

Active Retirees

Fun, Friendship and Fellowship in Retirement



PROBUS
1 - 31 October 2025
Month

**Probus Month
Celebrations 2025**
Cover Story - P18

Pictured: Pakenham Central
Probus Club members





Leave more than Memories.

Leave a legacy of joy and connection

Brian, 94, a former schoolteacher and principal, moved into aged care to be near his wife Judy, who lives with advanced dementia. He never expected how lonely it would feel. "I miss talking to people," he says.

When Australian Red Cross volunteer Yuly (pictured) and Willy began visiting – bringing with them stories, laughter and music – the impact was life changing.

"You can't believe how much it means to me. It makes all the difference in the world." What does it take to make a difference to people like Brian? It takes you.



Find out more
about leaving a
gift in your Will.



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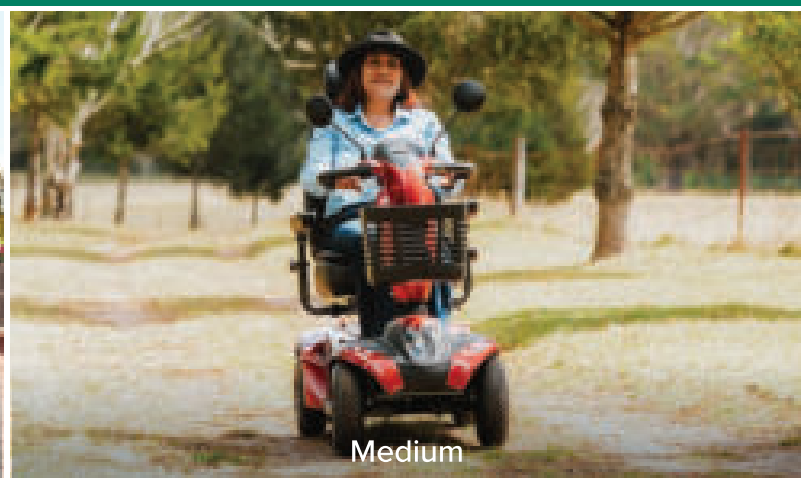
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PROBUS TURNS FIFTY IN AUSTRALIA ON 3 FEBRUARY 2026.

Probus started in England in the 1960's. The Probus Club of Kapiti Coast in New Zealand was founded in November 1974 on the initiative of a Rotarian, Gordon Roatz, who had cousins in Scotland, one of whom was a Probus Club member. It occurred to Gordon that the idea was worth introducing to the growing number of retired residents in Kapiti. He returned to New Zealand and secured his Rotary club's support to start a Probus club.

Not long afterwards, Jim King from the Rotary Club of Dumbarton in Scotland visited the Rotary Club of Parramatta North (now Parramatta City) in New South Wales and told members of the success of the Probus movement in the United Kingdom. The Rotary District which included Parramatta took up the idea, and as a result, the Probus Club of Hunter's Hill in Sydney met for the first time on 3 February 1976.

Who would have guessed, when the first club started fifty years ago, that by 2026 Probus would have spread all throughout Australia and New Zealand.

While Probus is all about fun and friendship, we perform a valuable service to the community as well, by helping people adjust to retirement. I use the words "community and companionship" a lot when I am talking about Probus. Wherever I go, I hear people saying how important their Probus Club is in keeping them active and developing new friendships in their local community.

It is wonderful that the original club in Australia is continuing to thrive. It is a tribute not only to the present leadership of the club, but also to all those who have worked so effectively over the past 50 years.

I would also like to acknowledge Rotary International. It is thanks to Rotary that Probus came to Australia and New Zealand, and I am very grateful for their continued support over the years.

Throughout 2026, PSPL will be showcasing the benefits of joining Probus, encouraging older Australians to enjoy more social engagement within their communities. In addition, we will embark on a major recruitment drive to attract new, active semi retirees and retirees to join a local Probus Club through a range of marketing initiatives.

We propose to assist Clubs by providing materials and information to complement planning of 50th Anniversary themed activities, including ways for Clubs to connect with other Probus Clubs for larger celebrations or events.

Commemorative events will begin with a celebratory morning tea function hosted by the Probus Club of Hunters Hill's on 3 February, 2026. I would encourage all Clubs to mark this special day by having their own special morning tea, lunch or activity recognising the birth of Probus in Australia. Another key date for the national social program will be Thursday October 1st, being the start of Probus Month 2026. We hope that every Probus Club will

participate in our National Probus picnic or lunch which will be widely promoted in the lead up to October 1st.

Working groups have been established across Australia to help develop a number of regional and national activities including sporting events and tours. I would like to thank all those Probians who have volunteered to join these committees.

As examples, a Carnival Line cruise organised by the Probus Association of Queensland departing Brisbane for the South Pacific has proven to be extremely popular. PSPL has also arranged a 10-day Probus party aboard Celebrity Solstice departing on 31st October 2026. With more than 100 Probus members already booked on the Celebrity Solstice, cabins are limited.

An innovative range of 50th Anniversary merchandise will also be produced along with a special pre-paid envelope produced by Australia Post and a special bottling of a fine French inspired luxury sparkling wine with an exclusive Probus 50th Anniversary label.

So let us celebrate the success of our great organisation and use our fifty-year celebrations all around the country to promote Probus and set ourselves up for the next fifty years!

On a separate note, I wanted to share that nominations are now open for Probus Club members to serve on the PSPL Board as Representative Member/Directors for the following areas of selection: New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia, and New Zealand. Both male and female Probians with business experience in finance, public service, communications, or marketing as a public company Director are encouraged to consider nomination by their Probus Club. These are volunteer positions, with most meetings held online except for the Annual General Meeting. Further information is included in this issue.

As we head into the festive season, on behalf of the PSPL Board, our Management Team, and Staff, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and extend our warmest thanks for your continued support throughout the year.



Michael Ransom

Michael Ransom
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KEEPING YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE

As more of us rely on electronic appliances, they are becoming a leading cause of household fires but there are ways to avoid the devastation.

Not so long ago, common causes of house fires were toppled portable heaters, candles, or a log falling from a fireplace. However, as more electrical appliances have made their way into our households, over 40% of household fires are now being caused by electrical appliances and electrical faults (source: NSW Fire & Rescue [website](#)). Fortunately, most house fires are preventable with a little knowledge and common sense.

Appliances

Appliances need to be treated with care. Keep vents and filters clean and provide adequate airflow around appliances, especially dryers. Ensure powerboards are not overloaded and are kept dust free.

Electrical leads can easily be damaged, so check these regularly. If you are going away, unplug your appliances and switch off the wall power socket.

Electric blankets can spark a house fire, especially if they're old, misused, damaged, or worn. When not in use, make sure it's switched off and unplugged from the socket, stored somewhere dust-free and that the cord is stored correctly.

Rechargeable batteries

Many things we own come with a rechargeable battery. These batteries, particularly lithium-ion, need to be handled with care to avoid explosion and fire from



chemical reactions. Reactions can be caused by overcharging, heat, moisture, and impact trauma.

Make sure your electronic devices and other rechargeable items (such as power tools) are purchased from a reputable supplier, kept cool and charged correctly, and are turned off at the powerpoint when fully charged.

Heaters and wood fires

These fires are still prevalent, especially during winter and in households of people aged 65+. Check portable electric and gas heaters for faults before the cooler season, and plug them directly into a wall socket rather than a powerboard.

Heaters must be carefully placed on a flat floor surface

with a sturdy base to prevent toppling over. Be sure to keep a metre of clear space around the heater and remove any tripping hazards.

Keep fire chimneys, vents, and flues clean and place a sturdy screen in front of an open fire when in use.

Finally, never use outdoor heating inside—or vice versa.

House wiring

Fires can be caused by old electrical wiring running through wall internals of the house. Older wiring is often rated for a lower amperage than what today's appliances need and can't cope with modern electrical equipment. If your home is more than 30 years old, it's important to have the wiring checked by a qualified electrician.

Old and outdated electrical panels and fuse boxes may not contain any safety measures such as a fuse or circuit breaker which would trip with an overload of electricity. This can prevent fires caused by overheating wires.

Fire safe kitchens

The kitchen is the room that requires the most attention when it comes to fire safety due to the numerous heat-generating appliances stored and used there.

The good news is, aside from gas, most modern cooktops are ceramic or induction which is less likely to cause fires as there is less extreme heat and no naked flame. Newer models often contain safety alarms that cut power to the cooktop when a dangerous heat level is detected or an element has been left on.

Here's what you can do to keep your kitchen safe:

- Ensure all appliances are regularly cleaned including stovetops, ovens, grills, and range hoods.
- Never leave cooking unattended and ensure appliances are turned off after use.
- When cooking with oil, heat slowly and use the correct-sized pot or pan to reduce splatter.
- Invest in a fire extinguisher and fire blanket. Learn where to store them and how to use them.
- Fires caused by fat or oil must NOT be extinguished using water, as this can make it explode. Instead, use a fire blanket or lid to smother the flames.
- Keep children away from ovens and cooktops while they are in use.
- Don't leave flammable items near cooktops and ovens including tea towels, loose clothing, wooden spoons, and oven mitts.



Smoke alarms

Government legislation requires smoke alarms (that meet Australian standards) to be installed in every home. Additionally, in the past 25 years, smoke alarms have been required to be connected to mains power with a backup battery. Alarms should be regularly checked and replaced if more than 10 years old or expired. Complying makes and models can be found at most hardware stores.

In case of fire

Finally, if you do experience a fire in the home, ensure you have already set up an escape plan that you and your household members have practiced.

In case of fire, always call 000 from a safe place.

Home insurance

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DISCOVER THE JOY OF PROBUS ~ AND SHARE IT WITH FRIENDS

Earlier this year, we invited subscribers of our Active Retirees magazine across Australia to share their thoughts about Probus and what it means to them. Our subscribers include both current Club members and people who are enquire about joining.

With the world of retirement changing rapidly, our goal was to understand how Probus can continue to evolve — to stay vibrant, welcoming, and relevant for today's and tomorrow's retirees.

What We Heard

Almost 6,000 people responded — an incredible result! Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts.

Many members told us how much they value their Clubs and the friendships they've made through Probus. But others reminded us that it's important to keep things fresh — with more activity groups, more variety, and more welcoming spaces for new members. Some said that their Clubs would benefit from encouraging younger retirees to join, or by making sure no one feels left out.

We also noted that a few Clubs are struggling to attract new members, while newer Clubs often appeal more strongly to younger retirees.

On a broader scale, many participants wrote passionately about the importance of Probus in their communities. They told



us how Probus helps keep older Australians active, engaged, and socially connected — and how these connections are vital for wellbeing.

Suggestions for the future included:

- Promoting Probus as **“the next logical step after full-time work”**
- Using **social media** to reach younger retirees
- Offering **flexible meeting times** for part-time workers
- Highlighting that Probus offers **much more than fun and friendship — it's a gateway to purpose, connection, and lifelong learning**

Looking Ahead

Three out of four respondents believe that Probus will continue to meet the needs of future retirees. But they also see opportunities: tomorrow's members will be more tech-savvy, more experienced travellers, and looking for engaging, hands-on activities. Some noted that Probus could work harder to shake off perceptions of being “old fashioned” and become more inclusive and diverse.

We also heard great ideas about Clubs working together — sharing events, resources, and energy. Some suggested appointing a **Social Media Officer** within each Club to help spread the word online.

At Probus South Pacific Limited, our Board and staff are reviewing all this feedback closely and developing ways to help Clubs attract and inspire the next generation of active retirees.

How You Can Help

If you're already part of Probus — thank you for being a vital part of our community! You can play a big role in helping it grow. Talk to your friends, neighbours, or colleagues who are newly retired or semi-retired. Invite them along to a meeting or an activity — show them what Probus is all about.

And for those who are thinking about joining — now is the perfect time to experience Probus for yourself. Ask yourself:

- Am I ready to meet new people and stay connected?
- Do I want to keep learning, exploring, and having fun?
- Could I benefit from being part of a warm, welcoming group of like-minded retirees?

If the answer is yes — we'd love to welcome you to the world of Probus.

From the members that responded to our survey, **70% of them heard about Probus through their friends** - because they know how much it has enriched their lives.

The key to our success is simple: **be open to new ideas, new people, and new possibilities.**

Together, we can make sure that Probus continues to thrive — for today's members and for generations to come.



