



NEWS & NOTES

THE VOICE OF PROBUS IN THE WEST

WELCOME TO THE APRIL 2026 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES



As the newly elected President of The Probus Association WA, I am stepping into the role with the aim to continue the leadership set by our retiring President, Ralph Sirmulis. The PAWA committee's goal is to serve and support WA clubs and focus on the core values of fun, friendship, and fellowship. Our committee members are available to assist clubs to resolve issues and give advice where appropriate.

Annual General Meetings and the election of new Committees have taken place in March. However, some clubs may still be actively seeking executive and other committee positions. I encourage members to step up and take the challenge to support the club that provides fun, friendship and community connection.

Have you thought about taking on a role in your club's management but you have had second thoughts because?

- You don't know enough about Probus.
- It's too time consuming.
- Too many rules and regulations.
- You have been there and done that.

Also, it can be intimidating following in the footsteps of a capable predecessor, yet there are many positives in taking on a committee role. You are in a position to build relationships and promote teamwork and you can do things your way. When you set a positive attitude, it promotes others to engage. You achieve personal growth and gain new skills; for example, gaining confidence to speak in front of an audience. Members will appreciate your contribution.

Help is always available from other committee members to assist with various roles and responsibilities. Ask for a job description and use PAWA resources. PAWA is again providing free workshops to enable members to learn more about Probus, to share knowledge, and gain new ideas to enrich the contribution to your club. Please see the list of venues and dates in this edition.

Why not try something new? Focus on fun, not on administration! Give back to your club in appreciation of the social benefits you have received.

I wish all clubs a successful year in this year of celebrating 50 years of Probus Clubs in Australia.

Please note the new president's email address: PAWApresident01@gmail.com

Sue Harwood



PAWA is again holding “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. See your club Secretary for a registration form.

Why not car pool to save on travel costs!

THE FOLLOWING FIVE WORKSHOPS ARE GOING AHEAD AS PLANNED

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

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

The Albany workshop has been postponed until a later date in the year.

ALBANY Wednesday 22ND APRIL 9.30-1pm. **Venue:** Le Grande Motel, 479 Albany Highway Albany. Book with **Michael Macpherson** mfmkmac@gmail.com

Breakout groups include Presidents and Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Welfare, Liaison, Outings and Speakers.

The PAWA AGM was held on the 27th March at Tompkins Park, Alfred Cove.

Thirty-five clubs attended and 14 clubs sent proxies, totalling 49 clubs. 74 members were in attendance. Peter Olney acted as Returning Officer and all nominees were duly elected. Questions were asked and responses given regarding various topics, and all suggestions made will be addressed by the committee in the coming weeks. Members enjoyed morning tea at close of the meeting.

Executive Committee: President. Sue Harwood, Vice Presidents Moira Macpherson and Carol Hoult, Secretary Margaret Collins, Treasurer Michael Macpherson.

Committee: Ralph Sirmulis, Immediate Past President, Brenda Heywood, Sandra Dawe, David Hunt, Peter Olney and Brian Hoult who is also the PSPL Board Director for WA.



Ralph Sirmulis is seen here congratulating the incoming President, Sue Harwood, together with the new 2026/27 committee.



Sue presenting Ralph with a gift of thanks for his leadership as President for the past three years.

Thank you to those club members who braved the weather and coped with noisy drips leaking from the ceiling

THE 2026 ROTARY CONFERENCE-AVON VALLEY IN NORTHAM



Up and Away to Rotary Western Australia's district conference.

Northam was the 4th Rotary Club in WA and will celebrate its 80th year in 2026.

Two PAWA members, Margaret Collins and Brenda Heywood. attended the conference in March to showcase the Probud Association of WA Inc.

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES – APRIL 2026

Wembley Downs Probus Club Inc	5 years
Combined Probus Club of Murray District (WA) Inc	27 years
Narrogin Probus Club WA Inc	32 years
Scarborough Ladies Probus Club Inc	39 years
Probus Club of Dalkeith/Nedlands Inc	40 years
Rossmoyne Ladies Probus Club WA Inc	40 years
Probus Club of Albany Inc	42 years



A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

For the Probus Club of Eaton, this was not an ordinary night at the movies, nor were the movies what you might expect.

