

THE THAMES PROBUS CLUB NO 1140 FOUNDATION MEETING: 14TH AUGUST 1990



Inaugural meeting was 26th July 1990

Accredited and Registered with PCSP on the 9th October, 1990

Bulletin Issue number 380

Regular Meetings: Second Tuesday each month **Venue:** Richmond Villas Lounge
82 Richmond Street, Thames

PRESIDENT: BARBARA SHAW 027 2027545

Secretary: Pat Fargher 8685663 ... 021 02605455



Next Meeting:

Annual General Meeting ... Tuesday, 11th March, 2025. at ...10am...



A note from President Barbara : Unbelievably the A.G.M is upon us. It bodes well for our club that we have people willing to take up positions on the committee.

As many people as possible joining the committee will make the work load much easier and enjoyable. I look forward to seeing you all after my year as President which has helped me in getting to know more of you and enjoying your friendship.



Do join in and add your name to the 8 nominations already received by the secretary who still has forms available if you wish to take an opportunity to participate in the pleasurable task of management. You will be most welcome!

Applications received to date :

President: Shirley Murphy Secretary: Pat Fargher

Treasurer: Alex Shirley Immediate Past President: Barbara Shaw.

Committee: Chris and Collin Hovell, Thelma Chantrey & Margaret Nankivell



All wonderful possibilities if members' support is forthcoming at our AGM

The committee recommends Subscription remains unchanged at \$30 plus \$10 joining fee



Main Speaker: Peter Forde ... on the commissioning of Power stations, as an electrical engineer.

Monthly luncheon venue : Will be at the Bite Café !



TRIPS & TREATS: February's film was another full house and enjoyed by all. Now on Wednesday March 26th Margaret would like us to join in a shared cars trip to the Rapaura Water Gardens, leaving from Danby Field at 10 am. and to enjoy lunch at the Royal Hotel (Tapu Pub)... Confirmation of details will be on the clipboard at next meeting ...

\$12 plus buy your own lunch ...

Also President Ella Lawrence from Thames Rotary has invited Probud members to ...

A Rotary Pot Luck Dinner/Meeting on Monday, 14th April.

To be held at the Bridge Club on Brown Street, a very relaxed affair.

She asks attendees to bring a plate & any alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverage they wish to consume.

Arrival time is 5.45pm with a start time of between 6-6.15pm.

Please phone Pat 021 026 05455 or Margaret 07 868 7106 to be sure your name is not missed ... even if you have already marked your diary, and or if you intend to join in ... because numbers are needed!

Remember an earlier Thames Rotary team created our Club almost 35 years ago, so let's look forward to mingling with today's Rotary team at the Bridge Club.



Time for Mary Anne's Safe Driving Course ?

**Thames – Monday 17th March – Thames Union Parish Hall
book your place Phone: 07 868 9790 or email: info@achc.org.nz**

Membership : In the 1997-98 year our Club's President was Coral Day who was on many of our minds at our February meeting we reflected on happy times with her before she had left Thames to be near her family in Rotorua. At the age of 94



she has passed away peacefully and our sympathy has been conveyed to her family by her dear friend Margaret Nankivell

We were so very pleased to welcome Thelma Chantrey back and she has immediately proved to be helpful and friendly just as though she had never had a 3 year break.



President Barbara inducted Peter Jenkin with a smile and what a delight it is to welcome a young and perhaps cheeky 91 years old to our club.

We enjoyed the company of Jill Maw, Gwen Lee, Lesley Morgan & Maureen Hill who were most welcome visitors in February too.



February 2025 Mini Speaker was President Barbara Shaw who spoke of her recent venture over to the TiriTiri Matangi Island with her two great-grandchildren, Hunter and Harper. The Ferry trip to get there was an added bonus and both the most impressive bird life and the lighthouse at the top of the hill certainly delighted them. Learning the history of such a wonderful place was informative and she recommends the trip to any of us who haven't been there yet. Her hope is that more and more of us will appreciate the importance of conservation illustrated so clearly in the preservation and protection by Doc and many volunteers.



Main Speaker, February 2025: Our own 96 year old Graeme Brighthouse had us walk with him through his lifetime of longing to be in the services ... He shared clear memories of determinately heading to the Waiouru Military Camp as a 17 year old and we followed his progress on to Trentham Camp as a Lance Corporal Drill instructor. In November 1951 we were smiling with him on a 6 week trip aboard a ship "loaded with young ladies" as he headed over to South Hampton for a yearlong physical training course. He recalled on returning to NZ catching a glimpse of Paris ... via Malta, Iraq, Karachi, Ceylon and Singapore to commence training at Waiouru for a posting in Korea ...which didn't eventuate ...



Then ... "You have got to select me" thoughts of determination from Graeme saw him become one of the 130 men chosen from 900 applicants to train in the Special Air Service Squadron to be deployed into Malaysia to fight against and control communist guerrillas, who were a brutal enemy... Intensive parachute training in Singapore enabled him to land in dense jungle on tree tops before having to abseil down to hit the ground safely... Graeme described in great detail being wrapped in a 'bikini', having a Burgin rucksack tied to his chest, access to a quick release button, no relief parachute and then the sensation of having been jettisoned out of the aircraft and whistling through the sky into dense jungle ...When one comrade was shot Graeme's team of 7 kept him warm with their own bodies until a helicopter could lift the dying man out.

Many fine young men, some of whom gave their life and others like Graeme who amazingly lived through the heart ache of war showed bravery that must never be forgotten.

