



NEWS & NOTES

THE VOICE OF PROBUS IN THE WEST

WELCOME TO THE JANUARY 2026 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES



Let us start the New Year with a positive and confident outlook for our WA Probus family. Yes, there are challenges ahead, but with a little goodwill, common sense, and shared effort, these challenges can be successfully overcome. Probus has always thrived on the willingness of members to contribute, and that spirit remains our greatest strength.

At this time of year, many Clubs are focused on finding enthusiastic members to join their Management Committees and help shape the future of their Club. It is important to remember that these roles are not onerous. After all, we are running a seniors' social club—not BHP. Committee positions should never be seen as complex, intimidating, or overly rules-bound. Keeping things simple, practical, and relaxed is the key to encouraging more members to step forward and have a go.

To support Clubs in this area, PAWA will again be holding its Building Better Clubs Workshops during the year. These sessions are valuable not only for Management Committee members but for all Club members who want to better understand how their Club operates and how they can contribute in a meaningful way. Knowledge builds confidence, and confidence builds participation.

As always, Clubs are also looking for new members—and PAWA is no different. People join Probus Clubs because they offer fun, friendship, fellowship (and food). Word of mouth remains the most effective form of promotion, supported by being visible in the community through outings and activities. When people see the Probus name in action, they often think, "That looks interesting."

Looking ahead, PAWA, together with PSPL, has plans to assist our WA Probus family with membership drives over the next three to ten months. We will also be working collaboratively on establishing new Clubs, ensuring that Probus in Western Australia continues to grow, adapt, and prosper in the years ahead.

I would also like to remind you that the PAWA AGM will be held at the end of March and we encourage your Club to send delegates. You will have the opportunity to hear and comment on some of the initiatives being considered by PAWA for this coming year.

Ralph Sirmulis, President

JANUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Hollywood Kings Park Probus Inc	7 years
Ellenbrook Combined Probus Club Inc	19 years
The Probus Club of Kingsley Inc	37 years
Albany Ladies Probus Club Inc	41 years
Probus Club of Karrinyup & North Beach WA (Inc)	42 years



PAWA COMMITTEE NEEDS MORE MEMBERS



The Probus Association of Western Australia (PAWA) plays an important and enduring role in representing, supporting and advising Probus Clubs within Western Australia. For more than 41 years, PAWA has acted on behalf of WA Clubs, providing guidance, sharing information and advocating for the interests of our Probus community so that Clubs can focus on friendship, fellowship and fun.

PAWA's effectiveness depends entirely on the active involvement of volunteers from our Clubs. Each WA Probus Club is entitled to have up to **two members** on the PAWA Committee, ensuring broad representation and a genuine voice for Clubs across the State. This structure allows ideas, concerns and experiences from individual Clubs to be shared and addressed for the benefit of the whole WA Probus family.

Committee roles are voluntary and collaborative. They are not about titles or status, but about contributing time, experience and ideas to help ensure that Probus in WA continues to thrive. Serving on the Committee offers an opportunity to give back, broaden networks and play a part in shaping the future direction of Probus in our State.

However, PAWA faces a serious challenge. Without additional Committee members, the Association will more than likely be forced to fold after 41 years of service. This would leave WA Probus Clubs without a state-based body dedicated to representing their interests.

We therefore ask Clubs and individual members to consider giving a little of their time and ideas for the benefit of the WA Probus family. Your involvement can make a real difference and help ensure PAWA continues to serve WA Probus Clubs well into the future.

***We work as a team so come and join our team.
For more information, please contact President Ralph 0417 201 867***



AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 27th March 2026

\$10 per attendee
Morning tea included



tompkins

632 Canning Hwy,
Alfred Cove WA 6154

Details and registration forms will be sent out to Club Presidents and Secretaries within the next fortnight.

CURRENT NOMINATIONS FOR PAWA COMMITTEE 2026/27

As of January 2026, the following nominations have been received by the PAWA Committee. Other nominations may be received prior to the Annual General Meeting at the end of March 2026.

