

# THAMES PROBUS CLUB NO 1140

REGULAR MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAY EACH MONTH

VENUE: RICHMOND VILLAS LOUNGE

BULLETIN ISSUE NUMBER 378

President: Barbara Shaw 027 2027545

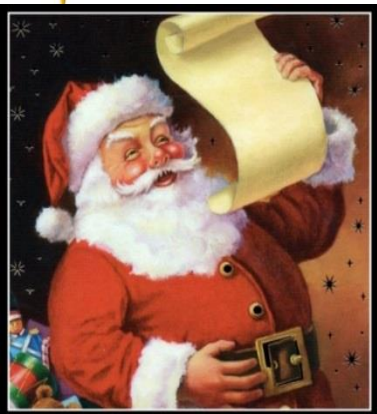
Secretary: Pat Fargher 8685663 ... 021 02605455



Next Meeting: Tuesday, 10 December, 2024. @10.30 am

The December regular Meeting is being held at The Thames Bowling Club ... It will start at 10.30 and includes a Christmas Luncheon, some lucky prizes and good company. There will be a cash bar open for drinks.. Maybe think about adding a Christmas theme to your attire and do bring a smile to share...

Instead of exchanging Christmas gifts we look forward to members bringing something for Foodbank ... Do discuss transport or parking concerns with Colin at 8688196 or 021514674



## A note from President Barbara :

Greetings to all, as we unbelievably enter the last month of the year. Hopefully everyone has remembered to make their payment for the Christmas dinner to Gordon. Please also remember to bring an item from your pantry for the food-bank.

I trust you will all be well enough to attend our last function for the year and look forward to seeing you all there.



**Membership :** Put your thinking caps on ... In 2025 we are hoping some of you will join our committee to help generate the fun, friendship and entertainment that distinguishes our Probus Club so well. Talk amongst each other now and support whoever is willing to be part of the friendly management team. The AGM will come around quickly now..

At our November meeting, with love and respect we shared a moment of silence in memory of Elaine Bycroft, all of us feeling a huge sense of loss and sadness.

And Jocelyn Horn has now moved to Taupo to be near her son, in care, ... We will miss her too. A loyal member who joined our Club, with her husband Chas back in November 2003 ...

Her new address is Bupa Liston Heights Retirement Village & Care Home,  
19 Liston Avenue, Hilltop, Taupo. 3330



Alex warmly introduced Anne Harris and President Barbara presented Anne with her induction package to a welcoming round of applause.

**Trips & Treats:** Mark your Calendar for the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2025

for our usual informal meeting with finger food lunch. ( that is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday ! )

Details to come in a New Year Note, which we will send out to all members in good time Margaret has 28 intending to enjoy our film day 28<sup>th</sup> November and is planning many exciting outings for 2025...

Glenice, Alex, Judy Vedder-Price & Judy Newmarch joined Max and Carole Bosselmann from Rotary on Michelle's East Cape trip ... five nights and six days of fine weather and fun ... an outing on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> to Tauranga Operatunity show is well supported by our members too.





**Mini Speaker:** Chris & Colin Hovell on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024 represented Thames, Hauraki and Paeroa Probus Clubs at Government House, in Wellington by attending a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary High Tea Celebration hosted by the Governor General's husband, His Excellency, Dr Richard Davies.

Official entry form and QR codes were scanned at the gate and a taxi drove up a long driveway of lush plants and native trees led into an area of



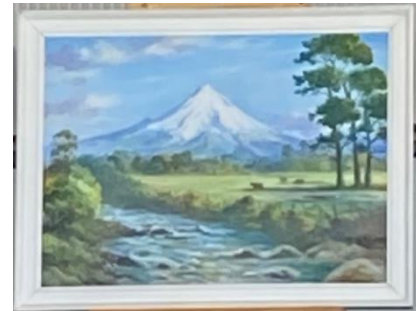
well-manicured lawns past the main entrance of the most impressive building with its grand high Portico of great gleaming white pillars. Hardly stopped ... the doors were opened by a uniformed official, (is this Hollywood?) It was rather hard to hear anything on entering the main hall with the sound of the grand piano and the usual happy chatter of 90 plus Probus members blending in. On the dot of 2.00 pm all attendees were called to order by a gold braided uniformed senior staff member, who announced that the hall the gathering was in was the Grand Ballroom. She followed with Health and Safety regs and protocol for all to be standing on His Excellency's arrival. His Excellency welcomed all on behalf of his wife Dame Cindy Kiro, then acknowledged Probus leaders : Silvana Matignago (PSPL CEO), Michael Ransom (PSPL Chairman) and Margaret Drake (Director of Probus South Pacific in NZ) before speaking of his life in general : During his school years he was enthralled with the Kenyan runners and their world winning running ability and spent some time there before going to quite a few other countries, including the Falkland Islands. He was in the Merchant Navy and then trained as a doctor in Ireland before working in various countries including England and Ireland and finally moved to NZ working with the Auckland City Mission's Calder Centre and is now working as a G. P. in the Wellington area.

He congratulated Probus on 50 years in NZ and after the speeches he visited all the tables where one member asked who would win the rugby NZ or the Irish, but he graciously declined to choose a winner!

**Guest Speaker: David Baker, whose wife Helen keeps him young delighted all with his recollections of his pleasure in climbing Mount Taranaki on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with some of his family.**



**On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January this year, with a party of 13 and on a perfect day they started out at 5am using torches and twelve and a half hours later they reached the top, thus enabling Dave to win the 'Oldest' to do so award and also the 'slowest' to do so award!**



**They did get to the top successfully but in respect of Maori culture their team did not stand right on the summit, which is considered sacred ground. Then reality hit as the climbers reflected on the realization of being only half way through the climb and after appreciating magnificent and satisfying views there is the challenge of climbing down ... and to remain safe in some steep areas needing to crawl down. There have been 84 deaths recorded on Mt**

**Taranaki including two of a rescue party endeavoring to reach a group of nurses whose lives were lost after a change in the weather. A partly cemented portion of the track called the Puffer is extremely difficult; it is ever so steep and hard to navigate up and or down!**

**What a positive attitude David has which showed as he reminisced on being a boy lucky enough to live at the base of the mountain on his parents' property and of earning 2/6 for the tail of a goat. Yes, he was a young goat hunter assisting in the culling of goats by using a knife until he saved enough to buy a rifle. He would have first climbed the mountain when he was a 12 year old, needing to cut ice steps to get up the steep slopes of which there were so many.**

**Now he is considering another attempt when he turns 95 ... but let's hope he is teasing...**



*Probus is proud to be a Community Service Activity of Rotary Clubs.*

*The contents of this newsletter are private and confidential and for Probus use only.*

*With Season Greetings and best regards, Pat*

