

DENMARK RIVER PROBUS NEWSLETTER

March 2026 - Edition 139



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Hello friends,

As we start a new Probus year, we say a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing Committee under Helena's warm and efficient leadership. They have helped keep our Club running smoothly, while maintaining the spirit of fun, friendship and fellowship that make Denmark River Probus so special.

Congratulations to our newly formed Committee: Warrick Gates (President), Ros Gates (Treasurer), Carmel Stott (Secretary), Malcolm Dickie, Brian Levet (Activities), Stephanie Wierobiej (Membership), Lyell Edmonds, Ed Wierobiej (Guest Speakers), Susan Lane (Media), Martine Hennig, Peta Gornall (Hospitality). Assistants not on the Committee are Vicki Lumia (Welfare), Kevin Wragg, Harley Lane (Hospitality) and Carmel Stott (Photography). We look forward to the new ideas and enthusiasm you will bring in the coming year.

As always, I welcome any ideas you may have for the newsletter and would love to hear from you if you have a contribution to share.

Warmly, Susan



Shari's photo of the Amity lit up for Lighting the Sound

President's Report ~ Helena Wragg



Well, here we are - the year that was! I won't attempt a minute by minute recap. We all know what happened, and if you don't...well, that's what the minutes are for!

Instead, let's focus on what makes our club so great - us! This year has given me the privilege of working closely with some of you, sharing many wonderful moments with others, and seeing the club from another perspective. I have truly valued the experience - loved it, in fact! I hope I have given something back in return. It has been a wonderful year of fabulous events, including The Kalgan Queen outing and our amazing Christmas celebration, as well as moments of sadness, remembering dear Harry.

Of course, the business side of running an incorporated organisation is necessary, though not always the most exciting part of club life. We can choose to liven it up or continue to be stubbornly beige! But let's not get bogged down in protocol or take ourselves too seriously. As a past President wisely said, "We're not playing for sheep stations here - nor are we BHP." So let's remember the three Fs - fun, friendship and frivolity.

Now it's time for some awards for The Best Management Committee of All Time!

Val, our Secretary Extraordinaire has faced many personal and technological challenges throughout the year - ones that might have defeated others - . but not our Val. A past President and wearer of many hats in various club roles, Val has once again given us a wonderful year. Thank you, Val.

Next, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, our esteemed Treasurer Ros - crossing all the I's and dotting the T's and keeping a wayward President in line! Our money has never been in safer hands! Thank you, Ros!

Our dear Robin has given three years in the role of Events management. Despite facing personal challenges along the way, she has managed to organise many enjoyable and memorable outings. Our grateful thanks, Robin.

Mal has once again given his time and commitment to the club organising Events with Robin. He has truly blossomed in this role, and we have loved having him on the committee! Mal shone with his stellar event this month - Albany Sound and Light Show! Thank you, Mal.

Susan, Media. I had Rupert knocking on my door begging me to let you go! No way José! Your monthly newsletter, full of stories, event reports, member profiles, recipes and humour keep us all entertained and connected. Newsletter next level! Thank you, Susie.

Stephanie, Membership. Two years in the role, and again, coming through a personally challenging time. This job is demanding in itself, yet Stephanie is a quiet achiever and through her input the club has reduced the waiting list to a more workable size. We appreciate your valuable input Stephanie and thank you.

Kaye and Lorraine, Hospitality Crew - two true powerhouses and the organisers of our fabulous morning teas and lunches. Kaye, this has been a difficult year for you with the loss of your dear Harry and we hope that the club has given you the love and support to come through this difficult time. Lorraine, you have been an invaluable part of the team, having taken the helm the previous year. We thank you for your commitment and generosity. Together with the muscle behind the aprons - Harley and Kevin - and Rosemary, another dedicated volunteer. Thank you to you all.

Jamie and Lyell, Guest Speakers. From virtually having to round them up and corral them into doing the job, these two chaps have thrown themselves boots and all into the role. Jamie was also our Vice President and stepped into the Chair on a few occasions. Thank you both hugely.

Vicki, Welfare. We all know Vicki, a truly caring, heart as big as a house, kind and beautiful soul. Thank you from all of us, particularly those of us who have been the recipients of your care.

Then there is Peter, whose enthusiasm and commitment have helped our wine club flourish in recent years. By expanding activities and involving members in new projects, he has taken the group from strength to strength. A big thank you from all the wine enthusiasts.

A huge thank you to Carmel for assisting with the tech side of things and also auditing our books. Thank you also to Carmel's sister Kaye for her ongoing maintenance of our website.

To the members who have taken on the role of our monthly meeting Meet & Greet - we appreciate your participation. Thank you.

To all the wonderful members who contributed to the lunches and morning teas, our grateful thanks.

Thank you to Warrick who has stepped into the Chair on occasion and assisted as Returning Officer for the AGM.

To anyone I may have overlooked, thank you. Lucky you...the one that got away!

And finally there is **you** - dear friends and fellow members. Thank you for your support, your good humour, and most of all, your trust!