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TIPS FOR A SUN SMART SUMMER

Sometimes there's no escaping the stifling heat and humidity at this time of year, but as the UV index soars it's important to proactively protect your precious skin. Here we discuss some of the dangers and offer our top tips for a sun smart summer.

Sun exposure is a serious matter. While Australians love the great outdoors and relish any opportunity to soak up the sunshine, we can't afford to be complacent about the potential health risks of exposing our skin to harmful UV light.

In summer that risk factor is only heightened. The powerful UV rays penetrate outer layers of your skin with cells containing the protective pigment melanin, eventually reaching deeper layers of the skin and damaging or killing skin cells. This can lead to sunburn, reduced elasticity, premature aging, and most concerningly skin cancer.

Here are a few precautions you can take to help prevent potentially dangerous skin damage caused by overexposure to the sun.

Avoid The Most Dangerous Hours

The period from 11am to 3pm is generally the hottest and most dangerous part of the day. In summer temperatures consistently soar well above 30°C, while peak daily UV values regularly enter the range considered extreme.

To protect your skin, it's worth trying to stay out of the sun during these times as much as possible. If you are going to be outdoors, look for shady areas to sit, stand or walk. No matter how



beautiful the day, it's never a good idea to actively seek out the sun for any length of time. In fact, even five to ten minutes of sun exposure can begin to damage your skin.

Although the middle of the day is best avoided, it's certainly not an outdoor free-for-all throughout the other hours. Your skin can still be affected by the sun in the morning or late afternoon, and also when the sun appears hidden

by cloud cover or overcast skies. Just because you can't see the sun, it doesn't mean you're not getting sunburnt.

SLIP, SLOP, SLAP, SEEK, SLIDE

First launched by Cancer Council in 1981 and updated in 2007 as part of the SunSmart program, the popular 'Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide' health campaign is always your best guide to sun-smart decision-making.

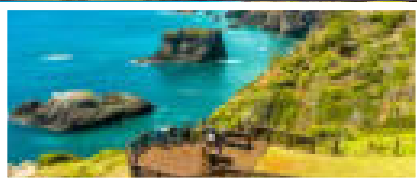
So regardless of your age you

should always try to slip on a shirt, slop on some sunscreen, slap on a hat, seek shade, and slide on your sunglasses when going outside. Your specific choices matter too. Ideally you should wear a long-sleeved shirt with a collar to cover your neck, a wide-brimmed or floppy hat that protects your whole face, and wraparound sunglasses with UV blocking lenses – not whichever sunnies feel the most fashionable! As for your selection of sunscreen, SPF50+ is most effective and realistically the only recommended option.

What if you've already started a daytime adventure and you don't have access to all five important sun-smart methods? See if you can buy or borrow what you need, and at the very least make sure you use what's available.



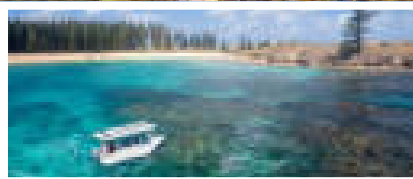
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Probus Month Celebrations 2025



Across Australia, Probus Club members once again came together this October to celebrate friendship, fun and community. Probus Month celebrations began on 1 October in line with the United Nations Day of Older Persons, setting the tone for a month filled with laughter, connection and shared experiences. From morning teas and themed lunches to scenic trips and local events, members embraced every opportunity to celebrate the joy of companionship.

Across the country as members decorated venues and dressed up in Probus Blue and Yellow, it was a proud reminder of the spirit that unites Probus members everywhere. With creativity and enthusiasm shining through every celebration, this year's Probus Month was a true reflection of how members have Reinvented their Retirement in Probus.

Out and About

Probus members embraced the warmer October weather with a number of outdoor trips and outings.

Bella Vista Probus (NSW) arranged a visit to the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains. It was a wonderful day, with the gardens between early September and mid-November with a stunning mass of rhododendrons in full bloom.



Campsie-Kingsgrove Probus (NSW) members visited Kokoda Track Walkway at Concord West with members enjoying morning tea, barbecued sausages, and delicious salads for lunch, followed by fruit and cakes for afternoon tea.



Members of Capalaba and Victoria Point Probus Clubs (QLD) joined forces to participate in a dedicated walk through Cleveland, designed to promote social interaction and health awareness. Eighteen Probians laughed, shared stories, and walked between 1 and 10 kilometers depending on their fitness levels.



Central Coast Probus (TAS) members attended the Emu Valley Rhododendron and enjoyed a wonderful meal at the restaurant afterwards.



Chatsworth-Carindale Probus (QLD) went on a relaxing Picnic in the Park at Wynnum. It was a beautiful day filled with good company, laughter, and the simple joy of sharing a delicious morning tea together in the fresh seaside air.



Manjimup Probus (WA) celebrated with a trip to the Southern Forest with morning tea at the Quininnup Tavern and lunch at the Shannon National Park campsite. This was followed by a trip to Big Tree Gully where members admired enormous karri trees.



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BELROSE ★ 17-18 FEB**

**THE CONCOURSE
CHATSWOOD ★ 20-21 FEB**

**THE ART HOUSE
WYONG ★ 24-25 FEB**

**THE PAVILION
SUTHERLAND ★ 27-28 FEB**

BOOKINGS: RetiredLaughing.com.au



Streaky Bays Combined Probus (SA)

members took a trip to Ceduna, 100 kilometers away visiting an oyster shed at Smoky Bay, exploring a new Aboriginal art gallery, enjoying lunch, and touring a quirky open garden host with lots of purple.



Kenmore Gardens Probus (QLD) celebrated with a Scavenger Hunt at

Rocks Riverside Park, Seventeen Mile Rocks. Members finished their fun-filled celebration with lunch at the Monier Hotel.



Woodend Probus (VIC)

celebrated with a road trip to historic Inglewood, located about 120 kilometres northwest of Woodend. Members visited the historic Inglewood Eucalyptus Oil Distillery and took a stroll around the old town. The Carlie Clothing store was a hit for some members, purchasing very different shoes. The Antique Shops were also a great attraction for those keen buyers.



Woodcroft Probus (SA) had an excellent venue for their lunch at the Brighton Seacliff Yacht Club, with its fabulous ocean views. The helpful friendly staff, great food and service made their lunch a great experience.



Springwood Probus (QLD) embarked on a "Mystery Tour". Members entrusted the organiser to lead them astray through the paths of Southbank, Brisbane, meeting at the Southbank Ferry Terminal.



Some 50 members of **Carindale Probus (QLD)** gathered at Whites Hill Café & Bar to celebrate in style. Whites Hill Reserve offers a tranquil escape within an open Eucalypt Forest and Dry Rainforest—home to many native species, including the iconic koala. It was the perfect setting for a relaxed and delicious brunch.



Members of **Varsity Lakes Probus (QLD)** enjoyed a great day cruising on the Tweed River. The weather cleared as they embarked and the sun shone on the clear, healthy water of the Tweed. Cruise master Michael gave a full commentary — from the volcanic eruption that formed Mt. Warning, the rich, productive land, and the popular place it is today.



Trevallyn Combined Probus (TAS) celebrated along with its 6th anniversary by having a bus trip to the Central Highlands in Tasmania. The weather was kind, with sunshine and a very cold wind, but thankfully no rain or snow!



Byford and Districts Probus (WA) held a Bocce tournament. This event has now become a club tradition, and the competition to win the perpetual trophy is enjoyed by many of the club members — including those who come along to watch the spectacle.



Copacabana Probus (NSW) gathered for a family picnic amidst the beautiful setting of Kincumber Mountain. Under sunny skies, the club enjoyed a classic BBQ outing filled with laughter and good company. A special highlight was the infectious energy of Dave and Veronica's grandsons who got everyone involved in games like Kuba, golf putting, Jenga, and corn dolly.



Lively indoor gatherings

Some clubs took their celebrations indoors to be enjoyed with lively gatherings filled with games, music, and food.

Jackson's Creek Combined Probus (VIC) invited other Sunbury Probus groups to join them in celebrating at Dromkeen in Riddlles Creek. Members enjoyed afternoon tea and an engaging talk about the early owners of Dromkeen.



Corowa Wahgunyah Mixed Probus (NSW) joined with the Corowa Men's Probus for a lovely lunch at the Balldale Hotel, which won the "Best Bush Pub in NSW" Award for 2025. Forty members and guests enjoyed the outing.



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Pakenham Central Probus (VIC) brought the spirit of the islands to life with a vibrant “Day in Hawaii” Friendship Day to celebrate — and it was all smiles, sunshine, and aloha energy from start to finish. The festive event saw more than 100 Probus members gather from across Cardinia Shire, with guests from Pakenham Central, Pakenham, Pakenham East, and Officer Probus Clubs joining the fun. The room was awash with bright Hawaiian shirts, colourful leis, and hula skirts, setting the perfect tropical scene.



Rye Ladies Probus (VIC) dressed in blue and yellow, with prizes awarded to the best dressed. Members always celebrate their warm and friendly club over a ‘cuppa’ at morning tea.



Cremorne Probus’ (NSW) celebration was a resounding success, making it one of the best days in the club’s annual calendar. It was in large part due to the meticulous planning and set-up by indefatigable organisers and Management Committee members. There was dancing to the strains of familiar tunes, appreciated by many who joined in throughout. Hidden clue prizes were won by two lucky guests.



Charlton Probus (VIC) celebrated a few days early to take advantage of the Charlton Harness Racing Meeting. Charlton was joined by Castle, Donald, and Wycheproof members to make a total of 44 people. Everyone enjoyed the luncheon and tried their luck at the tipping competition. Frank hosted the day; he interviewed Bendigo based bookie Anthony, and local driver Luke. Barman whipped out his guitar for a few songs.



Port Elliot and Middleton Probus (SA) enjoyed the spirit of Probus with a variation to their normal monthly meeting by having a games morning and dressing in the Probus colours of blue and yellow. Michael asked members to draw a linked road map of a location each member had personally stayed in the world for over three months, the fun part being how did everyone travelled between each place. There were some very interesting transport suggestions such as camels, gliders, and submarines.



Queenscliffe, and the Point Lonsdale & District Probus (VIC) joined forces, initially at the Point Lonsdale and District’s inaugural Trivia Activities morning, and later for the Queenscliffe Club’s barbecue. Lots of laughs were shared by members, old and new.



Emu Park Probus (QLD) enjoyed outings, guest talks, lunches with other Probus clubs, senior events, and local promotions. Activities like Lawn Quoits, Boche, and community engagement are thriving, attracting 4 new members in 2 months. The club indeed abides by the motto of “Fun, Friendship and Fellowship.”





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APRIL LUNCH SPECIAL 2 COURSES \$65 PP

1st to 30th April 2026

Monday to Thursday, 12pm to 2pm

Main & dessert with tea & coffee

Minimum: 2 Maximum: 24



CHRISTMAS IN JULY 3 COURSES \$95 PP

1st to 30th July 2026

Monday to Thursday, 12pm to 2pm

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Minimum: 2 Maximum: 24



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Subiaco and City Beach Probus (WA) came together with more than 60 members and visitors enjoyed a brief address by the Mayor of Subiaco, followed by short reports from each Club President, and a lively raffle. Members shared a sumptuous morning tea with cakes and sandwiches before concluding the meeting with an excellent speaker.



Varsity Lakes Probus (QLD), and prospective members took part in activities arranged by the committee. The yellow and blue theme set the scene for a positive and enjoyable general meeting where President Margaret Durrant and foundation member, and Past President Jo Kelly, cut the celebration cake.



Gosford West Probus (NSW) dressed in style with a fun Hat Parade featuring four categories and prizes for the winners. Members embraced the spirit of the day with colourful and creatively crafted hats. It was a wonderful celebration of creativity and fun!



Moss Vale Men's Probus (NSW) hosted a combined meeting of local Probus Clubs at the Mittagong RSL Club. The local Probus Clubs represented were Bargo, Bowral Combined, Crookwell, Moss Vale Combined, Moss Vale Men's, Goulburn Combined, Goulburn, Nattai and Wingecarribee. With around 200 members and their guests in attendance, a keynote address titled 'The Lost Diggers' was given by renowned Australian author and journalist, Ross Coulthart.



