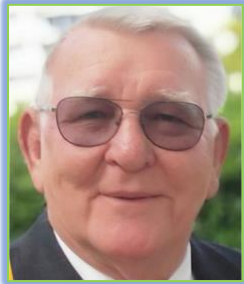




NEWS & NOTES

THE VOICE OF PROBUS IN THE WEST

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST 2025 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES



As many of you will be aware, PSPL is very keen to establish new Probud Clubs in Western Australia, drawing on successful techniques already implemented in the eastern states.

PAWA has agreed to work alongside PSPL in this initiative.

Four areas have been identified as possible locations for new Clubs – Armadale, Wanneroo, Mt Hawthorn/Mt Lawley/Girrawheen/Ballajura, and, more recently, Cockburn. Consultation has already taken place with Clubs potentially affected by the first three locations, ensuring that local concerns and ideas are heard and considered.

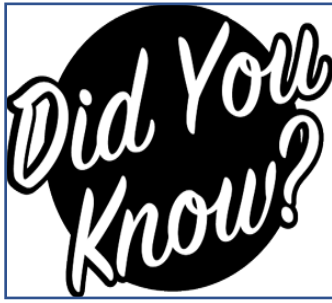
Across WA, many Clubs continue to face challenges in attracting new members. Successful Clubs are often distinguished by the range of regular activities they offer and the frequency of their outings. Management Committees may wish to explore members shared interests and build programmes around them. Developing relationships with other non-Probud activity groups could also broaden the appeal of the Club to prospective members. As to outings, these do not need to be extravagant events, regular coffee sessions or lunches, visits to other Clubs, sharing outings with other nearby Clubs offer variety to Club members. Perhaps even consider alternatives to the monthly guest speakers and have trivia, bingo or games sessions – again for variety. Complacency is our enemy!

Looking ahead, we remind Clubs that the 2025 South West Get Together will be hosted by the Mandurah Peel Probud Club in October, with registration details already sent to Clubs. Our annual Pasta in the Valley event will also be held at the end of October, and information has likewise been distributed.

PAWA also wishes to advise that our hardworking Secretary, Pauline, has retired after 2–3 years of dedicated service, often continuing her duties despite personal and health challenges. We extend our heartfelt thanks and will greatly miss her contribution. Sadly, Pauline's departure marks our third loss this year, following the resignations of Helen Hardy, our long-serving Treasurer, and Committee member Anne Schnell – both of whom stepped down due to other commitments.

Finally, a reminder that PAWA and PSPL are separate organisations – PAWA is WA-based, while PSPL is headquartered in NSW – and information sharing between the two is minimal.

Ralph Sirmulis, President.



Probus came to Western Australia when then President of Rotary District 946, initiated action which saw the beginning of Probus in Western Australia in 1982. Thornlie Probus Club was the first in March 1982 closely followed by the Fremantle Probus Club in May 1982. The Probus Club of Floreat was first Club north of the Swan River and the sixth Club formed in W.A. The first Ladies Probus Club was formed in Albany in January 1985. Although not recognised as a combined club until some years later, the Probus Club of Mundaring formed in June 1984. The first Probus Club, actually formed as a combined Club was the Probus Club of Carine/Duncraig in 1988.

In 1984 the then Rotary District 946 President initiated action to form an Association of all Probus Clubs in WA. The reason behind this was due to the remoteness of Western Australian Clubs from the Probus Centre in Sydney.

In May 1984 representatives of all nineteen Probus Clubs, accredited in WA attended a meeting hosted by the Probus Club of Floreat. The meeting resolved that the Probus Association of Western Australia (PAWA) be formed and that a committee be formed.

PAWA became the first State Association in Australia. From the outset, it was made clear that PAWA was formed to co-ordinate, advise and to supply information relative to the official Probus Policy. Under no circumstances would PAWA dictate to Clubs or in any way interfere with the day to day running of the member Clubs. A meeting was held with the officials of the Probus Centre - South Pacific in Sydney where the rationale that led to the formation of PAWA was explained. PAWA was to be a service centre for W.A Clubs.

