

Edition 104 - May 2023

DENMARK RIVER PROBUS NEWSLETTER

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Hi everyone,

Hope you are enjoying the lovely autumn weather. We went out to Hillier Beach on Saturday and saw a white whale with its calf frolicking in the water. Its tail was going up in the air and it was having a whale of a time.

Winter is coming too fast so I hope you've got your stack of wood ready, if you have a fire.

Regards,

Trish.

NEXT MEETING

7th June 2023

10.00 at the Denmark Country Club.

Guest Speaker: Bruce Grieve Talking about his time as a nudist.

Lunch: Soup and bread, and fruit crumble for dessert.

BIRTHDAYS

Ruth Rushton	Monday 5 th June
Bruce Grieve	Sunday 11 th June
Carmel Stott	Thursday 15 th June
Malcolm Dickie	Monday 19 th June
Brian Rushton	Monday 19 th June
Helena Wragg	Thursday 22 nd June
Fran Pederick	Friday 23 rd June



MEMBERSHIP

There are 15 people on the waiting list

Name Badges - Please remember to **wear** your name badges so that everyone can get to know you.

Guest Speaker

May Guest Speaker Andrea Gaynor

The guest speaker for May was Professor Andrea Gaynor. She is an environmental historian at UWA, now living in Denmark. She studies people, their environments, how they influence each other and how they change over time.

She has studied the changes in Australia that have come about due to colonisation. She has also looked at aboriginal myths and how they may reflect environmental changes before colonisation, for example traditional stories about the “wagyL” give an indication of the presence of groundwater. We may look at an environment and assume it was always the way it is now, but the job of the environmental historian is to document “shifting baselines” for the purpose of comparison.

Aborigines managed the landscape using fire. When the colonists arrived, they found the parkland conditions that existed to be ideal for sheep and cattle. These animals then changed the environment due to their hard hoofs and the unfamiliar diseases that they introduced.

Land clearing caused many extinctions of native animals, such as the paradise parrot from Queensland. The colonists’ penchant for keeping pets also caused problems. Feral cats are a classic example. The introduction of rabbits and foxes for hunting is another source of enormous environmental change.

The cities and towns that colonists built were a great drain on the water resources of our dry continent and continue to drastically affect the environment. Extreme weather events such as floods and bushfires are becoming all too common and as we have learned in Denmark, they can happen to us! Andrea spoke without being overly alarmist, but the graphs she showed of environmental changes over time spoke for themselves.

It is hard to do justice to such a wide-ranging topic as was covered by this speaker, but it really demonstrated the importance of this field of study, which I didn’t even know was a thing! Thank you, Andrea, for a very enlightening talk.

HAPPENINGS

Sandalwood Shop Excursion

A select few of our number (about 15) travelled to the Sandalwood Shop to check out its wares and learn a little about Sandal wood. Several had already been before, but it was my first time, so I was very interested in it all. Apparently, there are several different kinds of Sandalwood trees which explains why not all Sandalwood products smell the same. One of them is an Australian native kind, but it is very slow growing as the picture featuring Kerry, Harley and Glenice

shows. That dead tree behind them was 40 years old. An 18-year-old tropical one reaches the same girth. They grow much faster. It is the scented heartwood of the tree that provides the scented oil that graces the products. They also produce nuts which are quite nice to eat and can be used in cooking.

Their stock covers a large range of beauty and medicinal products including skin balms, perfume, shampoo, and stuff for aching joints. They make a beautiful nougat with the Sandalwood nuts. There are perfumed candles and infusers too. Wooden jewellery was also on offer. Then there is a range of food products made with Quandong. Several varieties of jam, chilli sauce, flavoured salt, coffee and chocolate. Something for everyone really. I could have spent a fortune there but managed to restrain myself to a few items.



After a brief talk about Sandalwood and a mosey around the shop, we enjoyed a delicious lunch from a choice of two curries - a chicken one and a vegetarian one. Some of us had a bit of both. That was followed by a delicious chocolate brownie containing those Sandalwood nuts again.

Joyce Edmonds



SOCIAL GROUPS



WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

The wine appreciation group meets from 5-7pm on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Denmark Men's Shed, just past the Rivermouth Caravan Park on Inlet Drive.

For more information contact **Peter Lumia**.



Fran's Coffee Mornings

Meets at 10:00 am every 3rd Tuesday of the month at various venues.

Next: 20th June – Bakery Cafe



Kayaking

Kayaking is held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays (weather permitting) at **8:00** am - **in the water** - launching from the boat ramp at the Denmark Rivermouth Caravan Park. Coffee is enjoyed afterwards at the

Reminisce Café on site. For more information contact **Warrick Gates** or **Stuart Hoskins**.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE – THE DAM

11:00 am at venue – 305 Wentworth Road, off South Coast Highway west of Denmark. Tour of distillery with tasting and lunch to follow.

Lunch: Menu to follow.

July – 10 Pin Bowling

Details TBA

For further information please contact our secretary at secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Committee

President: Kaye White president@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: Julie Nayda secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Treasurer: Brian Rushton

treasurer@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Activities: Robin Levet & Helena Wragg events@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Hospitality: Lorraine Cotton, Sue Allen, Margaret Norcross, Kevin Wragg

hospitality@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Membership: Linda Falls members@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Guest Speakers: Chris Watkins speakers@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Media: Trish Edmonds contact@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