On 3/2/26, Dorothy and Les Bail invited club members to their home for a full-blown cinema experience to view the video presentations that Dorothy had created over the years of our club activities and outings. We were the stars of these movies!

Dorothy made these presentations to be played in the background of our meetings, but the feeling was that they deserved a serious viewing. We certainly did that! We sat there enthralled as younger versions of ourselves wandered across the screen and we felt bitter/sweet emotions as members no longer with us were seen enjoying the fellowship of those who really cared about them.

To make this a “real” movie night Dorothy and Les presented a full movie menu.



There were sausage sizzles and hot dogs, Popcorn in striped boxes, savoury snacks, marshmallows and sweets (homemade) and finally the obligatory “choc bomb” ice cream. The attention to detail and the effort put in by Dorothy and Les to make this feel like an authentic cinema experience was incredible. We really hope that we can do this again one day.

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL PROBUS CLUB?

A successful club is defined by its ability to foster the core values of our organization; friendship, fellowship and fun. Members have often found that information sharing at previous breakout groups has been a great way to develop new ideas for your club to make it successful. Important points mentioned were having entertaining activities and interesting speakers.

Also, members have years of interesting experiences, so tap into your members who would like to share their background. It is also a great way to get to know new members.

Having a dedicated Outings Officer (and perhaps an assistant) is helpful when planning trips and outings.

It is also important to have a fun and inclusive atmosphere.

MEMBERSHIP

- Focus on diverse activities. Ask your members what they would like.
- Have relevant guest speakers.
- Ask a member speak about their career and life.
- Tailor to the style of membership. Include affordable activities.
- Keep in touch will all members.
- Network with other clubs in your area.

MEETINGS

- Make everyone feel welcome so have a greeter at the door.
- Have an agenda.
- Keep the administration side brief and light.
- Have good communication.
- Appoint a buddy for new members. Make them feel welcome.
- Consider the ambience of your venue.

ADMINISTRATION

- Aim to fill all committee roles.
- Be familiar with Incorporation, the Constitution and Standing Resolutions.
- Be aware of average ages and tailor activities accordingly.
- Actively seek new members through community visibility.
- Develop a newsletter and showcase your activities.
- Succession planning; invite members to your meetings.
- Be open to introducing new groups.

MARMION PROBUS CLUB



“Members of Marmion Probus Club Inc. celebrated its 33rd Birthday and 50 years of Probus in Australia.

Sorry the cake says WA instead of Australia but the sentiment is there.”

Gill Ryan
Secretary
Marmion Probus Club Inc.

At left: Foundation Member Don Slater with the cake.

GROWING CLUB MEMBERSHIP

PAWA is often asked about how to attract more members so planning how to grow your membership to remain viable in the future is crucial. Word of mouth has been the most successful way but there are other ways.

- PSPL has a range of complimentary resources.
- Advertise in the Little Aussie Communities booklet and your local paper if you have one. Use a photo if you can. “Have a Go News” has a community notice section.
- Show your banner at each meeting where it is visible to others.
- Wear your badge to outings so you are visible as a group.
- Use flyers and business cards wherever seniors may frequent. Eg libraries, pharmacies and doctors’ rooms.
- Publicise your club with your meeting date, time and guest speakers.

PAWA SPEAKER COORDINATOR UPDATE

Brenda Heywood is the new Coordinator of the PAWA Speakers List.

E: brendaofgayndah@yahoo.com.au

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ROLES

- The Committee's focus should be on leadership, membership retention and growth.
- Each committee member should be aware of the Club's Constitution and Standing Resolutions, so keep copies available at meetings.
- Encourage members to join the committee even if they do not have a specific role but will be available to assist when needed. Each member will have one vote.
- Some clubs have committee assistants, who are not entitled to vote, unless it is specified in their Standing Resolutions.
- The committee can make binding decisions in the best interests of the club, though should report to the members on decisions made. However, members views should be sought on anything controversial.
- Clubs should focus on keeping members by planning various activities and developing interests.
- **Make it fun!** Members who have a positive experience in a club are more likely to stay and share their positive experiences with others.

