

# DENMARK RIVER PROBUS NEWSLETTER

November 2025 - Edition 135



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***Hello everyone!***

Welcome to the November edition of the Denmark River Probus newsletter.

We were delighted to welcome new member Graeme Otto to the club this month, along with visitors Robin Smith and Vanessa, Joy's sister-in-law visiting from Shropshire, UK.

Here's to another enjoyable month ahead! Time to celebrate the end of the Probus year with our Christmas lunch at The Old Dairy Torbay, where we can look forward to a good turnout in the company of friends, a festive meal and those beautiful views stretching across the farmland to the sea.

Warmly,  
Susan



*Cleanup crew*

## ***Guest Speaker ~ Bart Lebbing ~ Beekeeper and Environmental Advocate***



A week after arriving in Victoria from the Netherlands in 1974, Bart began his life in Australia with 20 beehives and a lifelong passion for bees. By a stroke of luck, his first bees came from someone who wanted to become a monk and had to give up all his worldly possessions.

A migratory beekeeper for 45 years, Bart learned his trade from the old timers who knew their bees and he eventually managed hundreds of hives across the country.

His knowledge of bee life is encyclopaedic: from the queen's remarkable ability to lay up to 3,000 eggs a day to the intricate balance that keeps a colony of up to 70,000 bees thriving. Bart has also produced honey, royal jelly, beeswax and propolis, the natural antibiotic prized for its health benefits.

Now semi-retired from beekeeping, Bart has turned his focus to environmental advocacy as convener of the Denmark Environment Centre. Drawing on his long experience in nature and firefighting, he campaigns for a government review of large-scale prescribed burn practices in Western Australia's southwest. Bart argues that industrial scale burning damages ecosystems, destroys ancient peatlands and cultural heritage sites, and lacks sufficient scientific oversight. While not opposed to all controlled burning, he urges a more balanced approach, protecting both people and the landscape that sustains native flora and fauna.

Fun facts:

Sixteen bee stings are the equivalent of a cobra bite.

Bees have five eyes.

Archaeologists have found pots of honey in Egyptian tombs that were perfectly edible after thousands of years.

A single bee will produce only about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.

Propolis taken at the first sniffle stops the process of a cold developing.

Bees die in the field, not in the hive.

***This month's event ~ Kalgan Queen Cruise & Lunch at Three Anchors***



What a memorable outing we enjoyed on the Kalgan Queen. A drizzly day on the river didn't dampen our spirits. Living in Denmark, we all know to pack a warm jacket.

Our skipper Jack was an entertaining storyteller, poet, joker and wildlife enthusiast. Over four hours cruising Oyster Harbour and the Kalgan River, he shared history, Indigenous stories and insights into the local area's amazing biodiversity. From pelicans breeding on Green Island to ospreys and white bellied sea eagles diving for fish, there was always something to enjoy, especially Pelican Perch, Jack's friend of eighteen years, who posed happily for photos.

We passed the oyster farm, and six out of 29 of us tried the Albany rock oysters Jack offered us on board. We all happily accepted tea, coffee, Handasyde strawberries, his Mum's homemade damper, honey and her lip balm.

Along the way we picked up fun facts. Did you know a baby oyster is called a spat? and a classic Jack joke, How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh? Ten tickles!

The furthest point was along the Luke Pen Walk near Honeymoon Island with the giant kingfisher metal sculpture shelter by local artist Timothy Booth.

Our morning on the river wasn't just about the water. It was the wildlife, the history and the stories that made it so enjoyable.



## December Birthdays

Kaye White	15 December
Dexter Warne	17 December
Grant Ball	19 December
Peta Gornall	23 December
Carol Harry	24 December
Kaye Murray	30 December
Rob Norcross	31 December



## Diary Dates

Wed 3 December	Christmas lunch at The Old Dairy, seated by 11.30am.
Wed 7 January	General meeting, morning tea only

## Extras

Membership ~ There are 70 members in the club and 12 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 2025 COMMITTEE

*President: Helena Wragg – [helenajo@westnet.com.au](mailto:helenajo@westnet.com.au)*

*Secretary: Val Ball - [secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)*

*Treasurer: Ros Gates - [treasurer@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:treasurer@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)*

*Events: Robin Levet, Malcolm Dickie - [events@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:events@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)*

*Membership: Stephanie Wierobiej - [members@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:members@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)*

*Guest Speakers: Lyell Edmonds, Jamie Falls - [speakers@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:speakers@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)*

*Media: Susan Lane - [media@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:media@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)*

*Hospitality: Lorraine Cotton, Kaye White - [hospitality@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto: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, weather permitting, at the boat ramp by the Denmark Rivermouth Caravan Park. When conditions are favourable, they paddle across the inlet. On less ideal days, they stay in the calmer waters of the river. They enjoy coffee and a chat afterwards at Reminisce Café.

