

Hello November

Message from the President

I just cannot believe that the end of the year is upon us. Where has all the time gone? As this is the last meeting this year we are in the run down to Christmas. The other day retailers were arguing about when Christmas decorations should be put up, and is it too early to put the Christmas tree up. For my pennysworth the middle of December is time enough.

I know some here have been planning their holiday overseas or in Australia to visit family and / or friends, or even the snow. No snow for me, give me sunny Queensland anytime. So when we trying to think of all the things we have to do before we go on holiday to visit family and friends or just to have a good time, remember at our age it won't be a holiday if we don't forget something, as long it is not your passport and ticket which you discover at the airport. As long as the blame game doesn't get out of hand and we read in the newspaper the next day "Murder in Airport Terminal."

Some of us are planning Christmas gatherings with family and friends and trying to sort out who does the turkey or ham and which in-law or out-law we are gathering at this year. There are also the various Christmas functions to attend, not only own Christmas gathering but various groups in the local area. I know that Liz and I have at least four different functions to go to which I am sure will be very nice but not good for the waist line. Which reminds me if you have not already put your name down for the National Seniors Christmas function at the Gailes Golf Club on November 30th, please do so and pay at November meeting so we can finalise numbers.

Now for those I don't manage to catch up with at the Christmas function, have a blessed Christmas and a great festive season, stay safe and keep well



NOVEMBER

- J. Beck B. Cowen
- M. Caldwell A. Wilkes

DECEMBER

- D. Cheer C. Kitching R. Walker
- E. Hobb J. Paszkiewicz C. Williams
- D. Hodgson E. Shauble

THE BLUE FIN COMMUNITY NIGHT

Tuesday 19th December
5:30pm - 8:00pm

For every main meal purchased over \$15.50 we will donate \$5.00 to our Local Community Organisation

This Week's Organisation is
FOREST LAKE NATIONAL SENIORS GROUP

Upcoming Events

November

Branch Meeting

DATE: Thursday 9th
WHERE: Hotel Richlands, 132 Government Road, Richlands
Remembrance Day (11th) Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Richards CSM
TIME: **Entry 9.30am**, 10.15am meeting starts
COST: \$8.00

Centenary Theatre Group Matinee

DATE: Sunday 19th
WHERE: Chelmer Community Centre
TIME: 2.00pm
COST: \$18

Branch Christmas Party

DATE: Thursday 30th
WHERE: Gailes Golf Club
TIME: 11.30 arrival for 12.00 start

Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Richards, CSM

Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Richards, CSM
Lieutenant Colonel Richards is a Cavalry Officer who has served in the Army for 35 years, including multiple operational deployments to Sinai, East Timor, Iraq, and Afghanistan. As a Major, he was seconded to the United States Army as a Cavalry operations instructor in the 16th US Cavalry Regiment, Fort Benning. He has had the privilege of command of ADF personnel as a Squadron Officer Commanding in the 2nd Cavalry Regiment; a Combat Team Commander in Iraq; a Task Group Commander for Operation Bushfire Assist and COVID Assist (Victoria); and the Battalion Commander of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment (Infantry). Lieutenant Colonel Richards was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal in the 1994 Queens Birthday Honours List for exemplary leadership and actions that saved the life of a soldier during a training exercise in the Northern Territory. For dedicated and exemplary service as a NATO Advisor to the Afghan National Army, he was awarded Joint Task Force Commander Silver Commendation. During his tenure with the United States Army, he was recognised for service to US Cavalry and awarded the Noble Patron of Armor Medal by the United States Army Armor Association. Lieutenant Colonel Richards is a graduate of Command and Staff College where he was awarded a Master of Military and Defence Studies from the Australian National University. He holds a postgraduate qualification in Management from the University of New South Wales. Shaun is married to Patricia and has two daughters, Amy and Hayley. During his spare time he enjoys golf, antiques, and the outdoors



We strongly encourage Members to pay via Internet banking or depositing payment over the counter at Heritage Bank Forest Lake.

