

# Active Retirees



*Fun, Friendship and Fellowship in Retirement*



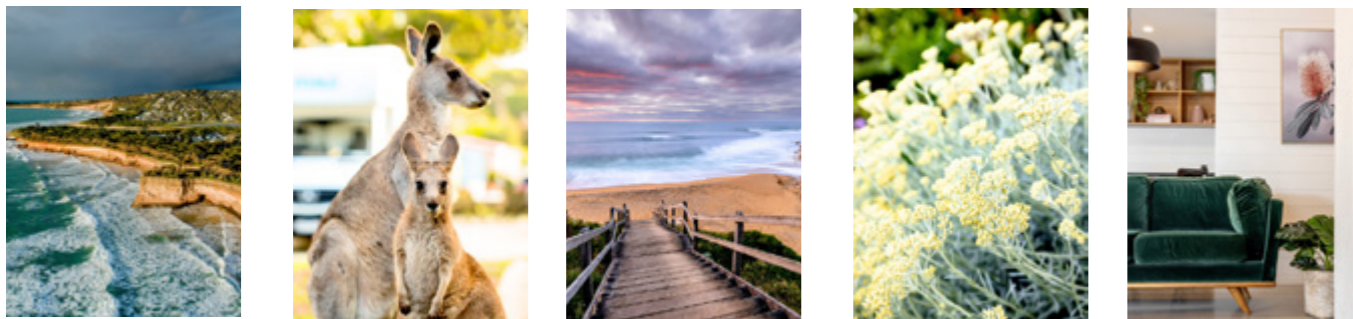
**Probus 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Celebrations**  
Cover Story - P24



# BIG4 Anglesea

## on the Great Ocean Road

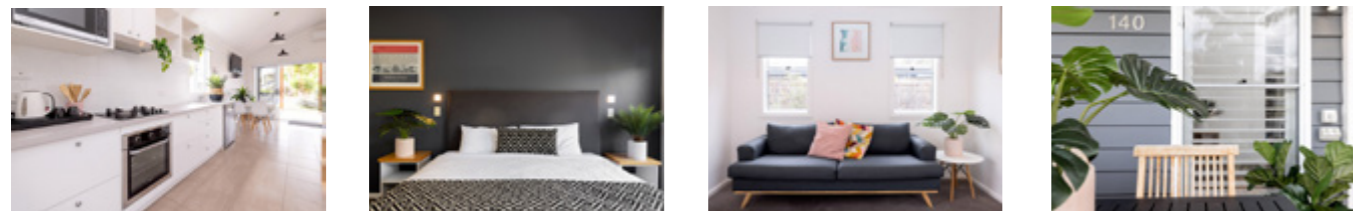
### THE Property



BIG4 Anglesea is superbly located in a quiet little spot in Anglesea, on the Great Ocean Road. The gardens are beautiful and the kangaroos hopping about are a gorgeous addition to a morning cuppa. The indoor pool is heated to a lovely temperature, so morning swims are a nice start to a day of mooching around, bushwalking, wild flower spotting in the heathlands or adventuring further afield along the spectacular coastline.

### THE Stay

BIG4 Anglesea has 5 options of accommodation across the property, just so we don't overlook anyone! There are 2 and 3 bedroom units (self-contained), Longboard Suites (for the couple), Safari Tents (for the adventurous) and powered sites (for the outdoorsy ones!).



### THE Local Area

The Great Ocean Road is one of the most iconic stretches of coastline in Australia. You can fly it, you can walk it or you can drive it! Apart from that, it is dotted with very beautiful restaurants, nature and wildlife as well as lovely vantage points to just sit and ponder.



#### ACTIVE

- Play a leisurely round of golf or go on a Roo Tour at the local Anglesea Golf Course.
- Bring your walking shoes and discover the 7.3 km trail from Point Addis to Anglesea or reverse. - no traffic!
- Have a game of barefoot bowls at the Anglesea Bowling Club

#### NATURE

- Wander the wide range of flora and fauna in the Anglesea Heathlands
- Take a scenic flight over the Surf Coast admiring the beaches and rugged cliffline
- Organise a beach walk - we are surrounded by beaches

#### DISCOVER

- Climb the Split Point Lighthouse in Aireys Inlet
- Discover local artists at Eagles Nest Gallery, Art Space, or Space Gallery
- Visit the Surf Museum in Torquay to "step back in time"

#### FOOD & WINE

- Visit one of the top restaurants along the coast - A La Grecque and Totti's as a start! The Anglesea Hotel and Golf Club are great spots too! Winespeake is a must for a vino.

☎ 03 5263 1640 or ✉ [info@big4anglesea.com.au](mailto:info@big4anglesea.com.au)

Probians - **STAY 4 PAY 3** midweek for bookings of 10 or more units

PLUS - Free use of conference room

[www.big4anglesea.com.au](http://www.big4anglesea.com.au)



# BIG4 Bellarine

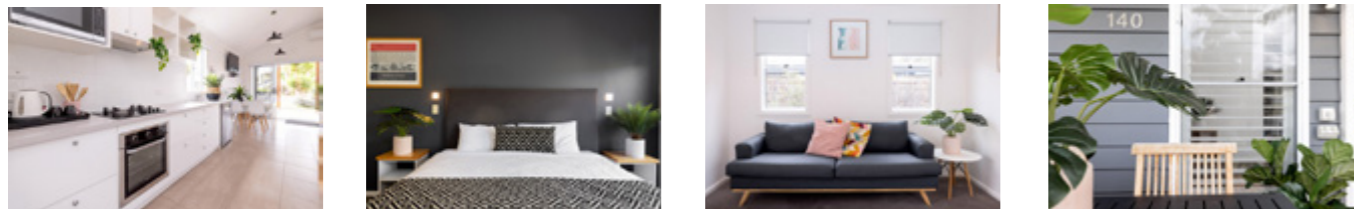
## THE Property



It is easy to whittle away the hours here. With a 1.2km walking track, a heated pool, a pilates/yoga room as well as a gym, exercise is easy. A festoon-lit picnic area and indoor camp kitchens mean that pre dinner drinks are really quite important! You can dine inside the Reception building as a big group just after you have a game of bocce or before you pull out all stops to win a Trivia Night.

## THE Stay

BIG4 Bellarine has 5 options of accommodation across the property, just so we don't overlook anyone! There are 2 and 3 bedroom units (self-contained), Vineyard Suites (for the couple), Safari Tents (for the adventurous) and huge powered sites (for the outdoorsy ones!).



## THE Local Area

On the Bellarine you can go slowly with quiet strolls, delicious lunches & serious wine tastings or jump into adventure and swim with a dolphin or challenge yourself to learn to Surf! There is something for everyone, so choose your own adventure.



### ACTIVE

- Play a leisurely round of golf at one of the top class courses nearby.
- Bring your bikes and ride or walk the 32kms of Bellarine Rail Trail - no traffic!

### NATURE

- Try dolphin spotting while catching the ferry from Queenscliff to Sorrento.
- Wander the wide range of flora and fauna at the Geelong Botanical Gardens.
- Take a scenic flight over the sweeping Bellarine Peninsula Coastline.
- Organise a beach walk - we are surrounded by beaches

### HISTORY

- Explore the Queenscliff Maritime Museum, Fort Queenscliff or the Harbour.
- Visit the Point Lonsdale lighthouse & take in the views across "The Rip".
- Ride the historic Bellarine Steam Train
- Visit the new Sports Museum at GMHBA Stadium (Kardinia Park)

### FOOD & WINE

- Visit one of the region's wineries - Banks Road, Jack Rabbit, Terrindah Estate as a start!

☎ 03 5251 5744 or ✉ [info@big4bellarine.com.au](mailto:info@big4bellarine.com.au)

Probians - **STAY 4 PAY 3** midweek for bookings of 10 or more units

PLUS - Free use of conference room

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## FEATURES

### Health

#### 16 Don't Ignore Dental Care

Good oral health can help improve quality of life and combat various health conditions, so it is important to take care of your teeth and gums as you age.

### Entertainment

#### 18 How a 9-Year-Old's Card Game Became a Favourite

Sam Meldrum was nine years old when he decided his family's card games weren't exciting enough. So instead of waiting for someone else to make a better one, he made his own.

### Cover Story

#### 24 Probus 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

All over Australia, Probus is recognised for contribution to retirees over 50 years; members warmly welcomed by Governors, appreciating recognition across Australia.

### Book Review

#### 64 Postscript: Life, Love and Loss in Australian Letters

In an age dominated by instant communication, this beautifully curated collection invites readers to slow down and rediscover the emotional weight carried in a carefully composed letter.

## REGULARS

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## PAST ISSUES



March 2026



December 2025

## PROBUS PARTNERS

over  
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# Active Retirees

*Fun, Friendship and Fellowship in Retirement*

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ACN 152 374 395

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## JANESCO's Japan Autumn Tours

Experience Japan in autumn with thoughtfully designed small group journeys that combine remarkable destinations, exceptional comfort and the ease of travelling with true specialists. From vibrant cities and timeless traditions to refined stays and unforgettable seasonal scenery, JANESCO Travel invites you to discover a more rewarding way to see Japan.

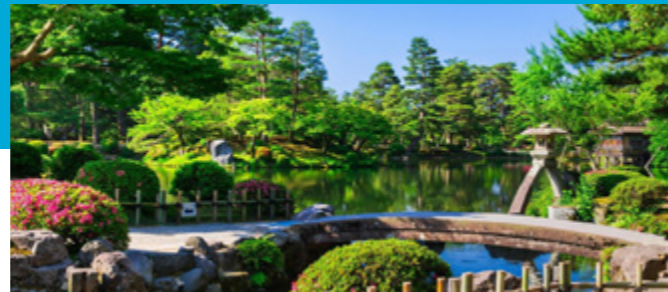


### 13 Day Japan Autumn Platinum Tour 2026

1st November 2026

**Key Highlights:**

- Relaxed Pace
- Our Luxury Tour
- Traditional Ryokan Stay & Naoshima Art Island
- Tokyo, Kyoto, Miyajima Island and more
- 5 Star Accommodation and Gourmet Experiences



### 14 Day Japan Dreams Tour 2026

17 October 2026 & 14 November 2026

**Key Highlights:**

- Japan's golden route including Tokyo, Kyoto & mountain villages
- Cultural highlights from castles to curated gardens
- Exceptional Value
- Great for first time travellers
- Deluxe Accommodation



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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

For fifty years, Probus has been a cornerstone of community life in Australia, enriching the lives of retirees and semi-retirees through friendship, fellowship, and shared experiences. What began as a simple idea by Rotary—to provide a social network for those leaving full-time work—has grown into a nationwide movement that has connected hundreds of thousands of Australians. In city suburbs and regional towns alike, Probus clubs have fostered enduring friendships, stimulated curious minds, and offered a sense of purpose in a new stage of life.

We have had wonderful celebrations in Government Houses all across the country, and many celebrations with local Governments. Also, I am really pleased to hear that many clubs have joined with others in their local communities to celebrate this wonderful achievement.

This golden anniversary is both a celebration of achievement and an opportunity to look ahead. The Australia of today is markedly different from that of the mid-1970s. People are living longer, healthier lives and redefining what retirement looks like. Many continue to work part-time, volunteer extensively, or pursue new passions well into later life. At the same time, society has become more diverse, more mobile, and more digitally connected. These changes present both challenges and opportunities for Probus.

To remain relevant and vibrant, Probus must evolve while staying true to its founding spirit. Flexibility will be essential. Traditional monthly meetings will always have their place, but clubs may need to diversify their offerings—introducing smaller interest groups, more frequent social outings, and activities that cater to a wider range of interests and fitness levels. Embracing technology is equally important. Simple steps such as maintaining engaging websites, using email and social media effectively, and offering hybrid or online participation options can make clubs more

accessible and appealing to newer generations of retirees.

Inclusivity will also be key to the future. Modern Australia is culturally rich and diverse, and Probus has an opportunity to reflect that diversity more fully in its membership and activities. Creating welcoming environments for people from varied backgrounds, as well as for those who may be newly retired or recently relocated, will strengthen clubs and communities alike.

As Probus celebrates fifty years in Australia, its legacy is clear: connection matters, and community enriches life at every age. By adapting thoughtfully to changing times, Probus can ensure that its next fifty years are just as meaningful—continuing to provide friendship, purpose, and belonging for generations to come.



