



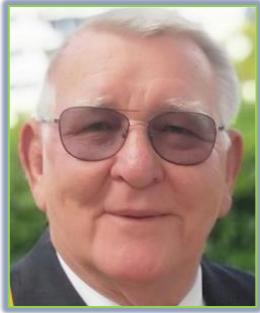
# NEWS & NOTES

THE VOICE OF PROBUS IN THE WEST

Patrons: His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, and Mrs Dawson

## WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY 2024 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES

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



The aim of Probud Clubs is to foster camaraderie and intellectual engagement among retirees so perhaps we need to innovate and adopt a dynamic and inclusive approach to the Management Committee structure. Committee members should be encouraged to share tasks, thereby ensuring a collaborative and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Unlike traditional organisations that might burden Committees with rigid rules and complicated processes, Probud Clubs should prioritise a fun and flexible perspective. Committee members at Probud Clubs should actively call upon club members to volunteer for meeting-related tasks and those related to activities, creating a sense of shared responsibility and member involvement.

By distributing tasks among Club member volunteers, the workload becomes lighter, fostering a spirit of cooperation rather than obligation. This approach not only ensures the smooth functioning of the club but also strengthens the bonds between members. You do not need 10-12 members on a Committee. In line with the Associations Act, a Club's Management Committee only requires the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and at least one other.

The emphasis on fun and friendship should permeate every aspect of Probud Club activities. Meetings are not just about adhering to formalities; they are opportunities for laughter, shared interests, and collaboration. The innovative approach encourages a vibrant exchange of ideas, fostering a sense of ownership and pride among members.

In the world of Probud Clubs, being a Committee member should not be seen as a daunting task but an exciting opportunity to contribute to the collective enjoyment of the Club. The commitment to avoiding burdensome and complicated processes ensures that Probud Clubs remain vibrant, welcoming spaces for retirees to engage, connect, and have fun together.

**Ralph Sirmulis, President**

## BUILDING BETTER CLUBS WORKSHOPS



Once again, this year, PAWA will be holding its very successful, and well received, Building Better Clubs Workshops.

Dates and venues are as follows:

- April 11<sup>th</sup> North Beach Bowling Club, North Beach
- April 19<sup>th</sup> Halls Head Bowling Club, Erskine
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> Le Grande Motel, Albany
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> Mantra Bunbury Lighthouse, Bunbury
- May 16<sup>th</sup> Rossmoyne Bowling Club, Rossmoyne
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> Glen Forrest Sports Club, Glen Forrest

More time is being allowed for round table interactive discussions and sharing of ideas. We encourage Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Outings Officers to attend. Registrations will be called for in the near future.



A reminder to WA Probus Clubs that you need to advise the PAWA Secretary, Pauline Dunning ([PAWASecretary@gmail.com](mailto:PAWASecretary@gmail.com)) of changes in the members of your Club's Management Committee and meeting venue information.

This is in addition to advising PSPL of the same information.

**PAWA and PSPL DO NOT share information.**

There are three unwritten rules in life:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



One of the obligations of Probus Clubs is to provide PSPL with up-to-date information about members and changes in Management Committee personnel and roles.

This has been a tedious manual process of completing the appropriate forms, emailing them to PSPL, awaiting PSPL to process the information, and receiving a confirmation of the changes.

Depending on the workload at PSPL, this can take considerable time.

When PAWA sends out the invoices for levy payment, the membership numbers quoted in the invoice are from information provided to PAWA by PSPL. All too frequently, Clubs come back to PAWA and advise that the numbers on the invoice are wrong, and they have sent changes to PSPL which apparently have not yet been processed.

**Since August, it is no longer a tedious and time-consuming manual process as the process can now be done online and the membership information becomes effective immediately.**

Clubs should take note that each Management Committee member can access the Club Administration section of the PSPL website provided that Committee members have provided an email address and a mobile phone number; both of which are required for two factor authentication.

If you do not have access, please contact Gemma Borg at PSPL ([admin@probussouthpacific.org](mailto:admin@probussouthpacific.org) or 1300 630 488) to arrange access.

