



# NEWS & NOTES

THE VOICE OF PROBUS IN THE WEST

## WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES



The end of the Probuss year is fast approaching and Clubs across Western Australia are preparing for their Annual General Meetings. As always, many Clubs report difficulty in finding members willing to take on Management Committee roles. My simple message is this: simplify, demystify and share the roles wherever possible.

Remember, you are operating a seniors' social club — not BHP or ANZ. When responsibilities are clearly explained and sensibly divided, members are often more willing to step forward and contribute.

Our own PAWA AGM will take place on Friday 27th March, and we strongly encourage all member Clubs to send delegates. An AGM information package will again be distributed to all Presidents and Secretaries. Importantly, delegates will have the opportunity to express their views about PAWA's future direction and the issues facing their Clubs.

PAWA is an independent Association established in 1984 by the then WA Probuss Clubs to look after the interests of our WA family of Clubs. We continue to seek nominations from member Clubs for delegates to the PAWA Committee. Working collaboratively with Probuss South Pacific Limited (PSPL), PAWA plays a key role in supporting the growth of Probuss in WA and promoting fun, friendship and fellowship in our community.

In my visits to Clubs, I have met many members with thoughtful, practical ideas worth sharing more widely. Join PAWA and help us bring those ideas to life across the network.

At the March AGM, I will be standing down as PAWA President, having completed my tenure. It has been both a privilege and a rewarding challenge to serve in this role.

***Ralph Sirmulis***  
**President.**



# AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

\$10 per attendee  
Morning tea included



**tompkins**

632 Canning Hwy,  
Alfred Cove WA 6154

**Details and registration forms have been sent out to  
Club Presidents and Secretaries.**

## PAWA EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2026 AGM

As you will be aware, the Probus Association of Western Australia (PAWA) Committee members are appointed by their respective member Clubs to serve as representatives of those Clubs and to contribute to the effective governance of the Association.

PAWA is advising member Clubs that, as part of its governance and succession planning responsibilities, it has identified suitably qualified and willing Committee members who are prepared to stand for Executive office at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in March 2026, viz:

- **Sue Harwood** (Mt Pleasant Probus Club) is prepared to stand for the position of President.
- In accordance with previous arrangements, PAWA will revert again to having two Vice Presidents. **Carol Hault** (Probus Club of Mandurah Peel) and **Moira Macpherson** (Probus Club of Eaton) have indicated they are prepared to stand for these positions.
- **Margaret Collins** (Belmont Districts Probus Club) has indicated her willingness to continue in the role of Secretary, and
- **Michael Macpherson** (Probus Club of Eaton) is prepared to continue as Treasurer.

Current President **Ralph Sirmulis** has completed his allotted term and will stand down from the Presidency at the AGM. Ralph will continue to serve on the Committee as Immediate Past President and as the representative of the Joondalup City Probus Club.

The remaining Committee members — **Peter Olney** (Ellenbrook Combined Probus Club), **Brian Hault** (Probus Club of Mandurah Peel and PSPL WA Representative), **Sandra Dawe** (Probus Club of Karrinyup & North Beach) and **David Hunt** (Probus Club of Subiaco)— will remain on the PAWA Committee as representatives of their respective Clubs.

The above recommendations are provided to assist Clubs in considering the forthcoming elections. The election of the Executive Officers remains the responsibility of delegates at the AGM, in accordance with the PAWA Constitution.

## CLUB CONSTITUTIONS

In August 2025, the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (DLGIRS) announced amendments to the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 affecting incorporated associations in Western Australia, including Probus Clubs.



Clubs that reviewed and submitted their revised Constitutions — aligned with the Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) standard — prior to December 2025 are not impacted by one of the key changes. It appears the Department is allowing some transitional leeway for those Clubs that acted promptly.

However, many Clubs have yet to amend and lodge their updated Constitutions. These Clubs should note an important new requirement: their Constitution must now formally identify a Public Officer. This was not previously mandatory and represents a significant compliance change.

In addition, Clubs will need to ensure they download and complete the latest version of Form 05, which must accompany the Constitution when lodging documents with DLGIRS. If your Club is unsure about the new requirements or the process for updating and submitting documentation, please contact PAWA for guidance and support.