Trips Payment

Bank Transfer & Direct Deposit

Account Name: National Seniors Australia Forest Lake Branch Inc

Bank account details: BSB-638 070
Acc No-12471674

Please include your name & event name on the transfer and receipt for identification.

Example – Smithx1Xmas party
Surname (Smith)
Number going (1)
Event (Branch Christmas Party)

EFTPOS

The Branch has a "Square card" hand-held EFTPOS machine to take payments. Members wishing to pay by card using this method can do so at Branch Meetings. Receipts will be emailed. Please note payment via this method will incur a surcharge of 1.9%.

Cash or Cheques

To assist the trips desk please write on an envelope:

Your name
Trip details
Payment amount
Dietary requirements

Joe Smith
Branch Christmas Party
\$ 50.00
Gluten Free

Seal your payment inside the envelope and hand it to the trip's desk.

Unless it is in an envelope as stated above the trips table will not accept any payment.

Full Payment will be due at the monthly meeting prior to the trip.

Branch Refund Policy

Cancellation of an outing

The branch policy for late cancellations. Notify the Secretary or Treasurer 48 hours beforehand. A Medical Certificate will be required to receive a refund if notification is 24 hours or less. In the case of a sudden medical emergency on the day which cannot be prevented, the Management Committee will consider the matter with respect to a refund.

When we have to book seats on a bus or give numbers for a booked luncheon and are still required to pay even in the case of a cancellation by a member a refund will not be provided. In the event of an activity/outing being cancelled due to some unforeseen circumstance beyond our control, eg: storm, transport breakdown, etc, and cannot be rescheduled, members will be refunded any monies paid.

REMEMBRANCE DAY



From the Activities Group

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2023

Thursday 12th General meeting with Spencer Howson – very entertaining.

Thursday 26th Café 63 Richlands – 26 have put their name down and Café with around 26 members attending – very successful.

NOVEMBER

Thursday 9th General meeting – Remembrance Day speaker – Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Richards CSM – his wife Patricia will be accompanying him.

Sunday 19th Centenary Theatre Group matinee – George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion – which led to the movie "My Fair Lady." Carpool, take a train for \$18.00 for 10 or more in a group, PAY AT THE DOOR. PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME DOWN IF ATTENDING – THIS MEETING

Thursday 30th Christmas lunch at Gailes Golf Club 299 Wilruna Street Wacol - \$50 for members and \$65.00 for non-members. Arrival time 11.30 am for 12.00 start. The Golf Club will aid those who require help with the stairs. There will be live music, and free raffle tickets to be given to members as they arrive. (Twenty-five \$20 gift vouchers, plus hampers from Cr Charles Strunk, Hon Milton Dick and Inala Electorate, will be included. LAST MINUTE NAMES/PAYMENT MUST BE AT THIS MEETING.

LAST MEETING FOR THE YEAR - CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY TO JULY 2024 WILL BE ON YOUR CHRISTMAS TABLE AT OUR LUNCH. (The calendar will be in our February 2024 Newsletter).

Dan Baldwin will be selling poppies/badges at our meeting, so bring extra cash to purchase to support



October Branch Meeting



Terrific meeting for October. Very well conducted by our new President Brian. We welcomed a new member. Celebrated October birthdays. Lucky Peter. Doubly lucky Linda winning the lucky door prize and one of the raffle prizes and Nora also winning the other raffle prize. We invited Spencer Howson (Don't let me do all the talking) as our guest speaker. What a thrill it was to listen to him. He is so engaging and gave us a bit of a insight into his career in both ABC and commercial radio and all sorts of other things he was involved in before radio. So hilarious and definitely would be the life of any party. Loved all the food photos. There was time afterwards for some members to ask Spencer questions and he was very generous with his time. Thanks to all MC and our merry band of volunteers. We are all very grateful that you make our Branch the very best. Its been a very busy week.

