

Edition No. 95 – August 2022

DENMARK RIVER PROBUS NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS GOOD PEOPLE

Many thanks to Brian Rushton who has stepped up to take over the role of Treasurer in the wake of Don and Claudia Hart's impending departure.

How are you all coping with this cold weather? I have to say it is my least favourite time of the year, but if it were not the cold now, we would not appreciate the warm pleasant days so much.

Our wild flowers are amazing. There is always something flowering even in the coldest weather. Now my Kunzia Baxteri is looking beautiful, and the New Holland Honeyeaters are loving it.

Stay warm.

Joyce



BIRTHDAYS

Kerry Clark	Saturday 27 August
Stephanie Wierobiej	Wednesday 31 August
Peter Lumia	Monday 5 September
Margaret Norcross	Wednesday 7 September
Glenys Richards	Sunday 11 September



NEXT MEETING

7 September 2022

10:00 am at the Denmark Country Club

Guest Speaker: Me - Joyce Edmonds

DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

Lunch: Boston Brewery

Committee

President: Kevin Nayda
president@denmarkriverprobus.org.au
Vice President: vacant
Secretary: Julie Nayda
secretary@denmarkriverprobus.org.au
Treasurer: Brian Rushton
treasurer@denmarkriverprobus.org.au
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Glenice Smith hospitality@denmarkriverprobus.org.au
Membership: Linda Falls
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Guest Speakers: Julie Nayda
speakers@denmarkriverprobus.org.au
Media: Joyce Edmonds
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MEMBERSHIP

There are 8, possibly 9 people on the waiting list 4 of whom have completed three visits.

Guest Speaker

DR BRETT LAMB DEFINING MOMENTS FROM MY LIFE

You know what it is like when you know there is something that you must do, but for the life of you, you can't remember what it is? Well that is what happened to me concerning a photo of Brett Lamb.

Knowing that she would be absent from our August meeting Carmel Stott asked me to take a photo of Brett.

I remembered when I got home! Aaaaarrgh! So I lifted this one from the Denmark Family Practice website.

When I told Julia Nayda about it, she asked Brett if he could send us a photo, and he did - 4 of them. The following photos are all from him. I love the one of him teaching the little boy how to wash his hands; or is he clapping. The little girl is gorgeous too - you just want to hug her.



What an interesting and varied life this man has led! It is quite astonishing, but just goes to show that failing TEE twice does not define a person. We really got two talks for the price of one here. First, the defining moments, then his life in East Arnhem land.

1. **Parents** Brett began his defining moments by talking about his parents. They are after all, the people who have the most impact upon our lives. Brett was No. 6 in the family. He claims that his parents reached perfection when they got to him, but then a sister arrived after him. His parents met in Manjimup, but Brett was born in Perth. Brett's father is no longer with us, but his Mum is still going strong at 89. She is, unfortunately, going blind and has just lost her driver's licence. She asked Brett why she just couldn't keep on driving - "I know where the shops are" she says; but Brett couldn't help her with that one.
2. **Kalgoorlie** - the family moved to Kalgoorlie and that is where Brett grew up. Kalgoorlie is a rough tough town and boys growing up in the country do not do well academically. There is too much distraction. He was too busy having fun to do well at school. He failed TEE twice.
3. **Kalgoorlie School of Mines** - somehow, despite not passing the TEE, his father managed to wrangle a place for him in the School of Mines. From then on he did not fail. He passed his exams and became a surveyor. That meant immediately going down the mines to carry out the work of a surveyor. He said that the men he worked with were big strong men who would carry a drill that Brett could not pick up off the ground on their shoulders and climb to the top of the rig with it. Some of the men 70 years old. Brett is not a big man, so he used to run up the escape route for exercise and to check it for safety; and as he did so he would come across older and older parts of the mine. It was interesting seeing the older workings. It was also Brett's job to assess what the men were to be paid. Their pay depended upon how many grams of gold they recovered per ton of earth mined. Many of them were only getting 30g/tonne which did not pay well. Others were getting 5600g/tonne, they got paid well. So there was a man who would salt the area where the lower paid

men were with gold to raise their quota. That man kept a lot of men employed for a long time doing that.

