



NEWS & NOTES

THE VOICE OF PROBUS IN THE WEST

WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER 2025 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES



As we come to the close of another Probud year, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been both a challenging and encouraging period for many Western Australian Clubs. A number of Clubs have worked hard to come to grips with the new Probud Club Constitution and its accompanying Standing Resolutions, as well as addressing various management and organisational issues. I commend every Club Committee for their perseverance, adaptability, and continued commitment to providing fellowship and enjoyment for their members.

Despite these challenges, there have been positive achievements. In collaboration with PSPL, we were pleased to see the establishment of two new Clubs (Armada and Wanneroo). This is an encouraging sign of community interest in Probud. We fully intend that, with continued coordinated effort with PSPL, initiatives for more new Clubs will emerge in the coming year. Regrettably, there are Clubs that have closed and others that are struggling, particularly in forming Management Committees. We also hope to leverage the “new club” process to assist struggling Clubs with membership.

Recent multi-club events, including the South West Get Together and Pasta in the Valley, were great successes - with the latter needing some tweaking. These gatherings provided wonderful opportunities for members from across the State to meet, share experiences, and strengthen the bonds within our WA Probud family. Looking ahead, the Pinjarra Harness Races in February promise yet another enjoyable occasion to connect with fellow Probudians and celebrate the spirit of fellowship.

Throughout the year, PAWA Committee members have visited many Clubs, gaining valuable insights into how Clubs are faring and what issues we may need to address going into 2026. One matter that many Clubs do not fully appreciate is the distinction between PAWA and PSPL. They are separate and independent organisations that collaborate closely to support WA Probud Clubs. PAWA was established in 1984 by the WA Clubs themselves to represent their interests and to provide local support, education and guidance. This is why each WA Club is entitled, and encouraged, to have representation on the PAWA Committee.

Since our reinvigoration five years ago, I believe, and many Clubs have endorsed, that PAWA has made strong progress in supporting Clubs. However, like any organisation, we must periodically assess how effectively we are meeting your expectations. PAWA is now undertaking a self-assessment to identify how we can better serve you, our stakeholders, and we will be seeking your input as part of this important process.

To continue fulfilling our role effectively, we do need more enthusiastic members to join the PAWA Committee. Your experience, insight, and energy are invaluable and essential.

Finally, I extend my warmest wishes to all members of the WA Probud family for a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Ralph Sirmulis, President



JOIN THE PAWA COMMITTEE

Western Australian Probus Clubs have always taken pride in shaping their own destiny, and one of the most powerful ways to continue that legacy is by having strong, active representation on the PAWA Committee. While PAWA and PSPL work together to uphold the Probus ethos, they are separate and independent organisations. PSPL sets the overall policy framework for Probus across Australia and New Zealand, but PAWA—created in 1984 by WA Clubs—exists *exclusively* to represent Western Australian interests and to provide the local support, advice, guidance, and policy interpretation that our Clubs rely on.

Accredited by PSPL, PAWA plays a vital role in ensuring Probus in WA remains vibrant, relevant, and true to its principles of friendship, fellowship, and fun. But PAWA can only be as strong as the Clubs behind it—and that's where you come in. Every WA Probus Club is entitled to nominate two members to the PAWA Committee, with one member holding full voting rights. This means every Club has a direct opportunity to influence the direction of Probus in WA, contribute ideas, raise concerns, and ensure that local voices shape local outcomes.

The PAWA Executive (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) is elected each year by WA Clubs at the AGM, meaning leadership is truly chosen *by you and for you*. This is your organisation, and your involvement ensures it remains responsive, inclusive, and forward-looking.

To continue growing, improving, and supporting Clubs across the State, PAWA needs more representatives from WA Clubs. By joining the Committee, and perhaps nominating for an Executive role, you bring fresh thinking, passion, and valuable experience to a volunteer team committed to strengthening our WA Probus family.

It's a rewarding journey—you'll connect with like-minded Probians, learn how Clubs operate behind the scenes, help solve real issues, and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you're helping our community thrive.

Step forward, get involved, and make a difference.

Your contribution will help Probus in WA shine even brighter.



PAWA publishes a Directory of all WA Clubs, their meeting information and the contact details for their key Management Committee Officers. However, unless you let PAWA know of any changes, we cannot include that information.

Please note that what you send to PSPL is not shared with PAWA.



Monday 23rd February 2026



INVITATION

to WA Probuss Clubs



PINJARRA PACEWAY

11am (first race at 1230)

Cost is \$35 per person

Includes:

- **Race booklet for guests**
- **Roast of the day**
- **Dessert of the day**
- **Drink voucher**
- **Mystery bet voucher**



The changes to the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* offer Probud Clubs in Western Australia increased flexibility and modern governance options. ***They are not mandatory overhauls but rather opportunities for clubs to update their operations to match contemporary practices.***

Here is how these changes specifically affect WA Probud Clubs:

- **Increased Flexibility for Meetings:**

- Probud clubs can now leverage technology to hold meetings (e.g., via Zoom) and allow members to vote remotely, which is particularly beneficial for members who may be less mobile or live in remote areas.
- Clubs do not need to amend their rules to use technology for meetings, provided their current rules (Standing Resolutions) do not explicitly *forbid* it. They only need to ensure their members can effectively participate in the meeting if they choose the technology option.