PROBUS EXCLUSIVE

Villa is hosting a Taste of the Cape Wine, Wildflowers and Wonders tour in November to mark the 50th Anniversary of Probus in Australia. *See advert next page.*

Throughout 2026, Probus will celebrate 50 years of fostering friendship, community spirit and connection for retirees, marking its Golden Anniversary since the first club started in 1976. With over 1,300 clubs and 90,000 members, the milestone features nationwide celebrations, including a premier event in Hunters Hill and special illuminations.

- **Significance:** Probus has helped over half a million Australian retirees stay active, engaged, and socially connected to reduce loneliness.
- **History:** The first Australian club, the [Probus Club of Hunters Hill](#) (Sydney), launched in 1976.
- **Anniversary Events:** 2026 featured the official start on February 3rd; Probus Month in October, and a 50th Anniversary Tour to the Sunshine Coast.
- **Celebrations:** Landmarks across Australia will be illuminated in yellow and blue in October 2026 to celebrate the 50-year milestone.
- **Merchandise:** Commemorative 50th-anniversary merchandise is available for members and clubs.



Taste of the Cape: Wine, Wildflowers & Wonders – Probus Exclusive

Superb produce and scenic wonders of the Margaret River Region

5 Days | Saturday 7 to Wednesday 11 November 2026

Stunning scenery, wildflower beauty and gourmet delights await on this wonderful five-day exploration of the Southwest Region. Discover the breathtaking coastal landscapes of the Margaret River Region, wander through ancient forests and wildflower trails with a knowledgeable local expert and enjoy charming historic highlights including Margaret River Settlement and Ellensbrook. Indulge in delicious regional flavours with morning teas, winery visits, gin tasting, chocolate treats and more. Travel with us through picturesque countryside to experience the perfect blend of coastlines, forests, history, wildflowers and iconic Margaret River food and wine experiences.

Highlights

- Enjoy French-inspired treats at Café Chérie
- Explore wildflower trails and coastal walks at Surfers Point and Gnarabup Beach
- Scenic drive through Boranup Karri Forest with a relaxed café stop
- Travel with a specialist wildflower guide
- Visit Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse
- Discover Ellensbrook Homestead followed by a guided wildflower walk
- Experience the ancient granite coastline at Canal Rocks
- Visit the charming town of Cowaramup
- Indulge in the regional produce and flavours of Margaret River

Inclusions

- Pre and post tour transfers (ex Perth Western Australia)
- 11 meals
- 4 nights' accommodation
- Included sightseeing and attractions
- Professional Villa Tour Leader and Coach Captain

Your holiday itinerary (ex Perth Western Australia)

FOR MORE FABULOUS VILLA TOURS CALL 08 9754 2026 | TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

08 9754 2026 | travel@villa.com.au | villa.com.au |     



Day 1. Perth to Margaret River – South West Flavours (D)

Travel south from Perth and begin your journey with a delightful stop at Café Cherie in Pinjarra to enjoy coffee and cake. Continue through the South West with lunch at leisure before arriving in Margaret River where you will settle in for the next four nights surrounded by vineyards forest and coastline. 4 nights: Grande Escape Resort Margaret River.

Day 2. Gnarabup and Cape Leeuwin – Wildflower Forests and Cape Leeuwin (BLD)

Travel with a specialist wildflower guide through breathtaking coastal and forest landscapes. Visit Surfers Point and the river mouth followed by coastal wildflower trails at Gnarabup Beach. Continue past Lake Cave viewing platform and Contos Cliffs before a scenic drive through the towering Boranup Karri Forest. Enjoy morning tea before following the Southern Ocean coastline to Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse where two oceans meet. Return to Margaret River via Witchcliffe with time to browse local artisan offerings.

