



50th Anniversary of Probus

Activities and Celebration Ideas

2026 will be an amazing year for the Probus community, where all Clubs will have the opportunity to highlight the social connections they provide to so many members across Australia. More importantly, it's an opportunity to celebrate Probus and encourage more retirees to join our wonderful community.

We encourage Clubs to celebrate this amazing milestone throughout the year and with other local Probus Clubs wherever possible. Clubs can try new activities together or expand on existing activities, hold a competition or co-host an event with neighbouring clubs which will generally provide more participation by members.

The activities themselves can become a celebration by asking members to wear clothes in a 70's theme as Probus was started in 1976 or in a 50^s theme for 50 years.

The national committee has already co-ordinated a number of national events that are outlined at the end of this document. Some states and territories are also considering major tour, sporting and social events which will involve a number of Clubs. These will be advised to Clubs as they are co-ordinated however, these state or national events should only be part of Club's celebration.

Every Club is encouraged to celebrate 50 years of Probus in addition to participation in state/territory or national events. This document has been designed to assist Clubs in planning their own activities and celebrations and we hope you find it helpful.

ACTIVITIES

The 50th Anniversary year is a timely opportunity for Probus Clubs to try-out several activities under the guise of one-off 50th Anniversary Championships.

By introducing a new activity once in a competition format, Clubs can gauge the success of the activity and the potential to make that activity a regular feature of the Club's calendar.

PSPL has designed a 50th Anniversary Champion Certificate in a digital format (editable) to present to winners which can be downloaded from

<https://probussouthpacific.org/pages/50thprobusanniversary>

Games – Cards/Mahjong/Jigsaw Puzzles

Probus is known for its small group activities with many Clubs hosting successful card, and games groups.

It is understood that some Clubs have difficulty in getting small groups started which is why we encourage Clubs to join with other local Probus Clubs to co-host an activity or competition.

Using the 50th Anniversary celebrations as an opportunity, why not test the interest in your Club to see if there are enough people interested in being involved in a one-off championship competition for one of the more popular games.

The actual running of the championship can be coordinated among those members who are interested.

Our primary aim is to make these activities fun, however, there does need to be some organisation to agree a structure / when and where they would play / an event timetable (number of sessions) / which rules will be followed / how scores are kept and a winner determined.

It is suggested that a co-ordinator from each Club (if a number of Clubs are involved) would need to be appointed. Source a prize from a local business or each Club could donate a small amount to purchase a prize if unable to source from a local business.

Barefoot Bowls/Indoor Bowls

This could be a worthwhile activity if you meet or have access to a suitable venue. Once again, a prize from a local business could be sourced or each Club could donate a small amount to purchase a prize if unable to source from a local business. The winner can receive a 50th Anniversary Champion Certificate mentioned earlier.

Clubs can also make this activity even more fun by asking members to dress in Probus colours with prizes to the best and worst dressed. Alternatively, members can dress in a gold theme for the golden anniversary or as suggested earlier, wear clothes in a 70's theme as Probus was started in 1976 or in a 50's theme for 50 years.

Walking Group

A number of Clubs have walking groups that suit their members. Some have set routes at set times, and some have a variety of routes. Almost all will always end up at a coffee shop.

A competitive element to a walking group could be a dress theme as outlined above, number of friends brought along, highest number of sightings of pre-determined items or landmarks. A scavenger hunt can provide added value to encourage participation.

Inviting members of other Probus Clubs to join the walk is also a way of providing a more social aspect (chat as you walk) to a regular activity.

Gardening Group

A suggested way to test the interest in a Gardening Group is to have a competition for the best "something" (that's small enough to bring to a meeting) – pot plant, fruit, vegetables, particular plant, display.

If a club Gardening Group is not going to form, a one-off competition would be fun. Progress the activity to finish with display and judging at a club meeting, where the guest speaker is a gardening guru – and he / she could also do the judging and present the winner's Champion Certificate.

Happy Hour

One known successful activity is a 60 minute "Happy Hour", where members get together for a drink and a chat late in the afternoon once a month – and in some cases go on to have a meal together.