*Michael Ransom*

Michael Ransom  
Chairman 2025-2026 | Probus South Pacific Ltd

# Beds for Backs

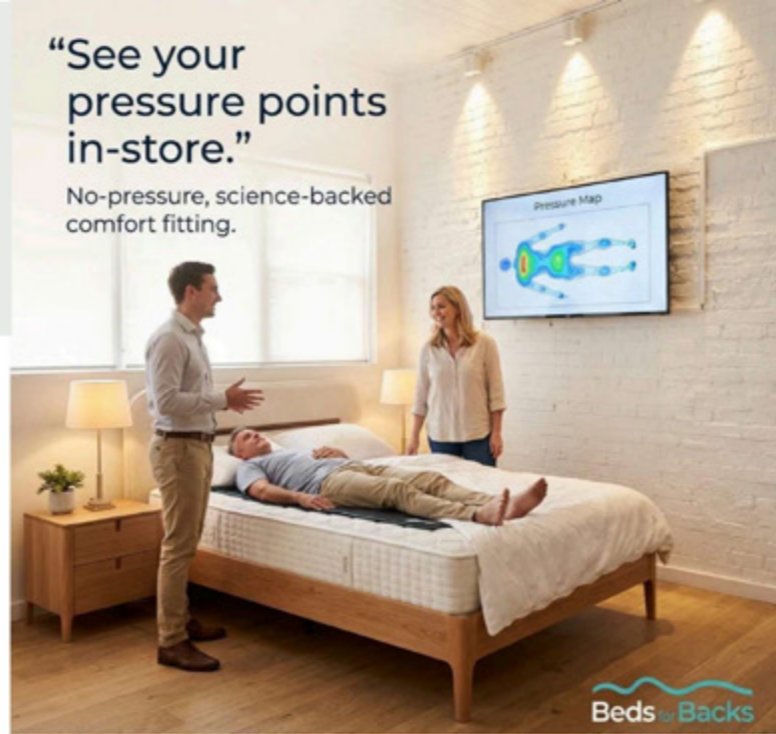
We've got your back

## STOP GUESSING YOUR COMFORT

HOW PRESSURE MAPPING IS HELPING AUSTRALIANS SLEEP BETTER

"See your pressure points in-store."

No-pressure, science-backed comfort fitting.



Sleep should help your body recover, not leave you waking with sore backs, aching hips or stiff shoulders. Yet many Australians still choose a mattress based on a quick showroom test or simply what "feels soft".

### Why does it matter?

A mattress may feel comfortable for five minutes in a showroom but still create poor alignment or pressure build-up during the night.

When pressure becomes concentrated in certain areas, the body naturally shifts position more often to relieve discomfort. This can interrupt sleep cycles and contribute to waking with stiffness or pain.

Pressure mapping helps identify these issues before purchase, allowing a mattress to be matched more accurately to the individual sleeper.

### Seeing is believing

One of the biggest advantages of pressure mapping is confidence. Instead of wondering whether a pressure might suit you, pressure mapping provides visible data that helps explain why one mattress performs better than another for your body.

### A more scientific approach to better sleep

At Beds for Backs, pressure mapping technology is used in-store to help remove the guesswork from mattress selection.

Rather than relying on labels such as "soft", "medium" or "firm", customers can compare how different sleep surfaces support their own body profile in real time.

This approach can be especially valuable for:

- Back and joint pain sufferers
- Couples with different comfort needs
- Side sleepers with shoulder or hip pressure
- Older Australians wanting easier movement and better recovery
- People recovering from surgery or managing mobility concerns

Pressure mapping is also increasingly recognised within healthcare and home-care environments as a valuable tool for identifying pressure risk areas and improving comfort outcomes.



### Choosing a mattress with confidence

If you have been waking with aches, struggling to agree on comfort with a partner, or feeling uncertain after trying one generic mattress after another, pressure mapping can be the step that finally makes the choice clearer.

### Question:

When Do You Want to Start Sleeping Better?

Call Beds for Backs on 1800 961 010 or Visit us instore or online [www.bedsforbacks.com.au](http://www.bedsforbacks.com.au)



Fun fact I thought I needed a new hip Turns out that what I needed was a new bed So good Thankyou xx

Customer Testimonial Noela - 73

# Beds for Backs

We've got your back

## PROBIAN EXCLUSIVE

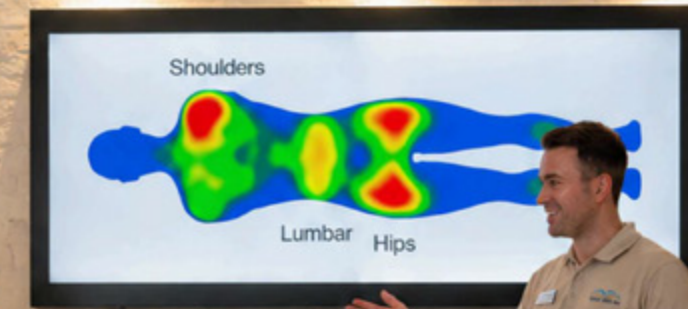
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What does it take to make a difference to people in need?

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Creating a Will can ensure that your assets go to the people and causes you care about. Once you've provided for your loved ones, we'd be honoured if you'd consider leaving a gift for Australian Red Cross.

Will you be the difference?

Find out more about leaving a gift in your Will.



Scan the QR code  
to receive a free Will  
Planning Checklist.





# Discover How Exceptional Your Retirement Can Be

*"You can have as little or as much company as you want. I feel like I'm on a permanent holiday with no responsibilities."*

Sue, Levande Resident

# DON'T IGNORE DENTAL CARE

**G**ood oral health can help improve quality of life and combat various health conditions, so it is important to take care of your teeth and gums as you age. We share some top tips for dental care.

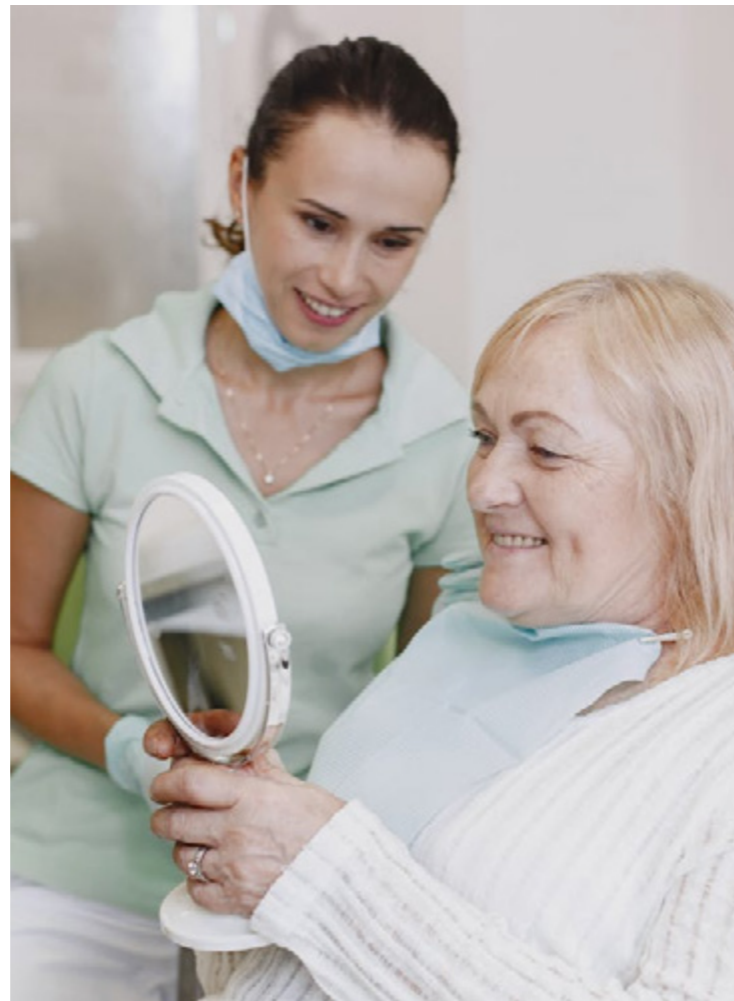
Experts widely agree that a link exists between oral health and general health. As we get older, our oral health increasingly impacts our overall quality of life and ability to manage or prevent certain medical conditions. If poor dental hygiene is left unchecked, many health-related problems – ranging from inconvenient, to serious and even life-threatening – might become harder to control.

Oral issues like tooth loss, root decay, uneven jawbone, darkened teeth and dry mouth (often a side effect of taking medications) can create an array of challenges for older people, including pain, infections, forced dietary changes, discomfort when eating and talking, reduced self-esteem and social isolation. At the more extreme end of the scale, poor oral health can make you more susceptible to conditions like diabetes and aspiration pneumonia, while research has established a connection between gum disease and heart disease.

This might all sound like an unfortunate reality of ageing, but growing long in the tooth shouldn't mean accepting dental incapacities or worse. A proactive approach to dental care later in life helps protect teeth and gums for longer. In fact, good oral hygiene remains just as important as digestive or heart health – whether you're newly retired or living it large in your 80s and beyond.

In other words, taking care of your teeth and gums is a lifelong responsibility to your own health and wellbeing. But are you still as committed to dental care as you used to be? Seniors typically access the general health services they need on a regular basis. However, this diligence is known to drop when it comes to scheduling dentist visits.

In between routine dental checks at least



every six months, it's crucial to keep practising good oral hygiene habits. Here are eight tips for maintaining and improving oral health no matter your age:

## Brush And Floss

Since plaque can build up quite rapidly, it's essential to brush at least twice a day using a soft-bristle toothbrush (preferably an electric toothbrush) and toothpaste containing fluoride. You should also clean between your teeth at least once per day with dental floss or another interdental cleaner.

## Rinse And Repeat

While not as essential as brushing and flossing, rinsing with an antiseptic fluoride mouthwash once or twice each day is another effective method for reducing decay.

## Deal With Dentures

Just like real teeth, full and partial dentures deserve a hygiene plan. Every day, clean your dentures

with soap and water and take them out for at least four hours. Remember to remove your dentures at night.

## Eat Healthy

One simple way to indirectly care for your teeth and gums is through a healthy, well-balanced diet including plenty of dairy and high-fibre foods such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, beans and legumes.

## Say No To Sugar

Got a bit of a sweet tooth? It's fine to enjoy the occasional piece of cake, but a high intake of sugary foods and soft drinks is terrible for your teeth.

## Tap Into Water

There's no substitute for drinking plenty of water. Tap water usually contains fluoride, which helps prevent decay in teeth of any age.

## Quit Smoking

If you need any further incentive to quit smoking, consider the fact cigarettes can also contribute to problems with gum disease and tooth decay/loss.

## See Your Dentist

Even if you take great care of your teeth and gums, it's imperative to schedule regular visits to your dentist or periodontist for full dental check-ups, professional cleaning and oral exams.



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# HOW A 9-YEAR-OLD'S CARD GAME BECAME A FAVOURITE WITH GRANDPARENTS

Sam Meldrum was nine years old when he decided his family's card games weren't exciting enough. So instead of waiting for someone else to make a better one, he made his own.

He started sketching dragons in a notebook. Fire dragons, moon dragons, emerald dragons. Each one with its own personality and powers. Then came the knights, the queens, the thieves, and the quests. Over more than a year of testing with family, school friends, and neighbours, those notebook sketches became *Dragon Odyssey*, a fantasy strategy card game for 2 to 5 players.

Sam is autistic. Some of the social situations that other kids navigate easily have always been harder for him. But around the game table, none of that mattered. The game became his way of connecting with friends and family through something he'd built. When everyone is stealing each other's dragons and trying to complete quests, the playing field is level and the laughter is real.

Today Sam is 11 and Australia's youngest known card game creator. *Dragon Odyssey* is a professionally



manufactured, globally trademarked card game that sold out its entire first production run of 1,000 units. It has earned over 76 verified five-star reviews from families across Australia and was exhibited at the 2026 Melbourne Toy Fair alongside major industry brands.

