

Edition No. 92 – May 2022

DENMARK RIVER PROBUS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is Private and Confidential for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose.

Greetings Probians

So, new header. This was all part of my trying to learn how to use publisher software. I don't know if it is any easier than messing about in Microsoft Word. We'll see. In the meantime, this is still done in Word.

What glorious weather we have been having lately! Our glorious autumn had not deserted us after all. I have really been enjoying the lovely warm, but not too hot, sunshine. However, I believe that there is some weather on its way.

Stay safe,

Joyce

NEXT MEETING

1 June 2022

At the Denmark Country Club

Guest Speaker: Patricia Gill from the Denmark Bulletin

Lunch: In-House

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

My apologies for failing to thank our volunteers for their contributions to the smooth running of our club at our last meeting. So, better late than never, thank you to Sue and Bob Allen for setting up the furniture; and thank you to Kaye Husking and Elisabeth Probst for greeting us at the door. Your efforts were much appreciated.

Kevin

BIRTHDAYS

Ruth Rushton	Sunday 5 June
Bruce Grieve	Saturday 11 June
Carmel Stott	Wed 15 June
Malcolm Dickie	Sunday 19 June
Brian Rushton	Sunday 19 June
Helena Wragg	Wed 22 June
Fran Pederick	Thursday 23 June
Wendy Lind	Wed 29 June
Nevill Thorn	Wed 29 June
Barry Barton	Wed 29 June
Kevin Stone	Thursday 30 June



MEMBERSHIP

There are 8 people on the waiting list 3 of whom have completed three visits.

Guest Speaker

Kaye Millar from Blossoms Nursery Q& A Session

I was really impressed by the depth of knowledge Kaye demonstrated as she answered all the questions put to her without batting an eyelid. There were no moments when she had to pause to think about something before answering. The answers came quickly and readily. Kaye clearly has a fantastic knowledge of horticulture.

Once upon a time, many moons ago, I could take shorthand at 120 words per minute. Whereas I can still take notes in shorthand after a fashion, my speed is nothing like what it used to be. I didn't get everything that was said, and you might disagree with some of this, but here is what I manage to glean from the Q & A session that took place with Kaye.

1. The first question was about why someone's azalea was growing beautifully but did not have any flowers.
 - A. Kaye countered by asking if it was in the right position; and whether the person had fed it. She suggested choosing a special azalea food.

There were a lot of questions concerning the growing of avocados.

- Q. Can you grow avocados from seed and have them fruit?
 - A. Yes, you can. They grow easily from seed, but it could take anything up to 17 years for them to fruit. It may be good, maybe not. They do make a lovely tree, but they tend to be generally short lived. It is better to get a grafted one. They need excellent drainage. It also needs a mate – another tree for cross fertilization. Feed them to get a crop. Don't feed in winter. Feed every other month with a good complete fertilizer. Can be rose or citrus fertilizer.
- Q. How do you prune an avocado?
 - A. Straight across the top. If you do it any time from now, you need to paint it immediately to prevent disease. You can cut them really hard.
- Q. Another avo question. Ours has rust on its leaves. It has been given trace elements and sheep manure.
 - A. Could be a pathogen, or borer. Do you have dieback in your area?

Bush mulch was used. That could be the culprit. Kaye suggested using an anti-rot potion such as Fozject liquid against phytophthora. Pour it over the tree, or spring load inject the tree; or take the tree out (as Kaye would do).
- Q. Green trunks - - susceptible to spraying for weeds.
 - A. Avocado and Citrus. If you want to spray for kikuyu wrap the trunks.

There certainly was no shortage of questions being asked and there were no pauses or lengthy breaks between the questions. They came thick and fast; but Kaye was up for it.

- Q. Onion weed. Can you kill the bulbs?

A. Short answer - Shift house! There is not only one bulb below the surface but a host of little bulblets as well. Zero Concentrate – it will kill oxalis and onion weed. Cut it and paint it immediately while it is still oozing.

Q. Celery Nodules

A. They are caused by an imbalance in the soil. They need lime. Every time you get your vegie beds ready add lime, blood and bone and chook poo.