**In addition to updating membership information, Clubs can access other tools and information.**

**WA Clubs are also reminded that any changes to their Club's Officers and meeting information should be communicated to PAWA for inclusion in the PAWA WA Probus Club Directory.**

These updates should be sent to  
Pauline Dunning, PAWA Secretary  
[PAWASecretary@gmail.com](mailto:PAWASecretary@gmail.com)

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO CLUBS CELEBRATING IN FEBRUARY

East Fremantle Probus Club Inc.	5 years
Mandurah Island Probus Club Inc.	15 years
Combined Probus Club of Albany Inc.	15 years
The Combined Probus Club of Leeming Inc.	16 years.
Bedford Combined Probus Club Inc.	16 years
The Probus Club of Eaton Inc.	32 years
Combined Probus Club of Rockingham Inc.	37 years
Bunbury Ladies Probus Club Inc.	39 years
Probus Club of Northam Inc.	39 years



## A NEW MEMBER SAYS "CHEESE" at VICTORIA PARK PROBUS



**Victoria Park Probus** started 2024 in the best possible way by inducting a new member at its first general meeting in January.

**Kevin Belding** was inducted and welcomed to Probus by the President Linda Footman. Kevin, having worked mainly in the food industry in both New Zealand and Australia, said he had many interesting times in Engineering, Capital projects and Production Management roles in the food and other manufacturing industries.

He spoke about his background in Engineering and his many hobbies since retiring in 2021. He enjoys cycling and gardening, but his passion is making amazing cheeses and smallgoods at home. Members were impressed by the description of his artisan cheeses. "Samples please" was the cry!

Kevin is married with 2 children and 4 grandchildren all living in Victoria Park. For the past 10 years he has also been a Wanslea Foster Carer and has involved his family in taking children on day trips to various activities during holidays. *Produced by Ann Kennish: Victoria Park Probus Club*

## GETTING A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Sell the job – emphasize the WIFM (What's In It For Me) – not the tasks
  - Benefit of being on the MC ... "was getting to know all of the members and being part of a team"
  - "I gained greater computer skills"
  - "I have built up a wealth of knowledge about Probus and gained many close friends.."
  - "Just the pleasure of working with the MC group."
  - "I was able to get to know my fellow Probians much better and more quickly."
  - "Having the opportunity to impact on the health of the club and the enjoyment of its members."
  - "The satisfaction of contributing."
  - "A feeling of belonging."

### **CLUB VENUE UPDATES**

**The Probus Club of Kalamunda Inc.** is ready to meet at their new venue on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at the Kalamunda R.S.L. Hall on Canning Road. There is parking at the back of the hall as well at the front. 9.30am for 10am start. **The Kalamunda Ladies Probus Club Inc.** will also meet this year at the RSL Hall, second Thursdays at 10am.

**The Probus Club of Subiaco Inc.** will return (after being off site), on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10am at their regular meeting place - Lake Monger Recreation Club in Gregory St Wembley. They will enjoy being back at the lake, enjoying fun, friendship and fellowship AND Chris's morning tea.

## PREPARING FOR YOUR AGM

**With March just around the corner, no doubt you will already be planning for your AGM.**

An important part of the preparation for this meeting is ensuring you have candidates for all the key roles. The legal requirement under the WA Associations Act is for a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and at least one other.

These candidates should have been named by financial Club members on the Nomination Form issued in January and they should have agreed to be nominated. They will also be asked if they accept the nomination at the AGM. Nominations should be received for the February meeting in advance of the AGM.

**As President, you will need to ensure that formal advice of the AGM has been sent to all members at least 21 days ahead of the date of the AGM. The advice should include:**

- **the minutes of the previous year's AGM,**
- **the annual financial statement,**
- **the Agenda,**
- **any proposed changes to the Standing Resolutions, and**
- **Proxy Voting forms.**

Your AGM can be either a separate meeting or part of your regular March meeting. However, you will need to close off the general meeting before commencing the formal AGM. The AGM requires separate minutes.