Coffs City Probus (NSW) approached a little differently. The Club ran a radio notice on a local radio station 2AirFM 107.9 as part of an information program leading up to an interview conducted by Presenter Freddie. Freddie interviewed President John and Life Member Ken about the benefits of being a member of Probus. The Club even received phone calls from the local area, as well as one from Indonesia. At the end of the interview, a **Probus Month** Certificate of Appreciation was presented to 2AirFM 107.9.



Russell Lea Probus (NSW) has celebrated every year since its inception in 2020. This year, they dressed in blue and yellow attire with members raising a glass of bubbles and enjoying a specially made Probus cake. John, former President and current Newsletter Editor was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding commitment in keeping members connected.



Taigum Probus (QLD) put up special decorations, a Probus Cake with an edible Probus Month Logo and a special morning tea. Following morning tea, all the members of the Club had photos taken under the trees at the rear of Fitzgibbon Hall where the Club Meets. The guest speaker was Ian, one of their members who had been in Saudi Arabia on business, spoke on "The Land of Contrasts." This was very interesting, as Ian dressed up in the Saudi Dress and named each item.



Anniversaries to Remember

Clubs celebrated milestones during Probus Month with cake, speeches, and memorable moments.

Westbourne Park Ladies' Probus (SA) celebrated with colours of blue and yellow as they cut a special birthday cake and enjoyed several fun activities. One highlight was the very special morning tea, and another was the presentation of a letter and certificate from Probus South Pacific in which the club was congratulated for attaining 35 years.



Sale Combined Probus (VIC) celebrated their second birthday with a special luncheon to mark the occasion. A new member was inducted and a gorgeous looking birthday cake featuring blue and yellow icing were the highlights of the day. The function room at the Sale Greyhound Club had a makeover with blue and yellow colours featuring on the tablecloths, serviettes, and flowers. Members joined in fellowship with the Sale Ladies Probus (VIC) at lunch at La Porchetta where blue and yellow Probus branded balloons featured on each table.



Logan Village Probus (QLD) celebrated with the club's first birthday. Members brought in plates of morning tea of "epic" proportions, to share. It was a testament to good old fashioned country hospitality. The club's birthday cake was generously supplied by Nathan St Ledger, Division 4 Councillor, Logan City Council. Entertainment was provided by the Chambers Pines Songbirds Choir.



Tocumwal Combined Probus Club (NSW) recently celebrated with its 25th Anniversary. Members gathered to reflect on the friendships, fun, and fellowship shared over the years, making it a truly memorable occasion.



Bacchus Marsh Ladies Probus (VIC) was so proud to celebrate with its 35th Year Anniversary. A 'Birthday Party' was held at their monthly meeting, complete with a cake, candles, games and most members wearing 'a touch of blue and gold', the colours of the Probus Logo. Jan presented a This is Your Life Probus slideshow featuring many memorable events, including local trips, trips abroad, past presidents, outings, social events and wonderful photos of members past and present. A birthday party just wouldn't be the same without game. The first was to identify classic movie stars and their movies, and the second was The Price is Right using grocery items.



Bilgola Plateau Probus (NSW) celebrated Probus Month along with its 3rd Birthday. Members dressed in the Probus colours – they had everything from stunning magical capes, duck shirts, bubbles, braces, beads, earrings, ties and scarves to party hats, streamers, balloons, crocheted flowers and paper garlands. One of the members even made a birthday cake for 100 people. Lucky door prizes, lots of laughter and a Guest Speaker topped off on a perfect day.



Forest Belrose Probus (NSW)

members celebrated with the club's 13th Birthday. A record of 106 attendees at the Forest Hotel in Frenchs Forest, where two of the club's Foundation Members, Jill and Barbara, had the honor to cut the cake.



Port Lincoln Ladies Probus (SA)

organized a high tea cooked by members. They had 38 members and 5 visitors. Two new members were inducted on the day and two long term members, Heather and Betty, were awarded honorary badges. Several members brought six items from different collections they have for display. There were teapots, bells, cloth dolls, mugs, family history, and miniature tea sets.



Joy painted her beautiful lilies in Probus colours and Marilyn arranged a small vase of flowers on each table.

Normanhurst Probus (NSW) members had a relaxed barbeque at Bobbin Head. Members gathered to share good food, laughter, and great company in the beautiful outdoor setting. Such a perfect way to mark the occasion and Probus friendship.



Alexandra Headland Mixed Probus (QLD)

enjoyed a barbecue in the park. This was held at The Spit, Mooloolaba on a beautiful but windy day. Some of the blue & yellow balloons escaped and burst, giving some of them a nasty fright, culminating in lots of funny looking water being consumed. Luckily, the steaks, sausages and onions remained intact and were devoured and enjoyed by everyone.



Fun Morning Teas and Barbeques

Probus Month celebrations continued with members sharing laughter and stories over relaxed morning teas and barbeques.

Thirroul Probus (NSW)

members hosted a special morning tea at Club Thirroul with 81 members taking part in the celebration. Everyone enjoyed a lovely cake decorated by one of the members, Di, and a delicious morning tea catered for by Club Thirroul.



Wentworth Point Probus (NSW) hosted a distinguished morning tea. The event featured the presentation of appreciation certificates, foundation badges, and Probus pens to five founding members who have contributed since the club's inception in 2009. Additionally, the club organized a river cruise and luncheon for 30 members and guests in further celebration.



Mitcham Nunawading Probus (VIC) members met at Ruffy Lake Park in Doncaster for a BBQ lunch, and most wore some blue and yellow. It was a "Bring Your Own" everything and most brought something to share, be it a salad, yummy chocolate/ginger treats and even the old yellow banana lollies, which originally came from the Craig and Hales factory in Collingwood, Vic. The park was well equipped with bench tables under excellent cover and good, clean free BBQ's.



Combined Probus Club of Paradise Point (QLD) had a very special guest as members enjoyed a sausage sizzle at Charles Holm Park in Santa Barbara. The Queensland Premier, David, dropped by to speak with the 50 Probians in attendance on a brilliant Gold Coast Spring Day. David, who is also the State Member for the seat of Broadwater, in which the park is located, spent almost an hour mixing with and chatting to all the attendees. He also found time to have a sausage sanger!



Albury Murray Probus (NSW) met on the shores of the Murray River at Hovell Tree Park with a BBQ to get together. Wonderful preparation by their hard-working Trips, Tours and Mini Visits Committee. The event was very well attended and enjoyed by all.



Combined Probus Club of the Glasshouse Mountains (QLD) organised a picnic in the local park with a BBQ, games and loads of hilarity. Memories came flooding back to this same small club celebrating on the Glasshouse Sports Ground twenty years ago. On that occasion, over 1000 people from 40 different clubs from all over Southeast Queensland gathered. People came by bus and there were so many buses that members were assigned to guide the drivers to parking spaces.



Barossa Ladies Probus (SA) celebrated with a barbeque at Coulthard Reserve, Nuriootpa. It was enjoyed by 40 people including some members of the Men's Probus Club, Barossa Valley. The weather was very kind, and the members managed to sit outside and enjoy the sunshine. BBQ kings Gerry, Phil and Terry, did a great job cooking up sausages to enjoy in a roll with onions & coleslaw, followed by a delightful range of sweet treats.



As another Probus Month ends, members across Australia can look back with pride on a time filled with laughter, connection and community spirit. The stories and memories shared throughout October remind us of that Probus is more than a social club; it is a place where friendship grows, adventures continue, and life after retirement is celebrated in the best way possible.

Tours



Departure 14/15 April 2026

CUNNAMULLA INDULGENCE IN THE OUTBACK

Soak in mineral-rich hot springs & be mesmerised by Cunnamulla's storied past.



Departure 03 May 2026

QUEENSLAND'S SOUTHERN OUTBACK TRAIL

Delve into the Southern Outback's rich stories, vast horizons, ancient wonders and starry nights.



Departure 19 June 2026

CAIRNS TO CAPE YORK FAR NORTH QLD ADVENTURE

Explore the rugged beauty of Far North QLD, from Cairns to the remote northern tip of Australia.



Departure 15 August 2026

DARWIN TO BROOME

Journey across northern Australia's wild beauty with cruises, culture and wildlife.



Departure 07 September 2026

SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA EXPLORER

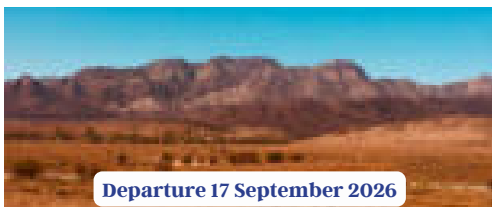
Experience Western Australia's natural wonders, rich history, and food and wine delights.



Departure 08 September 2026

THE GULF SAVANNAH EXPLORER CAIRNS TO CAIRNS

Experience Gulf Country's rail journeys, gorges, wildlife and sunset seafood cruise



Departure 17 September 2026

FLINDERS, ARKAROOA & BAROSSA VALLEY

Explore the rugged outback, natural wonders & fine wine on this South Australian adventure.



Departure 19 October 2026

ALL THE RIVERS RUN EXPLORER THE TRAIL OF LIGHTS & FOSO SPECTACLE

Explore Murray region's history, river cruises, art, museums, and night-time spectacles.



Departure 16 May & 05 September 2026

MAURITIUS INDIAN OCEAN PARADISE

Embark on a tropical journey & explore vibrant markets, beaches & lush botanical gardens.



Departure 12 May & 28 July 2026

OUR COOK ISLANDS PARADISE

Unwind in paradise with a week of vibrant culture, crystal-clear lagoons & warm island hospitality.



Departure 28 October 2026

JAPAN AUTUMN LEAVES

Wander through Japan's timeless beauty as autumn transforms it into crimson & gold.



Departure 03 November 2026

SRI LANKA PEARL OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

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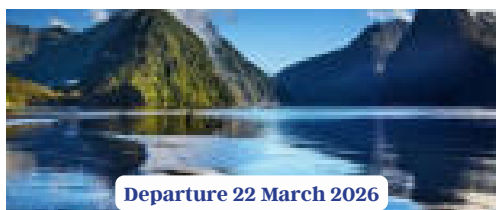
Cruises



Departure 21 March 2026

QUEENSLAND CRUISE BRISBANE TO BRISBANE

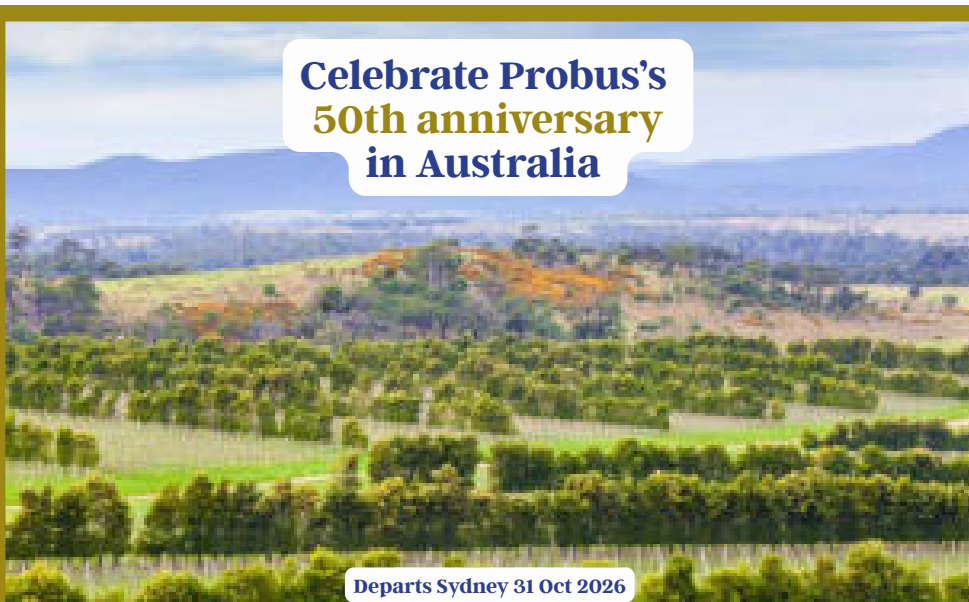
Embark from Brisbane to Airlie Beach and Cairns, experiencing vibrant tropical cruising adventures.