Q. Spinach and Silver Beet – chocolate spot.

A. It is our conditions. This spore will always be in the soil. It is up to the weather whether it manifests or not. Burn or bin it.

Q. White spots on a Pittosporum hedge, about 20m long.

A. Scale. It will spread rapidly. You need to spray with White Oil. If you wanted to do it systemically you would have to use Triforine, a rose fungicide, which will kill scale but is more difficult to use. Kaye would recommend White Oil.

Q. Is there any benefit to adding coffee grounds to your garden. [Person asking lives at Springdale Beach.].

A. Acidic soil. You need to add lime to it. But, yes, there is benefit in adding coffee grounds. Tea does the same thing. Not on your maiden hair fern though. Give it a half strength liquid fertiliser.

Q. Should I give my fingerlime fertiliser.

A. Yes, standard citrus fertiliser.

Q. Why has my hydrangea have a woody base.

A. Old age.

Q. Dwarf cherry – how to prune. It has a long leader.

A. Reduce leader. Take out and put it in a pot with premium potting mix. Add a little lime but not too much. Nice sunny protected spot. In September add fertiliser to pot.

Q. Cherry slugs.

A. The early stage starts off in the soil. If you have no chooks, then you need to watch and act. Hose tree with water and throw lime or wood ash at it. Nature lure – organic gel, spray on tree.

Q. When do you prune raspberries?

A. Now. Take out old wood to ground level. Loves organic matter. Give slow-release fertiliser. It will respond well.

Q. I have a mango with 4 leaves. It is 5 years old. It has done nothing.

A. It is sulking. It does not like the SE side. Dig it out and put it in a pot. Put it in a hot spot facing North. Loves fertiliser.

Kaye once found some mango trees in the bush. They had been neglected but were in a very protected area with improved soil. They had loads of fruit.

Q. Apricot pruned down – lots of growth. Cut to ½ or cut next year?

A. Some apricots fruit only on 2nd year wood. Hit and miss pruning method. Cut 1 leave next. In spring give a complete fertiliser.

Q. Caterpillars on Cape Lilacs?

- A. Nothing works. Malathion would get rid of them; but my advice, don't plant one.
- Q. Roos and Roses
- A. Marriage made in heaven. Roses will always be their go to plant. Fence them off.
- Q. Clivia – in pot – no flowers. At least 2 years old. Look healthy.
- A. Needs splitting up.
- Q. Clivia – yellow leaves.
- A. Feed them anything. [I heard on Gardening Australia since that that is also caused by them getting too much sun. Move them into deeper shade.]
- Q. Chile thrips on roses. Do we have them here?
- A. Not that we know of. However, if you were to buy one in Perth and bring it down here, you could also bring them.
- Q. Camelias – had 10 now only 3 left. Gave them cow and chook manure.
- A. Chook poo too alkaline. Cow poo is good. Chook poo is great in vegie beds but is not good on acid loving plants. Cow poo is good if it is well aged. Fish no good.
- Q. Have you heard of putting a living mulch of violets around avocado trees?
- A. I would not do it. It would upset the avocado because they have a lot of tiny roots that grow up into the mulch and the violets would rob them of nutrients.
- Q. Which trees are fire retardant?
- A. Anything but natives. Not pine. Not too close to the house. Under an ember attack if they lodge in anything like a Peppermint tree it will explode. Peppermint trees are a fire hazard.
- Q. Liverwort – what can be done about it?
- A. In the hot weather put black plastic over it. That will cook it. It usually occurs in areas of poor drainage and in shade. A copper solution 3 times. Our soils have no copper left. Citrus likes a bit of copper, but not too much. ½ strength folia spray.
- Q. Rye grass in lawn.
- A. Dig it out. Weed and feed does not work. Kikuyu will eventually take over. Regular mowing helps.
- Q. Frangipane – doesn't flower.
- A. Liquid Potash – spray up stems and top part of plant. Needs a hot spot in full sun.

