

Hillarys & Districts Branch

The Branch meets at 10:00am on the first Wednesday of each month at the Flinders Park Community Hall, 137 Broadbeach Boulevard, Hillarys.

Postal address: PO Box 141 Hillarys 6923

www.nationalseniors.com.au

Proudly printed by

Jessica Stojkowski

Member for Kingsley

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August 2020 Newsletter – Issue 177

President's Report:

Well, what a turnout we had last month for our first post Covid meeting!

It just goes to show you how people feel the need to socialise. We are certainly not meant to operate in isolation for long periods of time, however enjoyable those couple of months were.

We have many special events coming up over the next few months so be sure to print off the calendar that our secretary has prepared for you so you don't miss out.

Please keep in mind that we are still very much Covid aware so please make sure that you:-

- continue to bring your hand sanitiser for your personal use.
- have the correct money for your entry (\$4.00) so you can just drop it

in the box at the table. We have no facilities to pay by card.



We have a very interesting speaker coming for our next meeting on August 5th.

Sherryn Reid, retired educator and co-founder of Adopt A School Western Australia, is coming

to speak to us about her involvement in the organisation. 'Adopt A School promotes partnerships between sister schools and their communities both in Bali and Western Australia, to enrich and support the educational environment for students and educators.'

It is also a program that I've been involved with, one way or another, for many years.

This will be an interesting topic and presentation so, if you have friends or relatives at home, bring them along.

Limelight Theatre Booking for Quartet

Our booking for Quartet is now on Friday 25th Of September, curtain up at 8pm.

I have emailed everyone who has expressed an interest or paid me the money for their bookings, so please check your email.

The cost of the tickets is \$18 (there was an error on the email regarding the ticket price.)

If you would like to join us for this performance please put \$18 into an envelope and write your name on the front and I will ensure that I book a ticket for you.

[These are the Political Alerts that have come across my next this month that may be of interest.](#)

MCGOWAN GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$36 MILLION FOR ELECTIVE SURGERY BLITZ (WA)

The McGowan Government will invest \$36 million towards an elective surgery blitz following the impacts of the pandemic. The significant boost will enable approximately 5,800 more elective procedures to be conducted by the end of this year than was projected prior to COVID-19. Western Australian health service providers will use a number of strategies to clear the elective surgery waitlists - extending the hours of operation in theatres to accommodate the extra patients on twilight and potentially weekend surgery

lists, increasing hours of work available to existing staff, and using additional staff if required.

AUSTRALIA'S COVIDSAFE APP AMONG SAFEST IN THE WORLD (FED)

Australia's COVIDSafe tracing app is one of the best and safest apps of its kind in the world, according to University of Adelaide cybersecurity experts who have been exploring the vulnerabilities of people-tracing apps. A team from the University of Adelaide's School of Computer Science has made the claim after assessing 34 of the world's COVID-19 contact tracing apps for security and privacy vulnerabilities. The team studied Android device tracing apps that have had more than 10,000 downloads each in different countries, as well as apps recommended by official authorities.

WHAT ABOUT DOWNSIZING OR RIGHTSIZING? From National Seniors Australia

The following is a letter to the editor in a recent copy of the West Australian Newspaper: I read with concern reports of all the grants being given to new-home builders. Has anyone considered the pensioners who are thinking of downsizing? Our superannuation has taken a severe hit with recent events, the share market is depressed, and banks are paying no interest or next to none. If we downsize, we are hit with stamp duty if we build or purchase a new home. Can some consideration be given to helping the plight of pensioners who are downsizing? I never received a first homeowner's grant and have never received help of any kind from the Government apart from my pension. If pensioners have never

been given any grants before, then these grants should apply to them also, and if the burden of stamp duty was lifted on downsizers, that would be of great help! Food for thought and we know NSA is advocating to this end for us.

If you would like any further information regarding the political reports please don't hesitate to contact me.
presidentnsahillarys@gmail.com

Stay Safe, Healthy and Happy

Cheryle Medcalf (President)

The following has been written by the late Douglas Adams of "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"

(Many of you will know this book, so I hope you enjoy this little read)

An Englishman's View of Australia!

"Australia is a very confusing place, taking up a large amount of the bottom half of the planet. It is recognisable from orbit because of many unusual features, including what at first looks like an enormous bite taken out of its southern edge; a wall of sheer cliffs which plunge into the girding sea. Geologists assure us that this is simply an accident of geomorphology, but they still call it the "Great Australian Bight", proving that not only are they covering up a more frightening theory but they can't spell either.

- The first of the confusing things about Australia is the status of the place. Where other landmasses and sovereign lands are classified as

continent, island or country, Australia is considered all three. Typically, it is unique in this.

- The second confusing thing about Australia is the animals. They can be divided into three categories: Poisonous, Odd, and Sheep. It is true that of the 10 most poisonous arachnids on the planet, Australia has 9 of them. Actually, it would be more accurate to say that of the 9 most poisonous arachnids, Australia has all of them.

Any visitors should be careful to check inside boots (before putting them on), under toilet seats (before sitting down) and generally everywhere else. A stick is very useful for this task.

- The last confusing thing about Australia is the inhabitants.