In addition, you will require a Returning Officer (or Chair) for the AGM. This can be a financial Club member (who is not nominated for any role) or an external third party such as a member of your sponsoring Rotary Club. The role of the Returning Officer is to manage any voting as regard any proposed changes to Standing Resolutions and the election of Club Officers. This person will take over the meeting following the delivery of the President's and Treasurer's reports.

It is commonplace that the President delivers a verbal report of the year's activities, and the Treasurer speaks to the annual financial statement as previously sent out to members at the beginning of the AGM.

All existing Committee positions are declared vacant prior to the actual election. Some Clubs perceive that the previous year's Vice President automatically assume the role of President for the coming year. They must be elected by the members at the AGM. Newly elected Committee members take office immediately.

As regards nominations, the Returning Officer will advise those present at the meeting of the nominations – position by position. They will ask the nominated candidates if they accept the nomination.

Should you have only one member nominated for a position, the member nominated is deemed to be elected. However, if there is more than one candidate for any of the positions, a vote is taken, generally by show of hands, after the candidates have left the room. The vote count should include any Proxy Votes.

**If any position remains vacant, the Returning Officer may call for nominations from the floor of the AGM. In the case that no nominations are received, the Returning Officer declares the position vacant. It can be filled at a later date by the management committee.**

## NEW SPEAKERS

### JUDITH ODGAARD

**SUSTAINABLE POPULATION AUSTRALIA** : WA Branch President.

A rapid history of population, and that growth of such is no longer needed and is most undesirable.



I spent much of my childhood travelling this State's station and wheatbelt country while my father selected sites to drill for water. Hearing his comments re: condition of the land and whether good or bad management practices had evidently been conducted, I absorbed a concern and love for the country. Of my gainfully employed life, a number of years was as a laboratory assistant with the Institute of Agriculture, several years in a geological laboratory concurrent with ten years interviewing with the Bureau of Census and Statistics, followed as a science technician in several colleges from the 70s till now.

My undergraduate degree was in visual arts, and psychology. The visual art practice involved installations dealing with salinity and sustainability while my PhD researched attitudes and behaviours of Graduate Diploma of Education (Primary) Students' regarding their perceptions of sustainability.

**Vision:** A relationship between people and the environment in which the human population stays within planetary boundaries.

**Mission:** To establish Australia as a model of a sustainable environment that protects species and human wellbeing with emphasis on population size.

**Objectives:**

- Contribute to the public awareness of the limits of Australian population from ecological, social, and economic viewpoints.
- Promote awareness that an ecologically sustainable population depends on its renewable resources.
- Promote low fertility and low migration policies to stabilise then reduce Australia's population.
- Advocate low immigration while rejecting any criteria based on race, ethnicity, or religion.
- Promote policies to stabilise then reduce global population.
- Why it is necessary to end to population growth and how this can be done fairly.
- How to achieve an ecologically sustainable population immigration for Australia
- Practical government policies towards a stable and sustainable population

Contact Judith: 0477002821. [j.odgaard@bigpond.com](mailto:j.odgaard@bigpond.com)

### UPDATED Talks by Don Briggs, Life member of the Probus Club of Bannister Creek

- Pioneers of the early Western Australian timber industry.
- Don's Paris-Brest-Paris 1200km a single stage event.
- WA Mounted Policeman Joseph Watson aka 'Immortal Joe'.
- The Parkhurst Boys (Juvenile Convicts) who arrived in WA during the 1840s.
- Around Australia without a boat.
- The last invasion by the AIF in 1945, the event described by a tank commander on the island of Borneo at Balikpapan. 0409 588 175 or [don.ron6@bigpond.com](mailto:don.ron6@bigpond.com).