- **Governance and Compliance:**

- Clubs must ensure their rules identify the specific officer or member responsible for lodging documents with Consumer Protection, such as annual statements and changes to office holders. This person is typically the Secretary or Treasurer and defined in the Standing Resolutions.
- The increased power of the Commissioner to cancel an association's incorporation more quickly may prompt clubs to be more diligent in meeting their annual reporting obligations to maintain their incorporated status.

- **Financial Management:**

- While many Probud clubs do not require an audit due to their size and income, those that do now have the option to appoint an auditor or reviewer for a fixed term (2-5 years), providing certainty and regular review of the appointment.

- **Member Relations:**

- The improved appeal rights for expelled members could require clubs to ensure their expulsion processes are fair and well-documented, as members have clearer access to appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) if they feel unjustly treated.

In essence, the amendments provide Probus clubs with modern tools to operate more efficiently and flexibly while ensuring robust compliance and accountability measures are maintained. Clubs may wish to review their existing rules to see how they can best take advantage of these new options.

For WA Probus Clubs, which are typically incorporated associations, the recent amendments offer greater operational flexibility and modern governance options. The key changes allow clubs to adapt their practices to better suit the needs of their members.

The most significant impacts are:

- **Flexible Meetings:** Clubs can now easily hold meetings and votes using technology (like video calls), which can boost participation for members who find it difficult to attend in person, especially those in regional areas or with mobility challenges. This is the new default position, so clubs can use this unless their rules state otherwise.
- **Adaptable Auditor Appointments:** Clubs have the option to appoint an auditor or reviewer for a set term of 2 to 5 years, which can help in managing governance and administrative processes efficiently.
- **Clearer Rules on Personal Information:** Upcoming changes will allow members to request that their personal details on the member register be restricted in certain circumstances (e.g., for safety reasons). If this happens, the club secretary will still be responsible for passing on relevant club information to that member.
- **Guidance and Compliance:** PSPL already provides a handbook as guidance to clubs on best practices for management and governance, and these new legislative changes fit within that framework, offering flexibility rather than rigid rules. Clubs should review their current Constitutions and Standing Resolutions to ensure they align with the new Act, especially if they wish to *opt out* of the technology-enabled meeting provisions.

Birthday Celebrations

Probus Club of Dawesville Inc

10 years

Combined Probus Club of Scarborough Beach Inc

16 years

Probus Club of Margaret River Inc

31 years

Kalamunda Ladies Probus Club Inc

37 years

Probus Club of City Beach WA Inc

39 years



PLANNING YOUR AGM

As the year draws to a close, it is timely to be thinking about your club's AGM.

The AGM must be held on or before 31 March and is therefore the last meeting of the Probus year. There are a number of steps that need to occur before this date including notice of the meeting, the agenda and perhaps proxy voting forms.

Now is a good time to make your members aware that all Management Committee positions are declared vacant at the AGM and nominees will be elected at the meeting itself. This gives plenty of time for interested parties to discover what each role entails and make an informed decision before nominating for any position.

It is a good idea to mention to the members who the best people are to approach for information about specific positions. By doing this, hopefully, you can demystify what is involved in each role and encourage members to apply. Job descriptions can be provided by the current Management Committee members.

Given the date of the AGM, nominations are usually called for at the General Meeting prior to the February General Meeting and should be lodged with the Secretary by the February General Meeting. However, if there are positions remaining vacant by the time of the AGM, nominations can be accepted from the floor. Nominations are usually proposed and seconded by two financial Club members.

Proxy Votes:

If a member is unable to attend a meeting, they may wish to provide a proxy vote. The Recommended Constitution provides that proxies are accepted by the Secretary up to 48 hours prior to the meeting. The club needs to consider how many Proxies a member can hold.

Note: Honorary and non-active members do not count for a quorum.



AGM

Annual General Meeting

Friday 27th March 2026

\$10 per attendee
Morning tea included



tompkins

632 Canning Hwy,
Alfred Cove WA 6154

The September Serpentine Historic Tour

It was an early start to the day for the two-hour bus trip to get to the Serpentine historic school by 10am. Thanks to driver Peter everyone arrived safely to our hosts, the Serpentine Historical Society. After viewing the school house, and reminiscing of our childhood experiences we were served a magnificent morning tea mostly cooked or prepared by the members. What a treat!

Trevor, our guide, hopped onto the bus with us and gave a guided tour and commentary of its historical significance. We landed at the tractor museum which has a quite extensive collection. The bus took the scenic view to Serpentine Dam Cafe where we all enjoyed a meal with a view. The bus continued to the Falls before continuing the journey home. This was a great outing and the bus was full. Many thanks to Peter, our driver and the Historical Society of Serpentine and Trevor our guide.

Cottesloe Ladies Probus Club Inc.



**L to R: Nancy York, Audrey Thornton and Wendy Cowell. (90 years)
(Missing Margaret Richardson.)**



Above: Cottesloe Probus Club ladies and friends at Bentley TAFE for lunch.