Café 63 Lunch

Lots of chatter and a good many laughs as we enjoyed our get together at Cafe 63



Newsletter, Agendas & Minutes of previous meetings

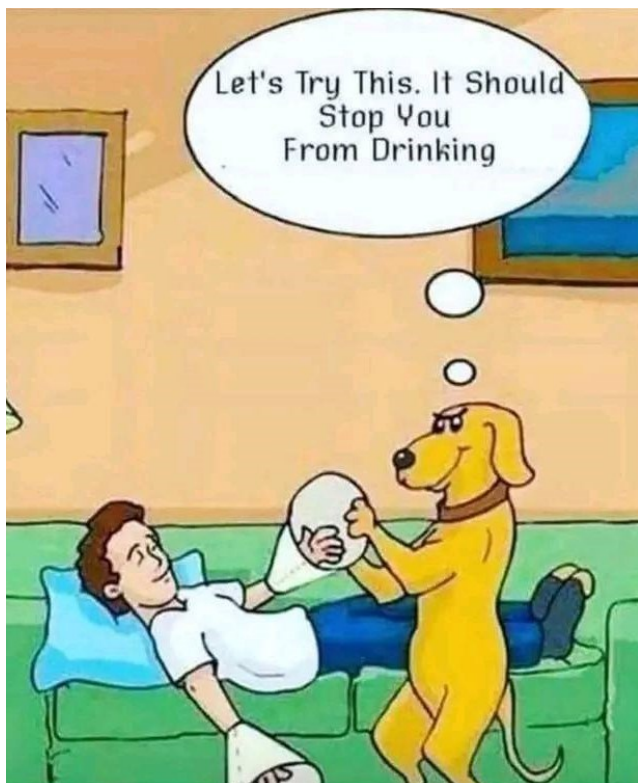
Email Members will be sent these in the pre-meeting email, **please print them out & bring with you if you wish to have a copy at the branch meetings**

Non-Email Members will have a copy of the newsletter reserved for them for pick up at the entry desk. The Newsletter is also available online at (nationalseniors.com.au/getinvolved/branches/forest-lake) & on our Facebook group page "Forest Lake Branch National Seniors Australia Group" If you are on Facebook go to the Branch Facebook Page (**Forest Lake National Seniors Australia**) and click on "Join Group"

Laughter is the best medicine



Instead of the John I call my bathroom the Jim!
That way it sounds better when I say I go to the Jim first thing every morning!!!



Riddle: I give milk and I have a horn, but I'm not a cow. What am I?

Answer to above puzzle will be disclosed at the November meeting.

BATTLE OF AMIENS August 1918

Under the welcome dark blanket of that August night

The Allied troops amassed almost without a sound

Each man on edge but prepared for the coming fight

As they lay in anticipation across the marshy ground

The allies received an added extra cover of defence

As in slow silence, a marsh mist rolled across the land

Bringing to the waiting troops, a heightened sense

Highlighting the importance of the battle near at hand

The allied troops were primed, fully battle, ready to go

Their sole aim was to push the enemy into retreat

To destroy the fighting spirit of their war-weary foe

An objective each allied soldiers was eager to

complete

At dawn the allied barrage erupted, the heaviest yet

A bombardment on the enemy designed only to destroy

Creating a battle nightmare that no-one could ever forget

With little or no answer that the weary enemy could deploy

Then came mortal face to face combat, violent but brief

With the rapid allied advance overcoming all

resistance

And so forcing their foe to make a rapid retreat for relief

With hundreds of enemy troops surrendering for existence

Day eight in August saw the greatest advance of the war

With a gain of eleven kilometres cutting a mighty swathe

Through the enemy's defences, more than leveling the score

And for the retreating army, it became their blackest day

For the next one-hundred days more battles were won

The allied troops pushing the retreating foe further back

And it soon became apparent that the war's end had begun

With the "Passage of the Grande Honnelle" the final attack

