



THE THAMES PROBUD CLUB

Proudly the 1140th Probud Club, registered in 1990

Foundation Meeting: 14th August, 1990

PSPL reference number is : 59311

Regular Meetings: **Second Tuesday each month**

Venue: **Richmond Villas Lounge**
82 Richmond Street, Thames



Bulletin Issue number 383

President: SHIRLEY MURPHY ... 027 777 1542

Secretary: Pat Fargher ... 07 868 5663 or 021 0260 5455

Next Meeting : ... TUESDAY, 10th JUNE, 2025. AT 10 AM ...



Mini Speaker ... Gwen Lee ... growing up on a farm in Aria ?

Main Speaker ... Kylee Gunn ... whose mural paintings in Thames are much admired.

Monthly luncheon ... Grahamstown Coffee Shack Café at 758 Pollen St ... Do join in ...

A motion to adopt the revised Probud Constitution and Standing Resolutions will be moved by Shirley at the June meeting, having been presented for discussion at our May meeting, allowing for the 21 days' notice required.



President's Thoughts: Welcome Winter – indeed shorter and cooler days, heavier clothing and raindrops but also time for comfort, good food and warmth with friends and family. “Winter is not a season, it’s a celebration” (Anika Mishra) and Thames Probud is looking forward to celebrating its 35th anniversary at our August meeting – do come and be part of our celebration (lookout for upcoming details).

Health and wellness are important all year but do make sure now that you are up to date with your flu and Covid vaccinations to boost your immunity and ward off those nasty winter germs. Remember that every Winter has its Spring, it forms our character and brings out our best. Take care, keep smiling and laughing,

Shirley

PS .. BREAKING NEWS ... The committee has purchased 2 roaming microphones that we are confident will make a difference ...

Membership: We were sorry to hear Marie Hayhurst is not at all well & that Joyce Campbell has now moved to Te Aroha to be near a daughter. Diana Cox (Past President Bob's widow) has passed away in Rangiora & her daughters will let Margaret know when they hope to arrange a gathering here in Thames to remember her a little later on. We also send our sympathy and friendship to Jill Maw, whose husband Derrick died recently.



TRIPS & TREATS: After the May meeting a dozen members laughed our way through a nice lunch at the Melbourne Café, most of us selected “Kid's” fish and chips from the menu and we shared photos of the recent, most successful trip up North with Michelle ...



The next film outing will be as soon as Margaret and David can organise a suitable film and Margaret is hoping to confirm the date and the film at our June meeting ...



The May 29th Maritime Museum, lunch at the Refinery in Paeroa and an inspection of a Rotary bike shelter outing was supported by 18 members and 2 family friends ... There will be a report and photos next bulletin.



President Shirley welcomed Peter Jenkin to the over 90's Club with a wee birthday cake challenging him to blow the candle out. He had us smiling following his introduction as our Mini Speaker: Peter delighted all with a summary of his life ... it was wonderful that he gave members' a chance to get to know him in a relaxed way, as he unfolded his history with candid honesty. Born in Cornwall 91 years ago his family moved to a nearby village when he was five, so as his father could walk to his work at the Clay Mill. Peter left school with a broken leg & a six week hospital stay ... and

after a few experiences in the work force he joined the navy... which had necessitated his having to say goodbye to his 3 week old baby girl, whom he would have liked to spend more time with...

Peter spoke of planning a move with his brother, shall we go to Canada? ... too cold ... Australia? ... too many bugs... New Zealand yes! ...

Arriving with 10 pound in his pocket, desperately and determinedly looking for work ...

I loved hearing of the big brother pushing more cement in his wheelbarrow to help lighten Peter's load and of the eventual re-connection with his daughter & 2 grandchildren.

Thank you Peter we are glad you have retired to Richmond Village.



Main Speaker: A second chapter from Graeme Brighthouse after Shirley had shared a small cake with him as he too belongs to the over 90's Probus Club.

Graeme took us with his squadron back into the heavy jungle of Malaysia where his duty was to control the communist insurgence of guerillas and he mentioned the daily risks and unexpected moments challenging them constantly ... once they checked an unusual mound with ants running all over it and consequently unearthed a pile of food supplies that the enemy thought was well hidden ... Another they shared a sleep with a python wrapped around their kit ...

His SAS team had to be on the alert at all times and yet their rations only consisted of packets of complan for breakfast, dinner & tea ... but at one stage they did take advantage of shooting a deer and adding much needed meat to their diet. Back again to Waiouru before Graeme was dispatched to Vietnam, promoted to Captain and with the responsibility of training locals, helped by interpreters. A task that became uncomfortably difficult, in fact tense, when the Americans pulled out.

It was nice to hear at the age of 32 Graeme asked his girlfriend to marry him ... with conditions ... "within two weeks we will be posted in Australia" ... Graeme was pleased with her yes and during their long months overseas they were lucky enough to have 2 kids and he found the Australians' always helpful and supportive of his wife and family.

Norm thanked Graeme gifting him a bottle of wine and joked about being able to add even more information to the eulogy that he has been compelled to share with his close friend, just to be sure he knew how very much respected and loved he is.



Shirley reminded us to attend Michelle's morning tea and looked forward to seeing us on the trip to the Maritime Museum and to enjoying our company at the movies and after-meeting lunches.

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