New paddlers are always welcome!

## ***Wine Appreciation Group ~ Christmas Party at The Tavern***



Our Christmas dinner party celebration at The Tavern was a wonderful success. We enjoyed a relaxed evening with wine and generous grazing platters to start, followed by a main course of sliced roast beef and turkey with an array of seasonal vegetables. Sticky date pudding rounded out the night perfectly.

New chef Miguel from El Salvador did a great job on the night. Our heartfelt appreciation to Peter and Vicki for all they do to make the Wine Club such an enjoyable part of our social calendar.

Wine Club meets from 5.00 to 7.00 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Denmark Men's Shed. If you are interested in joining, please contact Peter Lumia to be added to the waiting list.





Don't wear headphones while vacuuming. I've just finished the whole house before realizing the vacuum wasn't plugged in.



I was googling about the best time to visit Switzerland.

It is when you have money.



I got my wife to help me put some posts in the ground for our new fence. I gave her the new hammer and said, "When I nod my head, you hit it." I don't remember much after that.



Texting your kid is like dating someone who isn't interested in you

Me: I love you, have a great day!

My kid: Ok



I'm not always a couch potato. For instance, right now I am a chair potato. And later I will be a bed potato.

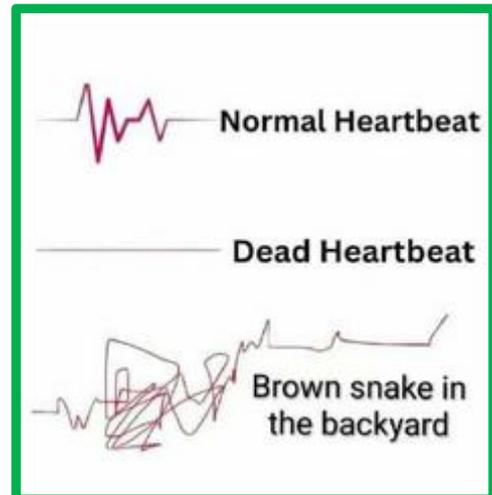


I have lived next to the same guy for 3 years. Thought his name was Steve. I call him Steve. His name is Steve in my phone. I've been to his apartment. We've had dinner. His name is Brian. His dog is Steve.



Thanks to Carmel and Bruce G for these jokes

**I might have a slight drinking problem... 🍷**  
**My husband asked me to toast some bread for him.**  
**So I raised my wine glass and said, "Here's to bread."**  
🍷 🍺 🍻



**FINALLY! BLONDE MEN JOKES:**

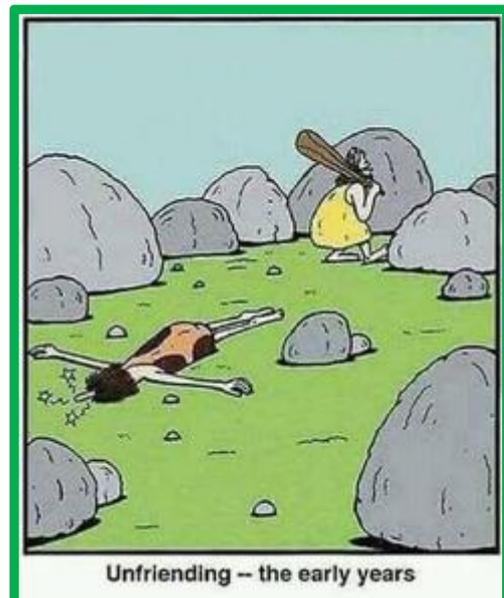
A blonde man is in the bathroom and his wife shouts "did you find the shampoo?" He answers "Yes but I'm not sure what to do ... it's for dry hair and I just wet mine."

*Wants to help the soul!*



A blonde man spots a letter on his doormat. It says on the envelope "DO NOT BEND". He spends the next 2 hours trying to figure out how to pick it up.

A blonde man shouts frantically into the phone "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only 2 minutes apart!" Is this her first child?" asks the doctor. "No!" he shouts, "this is her husband!".



## ***Recipe of the month***

### **MOYA'S CINNAMON WALNUT CAKE**



Sift into bowl 2 cups plain flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon baking soda and a pinch of salt.

In a second bowl cream 250 g butter, 1 cup sugar then add 2 eggs, mix well, add 250g sour cream and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Add sifted ingredients and mix well.

In a small bowl mix  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped walnuts, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and mix.

Line a ring tin or 8" tin with baking paper, put  $\frac{1}{3}$  cake mixture into tin, smooth, then top with  $\frac{1}{2}$  nut mixture, top with another  $\frac{1}{3}$  cake mixture then the rest of the nut mix, finish with the last of the cake mix. Mix 1 tablespoon vanilla with 1 tablespoon water, spoon over uncooked cake. Bake 1 hour in moderate oven, cool in tin, turn out, dust with icing sugar to serve.