

# National Seniors Australia ~ Centenary Branch

## JULY 2020- Newsletter

### Presidents Report

This corona virus has taught us many things such as – we can live without new clothes, hairdressers, fingernail shops and that we can stay in our pj's for as long as we like on any given day, snacks are good and tea/coffee can be had at any time BUT we cannot live without social contact. Now is the time to get the phone number of the person you would like to know better and follow through with it. To have a friend you must be a friend and that means you have to put in a bit of an effort. Friends keep you sane during pandemics.

We are working towards a meeting in September.

**BIRTHDAYS:** - We take this opportunity to wish all who have celebrated birthdays during the isolation period, a very belated Happy Birthday.

**MEETINGS:** Until further advice from the health department, with regard to social Clubs meetings, we are still unable to get together and in regard to morning tea..who knows, because nobody can touch anything; so full meetings are a way off yet. This newsletter is simply a way of keeping in touch and letting you know that the committee is still being active in keeping up to date with the happenings.

**MAH-JONG** - Geoff has been in touch with the library, which although open, cannot provide the room for meetings and/or mah-jong.

**STEADY STEPS** - Monday morning Steady Steps exercise group has restarted, adhering to the social distancing rules, so bookings are essential with Ron Daniels 0412 552 885.

**COACH TOURS** - Ann has contacted Cross Country Coaches, although we can now travel within Queensland it's hard to socially distance on a bus. They are looking at maybe doing a coach trip in September to Awassi Cheesery. (maybe limited to 20 people).

**LUNCHEES & DINNERS** - July 16<sup>th</sup> is booked at Monier Hotel for 12noon. They will be back to having our usual 20. Any queries contact Cheryl 0407 597 812

**MOUNT OMMANEY HEART FOUNDATION WALKING GROUP** - has restarted, abiding by the distancing rules. Contact Keryn at Mt Ommaney Centre Management for further information.

**BOOK CLUB** - of course, is still a no-go as you'd have to shout at each other from 2 metres away, Pauline on 3712 0430 can keep you updated with this.

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION AT MOUNT OMMANEY** - has the same disadvantage as the book club, until social distancing no longer applies the centre will not permit groups to meet there. Marlene Worthington held a small group at her home, contact her on 0421 326 439 to see if there is space available for the next one to be held on the last Tuesday of the month.

**COMPUTER TUTORING** - On a more positive note Frances Bertrand has informed me that she is available for digital tutoring – in your home with your device – she can be contacted on 0408 638 079. This is Frances's own time and expertise so by all means, if you have the need, this is a most generous offer.

**AGM** – I know I have mentioned this previously but I don't want to play president anymore. In the hope a September meeting will happen attached is a Nomination Form. Please complete and bring to the next meeting.

**PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS** - Keep saving those plastic bottle tops – they are used to make prosthetic limbs for children.

**USED SPECTACLES**- Collect these also for recycling.

**FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS** - Janet Sypkens has posed an interesting topic – i.e. where is the origin of the more common foods sold in our supermarkets. Does anyone have any contacts for a future speaker re labelling?

#### **A little humour:**

1. I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch them with a 6 foot pole would become the national rule, but look now.
2. Do not call the police on suspicious people in your area, it's just the neighbours without makeup and hair-do's.
3. Does anyone know if we can shower yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
4. I swear I just heard my fridge say "Now what the heck do you want"?
5. Isolation has turned us into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for snacks, we're told "No" if we get too close and we're really excited about car trips.

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## **MEMBER PROFILE:**

### **QUEENIE SMITH A TEN POUND POM**

My name is Queenie Smith and I would like to tell you how I became a Ten Pound Pom. My husband Reg worked as a Security Courier for Lloyd's Bank in London and during his daily rounds met many people from all around the world.

One day he spoke to an Australian who told him what a great country it was to live in and what opportunities there were for a better life for us and the children. A few weeks later Reg came home with papers to be signed for Immigration to Australia, I was very surprised and a bit reluctant at first as my parents were in their 70's and I wasn't going to move to Australia and leave them behind.

Then the process started medicals for all of us at Australia House in London and thankfully my parents passed theirs and we were all cleared for travel to Australia. My brother who lived in Toowoomba Qld went guarantor for my mum and dad because of their age, once all the interviews were finished we were approved for assisted passage on The Fairstar at L10.00 per adult leaving South Hampton on 12th May 1966.

The voyage took 6 weeks passing through the Bay of Biscay where nearly all the Passengers had sea sickness and the Suez Canal stopping at the Port of Aiden. At the time it was being patrolled by British Soldiers with machine guns prior to the Six Day War that commenced in June 1967 and it was pretty scary. My husband myself and my eldest daughter went ashore to do some shopping and with the help of a friendly British Soldier found a Jewellers where Reg bought me a beautiful Alexandria stone ring. My other 2 girls were at the time in the ships hospital with Glandular Fever and missed out on the excitement. Then on to Fremantle, Melbourne and arriving in to the port of Brisbane on the 23'd June, 1966.

We were pleased to be on solid ground after so long on the ship and we were looking forward to plain old beans on toast or any simple food as the meals on board were very nice but also very rich. I finish by saying that moving to Australia was one of the best decisions I have made in my life.

## **MEMBER PROFILE:**

### **CAROL UREN**

Tilbury Docks, London, England. December 28<sup>th</sup> 1968.

There is 2ft of snow on the ground. It's freezing cold. Along with my husband, Robert, Judy our daughter age 5, son Richard age 3 and son Michael at age 1, waiting to board HMS Himalaya, bound for Australia, host migrant ship.

One month at sea. On the way over stopped over in Lisbon, Las Palmas and Cape Town. Arrived in Sydney on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Went to Brisbane to Wacol Migrant Centre, only stayed a few weeks, then rented our first house in Cornwall Street, Annerley.

A year later moved again and started to buy our first home. We worked hard to pay it off. The children grew up, went to school, left home, got married, and had their own families.

After 40 years of working I retired to an over 50's village and made good friends and neighbours. I joined Centenary National Seniors and have always enjoyed the friendship and people of Seniors.

Have now five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

I can honestly say I have no regrets in coming to Australia.

**Our thanks to Sarah Hutton, Councilor for Jamboree Ward,  
for the provision of photocopying facilities.**

**NATIONAL SENIORS ASSOCIATION CENTENARY BRANCH INC**

**NOMINATION FOR OFFICE**

**We wish to nominate .....**

**For the position of .....**

**PROPOSER.....**

**SECONDER .....**

**I AGREE TO THIS NOMINATION:**

**SIGNED ..... NSA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER**

**ADDRESS ..... .....**

**.....**

**..... TELEPHONE: .....**

**NOMINATION RECEIVED ..... SECRETARY .....**