PAWA SECRETARY PAULINE STANDS DOWN

Sadly, we advise that Pauline Dunning, the Secretary of PAWA, is standing down from the role that she has filled diligently for the last few years.

Personal and health issues have reached the stage where she needs to shed the PAWA load. Our thanks for her great efforts and we wish her well.

Her role as Secretary will be filled by Margaret Collins from the Belmont Districts Probus Club. Margaret brings a lot of experience to the role.

Help Shape the Future of the WA Probus Community



PAWA is always looking for enthusiastic and motivated Probians to join the PAWA Committee and help support our WA Probus family of Clubs.

You will have the opportunity to visit Clubs, learn of their issues/concerns, formulate plans to assist them grow and prosper and actively participate in our Building Better Clubs Workshops.

We are all volunteers nominated by our Clubs. Each Club can have two members on the PAWA Committee but only one has voting rights. We meet monthly with one month being face to face and the next month being via Zoom.

Contact President Ralph PAWAPresident@gmail.com or 0417 201 867

SHARE YOUR FUN, FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS



PAWA wants to hear about the events, activities special occasions that our WA family of Probus Clubs undertake to brighten the lives of our members.

We would like to promote what Probus is all about through our PAWA Facebook page.

So please send us photos and comments which we would post so that the community knows all about us.

One thing - please ensure that the people in your photo look as though they are having FUN and add some words about the event and where you are. Send to Carol Houtt carolhoutt22@gmail.com

ABOUT WA COMPANION CARD

The Companion Card Program supports Western Australians with a significant and permanent disability who require attendant care support to participate at community venues and events. Companion Card WA is funded by the Western Australian Government through the Department of Communities and administered by National Disability Services.

Companion Cardholders show their card when booking or purchasing a ticket from a **participating** business, called an Affiliate. Affiliates will recognize the Companion Card and issue the cardholder with a second ticket for their companion at no charge.

Affiliates are places that take Companion Cards. Not all places take Companion Cards. There are many affiliates in Australia like:

- Buses and trains
- Cinemas
- Perth Zoo
- Concerts
- Stadiums

In Australia, clubs are not legally mandated to honour companion cards, but are strongly encouraged to do so.

A Companion (or Carer) can be classified by a Club as a non-active member and would therefore not be included in the Club's member count. PSPL capitation fees are not payable for non-active members.

Whether or not a Club wishes to charge non-active members a reduced subscription for receipt of newsletters and/or any other information, is a matter for the Club.

All participants in an approved Probus activity, including carers, are covered under the National Insurance Program, subject to the terms and conditions of the relevant policies;

It is a matter for each club to determine what fees, if any, they charge a Carer and their level of participation. PSPL does not charge capitation fees for Carers.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR OUTINGS/ACTIVITIES

Many Clubs are confused about the documentation required in relation to members attending outings and activities and this confusion is engendered by the perception that insurance coverage is the reason.

There is no specific rule in either the National Insurance Program document or any PSPL documentation that defines what documentation is required for members attending an Outing/Activity.

The only mention of a need for a record is in the PSPL Risk Management Policy Guidelines and succinctly states:

There should be a record of all participants - a tick against an attendee's name is sufficient for insurance purposes.

Clubs should note that this means those who actually attend and not those who put their name down to attend and paid their fee beforehand. This list needs to be retained by the Club Secretary.

The PSPL Probus Club Handbook recommends the use of the *Registration Form for Outings, Activities and Tours* (available for download from the PSPL website) for visitors and non-members of a Club. Again, this is a recommendation only.

This Form has been adopted by a number of Clubs to encompass all members, visitors and non-members and differing versions are used within a number of Clubs across the country.

That is their decision but it has no bearing on Insurance but can add a burden on the duties of the Outings Officer.

A. RISK ASSESSMENT

PSPL clearly states, in the Risk Management Policy Guidelines, that it is not mandatory for a Club to have a Risk Management Policy.