It is known older men on their own tend to become less socially engaged – but will socialise in familiar surroundings with familiar people. Consider having separate ‘Happy Hours’ for men and women, mainly to encourage attendance which may be helpful for Clubs where men may participate less.

If not in place, it's worth trying once – to see if it's worth doing regularly as part of your Club's activities.

Trivia Championship

Meeting attendees form groups (teams) to answer a block of trivia questions with the team amassing the most correct answers the winner.

- Can be played as a one-time activity
- Can be played over several meetings
- Can be extended out to a Cluster Championship (see below)

We will provide trivia questions and answers for 5 rounds of trivia as a PowerPoint presentation as well as in written form. Clubs wanting to play more than the 5 rounds provided can create questions and answers within the provided PowerPoint template. These questions will be available on our website in the coming weeks.

Each Club to appoint a Trivia Championship Organiser to coordinate the questions and answers and liaise with the Trivia Organisers of other Clubs to arrange the Cluster Championship.

Each Club is allocated to a cluster which is a group of Probus Clubs in the local area. The winning team of each Club's Trivia Championship would go on to participate in a Cluster Championship with the winner of each Club's Championship competing for Cluster Championship Honours.

A special event for the Cluster Championship to be held at a central location with members from all clubs invited to attend. Each club could provide items for afternoon tea. This event should be made into a special 50th Anniversary event, providing members the opportunity to mingle with other Probus, and to support their own Club's team.

Once again, a prize could be sourced from a local business for either the Club or Cluster winners.

The Cluster Championship would have its own set of rules and questions which could be determined by each Trivia organiser, the key is keep it simple and entertaining.

For Clubs in regional areas where distance is an issue, the Cluster championship could be successfully run, but in a different way.

The championship teams would gather in their own location (with club members in support) – on the same day, at the same time. The same questions would be asked in the same order at each location. The answers would be given at the same time, and results would be exchanged by a phone hook-up between designated people at each venue. At the end of the pre-determined rounds the Cluster Champion would be the team with the most points.

Other Activities

These are just some activities/celebration ideas, there are so many more that your own Club members, particularly those with creative skills, can come up with. Consider an art competition,

fashion parade, hire a karaoke machine and have a singing competition, the key is to get members excited about new ideas and get them involved in something new.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Government House functions

To date, PSPL has issued invitations for receptions at the respective Government Houses in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. Over the coming weeks, invitations will be issued in the remaining States and Territories, as these details are finalised.

Although not all Clubs can be represented given the restriction on the number of attendees and distance, it is a great honour for Probus to be acknowledged in this way by the respective Governors.

Picnic/Lunch on 1 October 2026

For the start of Probus Month, we hope that every Probus Club will participate in our National Probus Picnic/Lunch which will be widely promoted in the lead up to October 1st.

Australian Wine & Tasmania Cruise

PSPL has organised a 10-day Probus cruise aboard the Celebrity Solstice, departing on 31st October 2026, in collaboration with our Gold Probus Partner - Trade Travel. Over 150 Probus members are already booked, with limited spots available. More information on this offer can be found at <https://probussouthpacific.org/pages/50thprobussouthpacific.org>

SUMMARY

We value your suggestions and ideas, if you have any you would like us to share with Clubs, please email us at editorial@probussouthpacific.org.

The 50th National Committee members, like Club Management Committees are all volunteers. It includes all state and territory PSPL Representative Directors and a number of other members providing specialist advice. Please feel free to contact your local PSPL Board Representative if you would like to discuss any suggestions:

| Location | Name | Email |
|-----------|---|---|
| ACT & NSW | Nicholas Erby, NSW/ACT Representative Director & 50 th National Committee Vice Chair | nicholaserby@probussouthpacific.org |
| SA & NT | Jenni Law, SA/NT Representative Director and PSPL Vice Chairman | jenniferlaw@probussouthpacific.org |
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| VIC & TAS | Michael Ransom, Chairman & Vic/Tas Representative Director | michaelransom@probussouthpacific.org |
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| National | Judith Maestracci AM, 50 th Anniversary Committee Chairman | judithmaestracci@probussouthpacific.org |