Something that Sam's family didn't expect was how strongly the game would resonate with grandparents. About a third of buyers are grandparents who tell the family it has become their favourite thing to pull out when the grandkids visit. Several have bought multiple copies, one for their home and one for the grandchildren's. One grandmother plays it every week with her granddaughter after school pickup. Another saw the game at a family camp, went home and bought four copies for her grandchildren.

As one reviewer wrote: "My grandkids love playing this game, and even better, I enjoy playing it with them."

For families with children aged 8 and up, *Dragon Odyssey* sits in the sweet spot between simpler games kids outgrow quickly and complex adult games that often exclude younger players. It takes



five minutes to learn, game play lasts 15 to 25 minutes, and the "take-that" moments when someone steals your dragon keep everyone coming back for more.

*Dragon Odyssey* is available at [www.dragonodyssey.com](http://www.dragonodyssey.com) and select independent game and toy retailers, priced at \$34.95.

# THE GHAN DARWIN TO GEELONG ONBOARD THE GHAN EXPEDITION



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Travel through Australia's Red Centre for the ultimate Outback experience. Step aboard The Ghan for a five-day journey, beginning in Darwin and taking you to the most remote and captivating parts of Australia in style and comfort. Enjoy an exclusive Off Train Experience in Adelaide, and the extra benefit of ending the journey in Inverleigh before returning home.

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  - Charles Darwin Sunset Dinner Cruise
  - Transfers from nominated hotel in Darwin to train station
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  - All beverages, meals, and accommodation onboard The Ghan from Darwin to Inverleigh
  - The Ghan will arrive in Inverleigh on Wednesday 3 November 2027
  - Transfer from Adelaide to Monarto Safari Park, home to more than 50 species of exotic and native animals, followed by lunch and admission into the park
  - Transfer from Inverleigh Station by coach to Geelong GMHBA stadium car park / Melbourne Southern Cross Station
- Exclusions:**
- Travel insurance & flights

### Pricing & Cabin Options:

#### GOLD PREMIUM TWIN

Premium's contemporary cabins take inspiration from the colours and contours of the Australian outback. Think walnut timber and polished brass details, along with Indigenous prints on the upholstery. The cabins are designed to cocoon guests in comfort and come with exclusive access to Gold Premium Lounge and dining carriages. A premium twin and a suite is available.

From \$7,995 per person

#### GOLD TWIN

The most popular choice of accommodation on The Ghan, Gold Twin cabins have everything you need to make you feel right at home for the amazing experience that lies ahead. This is your private oasis, a superbly comfortable overnight room to recline and let the rhythm of the tracks sway you to sleep ahead of your next adventure.

From \$6,995 per person

> [Book your spot now](#) <



# EMBARK ON AN ANCESTRY ADVENTURE

Uncovering your ancestry can be a thrilling and rewarding experience; an epic adventure to unravel the mysteries of your own personal history. Whether you're inspired by a desire to connect with your roots, discover family stories, or satisfy a curious mind, genealogical research offers a fascinating glimpse into the past. However, the sheer volume of information available can seem a daunting task for some beginners.

The first step in your journey begins with you. Gather all the information you know about your immediate family members, including names, birthplaces, and significant life events. Speak to relatives who might hold valuable insights and memories.

Make sure you keep meticulous records of your findings. Organise documents, photographs and family stories in a systematic manner. Digital tools like spreadsheets, genealogy software and online platforms can be immensely helpful in structuring your research.

In Australia, there are several websites you can use for ancestry research, each offering unique features and access to different records.



## National Archives of Australia

This is an excellent resource for accessing historical records, including immigration records, military service records, and government documents.

## Ancestry.com.au

Ancestry has a vast collection of genealogical records, including census data, birth, marriage, and death records, military records, and more. It's a subscription-based service but offers a wealth of information.

## Findmypast.com.au

Similar to Ancestry, Findmypast offers access to a wide range of records, including census data, birth, marriage, and death records, military records, and more. It also requires a subscription.

## Trove

A collaboration between the National Library of Australia and hundreds of partner organisations across the country, Trove is an incredible resource for historical Australian newspapers, photos, maps, diaries, letters, and more.

It's free to use and can provide valuable insights into your family history. ([trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au))

## FamilySearch

While not specific to Australia, FamilySearch is a free genealogy website maintained by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It contains a vast collection of global records, including Australian birth, marriage, and death records, as well as other genealogical resources. ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org))

## State Archives and Libraries

Each state in Australia has its own archives and libraries that may contain

valuable records for genealogical research. Examples include the State Library of New South Wales, State Library of Victoria, and State Records Office of Western Australia.

Remember to cross-reference information across multiple sources to ensure accuracy in your findings and remember, genealogical research is a marathon, not a sprint. Be prepared for dead ends, brick walls, and unexpected twists. Stay persistent, patient, and adaptable in your approach and you will reap the rewards. Happy hunting!



## ZERO DEATHS FROM BREAST CANCER

Support the National Breast Cancer Foundation to achieve this goal and save thousands of lives.

1 in 7 Australian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

Together we can stop breast cancer taking the lives of those we love.

A charitable gift in your Will to fund innovative research can improve survival rates, transform detection, treatment and care.

### For information

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Email: [bequests@nbcf.org.au](mailto:bequests@nbcf.org.au)



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 3 & 4 DAYS	<b>CANBERRA</b> From 3 Days - \$725 pptwin - \$940 solo 4 Days - \$1,095 pp twin - \$1,421 solo Departing 3/10/26, 18/9/27 3 Days, 11/9/26, 14/9/27 4 Days	 5 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>SUNSHINE COAST</b> From \$1,512pp twin - \$1,804 solo plus flights if required Departing 21/9/26, 14/6/27, 30/8/27
 3 DAYS	<b>YOUNG CHERRY PICKING</b> From \$810pp twin - \$1,000 solo Departing 28/11/26	 6 DAYS	<b>SAPPHIRE COAST</b> From \$1,825 pp twin - \$2,250 solo Departing 1/11/26, 13/11/26, 7/2/27, 7/11/27
 3 DAYS	<b>CHRISTMAS IN JULY - MUDGEE</b> From \$845 pp twin - \$1,049 solo Departing 21/7/26, 1/7/27, 12/7/27	 6 DAYS	<b>WANGARATTA</b> From \$1,835 pptwin - \$2,360 solo Departing 6/9/26, 31/10/26, 12/4/27, 5/9/27
 3 DAYS	<b>CHRISTMAS IN JULY - ORANGE</b> From \$845 pp twin - \$1,049 solo Departing 20/7/26	 6 DAYS	<b>BALLINA</b> From \$1,865 pp twin - \$2,390 solo Departing 30/8/26, 25/4/27, 1/8/27
 3 DAYS	<b>HUNTER VALLEY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS</b> From \$945 pp twin - \$1,135 solo Departing 30/11/26, 7/12/26	 6 DAYS	<b>ORANGE</b> From \$1,890 pp twin - \$2,400 solo Departing 27/9/26, 24.10.27
 4 DAYS	<b>BATEMANS BAY</b> From \$1,215 pp twin - \$1,500 solo Departing 2/11/26, 14/2/27, 14/11/27	 6 DAYS	<b>MUDGEE</b> From \$1,970 pp twin - \$2,495 solo Departing 18/10/26, 8/11/26, 18/3/27, 8/9/27
 4 DAYS	<b>PORT STEPHEN'S</b> From \$1,525 pp twin - \$1,891 solo Departing 13/10/26, 2/3/27, 17/10/27	 4 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>KANGAROO ISLAND</b> From \$1,599 pp twin - \$1,953 solo Departing 11/9/26, 17/9/26, 2/4/27, 14/10/27
 6 DAYS	<b>GRIFFITH &amp; THE MIA</b> From \$1,560 pp twin - \$1,885 solo Departing 7/10/26, 29/4/27, 29/8/27 16/10/27, 21/10/27	 7 DAYS	<b>LIGHTNING RIDGE</b> From \$1,995 pp twin - \$2,375 solo Departing 1/5/27, 26/9/27
 6 DAYS	<b>PARKES</b> From \$1,610 pp twin - \$2,010 solo Departing 13/9/26, 25/3/27, 2/9/27	 6 DAYS	<b>O'REILLY'S AND THE GOLD COAST</b> From \$2,175 pp twin - \$2,650 solo Departing 12/7/26, 8/8/27
 5 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>BENDIGO</b> From \$1,652 pp twin - \$2,022 solo plus flights if required - Departing 31/8/26, 6/3/27, 19/9/27	 5 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>GREAT OCEAN ROAD</b> From \$1,989 pp twin - \$2,489 solo Departing 7/9/26, 11/3/27, 24/9/27
 6 DAYS	<b>WAGGA WAGGA</b> From \$1,695 pp twin - \$2,120 solo Departing 2/8/26, 18/4/27, 15/8/27	 8 DAYS	<b>BROKEN HILL, WHITE CLIFFS &amp; MILDURA</b> From \$2,385 pp twin - \$2,985 solo Departing 29/8/26, 6/11/26, 10/3/27, 7/4/27
 6 DAYS	<b>SOUTH WEST ROCKS</b> From \$1,755 pp twin - \$2,210 solo Departing 20/9/26, 7/2/27, 13/10/27	 6 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>CAIRNS</b> From \$2,705 pp twin - \$3,465 solo Departing 6/6/26, 8/8/26, 30/5/27, 15/8/27
 6 DAYS	<b>BELLINGEN</b> From \$1,795 pp twin - \$2,195 solo Departing 13/9/26, 20/9/26, 27/9/26, 25/10/26, 14/3/27, 12/9/27	 10 DAYS	<b>LONGREACH &amp; OUTBACK QUEENSLAND</b> From \$3,825 pp twin - \$4,890 solo Departing 11/7/26, 15/8/26, 5/6/27, 19/6/27

\*Discount calculated on twin share price as solo difference passed on at cost. Not redeemable with any other offer. Full fare must be paid at time of booking.

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Email: [info@coachholidaysandtours.com.au](mailto:info@coachholidaysandtours.com.au)

All tour pricing is ex Sydney Metropolitan area and group pickups outside of this area may incur extra costs. We reserve the right to vary pricing and itineraries to meet operational needs. pp twin = per person twin share, solo = solo traveller

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# COACH HOLIDAYS AND TOURS 2026/2027 TOURS

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 6 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>NORFOLK ISLAND</b> Return flights ex SYD included From \$3,345 per person twin share - \$3,778 solo traveller Departing 25th October 2026, 10th January 2027, 14th March 2027	 13 DAYS	<b>TASMANIA</b> From \$4,995 per person twin share - \$6,051 solo traveller Departing 1st December 2026, 11th January 2027, 26th January 2027
 14 DAYS	<b>EAST COAST</b> From \$5,990 per person twin share - \$7,741 solo traveller Departing 21st May 2026, 31st July 2026, 15th May 2027, 31st July 2027	 500 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>AROUND AUSTRALIA IN 2026</b> From \$24,990 per person twin share - \$31,490 solo traveller Departing 22nd July 2026 - 8 rooms left!
 17 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>SYDNEY TO DARWIN</b> From \$8,490 per person twin share - \$10,990 solo traveller Departing 22nd July 2026 - 4 rooms left!	 9 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>DARWIN TO BROOME</b> From \$4,490 per person twin share - \$5,790 solo traveller Departing 6th August 2026 - waitlist
 21 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>DARWIN TO PERTH</b> From \$10,690 per person twin share - \$13,790 solo traveller Departing 6th August 2026 - waitlist	 14 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>BROOME TO PERTH</b> From \$6,890 per person twin share - \$8,890 solo traveller Departing 13th August 2026 - waitlist
 16 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>PERTH TO SYDNEY</b> From \$7,190 per person twin share - \$8,890 solo traveller Departing 25th August 2026 - Call to join waitlist	 18 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>NEW ZEALAND - GRAND</b> From \$9,965 per person twin share - \$11,865 solo traveller Departing 5th October 2026, 23rd March 2027
 10 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>NEW ZEALAND - NORTH ISLAND</b> From \$4,990 per person twin share - \$5,950 solo traveller Departing 5th October 2026, 23rd March 2027	 10 DAYS FLY/COACH	<b>NEW ZEALAND - SOUTH ISLAND</b> From \$5,750 per person twin share - \$7,050 solo traveller Departing 13th October 2026, 31st March 2027

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Visit our website or call our team to book or to learn more.