Cheerio from me!
Helena



Committee photos Then & Now ~ 2014 & 2026

Guest Speaker ~ Karen Atkinson, Living with the Desert Mob



Our Guest Speaker Karen Atkinson, a senior training lecturer formerly with the University of South Australia, who once went to Pithara Public School with Jamie Falls, spoke to us about her seven years living in the remote Central Australian desert near Uluru.

Karen recalled a pilot once asking her whether she was a “missionary, mercenary or misfit” as she travelled into isolated communities. Living among the Anangu Pitjantjatjara people, she came to appreciate cultures tens of thousands of years old, cultures shaped by colonisation, drought and the loss of traditional waterholes. In time, she felt that everywhere else seemed “remote” by comparison. For these communities, the land is inseparable from identity and belonging.



Despite these hardships, Karen spoke warmly of the resilience and creativity of the communities she worked with, where language and culture remain central to identity. She explained how attempts to impose English too early in schooling have often failed children, and that Indigenous teachers are best placed to teach in their own languages. However, progress is often undermined by short term staffing and the constant turnover of non-Indigenous teachers.

Karen also highlighted the positive effect of local art centres, where textiles, ceramics and paintings not only provide income, but foster pride and cultural expression. Traditional designs blend with contemporary ideas, sometimes leading to collaborations with artists from around the world.

She also touched on painful histories, including displacement from country and the lingering trauma of nuclear fallout from the British nuclear tests at Maralinga in the 1950s, which forced many Anangu to leave their traditional lands. Some were later affected by radioactive fallout from the atomic tests. People were once told to keep quiet about this but are now bravely sharing these stories. Karen spoke of the strength of oral traditions and the deep commitment to family and community, where the value of sharing is taught from infancy.

It was a thoughtful and moving presentation, reminding us that there is still much healing to be done, and much wisdom to be heard.

Events ~ Lighting the Sound



Our recent outing to Albany was a wonderful evening of good company. It was great to see crowds strolling along the foreshore and enjoying the city's bicentenary celebrations, which include the Lighting the Sound installation created by Finnish light artist Karin Kola.

Our group travelled by bus to Due South, where we had front row seats overlooking the harbour, all thanks to Mal's careful planning.



As darkness fell, the harbour lit up with green and red floodlights casting a glow across the water. Disappointingly, much like the Aurora, the full effect was only seen in our photos. The installation was designed to evoke the natural light displays seen in the night sky, atmospheric and quietly beautiful rather than spectacular.

Most of all, it was a pleasure to share the experience together. With good food and conversation, it was a happy night out for our club. Many thanks again to Mal for organising such a memorable outing and ensuring everything ran so smoothly.



The Birthday boy



Diary Dates

Wed 1 April	General meeting Guest speaker John Beeson, The History of Wargaming Sandwiches for morning tea, inhouse lunch lasagne and salads, ice cream for dessert
Wed 15 April	12.30pm Picnic and outdoor games afternoon with Denmark Probus at Kwoorabup Park. Details to follow.

Extras

Membership ~ There are now 68 members in the club and 7 on the waiting list.

Please remember to wear your name badge, so everyone can get to know you. Let's keep our club friendly and inclusive.

Welfare



If you know a member who could use a card or friendly call, please let Vicki Lumia know.

YOUR 2026 COMMITTEE

President: Warrick Gates - warrick.gates@bigpond.com

Secretary: Carmel Stott - secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Treasurer: Ros Gates - treasurer@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Events: Brian Levet, Malcolm Dickie - events@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Membership: Stephanie Wierobiej - members@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Guest Speakers: Lyell Edmonds, Ed Wierobiej - speakers@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Media: Susan Lane - media@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Hospitality: Martine Hennig, Peta Gornall - hospitality@denmarkriverprobus.org.au



Check our website <https://www.denmarkriverprobus.org.au> for more news, events, outings, photos, recipes and lots more.

Kayak Club ~



Our kayaking group meets at 7.15am every Monday and Friday at the boat ramp by the Denmark Rivermouth Caravan Park, plus other locations from time to time.

Here are some photos for this month from Ed ~ pelican, hut on the Nullaki and mystic stream on the rail trail.

Wine Appreciation Group ~



Our most recent gathering was a premium tasting evening featuring seven excellent wines and happily, a slightly smaller group, meaning more for everyone to enjoy! We began with two Chardonnays - the West Cape Howe Styx Valley Chardonnay 2023 and the Rosenthal Reveal Chardonnay 2024.

Next the Dopff Pinot Noir 2023 from Riquewihr in Alsace - our least favourite - before heading back to Australia for some bold reds. Neville kindly shared his Barossa Valley find, the Kies Klauber Block Shiraz 2021, followed by the well-aged Rickety Gate Shiraz 2012. The Penfolds Bin 138 Shiraz Grenache Mataro rounded out the reds, and the Morris Rutherglen Topaque made an excellent finish to the night.



Wine Club meets from 5.00 to 7.00 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Denmark Men's Shed.