4. **Study** - Brett started to study again at night school. He had always been interested in health issues, so he wanted to get into some kind of health work. After some time he got into physiotherapy at Curtin University. He said that was a wonderful experience. As potential physiotherapists they practiced on each other. That meant getting their kit off. They enjoyed that.
5. **A Girl** - whilst still studying physiotherapy, Brett met the woman who was to be his future wife. She was an occupational therapist. After graduating the two of them were to spend 5 years in east Arnhem Land.
6. **Medicine and Kids** - Brett began to study again at night school and he got into medical school. He was now in his 30's and 3 days before he was to start medical school, his first son arrived. They had both lost their jobs. Brett said that having kids certainly changed his attitude to life. Suddenly he had someone totally dependent upon him and his concern became their welfare. He found being a mature aged medical student gave him better focus. The course is so intense that a lot of the younger students were prone to lose their focus about what was important. From the outset Brett concentrated his studies on regional medicine. He was in the Emergency Department to start with. That is really scary because you do not know what is going to come in. That caused him a lot of anxiety; however, he found that if he a patient arrived suffering airway problems, he was able to deal with that and resolving their issues relieved his anxiety.
7. **Anaesthetics** - As a result Brett became an anaesthetist. What a lot of us did not know is that when you are anaesthetised, we stop breathing, therefore our lives are literally in the hands of the anaesthetist. He described how he keeps patients breathing whilst under anaesthetic. Someone then asked the question - what happens when the power goes out. So he explained all of that to us too with some interesting examples. Someone else decided that that was all a bit too much information. Anaesthetists are in high demand. Brett is off to Derby soon for 14 days on call. They are desperate for an anaesthetist. He also has to keep his hand in to keep his licence to practice as an anaesthetist valid.
8. **Denmark** - moving to this lovely little town has been another defining moment in Brett's life. They love it here and so does his family. His boys are now nearly all fully grown and love the surf as he does.



East Arnhem Land

East Arnhem Land is the size of Sri Lanka. It is all the land east of the Kakadu National Park. They went to Milingimbi Island. Brett went there in trepidation about what kind of a reception he would receive. He had grown up in Kalgoorlie and the relationship between the local indigenous people and white people was not good. However, when they arrived on Milingimbi they were met with big smiles on the faces of the people. From there he

serviced 12 major communities and 110 out stations (1-15 houses). He also went to Groote Island.



These are the Milingimbi people Brett worked among. That one in the middle worries me. Is he about to grab the snake by the tail and crack it like a whip?

You had to be not afraid of flying. There are lots of rivers there and you can't go anywhere without flying. Even in the dry season driving was limited. Brett lied to get the job, he was terrified of flying. He told the first pilot so, and the pilot sat him next to him and showed him how to fly the plane. After that Brett wasn't so scared.

Brett talked about some of the people who lived up north. He said there were two different tribes who lived very close to each other across the water, but they were completely different to each other. They spoke completely different languages and even looked different to each other. He found that surprising seeing that they lived so close to each other.

Most of the people Brett met up there could tell you the first time they met a white man. That was so different to Kalgoorlie where there had been contact between the two races for over 150 years; and even in Alice Springs they had been in contact for a long time. So these people are amongst the last aboriginal groups to meet white men.

Brett found that it was good to be in the allied health field at that time because doctors in the region were under a lot of stress because the amount of work. Also being a physiotherapist gave him the privilege of going to their homes. Mostly they did not like people going into their homes because quite often there were up to about 17 people living in any one house and it was not the most salubrious. So they would meet on the veranda or sit under a tree. He found that the people there were very good at just sitting still in a group; a skill that seems to be lost to our younger generations who are always doing something, listening to something, or using something. He discovered that it is a very pleasant thing to just sit in the company of people just listening to each other talk.