Note:

1. Only the Executive positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are subject to election if there are more than one nominee for those positions
2. Committee Members are not required to be elected as they are nominated by their Club as their Club representative on the PAWA Committee.

Position	Nominees
President	Ralph Sirmulis (Joondalup City)
Vice President	Sue Harwood (Mt Pleasant)
Secretary	Margaret Collins (Belmont)
Treasurer	Michael Macpherson (Eaton)
Committee Members	Sandra Dawe (Karrinyup & North Beach) Brian Hoult (Mandurah Peel & PSPL WA Representative) Carol Hoult (Mandurah Peel) David Hunt (Subiaco) Moira Macpherson (Eaton) Peter Olney (Ellenbrook)

PAWA is holding SIX “Building Better Clubs” Workshops in 2026

These are free events and anyone may attend from your club, not just committee. This is an opportunity to network, share ideas and learn more about assisting your club to thrive.

Morning Tea is provided.

DUNCRAIG Thursday 16TH APRIL 9.30-1pm,

Venue: Sorrento Bowling Club, Percy Doyle Reserve, 40 Warwick Rd Duncraig
Book with Sandra Dawe. sdawe1947@gmail.com

ALBANY Wednesday 22ND APRIL 9.30-1pm.

Venue: Le Grande Motel, 479 Albany Highway Albany
Book with Michael Macpherson mfmkmac@gmail.com

BUNBURY Friday 24TH APRIL 9.30-1pm.

Venue: Mantra Bunbury Lighthouse, 2 Carey St Bunbury.
Book with Michael Macpherson at mfmkmac@gmail.com

HALLS HEAD / ERSKINE / Wednesday 13TH MAY. 9.30-1pm

Venue: Halls Head Bowling Club, 3 Sticks Boulevard Erskine.
Book with Sandra Dawe. sdawe1947@gmail.com

ARDROSS Thursday 21ST MAY 9.30-1pm.

Venue: Mt Pleasant Bowling Club, 40 Bedford Rd Ardross. (Enter via Canna Way)
Book with Sandra Dawe. sdawe1947@gmail.com

NORANDA Thursday 28TH MAY, 2026 9.30-1pm

Venue: Morley /Noranda Recreation Club, 85 McGilvray Avenue Noranda.
Book with Sandra Dawe. sdawe1947@gmail.com



Monday 23rd February 2026



Probus
ASSOCIATION
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

INVITATION to WA Probus 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**

Please contact Carol Hoult with numbers if your club plans to attend the Pinjarra event.

carolhoult22@gmail.com

PAWA STRATEGIC PLANNING – SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



PAWA has commenced preparation of a new Strategic Plan to guide our Association over the next two to three years. This planning process is timely and important, as it will help ensure that PAWA continues to effectively represent, support and advocate for the interests of our WA Probus family of Clubs in a changing environment.

Central to this process is the input of our member Clubs. PAWA exists because of, and for, WA Probus Clubs, and it is essential that our future direction reflects your views, experiences and expectations.

We want to hear what you believe PAWA does well, where it could improve, what it should be focusing on, and how together we can best secure a strong and sustainable future for Probus in Western Australia.

To support this consultation, PAWA is proposing to host an online forum via Zoom, tentatively planned for late February. It is envisaged that this will be an interactive Q&A-style session, giving every attendee the opportunity to contribute to the discussion. The forum will provide a relaxed and inclusive environment for open dialogue about PAWA's current role, its future priorities, and the collective aspirations of our Clubs.

We encourage Clubs to consider participating in this important initiative. **Your voice matters, and your ideas will help shape the direction PAWA takes on behalf of all WA Probus members.**

If you or members of your Club are interested in taking part, please advise President Ralph of your interest at PAWAPresident@gmail.com.



CLUB DIRECTORY. It is important that when your Club appoints members to your Club's Management Committee, or makes any changes to meeting venues, dates, or times, that PAWA is advised of these updates, as well as PSPL. Keeping both organisations informed ensures that accurate and up-to-date information is available to support our WA Probus family.

