



Probus Celebrates 50 years of Connection, Community & Friendship

ISSUED: MONDAY 19 JAN 2026

Probus is marking a significant milestone in 2026, celebrating 50 years of bringing people together through local clubs built on friendship, connection and shared interests.

Since the first Probus Club formed in Australia in 1976, Probus has grown into a vibrant network of social clubs spanning across all states and territories of Australia, supporting more than 90,000 members across 1,300 clubs. Over five decades, Probus has played a vital role in helping people build meaningful social connections and stay active and engaged at every stage of later life.

At its heart, Probus is about connection and community.

“Probus was created to ensure people had a place to connect, form friendships and enjoy life beyond work,” said Silvana Martignago, the CEO of Probus in Australia and New Zealand.

“Fifty years on, that purpose is more important than ever. Research consistently shows that strong social connections are closely linked to improved mental health, wellbeing and quality of life as people age. Studies have found that staying socially connected can reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, which are increasingly recognised as key challenges for older Australians.”

As Australia’s populations age, social connection has become increasingly important for mental health and wellbeing. Probus clubs provide a welcoming environment for retirees, semi-retirees and those planning their next chapter, offering regular activities, outings and opportunities to build genuine friendships.

The benefits of Probus have been widely recognised by all levels of government as well as the Governor General of Australia highlighting the significant contribution Probus makes to the lives of older Australians.

Probus’ 50th Anniversary will be celebrated through local events hosted by Clubs across Australia, reflecting Probus’ strong community roots. A key commemorative event will be held on 3 February at Hunters Hill in Sydney, home to the oldest Probus Club in Australia, which first opened its doors to new members on that date in 1976.

The Probus Club of Hunters Hill & District event will bring together members, past and present to reflect on the amazing 50-year milestone achieved by this Club and Probus. The Honorable John Howard OM AC will be in attendance to launch the official start of the 50th Anniversary of Probus in Australia.

Probus is also pleased to announce that well known media identity Heather Ewart will also attend the Hunters Hill event as the National Spokesperson for Probus.

From city centres to regional communities, Probus clubs are as diverse as the members who belong to them. While activities vary from club to club, the common thread is a shared desire for community and companionship.

Heather is proud to be associated with such an organisation whose sole focus is to help older Australians enjoy a quality retirement. “Every Probus club is different, but they all offer the same sense of belonging,” Heather said. “That’s what has sustained Probus for 50 years, and it’s what will carry it forward into the future.”


Anyone interested in learning more about Probus or finding their local Probus Club are encouraged to visit probussouthpacific.org for details or call the PSPL Team at 1300 630 488.

ENDS

For interviews with Heather Ewart, spokesperson for Probus or Silvana Martignago, the CEO of Probus in Australia and New Zealand.

Marcie Cheers
The Creative Collective

 admin@thecreativecollective.com.au

 07 5451 1315

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Probus is a social network of Club for people seeking connection, friendship and shared activities.
- Probus clubs operate throughout Australia and New Zealand.
- Membership is open to retirees and semi-retirees.