Brett very soon learnt that it was important to acquire some language to be able to communicate with his patients. The name of their languages is the same as the name of the people and is the same as their name for their land. In order for him to be accepted amongst them he was adopted by them, and they had a naming ceremony, and he was given all the names that a man should have. He has a skin name and a language name. He was also adopted by a woman who was seen as his mother. One of the first questions they



ask you is “Who is your mother?” They ask you that so that they can figure out how you fit into their society. When his parents visited him up there, the people also gave them names and assigned them to different skin groups. His mother was given a name that means green sea turtle, and his father was given one that means a lot of smoke. His father was not pleased with his name. He wanted something more macho like ‘crocodile’.

When the children are young, they learn the language of their mothers first. Then they learn the language of the grandmothers, then their country language. Only then when they have grown up a bit do they learn the language of their fathers, so by the time they grow up they know 4 languages. They have a very good auditory

memory, and they also had an excellent sign language. The people can hold an in-depth conversation from one end of a football field to the other by using sign language. Being able to communicate silently would be of great use when hunting.

They also have a strict system of skin groups which determined who you were permitted to marry. There are 16 different skin groups, 8 male and 8 female. It is a very clever system difficult for us to understand but it prevents people who are too closely related from marrying. He and his future wife were referred to as husband and wife even though they were not married at that time. It was good for them to be seen as being a couple. The people determined that he and his wife were of sufficiently different skin groups to marry.



Brett learned some of their language from a book written in 1940 by a woman who had worked amongst the people. The people had a lot of lung diseases for various reasons. The people had an excellent knowledge of anatomy because they are hunters; but their knowledge of diseases was not very good. Therefore, they did not have words for disease or other more detailed parts of anatomy. That made explaining to them what was wrong with them very difficult.

As an example he explained that when he was a first year medical student, he met one of the men he knew from Millingimbi in the Adelaide hospital. He was a well-respected elder amongst the people and could speak English well. So he thought that he would have no trouble understanding what he was in the hospital for. The man also said, yes, yes, he understood; but when the procedure to install a new artificial valve in his heart was over, he

was totally confused. He went to Brett and showed him his medication and said, what do I do with this. Well, at that stage Brett was only in 1st year, so he didn't know either. Also the man said "and I've got this cut in me" referring to the scar down his front. "What am I going to tell my children?" He didn't want to look stupid to his family. So although he said that he understood, he didn't understand what was really going to happen. That lack of understanding and inability to explain medical things to the people was, and still is, a major problem in administering medical aid to indigenous peoples.

HAPPENINGS:

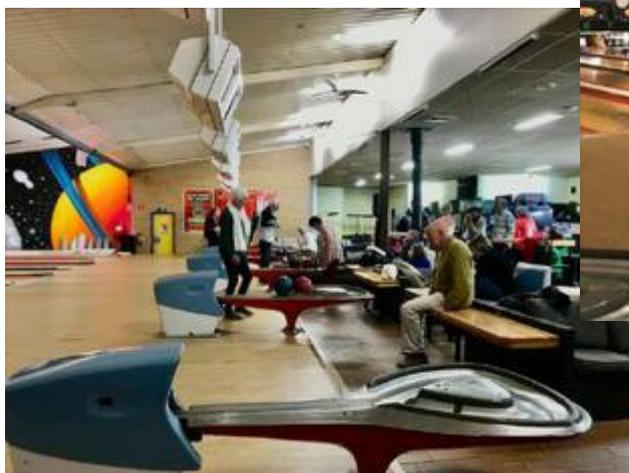
JULY 20 - TEN PIN BOWLING

Once again we went ten pin bowling; and again it was a lot of fun. My first ball was a Strike! But the machine did not recognise it, so that had to be



sorted out. The next was a spare, and the next 3 were zeros - sigh - so it goes.

Joy Hawes was worried because she was a novice, but she began to get the hang of it as we went on. So not knowing how to do it should be no barrier to anyone who might want to join us next time.



AUGUST 18 – DENMARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Last Thursday, about 20 of us visited the Denmark Historical Society and were given a very interesting talk by two of the members of the society, interjected by comments and memories from the audience. We then wandered around looking at all the exhibits.

I managed to cut myself on an old rusty Remington typewriter that was in an outside open sided shed. The keys were jammed, and I was just fixing them, but the ribbon carrier has sharp points on the top of it. It got me.

