

**Regular Meetings: Second Tuesday each month****Venue:** Richmond Villas Lounge  
82 Richmond Street, Thames**Bulletin Issue number 382****PRESIDENT: ... SHIRLEY MURPHY ... 027 7771542****Secretary:** Pat Fargher ... 868 5663 or 021 02605455**Next Meeting :** Tuesday, 13th May, 2025. at ... **10am...****Mini Speaker :** Peter Jenkin ...**Main Speaker :** Graeme Brighthouse another chapter ... this time ... Vietnam”**Monthly luncheon :** Café Melbourne ... at 715 Pollen St ... Do join in if you can ...**President's Thoughts:***“Life without an appreciation of beauty is like a dull day without sunshine.”*

*As the autumn leaves fall, let's be thankful for the changing seasons, the Easter/school holiday break and special time with family and friends. Please take extra care of your own health and, when we are able, help friends, in the shorter and cooler days now fast approaching. Why not make a frequent friendly phone call to a fellow Probian to brighten their day and check on their wellbeing? I count my phone as a lifesaver in every sense of the word and phone friends regularly.*

*A huge thank you for the record rate of annual membership fee payment so we can liaise fully and gain benefits from PSPL for the coming year.*

*Do join in the fabulous film and other outings on offer and our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch meeting is approaching in August.*

*Feedback on Club meetings, activities and fellow members' wellbeing is always welcome to be given to any Committee member – we meet monthly to plan, co-ordinate and promote friendship for Thames Probud members and prospective members.*

*Have a joyful month,  
Shirley.*

**Membership:**

**We welcomed two new members to our Club...**  
**Judy Newmarch introduced Jill Maw,**  
**Chris Hovell introduced Gwen Lee and**  
**President Shirley presented them both with**  
**A Probud folder containing their Probud**  
**badge and Probud pin and a membership**  
**telephone list etc...**



**TRIPS & TREATS:** Monday, 14th April Rotary Pot Luck Dinner/Meeting at the Bridge Club was a very relaxed affair indeed and we were made most welcome and asked for our opinion on an interesting proposed project on their drawing board. In time ... with all the agreements still in need of acquiring as yet ... Bus shelters for our community bus service may be built, 3 sites are under consideration, one at a time ... at the Library? Medical Centre ? and the Booms ?... Our vote was for the one at the Medical Centre as soon as possible ...

**Keep Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May aside for another local outing ... A Mini trip is being organised ... We may be carpooling to see the Rotary built bike shelters and lunch somewhere together ?**

23 members and friends enjoyed the Film "Penguin Lessons" outing on Tuesday, 22 April -

A special thank you to Glenice and Frank for their coffee serving skills ...

Note the next film date is Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 10am

Margaret will have all info ready on her clip board and gather names etc. at our next meeting ...

She also asks that we support Thames Music & Drama group's presentation on 17<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> of May

And that some go and see the Musical ... 'School of Rock' ... at The Thames Civic Centre ...

### Mini Speaker :

Our wonderfully funny Alex happily walked us through the life of 'James' and all the mischievous things a lad got upto from school, through to the enjoyment of a year or two during a mechanic's apprenticeship and compulsory military

training, where he was encouraged to

volunteer as a much needed serviceman ...

Me ?... I never volunteer for anything

said our much loved 'James' Alex Shirley ...

### April 2025 Main Speaker: Peter Coatsworth

Spoke of some experiences he and his brother had on their successful walk from one end of the North Island to the other, about 18 years ago.

Armed with a golf trundler, to carry their back pack, they bravely went an extra k or two from Kaitia up to their starting point at Cape Reinga, with a strong determination to walk the full 1,047.7 km ... just to do it!

Somewhere along the 90 mile beach, when night was falling a car pulled up ... 2 police men stepped out to ask ... "What are you two blokes up

to ? ..." That was the first of quite a number of police checks, which indicated they were being protected from possible problems. Apparently they were questioned re a burglary or two and Peter dropped names like George Wilder ... He mentioned the radio announcer Marcus Lush saying to his listeners be careful, there are a couple of idiots roaming around with a golf trundler. Near Levin they found what they thought was a safe place to kip only to find they were on the edge of a drug drop off, which they fortunately got away from without detection.. ...

In Waikanae being rounded up by a big motorbike fella who insisted on them going home with him was scary and the safest thing to do was to go along with him. Consequently they had a wonderful meal, equal to the Hilton standard, whereas the brothers had generally throughout their trip only eaten salads and fruit.

They averaged 45 to 50 k a day, tried to allow a break every couple of hours and Peter's second hand sneakers lasted the distance nicely... A box full of all sorts was collected adding a heavier load to their reliable golf trundler and a mention of a Kamikaze Pilot gifting a treasured item to his family was worked into a most entertaining talk ... indicating a promise of more to come one day...

As Shirley thanked Peter and closed a happy meeting ...she left us with another delightful thought which I've run out of room to tell, sorry

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