Departure 22 March 2026

NEW ZEALAND CRUISE ONBOARD ROYAL CARIBBEAN

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Departs Sydney 31 Oct 2026

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Join fellow members from across Australia for fun, friendship, and exclusive Probus social events as you explore the country's famed wine regions and the very best of Tasmania.



Departure 29 March 2026

FIJI - VANUATU ONBOARD CELEBRITY CRUISES

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Departure 18 April 2026

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Departure 24 February 2027

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Departure 20 October 2027

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Departure 24 October 2027

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DISCOVER TWO NEW HORIZONS FOR 2026/2027: NORFOLK ISLAND & NEW ZEALAND SCENIC DISCOVERY

As we look forward to an exciting year of travel in 2026, we are delighted to introduce two brand-new tours crafted to bring our guests richer experiences, greater comfort, and unforgettable moments in two of the South Pacific's most captivating destinations: Norfolk Island and New Zealand. Each tour offers its own blend of natural beauty, culture, sightseeing and ease — perfect for Probus groups, club travelers, and anyone seeking relaxed yet inspiring journeys.

New for 2026/2027: Norfolk Island – A Pacific Paradise Reimagined

Just a short flight from Australia lies a destination that feels a world away. Norfolk Island, with its dramatic coastline, iconic pines and friendly community spirit, offers a slower, gentler pace that many travelers crave.

Our newly released 2026 6-Day Norfolk Island itinerary has been crafted to showcase the island's most treasured highlights. Guests will explore the UNESCO-listed convict settlement of Kingston, enjoy delicious island hospitality through experiences such as the famous "Progressive Dinner," glide over colorful reef life on a glass-bottom boat tour, and discover coastal lookouts and forest trails framed by ancient pines.

With unpack-once convenience and a balanced mix of guided touring and free leisure time, this tour is ideal for travelers who



want to unwind, learn, explore and savour the island's unique charm.

New for 2026/2027: New Zealand Scenic Discovery – North & South Island Highlights

New Zealand continues to inspire travelers around the world — and our new 2026/2027 18-Day Grand New Zealand tour brings together the country's most dazzling highlights across both islands.

This itinerary captures the spirit of Aotearoa, with iconic scenic rail journeys, breathtaking mountain and coastal landscapes, cultural connections, and vibrant cities. Guests may experience legendary rail routes such as the TransAlpine or Coastal Pacific, explore geothermal wonders, cruise serene lakes and "fjords, and

enjoy me in cities like Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown.

Designed for comfort and easy pacing, the tour blends must-see icons with hidden gems, local dining and generous free time — perfect for club travelers who love variety, culture and unforgettable scenery.

Travel with Comfort, Confidence & Great Value

Both new 2026 tours include quality accommodation, thoughtfully planned sightseeing, most meals, experienced tour escorts and the ease of seamless, comfortable travel. These tours offer excellent value for clubs and group travelers, with attractive group benefits available with our \$1 million Probus giveaway!

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- Orbit 360° Dining Restaurant, Sky Tower Auckland
- Hobbiton™ Movie Set, Matamata
- Skyline Gondola, Rotorua
- Summit Restaurant at Bob's Peak
- Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland
- Te Pā Tū – Māori Cultural Dinner and Performance
- Taupō Thermal Springs
- Mission Estate Winery, Napier
- Marine Parade and Napier Art Deco District
- Mount Victoria Lookout, Wellington
- Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
- Wellington Cable Car
- Interislander Ferry (Wellington to Picton)
- Marlborough Sounds
- Coastal Pacific Train (Picton to Christchurch)
- Christchurch Arts Centre
- Earthquake Memorial & Bridge of Remembrance
- Cardboard Cathedral, Christchurch
- International Antarctic Centre
- Avon River & Christchurch Botanic Gardens
- TranzAlpine Train (Christchurch to Arthur's Pass)
- Ross gold-mining town
- Franz Josef Glacier
- Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier
- Lake Matheson
- Haast Pass scenic drive
- Wanaka (lakeside lunch)
- Queenstown
- Arrowtown historic village and Chinese settlement
- TSS Earnslaw steamship
- Walter Peak High Country Farm (BBQ dinner)
- Milford Sound (cruise)
- Fiordland National Park
- Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional)
- Larnach Castle and Gardens, Dunedin
- Dunedin City Tour – University of Otago, Railway Station, street art trail
- Christchurch

Flights ex SYD included

18-Day Both Islands (Grand)

\$9,965 per person twin share, \$11,865 solo

10 Day North Island

\$4,990 per person twin share, \$5,950 solo

10 Day South Island

\$5,750 per person twin share, \$7,050 solo

Tuesday, 1st September, 2026 – 18 Day Grand and 10 Day North

Wednesday, 9th September, 2026 – 10 Day South

Tuesday, 22nd September, 2026 – 18 Day Grand and 10 Day North

Wednesday, 30th September, 2026 – 10 Day South

Monday, 5th October, 2026 – 18 Day Grand and 10 Day North

Tuesday, 13th October, 2026 – 10 Day South

Tuesday, 2nd March, 2027 – 18 Day Grand and 10 Day North

Wednesday, 10th March, 2027 – 10 Day South

Tuesday, 23rd March, 2027 – 18 Day Grand and 10 Day North

Wednesday, 31st March, 2027 – 10 Day South

Tuesday, 13th April, 2027 – 18 Day Grand and 10 Day North

Wednesday, 21st April, 2027 – 10 Day South

NORFOLK ISLAND - 6 DAYS



Day 1 – Sydney to Norfolk Island

We begin our holiday with a flight from Sydney to the emerald shores of Norfolk Island. On arrival, we'll be greeted with a warm island welcome and transferred to our accommodation for the next 5 nights, South Pacific Resort.

Day 2 – Discovering the Island's Charm

After breakfast we embark on a Half-Day Orientation Tour—the perfect introduction to the island's fascinating blend of history, culture, and breathtaking scenery. Learn about the early settlers, the convict past, and the unique Pitcairn heritage that gives Norfolk its warm community spirit.

Day 3 – History, Heritage & Island Flavours

We begin the day with a visit to the remarkable Fletcher's Mutiny Cyclorama, an awe-inspiring 360° painting that immerses you in the dramatic story of the Bounty mutineers and their descendants.

Day 4 – Nature and Norfolk Traditions

Wake to the sound of birdsong before heading out for a Bushwalk Breakfast and Clifftop BBQ. Choose an easy or moderate walk through Norfolk's lush bushland, then

tuck into a hearty breakfast with magnificent ocean views.

Day 5 – Culture, Creativity, and Farewell

Begin the day with the Island Culture Tour, an engaging experience that showcases local crafts, language, and customs passed down through generations. Friendly islanders share their stories and traditions, offering an authentic insight into daily life on Norfolk Island.

Day 6 – Farewell Norfolk Island

After breakfast, take in the peaceful beauty of the island one last time before transferring to the airport for your flight home to Sydney. You'll leave Norfolk Island with fond memories of warm hospitality, breathtaking landscapes, and a slower, more peaceful way of life that's hard to forget.

2026/2027

Flights ex SYD included

\$3,345 per person twin share, \$3,778 solo

**Dates: Sunday, 25th October, 2026,
10th January, 2027, 14th March, 2027**

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Join fellow members from across Australia for fun, friendship, and exclusive Probus social events as you explore the country's famed wine regions and the very best of Tasmania.

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- Main meals and onboard entertainment
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per bottle

EXCLUSIVE PROBUS MEMBER OFFER

Single-region sparkling wines at the Chandon cellar door retail for up to \$59 per bottle. This custom made sparkling is 50% less than comparable Chandon wines, bottled especially for the 50th Anniversary of Probus in Australia.

In 2026, Probus Clubs across the country will be celebrating **50 years of Probus in Australia** with a wide range of festivities, events and special offers which will begin on our 50th birthday on 3rd February 2026.

All Probus members are invited to raise a glass to 50 years of Probus in Australia with a truly special celebration. We're delighted to announce a one-off, commemorative sparkling wine crafted exclusively for Probus by the renowned winemakers at Domaine Chandon in the Yarra Valley.

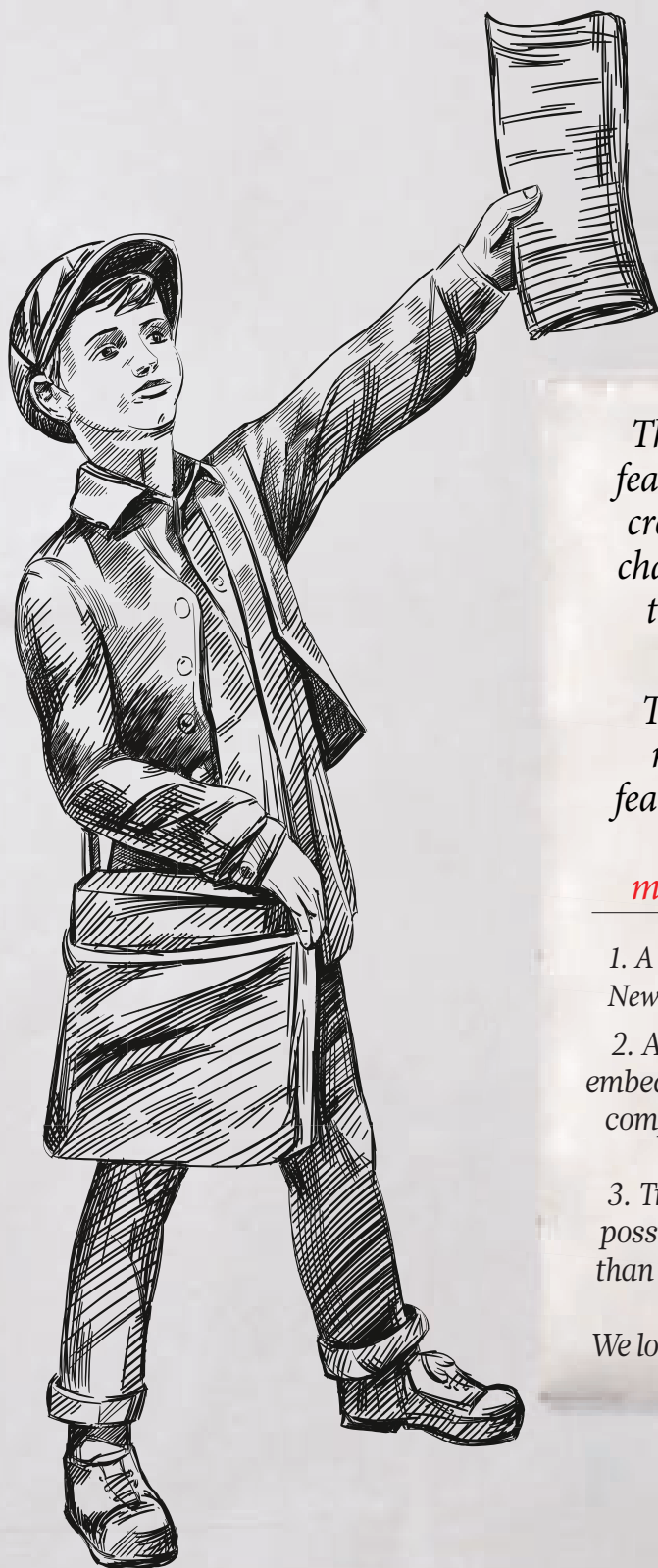
This is your chance to secure a piece of Probus history—this limited release will never be repeated and won't be available anywhere else. Perfect for Club events, as memorable gifts or prizes, or to share with family, friends, and fellow members.

Why this wine is special:

- Crafted just for Probus by Domaine Chandon's winemakers, drawing on their French heritage and Australian winemaking excellence
- Features a unique Probus 50th Anniversary label
- Exceptional value—offered to members at 50% less than comparable Chandon sparkling wines
- Order for your Club (as speakers' gifts or prizes), for yourself, or split a case with other members



Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

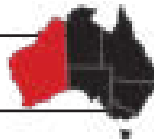


The following section of Club News features Club activities and members creative writing pieces. Even during challenging times, Probians continue to embrace the true spirit of Fun, Friendship and Fellowship.

To have your Club's event, trip or member submissions potentially featured in Active Retirees magazine, please send the following to marketing@probussouthpacific.org

- 1. A short description of 50 to 150 words for Club News and up to 300 words for Creative Writing*
- 2. A photo as a separate attachment (photos embedded in Word documents or PDFs are often compressed and too low-resolution for print)*
- 3. Try to send the original, full-sized photo if possible (these are generally higher resolution than those pulled from Facebook, for example)*

We look forward to receiving your submissions!