## PROFESSOR DAVID M HUNT BSc PhD FRSB

**Emeritus Professor, University of Western Australia and University College London, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology.**

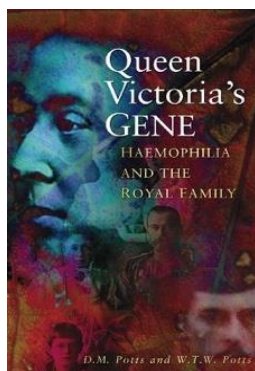
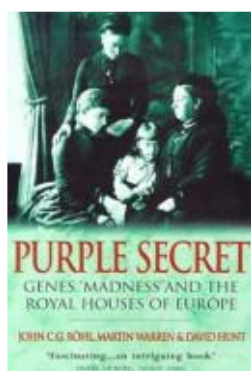


David is a member of the Probus Club of Mandurah Peel.  
"I am now retired but still involved in the development of a gene therapy cure for blindness at the Lions Eye Institute. Over my career in academia, I have been a contributor to over 250 scientific papers, and several books, which have largely dealt with the genetic basis for colour vision across the animal kingdom and the identification of the gene mutations responsible for many inherited blinding disorders in humans."

### Proposed Talks

#### 1. Colour vision, facts, and fallacies

Why are up to 10% of the male population colour blind? John Dalton, the famous chemist, was the first person to describe colour blindness in a study of his own colour vision published in 1798, hence the disorder is frequently called "daltonism". Our study published in the journal *Science* identified the type of colour vision defect he had. Is colour vision generally present throughout the animal kingdom and how does it compare to our own colour vision? In evolutionary terms, how ancient is colour vision? The talk will draw substantially on published work carried out in my laboratory in London and more recently at the University of Western Australia in Perth.



#### 2. The Royal Maladies: porphyria and haemophilia

The medical basis for the madness of King George III continues to be debated. The talk will recount our extensive efforts to identify the basis of the madness and how widespread it may have been in the Royal Families of Europe, as presented in our book entitled "Purple Secret: Genes, madness and the Royal Houses of Europe" co-authored with John Rohl and Martin Warren. I will also cover the clotting disease called haemophilia that was passed on by Queen Victoria to her children, including Alexei, the son born in 1904 into the Russian Romanov Family that was tragically killed by the **Bolshevik revolutionaries** in July 1918.

David M Hunt BSc PhD FRSB

Emeritus Professor

Lions Eye Institute and School of Biological Sciences

University of Western Australia

Tel: 0416236109

## NARROGIN PROBUS CLUB

The Narrogin Probus Club had a themed Italian Night for their January meeting with pics attached.  
Susanne, Secretary Narrogin Probus Club



## A DISJOINTED DAY OUT. PROBUS CLUB of EATON. Chris Durrant

### FROG'S HOLLOW



### TALISMAN WINES



These were the words Les (our organizer) used to describe our wonderful excursion into the Ferguson Valley on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2024. They did not reflect the feelings of those of us on the trip, who enjoyed the day immensely.

It was a good feeling to be on a bus again at the start of a brand-new year. First stop was morning tea and fellowship under the trees of the Preston Valley Store.

Then, we crossed the road to our special place, FROGS HOLLOW. Our club has deposited frogs here on previous occasions and we had a few more to add this time. Quite hilarious was "Marilyn Monroe" frog trying to hold down her billowing white dress.

Because our next stop was not available, and we were amongst some of the best fruit areas of the state we went in search of a roadside courtesy booth of fruit. They did really well from us, the nectarines were delicious, and my pears are ripening nicely. Eventually, it was time to stop freewheeling around in our bus and head to the Mumballup Pub for lunch.

The third stop of the day was a real gem. It was the winery that Les had found at short notice, and it had opened especially for us on the day – Talisman Wines. The winery has a lovely deck which looks out over a peaceful lake/dam. Inside was a wonderful array of red and white wines to try. Tired and fulfilled we eventually headed home. It was so nice to be together again after the hurley burley of the silly season.



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- Be in awe at the Art Gallery of NSW (AGNSW)
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# PAWA

The Voice of  
WA Probus Clubs

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

Contact Secretary Pauline Dunning for an invitation to attend.  
[pawasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pawasecretary@gmail.com)

***Our PAWA Committee venue has changed.***

***The PAWA Committee will meet on the 1st Thursday of every second month at the Melville Recreation Centre Cnr Stock Rd and Canning Highway Melville 9.30am-1230pm.***

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

***Zoom meeting held Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February***

***Website: [probuswa.wordpress.com](http://probuswa.wordpress.com)***