# Probus 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations: *Western Australia*

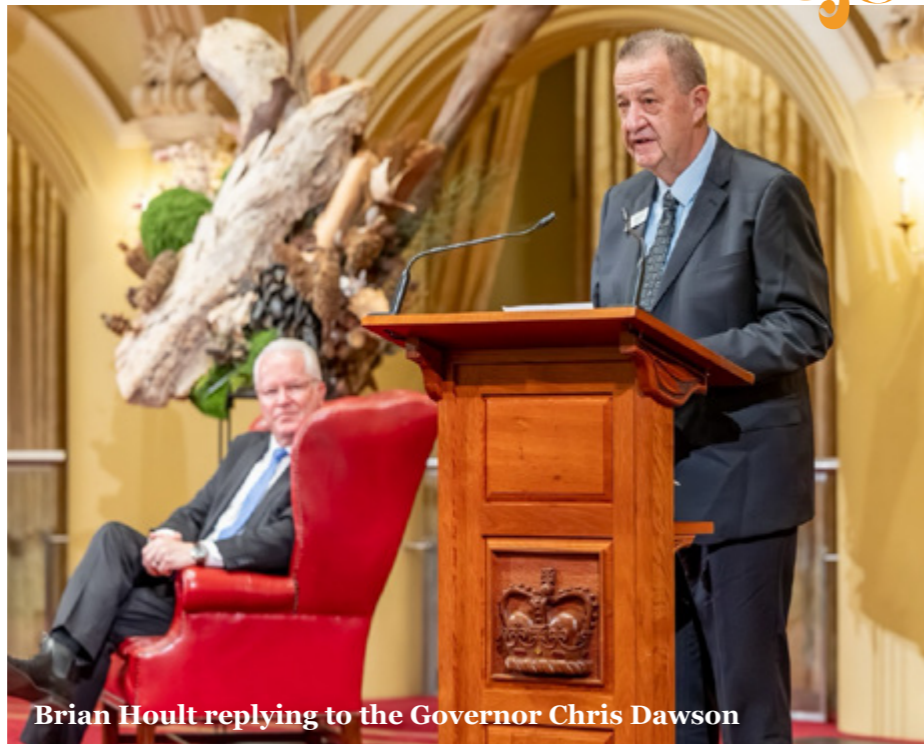
In honor of our 50th Anniversary in 2026, several commemorative events have been organised, beginning with a delightful morning tea hosted by The Probus Club of Hunters Hill, on February 3rd, 2026. This special occasion marked the beginning of a year of celebration, reflection, and recognition of the tremendous contribution Probus has made to retirees and communities across Australia and New Zealand over the past five decades.

As part of these milestone celebrations, we have been honoured to be welcomed at Government Houses in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania. These prestigious events provided an opportunity to acknowledge the enduring success of Probus, celebrate the friendships and connections formed through Clubs, and recognise the dedication of the volunteers and members who continue to make Probus such a vibrant organisation.

Each Government House reception was unique and memorable, featuring warm welcomes from Governors and their representatives, inspiring speeches, and the opportunity for members to come together in celebration of this significant anniversary. The events highlighted the important role Probus plays in promoting friendship, fellowship, and active retirement within communities across the country.

Here are some highlights from each of the celebrations and events held throughout this historic anniversary year.

You can view more photos and memorable moments from these celebrations by visiting our [website](http://www.probus.org.au).



Brian Hoult replying to the Governor Chris Dawson

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

Just under 200 Probus members came together in the Ballroom at Government House to listen to the Governor and Brian Hoult who as the PSPL, Western Australian Representative was responsible for organising and hosting the day. It was a fitting celebration of what we as Probus members contribute to both our members and community and have proudly done so for 50 years.



Some of the PAWA committee and Graeme Brown, The Probus District Chairman with the Governor Chris Dawson



## Victoria in Bloom: A Seasonal Victorian Escape

## Following the Murray: Landscapes of South Australia

There's something about Victoria in autumn that feels quietly cinematic. Cool mornings roll into golden afternoons, gardens burst into colour, and regional towns settle into a slower rhythm that invites travellers to linger a little longer.

While Melbourne often takes centre stage, some of the state's most rewarding experiences unfold beyond the city streets. In Ballarat, grand gold rush architecture, sprawling botanical gardens and a thriving food scene reveal a region that continues to reinvent itself while honouring its rich past. Nearby, the Dandenong Ranges transform during autumn, drawing visitors with cool-climate landscapes, towering forests and seasonal festivals that celebrate colour on a spectacular scale.

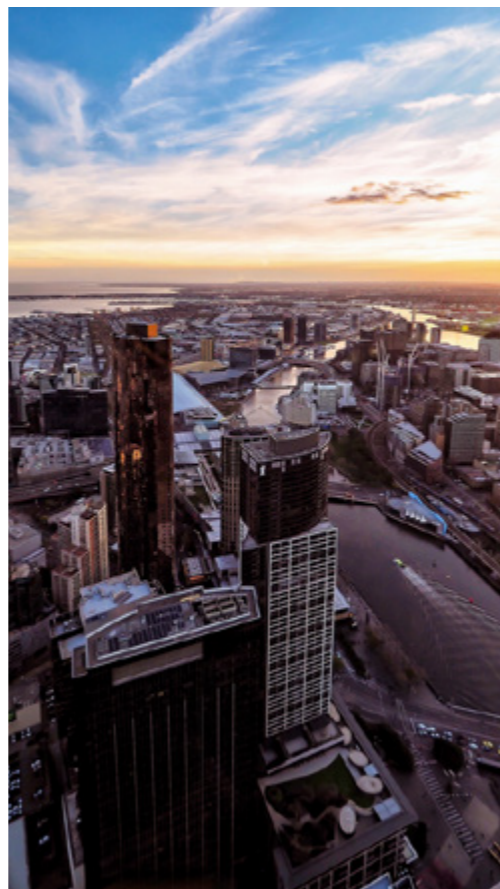
Across the state, Victoria's love affair with gardens, food and heritage experiences continues to shape the way travellers explore.

The Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show remains one of the country's premier seasonal events, while attractions like Puffing Billy and the historic goldfields offer nostalgic journeys through some of Australia's most iconic landscapes. From waterfront dining and regional wineries to harbour cruises and hidden village cafés, the experience is as much about atmosphere as it is sightseeing.

It's this balance of city energy and regional charm that makes Victoria particularly appealing for travellers seeking a more immersive Australian escape. There's a sense of discovery woven throughout the journey — whether it's watching mist roll across the hills at daybreak, wandering through colourful floral displays, or sharing a long lunch overlooking the coast.

As interest in experience-led travel continues to grow, Victoria remains one of Australia's most diverse touring destinations, offering a seamless blend of culture, scenery, history and seasonal beauty.

Trade Travel's fully escorted Melbourne, Ballarat & KaBloom tour captures the very best of the season, combining iconic Victorian experiences with relaxed touring, premium dining and thoughtfully curated sightseeing. With limited departures available for March 2027, now is the perfect time to discover Victoria in bloom. View the full itinerary [here](#).



Some journeys are defined by the road, others by the river. Along the mighty Murray, travel unfolds at a gentler pace, shaped by towering sandstone cliffs, historic river towns and the quiet theatre of life on the water.

For generations, the Murray River has been the lifeblood of inland South Australia, connecting communities, trade and culture across some of the country's most distinctive landscapes.

Today, the region offers travellers a rare opportunity to slow down and experience Australia from an entirely different perspective — one where paddlewheelers glide past red gum forests, wildlife gathers along the riverbanks, and sunsets seem to stretch endlessly across the water.

At the heart of the experience is the Murray Princess, the southern hemisphere's largest inland paddlewheeler, carrying guests deep into the Murraylands.

Along the way, travellers encounter dramatic landscapes including the towering cliffs of Big Bend, historic Lock 1 at Blanchetown, and riverside communities where stories of the river remain deeply woven into everyday life.

The region also reveals a strong connection to culture and tradition. Experiences such as visits to Ngaut Ngaut Aboriginal Reserve, bush tucker breakfasts and heritage woolshed demonstrations offer insight into the people and histories that have shaped the Murray over thousands of years.

Beyond the river, South Australia's broader charm comes into focus through winery experiences, coastal scenery and historic villages. From long lunches in McLaren Vale and cellar door tastings to the German heritage township of Hahndorf and the wild beauty of the Coorong, the journey blends relaxed touring with immersive regional experiences. Increasingly, Australian travellers are seeking destinations that offer connection, authenticity and a slower style of exploration. The Murray River continues to deliver exactly that — not through fast-paced sightseeing, but through landscapes, stories and moments best appreciated slowly.

Trade Travel's fully escorted South Australian tour showcases inland waterways through paddlewheeler cruising, regional dining, cultural experiences and spectacular river landscapes aboard Murray Princess. View the full itinerary [here](#).



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# Probus 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations: Victoria

The Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC hosted a reception at Government House Melbourne in early May to celebrate fifty years of Probus in Australia. Michael Ransom, Chair of Probus South Pacific Limited, also spoke at the event.

One hundred and fifty leaders of Probus clubs from all over Victoria attended the event and were treated to excellent hospitality by the Governor and her staff.



## Norfolk Island

TRUSTED JOURNEYS SINCE 1972

<p><b>GARDEN WEEK 2026</b> Springtime on Norfolk is a great time to visit. Enjoy our lovely gardens, mild weather and visit our A&amp;H Show. Our event package includes return flights, car hire, 7 nights accommodation, visits to 3 private gardens, Royal A&amp;H Show entry, local dining, and more.</p> <p>→ SYDNEY from \$3,245*pp   → BRISBANE from \$3,395*pp</p>	<p><b>FOOD LOVERS WEEK 2026</b> Experience a unique showcase of our sensational seasonal produce and sumptuous local cuisine. Our event package includes return flights, car hire, 7 nights accommodation, a champagne breakfast, a degustation dinner, Thanksgiving Day lunch and more.</p> <p>→ BRISBANE from \$3,599*pp   → SYDNEY from \$3,749*pp</p>	<p><b>CHRISTMAS ESCORTED TOUR</b> Celebrate Christmas on Norfolk Island, where historic charm meets breathtaking South Pacific landscapes. This escorted tour includes return flights, on-island transportation, 7 nights accommodation, a tour leader, most meals, Christmas festivities, and touring.</p> <p>→ BRISBANE from \$4,999*pp   → SYDNEY from \$5,249*pp</p>
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\*Travel restrictions & conditions apply. Prices & taxes are correct as of 6 May 2026 & are subject to change without notice. Prices quoted are on sale unless otherwise stated or sold out prior. Advertised price is per person, twin share, unless otherwise stated. Offers are subject to availability. Seasonal surcharges & blackout dates may apply depending on the date of travel. Additional fees may apply, including surcharges & visa fees specific to your departure date or flight routing. Payments made by credit card will incur a surcharge, advertised prices do not include a credit card surcharge. For full details please visit [www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com](http://www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com). Copyright © 2026 Wave Hospitality Group PTY LTD trading as Norfolk Island Travel Centre, ABN 61 087 521 355, W/A no. 02359485, all rights reserved. For updates & corrections please visit [www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com/amendments](http://www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com/amendments). Image courtesy of Norfolk Island Tourism.

# Explore Australia



## THE ULTIMATE Golf Tour

ALBURY, YARRA VALLEY, MORNINGTON PENINSULA and CANBERRA

Experience an unforgettable 8 day journey through Victoria and Canberra, combining championship golf, gourmet dining and scenic touring. Golfers enjoy premium courses including Moonah Links, Heritage Golf Club and Federal Golf Course, while non golfers explore wineries, orchards, coastal attractions and cultural landmarks. Travel in comfort through the Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula and Canberra, highlights including the HMAS Otway submarine, Cape Schanck Lighthouse and Australian War Memorial.

