

DENMARK RIVER PROBUS NEWSLETTER

September 2026 - Edition 145



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Hello everyone!

Welcome to the September edition of our Denmark River Probus newsletter.

Happy Birthday to us! We celebrated our 12th anniversary with a very special Birthday cake made by local Robyn Millar and delicious Birthday cupcakes, generously provided by members. A big thank you to Shirley and Dexter who brought along two buckets of their beautiful wildflowers, which they divided into many little bouquets, each featuring a protea and a waratah. What a lovely way to brighten our celebration!

This month's general meeting was a busy and lively one, with eight visitors, all currently on our waiting list. We were delighted to welcome our Guest Speaker, Shaun Ossinger, Denmark's Person of the Year for 2025. We so enjoyed Shaun's presentation that we have already decided we would love to have him back for a second talk.

It was also lovely to welcome Jane Belotti into our club. Jane gave a warm and heartfelt induction speech, sharing how she has already been welcomed and included in friendship groups by some of our members.

Warmly, Susan



Jane Belotti (above),

*Sue & Bob, Shirley & Dexter
(collage)*



Guest Speaker ~ Shaun Ossinger, Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC)

Convenors: Lyell Edmonds, Ed Wierobie



This month we were fortunate to welcome Shaun Ossinger, Executive Officer of the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee, who gave us an insight into the many projects being undertaken to protect and restore our local environment. Shaun spoke about the Committee's work in preserving remnant vegetation, the importance of dung beetles, managing the opening of the inlet, restoring wetlands, controlling invasive species and working closely with farmers and the community.

One of the highlights was learning about WICC's Black Cockatoo conservation program, which includes revegetation of native plants that cockatoos rely on, such as hakea, banksia, jarrah and marri, installing nest boxes and creating habitat. An especially lovely aspect of the program is working with local schools. By involving students in collecting and propagating native seed and planting trees, WICC is helping to foster a love of the environment in the next generation.

Shaun also told us about the Eungedup Wetlands in Youngs Siding. In 2023, this former 104 hectare potato farm was purchased for \$650,000 by crowd funding and turned into a wetland sanctuary for 108 bird species. This conservation project provides habitat for many waterbirds, including the endangered Australasian Bittern. WICC has been working to manage water levels, monitor the elusive bitterns and establish a bird hide, while also tackling threats from foxes and, increasingly, feral cats.

The Committee's plan is to provide public access to the sanctuary by the end of 2026 with a boardwalk and bird hide, allowing people to see the wetlands and birdlife without disturbing the natural habitat.

WICC's work is supported through government grants, philanthropy and generous community donations.



Events ~ Wilson Inlet Wildflower and Bird Walk

Convenors: Malcolm Dickie, Brian Levet



A small group of nine of us met at the start of the Little River Trail for an informative walk along the Wilson Inlet foreshore with Andrew Dickinson who walked the trail barefoot and Tanya Garvin from South Coast Bushcare Services, an environmental conservation organisation that has been caring for Denmark's bushland for more than twenty years.

Andrew and Tanya shared their knowledge of our native plants, wildflowers and bush tucker, pointing out treasures including the delicate slipper orchid - leaves only, little yellow Hibbertia, native wisteria, tassel flowers and the white-bearded Leucopogon. We also learnt about the traditional uses of some native plants and the remarkable adaptations of our karri and marri trees.



The walk opened our eyes to the importance of hollows and healthy bushland for our native birds. Tree hollows provide homes for parrots, while the purple crowned lorikeets arrive in large flocks when the trees are flowering and rich with nectar. We heard about the mating call of the bronze winged pigeon and the different birds that depend on these forests, including the black cockatoos and owls. South Coast Bushcare Services continues the painstaking work of removing invasive weeds, regenerating bushland and promoting biodiversity, including the long-running battle with blackberry and the particularly troublesome wonga wonga vine.

We finished our walk with a lovely view towards Honeymoon Island, with the Little River foreshore stretching around us.