I was like, "What happened to her legs?" Then realised it's a bag of popcorn! 😭



How Jack would look if he hadn't died on the Titanic 🤔



If you're cremated after you die, you can be put into an hourglass and continue to participate in family game night



After two hours of sitting and watching the lake, I realized it was someone's fence 🤔



Then he said, "Come in, he doesn't bite," and I bit him! 😏

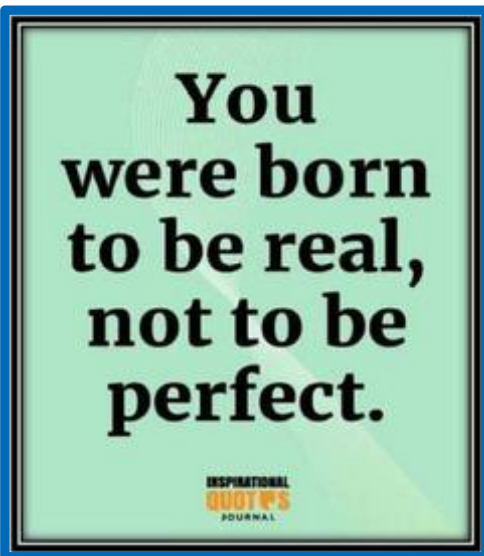


Imagine the trouble she has trying to introduce herself in France 🤔



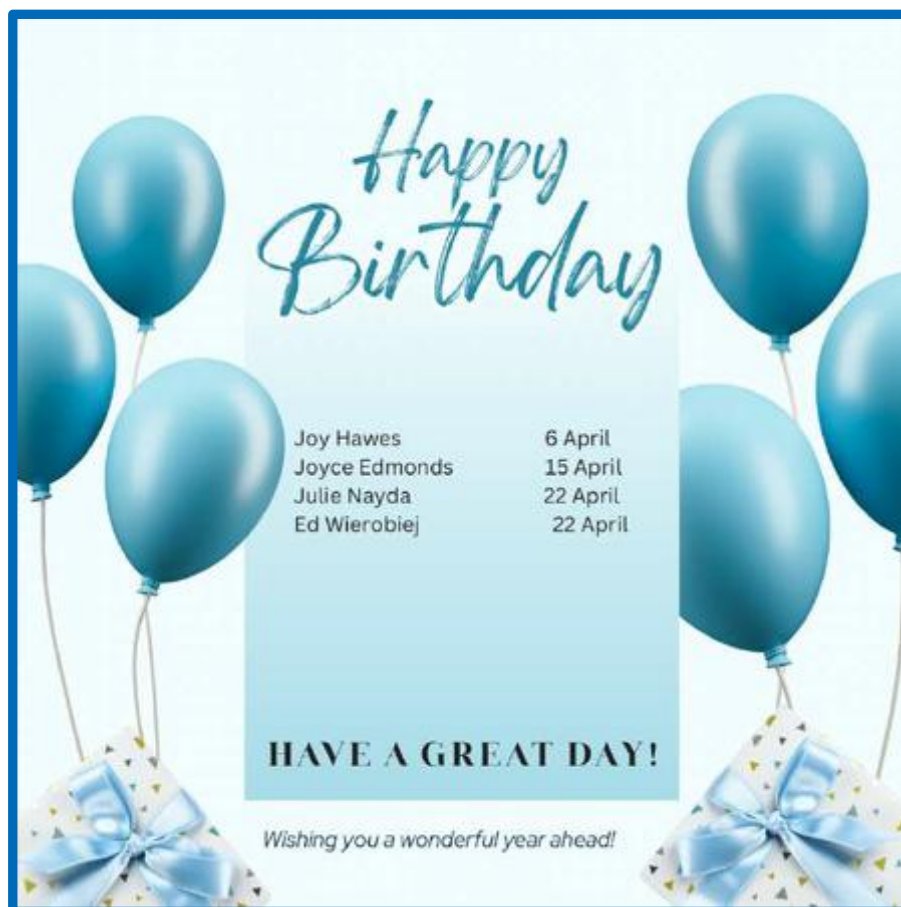
Gemma Pell

Thanks to Bruce G for this page of jokes



So let me get this straight. I go to To the grocery store and buy a lb. of sliced ham wrapped in plastic, a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a gallon of milk in a plastic jug, a pack of napkins wrapped in plastic, a Greek salad in a plastic container, a plastic bottle of mustard and a plastic bottle of ketchup, and they won't give me a plastic bag to carry it home because the plastic bag is bad for the environment?

Famous quotes that make no sense to anyone outside Australia



Blast from the past ~ How many DRP members do you recognise from 2014 and 2015?



Recipe of the month

MARTINE'S CHEESE LOAF



- 2 cups SR flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup grated cheese
- 1 finely chopped brown onion
- 1 level tsp salt
- 1 egg beaten in a cup then fill to the top with milk

Stir together and place in loaf tin.

Bake in a mod hot oven (200) for approximately ½ hour.

Slice and butter.

The recipe can be varied with olives, semi dried tomatoes etc.