Enjoying Lunch at the Tavern

Booragoon Men's Probus Club recently gathered for relaxed lunch at a nearby tavern.

The outing provided a terrific opportunity for both new and long-term members and partners to socialise and enjoy good company.

Everyone enjoyed the hearty pub meal and the welcoming, easy-going setting.



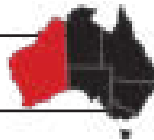
Dancing and Singing to Music Favourites

Bedford Combined Probus Club recently had so much fun welcoming a guest speaker who represented a community-based ballroom dancing company.

The guest speaker shared a video of four women in wheelchairs dancing to music, which was beautiful and inspiring. The company focuses on offering recreational and fitness classes to the young at heart and for people living with disabilities.

Afterward, the members were encouraged to try some chair dancing and sing along to favourites like Neil Diamond's Sweet Caroline. Members of the Club agreed that exercising had never been so much fun, and it was truly a wonderful morning.





Perth Mint Tour

Members of Noranda Combined Probus Club enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Perth Mint, where they heard stories about gold's rich history and viewed stunning gold specimens. They explored the gift shop, admired beautiful jewelry, minted their own medallions, and watched a live gold pour. Everyone discovered their "worth" in gold, and yes, they would all be millionaires!

The day ended with a lovely lunch at the Grosvenor Hotel, rounding off an enjoyable and memorable outing.



A Double Celebration for Judy!

It seems that member Judy from Eaton Combined Probus Club has had one celebration after another.

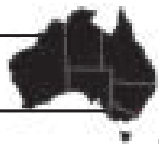
Recently, members recognised that Judy has been a member of Probus for over 30 years, having first joined while living in Melbourne.

Although not all those years were with the current club, it remains a wonderful achievement and a testament to her long-standing commitment to Probus.

At a Club meeting, members had the pleasure of celebrating another special occasion — Judy's 90th birthday. She was presented with a lovely cake to mark the special occasion.

Although they thought blowing out 90 candles would be a challenge, Judy managed to blow out the single candle with ease and a big smile.





Fun Day at Lake Tuggeranong Probus

The Probus Club of Lake Tuggeranong has for many years held a Fun Day when members provide the "entertainment" after the morning tea break, instead of a guest speaker.

This can take many varied formats but this year they performed a short skit entitled "A Condensed Version of Cinderella". There were the Ugly Sisters, the Fairy God Mother, Cinderella, the Handsome Prince, and the Narrator.

Each performer stood to deliver their lines in a monotone and then sat down. The text was very brief and the laughter from the audience was based on their appearance and the way they spoke their very few words.

It was a hilarious morning, and all thoroughly enjoyed.



2026

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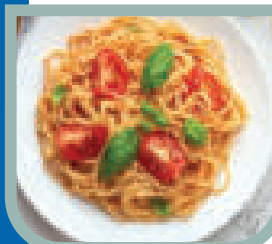
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PROBUS SOUTH PACIFIC LIMITED

ACN 152 374 395

ARE YOU A PROBUS CLUB MEMBER IN NSW, ACT, WA OR NEW ZEALAND

If you answered yes and have served on your Club's Management Committee for at least one year, then you could consider joining the Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) Board. Each year, PSPL calls for nominations for the PSPL Board from Probus Club members to succeed those Directors who are retiring. The PSPL Board consists of six Representative Member/Directors who are nominated by their Probus Club, the Immediate Past Chairman and up to three Board-appointed Directors. The primary role of a PSPL Representative Member/Director is, in conjunction with the Board, to ensure the continued growth and success of Probus in Australia and New Zealand.

All Directors on the PSPL Board act in a voluntary capacity for the benefit of the Probus Community and all Probus Club members from either New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia or New Zealand that meet the eligibility criteria are encouraged to consider nominating.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO SERVE ON THE PSPL BOARD FROM AUGUST 2026 TO AUGUST 2029

Nominations are open for Probus Club members to serve on the PSPL Board as Representative Member/Directors from the following areas of selection:

- *New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory**
- *Western Australia**
- *New Zealand**

Both male and female Probians who have business experience in finance, communications, or marketing as a public company Director are encouraged to consider nomination by their Probus Club.

These are volunteer positions with meetings currently being held via technological means with the exception of the Annual General Meeting.

For further information or to obtain an official Nomination Form, please contact:

Silvana Martignago
E: silvanam@probussouthpacific.org
T: 1300 630 488
W: www.probussouthpacific.org

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO SERVE ON THE PSPL NOMINATING SELECTION COMMITTEES MAY 2026

Nominations are open for two Probus Club members from each of the following areas of selection to serve on the Nominating Selection Committees (NSCs):

- *New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory**
- *Western Australia**
- *New Zealand**

The role of the Nominating Selection Committee is to assess all eligible nominations from Probus Club members wishing to serve on the PSPL Board.

Interviews conducted by the Nominating Selection Committees will be conducted during May 2026 via

technological means.

Nominations for the PSPL Board and the Nominating Selection Committees must be lodged with PSPL by 30 April 2026.

For further information or to obtain an official Nomination Form, please contact:

Silvana Martignago
E: silvanam@probussouthpacific.org
T: 1300 630 488
W: www.probussouthpacific.org

Coolangatta/Tweed Heads Probus Celebrate 40 years

Coolangatta/Tweed Heads Probus Club recently celebrated their 40th anniversary with a black 'n' white, glitz 'n' glam themed luncheon at Club Tweed.

Fifty members were in attendance, dressed to party, and all had such a wonderful time!

The Coolangatta/Tweed Heads Probus Club is very fortunate for all its members who have contributed to the Club over the years and enjoyed fun and friendship in retirement together.

Here's to the next forty years!



40 years at Coffs City

Coffs City Probus Club has had a very busy few months, including celebrating its 40th birthday with the cake being cut by their oldest member.

The day was attended by many of their past Presidents, with entertainment by well-known bush poet, Bill.

The Club also recently celebrated the 100th birthday of member Col, which members enjoyed.



From 13 to 100

Bella Vista Probus Club recently celebrated its 15th anniversary.

The Club initially had 13 members present at the foundation meeting and has since increased to more than 100 members. Many of the foundation members remain active in the Club after 15 years of membership.

At the September meeting, the Club was honoured to have the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Hills Shire Council attend to present certificates to members.

It was an excellent day, and the Club looks forward to what the future holds.



A special 40th Birthday in Casino

The Casino Mixed Probus Club just had a special day for their members who are in their 90s this year plus their 40th birthday.

President Mal & Secretary Daphne cut the cake to celebrate Casino Mixed Probus Club's 40th Birthday.

The club also had a cake to recognise their members who have turned 90 years of age during 2025. Long-standing member Grace who turned 98 this year is pictured cutting the cake.





A Fun Trip to Albert

Peak Hill Probus Club recently enjoyed a more distant outing to the town of Albert, about 115km from Peak Hill.

A very pleasant journey of scenic farmland and all sealed roads, music streaming through the car radio, with friendly conversation; made it seem like a short trip.

Upon arrival, there it stood - the hotel with the biggest rabbit trap on its roof. Surrounded by many accommodation pods, children's playground & the fuel depot which was owned by famous singer Jason Owen's family.

A terrific day out was had by all, and was reflected upon, as they embarked on the calm drive back to Peak Hill.



Celebrating Foundation Members

The Probus Club of Albury Murray celebrated Probus Month by "Celebrating our Foundation Members".

Each Foundation Member participated in a short, pre-recorded interview conducted in their respective homes by Jenny and Geoff in the weeks leading up to the meeting. The meeting held on 22nd of October 2025, co-incidentally fell on the 28th anniversary of the Foundation of the Club on 22nd of October 1997, and at the same venue. This group features Edna - the inaugural Secretary.



The meeting engendered unalloyed delight in all of those present. An outstanding success.

Carnival of Flowers

Forty Probians headed off on an overnight, three-hour coach trip to Toowoomba for the Annual Carnival of Flowers. The Members from Banora Point were joined by members from Coolangatta/Tweed, Kingscliff and Hastings Point Clubs.

A local guide joined the group's bus to show the, the private gardens of a number of homes, including the eventual Grand Champion prize winner.

As well as enjoying the colourful displays and scented aroma of the parks, the guide pointed out the numerous stately homes and an overview of the City's history. A highlight for the members was to visit the unique Japanese Garden at the University grounds, where in the beautiful manicured grounds, were cherry trees in blossom.

The trip was a resounding success largely due to the organisation and planning done by their "outing team" of Fran and Clinton.



A Trip to Cooks Islands

Eighteen members and friends of Beacon Hill Probus Club have recently returned from the Cook Islands.

The tour was organised through Probus Partner, Trade Travel, with their Activities Officer, Shanelle, as tour leader. The members explored the main island of Raratonga showcasing its lush green vegetation in the mountains and the turquoise waters of the lagoons.

Their experiences were many, but the highlights included a progressive dinner with three different families in their homes, experiencing their local food and listening to their individual histories.

Another highlight was a day's outing in a glass bottom boat offering the opportunity to swim and snorkel, followed by a BBQ and cultural show on a deserted island. And, not to be missed was a visit to the smallest school on the island for a "Royal" welcome by the children and sumptuous morning tea.

Everyone came away with great memories and gave the tour a score of five out of five!



A Pen Pal Project

The Probus Club of Holroyd recently undertook a Pen Pal Project with Merrylands Public School, NSW.

The initiative involved engaging students under the approval and supervision of the teaching staff at Merrylands Public School.

The club is pleased to share this wonderful intergenerational connection.

In the photos are the students who participated.



A Life of Riley Experience

What a fantastic time the members have had this month at Round Corner Dural Probus Club—truly a Life of Riley experience.

Thirty enthusiastic members packed their bags and headed off on an unforgettable trip to Jindabyne. With stunning lakeview rooms for their accommodation, they were treated to three-course meals daily while each day was time to explore the best of the Snowy Mountains region.

Highlights included a visit to Cooma where members visited the information centre of the Snowy 2.0 project, learning about this feat of engineering. Everyone continued on to Thredbo and Perisher, where they were lucky enough to see snow falling. A gondola ride up the mountain offered breathtaking views. Visits to local museums provided a fascinating glimpse into the history of the area and of course, there was time to browse the local shops and take in the panoramic views from scenic lookouts.

Following on, members had a social outing to King Street Wharf, where thirty members joined the Naval Historical Society of Australia (NHSa) on a 3-hour cruise. The cruise showcased the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) activities and facilities in Sydney Harbour from 1788 to the present, with a special focus on World War II. They cruised past historical sites from Dawes Point to Watson's Bay.

A comprehensive commentary was provided, supported by information and photos on TVs, which brought the stories to life. As a souvenir, members each received a complimentary booklet packed with historical details and photographs.

During the cruise, they learned about lesser-known and remarkable facts about naval activities during both war and peace, all while enjoying the beauty of Sydney Harbour.





A Federal Member Visit

Copacabana Probuss Club's guest speaker for September was the Federal Member for Robertson, Dr. Gordon Reid.

Dr. Reid, who was re-elected in 2025, delivered an informative address on aged care reform, focusing on the new Aged Care Act coming into effect on November 1, 2025.

The presentation was followed by a productive Q&A session on health and aged care matters. Dr. Reid was thanked by Roge for his presentation.



46 Years of Gosford West Probuss Club

At a general meeting, the Probuss Club of Gosford West cut the cake for their 46th Birthday (7th August).

Cutting the cake were Ros (left) & Judy (right) and current President Elaine. Ros and Judy along with three other ladies, were the first ladies inducted into the then male-only club 18.5 years ago, in February 2007.

The theme for the day was Blue & Yellow - the official Probuss Colours.



Murrumbidgee River Adventure

In October, Cooma Ladies Probuss Club held a gathering. The members are fortunate to have the beautiful Murrumbidgee River nearby and nineteen Members met at the Reserve on the riverbank for a Picnic Lunch.

There were much conversation and laughter, and a cake was cut and shared.



A Celebration of 2 Milestones

The Probuss club of Port Stephens had a couple of very special Birthdays in August. Pam who turned 90 is the widow of the inaugural Secretary of this great club which is 42 years old and was previously a men's only organization. Pam still attends meetings and is very socially involved. She will receive a Nonagenarian Certificate.