Events ~ Stirling Ranges Wildflower Hunt

Convenors: Malcolm Dickie, Brian Levet

Brian did a wonderful job planning, researching and even doing a practice run for our wildflower hunt in the Stirling Ranges, with Robin's help, although sadly Robin couldn't join us on the day. Seventeen of us set off on a hot, sunny day, making our way to Barrow Road, just out of Mount Barker, then we drove in convoy to Woogenellup and finally to the Bluff Knoll trailhead.

We were rewarded with an impressive springtime display, including Spider and Jug Orchids, Donkey Orchids, carnivorous Sundews, Rattle Beaks, Cowslips, Billy Buttons, blue Scarlet Pimpernel, Blue Stars and carpets of brilliant red Lechenaultia. Many thanks to Jane, Kerry, Vicki and Graeme for sharing their beautiful wildflower photos. Photographing tiny flowers waving in the breeze proved almost as challenging as photographing friends with heads down and bottoms up as they peered down to get a closer look.

After all that flower hunting, toasted sandwiches, chicken burgers and fish and chips were popular choices at the Bluff Knoll Café. One final stop partway up Bluff Knoll gave us some magnificent views before we headed home after a full day of flowers, fresh air and good company.



Social Clubs

Wine Appreciation Group ~

Convenor: Peter Lumia



This month, Peter put in some research to come up with a fun blind tasting of seven red wines, ranging in price from \$8 to \$50. The selection included Shiraz, Merlot, Grenache, Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon, with teams challenged to match each wine to its description. There were plenty of surprises along the way!

The winners on the night were Mal's team - Mal, Ken R, Ruth and Brian. Well done!

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

The Mah Jones Players

Convenor: Susan Lane



We meet every Monday from 12.00 to 2.15pm at Mrs Jones Café. The owner Justine is happy to give us the private dining room free of charge, if we just buy coffee and cake or a light lunch. You are welcome to join us.

The Salty Dogs

Convenors: Ed Wierobiej, Neville Thorn



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.

Hospitality ~ Peta and Martine



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the catering this year. If you haven't had the opportunity for a turn, please write your name and phone number next to a food item. You will find the catering sheet on the table at the back of the room with a reminder slip for you to fill out and keep in a place for you to remember your turn. If you can't cook for whatever reason, can you please arrange for someone else or give us a call?

If you are providing sandwiches, please use a whole loaf and for the lunches make enough for ten people.



Just another quiet day on the mower...or so Warrick thought. This actually happened!
Martine's AI version of Warrick's latest adventure.

YOUR 2026 COMMITTEE

President: Warrick Gates - warrick.gates@bigpond.com

Secretary: Carmel Stott - secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Treasurer: Ros Gates - treasurer@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Events: Brian Levet, Malcolm Dickie - events@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Membership: Stephanie Wierobiej - members@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Guest Speakers: Lyell Edmonds, Ed Wierobiej - speakers@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Media: Susan Lane - media@denmarkriverprobus.org.au

Hospitality: Martine Hennig, Peta Gornall - hospitality@denmarkriverprobus.org.au



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

Diary Dates

Wed 7 October	General meeting ~ inhouse lunch, BBQ Member presentation ~ Ed will speak about the Hassell family history, historic farm and homesteads at Kendenup.
Fri 16 October	Hassell Homestead and historical buildings visit, Kendenup Lunch at Gilbert's Winery, Kendenup

Welfare



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

Extras

Membership ~ There are currently 68 members in the club and eight 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.

Upcoming Birthdays





BINFLUENCER:
A person who puts
the right bin out on
the right day, letting
everyone else on
the street know
which one to take
out.



