

# National Seniors Australia ~ Centenary Branch

## SEPTEMBER 2020- Newsletter

### Presidents Report

If nothing happens between now and October we should have music for that meeting.

Spring has sprung so get something into a pot for our Hugh Colebatch plant sale in October. Obviously, with borders being slammed shut our Lightning Ridge trip is once again postponed.

**Wisdom:** In case you are feeling a bit “low” because of the pandemic, know that you are the only one of you in the entire world and you are just perfect.

**AGM – This Newsletter is going out as the AGM. All positions are open. With this Newsletter you will have the annual Audit Report, President’s Report and nomination form. Please return completed Nomination Forms, asap to the Secretary, c/- PO Box 470 Mt Ommaney 4074. If you would like to read the full 19 page Financial Report, please contact Geoff Harvey.**

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

**MAH-JONG** - Geoff to advise.

**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, We will be doing a day coach trip to Awassi Cheesery at Grantham, on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, leaving Bowls Club at 8.45am. There will be social distancing on the coach. Cost \$55 (no increase as yet to our trips). Please contact Ann Tupicoff 3376 3760 (0432 630 721) if you will be going.

**LUNCHESES & DINNERS** - Our monthly lunches are back to normal – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month 12noon at Monier Hotel.

If anyone is interested in having a dinner on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 6pm, at Café 63 Westlake, please contact Jenny Olive 0422 886 661.- we must have at least 20 people.

**XMAS LUNCH** – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020- Monier Hotel.

**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** - Due to circumstances beyond her control, Pauline Brennan is no longer able to run the Book Club. If anyone is interested in continuing the Book Club please contact Marjorie Green 3376 2030.

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION** - Contact Marlene Worthington on 0421 326 439 to see when this can resume 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.

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

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

### **A little humour:**

Paddy staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking buddy. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Kathleen. He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful. Managing not to yell, Paddy sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his butt cheeks were cut and bleeding.

He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood. He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed..

In the morning, Paddy woke up with searing pain in both his head and butt and Kathleen staring at him from across the room. She said, 'You were drunk again last night weren't you?' Paddy said, 'Why you say such a mean thing?' 'Well,' Kathleen said, 'it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly it's all those Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror.'

**MEMBER PROFILE:****BEV HOCKER**

Having grown up in Australia, moving to Alaska in 1971 was an incredible shock to the human body, it's a grand thing that I was young and in love with my new husband. His parents had been allocated a parcel of land there, in the 1950's when the government was trying to increase its population, you had to build a house and improve the property and it became yours. I was adventurous to give it a go when he suggested we have a couple of years in his country before having a family. The land of the midnight sun – you lose 3 minutes a day of light in the winter until it gets to the point at midday its dusk, and gain 3 minutes in the summer until midnight looks like dusk. In winter your car tyres freeze square on the bottom and you thump down the ice slicked road until they warm enough to round out again. You have to put a device on your car engine (like an electric blanket idea) to keep the oil/grease from freezing) – all fun if you grew up in the tropics. I've eaten black bear, mountain goat, moose, salmon until I can't look at it and every fish created. I mushed a dog team, ice fished, fly fished, panned for gold in a place call Talkeetna (which is now a famous tourist destination), cross country skied and tried snow shoeing.

I'll never forget driving home from work one day, about 8 month pregnant, in a snow storm like I hadn't seen before, I slid off the road into a ditch full of snow. I was able to get out & started to walk home but this storm was one they call a "white out" you can't see anything – everything is just white, bl ..... dy cold. Obviously I was found, cause I'm here, but I then learned that you must stay in your car. Fine time they picked to tell me. I had tears frozen to my face for hours.

Another time, in summer, we went glamping in our new motor home with another couple in their new motor home, the first day was wonderful, a picnic near a creek, a spot for kids to paddle, a place for the men to fish..nice. Night falls and we go to our vehicles and while cooking dinner I see a "thing" pass the window. The thing had to be about 8 – 9 feet tall and as I started to get the jitters our fellow campers burst in through the door – the grizzly bear was rocking their camper.

We built, and I mean with hammer & nails, our house on Mount Susitna, just above Anchorage, and after about 4 years had the opportunity to buy a business in Tok, 92 miles from the Canadian border on the Alaskan side, we had one of 2 grocery/general stores in the area and the government contract to bus the kids to school, in particular the Indian kids from 3 villages – my run was to Mentasta, which was south about 1 hour, Bob's run was Tetlin, about half way to the Canadian border and hired help did Tetlin. These were Tlingit, Aleuts and Athapaskan Indians and I don't think they were keen on each other. After we finished the bus run we opened the store, we also did licensing for the natives subsistence fishing/hunting.

I've had some wonderful times during my nearly 10 years (4 in around Anchorage and 5 1/2 in Tok) and some.....horrific times. We returned with 2 children and settled back in Brisbane and I thank God every day that I don't have to plug my car in, shovel snow, walk through white-outs and get dressed like an eskimo just to put the rubbish out. Alaska has changed over the years, my life there was the 70's, Tok now isn't what it was, my daughters have been back and it's pretty much a deserted town, a hotel, gift shop, petrol station and little else.

I have often said I know how they live in Alaska but I'll be jiggered if I know why.

**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 .....**

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