

Edition 103 - April 2023

## DENMARK RIVER PROBUS NEWSLETTER

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**Greetings from your new editor.**

Hope I can do as good a job as those before me. I have to thank Joyce for helping me, as this is new to me.

### NEXT MEETING

**3 May 2023**

**10.00 at the Denmark Country Club.**

**Guest Speaker:** Professor Andrea Gaynor – History of environments Denmark areas

**Lunch:** Denmark Tavern

### BIRTHDAYS

Marian Marshall	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> May
Vicki Lumia	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May
Ros Gates	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May
Linda Falls	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May
Kevin Wragg	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May
Harold White	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May
Rosmary Thorn	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May
Ruth Rushton	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June



## MEMBERSHIP

There are 13 people on the waiting list

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

## Guest Speaker

**David Patterson, Superintendent of Pardalup Prison Farm.**

Pardalup Prison Farm is 25km west of Mt. Barker. There is also a work camp associated with the Prison Farm at Walpole.

We (society) send people to prison to protect the community, but Dave believes there is a better way and that is to rehabilitate the person, to upskill them. Making them a better person is another way to keep the community safe.



Dave was raised in Alice Springs and spent most of his younger years in the Northern Territory. He joined the NT Correction Service in 1997. He was in the Aboriginal Liaison Office for a while. He has worked in many different prisons as a Correction Officer. He has worked with some high-profile offenders.

He then moved to Kalgoorlie and joined the WA Corrective Service in the Eastern Goldfields Corrective Prison. As they were trying to raise a young family, they decided it was time for a sea change and moved to Denmark in late 2015. He thinks Denmark is a great place to be for raising a young family. Since the move he has seen his young daughters really blossom.

Pardalup has a capacity of 84 prisoners. There is no fence around the Pardalup Prison Farm and the cells are not locked at night. It operates on a level of mutual respect each prisoner realising that if they do not toe the line, they will be sent back to Albany prison. Each prisoner who is there goes through a risk assessment before they go there.

Walpole is a Work Camp. That is different to Pardalup. They have 12 beds and the prisoners who are sent there work in the community undertaking public works such as maintaining public facilities. Before the camp was opened in Walpole there was a level a community anxiety about the building of a prison work camp in their town; but if you were to suggest closing it down now there would be a community outcry. They town has realised how good it is to have such a camp in their town. The town benefits and the prisoners benefit. It is minimum security and the prisoners go out each day to work and return each night to sleep.

Pardalup prison farm is a working farm. Everyone who is there must take part in the running of the farm. The farm tries to provide positive work and social attitudes and model everything as close as possible to community standards, keeping everyone gainfully employed.

The farm is about 6500 acres and run about 5000 sheep. Money raised from the sale of the sheep and cattle goes into the state's consolidated revenue. They farm provides many opportunities for

the prisoners to gain useful skills ranging from cooking in the kitchen to maintaining the farm machinery with mechanical and metal work. Each prisoner must be of sound mind before they are permitted to operate farm machinery, so a strict eye is kept on the mental health of the prisoners and any contraband confiscated.

The farm has a market garden where they grow vegetables which are consumed within the prison. Prisoners also work in the kitchen learning trades as they do so. Everything they do is to re-educate the prisoners to give them life skills that will benefit them in the wider community. They work with the Great Southern TAFE and some prisoners undertake apprenticeships, but they cannot spend all their time on education. They must spend some time doing work. There is a recreational officer at the farm. It is all about keeping them actively engaged and building up their self-worth.

How does this relate to Denmark? With the help of Roger Seeney and the Black Dog Ride a group of prisoners have been coming to Denmark to undertake work with the CRC and other places doing work that the Shire of Denmark does not have the capacity to undertake. Sort of half-way between the prison farm and a work camp. In about 12-18 months we should start to see the effects of the work they are doing here. An example is that they helped to refill the water bombers that were used to fight the fire last year.