**Biscuit makers
should mention
number of dips a
biscuit can
tolerate before
falling into the
tea/coffee.**

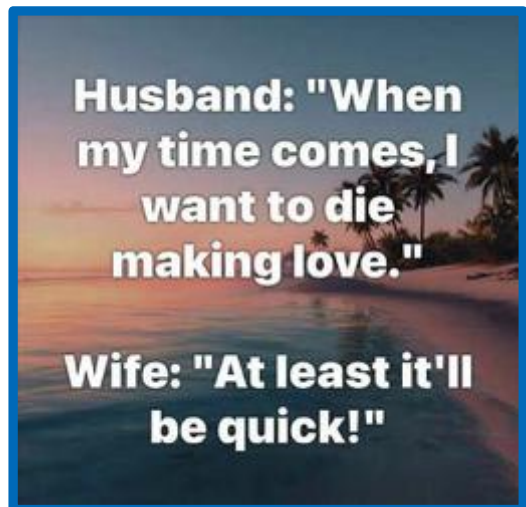


**I asked my wife if I was the
only one she had ever been
with.**

**She said yes, all the others
were nines and tens.**

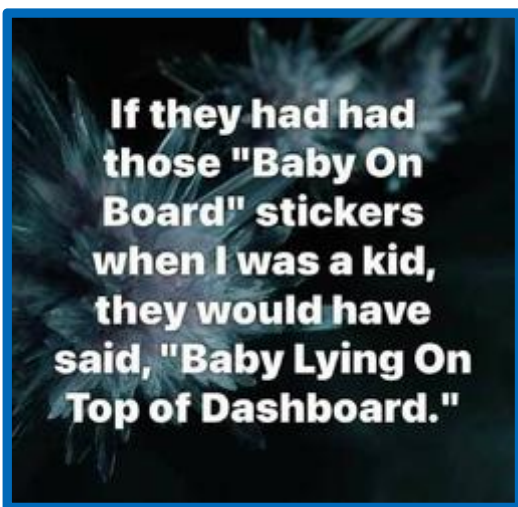


**Doctor: "Have you
noticed any
unexplained weight
gain recently?"
Me: "No, I can pretty
much explain all of
it."**



**Husband: "When
my time comes, I
want to die
making love."**

**Wife: "At least it'll
be quick!"**



**If they had had
those "Baby On
Board" stickers
when I was a kid,
they would have
said, "Baby Lying On
Top of Dashboard."**

Thanks to Vicki for this page of jokes.

**You know you're
getting old when
it feels like the
morning
after...but there
was no night
before.**

**My mind is exceptionally
quiet today.**

**I'm suspicious I'm up to
something I don't want
me to know about.**

REBELS MARKET

**I MIGHT WAKE UP EARLY
AND GO RUNNING. I ALSO MIGHT
WAKE UP AND WIN THE LOTTERY.
THE ODDS ARE ABOUT THE SAME.**

Buy & Sell Fashion for Misfits at RebelsMarket

**I've got Salad
for dinner.
Actually a fruit
Salad. Well,
Mostly Grapes
OK all grapes.
Fermented grapes
Wine. I've got
Wine for dinner.**

**I'M PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
THAT I HAVE COMPLETED
THE 1ST ITEM ON MY
BUCKET LIST**



I HAVE THE BUCKET

**Kids today don't know
how easy they have it.
When I was young,
I had to walk 9 feet
through shag carpet to
change the TV channel.**

Recipe of the month

KEVIN STONE'S CREAMY GARLIC PRAWNS



Servings: 2 serves
Cook Time: 15 mins
Prep Time: 5 mins
Ready Time: 20 mins

250g green prawns, peeled, deveined and split lengthwise
2 slices of onion
1 tsp butter and a splash of oil
1 tsp crushed garlic
6 spring onions, cut into 40mm pieces and split
200 ml thickened cream
150g small pasta {butterfly or spiral}

Sauté the prawns, garlic & onion in the butter/oil until just cooked.
Add the spring onions and cream. Season with a little ground pepper.
Cook on low until the cream has a thick consistency.
Cook pasta until just before al dente and then add to prawn cream mixture.
Cook pasta and add small amount of cream.

Happy 80th birthday, Glenys!



Glenys celebrated a very special milestone on September 11 ~ her 80th Birthday. She was excited to reach 80, as no one in her family had previously made it to this milestone.

September 11 is of course a date that has become significant around the world. Glenys and Ken have their own vivid memories of that day 15 years ago. They had just arrived home after being out for dinner celebrating Glenys's 65th birthday when Ken turned on the television. They happened to tune in just as the second plane crashed into the World Trade Centre.

At first, they thought they were watching a movie. It wasn't until Channel 7's Susannah Carr appeared on screen and confirmed the news that they realised they were witnessing a real life tragedy that would change the world forever.