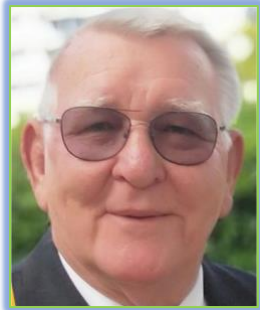




# NEWS & NOTES

THE VOICE OF PROBUS IN THE WEST

## WELCOME TO THE APRIL 2025 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES



Thank you for your endorsement of the new PAWA Committee at our recent AGM.

I am honoured to continue as your President and look forward to what we can achieve together in the year ahead.

I would like to extend my sincere apology for the short notice given to Clubs regarding the PAWA levy increase. Please be assured this was not a decision taken lightly. The Committee debated the matter thoroughly and carefully considered all implications before reaching a conclusion albeit late in the day.

On a positive note, I'm pleased to report that our first Building Better Clubs Workshop, held at Sorrento, was a great success. Twelve Clubs participated, with 44 members in attendance, and the feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive. The next Workshop will take place at Halls Head, and I encourage local Clubs to attend—not only to gain fresh insights but also to connect, share experiences, and support one another in our common goals.

Looking ahead, PAWA faces two key challenges.

The first is to guide and support our WA Clubs in adopting the new "standard" Probud Club Constitution and accompanying Standing Resolutions template. PAWA President and Past Joondalup City President Ralph contributed to the PSPL Focus Group behind this work, and his Club (Joondalup City Probud) served as the successful WA test case with DEMIRS in December 2024.

The second challenge relates to PSPL's clear commitment to the establishment of new Probud Clubs in WA. During the last 12 months, PAWA has been reluctant to start new Clubs and has focused on ensuring existing Clubs remain viable. However, we have now agreed to collaborate with PSPL on this initiative. I want to assure you that any steps to form new Clubs will involve consultation with existing Clubs that may be impacted by a new Club in "their area".

Together, with open communication and shared purpose, we can take steps to try to strengthen Probud across Western Australia.

Ralph Sirmulis  
President

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO CLUBS CELEBRATING IN APRIL

<i>Wembley Downs Probus Club Inc</i>	<i>4 years.</i>
<i>Combined Probus Club of Murray District WA Inc.</i>	<i>26 years</i>
<i>Narrogin Probus Club WA Inc</i>	<i>31 years.</i>
<i>Scarborough Ladies Probus Club Inc</i>	<i>38 years</i>
<i>Probus Club of Dalkeith/Nedlands Inc</i>	<i>39 years</i>
<i>Rossmoyne Ladies Probus Club WA Inc</i>	<i>39 years</i>
<i>Probus Club of Albany Inc</i>	<i>41 years</i>



## 2025/26 PAWA COMMITTEE



L to R: Sue Harwood (Vice President), Margaret Collins, Peter Olney (IPP), David Hunt, Sandra Dawe, Ralph Sirmulis (President), Michael Macpherson (Treasurer), Pauline Dunning (Secretary), Brian Hough, Moira Macpherson, Carol Hough



### The Probus Club of Northam

The club turned 40 in March. Quite an achievement for a club in a beautiful part of rural WA. Mr Prestin Smith had the honour of cutting the cake. Prestin's father was a foundation member of the club.

Prestin joined the club, just after it was formed so he has been a member almost 40 years himself, which is quite an achievement. PAWA Committee members, Carol and Brian Hought, were invited to attend the celebration and were made to feel very welcome.



## WORKSHOP AT SORRENTO BOWLING CLUB 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025



### Matt Walker from VILLA



40 members from 13 Probus Clubs attended the workshop at Sorrento. President Ralph Sirmulis spoke about the roles of PAWA and PSPL, club governance and the challenges ahead. Villa sponsor, Matt Walker gave an insight into the many tours they provide. After morning tea, members broke into various groups to discuss common issues and share information. Feedback indicated that attendees valued the sharing of knowledge and interaction with other clubs. Thanks to Glengarry Probus Club for organising morning tea.

### Ralph Sirmulis, PAWA President



### FREE WORKSHOPS to follow

Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Halls Head Bowling Club
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Mt Pleasant Bowling Club
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Morley Noranda Recreation Club
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Le Grande Motel in Albany
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May,	Mantra Bunbury Lighthouse.