The club's other great dame, Marie, who reached 100 years young. The club's first female Centenarian. She now lives in a care facility but remains very independent, and Marie still drives locally for now and attends most meetings and functions. Marie is full of life and loves a laugh.

Cheryl and Ann decided to pay a visit to her home and presented the Centenarian Certificate and flowers. She kept everyone in stitches!

Both of the ladies celebrated their birthdays with their respective families at the Nelson Bay Golf Club.



15 Years and Counting

Since its founding in 2010, the Thornleigh Mixed Probus Club has flourished, with a full membership and a waiting list. Members from diverse backgrounds have fostered a vibrant community, enabling the club to weather challenges over the years.

This year, the club marked its 15th anniversary with a memorable celebration. At the August meeting, 124 members and six visitors attended. President Mounira from the founding Rotary club, now part of Hornsby Rotary, presented the club with a 15-year certificate.

The anniversary meeting was a special event, with record attendance showing the club's strong membership. The meeting's standout was Neil's anniversary cake, celebrating the club's milestone and creativity.

The cake, adorned in Probus colours with the club logo and symbols of club activities, was truly special.

Later in the month, members gathered for a celebratory lunch at Pennant Hills Golf Club. The event featured a slideshow showcasing photos from the club's 15 years, and entertainment by a local ukulele singing group.

The festivities beautifully honoured fifteen successful years of fun, friendship and fellowship in the club.



A Harmony for Fifty

The Berowra District Mixed Probus Club gathered to celebrate at Club Berowra. Members spent an enjoyable luncheon, this took the form of a Trivia luncheon based on cartoon characters. Each session of questions was presented with a song by the Berowra Probus choir complete with appropriate props such as the "Mickey Mouse Club" song, "Popeye the Sailor man", and "Felix The Cat".

Choir Mistress, Shirley also developed a special Probus song in honour of the 50th Anniversary.

Shirley formed the choir over 10 years ago and over that time the choir has sung at nursing homes, concerts and even a funeral as well as at most Berowra Mixed Probus Club events.



A Wild Encounter

Members of the Windsor Probus Club recently enjoyed an unforgettable experience during a behind-the-scenes tour of the Wild Cat Conservation Centre in Wilberforce.

The visit began with an engaging introduction by the Centre's Director, Ben Britton, who offered fascinating insights into the Centre's vital work in conserving some of the world's most elusive and endangered wild cat species. The Centre plays a vital role in the protection and preservation of endangered cats, including Cheetahs, Clouded Leopards, Serval, Fishing Cats, and Caracals.

A standout moment came when the group encountered a mother Cheetah with her three inquisitive cubs. The young Cheetahs showed just as much interest in their visitors as the visitors did in them, edging close to the enclosure fence and offering an unforgettable moment for all in attendance.





A 35-Year Milestone

Peak Hill Probuss Club recently celebrated their 35th Milestone, in providing friendships and fellowships to the local community.

Pictured on the left is Secretary Madge (left) with President Maria (right) cutting the celebratory cake.

The Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Ex-Services Club.



40-Year Milestone

Tilligerry Peninsula Combined Probuss Club celebrated its 40th anniversary and Probuss Month with a cake cutting ceremony led by their longest serving members.

It was a wonderful occasion filled with smiles, shared memories, and appreciation for the friendships built over the years.



A Coach Holiday Trip to Mudgee

Probuss Club of Gosford West members went to a six-day coach holiday trip to Mudgee and surrounds. It was an indeed wonderful trip.



The Red Cow Farm Visit

Kensington Combined Probuss Club members recently enjoyed an outing to Bowral visiting Red Cow Farm and Cobbet Gardens.

The trip was organized by Probuss Partner, On Course Tours and Travel.



A Trip to Kangaroo Island

Several members of Palmerston Probus recently enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Adelaide and the wild beauty of Kangaroo Island. In Adelaide, members toured historical landmarks and admired the grand buildings that earned the city its title as the “City of Churches.” A scenic drive to Mt Lofty and an afternoon visit to Hahndorf followed, both offering breathtaking views and charming experiences.

A ferry ride from Cape Jervis to Penneshaw marked the beginning of their Kangaroo Island adventure, where an abundance of natural beauty awaited.

From rugged coastlines and pristine beaches to the fascinating wildlife, every stop revealed something new. The group enjoyed exploring Flinders Chase National Park, marvelled at the Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch, and watched seals basking in the sun.

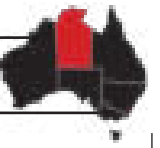


Foodbank NT: A Supermarket with Heart

Palmerston Probus recently welcomed a standout guest speaker from Foodbank NT, the Territory’s largest food relief organisation. Operating out of Yarrawonga, Foodbank supports over 250 people weekly through its dignified, supermarket-style Food Hub.

Relying on local supermarkets and community donations, the organisation now runs on a referral basis to ensure help reaches those who need it most. Families can select fresh fruit, veg, bread, and essentials—children in tow, trolleys in hand—making it feel like any other shopping trip, just filled with a little extra kindness.





Darwin Probus Enjoying The Sunset

Darwin Probus Club recently gathered to enjoy a beautiful sunset while dining at the Darwin Sailing Club. Nestled in the picturesque Fannie Bay in Darwin, the Sailing Club provided the perfect seaside setting for the evening.

Members relaxed with a cold drink in hand as they watched the golden sun dip below the horizon.



Art, Alfresco & a Touch of Retail Therapy

Palmerston Probus bid farewell to the dry with a delightful outing to Casa de Bilsk in Howard Springs – a place where art flirts with nature and fine dining happens alfresco under the generous shade of towering trees.

Members wandered the beautiful grounds, admired the gallery, and, judging by the number of “must-have” treasures carried to cars, it’s safe to say a few Palmerston gardens are looking more cultured than ever. Who needs gnomes when you can have garden art?

It was the perfect day filled with fun, friendship, and just the right amount of temptation in the gift shop.



For the Love of Singing

Earlier this year, the Chatsworth-Carindale Probus Club launched something new - the Men's Chorale.

What began as an idea to bring together members with a love of singing quickly developed into a lively group brimming with enthusiasm and friendship.

After months of rehearsals, the Chorale made their debut at the Clubs Christmas in July luncheon. Their performance was a highlight of the day, filling the room with festive spirit and earning smiles, applause, and a standing ovation. They followed this up with another well-received performance at their December Christmas celebration, proving that their talent and energy can light up any occasion.

Buoyed by their success, the Chorale is now preparing for community performances at aged care facilities, community centres, and local events. These appearances will not only entertain but also raise awareness of Probus and the fun and friendship it offers. By stepping into the community, the Chorale shows that Probus is about far more than monthly meetings - it's about connection, creativity, and contribution.

The benefits go both ways. For audiences, the music uplifts and brings people together. For the singers, rehearsals boost mood, sharpen memory, improve wellbeing, and strengthen friendships. As one member put it: "It's not just about the singing — it's the mateship and joy we share."

The Chatsworth-Carindale Probus Men's Chorale is living proof that trying something new can create lasting connections, enrich lives, and showcase the Probus spirit in perfect harmony.



10,000th Geocache Find

Congratulations to Logan Village Probus Club foundation members, Chris and Julie, on finding their 10,000th geocache at Sunbury, Victoria, in March. Chris and Julie travel all over the countryside and overseas to participate in geocaching events. It has taken them 12 years to achieve this massive milestone.

Geocaching is like an outdoor treasure hunt using GPS coordinates to hide and seek containers, called geocaches or caches.

What a great way to see our beautiful country and keep the mind and body active. Since joining Probus in October, Chris and Julie have met other Probus members in their travels by having a Probus sticker on their vehicle.

Chris and Julie also introduced fellow Logan Village Probians, Trevor and Jacqueline to the game some years ago whilst they were travelling fossicking fields together and they were hooked straight away. Recently Trevor and Jacqueline also reached their 10,000th geocache.





Sundowners at New Farm Park

New Farm Probus members believe that every month is 'Probus Month'. They often remark on how much they value the connection and collaborative generosity, along with the good spirits and energy generated by the 100 participants of the club. Members regularly gather for sundowners near the historic rotunda in the iconic New Farm Park.

The gatherings were particularly spectacular amidst the late afternoon splendor of the Jacarandas. What members particularly enjoy about sundowners is that they keep the gatherings simple; they bring their own afternoon drinks, chairs, and snacks to share, and take the time to relax while celebrating Friendship, Fellowship, and Fun.



A Trip to Bunya Mountains

Twenty-two members of the Combined Probus Club of Noosa went on a memorable trip to the beautiful Bunya Mountains.

The drive from Noosa was fun, with plenty of stops for coffee and homemade snacks, which made the trip even better. As the group got higher into the national park, the scenery became more stunning, with huge bunya pine trees everywhere.

On arrival, everyone met at The Lodge, where a warm fire and lots of homemade snacks helped people relax and enjoy each other's company. When the BBQ ran out of gas, it didn't spoil the fun—the men simply cooked on the stove, and the group kept laughing and chatting late into the night.

The group made lots of good memories of the fresh mountain air, and everyone was already looking forward to the next club adventure. The trip brought everyone closer together and was such a success; many hoped to make it a regular event.



A Busy Joyful Season for Pine Rivers

Pine Rivers Probus Club has had a busy time as usual, starting with their regular meeting on the first Thursday of the month, followed by a visit to the Da Vinci's Machines exhibition at the Pine Rivers Museum at Petrie. The displays were on loan from the Museum of Leonardo da Vinci in Florence, Italy, and featured 60 iconic inventions meticulously rebuilt from da Vinci's own designs.

The following week, members met up for a cooking demonstration in Pine Rivers Park, when Doris prepared and got some of the men involved in making won tons, which were absolutely delicious. This was followed by a selection of pizzas. None of them went home hungry and it was a perfect sunny day and most enjoyable, being outdoors.



Lunch and Coffee at Logan Hyperdome

What a turnout the Springwood Probus Club members had for lunch at the Coffee Club at the Logan Hyperdome. Twenty-seven people turned up for lunch, including those who travelled some distance to join in at lunchtime dine out. It was lovely to see the sea of happy faces, all enjoying each other's company and chatting along with each other.



A Successful Expo

Ipswich Probus Club recently held a stall at the Ipswich Retirement Living and Senior Lifestyle Expo in Ipswich.

The Club is grateful for the promotional material received from PSPL, including posters and flyers, that helped attract people to the stall.

There was a steady stream of enquiries, and the Club is expecting a few visitors in the coming months.





Bowls Nights in Gladstone

Gladstone Region Probus Club has been enjoying bowls nights recently.

The Club formed earlier this year in June following an expression of interest meeting and has continued to grow steadily – and so has the fun!

They enjoy a variety of activities including bowls, mahjong, BBQs, and fun bus trips.

The committee has great plans for the coming year of 2026.



Mental Health Walk

Members of Alexandra Headland Mixed Probus Club Inc walking for mental health on Sunday, 19th of October.

Marie, Kaye & David, Geoff, and Cheryl & Bob took up the 4 km challenge and completed it in good time.

Well done to them all. Thanks to Rotary too for organising this event.



A Flower Workshop

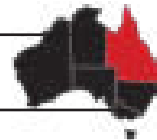
Capalaba Probus Club shared that its success is primarily due to its member driven activities which occur on a regular weekly or monthly basis.

The interest groups cover a range of hobbies including gardening, craft, walking, and attending the latest movie releases.

Recently, members of the gardening group enjoyed a workshop with a florist, where they learnt about floral design and presentation.

The Club is keeping busy and staying true to the Probus motto of fun and friendship in retirement.





An Adventure to Norfolk Island

It was an early pick up by bus for Currimundi Probus members to head into Brisbane International Airport for the flight to Norfolk Island. After months of planning by their trip coordinator Denise and host Bruce, the adventure had finally begun.

On arriving members transferred by bus to their hotel/resort, with some time to organise themselves and a hire car. They were then boarding the bus again and off to a traditional Island Fish Fry. It was a wonderful night with delicious food, live entertainment, stunning cliff-top views, and a sunset over the ocean that will remain in their memory for a long time.

Over the next week, members explored the island with guided tours and self-driven exploring, assured by Bruce and locals it was impossible to get lost; some travel companions tried to prove them wrong.