HAPPENINGS:

BOWLING

We had a great turnout for our bowls morning at the Denmark Riverside Club, there were around 21 players turn up to bowl. Some of us had bowled before, and some were new to the game. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We were so lucky with the weather. We managed to play 6 games before the heavens opened up. Then we all went inside the clubhouse and had a cup of tea and coffee and talked about how well some of us played and how badly some of us played. We then headed off to Ducketts Mill for our luncheon which was delicious. They managed to seat us all out on the veranda, so we could all be together and enjoy our meals.



A CUPPA WHEN THE RAIN SET IN

FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT **BUCKETT'S MILL**

DINOSAUR WORLD

On the 18th of May (which happened to be my wedding anniversary; and my numberplate) more than 20 of us went to visit the Dinosaur World museum on Bandit Road west of Denmark. It is one of those places that you sail past saying that you must go and visit one day. Well, 18 May was that one day for about 26 of us. I had been there once before with a 7-year-old granddaughter, so I was not sure that I would enjoy it once again. However, I did enjoy it.



It is interesting seeing just how big those creatures were and these were some of the smaller ones. I am glad that I was not around when they were roaming the planet. It is also interesting to see some of them with “flesh” on pretending to be alive. Afterwards, I was struck by the similarity between the shape of our kangaroos and some of those dinosaurs. There is one major difference, of course, kangaroos are not reptiles.

As well as the dinosaur exhibit, there are lots of birds to see, many in cages but a number who are not. As you leave the building that houses the dinosaurs you are greeted by “Hello Darling!” from a white cockatoo named Henry (AKA “Sid Vicious” because he bites).



Then there is “The Duchess” who will walk with you as you stroll around the cages admiring the birds within. She is over 60 years old, is very affectionate, and she is also very fond of shoe-laces.



There were also reptiles to admire behind glass; or if you were brave enough, handle.



Lunch was at “The Sly Fox” at Kent River. It is a great place for burgers, however, many of us also enjoyed a Massaman chicken curry.



SOCIAL GROUPS



Wine Appreciation Group

Held every **4th Thursday** of the month at the Community resource Centre.

For more information contact Peter Lumia



Fran's Coffee Mornings

Meets at **10:00** every **3rd Tuesday** of the month at various venues.
Next: **21st June – Bibbulmun Café; 19th July – Mrs Jones.**



Kayaking

Kayaking –is held 2nd & 4th Fridays (weather permitting) **8:00am** in the **water**. Launching from the boat ramp at the Denmark River Mouth Caravan Park. Afterwards coffee at the Caravan Park's Reminisce Café.

Note Time Change. For more information contact: Warrick Gates or Stuart Hoskins

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

June 15th – Splendid Valley Truffle Farm with lunch \$100.

Due to the fantastic response to the event and to get the best experience, the group will be split into two and the Truffle Hunt will be held over two days, Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th June.

Time: 10:00 am **Cost** \$80 payable on the day.

NB – Someone has paid \$100 to the Probus account. This is incorrect. The money is to be paid to Splendid Valley Truffle Farm on the day. Please let our Treasurer Don Hart know who you are so that he can reimburse you.

July 20th – Ten Pin Bowling.

10:00 am - \$21 per person for two games. 120 Stead Road, Albany. Please wear your own soft soled shoes. Carpooling to be organised by individuals.

Lunch -12 noon at the Earl of Spencer

For any other queries please contact: Julie at secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

- A cashless society means **no cash. Zero.**
- It doesn't mean mostly cashless and you can still use a 'wee bit of cash here and there'.
- Cashless means fully digital, fully traceable, fully controlled.
- I think those who support a cashless society aren't fully aware of what they're asking for.

A CASHLESS SOCIETY MEANS:

- No more tuck-away cash for those preparing to leave domestic violence.
- No more purchases off marketplace unless you want to risk bank transfer fraud.
- No more garage sales.
- No more cash donations to hungry homeless you pass.
- No more cash slipped into the hands of a child from their grandparent.
- No more money in birthday cards.
- No more piggy banks or tooth fairy for your child.
- No more selling bits and pieces from your home that you no longer want/need for a bit of cash in return.
- Less choices of where you purchase based on affordability.

WHAT A CASHLESS SOCIETY DOES GUARANTEE:

- Banks have full control of every single cent you own.
- Every transaction you make is recorded.
- All your movements and actions are traceable.





"All the girls are off sick!"