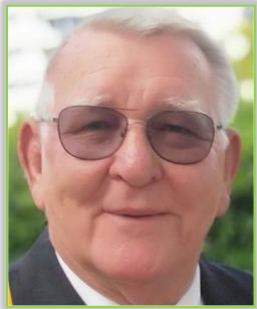


NEWS & NOTES

THE VOICE OF PROBUD CLUBS IN THE WEST

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER 2023 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES

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



PAWA believes that bringing Probud Clubs together to share ideas and experiences can be immensely beneficial, not only for individual members but for the Probud community as a whole. Probud Clubs, renowned for fostering fun, friendship, and fellowship among retirees, often tend to develop a sense of exclusivity or tribalism within their ranks. However, breaking down these barriers and encouraging collaboration between clubs can yield numerous advantages.

Most importantly, the exchange of ideas and experiences enhances the overall quality of Probud activities and events. My favourite expression these days is that “we all do the same thing, but we do it differently”. Each club has its own unique traditions, interests, and expertise. When these are shared, it enriches the collective knowledge and repertoire of activities available to all members. Whether it's organising exciting trips, educational seminars, or simply finding great places to eat, combining the talents and experiences of multiple clubs can lead to a wider range of options, catering to diverse interests.

Moreover, networking, and social interactions between members from different Probud Clubs can promote a stronger sense of community and fellowship. This can help overcome any feelings of isolation or exclusivity that may arise within individual clubs. By joining forces for larger events or projects, Probudians have the chance to forge new friendships and create lasting memories with a broader circle of like-minded retirees.

Potentially, collaboration can lead to cost-sharing opportunities, making it more affordable for clubs to organize special events or outings. This financial benefit allows clubs to offer more attractive and varied activities to their members, ultimately increasing the value of Probud membership.

During the PAWA Forums conducted in 2021, Clubs made it clear that PAWA should take the initiative of holding multi-club events/activities. Since then, in addition to the very well received Building Better Clubs Workshops, PAWA this year has organised the Pinjarra Raceway event (attended by 120 Probudians from 12 Clubs) and the Pasta in the Valley event attended by over 200 Probudians from 26 Clubs. Later in November, PAWA, at the kind invitation from His Excellency the Governor of WA, will be staging a gathering at Government House for some 100 Probudians. In addition, for the last 17 years, PAWA has been a strong supporter of the South West Get Together which involves up to 17 of the Clubs in that region and the next such event will be on 2nd October in Eaton.

Breaking down the tribal aspects of individual Probud Clubs and promoting collaboration is a win-win strategy as it fosters a more inclusive, vibrant, and enriching Probud experience for retirees, while also strengthening the Probud community as a whole. By sharing ideas and experiences, members can collectively enjoy more fun, friendship, and fellowship than ever before.

Regards, Ralph

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO CLUBS CELEBRATING IN SEPTEMBER

Joondalup City Probus Inc.	4 years
Claremont/Swanbourne Probus Club Inc.	6 years
Combined Probus Club of East Perth Inc.	17 years
Probus Club of Albany Central Inc.	32 years
The Probus Club of Busselton Inc.	37 years
Probus Club of Whitfords Inc.	39 years



ARE YOU TOO COMPLACENT?



Complacency in Probus clubs can stifle growth and vitality. In WA, some 20 years ago, we had 102 Probus Clubs and now this dropped to 92 Club. We have seen vibrant clubs that have lost their way over a number of years and eventually folded.

When members become too comfortable with the status quo, there's a risk of stagnation. New ideas, activities, and outreach efforts may be neglected, leading to a decline in engagement and participation. Complacency can also foster a sense of exclusivity, discouraging the welcoming of new members and limiting the club's diversity. Ultimately, it can result in a loss of the dynamic spirit that initially drew members together. To thrive and remain relevant, a Probus club must guard against complacency and continually seek ways to evolve, adapt, and embrace change.

In 2024, PAWA will be conducting more **free workshops** for members. There will be a new format based on current issues and feedback from participants.

DO NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE WORKSHOPS!

WHY?

- to share ideas and experiences
- to network with other participants
- to gain valuable information that will assist in Club leadership and administration.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- existing committee members
- newly elected committee members
- prospective committee members
- ***new club members***



PASTA in the VALLEY RESTAURANT in Caversham

Over two hundred Probus club members from 26 clubs gathered for lunch in the Swan Valley on Friday September 8th.

Thanks are extended to Helen Hardy from PAWA for the organisation of this successful event. Members asked for another lunch like this next year! Clubs were mixing, and quite a few people were walking around talking and laughing.