Evenings were a chance to socialise and experience island life.

Throughout the week, members were charmed by the island's quirks, including the ubiquitous local cows and chickens that have right of way on the roads, the stunning views and the clear night skies, which away from the city lights offered a spectacular view of the Milky Way.

As the week drew to a close the Currimundi Probus Club members felt they had connected with the unique character of Norfolk Island.



An Adventure to Hervey Bay and Town of 1770

Members from Taringa Probus Club travelled to the Glasshouse Mountains Lookout, for a magnificent view of the coastline, forests, and mountains. The journey continued to the Q Camel Farm, home to around 100 females and juvenile camels, and a couple of males that members hand fed with fresh fruit and vegetables.

Members then visited the wonderful Gympie Gold Mining and then continued their trip to Urangan, Hervey Bay and boarded their boat for what turned out to be an exceptional display by the featured artists – the whales.

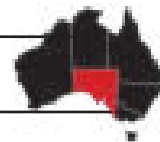
Next was K'gari (Fraser Island), the largest sand island in the world, followed by Bundaberg where they sampled the wares of the Bundaberg Ginger Beer Factory.

This was followed by a bus trip to The Town of 1770 and a great trip up the coastline through Eurimbula National Park to Bustard Heads Lighthouse.

In the morning, the members drove to Elanda Point and the Everglades Eco Safari cruise through Lake Cootharabar and the only everglades in Australia. This was a delightful, quiet trip along the waterways of the Noosa area, where they viewed unique vegetation and saw much birdlife, as well as visiting Harrys Hut.

The members arrived back in Brisbane tired but exhilarated by the places they had been, the sights we had seen, and the companionship of fellow Taringa Probians.





A Spooktacular Talk

Moonta & Districts Probus Club members were nearly "scared witless?" when local identity Janine spoke of her job as a "Show Entertainer."

Well known as a hairdresser and later as a café proprietor for seven years in Kadina, Janine sought a change to the Showground Entertainment business as an actor in a "Haunted House".

The "thankyou" to Janine by Graham Hancock brought a lot of smiles and applause.



Celebrating 100 Years of Vera

On 26th of May 2025, the St Agnes Probus Club celebrated the remarkable 100th year of Vera's life from Hackney, London England to Adelaide, Australia.

The club celebrated Vera's 100th birthday with her daughter Anne and husband Geoff. A lovely morning tea which accompanied a beautifully decorated pink and white cake was served. The Mayor of Tea Tree Gully, Marijka Ryan, presented her with a citation and glorious bunch of flowers. President Denis welcomed the family and friends and presented a letter of appreciation from PSPL.



A Step Back in Time at Anlaby Station

Forty-seven members of Tea Tree Gully Probus Club made an early start on a daytrip to Anlaby Station, with a first stopover at Kapunda for the obligatory morning tea break.

Following the extremely interesting tour the group travelled back to the Sir John Franklin Hotel in Kapunda for lunch. The day out was just one of the many enjoyable days for the members that is organized by Joan, the club's Activities Officer.



30 Years of The Village Combined Probus Club

The Village Combined Probus Club recently celebrated their 30th Birthday having started on 8th August 1995, under the sponsorship of the Somerton Park Rotary Club. The club meets at the Levande Somerton Park, with both men and women attending.

Members had a Special Birthday Lunch and were thrilled to have 7 invited guests attend. One of these invited guests was our only living foundation Life member who is 100 years old. She is pictured with Frank who was and still is a member of the Somerton Park Rotary Club.

Frank presented President Judy with the club's official 30-Year Certificate.

Everyone celebrated a great day enjoying fun, fellowship and friendship.



Celebrating Friendship Day

Fun, food, friendship and laughter — what a wonderful way for the members of Westbourne Park Ladies' Probus and their guests to enjoy Friendship Day. In addition to the 56 members present, guests also included eight representatives from neighbouring Probus Clubs, six visitors and the MP for electorate, Nadia.

After a short business meeting and a sumptuous morning tea, they were entertained by The Adelaide Radio Players who provided a humorous perspective on issues faced, particularly by Seniors today, and a nostalgic look at advertising from the past.

The applause and excited chatter endorsed the success of the morning.



Outing to Royal Flying Doctors Base Adelaide Airport (RFDS)

Members of the Kensington Probus Club recently toured the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) facility and learnt the history and support given by the service.

Every year, they assist around 50,000 patients in South Australia and the Northern Territory. Not only do they handle Emergency Aeromedical Service there are numerous other services provided including Mental Health and Wellbeing, Inter-Hospital Transfers, Dental Health, Immunization Clinics and Outback Community Health Services.

Members toured the Hanger where the Pilatus PC-12 turboprop aircraft was undergoing a refit, and the Pilatus PC-24 twin engine jet was having its annual maintenance.

Overall, the outing was an enjoyable learning experience.





An Unforgettable Afternoon

Payneham Probus Club recently gathered for an unforgettable afternoon at their vibrant home base in Klemzig, South Australia.

The air was filled with excitement as the Payneham City Concert Band took the stage, dazzling the audience with their 'A Spring Fling' program.

The performance was a delightful journey through an eclectic mix of melodies, with a handful of enchanting vocal pieces that added a magical flair.

After two hours of captivating music, the crowd leapt to their feet, applauding the talented musicians with genuine appreciation.

The sense of camaraderie and lively conversation mingled over a refreshing afternoon tea, enjoying a warm selection of coffee, tea, and delicious muffins.

It was an afternoon that truly celebrated community, music, and the joy of good company.



Jungle in Willunga and Alma Hotel Lunch

Woodcroft Probus Club members visited The Jungle in Willunga, which is an amazing place. It was fun for members to wander along the boardwalk and admire the simulated jungle created in suburbia. All the plants seemed to thrive in the created jungle ecosystem.

There are ferns, bromeliads, ornamental trees, hedging and shrubs, succulents and some unusual edibles. There were also a huge indoor plant range and a large pot collection. Members especially marvelled at the abundant brilliant orange Clivias.

They were able to stroll down the meandering boardwalk through the huge private palm forest. Jungle animal statues added to the jungle vibe and fun.

The plants and pots for sale in the nursery, tempted a few members to take them home.

They followed with a great lunch at the Alma Hotel to finish this very enjoyable excursion. Special thanks went to Jenny for organising it.



In search of Art Deco

Members from Launceston Probus Club rugged up and enjoyed a brisk walk around the Launceston CBD recently.

The group took time to observe the heritage of the city and particularly the many examples of Art Deco architecture.

One highlight was the prominent Holyman House, a 1936 building featuring sleek curves and futuristic design. It originally housed Holyman's shipping and aviation interests.

It was a fun and interesting day overall, despite the chilly weather.



A Two-Day Trip to Launceston Getaway

The Scamander Probus Club recently had the pleasure of exploring Launceston and the Tamar River. The trip was a resounding success, thanks to the beautiful weather plus the wonderful company. Their adventure began with a delicious homemade morning tea in Perth, followed by a browse through the National Automobile Museum of Tasmania, in their newly built building in Invermay, where some of the members were transported back in time by the vintage vehicles on display.

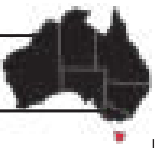
After a comfortable sleep at Rosevears Hotel, they were spoiled with fresh juice, a hot drink plus a cooked breakfast waiting for them in the hotel.

The sun shines again; members board the bus, travelling to Launceston to enjoy the 4-hour boat ride on the Tamar River Cruise. Where everyone was treated to a scenic journey from the Cataract Gorge entrance, before going along the river, to Batman Bridge, complete with commentary on the history and wildlife of the area. Included was morning tea, a light lunch, plus wine tasting, making it all a delightful experience.

Like all adventures, there comes a time when everyone needs to return home. Slowly making their way back to the East Coast of Tasmania.

A massive thank you to all who joined, and a special thank you to Franklin's Tour Bus for getting the members safely to their destinations. Everyone looks forward to their next adventure.





Out and about with Hobart Macquarie Probus

On a glorious early Spring Day, many Hobart Macquarie Probus Club members travelled out & about in their motor cars in southeastern Tasmania.

The excursion commenced with morning tea at the Lindisfarne venue of the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania, with its picturesque vista over the River Derwent. It was then off, travelling along the riverside suburbs of Lindisfarne, Rose Bay, and Rosny.

The journey continued through the southern beachside suburbs of Midway Point, Sorell, Lewisham, Dodges Ferry, Carlton and Primrose Sands.

Members then ventured into the lush verdant rural landscapes of Forcett, Copping and Bream Creek, followed by a drive along the coastal road past Marion Bay and Boomer Bay to the pretty fishing town of Dunalley.

The day concluded with a very enjoyable luncheon at Murraville.



Penguin Probus Takes Flight

What a fantastic start for the Penguin Probus Club. Their very first social outing was a chance for members to connect over caffeine; it was held recently at Windows on Wasteland and proved to be a resounding success. It was wonderful to have such a great turnout.

They are a group of new acquaintances, strangers just a short while ago, who bravely stepped out of their comfort zones to mingle and get to know their fellow members. The atmosphere was incredibly warm and friendly, a true reflection of the welcoming spirit of this new club.

And let's not forget the food, for those who have not tried them yet, the waffles at Windows on Westella are simply to die for!



A Day at The Zoo

Remember, as a child, a trip to the Zoo was the highlight of the school holidays. Up early, full of excitement, ready for the adventure that awaited. Even catching the tram or train to the Zoo felt like part of the fun.

Fast forward to August 2025, when a group of East Malvern Combined Probus Club members set off—this time in the comfort of a Stonnington Council minibus, which holds 17 people. With a cheerful council driver behind the wheel, offering smiles and a helping hand to anyone who needed it, the adventure began.

Coffee was the first stop, shared in the company of the meerkats, who didn't seem to mind the visitors one bit. Members later joined them again for lunch.

Next came the highlight for many was the open bus tour through the Zoo's wide savannah. Billed as an Animal Experience, it truly lived up to its promise. Members felt as though they could almost reach out and touch the animals as they roamed freely. Everyone saw zebras, giraffes, many species of deer, and lots of rhinos. They felt that they were on the plains of Africa.

But the moment that everyone had been waiting for was meeting the majestic elephant herd in their new themed habitat. The group was captivated by the baby elephants splashing in the pool — playfully pushing one another under, diving beneath the surface, then popping up again with tiny trunks reaching for air.

It was a wonderful day — one that reminded members how fortunate they are to have such incredible zoos here in Victoria. More than that, it rekindled fond memories of their own childhood trips to the zoo with family and friends.



Appreciation for Dedication

At a recent meeting of the Probus Club of Maling Combined, President Bob Whitworth had the great pleasure of presenting Life Membership to long serving members Heather and John, in recognition of their outstanding service and dedication to the club.

Heather has contributed more than 20 years of service, her thoughtfulness has been a constant source of support and comfort to the club community.

John, has also made a remarkable contribution for 11 years he served as Treasurer, managing the role with great efficiency and reliability. Known for his warm sense of humor, John has a gift for creating a cheerful, welcoming atmosphere at meetings, helping set the tone for an enjoyable day.

Heather and John truly exemplify the spirit of Probus through their service and the club mantra of Friendship, Fellowship and Fun.

The club was delighted to honour them both with Life Membership.





A Tour of the Shrine of Remembrance

Members of the Maroondah Probus Club were lucky with the weather when they undertook an outing to the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

They arrived at the Shrine at 10:30 am and enjoyed a cup of coffee, while admiring the impressive Red Poppy Wall. Members were then divided into two groups, led by two tour guides – David and Mathew.

The group was taken into the Crypt, which commemorates the fighting units of the First World War and features the Unit Colour Patches, and the Sanctuary, which was a peaceful reflection.

The group continued their exploration around the Shrine, visiting the Garden Courtyard, Terrace Courtyard, Legacy Garden, Gallipoli Garden, Lone Pine, and the statue of Simpson and his Donkey. It was enlightening and gave them food for thought.

It was a day of learning, remembrance and good company, one to be remembered fondly by all who attended.



Racing Season for Trafalgar Probus

Members of Trafalgar & District Probus club joined in the fun of the Melbourne Cup at their recent meeting when members donned hats and dusted off their glad rags for a fun meeting. The Trafalgar weather matched Derby Day at Flemington, the suggested dress code was black and white with hats. Most of the members joined in the fun with a sea of black and white around the hall. Their meeting finished with a race but instead of horses and jockeys, they used wheelie walkers. Speed and distance didn't match the great race, but fun and laughter did.