**FOR Golfers and Non Golfers**

GOLFERS FROM **\$4,295.00**  
NON-GOLFERS FROM **\$3,795.00**

26 OCTOBER TO 2 NOVEMBER 2026 **8 DAYS DRIVE** FITNESS LEVEL: ADVENTUROUS **4**

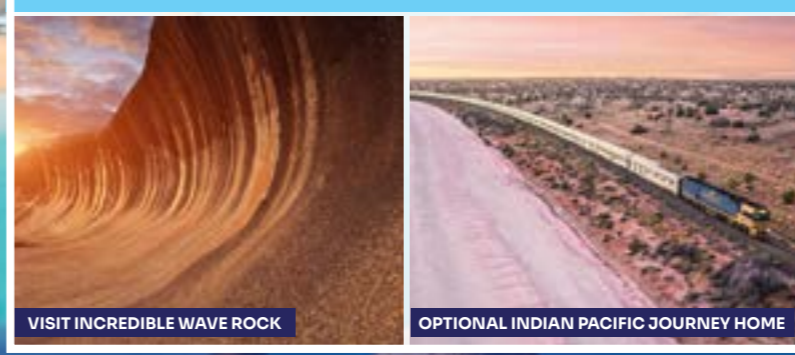
[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

## Perth and South Western Australia

Experience the very best of Western Australia on this unforgettable journey through stunning coastlines, ancient landscapes and charming heritage towns. From Perth and Rottnest Island to Albany, Esperance and Margaret River, discover spectacular scenery, unique wildlife, wildflowers and world class food and wine. Cruise tranquil waterways, stand at dramatic coastal lookouts and explore places rich in history and natural beauty. Conclude your adventure with either a flight home or the legendary Indian Pacific rail journey across Australia. With deluxe accommodation, curated sightseeing and warm hospitality throughout, this tour promises discovery, relaxation and memories to treasure for years to come. Enjoy encounters with friendly quokkas, towering forests, pristine beaches and breathtaking ocean vistas while travelling in comfort alongside like minded travellers on a beautifully paced and expertly guided South Australian and Western Australian holiday experience. Visit iconic landmarks, savour regional flavours, experience unforgettable sunsets and immerse yourself in the welcoming spirit, fascinating stories and diverse landscapes that make Western Australia one of the country's most captivating destinations.

**EX SYDNEY FROM \$6,095.00** 30 SEPTEMBER TO 10 OCTOBER 2026 **11 DAYS FLY/DRIVE** FITNESS LEVEL: ACTIVE/MODERATE **3**

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)



## Lord Howe

Lord Howe Island is a breathtaking World Heritage listed paradise just two hours from Sydney. Surrounded by turquoise lagoons and coral reefs, the island offers incredible snorkelling, spectacular bushwalks, unique wildlife and stunning mountain scenery. With its relaxed atmosphere and natural beauty, Lord Howe Island is the perfect escape for adventure and tranquillity.

**EX SYDNEY FROM \$5,785.00** 1 NOVEMBER TO 7 NOVEMBER 2026 **7 DAYS FLY** FITNESS LEVEL: ACTIVE/MODERATE **3**

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

## Kangaroo Island & Murray River Cruise

Discover the best of South Australia on this unforgettable journey through Kangaroo Island, the Murray River and the Barossa Valley. Experience stunning coastal scenery, abundant wildlife, a relaxing Murray River cruise, renowned wineries and regional flavours. With deluxe accommodation, curated touring and warm country hospitality, this tour perfectly captures the beauty and charm of South Australia.

**EX SYDNEY FROM \$5,195.00** 27 OCTOBER TO 4 NOVEMBER 2026 **9 DAYS FLY/DRIVE/BOAT** FITNESS LEVEL: ACTIVE/MODERATE **3**

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

## Creating Incredible Travel Experiences for Probus Groups

With over 37 years of experience, On Course Tours creates relaxed and enjoyable group holidays designed especially for Probus members. We take care of every detail, from comfortable travel and quality accommodation to friendly hosts and thoughtfully paced itineraries. Whether you choose one of our popular tours or would like a customised itinerary created exclusively for your Probus group, we make travelling easy, social and memorable.

**Your comfort and safety are our top priority**

## Why Travel With Us?

- Group Travel Experts**  
Seamless experiences delivered with quality, consistency and professional coach captains.
- Family Values**  
Family owned, with 37+ years of experience, we're proud to offer a personal approach.
- No Hidden Surprises**  
Tours include meals, transport and experiences with clear pricing.
- Comfort & Safety**  
Your comfort and safety are our top priority. That's why we've upgraded our fleet with four brand new coaches in the past 12 months.
- Travel Together**  
Create lasting friendships and memories.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

# Probus 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations: Tasmania

**A** week after the Victorian event, over one hundred leaders from Probus clubs across Tasmania attended a similar event at Government House in Hobart, hosted by the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania.

Many people commented at both events that it was wonderful to know that Government values Probus clubs so highly because of the way they support older people in local communities all across both states.



# FULLY INCLUSIVE TRAVEL PACKAGES

## Active Senior Group Tours

### About Us

Love Tasmania Tours is a family-owned, Tasmanian-based company offering memorable tours across Australia. We've had the pleasure of working with Probus groups long before the Probus Partners program existed, and we continue to value these wonderful connections today. For us, coach touring is all about the journey—travelling in comfort, enjoying the scenery, and being immersed in some truly fabulous experiences along the way. Our focus is on creating enjoyable, fully inclusive tours that let every guest make the most of their adventure.

**Private Group Tours for 10+ Guests: Ask us about a tailored package or select from our popular pre-made itineraries**

**Inclusions:**  
Flights | Accommodation | Coach Transport | Meals | Activities | Guided Tours

*Our most popular tour for Probus!*



**Discover Norfolk Island 8-Day Tour**  
Flights via BNE/SYD

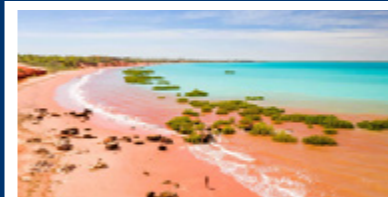


**Kangaroo Island & Adelaide 6-Day Tour**  
Optional Murray Princess Extension

*Most popular Tassie Tour!*



**Full Loop Tasmania 11-Day Tour**  
Half Loop options available



**Broome to Perth 12-Day Tour**

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Willie Creek Pearl Farm | Eighty Mile Beach | Monkey Mia | Pinnacles of Nambung National Park | Ningaloo Marine Park



**Darwin to Broome 11-Day Tour**

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Katherine Gorge | The Kimberley | Bungle Bungle Ranges | Lake Argyle | Geikie Gorge | Willie Creek Pearl Farm



**Coastline to Capital 8-Day Tour**

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Phillip Island | Gippsland | Foster | Lakes Entrance | Sale | Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre | Australian War Memorial

Our place-to-place tours are designed to connect iconic destinations while showcasing the remarkable regions in between—places often difficult to access when travelling independently. These journeys combine major highlights with lesser-known towns, creating a richer, more immersive travel experience.

### Travel Club Tours

The Senior Travel Club is perfect for individuals, couples or small groups to book a spot on one of the exciting tour departures offered within each 6-monthly program release. To see what tours are currently on offer be sure to visit the website!



**Tamar Tasmania 3-Day Tour**

**From Price: \$1,825.00pp**  
**HIGHLIGHTS:** Josef Chromy | Beaconsfield Mine & Heritage Centre | Seahorse World | Platypus House | Tamar River Cruise | QVMAG



**Floriade Canberra 5-Day Tour**

**From Price: \$3,120.00pp**  
**HIGHLIGHTS:** Floriade Festival | Australian War Memorial | Parliament House | Old Parliament House | National Arboretum | Tulip Time



**West Coast Tas 4-Day Tour**

**From Price: \$2,350.00pp**  
**HIGHLIGHTS:** West Coast Wilderness Railway | Strahan | Gordon River Cruise | Queenstown | Arcadia II River Cruise - Corinna | The Ship That Never Was



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## When:


Thursday 18 June  
1.30pm

## Where:

Online—link will be provided before the event

## To register:

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 1300 581 391



# Probus 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations: *New South Wales*

**G**lorious Sunny Day for 50th Anniversary Reception at Government House Sydney

The first of the 50th Anniversary Receptions at State Government Houses was in Sydney, where NSW Governor, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC welcomed 120 members of Probus clubs from across NSW (including many who travelled some distance from Regional and Rural areas of the state).

PSPL's NSW Representative Director, Nick Erby along with PSPL senior staff Silvana Martignago (CEO) and Monika Prasad (Head of marketing & Engagement) led the Probus group of Presidents and Past Presidents of NSW Clubs.

The Governor's speech, in the reception hall of the magnificent 180-year-old sandstone building that stands beside the Sydney Opera House, enlightened us on the journey we've had since Probus was established in Australia in 1976 with the launching of the Probus Club of Hunters Hill.

Her Excellency noted that the membership fee in 1976 was \$1 – our population was 14 million and the average annual salary was \$10,000, inflation was high and



interest rates topped 10% by the end of the year.

Governor Beazley reflected back then; retirement could be taken literally.

The retirement age hasn't changed greatly over 50 years, but superannuation and semi-retirement are now features of the modern workforce.

"What hasn't changed is the need for companionship. From the beginning, Probus has offered connections, community, and friendship. That was true of that first social club in England – and continues to be not only true, but the strength of probus Clubs everywhere and why this 50th Anniversary is a matter for celebration."

Following the Governor's speech, she mingled with the guests as they enjoyed afternoon tea outside in the striking garden that overlooks the Garden Island Navy facility.



## Shape your retirement with confidence

When it comes to planning for retirement, one of the tasks some people avoid is planning and prepaying their funeral.

But it's a smart choice, one that can ease financial pressure on your family and ensure your wishes are clearly documented.

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**And Probus members can save up to \$300 when you purchase a Guardian Plan\*.**

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**Get started today.**

Call us on **1800 220 888** for a free consultation or visit [guardianplan.com.au/probus](http://guardianplan.com.au/probus) to download your free funeral planner.

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- ✓ Review your superannuation and retirement income
- ✓ Plan for future healthcare needs
- ✓ Understand government entitlements and benefits
- ☐ Plan and prepay your funeral

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\*Terms and conditions apply see our website for details

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**5% OFF FOR PROBUS MEMBERS\***

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# Probus 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations: Queensland

**F**riendship, fellowship and community spirit were warmly celebrated at Queensland Government House, as the Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, and Professor Nimmo hosted a special reception marking 50 years of Probus in Australia.

In formal Remarks, the Governor reflected on the strength and reach of the organisation across Queensland and congratulated the 50th anniversary organisers, particularly Chairman Judith Mastraecchi and Queensland committee member Caroline Nelson, on their work coordinating celebrations throughout the year. These include a nationwide picnic and a range of local activities that will see the familiar blue and gold of Probus visible in communities across Australia.

In welcoming the 120 Representatives from across Queensland, Her Excellency acknowledged the remarkable contribution Probus has made to the wellbeing and quality of life of retirees over the past half-century.



She said that with more than 150 clubs and over 11,000 members across the state — and more than 1,400 clubs nationwide — the Probus continues to play an important role in helping people remain active, connected and engaged in their communities after retirement.

As Australia's population ages and many people experience retirement with fewer traditional social networks, the Governor emphasised that the sense of connection fostered by Probus was more important than ever. By encouraging friendship, lifelong learning and active participation in community life, Probus continues to support older Australians to remain engaged and valued contributors to society.



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Escape to Norfolk Island for a relaxed Christmas amid coastal beauty and history.



Departure 25 January 2027

### SYDNEY AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATE ON SYDNEY'S ICONIC HARBOUR

Experience Australia Day amid Sydney's iconic landmarks and vibrant waterfront atmosphere.



Departure 1 February 2027

### A TASTE OF TASMANIA FINE FOOD, WINE & WILDERNESS

Immerse in Tasmania with gourmet flavours and unforgettable natural wonders.



Departure 28 February 2027

### NORFOLK ISLAND CELEBRATE HISTORY AMIDST ISLAND CHARM

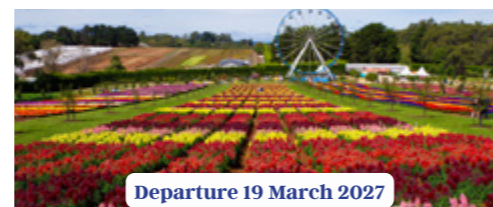
Experience Foundation Week surrounded by Norfolk Island's fascinating heritage and charm.



Departure 7 March 2027

### MURRAY PRINCESS & THE COORONG NP RIVER CRUISING & COASTAL WONDERS

Explore the Murray River through historic towns and serene coastal lagoons.