Contact Pauline Dunning:

[pawasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pawasecretary@gmail.com)

## UPDATED SPEAKER. - CHANGE of NAME

### Petrina Bishop

### De Lucca International (Was Akanna Entertainment)

Petrina's life has been entrenched in the professional performing arts industry for 5 decades. She will share her thoughts on its past, present, and future. **As a guest speaker**, Petrina will talk about her journey from performer to one of Western Australians leading independent Producers, from aged 7 to the Opera House!

0409 12 72 82 or [petrina@akannaentertainment.com.au](mailto:petrina@akannaentertainment.com.au)

**Short notice is possible.**

### VALE Arthur Leggett

Arthur was WA's oldest surviving World War II prisoner of war until his passing on April 6<sup>th</sup> aged 106 years. He was captured by Germans during the Battle of Crete in 1941 and spent four years in a prison camp. Arthur was a valued Speaker at many Probus Clubs narrating his favourite Henry Lawson Poems.

## **“TEA ANGEL” at Kingsley Men’s Probus Club**



*“The Kingsley Men’s club has been very privileged to have JAN MEAGHER, the partner of one of our members, look after our morning teas in recent years. Our TEA ANGEL, as we call Jan, has made this task her own and the Club members realise how lucky they are to have her services. Jan turns 80 soon and the Club celebrated this milestone with a surprise birthday cake at morning tea during our April 2025 meeting.”*

## **Probus Club of Mandurah Peel 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



The Probus Club of Mandurah Peel recently celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The club is young in comparison to many others and is proud to say that of the current membership of 99 – 31 are foundation members with the club since the beginning. Each foundation member received a certificate to acknowledge their tenure.

### **How to get members to attend an AGM? – throw a party with a cake!**

It was also a celebration as four of those foundation members were made life members; the first for the club. Each of the life members have contributed to the club since the beginning and are still actively involved with the running of the club and its many activity groups. Life members were Bob and Sue Locke and John and Annie Clark.





## Speaker Removal

Please remove Phillip Skelton from the Speakers List. Topic "Antarctica"

### STRENGTHENING OUR PROBUS COMMUNITY: Tips to Boost Club Membership



As a thriving Probus club, our strength lies in our community—a network of friends united by fellowship and shared interests. To ensure our club continues to flourish and welcome new faces, we can all play a role in encouraging membership growth. Here are some ideas to inspire us:

1. **Spread the Word:** Share your positive experiences with friends, family, and acquaintances who might be curious about Probus. A personal invitation can make all the difference.
2. **Utilize social media:** Promote your club's activities and achievements on platforms like Facebook or Instagram. Showcase the exciting events, inspiring speakers, and camaraderie that define your Probus community.
3. **Bring Guests:** Invite someone you know to attend a meeting or activity. Sometimes seeing the club in action is the best way to spark interest and engagement.
4. **Enhance Visibility:** Collaborate with local businesses and organizations to promote the club. Place flyers in community centres or write articles for local newspapers to highlight your club's presence.
5. **Create a Welcoming Atmosphere:** A friendly and inclusive environment leaves a lasting impression. Encourage members to actively engage with newcomers to make them feel at home.

**Together, we can ensure our Probus club continues to be a hub of friendship, inspiration, and joy.**

**Let's celebrate our shared mission by welcoming others into the fold.**

### USING THE PROBUS HANDBOOK

***By now all clubs will have received the brand new pink Probus Club Handbook. The purpose of the book as it states on the front cover is to provide Helpful Hints for Management Committees.***

This Probus Club Handbook is provided to Management Committees to assist with best practice management and good governance. While the Handbook contains a great deal of very useful information it also offers flexibility, allowing clubs to adapt the guidelines to suit their unique circumstances and member preferences. It provides a framework for decision-making, governance, and organising club activities, empowering clubs to make informed choices that align with their specific needs and goals.

By viewing the Handbook as a set of guidelines, rather than strict rules, clubs can benefit from its wealth of knowledge while still retaining their individuality and autonomy. It is essential for clubs to remember that the Handbook is a tool to enhance their operations and create a positive member experience, not a rulebook which must be adhered to.