I was interested in the machine

because it was the same as one I had used at the Department of Taxation in Canberra during the school holidays when I was studying to become a secretary. I did not like it as well as the Olivetti I had at the college. Inside there was another Remington typewriter the same as the one in the shed in much better condition. I should have left well enough alone and waited.

The building that houses the exhibition is the former Police Station and there were several cells in there, now jam packed with memorabilia.



BLACK DOG RIDE

Four of our members went on the Black Dog Ride to raise awareness of mental health issues such as depression. They are Bev and Roger Seeney and Ros and Warrick Gates.

Maybe they will give a talk about their adventure some time.

Black Dog Ride- bikes being prepared for departure for the Ceduna to Port Augusta ride. RH bikes - yellow Warrick, dark red Roger.





Black Dog riding a kangaroo.
The 'roo almost seems to be thinking
“what's going on back there?”

Here are Ros and Warrick Gates on
their way back home.



For those with sharp eyes you might notice that the sign says :-



SOCIAL GROUPS



Wine Appreciation Group

Held every **4th Thursday** of the month at the Men's Shed.
For more information contact Peter Lumia



Fran's Coffee Mornings

Meets at **10:00** every **3rd Tuesday** of the month at various venues.
Next: **20 September - Bar Tarifa, 18 October - 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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

September 21st - Jonathon Hook Ceramics

10:00 am at 109 Lantzke Road, Scotsdale, WA.

Noon - Lunch at the Boston Brewery

October 19th - Tour of the Albany Entertainment Centre

11:00 am - 2 Toll Place, Albany.

Noon - Lunch onsite at The View - lunch needs to be pre-ordered.

Also keep the following Non-Probuss events in mind and support a local club.

DENMARK RIVERSIDE CLUB – QUIZ NIGHTS

Gather a table of 6 for our fun, winter quiz nights! Fun and Prizes!

We can help you make up a team if requested.

Dates

Friday **26th August**

Bar opens at 5:30 pm. To 8 pm. Cost \$10.00 pp

Bring along your own nibbles/supper to share on your table

To book, Email 1Riverside16@gmail.com or put your name on the list at the club as usual.

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

MY NEIGHBOR JUST YELLED AT HER KIDS SO LOUD THAT EVEN I BRUSHED MY TEETH AND WENT TO BED.

A blonde woman visits her husband in prison. Before leaving, she tells a correction officer:

"You shouldn't make my husband work like that. He's exhausted!"

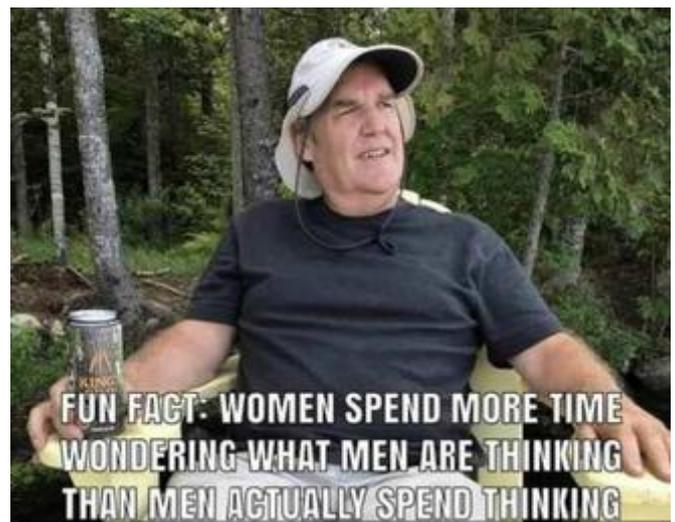
The officer laughs and says, "Are you kidding? He just eats and sleeps and stays in his cell!"

The wife replies:

"Bullshit! He just told me he's been digging a tunnel for months!"



	
JIM	JOE
Bachelors Degree in Philosophy	4 year paid apprenticeship
100K student debt	No student debt
Can't find a Philosopher job	Earns 80K annually
Believes people without college degrees are stupid	Disconnected Jim's electricity for non-payment



We live in a time where intelligent people are being silenced so that stupid people won't be offended.

Thank you to all who contributed jokes for the newsletter.