Departure 19 March 2027

### MELBOURNE & BALLARAT KABLOOM BLOOMING GARDENS & COUNTRY CHARM

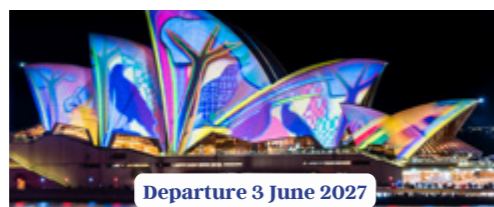
Discover Melbourne and Ballarat amid vibrant blooms and historic gold rush charm.



Departure 19 May 2027

### CHANNEL COUNTRY LEGENDS FROM RED SANDS TO STARLIT SKIES

Wander Australia's outback heart through rugged beauty and historic country towns.



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### SYDNEY VIVID FESTIVAL MAGIC ON SYDNEY HARBOUR

Celebrate Vivid Sydney with iconic projections and vibrant nightlife across the city.



Departure 28 November 2026

### THE ESSENCE OF VIETNAM TRADITION MEETS DISCOVERY

Delight in vibrant cities, UNESCO heritage landscapes, timeless traditions, and local culture.



Departure 1 December 2026, 12 January 2027  
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### TIMELESS THAILAND FLAVOURS, TEMPLES & TRADITIONS

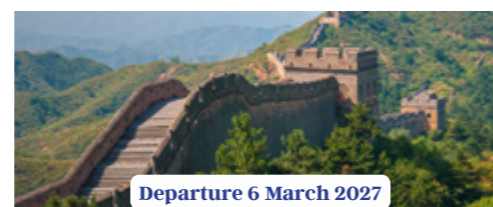
Indulge in Thailand's vibrant flavours, ornate temples and idyllic island charm.



Departure 14 January 2027, 5 March 2027

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Uncover Vietnam through ancient temples, lantern-lit streets and breathtaking landscapes.



Departure 6 March 2027

### A TASTE OF CHINA TIMELESS TRADITIONS & ICONIC SIGHTS

Venture through China immersing in imperial history and breathtaking natural landscapes.

## Cruises



Popular  
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Departure 4 September 2026

### TAHITI, HAWAII & SOUTH PACIFIC ONBOARD CROWN PRINCESS

Journey Brisbane to Hawaii and Tahiti, unveiling paradise and turquoise lagoons.



Departure 7 October 2026

### JAPAN & KOREA DISCOVERY ONBOARD NORWEGIAN JADE

Cruise from Japan to Korea, discovering autumn colours, vibrant cities and coastal escapes.



Departure 23 October 2026

### AROUND THE WORLD ONBOARD COSTA SERENA

Sail from Hong Kong to Santiago, discovering Pacific islands and exotic wonders.



Departure 30 November 2026

### PACIFIC DREAM ABOARD NORWEGIAN SPIRIT

Discover Fiji to Sydney with remote islands, vibrant cultures and ocean serenity.



Departure 21 January 2027

### TASMANIA CRUISE ONBOARD NORWEGIAN SPIRIT

Drift from Sydney to Hobart through dramatic seas and untamed island beauty.

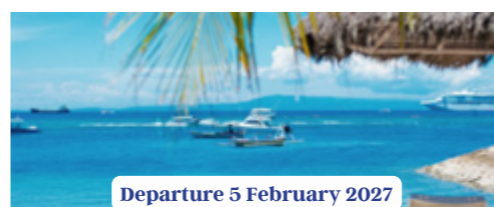


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Departure 5 February 2027

### TROPICAL COAST & ISLANDS OF ASIA ONBOARD AZAMARA PURSUIT

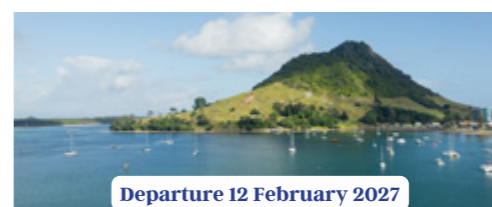
Traverse Australia to Singapore through tropical islands and vibrant Asian capitals.



Departure 5 February 2027

### AUSTRALIA & INDONESIA CRUISE ONBOARD AZAMARA PURSUIT

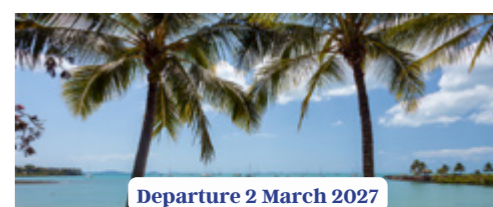
Escape across Australia, Indonesia and beyond with coral shores and captivating island cities.



Departure 12 February 2027

### NEW ZEALAND COASTAL DISCOVERY ONBOARD ANTHEM OF THE SEAS

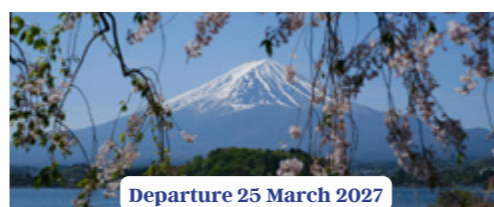
Uncover New Zealand through vibrant harbours and spectacular North Island coastlines.



Departure 2 March 2027

### TROPICAL NORTH QLD ESCAPE ONBOARD CELEBRITY EDGE

Escape to Tropical Queensland with reef adventures and rainforest-fringed coastlines.



Departure 25 March 2027

### JAPAN INTENSIVE ONBOARD AZAMARA PURSUIT

Discover coastal wonders from Tokyo to Kobe with unforgettable cultural encounters.



Popular  
cruise!

Departure 5 July 2027

### NORWAY CRUISE ONBOARD MS POLARLYS

Sail Norway through majestic fjords and charming Nordic fishing villages.



Departure 23 December 2027

### XMAS & NEW YEARS IN NZ ONBOARD GRAND PRINCESS

Celebrate the festive season among NZ's dramatic coastlines and harbour charm.



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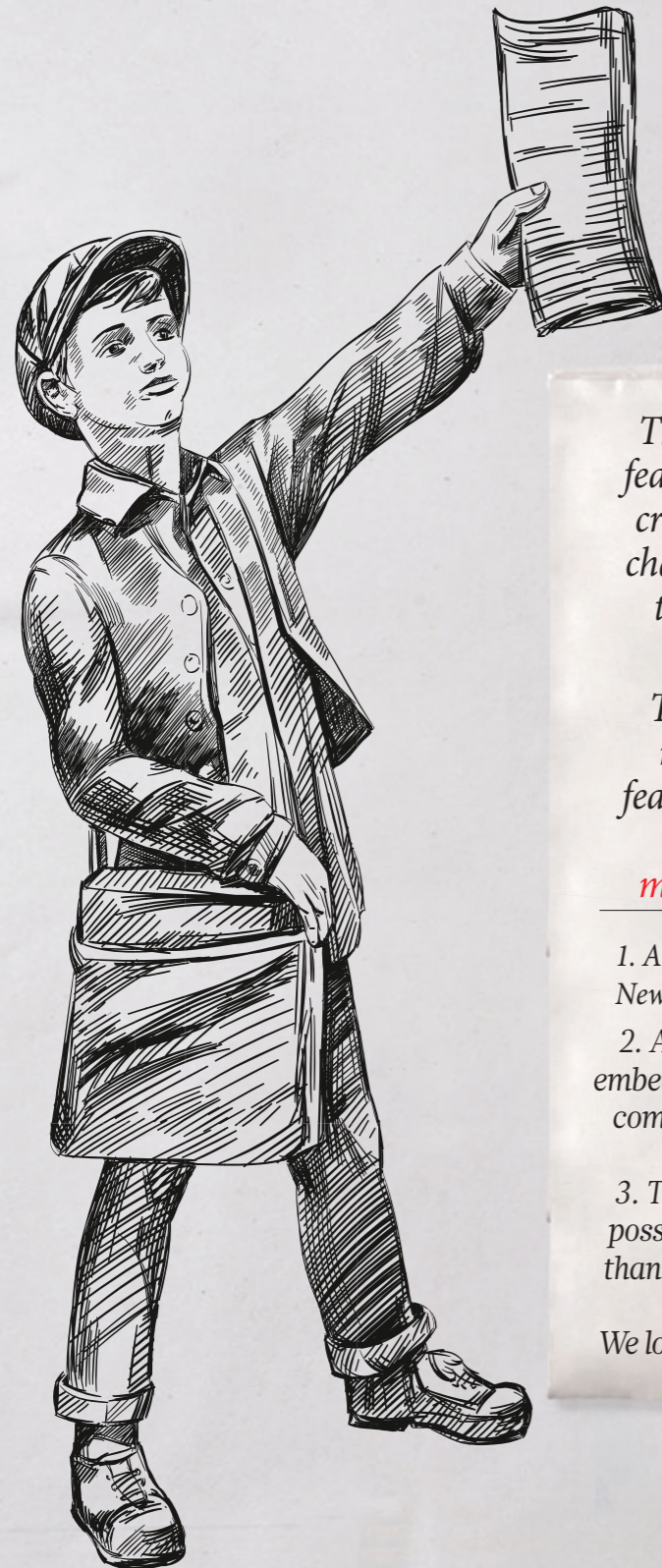
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# Extra! Extra! Read all about it!



*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](mailto: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!*



## No Parish Too Far, No Kettle Too Cold

Palmerston Probus prides itself on the calibre of its guest speakers, and April's meeting proved no exception, welcoming the "Flying Padre," Major Niall Gibson, alongside his wife Major Michelle Gibson, who presented on the Salvation Army's Rural & Remote Chaplaincy Service—one of the largest "parishes" in Australia.

The story began with Victor Pedersen, who, during World War II at RAAF Truscott, recognised the isolation of northern communities and purchased a surplus Tiger Moth aircraft.

Today, that legacy continues across remote regions of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, providing pastoral care, baptisms, weddings, funerals and practical support to those in isolated stations and communities.

As explained, a call for help can see chaplains airborne, with modern aircraft replacing the Tiger Moth, but the mission unchanged: no matter how remote, no one is beyond reach—just be sure to put the kettle on.



## Simon's Fortitude Tramway

A delightful time was spent recently by the Penguin Probus group at Simon's home in Penguin, Tasmania, enjoying his hospitality, his unique tram collection and a BBQ together, proving that having fun on a ride is not just for the kids.

A semi-retired anaesthetist, Simon's Fortitude Tramway is his passion, recreating street cars such as a 1920s Los Angeles vehicle and Hobart 141, seen in the museum in Glenorchy, as well as the Ankh-Morpork, a mix of Victorian-era railway and fantasy, with his property close to town allowing members to enjoy actual rides in the bush.





## 15 Years of Breakfast Point

The Breakfast Point Probus celebrated its 15th years of service to the Breakfast Point community. Mayor Michael Megna attended the meeting and was welcomed by outgoing President Chris Cameron, highlighting the importance of connection, community, and shared interests, while incoming President Kerryanne Knox spoke on the link between strong social connections and improved wellbeing; the club also recognised past and present Presidents with a presentation and morning tea.



## Bathurst Combined Celebrates 50 Years

The Bathurst Combined Probus recently held a celebratory morning tea with a large slab cake, showcasing Probus' 50th anniversary logo on top served for morning tea.



## A Sunny Day Picnic, Musical, and Tour

Mortdale Probus enjoyed a vibrant start to 2026 with a series of memorable events. About 30 members gathered for the Annual Picnic at The Castle in Oatley Park, bringing their own provisions and soaking up a beautiful, sunny day. Another highlight was a visit to The Pavilion at Sutherland, where a large group attended The Golden Years of Musical Theatre and Beyond, performed by the Sydney Musical and Opera Society and led by the acclaimed baritone Simon Militano. The performance delighted all, leaving members eagerly anticipating the next show in July.

Meanwhile, some members embarked on an extended coach tour of Tasmania, enjoying favorable weather as they explored the island's scenic landscapes. Members continue to embrace both social and cultural activities, strengthening the sense of community within the club.



