



NEWS & NOTES

THE VOICE OF PROBUS IN THE WEST

WELCOME TO THE JUNE 2026 EDITION of NEWS and NOTES



Probus clubs must be equipped to thrive in a changing world to build stronger clubs for the future. PAWA is urging clubs to embrace innovation. Thriving clubs provide a community where people feel they belong, making them essential rather than optional in a dynamic world.

If your club is struggling to fill committee positions, please think about taking on a position or sharing a position, to enable your club to remain sustainable.

There is a benefit to having a position on a management committee. It offers an opportunity to build skills in leadership. Members gain personal fulfillment by giving back to the club that has given them connection to the community with social interaction and varied activities. Committee members have the ability to foster a welcoming environment with emphasis on respect, safety and fun.

Besides networking opportunities, there is the satisfaction of getting to know members better and being part of a team. Your contribution can bring new vision that benefits your club. There is assistance available to you from PAWA, from within your club and your predecessors, the PSPL guidelines and attending one of the workshops.

PAWA committee members are available to visit your club in support. Contact the secretary, Margaret Collins: pawasecretary@gmail.com

Those who attended recent workshops found these events worthwhile, so thank you to all who made the effort to attend one.

By sending new members and new committee members, you give them an opportunity to understand how a club is managed and provide knowledge to be confident to take on a role in the future. Probus clubs need to adapt to a dynamic environment and PAWA sees workshops as a positive way to encourage members to be actively involved in their club.

Breakout groups are one of the highlights of the meeting. These groups enable informal exchange of ideas and knowledge to gain a fresh viewpoint to manage challenges that clubs encounter. The Ardross and Noranda workshops had lower numbers so a "round table" discussion was used instead of separating into groups. However, some members would have preferred a group discussion. Feedback from the workshops enables PAWA committee to look at changes that need to be made to these events so we keep up to date with what members need.

Sue Harwood
President.

HOW WELL DO YOU COMMUNICATE AS A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE?



Transparency and communication are essential responsibilities of every Probus Club Management Committee. Members elect committee representatives to manage the affairs of the Club on their behalf, and they have a right to understand how decisions are being made and how the Club is being managed.

Open communication builds trust and confidence. When members are kept informed about committee decisions, financial matters, future plans, policy changes, and challenges facing the Club, they are more likely to feel valued and engaged. Conversely, a lack of communication can lead to misunderstandings, rumours, and unnecessary dissatisfaction among members.

Transparency also encourages greater participation. Members who understand the Club's direction and objectives are more likely to volunteer for activities, join sub-committees, and consider future committee roles. This helps ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the Club.

Regular reports at meetings, informative newsletters, and timely updates on important issues allow members to remain connected to the decision-making process. While some matters may require confidentiality for a limited period, the general principle should always be openness wherever possible.

A transparent and communicative Management Committee fosters a positive Club culture, strengthens member relationships, and helps ensure that the Club continues to operate in the best interests of all members.

**Keep in mind: The Committee exists to serve the Club;
the Club does not exist to serve the Committee.**

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES –JUNE 2026

The Probus Club of Geraldton Inc.
Collie Probus Club Inc
Combined Probus Club of Mandurah Inc
Kallaroo Probus Club (Inc)
Glengarry Probus Club (Mixed) Inc
The Shoalwater Ladies Probus Club Inc
The Cottesloe Ladies' Probus Club Inc
The Willetton Ladies Probus Club Inc
The Probus Club of Mundaring Inc
Probus Club of Dianella (Inc)

8 years
10 years
20 years
28 years
33 years
37 years
37 years
39 years
42 years
42 years



New Probus Club in Cockburn

The Cockburn Probus Club Inc was formed on the 15th June at Frankland Park Sports and Community Facility in Hammond Park, sponsored by the Probus Association of WA Inc.

Brian Hoult, Probus South Pacific Director WA, outlined the motto of Friendship, Fellowship and Fun and how Probus clubs foster a sense of belonging and purpose. Attendees were enthusiastic in their decision to form a club.

Congratulations to the following committee members:

Catering: Elena Azmitia; Secretary, Pauline Moore; President, Kerry Knowles; Welfare, Theresa Clifton James; Treasurer, Geoff Ranford, with PAWA President, Sue Harwood. Vice President, Malcolm Penn (absent).



SPEAKER UPDATES

ERNIE TURPIN, Portrait and Landscape artist

Ernie has retired from speaking so has been removed from the list. He has been thanked for his contribution to Probus Clubs in the past.