## **BUILDING BETTER CLUBS WORKSHOPS – THE BENEFITS**

Attending the **Building Better Clubs Workshops** offers WA Probus Clubs a unique opportunity to strengthen their committees, enhance club operations, and ensure long-term sustainability. These workshops are specifically designed to provide members with practical tools, knowledge, and strategies that directly benefit the management and growth of their clubs.



Members who participate gain insight into effective governance, including understanding committee roles, responsibilities, and the legal and financial obligations of incorporated clubs. This knowledge helps ensure that clubs operate smoothly, transparently, and in line with WA legislation, reducing risks and improving overall confidence in leadership.

In particular, the breakout groups focus on enhancing member engagement, offering ideas to boost participation, attract new members, and retain existing members. By sharing best practices and innovative approaches, participants can bring back actionable strategies that make club activities more vibrant, inclusive, and enjoyable.

Networking is another key benefit of the breakout groups. Attendees meet committee members from other WA Probus Clubs, fostering the exchange of experiences, solutions, and inspiration. This collegial environment strengthens the wider Probus community and builds a support network that clubs can draw on for advice and collaboration.

Overall, sending members to the **Building Better Clubs Workshops** equips clubs with the skills, insights, and connections needed to operate effectively, grow membership, and ensure a strong future for Probus in Western Australia.

**Remember: All club members are welcome and there is no charge for attendance. Register now!**

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President Ralph visited the Bedford Probus Club and was pleased to see smiling happy faces. The Club has a good vibe which kicked off with a little singing of well-known favourite songs led by President Wes. Ralph had the opportunity to provide a little background about PAWA and what is happening with the WA Probus family and responded to a number of questions raised by members. Well done Bedford!

**FUN**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**FELLOWSHIP**

**FOOD**



## **“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.

Contact your club secretary for registration.

Morning Tea is provided.

**DUNCRAIG** Thursday 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 9.30-1pm,  
**Venue:** Sorrento Bowling Club, Percy Doyle Reserve, 40 Warwick Rd Duncraig  
**Book with Sandra Dawe.** [sdawe1947@gmail.com](mailto:sdawe1947@gmail.com)

**ALBANY** Wednesday 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 9.30-1pm.  
**Venue:** Le Grande Motel, 479 Albany Highway Albany  
**Book with Michael Macpherson** [mfmkmac@gmail.com](mailto:mfmkmac@gmail.com)

**BUNBURY** Friday 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL. 9.30-1pm.  
**Venue:** Mantra Bunbury Lighthouse, 2 Carey St Bunbury.  
**Book with Michael Macpherson** at [mfmkmac@gmail.com](mailto:mfmkmac@gmail.com)

**HALLS HEAD / ERSKINE** / Wednesday 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY. 9.30-1pm  
**Venue:** Halls Head Bowling Club, 3 Sticks Boulevard Erskine.  
**Book with Sandra Dawe.** [sdawe1947@gmail.com](mailto:sdawe1947@gmail.com)

**ARDROSS** Thursday 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 9.30-1pm.  
**Venue:** Mt Pleasant Bowling Club, 40 Bedford Rd Ardross. (Enter via Canna Way)  
**Book with Sandra Dawe.** [sdawe1947@gmail.com](mailto:sdawe1947@gmail.com)

**NORANDA** Thursday 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2026 9.30-1pm  
**Venue:** Morley /Noranda Recreation Club, 85 McGilvray Avenue Noranda.  
**Book with Sandra Dawe.** [sdawe1947@gmail.com](mailto:sdawe1947@gmail.com)

## **PAWA COMMITTEE NEEDS MORE MEMBERS**



Committee roles are about contributing 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.

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***

## PAWA STRATEGIC PLANNING FORUM



The proposed PAWA Zoom Forum is an important initiative designed to provide member clubs with the opportunity to openly discuss the future direction of the Probuss Association of Western Australia (PAWA). The intent of the Forum is to enable clubs to hear directly from the PAWA Committee about emerging priorities, challenges, and opportunities, while also offering a platform for constructive feedback and shared ideas.