## From Dublin to Sydney: Queen Victoria's Long Journey

The Northbridge Combined Probus group toured the Queen Victoria Building and learned the fascinating story of the 3m-high bronze statue outside. It was originally erected in Dublin during Queen Victoria's reign and stood in front of Parliament House until Ireland became independent in 1922, when the statue was no longer welcome. It was transported to Sydney by truck and ship, arriving two weeks after the Queen Victoria Building's reopening, and was finally placed on a new sandstone pedestal outside the building in 1987, where it remains a striking landmark.



## Engadine Central Marks Probus Milestone

The Engadine Central Probus celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Probus in Australia, coinciding with the 15th Anniversary of the club.

Members marked the occasion by dressing in blue and gold (yellow), and celebratory cakes highlighted these milestones in the Probus story.



## Naval Historical Tour on Sydney Harbour

The Glenorie Probus enjoyed a fascinating naval historical cruise on Sydney Harbour, boarding the MV Bennelong at King Street Wharf 3 under a bright blue sky.

The cruise provided both history and spectacle, including views of the Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour and the Anzac Bridge, making it a memorable and educational experience.





## A Picnic and a Shared Cake Celebration

Campbelltown Probus marked its vibrant community with the Annual Probus Picnic, a popular social event where members proudly wear the yellow and blue Probus colours. Members turning 80 are celebrated with a cake, and new members are welcomed.

The Club celebrated Probus' 50th Anniversary with a shared cake, making the occasion both social and memorable.



## Glenfern Lifestyle Village Open Day

Port Macquarie South Combined Probus recently had a stand at the Glenfern Lifestyle Village Open Day in Thrumster, to promote the club and attract new members.

The display highlighted the club's presence in the community, and anniversary balloons were also featured to celebrate the occasion.

The stand provided an opportunity to engage with visitors and share information about the club's activities.



## Highlights at Morpeth on Hunter

Morpeth on Hunter Probus recently held its AGM, electing a committee of five ladies and five gentlemen, with June Watt as the new President.

The club enjoys bus outings, lunches, trivia, musical morning teas, and BBQs.



## Celebrating Louise's Commitment and Leadership

Louise joined the Wollongong City Ladies Probus in March 2011 and became President in 2013. For the past 12 years, she has served as Minute Secretary, embracing both roles with energy, enthusiasm, passion, and humour. Her dedication, enthusiasm, and embodiment of Probus' principles of fun, friendship, and fellowship make her a truly deserving recipient of Life Membership.



## A High Tea for Golden Anniversary

Gunnamatta Probus kicked off the year by celebrating 50 years of Probus with a High Tea in the Blue Mountains at the beautiful Hydro Majestic Hotel.

Forty-five members travelled from Cronulla to Medlow Bath by train to enjoy a day of camaraderie and a sumptuous feast.



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and Honouring Founders

Kensington Combined Probus celebrated the 22nd anniversary of the club.

A cake was cut at morning tea, and members and guests enjoyed the occasion.





## A Wine from Scratch

Members of the Denmark River Probus set themselves an ambitious challenge to make their own wine from scratch, with everyone contributing throughout the process from picking and pressing to bottling and labelling.

With support from Coby and Luke at Rosenthal Wines, Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were sourced and harvested by members on a wet April morning. Following fermentation, racking and careful monitoring over the year, bottling day finally arrived with 291 bottles filled at a very low cost per bottle. Members now look forward to seeing how the wine matures, while enjoying the results of a rewarding shared project.



## A Night at the Movies

For the Probus Club of Eaton, this was no ordinary night at the movies, nor were the movies what one might expect.

Dorothy and Les Bail hosted club members at their home for a full-blown cinema experience, featuring video presentations that Dorothy had created over the years showcasing the club's activities and outings, with members becoming the stars.

To complete the cinema experience, Dorothy and Les provided a full movie menu including sausage sizzles, hot dogs, popcorn, savoury snacks, homemade marshmallows, sweets and ice cream, creating a memorable evening that members hope will be repeated.



## Celebrating the Oldest Club in Western Australia

Thornlie Probus recently celebrated its 44th birthday, proudly recognised as the oldest club in Western Australia, alongside the 50th anniversary of Probus in Australia—a significant milestone for this long-standing and active club.



## 18 Years of Leeming and 50 years of Probus

At the morning tea lunch after the March AGM, members of the Leeming Probus celebrated two milestones, 18 years since the club was formed and the 50th anniversary of Probus.

With 100 members, the club continues to thrive through a wide range of activities, including nine special interest groups, an annual getaway to Albany, monthly outings, engaging speakers, and an informative monthly bulletin.



## Golden Anniversary and Honorary Members

South Perth Ladies Probus celebrated Probus' 50th anniversary with a birthday cake and chocolates provided by Probus.

Two members, Elvie and Bernadette, were recognised as Honorary members with the presentation of certificates and flowers, acknowledging over 30 years of membership. A great birthday meeting was enjoyed by all.





## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Eudunda & Districts

Members of the Eudunda & Districts Probus celebrated the 50th anniversary of Probus South Pacific at their last meeting with a commemorative cake.

The club, which is 32 years old, marked the occasion in a warm and social gathering.



## Celebrating the 1970s

As part of the Probus 50th birthday celebration, The Golden Grove Combined Probus held a meeting focused on life in the 1970s.

Members shared personal photographs from the era, and a guest speaker then shared her experiences working in the fashion industry during the 1970s as a sketch artist for major Adelaide department stores. Her presentation, including newspaper advertisements and historical pricing, provided a nostalgic and enjoyable reflection on the decade, sparking lively discussion over lunch.



## Mini Golf Outing at Goolwa

Members of Port Victor Combined Probus enjoyed their monthly activity at the newly opened Shanx 18-hole mini golf course at South Lakes Golf Club, Goolwa.

Set among scenic sand dunes, the course provided a fun and engaging challenge, with members embracing the lively atmosphere before gathering for lunch in the clubhouse.



## A Morning Tea for 6 Years

Woodcroft Probus Club recently celebrated its 6th birthday, enjoying a wonderful morning tea and a delicious birthday cake, with the candles cut and blown out by the first and current Presidents, Harriett and Marilyn.



## Medal of the Order of Australia for David

Members of the Marion Probus extend their warm congratulations to fellow member David on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to history preservation and the community of Marion.

A valued member since 2007, David has contributed to the club in many roles and his work in the community has made a lasting contribution to preserving the heritage of the Marion community.



## A Shared Friendship Day Across Five Clubs

Members of the Mobilong Ladies Probus Club welcomed representatives from Meningie, Lameroo, Mannum and Murray Bridge Men's Clubs for their annual Friendship Day lunch in a warm and friendly gathering.

Guests enjoyed morning tea with keyboard music by Jill Matschoss, followed by a shared lunch in a relaxed social atmosphere.



## Golden at RSL Diggers Rest

Members of the Mount Gambier Ladies Probus Club Inc. marked the beginning of Probus South Pacific's 50th anniversary year at their monthly meeting, which also featured a special commemorative moment.

The occasion highlighted the ongoing spirit of Probus and its role in keeping retirees engaged and connected.





## Celebrating Gloria's Contributions

The Gambier City Ladies Probus presented Gloria Lennon with a Life Membership Certificate and badge in recognition of her outstanding service and devotion to the club for more than twenty years.

Gloria joined the club in 2006 and was immediately elected Vice President, later stepping into the role of President and continuing as a dedicated member of the Management Committee.



## Herbs, History, and a Hearty Lunch

Port of Goolwa Probus members travelled to Seaford to catch the city-bound train for a guided tour of Parliament House, hosted by local member David Basham. The tour offered fascinating insights into the history and workings of South Australia's political system, past and present. The train journey was an added highlight, with Seniors Card holders travelling free, making the trip both convenient and enjoyable.



## 1976 Reflections and Noodle Tennis

Members of the Southern Vales Probus gathered to celebrate Probus' 50th anniversary, arriving in golden finery for a festive and fun-filled occasion. The room was decorated with golden tinsel, fringing, and heart-shaped chocolates, creating a cheerful celebratory atmosphere. A highlight of the day was the popular "Noodle Tennis" activity featuring golden balloons and pool noodles, bringing plenty of laughter and enjoyment to all present.



## Crazy Wine and Outfits

Members of the Alexandra Headland Mixed Probus enjoyed a wonderful wine tasting presentation led by Margaret, whose theme was "crazy wine and outfits."

She singled out Jan, the club's Publicity Officer, and tried to tempt him to try a wine called Elephant in the Room.

Needless to say, everyone collapsed with laughter, including Jan and Margaret.



## A Visit to Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Members of the Carseldine Probus enjoyed a bus trip from Aspley into the Brisbane Central Business District to visit the historic Queensland Performing Arts Centre in South Brisbane.

The "Behind the Scenes" guided tour was outstanding.

The visit concluded with everyone enjoying lunch at the Storyteller Café, rounding off a memorable and enjoyable experience.



## Strong Attendance, Community Support and Morning Melodies

The Gladstone Region Probus enjoyed a well-attended meeting with almost thirty members present, along with prospective members and visitors from the Rockhampton and District Probus Club.

The visit strengthened connections between the two clubs, and appreciation was extended to all for their continued support and welcoming spirit.

Members also enjoyed a Morning Melodies outing featuring international vocalist Bloom at the Gladstone Entertainment and Convention Centre, where the lively and engaging performance created a warm and enjoyable morning for all.





## Lois' Jam Group Performs

Members of the Paddington Probus Club, known as Lois' Jam Group, have been exercising their vocal cords, ably accompanied on keyboards by Tony and Jenni, to perform a selection of Irish songs at "A Morning with Donna".

It was a singalong performance and an enjoyable morning.



## Leather Belt Workshop

A small group of members from the Logan Village Probus learnt a new skill and made a leather belt with the Crazy Craftsman, a local leathersmith. They were first introduced to different types of leather and basic tools of the trade before shaping their belts, marking and punching holes, sizing the belts, adding buckles and keepers, and finishing by burnishing and polishing the raw edges. Members then stayed on for light refreshments before heading home with their finished creations.



## Celebrating 50 Years of Probus at Jindalee Bowls Club

The Mount Ommaney Probus held a morning tea to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the first Probus Club in Australia at Hunters Hill in Sydney. Seventy members attended the Jindalee Bowls Club, and enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea. They also enjoyed a trivia quiz, fun and games, and a light-hearted attempt to connect with Sydney, with festivities continuing throughout in a warm and celebratory atmosphere.



## Probus Association of Queensland's New President

The Queensland Director formally inducted Merv Richens as the new President of the Probus Association of Queensland, alongside the newly appointed management committee.



## A Vibrant Start to a Busy Year

Kenmore Village Probus has enjoyed a wonderfully eventful start to the year, beginning with a New Year Soiree and continuing with cheerful outings and lunches. Members have attended free concerts at Brisbane City Hall, and also enjoy regular visits to local theatres and galleries. Outings that celebrate their shared love of food and friendship, such as trips on the City Cat to New Farm and North Shore for morning tea and lunch. Looking ahead, the club is also planning to attend the Laidley Spring Fair later in the year, continuing its tradition of varied and engaging activities.

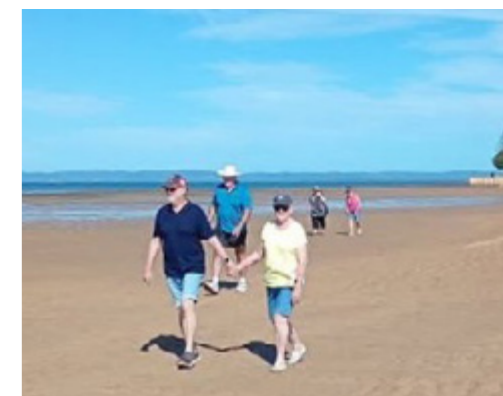


## Walking Group in Brisbane's Redland

A recent two-kilometre walk to and from King Island off Wellington Point in Brisbane's Redlands at low tide highlighted the Capalaba Probus members' appreciation of simple, social activities.

With five regular walking group members joined by fifteen others, the focus was on companionship, scenery, and camaraderie rather than a highly structured.

The outing concluded with a well-earned coffee, ice cream, and shared stories, along with a sense of achievement in completing the walk before the tide returned.



## A Thai Dinner and Bowling Outing

Springwood Probus' monthly Dine Out was held at Thai Daisy Hill, where fourteen members and one guest enjoyed a relaxed evening in air-conditioned comfort.