VALE, GEOFFREY THOMAS, aviation journalist and popular speaker at our clubs. Geoffrey passed away recently after a short illness.

BRENDA HEYWOOD is now the PAWA Speakers List coordinator. Brenda is currently updating the list which involves quite a few changes. A new list will be available soon. Please let Brenda know if you hear of any speakers who may like to join our list. brendaofgayndah@yahoo.com.au



PAWA NOTICE BOARD

PAWA End of Financial year report:

The question from a club member regarding the PAWA end of year financial report at the AGM has been clarified with the member and resolved. A response will be sent to clubs.

PAWA levy is now due. Invoices have been sent to all clubs. As club numbers may vary from last year, please adjust to the number of members in your club.

Club Directory

Peter Olney is producing a new user-friendly format for the club directory which will be easy to update. Information is still coming in slowly and with the new format, it is taking longer than anticipated. Peter expects completion in three or four weeks.

Pasta in the Valley: Friday 30th Oct.



Pinjarra Paceway: Monday 22nd February



VIRTUAL WALK The virtual walk idea came from PAWA committee member, Carol Hault. Such a simple but effective idea has produced much enthusiasm from clubs.

Well done to the Denmark Probus Club who have started the walk! Look out Geraldton- the Probus Family is on its way!

The latest 50-year Anniversary Celebration Guide from PSPL features this activity and clubs in other states have taken up the challenge.

PAWA is encouraging all Clubs across Western Australia to get together between now and October and walk the equivalent of 819km – the distance between the southernmost Club and the northern most Club in WA. Essentially, a virtual uniting of Probus members across the State.

This is a fantastic way to connect with Clubs in your cluster or region or even across the country so why not start a walking challenge with another Probus Club or Clubs to see how far the Probus family can walk in its 50th year.



Denmark Probus Club Inc.

We are blessed to live in a pristine corner of Western Australia with many beautiful walks, trails, beaches, and hills, so it's not surprising that we have a dedicated group of members who enjoy a monthly walk together.

This has been a regular feature of our club for many years and we find it's not only good for our physical wellbeing but a great way to take in the glorious sights around us and most importantly, talk to each other.

Last month, 10 of us walked the nearby Harewood Forest Trail.

This is a designated route through our ancient Karri trees.

Jill Smith - Vice President



Send your tally and photos to Carol Houl, Vice President PAWA
carolhoul22@gmail.com

We need photos to mark your activity and share the Probus Family spirit across the state.



Eight members of the Combined Probus Club of Mandurah walked 4 kilometres along the Dawesville Cut and finished with a coffee at the Café Coast. Several dolphins were seen during the walk.

John Geoghegan, Secretary.



WHAT MAKES A GOOD PROBUS CLUB?

A good Probus Club is built on friendship, inclusion, and active participation. At its heart, Probus is about bringing people together in retirement or semi-retirement to enjoy social connection, shared interests, and a sense of belonging. A successful club creates an environment where members feel welcomed, valued, and encouraged to take part.



Strong leadership is an important foundation. An effective Management Committee keeps things simple, organised, and transparent, ensuring the club runs smoothly without becoming overly formal or burdensome.

The Committee acts on behalf of members and thus should encourage participation rather than control the Club, making it easy for members to contribute ideas, assist with activities, or take on roles when they feel comfortable.

Equally important is the choice of venue. A good Probus Club meets in a location that is welcoming, comfortable, and accessible to all members. The venue should promote a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, with adequate seating, good acoustics, and easy access for those with mobility needs. A pleasant environment sets the tone for meetings and helps members feel at ease from the moment they arrive.

Variety in activities is another key ingredient. A good Probus Club offers a balanced program of meetings, guest speakers, outings, and social events. This might include day trips, guest presentations, hobby groups, coffee mornings, or short getaways. The aim is to cater to a wide range of interests so members remain engaged and look forward to upcoming events.

Communication also plays a vital role. Clear, friendly, and consistent communication ensures members stay informed and feel connected. Whether through newsletters, emails, or meetings, keeping everyone in the loop helps build a strong sense of community.

Importantly, a good club is inclusive and adaptable. It welcomes new members warmly and avoids cliques or exclusivity. As members' interests and abilities change over time, the club evolves with them, maintaining relevance and enjoyment for all.

Ultimately, a good Probus Club is one where people enjoy each other's company, feel comfortable getting involved, and leave each gathering with a sense of connection and satisfaction. It is not about perfection, but about creating a friendly, active, and supportive community.