Day 3. Margaret River to Cape Naturaliste – Homesteads Trails and Granite Coast (BD)

Together with the Wildflower Expert our day is immersed in natural beauty and history of the Margaret River region, beginning with a walk through the Jarrah Forest wildflower trail, followed by an exploration of the Historic Railway Trail, where native orchids and wildflowers thrive. Visit Ellensbrook Homestead, the first settlement in Margaret River, and enjoy a scenic wildflower walk before a relaxing morning tea at Olio Bello. Continue to the Meelup Ridge Trail, where sweeping wildflower vistas await. Afterward, take in the beauty of Cape Naturaliste and the dramatic ancient granite formations of Canal Rocks before returning to Margaret River.

Day 4. Tastings in Cowaramup – Country Charm and Coastal Towns (BLD)

Enjoy a fascinating guided visit of the Margaret River Settlement before continuing to Cowaramup for a delightful gin tasting experience. Enjoy a delicious lunch at Rustico at Hay Shed Hill Winery followed by a visit to the famous Margaret River Chocolate Factory. After a wonderful day exploring the region's flavours and highlights, return to the hotel to relax before dinner.

Day 5. Margaret River to Perth – Farewell to the South West (BL)

Begin the journey home with a stop for regional tastings before gathering for farewell lunch in Waroona. Continue to Perth where you will be met and taken safely home after a memorable South West escape.

Itinerary is subject to change. Terms and conditions apply. Call 08 9754 2026 for details.

Taste of the Cape: Wine, Wildflowers & Wonders – Probus Exclusive Superb produce and scenic wonders of the World-Renowned Margaret River Region 5 Days | Sat 7 Nov to Wed 11 Nov 2026

Early Bird Offer – Save \$100 per person!

Book and pay by 30 April 2026 and enjoy \$100 off per person.

Early Booking Prices:

Twin / Double Share: \$1,945 per person (was \$2,045)

Single Room: \$2,320 per person (was \$2,420)

Prices include GST. Offer valid for bookings made by 30 April 2026.

Earn 39 villabucks

For travellers comfortable with full sightseeing days. Building on Moderate requirements, these tours feature more activities, extended periods of standing and walking, and nature-based excursions.

You must be able to walk confidently over uneven surfaces at a steady pace and negotiate busy transport terminals. Expect feature walks for up to 3 hours, and activities that may include small aircraft, vehicles, vessels and watercraft. Not suitable for travellers requiring walking aids or assistance from others.



North West

Spectacular

10 Days > 28 May to 6 June 2026

Travel north through WA's heartland to the Pilbara and Coral Coast, exploring Karijini's rust-red gorges with a two-night stay at Karijini Eco Retreat and a tour of Mount Whaleback mine. Continue to Exmouth for a Yardie Creek cruise in Cape Range National Park and a glass-bottom coral cruise in Coral Bay, then visit Bullara and Wooramel Stations, the Carnarvon Space Museum, returning via Geraldton and Jurien Bay.

\$4,750 pptw
\$1,045 single option



Highlights

- Karijini National Park's gorges including Dales and Joffre
- Two nights at Karijini Eco Retreat
- Mount Whaleback mine tour
- Yardie Creek gorge cruise, Cape Range National Park
- Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area and Exmouth
- Coral Bay glass-bottom boat coral cruise
- Bullara Station and Wooramel Station visits
- Carnarvon Space Museum
- New Norcia guided tour and Bindoon Museum
- Pastoral and gold mining history across WA's Mid West

Inclusions

- Pre/post tour transfers (ex Perth, WA)
- Airfares and taxes
- 25 meals
- 9 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



Meals



Tour Leaders



Accommodation



Attractions



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



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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 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.***

***ZOOM MEETING was held
Thursday 2nd April 2026***

*Next meeting will be a zoom
meeting on
Thursday 7th May 2026*

Website:

probuswa.org.au

Facebook:

*Probus Association of
Western Australia*

Contact Carol Hoult:

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