Geelong Probians Celebrate 50 Years of Probus at a Mayoral Function

On 13 October, 60 representatives from the 23 Probus Clubs across the Geelong area accepted an invitation from the Mayor, Dr Stretch Kontelj OAM, to a light afternoon tea at the Wurriki Nyal Civic Precinct in Mercer Street, Geelong.

Guests were warmly welcomed, and the Wadawurrung People were acknowledged as the Traditional Owners of the land, waterways and skies. The Mayor and guest speaker Michael Ransom, Chairman of Probus South Pacific Limited (PSPL) for Tasmania and Victoria, were then introduced.

The Mayor spoke about the importance of Probus, particularly for Geelong, which is one of the fastest-growing areas in the country thanks to everything the region has to offer. He described Probus as a valuable contribution to the community, giving seniors and retirees a way to stay connected and active.

Mr Ransom echoed the importance of staying connected and engaged, and reminded members of the PSPL motto, three simple words:

- **Friendship:** building meaningful, lifelong peer connections and combating social isolation in retirement.
- **Fellowship:** promoting a strong sense of community, mutual respect and shared experience among members.
- **Fun:** enjoying uplifting, stress-free social activities, outings and guest speaker events without strict obligations.

He also acknowledged the volunteer work of club committee members and group activity leaders, and thanked them for their contribution.

After the speeches, the Mayor and Mr Ransom happily posed for photos with members of the various clubs. Guests then enjoyed an afternoon tea of sandwiches, slices and fruit, with tea and coffee, and took the opportunity to mix and mingle with members of other clubs.

It was a warm, friendly and thoroughly pleasant afternoon. Many thanks to the Mayor and the City of Greater Geelong for acknowledging 50 years of Probus.

PS. The catenary lights at the corner of Malop and Moorabool Streets, Geelong, were lit in blue and yellow for Probus from Tuesday 6 to Friday 9 October.