The documents provide a suggestion as "matters that should be considered" when a Club is planning and outing or activity. Some Clubs take this to the nth degree and often physically investigate the venue beforehand.

The PSPL Probus Club Handbook states:

".... Clubs and Associations should take all reasonable steps to protect the health and welfare of their members/visitors at any Probud organised, managed or sponsored activity. These activities include any event organised by a Club or Association such as meetings, outings, tours, trips and interest groups."

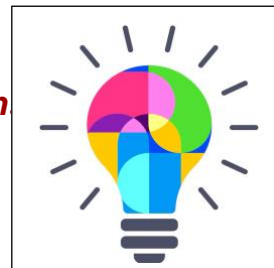
"Risk management does not have to be an onerous task."

It should suffice for an Outings Officer to obtain information from the venue itself as to issues that may affect Club members visiting the venue. Such issues should be communicated to members, before they register their interest in participating, so that they are aware of site issues that may affect their mobility of health in any way.

Tips to maintain interest and tips to attract new members.

Engaging and including the members requires a thoughtful and intentional approach that considers their unique needs, interests, and abilities. Here are some tips to help you create a welcoming and engaging environment.

- **Create opportunities for social interaction.**
- **Be sensitive to physical limitations.**
- **Provide opportunities for learning and personal growth**
- **Listen to their ideas and feedback.**
- **Celebrate milestones and achievements.**
- **Make sure that you do not lose the fun factor.**



By creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, less focus on rules and business, less complexity in Committee roles, providing opportunities for social interaction and personal growth, and celebrating member achievements, you can help your Club thrive and attract new members.

- **Word of mouth has proved to be one of the best ways.**
- **Some clubs ask members to a “bring a friend day.”**
- **Advertise in your local paper and local government community diary.**
- **Ask your GP if you can put a flyer in the surgery.**
- **Community notice boards.**
- **Plan an open day with a great speaker.**

SPEAKER UPDATES

ALEX CAMPBELL - the author of “Of Sheep and Other Things”, a 70-year-old story of farming in Australia and “The Old Woolshed,” has withdrawn from speaking at Probus Clubs and has been thanked for his contribution in the past.

GEOFFREY THOMAS Change of contact details.

Geoffrey is a world-renowned multi award winning author and commentator who has a holistic view of the aviation industry. He is the ‘go to’ person on all matters related to aviation.

New email address: geoff@geoffreythomas.com.au

Ph: 0417 936 610

NICHOLA BROWNING, StrokeSafe New Community Engagement Coordinator.

Ph: 6558 2502 Email: nbrowning@strokefoundation.org.au

Requesting a StrokeSafe speaker is easy.... Please submit an online request form.

Once completed, we will get back to you to confirm.

Alternatively, you may email: StrokeSafe@strokefoundation.org.au

SOUTH WEST GET TOGETHER 2025

Monday 13 October 2025

Mandurah Off Shore Fishing Club

Hosted by The Probus Club of Mandurah Peel Inc

8:30 am Arrival Tea and Coffee

9:00 Welcome and Housekeeping

Brian Hoult - President Probus Club of Mandurah Peel Inc

Official Opening - Mr Ralph Sirmulis – President PAWA

Guest Speaker - Mayor Caroline Knight

“What our city’s future looks like”

10:00 Morning Tea

10:45 Guest Speaker - Dr Krista Nicholson

Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems, Murdoch University

“Mandurah Dolphins”

12.00 Lunch

1:30pm Afternoon Activities commence

Pirate Boat - assemble on the outside deck for boarding

1:45 **“Big Toot”** - assembly at the front of the venue for boarding

1:45 **Dancing Dolphin Boat Cruise** - assemble on the outside deck for boarding

2:00 Bogan Bingo – to be conducted in the venue

2:45 Announcement of the 2026 host club.