**Please note: Jane Williams: is the new Liaison Officer at
Cottesloe Ladies Probus Club.**

Jane's Email: popsie99@icloud.com

Phone: 0400 957 088

Pasta in the Valley attracted 298 bookings for Probus members. Feedback on the day from members was very positive, and the PAWA committee were thanked for their organisation. Missing perhaps was the accordionist!

WINNERS OF THE LUCKY SEAT PRIZE

Maxine Harris.



Pauline Dunning



lotia Noorea



Leeming Combined



Rossmoyne Ladies



Mandurah Peel



Fremantle Combined



PROBUS MONTH CELEBRATION

To celebrate Probus Month, the **Subiaco and City Beach clubs** joined forces for the October meeting.



Over 60 members and visitors enjoyed a brief address by the Mayor of Subiaco followed by short reports from each Club President and a raffle. A sumptuous morning tea with cakes and sandwiches was provided by members. The meeting concluded with an excellent speaker. Many new friends and contacts were made. A great time of Fellowship was had by all!

WILLETTON LADIES PROBUS CLUB Inc



At our General Meeting on 9th October, held during Probus month, we had the pleasure inducting nine ladies into the Willetton Ladies Probus Club Inc.

Left to right:
Robin Pattullo, Julie McGuiness, Pat Mueller, Vicky Gardiner, Sheila Kennedy Dearlove, Lee Henry, Marie Barley, Shirley Dearlove.

NEW CONSTITUTION

Once a Club has the support of its membership to adopt the new Constitution, it must lodge the document with DLGIRS (Department of Local Government, Industrial Relations and Safety) along with a lodgement fee of \$40 and a Form05.

Note that DLGIRS identifies that there are two types of Constitutions from Incorporated bodies. The first is the “model” Constitution which follows the DLGIRS template.

The second is a “custom” Constitution which does not follow the DLGIRS template. Both the current and previous PSPL Probus Club Constitutions are considered to be “custom.”

The DLGIRS Form05 was provided by PSPL for all clubs. It is essentially a checklist of the 19 points that any incorporated bodies’ Constitution must address in order to conform with the WA Associations Act. Only after receiving formal endorsement from DLGIRS can the new Constitution be officially adopted by the Club.

Standing Resolutions, on the other hand, require only Club membership approval and **do not** need to be lodged or externally endorsed.

Clubs should NOT be changing the Constitution from that provided by PSPL without PSPL endorsement - except for the start/end date of year, the official name of the Club and the footer.

NEW SPEAKERS

Trevor Quick Meningitis Centre Australia. 0450 925 514. E: trevorq@meningitis.org.au

Trevor is the Outreach Officer at Meningitis Centre Australia. His role involves getting out within the community and talking with people about the dangers of **Meningitis**.

His 25–30-minute presentations pass on vital information such as what is Meningitis, what it can do, who is at risk, and how to keep safe. If you think this topic would be of interest to your Probus networks then please email him on the above address.

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Dr Rhys Clark

Dr Rhys Clark, Orthopaedic surgeon, has a power point presentation of knee and hip replacements with robotics. According to Vicki Clarkson, from Mandurah Peel Probus Club, he was fascinating, with explanations of procedures and arthritis.

rhysclark@rhysclark.com.au

UPDATES

Don Gordon. M.Eng., FAusIMM, FAIM

Mobile: 0421 282 473

“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.

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. 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.



Margaret River

Food & Wine

4 Days > 10 to 13 February 2026

A delectable journey through the world-renowned Margaret River region, where fine wine, gourmet indulgence and stunning scenery blend to create a truly mouth-watering escape. From boutique coffee roasters and artisan chocolatiers, distilleries, wineries and pottery studios, this four-day holiday is a feast for the senses!

\$1,540 pptw
 †260 single option



Highlights

- Flaky croissants and delicate French pastries at Café Cherie, Pinjarra
- Award-winning oils in a tranquil bushland setting at Olio Bello
- Sparkling fruit wines, delicious preserves and charming gardens at The Berry Farm
- Handcrafted delights from the iconic Margaret River Chocolate Company
- Bold flavours and small-batch liqueurs at The Grove Distillery
- Guided coffee tasting at Yahava KoffeeWorks
- Sweet fudge and nougat fun at the famous Candy Cow in Cowaramup
- Lunch and wine tasting at the cosy, character-filled Woody Nook Winery
- A creative hands-on experience at Happs Pottery

Inclusions

- Pre/post tour transfers (ex Perth, WA)
- 8 meals
- 3 nights' accommodation
- Tours & attractions
- Professional Villa Tour Leader



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

T&Cs: 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 T&Cs can be found on villa.com.au or ask us to send them when you call.

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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 meet at
the Melville Recreation Centre,
Cnr Stock Rd and Canning
Highway Melville.***

***PAWA met via Zoom on 13th
November.***

*Next meeting will be at the Melville
Rec Centre on Thursday
January 8th 2026*

Website:
probuswa.org.au

Facebook:
*Probud Association of
Western Australia*

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