



Denmark River Probus News

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Hello all,

This month I thought I would tell you about some unusual Christmas traditions that occur around the world. Maybe you would like to introduce them to your family!

1. **CATALONIA:** The legend of the pooping Christmas log

Catalan children take a log, often painted with a smiling face, into their home and they feed it every night. They bundle the log at night to keep it warm and they treat it with love and kindness.



Then, on Christmas day, the children beat the log with sticks while ordering it to poop out gifts for them.

They even have a song to encourage the log to poop!

poop log,
poop turrã³n,
hazelnuts and cottage cheese,
if you don't poop well,
I'll hit you with a stick,

2. **JAPAN:** Kentucky -Fried Chicken

The celebration of Christmas in Asia usually involves imported western traditions, but in Japan those traditions have been shaped by commercial interests. The holiday places special emphasis on romantic love, so it's a day to spend with a sweetheart or spouse. Bakeries sell Christmas cakes as traditional sweetheart treats. And you might have to make reservations to get a table at



KFC. Yes, Kentucky Fried Chicken. The fast food franchise let it be known that fried chicken is traditional for the Christmas feast. And so it is -in Japan.



3. **MEXICO:** The night of the radishes

This event happens every December 23rd in Oaxaca, Mexico. Hundreds of tourists gather to see the main square filled with amazing sculptures...carved from radishes.

Carmel Stott - president

NEXT MEETING

3rd January 2018

10h00

Denmark Country Club

Lunch = Denmark Hotel



Dec/Jan Birthdays

January

17 Dexter Warne
19 Ralph Drayton-Witty
21 Rob Norcross
23 Robin Rogers
24 Carol Harry
31 Rob Norcross

December

10 Shirley Warne
16 Wally Pederick



**Guest Speaker for November:
Brian Lavet**

Geologist

Geology and Exploration for Gold was the topic for our December Meeting. Brian Lavet is the

geologist who gave a fascinating and balanced talk.

As the title suggests, Brian spent a good part of his time telling us about the geology of the earth which is around 4.5 billion years old.

His screened presentation had really great graphics showing representations of the earth as a seething mass of molten lava. He portrayed the passing of time with the use of photographs of one 45-year-old woman, starting with a picture of her as a baby as the earth cooled and the crust formed. At this point he passed round his first and most precious specimen of a +/- 4.5-billion-year-old slice of an olivine meteorite. When the token woman was 12 the earth's crust was cooling. At 15 years old stromatolites were forming. The Great Oxygenation Event period occurred when our heroine was about 21 and the precipitation of iron oxide contributed to the formation of the Pilbara. Here we were able to hand round another relevant specimen. The major extinctions of living things followed around the 40 to 44-year-old time line. These were mass extinctions of 82% - 96% with the final extinction of the dinosaurs (70%) attributed to a massive meteorite which landed in South America. Kalgoorlie, Telfer and Olympic Dams were forming in some very odd places with Bendigo, and Ballarat much later. 20 mins ago in terms of our character's time line and the first humanoids walked the earth. Brian showed us the graphics illustrating the various theories of location and movement of the land masses over the eons.

We could now move on from our 45-year old's life line to a discussion on the various ways of finding gold starting with a couple of donkeys, a shovel and a pan in California to a wheelbarrow, shovel and pan in Australia. While washing the sample in a nearby stream was method of choice, in drier places (Africa) gold could be separated by 'winnowing' which would also separate the heavy gold particles. Brian had some great slides of the increasingly sophisticated methods of sampling for gold as well as the amazing if desperate measures followed by 'unofficial miners'.

He showed examples of high tech methods of proving reserves and building up a picture of the depth and extent of the ore body. A lot of work for a truck full of gold!

An extremely interesting and well documented talk. Thank you Brian.

Rose Robson



Fran's" Coffee Morning

Come join us at Chilli Lime & Salt **Tuesday 19th December** 10.00am
All members invited.



Wine Appreciation Group

New wine tasting 25th January 5pm-7pm Garden Room Community Resource Centre.
Theme - White wine
Bring plate of nibbles
\$3.00



Walking Group

No information available at this time.



Outings

Tuesday 21st November
Seven hardy bowlers attended the bowling morning. Great fun was had by all. Photos are to be found in the gallery.

<http://www.denmarkriver-probus.org.au/gallery.html#p45>
The morning of fun was followed by a very enjoyable lunch at Boston Brewery.

Last news had the Corporate Bowlers placing 4th in their division.

We would like to thank Denmark Probus for hosting a truly wonderful Christmas lunch on December 13th

Australia Day 26th come join in the **Big Breakfast in Park**, 8 – 10 am. Please BYO plate, knife, fork and a seat.
Gold coin donation required.

Later the same day.

Sundowner (4.30 pm) at Peter and Vicki's home – 79 Mount Shadforth Road.

You'll need to bring your own drinks, glasses, a plate of food to share and a chair.

KEVIN'S FUNNIES



NOVINOPHOBIA

The fear of running out of wine.



It's funny how 8 glasses of water a day seems impossible,



but 8 glasses of wine can be done in one meal.

THE ANSWER
MAY NOT LIE
AT THE
BOTTOM OF
A BOTTLE
OF WINE.
BUT YOU SHOULD
AT LEAST CHECK.



Not too far from reality ...

Check this Millennial job interview

<https://vimeo.com/239050403/cd-d07b248e>



RALPH'S SAY

Christmas Joke

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates.

'In honour of this holy season' Saint Peter said, 'You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven.'

The man from England fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter He flicked it on. 'It represents a candle', he said.

'You may pass through the pearly gates' Saint Peter said.

The man from New Zealand reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, 'They're bells.'

Saint Peter said 'You may pass through the pearly gates'.

The Australian started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's panties.

St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, 'And just what do those symbolize?'

The Aussie replied, 'These are Carols.'

And So The Christmas Season Begins.....

ACTS 2:38

You gotta love compassionate Christian Seniors.

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled to see an intruder there.

She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: 'Stop! Acts 2:38!' (Repent and be Baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.)

The burglar stopped in his tracks.

The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an Axe and Two 38s!"

AND FINALLY

We return to Catalonia for another of it's odd Christmas traditions:

Catalonia likes connecting the scatological with their Christmas traditions as evidenced by the addition of their favorite Christmas figure, the Caganer. "Caganer" translates literally to "The Crapper." The traditional Caganer features an impish man with his trousers down and is placed in a discreet corner of the Nativity scene. While this may seem controversial, the Catholic Church in Catalonia has not forbade the practice. One cathedral in Barcelona even has its own official pooper.