The Probus Club of Thornlie



Combined Probus Club of Scarborough (Jo came later)



A general view of the venue and the Probus Club of Mundaring on the right.



The Probus Club of Eaton

ISSUES RAISED at the SECRETARIES TABLE at WORKSHOPS

1. Handovers - either no handover or very bad handover including passing on the previous Secretary's bad habits.
2. How long to keep records - many had had boxes of records handed to them on taking up the position and were not aware of legal requirements.
3. Minutes - how much is too little; how much is too much to include in minute taking.
4. How do you get members to read the minutes?
5. Communication - most appeared to have good communication avenues in their clubs, but some were waiting until committee meetings to raise important issues with the committee members.
6. Communication-re different methods of keeping members informed e.g., printed, email, post.
7. Some secretaries are selective about what information is passed on to members.
8. Unaware that the President or Chairperson should sign the approved minutes.



October is Probus Month

*"Good friends,
Great times,
New adventures"*
Let's Celebrate!

NEW SPEAKER. **DON GORDON** recommended by Hollywood Kings Park Probus Club.

Topic is: "Evidence for ancient civilisations with advanced knowledge and technology."

In many parts of the world there is evidence that ancient civilisations, pre-dating the known history of mankind by thousands of years, had astounding knowledge and advanced technology.

In his talk, Don Gordon presents evidence for the existence of these advanced ancient civilisations.

If you're interested in the story of mankind and you want to learn more about what came before history began to be recorded, this talk is for you.



Don has spent many years in management and consulting roles, has lived and worked in five countries and is a published author. He is a keen student of history, and he has been privileged to visit some of the archaeological sites he refers to in his talk.

Donald Macrae Gordon, M.Eng., FAusIMM, FAIM

Speaker and Author

Mobile: 0421 282 473

Email: donaldmacraegordon@gmail.com

CHANGE is inevitable. GROWTH is optional. *John Maxwell*

COMMENTS FROM THE WORKSHOPS AND FEEDBACK FROM CLUB MEMBERS:

Some people embrace change.

Others are reluctant to adapt to change when it is presented.

- ◇ There is apathy regarding the identified need for change.
- ◇ Long standing members question the rationale to make changes.
- ◇ We don't see a problem with the current process; we like the way things are now.
- ◇ Committees make contentious decisions without presenting to all members.
- ◇ What we know is easier than what we don't know.
- ◇ There is uncertainty.
- ◇ Decisions are imposed without time to get used to an idea.
- ◇ There is resistance. What are we giving up?
- ◇ Out of my comfort zone.
- ◇ Loss of control.

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past and present are certain to miss the future." *John F Kennedy*

- Need to consult members about all important decisions.
- Ensure that members understand what the changes are and how they will be affected.
- Make it clear that members' opinions are valuable.
- Give people time to adapt to change.
- Seek to understand each other's point of view – (you can disagree without being disagreeable).
- Challenge the idea, not the individual.
- People like structure and routine; it makes them feel in control.
- It is not about taking away responsibilities – it is about playing to everyone's strengths.
- Focus on what can be done, not what can't.



***"HAVE A GO DAY" at
BURSWOOD PARK in
Senior's week.
WEDNESDAY 15TH
NOVEMBER***

PROBUS CLUB of EATON - Adventures

Thanks to the following clubs for ideas for outings and activities!

AN ADVENTURE IN CULTURE AND TIME TRAVEL



Ngilgi Cave

“On Tuesday the 20th of June 2023 the Probus Club of Eaton travelled south to **Yallingup**.

Our destination was Ngilgi Cave, and our host/guide was Koomal (Josh “Koomal” Whiteland). Koomal is a member of the Wadandi Noongar Bibleman people and has lived in this area all his life.

Ngilgi cave was first found by Europeans in 1899 but the aboriginal people had been living here for tens of thousands of years –at the bottom of the hill near the spring.

Ngilgi is the good spirit of the ocean who battled the evil spirit who lived in the cave and banished him into the sea.

The cave is a wonderful place. It is 19°C-20°C all year round. Stalactites and stalagmites decorated the walls and ceiling.

The Amphitheatre is enormous and has spinetingling acoustics. Koomal played songs on the didgeridoo and drum, and members provided rhythm with tapping sticks.

Koomal showed us various traditional tools and weapons and explained the make-up and use of each one. Especially poignant was his grandfather’s boomerang, made over 100 years ago using a stone to smooth it rather than a rasp.”



Traditional tools and weapons.

“This was a wonderful experience and once again, our thanks must go to our Outings Officer, Les, for this excellent day out.”

