



Denmark River Probus News

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President's Post November 2019

It's been a busy month as usual! The Photo Quiz was quite a challenge. Congratulations to Wendy Wildman -guessing 16 correct. Well done !! The Melbourne Cup Lunch was well attended, with members from both Denmark Probus Groups and the Country Club. The food was enjoyable and plentiful.

Mid November here already and only 39 days until Christmas Day. This year, November has brought sweeping climate changes to our land. We are extremely lucky, having a very pleasant spring in Denmark; enjoying mild sunny summer days, sometimes a little rain, but rarely reaching 36°.

We can only sit back and gasp at the eastern states. ...New South Wales and Queensland are experiencing higher than normal temperatures, catastrophic fires, the loss of many homes and some lives. Our thoughts and prayers go out to our fellow Australians. Rain rain come again PLEASE!!! Last year the Eastern States farmers battled the drought, and fodder for livestock was trucked in from WA to help out. Our farmers need extra support this year too. Are our weather and conditions becoming extreme. Is climate change rapidly developing? Never more pertinent than now is Dorothea MacKellar's poem My Country , written in 1908 whilst in England: homesick for Australia. Inspired by her experience on her brother's farm at Gunnedah. Interestingly the ravages of the climate then seemed to be just as it is today

MY COUNTRY

The love of field and coppice,
Of green and shaded lanes.
Of ordered woods and gardens
Is running in your veins,
Strong love of grey-blue distance
Brown streams and soft dim skies
I know but cannot share it,
My love is otherwise.



NEXT MEETING

4th December 2019 10h00

Denmark Country Club

Speaker - Yvonne Horton

**What Your Local St John's can do for
You- As well as Saving Your Life!**

In-house lunch today. \$10.00 per personCold meat and salad.

Exchange table in action.

Members who provide food please note - you have a choice:

Pay the \$10.00 entry fee, keep receipts for food purchased and be reimbursed for ingredients by the treasurer. (We will not reimburse for food purchased if receipts are not presented.)

-----OR-----

2. Do not pay the \$10.00 entry fee and NOT be reimbursed for food purchased.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me!

A stark white ring-barked forest
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold hush of noon.
Green tangle of the brushes,
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree-tops
And ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When sick at heart, around us,
We see the cattle die -
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady, soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow Gold,
For flood and fire and famine,
She pays us back threefold -
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze.

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land -
All you who have not loved her,

You will not understand -
Though earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.

The month of November has two beautiful gems that represent the birthstones. They are Citrine and Topaz.

Topaz comes in Beautiful blue, fiery red and orange. These are also the Zodiac stones for Sagittarius (Nov 23 - Dec 21).

Thought for the day:

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt.

Val Ball



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11 Ann Gray
- 15 Kaye White
- 17 Dexter Warne
- 19 Grant Ball
- 23 Robin Rogers
- 24 Carol Harry
- 30 Kaye Murray
- 31 Rob Norcross

Four Continents, Five Countries. The Life Of Dr Prathalingam



Known to us all as Pratha, Doctor Prathalingam was born in Sri Lanka and educated in Britain. He worked first in Britain, then Zambia, Swaziland and finally Australia.

Pratha was born into a traditional Sri Lankan family and always wanted to be a doctor, but he admits that he was initially a poor student, except in Maths. He eventually hit his stride when he was placed into the natural sciences stream in high school.

He qualified for acceptance into a medical school in Britain run under the progressive Quaker principles of Jeremy Bentham. Fortunately this school went against the ideas of the time in Britain, that doctors should be white, male and Anglican. His college practiced ideas that were unheard of in their time, such as giving anaesthetics to women in labour, doing abortions, treating attempted suicides and accepting single mothers without judgement.

After qualifying as a doctor, he did a stint in orthopaedics followed by some time as an academic. Pratha then decided to go to Zambia with a friend. His stories of working in Zambia were both funny and enlightening. He diagnosed the first two cases of AIDS in Zambia and was once requested by a man to operate on the man's wife to "get the devil out of her."

After leaving Zambia, he spent some time working in Swaziland, where his children finished their secondary schooling before returning to the United Kingdom for further education.

While in Swaziland he would often take his family to Kruger National Park, where he developed his interest in photography. This was during the apartheid era, and he explained with a sense of irony that he was given admission to the park as an "honorary white."

After leaving Africa, he came to Australia on a one-year visa. He was recruited to work in remote rural medicine, but ended up coming to

Denmark as the third doctor here. Although he had been trained in London, he was only to be considered for permanency if he completed the Royal College of General Practitioners' exam. He was also required to go to Perth and prove that he "could speak English", Ironically the interviewer had difficulty with English herself. Pratha spoke of this incident with his characteristic humour and lack of judgement, but was happy to add that he got an apology for this bureaucratic blunder and had his documents signed. Twenty years later, he is still in Denmark.

Pratha's talk was peppered with funny stories illustrating his wide range of experiences and lively sense of humour. This sense of humour and confidence served him well in situations where he experienced ignorance and prejudice.

Pratha left the same day as he spoke to our club for a well earned holiday in Sri Lanka.

Kerry Clark



Happenings



Wine Appreciation Group

Wine tasting
28th November 2019
5:00pm to 7:00pm
Garden Room Community Resource Centre



Singing

3.30pm 3rd December

22 Abernathy Street

NOTE: Venue change



Bring a Joke

Horizontal tasting of Shiraz
\$3.00 towards hire of room.
\$5 for tastings
Please let Peter know if you will be attending.



Fran's" Coffee Morning

Come join us at Tea House
Tuesday 19th November 10.00am



Outings

No actual outing this month instead we will be joining Denmark Probus members for Christmas lunch
12 Noon 11th December
at Denmark Country Club

The wine group will also be enjoying a Christmas get together on the **19th December 5.30-7.30pm**

CRC Training Room

BYO

Catering by Wholly Local

Booking and payment required

All Probus members welcome.

Recent Birthday Celebrations



KEVIN'S
FUNNIES

INTERVIEWER : SO, TELL
ME ABOUT YOURSELF.

ME : I'D RATHER NOT..I
KINDA WANT THIS JOB.


@REBEL CIRCUS

coolstrange.com

WHEN SOMEONE ASKS
WHAT I DID OVER THE
WEEKEND, I SQUINT AND
ASK, "WHY, WHAT DID YOU
HEAR??"



Remember, if you
lose a sock in the
dryer, it comes
back as a
Tupperware lid
that doesn't fit any
of your containers.



Sixty might be
the new forty
but 9:00 is the
new midnight.

www.godtag.com
2012-01-14

When one door
closes and another
door opens,
you are probably in
prison.

RALPH'S STILL TALKING

Now here's a wife in a million!

Wife: I'm heading to the store, do you want anything?

Husband: I want a sense of meaning and purpose in my life... I seek fulfilment and completeness within my soul... I want to connect to God and discover the spiritual side of me...

Wife: Be more specific, Beer or Vodka?

I asked my wife if I was the only one she'd been with.

She said yes, all the others had been nines and tens...



When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed.

But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the shed, the boat, making beer.. Always something more important to me.

Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush.

I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