Government House Morning Tea Celebration May 14th Celebrating 50 years of Probus in Australia.



On Thursday 14th May Probus club members were invited to a reception at Government House to celebrate 50 years of Probus in Australia. The Governor, His Excellency Chris Dawson AC APM, spoke of the importance of being active and connected in our lives after work and the important role that Probus Clubs ensure happens in our communities.

Just under 200 Probus members came together in the Ballroom at Government House to listen to the Governor and Brian Hoult who as the PSPL, Western Australian Representative, was responsible for organising and hosting the day. It was a fitting celebration of what we as Probus members contribute to both our members and community and have proudly done so for 50 years. In the Governor's words: *"Loneliness and isolation are now recognised as serious challenges for older Australians, with real consequences for physical and mental health."*



View of the Government House ballroom during the Governor's talk. Government House was built in 1899 to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond Jubilee. The ballroom was a later addition built in a free classical style.

**PROBUS CLUB MEMBERS ENJOYED MORNING TEA AND SOCIAL INTERACTION
AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE BALLROOM.**



PAWA committee from left: David Hunt, Moira and Brian Macpherson, Sue Harwood, Governor Chris Dawson, Brian and Carol Hoult, Margaret Collins, Graeme Brown Probud District Chairman and Peter Olney, committee.
Absent: Immediate Past President Ralph Sirmulis, Sandra Dawe and Brenda Heywood.

FIVE WORKSHOPS held in April and May

34 clubs attended these workshops with 111 club members. Some of the feedback points mentioned by attendees:

- Other clubs have similar problems to us.
- Our club is on track.
- Learned more about PAWA and PSPL and Probus history.
- Enjoyed interaction with the group discussion.
- Want longer time for Treasurer and Secretary groups.
- Learned how other clubs operate; gained new ideas.
- Workshops are of value.

Even though an hour is planned for discussion groups, some members wanted more time as they felt the group discussion was of benefit. PAWA will look at feedback from these events and plan accordingly for the future. Feedback from Ardross and Noranda with “round table” discussions will be useful for further workshops.

The importance of understanding the Associations Act 2015 was outlined and how PAWA is there to listen, inform and advise. The presentation included information about PSPL and its overarching administration of Probus Clubs in Australia and New Zealand and the support provided. This included PSPL’s legal advice when needed and public liability insurance.

An important point of the presentation was understanding club Governance. The Associations Act 2015 is the governing body. The Act overrides the Club’s Constitution and the Standing Resolutions. Members’ interpretations of outings information, insurance risk management and activities often require clarification for effective club management.



Documentation for Outings and Activities

The Outings Officer usually proposes suitable outings and activities to the Management Committee for consideration. The Committee should ascertain interest from members. Once the Management Committee is satisfied that it meets management guidelines including risk assessment, **it should be reflected in the club’s minutes as being approved** and contain sufficient information as to what is being approved.

- Be aware that changes in the weather may change the physical risks.
- Ensure members are given clear instructions in relation to the activity to minimise risk.
- Consider all the information related to the activity.
- Keep a record of all participants.
- **A tick against an attendee’s name is sufficient for insurance purposes.**
- Maintain Outings lists for approved activities for 13 months and keep them with the Secretary.
- A list of emergency numbers and contact information should be provided to the Outings Officer, Event Manager or another Committee Member attending the activity, keeping in mind the need for confidentiality.
- In the event of an accident, injury or incident, clubs should report to PSPL by logging an Incident Report Form as soon as practicable, regardless of whether or not medical attention was required.



PROBUS EXCLUSIVE TOUR

Taste of the Cape

Wine, Wildflowers & Wonders

5 Days | 7 to 11 Nov 2026

Experience stunning scenery, wildflowers and gourmet delights on this five day Southwest escape. Explore breathtaking coastlines, ancient forests and historic highlights including Margaret River Settlement and Ellensbrook, while enjoying winery visits, gin tasting, chocolate treats and regional flavours throughout the picturesque Margaret River region.



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

- Ancient granite coastline of Canal Rocks
- Visit the charming town of Cowaramup
- Indulge in the regional produce

Inclusions

- Pre/post tour transfers (ex Perth, WA)
- Airfares & taxes
- 11 meals
- 4 nights accommodation
- Included sightseeing & attractions
- Professional Villa Tour Leader and Coach Captain



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 on Thursday
11th June 2026***

Website:
probuswa.org.au

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

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