

THAMES PROBUS CLUB NO 1140

REGULAR MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAY EACH MONTH

VENUE: RICHMOND VILLAS LOUNGE

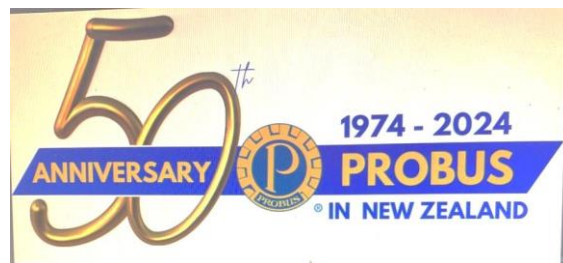
BULLETIN ISSUE NUMBER 376

President: Barbara Shaw 027 2027545

Secretary: Pat Fargher 8685663 ... 021 02605455

Next Meeting :

Tuesday ...8th October, 2024 ... At 10 am



A note from President Barbara:

Feed-back from the September Meeting was very positive. Warm thanks to our guest speaker Catherine Flynn and our mini speaker Shirley Murphy. Shirley has had an intriguing occupation in Russia and certainly has more stories to tell.

Also a big thanks to our reduced committee numbers who worked extra hard to prepare for the meeting. If any members feel able to step up and help when members are away on trips, that would be very welcome. My apologies for not being able to attend in October and I appreciate that Chris Hovell will kindly take the meeting.

Immediate Past President Chris Hovell has stepped forward for Barbara and has planned a different meeting for October.

Our Club has decided this month we will celebrate being part of Probus, which has been actively playing an important part to thousands of members in New Zealand since the 4th of November 1974. This meeting will be centered around celebrating some of our special members ... who are all nonagenarians! Do come along and enjoy the day!

Get to know a little more about Marie Hayhurst, Moira James, Del Patten, Joyce Campbell, Rita Bayly, Palma Wallace, Joan Flynn and Graeme Brighthouse.

October is the month to appreciate being part of

Lunch together after our Probus meeting at The Melbourne, 713 Pollen Street !

President Joan Rawnsley has warmly invited our Probus members, along with Paeroa Probians, to join her Club on Wednesday 16th October to celebrate 50 years of Probus in New Zealand at a shared Hauraki Probus Club meeting.

Her team have organised a special morning tea and their guest speaker will be the Probus district Chairman Ian Young, all the way from Tauranga.

The Venue is the Ngatea Memorial Hall, starting time 10 am & cost is \$10.



Departing Danby Field at 9-15 sharp. Payment is needed at our October meeting or may be paid ASAP to:

The Thames Probus Club Westpac Thames 03 0458 0163522 00

If you haven't put your name down do phone Margaret 8687106 or 0211708987 as we need numbers by 2nd October, thanks.

Also Margaret hopes to arrange a film day in November ...

Membership :

President Barbara called for a moment of silence at the September meeting for Past President Glenis Lowndes. It is always sad to say goodbye but happy memories of her term in office, like toasting Prince Harry with a nice Port at a Probus Meeting in 2018, were enjoyed by those who still remember Glen with a smile.

We hope to induct Nick Belich into our Club. He has attended as a visitor for a couple of meetings, and has decided he would enjoy being a member even though his home is in Paeroa.

Margaret visited Elaine and passed on our love for her, as we all wish her the very best now she is in care at Ohinemuri House, Paeroa.



Thursday the 19th September was wet but a pleasure for about twenty of us visiting the Oasis Garden at Puriri. Nena had so many items to marvel over and shared her enthusiasm, excitement and pride in successfully completing her 2nd year in business at Puriri !



A friendly lunch together at the Cheese Barn Café followed.



September 2024 Mini Speaker : Shirley Murphy ...

Shirley shared an amazing milestone in her life, which is not recommended for the fainthearted, but extremely interesting! It included an SIS induction in preparation for a posting abroad, while the William Sutch intrigue and espionage accusations were playing out in NZ at the same time as her own work in the unique diplomatic world ... ending with an ice skating incident leaving her with a badly fractured leg and on return to NZ a further nine months of Auckland hospital care and also a few questions, as we could all imagine ... seeing after skating successfully for 30 minutes and just about to leave the rink a solid Russian man came unexpectedly from behind and slammed into her.

50 years ago as a bright and adventurous 21 year old, Shirley had signed up to work as a Senior Stenographer with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Wellington with the knowledge that she would likely be posted to a NZ Embassy or High Commission overseas within a year. She thoroughly enjoyed 6 months living and working at the MFA offices and at the back rooms of the old Parliament Buildings, where in Pitman's shorthand, she recorded all sorts of political reports from many senior career diplomatic staff. Only 3 months after starting she was asked to go to the newly re-opened NZ Embassy in Moscow.

NZ had a legation with the Soviet Union from 1944-1950 and then a full Embassy was re-opened in 1973. With little knowledge of the SU, in hindsight likely a very good thing, and much against her mother's wishes, Shirley accepted the position and in preparation attended summer school Russian lessons at Victoria University. Space doesn't allow more of Shirley's well-presented 12 minute talk, sorry ... We were all spell bound and will want more ...



September 2024 MAIN SPEAKER : was Cathy Flynn

Past President Joan Flynn proudly introduced her well qualified daughter who had studied Law in Auckland & is now based in Thames with her own Practice. I think it was in the New Plymouth area when she became a Court appointed Barrister for children and adolescence and to work with their families. Her talk today was of her concern regarding the needs we may have when setting into place any Enduring Power of Attorney legal documents covering both personal property and

health. Caution is needed for our protection when we select who is to make decisions on our behalf and she mentioned a need for a successor attorney to be appointed too.

Cathy did say that the Act of 1988 is desperately in need of updating!

A difficult and troublesome 'ahem cough' wanted to get in the way of her presentation sadly and we all felt grateful that she worked so hard to continue, rather than disappoint by leaving us without a speaker, thank you Cathy.

Pat Fargher, Editor Thames Probus

