

# DENMARK RIVER PROBUS NEWSLETTER

April 2026 - Edition 140



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***Hello everyone!***

Welcome to the April edition of Denmark River Probus newsletter.

Our recent lasagne and salad lunch was a great success with a delicious selection including beef, eggplant, vegetarian and chicken, spinach and ricotta lasagne. Congratulations to our 2026 hospitality duo, Martine and Peta, who are brimming with fresh ideas. Many thanks also to Kaye for her guidance, and to our kitchen crew, Kevin and Harley.

We are fortunate to have some great male cooks in our club. Make sure you check out Kevin Stone's chicken scallopine recipe on the last page.

Wishing you a happy month ahead.

Warmly,

Susan



*Inhouse lunch - our President leading by example*

## Guest Speaker ~ John Beeson, The History of Wargaming

Convenors: Lyell Edmonds, Ed Wierobiej



At our recent meeting, John Beeson treated us to an engaging and informative talk on the evolution and value of wargaming, which began thousands of years ago and is still popular today.

John began his talk with some of the earliest known strategy games, including the Royal Game of Ur (Persia 2600 BCE), the ancient game of Go (or Weiqi) used by Chinese warlords, and chess, which is estimated to have over 600 million regular players worldwide. Each of these reflects the human fascination with strategy, thinking ahead and careful planning. From the simplicity of Go to the complexity of chess, these games have challenged players to forward think and anticipate an opponent's moves. In these games, the attacking piece always wins.



*The Royal Game of Ur inlaid with lapis lazuli*



*The game of Go, attributed to Chinese Emperor Yao*



*Chess, a game of strategy not chance*



*Prussian army officers playing Kriegsspiel*

John then moved to the 19th century and the development of *Kriegsspiel*, a military simulation used by the Prussian army. Here, outcomes were far less predictable and the attacking piece does not always win. From this point, wargaming became a serious tool for training officers, allowing them to teach military tactics without actual bloodshed.

Modern tabletop wargaming continues that tradition at the highest levels. Military planners now use increasingly sophisticated simulations to model potential conflicts, refine strategies and make critical decisions, aiming to win battles on the table rather than risk ships, aircraft and most importantly, lives.

What became clear throughout the presentation was that wargaming is less about war and more about developing strategic thinking, adaptability and decision making under pressure. These skills transfer well into leadership roles, business and even everyday life.

## ***Events ~ picnic and games afternoon at Kwoorabup Park***

Convenors: Malcolm Dickie, Brian Levett

Our picnic and games afternoon in the park was all about good company and enjoying our picnic in the fresh air with just enough competitive spirit to keep things lively.

We set up four games stations across a level grassy area, giving everyone plenty of space to test our skills in the Swedish game Klop, cricket, boules, quoits, Cornhole and Giant Snakes & Ladders with dice to match – the last two kindly offered to us by Christine of the Denmark Chocolate Company.

We kept it light and fun until the finale - the Great Klop Championship, with two loud and enthusiastic teams vying for the win. Steve claimed the winning points for his team in the first challenge and Rosemary closed the deal for her team in the second game, bringing us to a perfectly balanced draw.



## **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.

## **Wine Appreciation Group ~**



There was plenty of wine on offer for prizes for our annual bingo night, and Warrick volunteered again to take on the role of caller for the evening. We also sampled two Japanese sake varieties during the course of the evening. Not to everyone's taste!



*Wine label created by Ruth & Brian's young granddaughter*

Thank you to Peter for the huge task of organising and seeing us through a year of making our own wine from scratch. See the report on the following page.

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

## **Mahjong Club ~**

Convenor: Val Ball



Our new mahjong club got off to a great start. With nine players and four patient teachers (Val, Ros, Margaret and Yvonne Hortin), we were in very good hands! We learnt just enough to feel clever (and slightly competitive). Thanks to our fabulous tutors for guiding us through every chow, pung and puzzling play.

## Denmark River Probus Wine Club, Western Australia



At the beginning of last year, 29 members of Denmark River Probus Wine Club set themselves an ambitious and rather exciting challenge, to make their own wine from scratch. The idea was warmly embraced, with everyone contributing along the way, from picking and pressing to bottling and labelling.

Thanks to our valued connection with local winemakers Coby and Luke from Rosenthal Wines, we were able to source Cabernet Sauvignon grapes and gain helpful guidance. On a very wet April morning in 2025, our members headed into the vineyard to harvest the fruit.