A short history : Sometime around 40,000 years ago some people arrived in boats from the north. They ate all the available food, and a lot of them died. The ones who survived learned respect for the balance of nature, man's proper place in the scheme of things, and spiders. They settled in and spent a lot of the intervening time making up strange stories. They also discovered a stick that kept coming back.

Then, around 200 years ago, Europeans arrived in boats from the north. More accurately, European convicts were sent, with a few deranged people in charge. They tried to plant their crops in autumn (failing to take account of the reversal of the seasons), ate all their food, and a lot of them died.

About then the sheep arrived, and have been treasured ever since. It is interesting to note here that the Europeans always consider themselves vastly superior to any other race they encounter, since they can lie, cheat, steal and litigate (marks of a civilised culture they say), whereas all the Aborigines can do is happily survive being left in the middle of a vast red-hot desert - equipped with a stick.

Eventually, the new lot of people stopped being Europeans on 'extended holiday' and became Australians. The changes are subtle, but deep, caused by the mind-stretching expanses of nothingness and eerie quiet, where a person can sit perfectly still and look deep inside themselves to the core of their essence, their reasons for being, and the necessity of checking inside their boots every morning for fatal surprises. They also picked up the most finely tuned sense of irony in the world, and the Aboriginal gift for making up stories. Be warned.

There is also the matter of the beaches. Australian beaches are simply the nicest and best in the world, although anyone actually venturing into the sea will have to contend with sharks, stinging jellyfish, stonefish (a fish which sits on the bottom of the sea, pretends to be a rock and has venomous barbs sticking out of its back that will kill just from the pain) and surfboarders. However, watching a beach sunset is worth the risk.

As a result of all this hardship, dirt, thirst and wombats, you would expect Australians to be a sour lot. Instead, they are genial, jolly, cheerful and always willing to share a kind word with a stranger. Faced with

insurmountable odds and impossible problems, they smile disarmingly while looking for a stick. Major engineering feats have been performed with sheets of corrugated iron, string and mud. Alone of all the races on earth, they seem to be free from the 'Grass is greener on the other side of the fence' syndrome, and roundly proclaim that Australia is, in fact, the other side of that fence. They call the land "Oz".

Covid-19 Safety Reminders

- everybody is responsible for their own health and safety, so if you are experiencing cold and flu like symptoms please stay home.
- No hugging for the time being
- try to be aware of social distancing in the hall.
- please bring hand sanitiser to the meeting and use it frequently.
- we are asking that everybody has a packet of alcohol based wet wipes in their bag to wipe down their chair before and after use.
- If you would like to bring your own mug for tea or coffee please feel free to do so and take it home to be washed.

The Committee will ensure that other surfaces and equipment are cleaned thoroughly before and after use. If we are all vigilant then we can ensure that we all remain healthy.

HILLARYS AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF NATIONAL SENIORS AUSTRALIA OVER THE YEARS

National Seniors Australia – Hillarys & District Branch

In early 2004, members of National Seniors who lived in Hillarys and surrounding suburbs were invited to attend a meeting at the Hillarys Yacht Club. The purpose of the meeting was to ascertain whether there was support for establishing a new branch. There was a good attendance at this meeting (70 to 80 people) and a number of those attending indicated they were prepared to assist in the establishment of not one but two branches. It was proposed that one would be a day branch, the other an evening one.

A formation meeting for the day branch was then held at the Whitfords Tavern in March 2004. In attendance were State Branch Development Officer Rosemary Charsley, along with David Haimes, Glen Moore and Hazel Norris. Despite the small number in attendance, it was decided to proceed with the formation of a new branch of National Seniors that would meet during mornings. The branch was to be called Hillarys and District Branch. Glen Moore and David Haimes agreed to nominate as President and Secretary, respectively, of the new branch. Subject to a suitable venue being found, meetings were to be held on the first Wednesday of the month.

Subsequently, Rosemary Charsley was able to secure the Flinders Park Community Hall on Broadbeach Blvd Hillarys as the meeting place. The inaugural meeting was held on Wednesday 7th April 2004. There were 14 people in attendance at this meeting and from these a committee of nine was formed.

The original Committee was as follows:

President Glen Moore

Vice President Shirley Innes
Secretary David Haimes
Treasurer Geoff Glew
Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator Jan Smith

Meeters and Greeters: Veronica Brusaschi, Wendy Lunt, Hazel Norris

General Committee: Ron Smith

The Branch was incorporated on 2nd September 2004.

Meanwhile, an evening branch to cater for people still in the workforce and known as Hillarys Sunset was also formed. Initially, it held its meetings at Hillarys Yacht Club, where members were able to partake of a meal. The evening branch has gone through changes of name and meeting venue over the years and is now known as Northern Districts Sunset.

Our branch was slow to grow at first but eventually we were to see 30 or 40 or more members attending our meetings. That the branch has been able to continue for more than 16 years is due to it always having a group of people willing to take on leadership roles. Sadly, many of the branches that were around when ours was established no longer function. The reason? No one was prepared to fill the leadership roles.