Originally planned for February, the Forum has been delayed due to the need to address several pressing operational matters. While this has affected the timeline, work on the Strategic Plan is continuing, albeit at a slower pace, as careful consideration is given to the issues raised by clubs in the past.

PAWA remains firmly committed to a consultative and inclusive approach. In the near future, clubs will be invited to participate in the rescheduled Zoom forum and will have the opportunity to contribute their views to help shape a clear, practical, and sustainable direction for PAWA moving forward.

### CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

East Fremantle Probuss Club Inc.	7 years
Mandurah Island Probuss Club Inc	17 years
Combined Probuss Club of Albany Inc	17 years
The Combined Probuss Club of Leeming Inc	18 years
Bedford Combined Probuss Club Inc	18 years
The Probuss Club of Eaton Inc	34 years
Combined Probuss Club of Rockingham Inc	39 years
Bunbury Ladies Probuss Club Inc	41 years
Probuss Club of Northam Inc	41 years



### KINGSLEY MENS PROBUS CLUB Inc.



The February 2026 meeting of Kingsley Men's featured a HAWAIIAN DRESS up theme, and these three fine specimens (ha!) were some of the best dressed on the day. Please note the 'nearly there' GRASS SKIRT!!

Bill Fogarty, Ken Good and Kevin Holland posed with their recently awarded long service certificates.



## 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](mailto:travel@villa.com.au) | [villa.com.au](http://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 31 March 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 31 March 2026.**

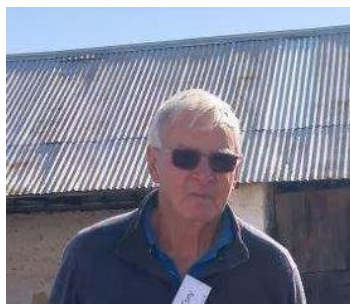
**Earn 39 villabucks.**

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.**

## NEW SPEAKER

### TONY CRITCH THE ENIGMA OF HAWES



Tony Critch gives an intriguing talk about Father John Hawes, the priest and architect who shaped Mullewa in the early 1900s. Discover the fascinating life of this remarkable man and his masterpiece, the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

Tony lives in Mullewa but comes to Perth a few times a year.

Ph: 0428 625 044 [anthony.critch@gmail.com](mailto:anthony.critch@gmail.com)

## UPDATED SPEAKERS

### **CHRIS BOWMAN**, Boat builder and adventurer. [New phone number](#)

**“Me, the Boat and a guy named Bob”.**

Chris’s journeys led him down the East African coast and across several oceans to a magical Caribbean Island and the building of a beautiful boat, Water Pearl. This schooner was owned in part by the legendary musician Bob Dylan.

Ph: 0428 543 050 [malabarboatworks@gmail.com](mailto:malabarboatworks@gmail.com)

### **DON BRIGGS**, Member of the Bannister Creek Probus Club.

#### Topics

- John Dearle - a Parkhurst boy
- Pioneers of the Western Australian Industry
- Joseph-Farmer Watson – immortal Joe and the mystery of the Butterabbey graves.
- Dutch settlements of New Holland and the mystery ship painting on Walga Rock
- Paris Brest Paris 1200km ride (represented Australia)
- Australian’s invasion of WW2 – from the diaries of AIF Corpl Donald Briggs
- **Metronet – connecting Perth’s Suburbs (new)**

Ph: 0409 588 175

E: [don.ron6@bigpond.com](mailto:don.ron6@bigpond.com)



The Mt Pleasant Probus Club walking group, organised by Neil Hogstrom, met for a last walk and morning coffee at Piney Lakes, which has been one of the most popular venues.

Neil coordinated the walks and the coffee venues in various areas for over 10 years for members, (previously the Winthrop Probus Club).

His commitment was acknowledged and he was presented with a certificate of appreciation at the January club meeting.



# 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



### 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](http://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](mailto: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 March 5<sup>th</sup> 2026  
at 9.30am.*

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

**Website:**  
[probuswa.org.au](http://probuswa.org.au)

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

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