The project was kept intentionally low-cost. Coby and Luke provided both their expertise and access to grapes free of charge, equipment was shared, bottles were saved and cleaned by members, labels were designed in-house, and even the barrel found a future home as a garden feature.



*Picking*



*Crushing*



*Pressing*

Members followed each step of the winemaking journey, from fermentation and careful monitoring to racking and refining, gaining a real appreciation of the process. As we discovered, making a good wine involves not only knowledge and care, but also a little luck with the weather and timing.



After a year of anticipation, bottling day finally arrived in April 2026. On a perfect autumn day, 291 bottles were filled. At around \$1.50 per bottle, it may well be one of the best value wines in Western Australia, and a very enjoyable drop already.

Now, we look forward to seeing how it matures, while enjoying what we created together.

## Diary Dates

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Wed 6 May  | General meeting<br>Guest speaker ~ Dace Verbakel, Broome Pearls<br>Morning tea              |
| Fri 22 May | Poacher's Ridge Winery for long table wine tasting.<br>BYO picnic lunch. Details to follow. |

## Welfare



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

## Extras

Membership ~ There are currently 64 members in the club.

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



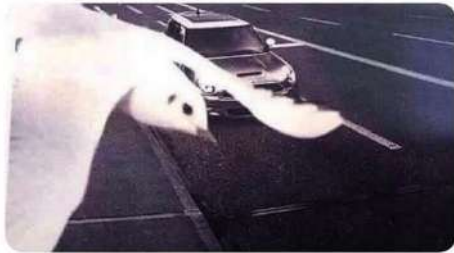
Me on my way to ask my wife  
what's wrong with her 😏



A Good wife Can bring  
balance to your life



Hero bird saves a man from a \$300 fine.



 **Sarcasm** @sarcastic\_us · 9h  
Not all heroes wear capes; some wear  
feathers.

FYI, those aren't planets, they  
are frying pan bottoms 😏



My biggest fear as a child 😭



I thought this lady was staring  
at me for 5 minutes till I realized  
it was a magazine 😏



Thanks to Vicki and Kevin S for this page of jokes



REMEMBER, WOMEN ALWAYS HAVE THE LAST WORD IN AN ARGUMENT.

ANYTHING A MAN ADDS AFTER THAT IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ARGUMENT.



**I swear if my memory was any worse, I could plan my own surprise party.**

**SOME THINGS ARE JUST BETTER LEFT UNSAID.**

**AND I USUALLY REALIZE IT RIGHT AFTER I SAY THEM.**

## ***Spotlight on Tracey and Barry***

Tracey and Barry recently enjoyed a trip to Arizona visiting their son Callum for his Birthday and wife Quincy. Their travels also took them on to Florida, followed by a relaxing Bahamas cruise.



*Halftime show at a basketball game*



*Hiking in Arizona with Callum*



*Flagstaff, Arizona*



*Pre-dinner drinks on their Bahamas cruise*



*Fort Lauderdale, Florida*



*Cozumel, Mexico*

## Recipe of the month

### KEVIN STONE'S CHICKEN SCALLOPINE



~serves 4 ~

4 thinly cut chicken breasts  
 2 tbs plain flour  
 Salt & freshly ground black pepper.  
 2 tbs olive oil  
 1 leeks, finely sliced  
 400g cup mushrooms, thinly sliced  
 1/3 cup white wine (optional)  
 1/2 cup chicken stock, strong  
 1/2 cup thickened cream

Lightly coat sliced chicken breasts in flour, salt/pepper mixture. Put on plate.  
 Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a large frying pan. Cook chicken in batches for 2 minutes until golden. Transfer to a clean plate.  
 Add a tablespoon of oil and cook leek for 3 minutes.  
 Add mushrooms to leeks in pan & cook for 4 minutes until golden.  
 Add wine & bring to the boil. Then gently simmer until reduced slightly.  
 Add the cream and stir into mix.  
 Add the chicken stock, salt & pepper.  
 Simmer on low heat for 3 minutes.  
 Return chicken to pan. Cover in sauce mixture.  
 Cover & cook for 4 minutes.  
 Serve with mashed potatoes

#### YOUR 2026 COMMITTEE

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



*Banksia Sentinel ~ Rosemary's beautiful sculpture at the Porongurup Art in the Park exhibition*