A highlight of our time as a branch was when we hosted the 2010 Zone Conference at Hillarys Yacht Club. It proved to be a very successful day and our membership grew as a result.

Another highlight was in 2016 when we celebrated our 12th anniversary at our April meeting. It coincided with the 40th anniversary of National Seniors Australia. Prior to the meeting, we arranged for Head Office to send out an invitation to members of National Seniors who lived within our area. We also engaged the services of Alan Mannings from Curtin Radio, who gave a nostalgic presentation of video and music from our younger years. Some 57 people attended our meeting, including at least a dozen who had never been to our branch before. This stands as the record attendance at one of our meetings.

With the branch presently in the hands of excellent leadership, I am confident it will continue for many years to come.

David Haimes

Membership Renewals and Name Badges

On renewal (*please note the fee increases*),

- 1 year memberships are available for \$45 for a single membership, or \$75 for a joint membership.
- 2-year membership is available for \$80 for a single member, or \$125 for a joint membership.
- 5-year membership is available for \$195 for a single member, or \$295 for a joint membership.

If you cannot attend a branch meeting, the membership amount with your details can be sent to our PO Box address. Members are able to pay by *cheque*, money order or credit details.

To order a name badge, please contact our Treasurer. **For those who have paid you can pick up your badge from the Treasurer.**

Payments to our Treasurer

If you wish to pay by giving cash to our Treasurer you must include the payment slip that you received in the mail from the NS head office advising you that your membership payment was due.

For those members that use internet banking, you can use your Banking Institution Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) facility to pay for Membership Renewals, name badges, events that require prepayment, etc.

BSB: 036-226

A/C: 24-9794

Include Surname and keyword in the transfer, if possible.

If you wish to use this facility and have not used EFT before or you have any problems please contact a committee member.

Member's Welfare

If you become aware of a member experiencing a problem such as illness please contact one of the Committee members. Thank you to the members that have been giving information from the emails to those who don't have an email address.

If you are aware of a death of one of our past or present members could you please notify the President or Secretary. An email can then be sent with regard to funeral arrangements to

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our members who wish to pay their respects.

Members celebrating birthdays for August



4th August: Patricia Eardley
12th August: Marianne Ezzy
7th August: Janette Hooker
24th August: Jan Jones
25th August: Roslyn Loadsman
2nd August: Joe Varischetti

Wishing you all a very happy birthday filled with love, laughter, pressies and cake.

For Your Calendar

Next Meeting – 10am Wednesday 5th of August. Followed by lunch at Mia Cucina at the Hillarys Boat Harbour.

Speaker: Sherryn Reid

Topic: Adopt A School

Social Events

Monthly lunch – A time to have a social get together lunch with a bunch of your fellow members and friends.

When: Wednesday 12th August
Where: Lotus Court Chinese, Woodvale
Time: 11:30am

Put your name on the attendance list at the next meeting or phone/text Jan on 0407 426 191

Monthly Dinner – A time for members to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or just “celebrate life” with a bunch of your fellow members and friends.

When: Saturday 22nd August
Where: Harbour Terrace bar & Grill, Hillarys Boat harbour
Time: 6pm

Please contact Nita (Mobile Ph 0400 063 143) if you wish to attend.

Monthly Morning Tea – Please join Judy Varischetti and other Branch members in a pleasant morning of stimulating conversation. Please wear your name badge. Friends are also most welcome.

When: Friday 21st August
Where: Shingle Inn at Whitford Shopping Centre
Time: 10am

A heads up for our Christmas Lunch



Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 2 December 2020 - 9am – 3.30pm

Christmas at Dwellingup Hotel - Venue booked.

Bus will pick up at Whitford Library departing at 9am. Gives us parking.

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Morning tea in Pinjarra Evandale Homestead supplied by Club 55. Visit the craft shop.

Journey continues to Dwellingup, with interesting commentary on the history of the area

including the old POW camp. Free time to check out interesting craft shops in Dwellingup

before sitting down for lunch at the Dwellingup Hotel.

NSA Branch subsidy is \$9 making Member price \$55 and Non Member \$64.

Please indicate your intention to attend by adding your name to list at outing table. We also suggest payments can be made over the next few months to help with the budgeting.

Place money in an envelope, with your name, and dietary requirements on the front, and

hand to Joe our Treasurer who will keep a register of payments made.

Optus Stadium outing that is planned for Sunday 15 November at 3pm.

Jan has just found out that we can't book until they reopen their booking system.

Further information will be provided when made available.

Helpful Information

Elder Abuse Helpline WA: 1300 724 679
Seniors Card (WA): 6551 8800
Centrelink (Retirement): 132 300
Employment Services: 132 850
Seniors Info Services: 6551 8800
Older People's Rights Services:

9440 1663

Aged Care Complaints Commissioner:
1800 550 552

National Carer Gateway:
1800 422 737

Dept of Veterans Affairs: 133 254
Dementia Australia - 1800 100 500.

WA Scam Internet Site:

www.scamnet.wa.gov.au

Newsletter Submissions:

Newsletter will continue to be sent out while the club is in recession provided that there is something of interest to our members to put in them.

All Submissions for the September Newsletter need to be in by the 25th of July.

BRANCH CONTACTS

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