Unfortunately, PSPL does not share Club information with PAWA. As a result, PAWA relies directly on Clubs to provide these details so that our records remain current. This information is essential for maintaining the WA Probus Club Directory, which PAWA publishes twice each year and which is widely used by Clubs, members, and prospective members across the State.

Timely notification of changes helps PAWA to communicate effectively, provide appropriate support, and ensure that Clubs are accurately represented. We therefore ask Clubs to make this simple notification part of their normal administrative process whenever changes occur.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and assists PAWA in continuing to serve and support all WA Probus Clubs effectively.

Thornlie Probus Club wish to share this article: Comfort Quilts against Cancer. Contact for a visit or guest speaker. comfortquilts.org.au



In 2011, the founder and CEO of Comfort Quilts Against Cancer, Bronwyn Dunn, lost a dear friend Monica to breast cancer.

Bronwyn wanted to find a way to honour Monica's memory and as both were passionate crafters it felt natural for Bronwyn to commemorate her memory by starting a quilting charity.

In January 2012 Comfort Quilts Against Cancer was launched and three months later on the anniversary of her friend's death, the first quilt was gifted.

As demand grew quilts are now sent to anyone nominated who is undergoing the journey of recovery from any type of cancer. There are no limits on gender, age, or the location of the receiver, we deliver everywhere within Australia. As of the end of 2024 over 5,000 quilts have been sent to recipients.

We know they are appreciated for assisting in the wellbeing of the recipient and we provide care packages, free of charge.

Our motto is: **“Piece by piece we aim to make an impact.”**

DOUBLEVIEW PROBUS CLUB - CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The lunch was held at Tassels Bar & Grill in Osborne Park and the theme on the day was to wear a Christmas Hat. The day was enjoyed by all with raffles and of course a Hat Parade.



VICTORIA PARK PROBUS CLUB - CHRISTMAS LUNCH



There was a good turnout at the Victoria Park Christmas Luncheon.

Everyone enjoyed a great lunch.

Their President Ann Kennish made sure there was lots of fun and laughter.

A great day was had by all.

Sandra Dawe represented PAWA committee at both the events above.



The recently formed MT PLEASANT PROBUS CLUB Inc. celebrated their first Christmas Lunch at the Wray Hotel in Fremantle with 42 members in attendance.

There was a \$10 Secret Santa for those who chose to participate.

Don and Mal demonstrated excellent dress sense on the day.



The Man From *Snowy River* Bush Festival

7 Days > 13 to 19 April 2026

Travel to the foothills of the Snowy Mountains for an unforgettable celebration of Corryong's bush heritage. Ride the XPT through classic Victorian scenery and uncover migrant stories at Bonegilla. Over two festival days, feel Banjo Paterson's legend come alive through horsemanship, poetry, music and the thrilling Man from Snowy River re-enactment.

\$4,310 pptw
\$455 single option



Images: Bush Festival

Highlights

- XPT rail from Melbourne to Albury with wide open country views
- Pioneering Albury brought to life in streets, stories and museums
- Lake Hume dam wall for sweeping water and mountain vistas
- Guided wander under towering trees in Albury Botanic Gardens
- Holbrook Submarine Museum with hands-on immersive naval history
- Bonegilla Migrant Experience sharing powerful stories of new beginnings

- Pioneer Women's Hut Museum celebrating ingenuity on the land
- The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival, two days with the re-enactment

Inclusions

- Pre/post tour transfers (ex Perth, WA)
- Airfares and taxes
- 13 meals
- 6 night's accommodation
- Tours and 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.

08 9754 2026 travel@villa.com.au villa.com.au [@VillaCarlottaTravel](https://www.facebook.com/VillaCarlottaTravel)



PROBUS ASSOCIATION OF WA INC.

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smharwood2@gmail.com

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briankhoult@gmail.com

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 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.

Next meeting will be at the Melville Rec Centre on Thursday on February 5th 2026 at 9.30am.

PAWA also meets via Zoom.

Website:
probuswa.org.au

Facebook:
[Probus Association of Western Australia](https://www.facebook.com/ProbusAssociationofWesternAustralia)

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