## HAPPENINGS

### **Denmark Machinery Restoration Group Excursion 19 April 2023.**

About thirty of us, I didn't count exact number, met at the Denmark Machinery Restoration Group's shed on Wednesday 19 April to explore the wonders that were housed within the shed. When I heard about this excursion, I was not sure that I would be interested in it at all but I decided to go anyway. After all, it is a chance to get out and socialise. However, I was totally surprised, not only that I found it interesting, but by the number of things that they have managed to stow in that shed. One of my brothers would have loved it, but he lives in Canberra.



We started our tour by being introduced to “Little Grey Fergie” - a small grey tractor sitting just outside the shed. Little Fergie was one of the first tractors to be manufactured after WWII. In fact bits of him were made from parts of old aircraft used in the war. He



also wore a coat of wartime grey - the same grey that adorned British battleships. He also boasted a couple of new innovations. He cannot be started unless he is out of gear. That was not the case with earlier tractors apparently. Mudguards also an innovation. This is what Wikipedia has to say about it:

“The Ferguson TE20 is an agricultural tractor designed by Harry Ferguson. By far his most

successful design, it was manufactured from 1946 until 1956, and was commonly known as the Little Grey Fergie. It marked a major advance in tractor design, distinguished by lightweight, small size, manoeuvrability and versatility. The TE20 popularised Harry Ferguson's invention of the hydraulic three-point hitch system around the world, and the system quickly became an international standard for tractors of all makes and sizes that has remained to this day. The tractor played a large part in introducing widespread mechanised agriculture. In many parts of the world the TE20 was the first tractor to be affordable to the average farmer and was small and light enough to replace the draft horse and manual labour. Many TE20s remain in regular use in farming and other work and the model is also a popular collector's item for enthusiasts today.”



Our hosts could certainly be counted amongst the enthusiasts.

They then started a “hit and miss” machine that was used to help windmills - the kind that bring water to the surface - do their job when there was insufficient wind. It putted and sputtered for a few minutes until someone managed to stop it by removing one part essential to keep it going.

a shiny new identical they had restored. That are capable of.



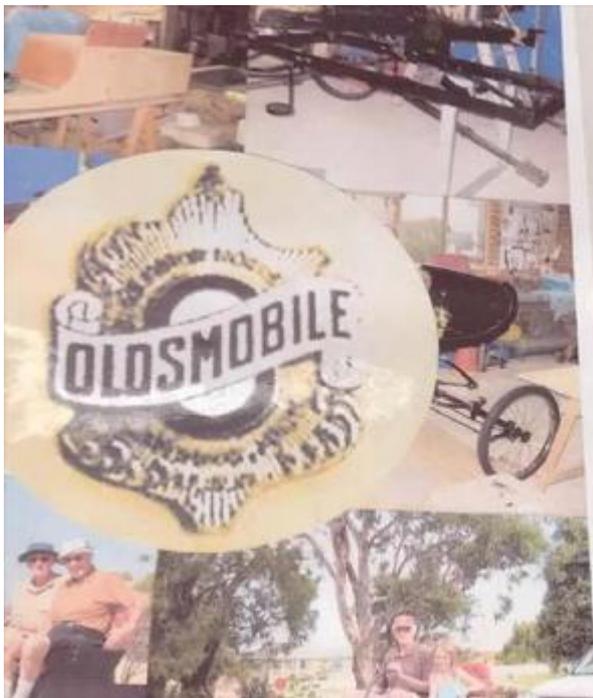
Under the veranda and just outside the shed was a rather sorry looking tractor of a much larger size. Then we were shown tractor inside the shed that showed us just what they

The machinery housed in that shed ranged from a sausage making machine, to sheep shearing stands and a fearsome saw that would inflict a lot of damage on something. There were old cars and even a replica Oldsmobile made by one of the members. In a cabinet was the original mobile phone - it is the size of a brick. Other contraptions one

was left wondering what on earth they were used for. One had a funnel on top that would have received grain, so I asked what it was. It was a grister - it ground grain down not to flour but to a coarse grist.