A Caravan and Camping Trip

Ten members of the Combined Probus Club of Belmont Central travelled to Lilydale for a week of fun and fellowship at the Lilydale Pine Hill Caravan Park. The weather was very kind, setting the perfect tone for the trip.

As per tradition, their week began by having “Happy Hour” at 5pm, which became a catch up each day.

The following day outing took members to Mont De Lancey Historic Homestead in the Yarra Valley. With a hot afternoon forecast, the group headed off earlier in the day.

On the final morning, everyone packed up for their trip home, after what was a very enjoyable time spent in Lilydale and its beautiful surrounds.



Christmas In July

The Camberwell Probus Club celebrated Christmas in July in a true festive style.

Members gathered for lunch at a local restaurant and enjoyed traditional Christmas feast, featuring roast turkey followed by a marvelous, fruit-packed plum pudding.

A highlight of the day was the success of the suggestion to members to “make the occasion sparkle.” The theme was embraced with great enthusiasm and provided a bright, cheerful contrast to the chilly grey Melbourne winter’s day outside.





Paynesville Probus learn about the seafood industry

Paynesville Probus Club recently gathered at a nearby seafood wholesaler to learn about the seafood industry.

Members were lucky to experience the unloading of a trawler, watching fresh fish come off the boat and being packed into ice.

After the tour, the group adjourned to the nearby seafood restaurant where they enjoyed excellent seafood meals and social chit chat.



First Birthday

Epping Probus Club recently celebrated its first birthday with a cheerful morning of tea shared among members and friends.

It has been a wonderful first year filled with friendship and fun, and the Club looks forward to many more years of laughter and good company ahead.



Bearbrass Probus: Take a Bow!

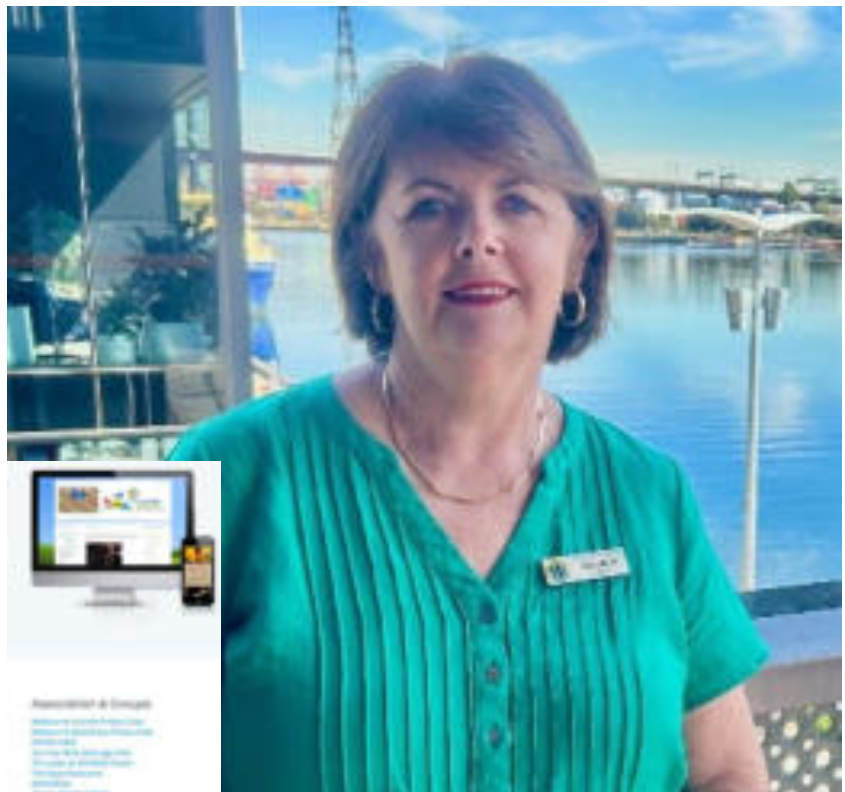
The Canada-based ClubRunner web software creators took the decision in September to feature Melbourne Bearbrass Probus's ClubRunner website as a model for the global Probus movement.

It cites Bearbrass as an example "of real, live websites from various countries, currently using ClubRunner to connect, collaborate and communicate with current and prospective members."

Bearbrass and neighboring club Melbourne Sunrise Probus are the only Probus websites worldwide that ClubRunner features as models.

Probus is most active in Australia, Britain and NZ, and also operates in 20 other countries such as Canada, USA, India, Japan, South Africa, and half a dozen European countries including France and Germany.

The feature stands as a reminder of what dedicated volunteers can achieve when passion and purpose come together.





Focus on Member Jean

Long-standing member Jean recently celebrated her 90th Birthday. At the July meeting, she was delighted to be presented not only with a cake, birthday card and flowers, but also with Life Membership in recognition of her contribution to the club.

Her warmth, dedication, and long-standing commitment continue to inspire members, making Jean a cherished part of the Bacchus Marsh Probussouthpacific community.



Murrumbeena Probussouthpacific Club Continues to Grow

It was a fantastic turnout, with close to 60 people coming to the recent Probussouthpacific Club meeting. The club was thrilled to induct over 22 additional foundation members, bringing the total number of foundation members to 44. On the day, 13 new members officially joined, and potentially another 5 to 7 are considering membership over the next two weeks.

As of now, the club proudly has 57 Members and is well on track to reaching 75 by December and potentially 100, which is the maximum they have allowed to join according to their resolutions.

With a huge effort over the last two months, their new young club continues to grow.



Footy Colours Day at Sale Ladies Probussouthpacific

The Sale Ladies Probussouthpacific Club held its monthly meeting with a lively twist this month, celebrating Footy Colours Day.

Members arrived proudly dressed in the colours of their favourite football teams, with scarves, jumpers and badges on full display. The room was a vibrant mix of team spirit, good-natured rivalry, and plenty of laughter.

A really enjoyable day was had by all.



**October Probus Month –
A Time for Fun, Friendship and Connection**

Ernie Brigham

**Webmaster and a Committee
Member for Probus Victoria**

October is a month full of **Fun and Friendship** for most Probiants, with so many activities happening around the country. But there's another side to the Probus story—one that continues quietly all year round.

Ernie Brigham, Webmaster and a Committee Member for Probus Association of Victoria, and his wife Sandy, are proud members of the **East Malvern Combined Probus Club Inc**—a very active and friendly club where they have made many lifelong friends.

Ernie spends a lot of time helping other Probus Clubs improve membership and encourage members to get involved, especially by joining their club committees. So far this year, he has been **a guest speaker at 17 Probus Clubs across Victoria**, meeting countless happy, active, and inspiring seniors.

Too often, people see Probiants simply as “the old folks.” Ernie has even had doctors say to him, “Well Ernie, you're 81, you've got Parkinson's and a few other medical issues—you've had a good life,” usually with a look that says, time to slow down and read until the end comes.

But Ernie disagrees. Many members—some even

in their 90s—are still out there enjoying life, participating, and sharing laughter. He often tells his audiences:

It's your mind, not your body, that decides how old you are.

And that brings us the reason for this article.

There are **many lonely Probus members** out there. Most clubs Ernie has visited this year told him they've lost up to **50% of their members since COVID**—mostly women now living alone after losing their partners. Many are hesitant to go out or be in crowds again.

Every time Ernie hears this, he wonders—**is anyone reaching out to them?**

During COVID, the East Malvern Combined Probus Club Inc made sure to stay in touch with everyone every single week. Ernie believes that's why they did not lose a single member. It's all about **contact**—a simple “Are you okay?”, or “Can I pick you up for an event?” makes all the difference.

For clubs looking to rebuild membership, there may already be a wonderful pool of **former Probiants** just waiting for a friendly hand to help them reconnect.

Ernie's challenge to every club:

Think about the members you've lost. Form a small team, reach out to those past members, and simply ask, “How are you? Would you like to come back to Probus? Can

we help get you there?”

Those **former Probiants** might be the key to **growing your membership**—and rekindling the true spirit of Fun, Friendship and Community.

Ernie Brigham expresses a heartfelt **thank you to all Probiants** who, in so many ways, have helped enrich both his and Sandy's life in retirement.

Ernie Brigham

Webmaster & Committee Member
Probus Association of Victoria



Book Review

Retire Life Ready by James Wrigley

Wiley | \$34.95

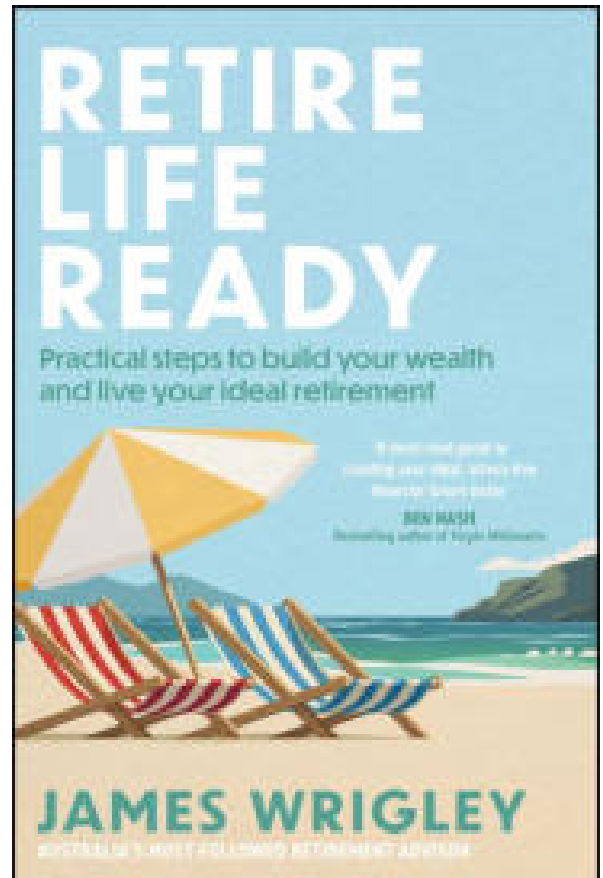
Retirement may be a milestone to look forward to, but for many Australians, the lead-up is filled with worry. Will superannuation be enough? What about debt, healthcare, or maintaining the lifestyle you've worked hard to build? In *Retire Life Ready*, financial adviser James Wrigley offers a reassuring, practical guide that cuts through the noise and delivers clarity.

Drawing on more than 20 years advising thousands of Australians, Wrigley translates the often-intimidating world of superannuation, debt management, and investing into clear, actionable steps. The book doesn't just focus on the numbers—it helps readers picture what their ideal retirement might look like, then shows how to make it achievable. From reducing home loan stress to harnessing long-term investing strategies, the advice is both realistic and empowering.

What makes *Retire Life Ready* stand out is its accessibility. Wrigley's style is refreshingly straightforward, making complex financial concepts easy to digest. The checklists

and frameworks throughout are designed for everyday readers, not just seasoned investors, and they provide immediate ways to get on track.

Ultimately, this is more than a financial manual—it's a roadmap to confidence and peace of mind. Whether you're decades away from retirement or only a few years out, *Retire Life Ready* is a valuable companion that turns daunting "what ifs" into a plan you can trust.





PROBUS IS ALL ABOUT FUN, FRIENDSHIP & FELLOWSHIP IN RETIREMENT

WHAT IS PROBUS

Probus provides retirees with the opportunity to connect socially, which is so important in today's world.

Make new friends, learn a new skill, explore new interests and hobbies - there is so much to choose from when you become a member of your local Probus Club.

Membership is open to anyone who is retired or semi-retired, so why not join the tens of thousands of Probus members across Australia and New Zealand and find your local Probus Club today.

WHY JOIN PROBUS?

- Friendship with other retirees in your community
- Local monthly meetings
- Interesting guest speakers
- Wide range of activities with fellow members to suit your lifestyle; active or not-so-active
- Trips and Outings
- Exclusive discounts
- Active Retirees publications



Contact us:

To find your local Probus Club, please visit our Club Locator at www.probusouthpacific.org or contact us on:

Australia 1300 630 488 **New Zealand** 0800 1477 6287

Email: admin@probussouthpacific.org **Website:** www.probusouthpacific.org