The Handbook provides Management Committees with examples of best practice and, as such, is a valuable resource in helping Probus Clubs to thrive and evolve in ways that best serve the interests of their members.

## Probus Club of Mandurah Peel. The Great Scone (thong) race.

Looking for something different for members to do during a sundowner?? May I suggest a race with a difference? I'm the Outings & Activity Officer for the Probus Club of Mandurah Peel. The above photo shows me humbly receiving the inaugural trophy for a new game introduced by Toni, at our recent sundowner.

This new game involved "pulling" an item, tied to a piece of string, carefully winding it up on a spindle over a set distance. Participants compete against each other and the one who completes the task quickest, is the winner.



Toni hails from England and has retained her pommie accent, so when she told me about this new game that her family had enjoyed playing on Christmas Day, I thought it involved tying a piece of string around a scone and carefully pulling or sliding it along without breaking it.

In the days leading up to our sundowner, I sent a text to Toni about how many and what type and size of "scones" would be required on the day.

Toni just assumed that I was making enough scones to feed everyone afternoon tea & although she was a bit surprised that I would be making a couple of dozen a week before the Sundowner so they would "harden up", replied that she had everything in hand, and I didn't need to bring anything for the game.

I was a bit surprised when I arrived at the Sundowner and was handed 4 thongs, attached to a wooden spindle by a piece of string, but just assumed that Toni had been too busy to bake and had substituted thongs for scones. I explained to the eager participants that while we would be using thongs today, at our next Sundowner we would be playing with a far more fragile item that would really test their skill and pulling and winding!

Needless to say, I'd obviously misheard the name of the object used in this new game that involved winding in a thong, not a scone! Toni's husband, Steve thought the experience worthy enough to deserve a cleverly designed trophy, involving both a thong and a varnish dipped scone, now gracing my mantelpiece.



**If you would like more information about games you can play to liven up a Sundowner, please feel free to contact me.**

**gmitcham53@gmail.com**

**Gaylia Mitcham, Secretary, Probus Club of Mandurah Peel.**



# Classic Cairns & Atherton Tablelands

9 Days > 21 June to 29 June 2025

Tropical North Queensland is the perfect destination for a winter escape. Immerse yourself in the verdant green land of the Atherton Tablelands where rolling mountains, untouched rainforests, picturesque tranquil lakes, delicious tropical produce and jaw-dropping natural beauty await you.

**\$5,315** pptw  
\$895 single option



## Highlights

- Yungaburra Memorial Park  
Step back in time at Historic Village Herberton  
A unique wildlife experience at the Bat Hospital  
Discover natural crystals and prehistoric fossils at the Crystal Caves  
Indulge in cheese & chocolate at Gallo-Dairyland  
Immerse yourself at Millaa Millaa Falls  
Lake Barrine – tearooms and cruise  
Tropical paradise awaits you at Cairns  
Botanic Gardens  
Explore the underwater life at Cairns Aquarium

Cairns Museum & Cairns Art Gallery  
Spectacular Kuranda Railway & Skyrail  
Explore Kuranda, the village in a rainforest  
Unwind with a Cairns dinner cruise

## Inclusions

Pre/post transfers (ex Perth, Western Australia)  
Airfares and taxes (ex Perth, Western Australia)  
18 meals – 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 8 dinners  
8 nights' accommodation  
Tours and attractions  
Professional Villa Tour Leader

## 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](http://villa.com.au) or ask us to send them when you call.

1800 066 272

travel@villa.com.au

[villa.com.au](http://villa.com.au)

@VillaCarlottaTravel





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Speakers List, Outings List**  
Sue Harwood

# 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](mailto:pawasecretary@gmail.com)**

***The PAWA Committee meets at the  
Melville Recreation Centre, Cnr  
Stock Rd and Canning Highway  
Melville.***

***1st or 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every  
second month***

***PAWA also meets via Zoom.***

*The Committee met in Melville on  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.  
Next meeting on 1st May will be a  
zoom meeting.*

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

**Facebook:**  
***The Probud Association of  
Western Australia***

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