We were then shown their workshop where all the restoration work was done. As there is a large car jack there, members bring their cars in to be worked on too. There was even another shed - more rustic and open with an earthen floor. At the far end of that stood an enormous grader - the same kind that I used to see grading the roads around our farm when I was a child. We were always glad to see them because they cut the corrugations off the surface of the road, so for some time after it was a pleasure to drive on our dirt roads. Beside that grader was a small crane. It was cobbled together, out of necessity after the war, as if from a giant



**1901 C.D.O. OLDSMOBILE**

Many replicas of this popular little car have been built over the years. In my case it was just the challenge of creating something that looked and worked like the original and where possible using my farm workshop tools.

The woodwork is mine, as is the steelwork, other than the springs and rear axle. The upholstery was professionally done.

All the outside work was done here in Albany, with springs from Albany Springworks, Rear Axle from A.G. J. Engineering, and Upholstery from Albany Upholstery Service.

The project took about 18 months on-off activity and is very messy shed for most of that time. Many of the parts were built and reworked two or three times before a satisfactory result was obtained. Just a few instances that I recall were when we put the wheels on and then some people helped me turn it the right way up the frame was far too high off the ground! I had miscalculated the spring angles and the car body was 200 mm higher than it should have been.

That was not the only mistake! A while later some other friends came to view the project and decided that they would sit in the seat for a tryout. I watched the springs go down, and down, and down, as they climbed aboard. As the springs are the very basis of the car, once again everything was dismantled, and redesigned springs were built.

Underneath the seat is the forward and reverse mechanism from an old ride-on lawnmower, and in the boot the engine is from the same lawnmower.

The whole machine is a compromise, but when you take it for a run the open air adventure is complete.

A few details: 425 built in 1901  
2500 " " 1902  
4000 " " 1903

It was the world's most popular car in it's day.

One was driven from San Francisco to New York in 13 days in 1903.

There are still hundreds restored around the world.

Malcolm Crouch.

Meccano set out of a tractor and many other bits of metal. They turned the driver's seat and controls around so that it moved backwards. It helped build the sheds in which all the paraphernalia was housed. That combined with raw muscle power and sweat enabled the Machinery Restoration Group to build their sheds at a fraction of what the Men's Shed next door cost.

We then all partook ourselves to the Reminisce Cafe for an enjoyable lunch and conviviality.

Joyce Edmonds



## SOCIAL GROUPS



### WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

The wine appreciation group meets from 5-7pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at various venues.

**Next:** 16<sup>th</sup> May – Mrs Jones

20<sup>th</sup> June – Bakery Cafe



### Kayaking

Kayaking is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 EVENTS

### THURSDAY 18 May – Sandalwood Shop

11:00 for 11:15 start. Address: 2 Down Rd, Drome, Albany WA 6330

There will be an introductory talk on arrival.

**Buffet Lunch** at the Sandalwood Café - \$24/per person.

### **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 at a later date..

### July – 10 Pin Bowling

Details TBA

For further information please contact our secretary at [secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)

Waiter: "How do you like your steak, sir?"

Sir: "Like winning an argument with my wife."

Waiter: "Rare it is!"

INSTEAD OF  
CLEANING  
HOUSE  
I JUST WATCH  
AN EPISODE OF  
HOARDERS AND  
THINK WOW MY  
HOUSE LOOKS  
GREAT!!

GOOD MOMS LET YOU  
LICK THE BEATERS.

GREAT MOMS TURN  
THEM OFF FIRST.

Never trust an electrician  
with no **eyebrows**.



#### Committee

**President:** Kaye White [president@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:president@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)

**Vice President:** vacant

**Secretary:** Julie Nayda [secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)

**Treasurer:** Brian Rushton

[treasurer@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:treasurer@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)

**Activities:** Robin Levet & Helena Wragg [events@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:events@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)

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

[hospitality@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:hospitality@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)

**Membership:** Linda Falls [members@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:members@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)

**Guest Speakers:** Chris Watkins [speakers@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:speakers@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)

**Media:** Trish Edmonds [contact@denmarkriverprobus.org.au](mailto:contact@denmarkriverprobus.org.au)