GAMES DAY AT VICTORIA PARK PROBUS by Ann Kennish

A **Games Day** was organized for members of the Victoria Park Probus Club during August where they could play cards, scrabble, rabbit, chess, and other table games. However, the highlight of the day was the surprising fun we all had by doing seated exercises to very inspiring music.

The session is designed for people who don't usually exercise but think they should. It was a work-out that members did within their own ability, but with others to share in the effort and fun. Following the session members enjoyed a friendly and relaxed lunch.

All members present agreed they would like an encore.



BACKSTAGE AT THE WA PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

What an entertaining tour **Hollywood Kings Park WA** members enjoyed seeing, behind the scenes at the **WA Performing Arts Academy** in August. Some 20 members enjoyed going on and backstage with dedicated guide, Peter, morning tea, lunch and student classes and a concert performance evaluation. They all gave impressive performances and are on their journey to join the many successful graduates like Judy Davis and Hugh Jackman.

Peter, who has been associated with WAPAA for 33 years, explaining the Roundhouse Theatre with Probus members on stage.

Paula James, Secretary



Interstate Awaits this Spring

Historic Towns of NSW

7 DAYS > 24 to 30 October 2023

Highlights

- Bathurst Sheep & Cattle Drome
- National Motor Racing Museum
- Australia Fossil & Mineral museum
- Parkes Observatory Dish
- Orange Heritage Trail
- Henry Parkes Museum
- Iandra Castle
- Cowra Japanese Garden
- Bradman Museum & International Cricket Hall of Fame



\$3,480 pptw
\$565 single option

Kangaroo Island Adventures

6 DAYS > 22 to 27 November 2023

Highlights

- Horse-drawn tram ride
- Granite Island
- Seal Bay
- The Raptor Domain
- Flinders Chase National Park
- Remarkable Rocks & Admirals Arch
- Emu Bay Lavender
- Kangaroo Island Honey Farm
- Kangaroo Island Eucalyptus Oil Distillery
- Scenic touring, Kangaroo Island



\$3,520 pptw
\$440 single option

Pacific Coast Touring

9 DAYS > 5 to 13 November 2023

Highlights

- Pacific Coast route from Ballina to Sydney
- Tropical Fruit World
- Byron Bay & Cape Byron Lighthouse
- Macadamia & avocado tour
- Koala Care & Research Centre
- Lismore & Bangalow
- Grafton's vibrant jacaranda trees
- Forest Sky Pier
- Butterfly House
- Clogg demonstration
- Dorrigo National Park & Rainforest Centre
- Timbertown Heritage Park
- Port Stephens & Nelson Bay



\$4,295 pptw
\$680 single option

See pages 38 to 60, in our 2023 Villa Holiday magazine for more Interstate holiday inspiration.

YOUR FULLY INCLUSIVE, ESCORTED TOUR INCLUDES



Transfers

Courtesy pre and post home/hotel transfers (Perth/Mandurah metropolitan areas)
A country collection service is also available



Transport



Accommodation



Meals



Attractions



Tour Leaders



Local Guides

Terms and conditions: All Villa tours are fully escorted, depart from Perth and tour prices include courtesy home collection (Perth and Mandurah metro only), most meals and attractions. Tours are subject to change. Full terms and conditions can be found on villa.com.au or ask us to send them when you call.

1800 066 272

travel@villa.com.au

villa.com.au

@VillaCarlottaTravel



**PROBUS ASSOCIATION OF
WA INC.**

OFFICE BEARERS

President Ralph Sirmulis
PAWApresident@gmail.com

Vice President Sue Harwood
smharwood1@bigpond.com

Vice President Edna Jones
edna.jones201@gmail.com

Secretary Pauline Dunning
PAWAsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer Helen Hardy
helenhardy@westnet.com.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Malcolm Wauchope AO
mal.wauchope@hotmail.com

Anne Schnell
abfabschnell@yahoo.com.au

Moira Macpherson
mfmkmac@gmail.com

Michael Macpherson
mfmkmac@gmail.com

Directory
Pauline Dunning

**News and Notes Editor,
Speakers List,
Outings List,**
Sue Harwood

**WA Representative, PSPL Board
Member and immediate Past
President,**
Peter Olney PSM
polney@bigpond.net.au

PAWA

The Voice of WA Probud Clubs

*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 Pauline Dunning for
an invitation to attend.**

pawasecretary@gmail.com

***We meet on the 1st Thursday of every
second month at the
Piney Lakes Environmental Education
Centre,
555 Leach Highway Winthrop
10am-12.30pm***

***From January 2024,
PAWA will meet at the Kulungah-Myah
Community Centre
136 Le Souef Drive, Kardinya.
10am-1230pm.***

***NB: On alternative months,
PAWA meets via Zoom.***

Website: probuswa.wordpress.com