3:00 Closing – Mandurah Peel President

3:00 – 5:00 Venue and Bar are available for socialising



Judy Prosser

RioTinto

**VISIT
MANDURAH**

villa

KALGOORLIE GOLDEN GETAWAY



Nine members of the Probus Club of Eaton joined a Villa Tours excursion to Kalgoorlie. Being country people, our tour began on Sunday 27/4/25 when we were picked up and bused to Perth for a night in a motel so that we could catch the Prospector train at 7:00am the next morning. This is a wonderful train journey and once in Kalgoorlie we were kept extremely busy. We saw massive open pits – the Super Pit and the Gwalia mine. We even donned protective gear and went a small way into the Super Pit. We did see real gold, even if it was in the vault of the Boulder Museum. We visited a number of museums that outlined the lifestyle of the early prospectors. We had lunch on the verandah of the house once occupied by Herbert Hoover (former US President) when he was mine manager at the Sons of Gwalia mine. We visited some rescued camels that were happy for us to feel them and give them a cuddle. We had instruction in how to play Two-up and we could have a beer in an outback pub (Kookynie) if we so desired. After four action packed days, we headed back to Perth, again on the Prospector train. Definitely a tour worth going on.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY.



"The WA Booragoon Men's Club planned to have Christmas in July event.

It eventually became a rather unorthodox, but very successful version of such.

On 30th July, 30 members and partners enjoyed a lunch at The Kardinya Tavern.

The difference was, that the attendees selected and paid for their individual preferences from the excellent standard 'Kardi's' menu.

It provided a terrific opportunity for newer and longer-term members and partners to socialise.

Mel Austin



FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2025

Open invitation from PAWA to WA Probus Clubs
to celebrate fun, friendship, fellowship and food.

Pasta in the Valley Restaurant
2931 West Swan Road, Caversham

Information has been sent to Club Secretaries.
Contact: Michael Macpherson
Pawatreasurer01@gmail.com

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO CLUBS CELEBRATING IN AUGUST

Dianella Districts Combined Probus Club Inc.	19 years
The Probus Club of Booragoon Inc	35 years
South Perth Ladies Probus Club	37 years
Floreat Ladies Probus Club Inc.	38 years
Bunbury Probus Club Inc	43 years



Updated email: DAVID HUNT. David.Hunt@emeriti.uwa.edu.au Ph 0416 236 109

Emeritus Professor, Lions Institute & School of Biological Science

David is still involved in the development of a gene therapy cure for blindness at the Lions Eye Institute. He has 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 blind disorders in humans."

David is a member of the Probus Club of Mandurah Peel.

Talks: Colour Vision, facts and fallacies.

OR Royal Maladies: The medical malady of King George 111.

Discovery Thredbo & Alpine Walks

villa
discovery

\$4,925 pptw
1795 single option

6 Days | 3 to 8 November 2025

Experience Australia's highest mountains including a visit to the summit of the famous Mount Kosciuszko. Visit Blue Lake and the headwaters of the Snowy River. Explore the Snowy Mountains with guided walks of Thredbo and Charlotte Pass. Tour Canberra and visit the Thredbo Alpine Museum. Enjoy a relaxing massage, wine tasting and a world class lunch at Wild Brumby Distillery. This journey blends natural beauty, outdoor adventure, and cultural discovery for the ultimate alpine escape.

Highlights

- Canberra walking tour
- Cooma exploration
- Thredbo to Kosciuszko hike
- Charlotte Pass to Blue Lake
- Thredbo Alpine Museum
- Relaxing massage
- Shut the Gate wine tasting
- Kosciuszko National Park
- Kosciuszko Chairlift ride
- Thredbo Village experience
- Wild Brumby distillery

Inclusions



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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 Margaret
Collins for an invitation to attend.***

pawasecretary@gmail.com

***The PAWA Committee meets at
the Melville Recreation Centre,
Cnr Stock Rd and Canning
Highway Melville, 1st or 2nd
Thursday of every second month***

PAWA also meets via Zoom.

***August meeting held at the Melville
Recreation Centre
Thursday August 14th***

Website:
probuswa.org.au

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

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