A variety of dishes including satay sticks, spring rolls, Tom Yum soup, green curry and Thai fish cake were enjoyed, followed by ice cream for dessert. Members also took the opportunity to mingle between tables, creating a friendly and social evening.

The Thursday outing was tenpin bowling at Logan Central, with nine members and two guests taking part. Two teams enjoyed friendly competition, with several strikes and high scores recorded, before finishing the day with lunch at The Coffee Club at Logan Mega Centre. It was an enjoyable outing for all involved.





## 1932 and the Great Emu War Play

The Wanniasa Probus Club presented a radio play with six "actors" as part of the Probus 50th Anniversary celebrations. It was funded and sponsored by COTA and LDK.

The club used the 50th Anniversary of Probus logo as a backdrop, in conjunction with COTA and LDK logos, along with various scenic props for each of the four segments of the play.

The play went brilliantly, with around 95 people in attendance, leaving only a handful of empty seats. The audience laughed throughout, and feedback after the show was highly complementary, with many also staying afterwards for tea and coffee.



## Morning Tea at National Arboretum

The Canberra Lakes Ladies Probus celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Probus in Australia with a morning tea at the National Arboretum.

At the morning tea, attended by 12 members, President Joan Keith read out a copy of the letter from the Governor-General, Sam Mostyn, to Probus in Australia. Each member expressed that they were very happy to be part of Probus, recognising the friendship and social support they receive throughout each year that would be hard to replace.



## A Visit from a Former Member of The Seekers Play

The Gungahlin Probus welcomed guest speaker Keith Potger AO of the band The Seekers, who shared stories of his journey to Australia from Sri Lanka, his schooling, and his early involvement in musical bands before co-founding The Seekers in the early 1960s.

He spoke about how he and the other members rose to great heights of success before eventually disbanding.

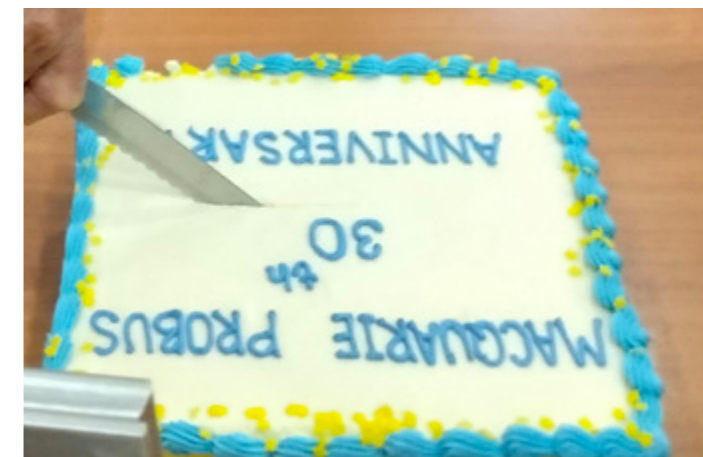
Lucky for everyone present, he brought his guitar and performed two songs, adding a special highlight to the occasion. It was a very enjoyable and memorable morning for all in attendance.



## Macquarie's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Members of the Macquarie Probus gathered to mark the club's 30th birthday, celebrating the milestone together.

The honour of cutting the cake was given to Bob, a long-serving member, in recognition of his many years of contribution to the club.





## The Murray Princess Cruise

More than a quarter of members of the Glen Waverley Combined Probus, 35 in total, enjoyed a memorable trip to South Australia.

The journey began with an overnight stay in Adelaide, including a tour of Adelaide Oval, a cruise along the Port Adelaide River, and time exploring Glenelg.

The highlight of the trip was a four-night cruise aboard the Murray Princess on the Murray River, featuring winery visits, cultural experiences, and onboard activities.

The trip concluded with visits to Maggie Beer's Farm Shop and Penfolds, followed by a wine tasting experience and lunch at Mount Lofty Ranges Winery before returning home.



## Enjoying the Wine & Cheese

Greythorn Probus made the most of the summer season with early evening gatherings that combine wine, cheese, and friendly games of bocce.

Conveniently located near Greythorn Park, the club enjoyed access to picnic tables and a well-maintained, open oval—an ideal setting for both relaxation and light competition.



## The Probus Pals

The Lilydale Probus ladies gather once a month under the name "Probus Pals" for morning or afternoon tea at a different venue each time. These regular catch-ups are a much-loved tradition, filled with hearty laughter, friendly conversation, and the enjoyment of good company among members.



## Golden Anniversary at Avondale Heights

Avondale Heights Probus recently celebrated the 50-year milestone of Probus in Australia with a delightful morning tea, complete with a Probus 50 sign and festive balloons, thanks to the efforts of the hospitality officer.



## Short River and Long Marriage

Members of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea embarked on an extended retreat through South Gippsland and Phillip Island, visiting Wilsons Promontory National Park and walking along the banks of Tidal River. The journey continued through a range of destinations including Tarra-Bulga National Park, Port Albert, Inverloch, Wonthaggi State Coal Mine, and Phillip Island. Despite weather changes and some altered plans, the group enjoyed a well-organised and memorable retreat before returning safely to Whittlesea.



## A Day Trip to Port Arlington

Members of Murrumbena Probus enjoyed a delightful day out as the sea was like a millpond, and the sky was bright blue for the sail across the bay to the destination. Seals and dolphins were spotted along the journey, and the views of the city in the distance were incredible. A lovely lunch was enjoyed at the Port Arlington Golf Club, followed by some retail therapy uptown, including Eileen's stylish new purchase, before a relaxed return ferry trip to the terminal. It was a truly enjoyable day, with everyone arriving home with happy memories.



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at Flying Brick Cider Co

The Ocean Grove Surfside Probus recently marked its 25th anniversary since its formation in 2001. A special dinner was held at Flying Brick Cider Co. in Wallington, attended by members, guests, and special visitors, with reflections shared by current and former Presidents and a 25th Anniversary Certificate presented to the Club.



## A Ferry Trip to Williamstown

Members of the Maling Combined Probus recently enjoyed a delightful and novel outing with a ferry trip from the Yarra River in Melbourne to the historic seaside suburb of Williamstown. The outing concluded with a pleasant lunch and return journey, rounding off an enjoyable day of sightseeing, history, and fellowship.





## 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Point Lonsdale Bowls Club

The Queenscliffe Combined Probus members met at the Point Lonsdale Bowls Club for its 28th Annual General Meeting, where Gordon King was elected President for the coming year.

The club is a vibrant mixed-gender group for people living in Queenscliffe, Point Lonsdale and surrounding areas.



## An Informative Talk from Ellie of Federation University

Ellie Johnson from Federation University spoke to an enthralled audience at Sale Combined Probus meeting.

Ellie answered questions from members, and Guest Speaker Officer Robyn presented her with a token of appreciation.



## A Special Dinner Bringing Two Clubs Together

Members of Castle Donnington Probus from Swan Hill and Pakenham Central Probus recently came together for dinner at the Cardinia Club in Pakenham, enjoying an evening of friendship, fun and fellowship. The gathering highlighted the spirit of Probus as clubs come together in the lead-up to the 50th anniversary of Probus in Australia in 2026.



## Watsonia Celebrates Probus Golden Anniversary

Members of the Watsonia Probus celebrated 50 years of Probus in Australia with a morning tea and special anniversary cakes at their recent Annual General Meeting. The cake was cut by three original members, Rex, Margery and David, who have been active members for 33 years, and a lovely morning was enjoyed by all in attendance.



## Wombat Gully Nursery and a Corio Bay Cruise

As part of the 50 Years of Probus in Australia celebrations, members of the Waurin Ponds Deakin Probus in Geelong met at the beautiful Wombat Gully Nursery, where they enjoyed a very informative talk on creative ideas for small gardens while sharing

coffee and cake in the café.

The following day, members enjoyed a two-hour cruise around Corio Bay with a delicious two-course lunch on board.

The cruise featured views of the bay and playful seals and their pups seen during the journey, adding to a most enjoyable experience.



Book Review

# Postscript: Life, Love and Loss in Australian Letters

**P**ostscript: *Life, Love and Loss in Australian Letters* is a quietly powerful reminder of something we've almost lost: the art of meaningful correspondence. In an age dominated by instant communication, this beautifully curated collection invites readers to slow down and rediscover the emotional weight carried in a carefully composed letter.

Published by the National Library of Australia, the book draws from its vast archives of millions of letters spanning love, politics, science and everyday life. Many of these documents have never been publicly seen before, and their inclusion here feels both intimate and historically significant. Edited by publisher Lauren Smith and the NLA Publishing team, the collection strikes a thoughtful balance between preservation and reinterpretation.

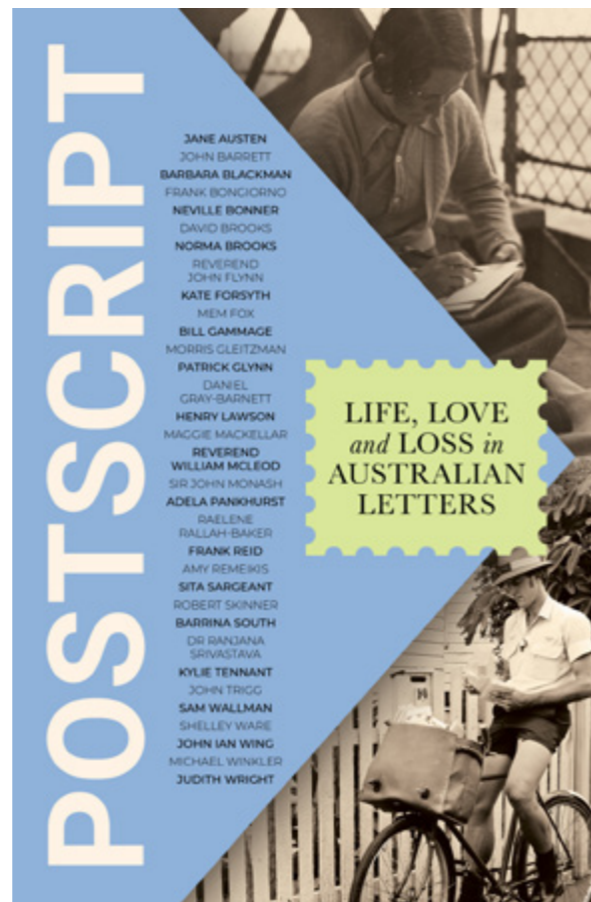
What makes *Postscript* particularly compelling

is its dual structure. Alongside original letters from literary and cultural figures such as Jane Austen, Judith Wright, Henry Lawson and Mem Fox, contemporary Australian writers have been invited to respond with letters of their own. Contributors including Kate Forsyth, David Brooks, Maggie Mackellar, Ranjana Srivastava and Robert Skinner extend the conversation across time, reflecting on enduring themes of love, creativity, illness, family and identity.

This interplay between past and present gives the book a rare depth. The historical letters offer raw, unfiltered glimpses into personal and public lives, while the contemporary responses feel reflective and resonant, grounding those themes in modern experience. Together, they create a

dialogue that feels both timeless and urgently relevant.

Ultimately, *Postscript* is more than a collection, it's an experience. It reminds us that letters are not just records of communication, but vessels of emotion, thought and human connection. For readers, it offers both a window into history and a gentle nudge to reconnect with a slower, more deliberate way of expressing ourselves.



JANE AUSTEN  
JOHN BARRETT  
BARBARA BLACKMAN  
FRANK BONGIORNO  
NEVILLE BONNER  
DAVID BROOKS  
NORMA BROOKS  
REVEREND JOHN FLYNN  
KATE FORSYTH  
MEM FOX  
BILL GAMMAGE  
MORRIS GLEITZMAN  
PATRICK GLYNN  
DANIEL GRAY-BARNETT  
HENRY LAWSON  
MAGGIE MACKELLAR  
REVEREND WILLIAM MCLEOD  
SIR JOHN MONASH  
ADELA PANKHURST  
DALENE RALLAH-BAKER  
FRANK REID  
AMY REMEWS  
SITA SARCEANT  
ROBERT SKINNER  
BARRINA SOUTH  
DR RANJANA SRIVASTAVA  
KYLIE TENNANT  
JOHN TRIGG  
SAM WALLMAN  
SHELLEY WARE  
JOHN IAN WING  
MICHAEL WINKLER  
JUDITH WRIGHT



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