

**PROBUS SOUTH PACIFIC LTD
RECEPTION TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PROBUS IN AUSTRALIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2026**

VICE REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to mark the 50th anniversary of Probus in Australia.

May I acknowledge the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

Your 50th anniversary represents five decades of friendship, service, and community connection for Australians in their retirement and semi-retirement years.

Probus began in the United Kingdom in 1965 with a small group of retired professional and businessmen, founded on the ideals of friendship and fun. From these modest beginnings, Probus spread internationally.

The first Probus club in Australia was established in Sydney in 1976 and has grown into a nationwide network of thousands of clubs and tens of thousands of members.¹ In Tasmania, the first club was established in Moonah in 1981, and our State has since seen similar growth.²

Today, Probus is one of Australia's most successful community-based organisations for retirees. Probus helps combat isolation, fosters a sense of belonging, and creates opportunities to continue learning, travelling, and contributing in meaningful ways, such as by volunteering.³

¹ <https://www.probusouthpacific.org/pages/about-probus> accessed 9 Apr 26

² https://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/P/Probus.htm accessed 9 Apr 26

³ <https://www.aihw.gov.au/mental-health/topic-areas/health-wellbeing/social-isolation-and-loneliness> accessed 9 Apr 26

Probus has evolved and grown into an inclusive organisation for both men and women. Many have contributed to Probus' success, including volunteers, committee members and all of you, the Probus community.

I warmly congratulate Probus Australia on your fiftieth anniversary.

Now, please, enjoy your reception.

Thank you.