

# National Seniors Australia ~ Centenary Branch

## APRIL 2021 - Newsletter

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good morning members – this time last year we were not allowed out so it's lovely to be where we are now, not completely free yet but heading that way. Good work Queenslanders.

The Thai Restaurant in Curragundi Road was enjoyed by 21 people including our new members Richard & Bev and Jacqui & Simon– service a bit slow as only 2 on staff – but lovely food. Lunch is \$10.90 if you are looking for a place, plenty of parking out the back.

As per normal our coach trip was a great day out and it was pleasing to see so many join in the fun, one of the highlights was cruising around “Notorious” a boat used in the movie starring Johnnie Depp. Google it.

You will recall from last meeting Jo Murray advised that the Monier Hotel has granted mahjong players an area on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, (5<sup>TH</sup>) Thursdays from 10:00 am; I expect Monier hopes you will stay to lunch.

Great to see Mary Colebatch running around again: some news regarding Monica Chester is that she has been admitted to 2 Jacobs Court, Sinnamon Village for some respite and assessment as a temporary measure – more on this as it comes to pass. Evidently, she is doing really well.

32 of us eagerly await our trip to Lightning Ridge leaving 11<sup>th</sup> April. I would like to recoup my costs – so if I bring back some bottles of water from the “fountain of youth” any takers? (I joke, of course)

As a personal request I am looking for a couple of old push bikes – any laying around?

April Entertainment by Noel Stallard – Bush Poet

**BIRTHDAYS:** Best wishes are extended to all our valued members celebrating birthdays during April. We hope you have a wonderful day.

**MANY HAPPY RETURNS**



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Lightning Ridge Trip - 11<sup>th</sup> April – 17<sup>th</sup> April .

COACH TRIP - TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY – Caboolture Historical Village is now NOT available. We will however be going to Redlands Museum. Departure 8.30am from JBC.

NB. – Monier Lunch will be 22<sup>nd</sup> April (not usual 15<sup>th</sup>) due to Lightning Ridge trip.

## CONTACTS

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MAHJONG	JUDY HUNOLD/JO MURRAY	3378 4935/ 0406413836
STEADY STEPS /CHANGES TO ADDRESS/PH NOS	HUGH	3376 1371
HEART FOUNDATION WALKING MT OMMANEY	SEE DOREEN FLYNN	
MUSIC AT THE HUB	MARJORIE	3376 2030

CENTENARY WEBPAGE <https://nationalseniors.com.au/get-involved/branches/centenary>.

*Do you know of any Centenary Seniors members who are unwell? Often we do not know of anyone who has been unwell or in hospital. If you know of any members please call Carol Uren on 0415 722 940. Meetings are first Tuesday each month, February to October, except November (first Wednesday) at the Jindalee Bowls Club at 9.30am. Secretary: Cheryl Williams. P.O. Box 470 Mt Ommaney.*

At last, confirmation of Murphy's Law with a wonderful Irish explanation.

Murphy drops some buttered toast on the kitchen floor and it lands butter-side-up. He looks down in astonishment, for he knows that it's a law of nature of the universe that buttered toast always falls butter-side-down.

So he rushes round to the presbytery to fetch Father Flanagan. He tells the priest that a miracle has occurred in his kitchen. But he won't say what it is, so he asks Fr. Flanagan to come and see it with his own eyes. He leads Fr. Flanagan into the kitchen and asks him what he sees on the floor.

"Well," says the priest, "it's pretty obvious. Someone has dropped some buttered toast on the floor and then, for some reason, they flipped it over so that the butter was on top."

"No, Father, I dropped it and it landed like that!" exclaimed Murphy.

"Oh my Lord," says Fr. Flanagan, "dropped toast never falls with the butter side up. It's a miracle. Wait... it's not for me to say it's a miracle. I'll have to report this matter to the Bishop and he'll have to deal with it. He'll send some people round; to interview you, take photos, etc."

A thorough investigation is conducted, not only by the archdiocese but by scientists sent over from the Curia in Rome. No expense is spared. There is great excitement in the town as everyone knows that a miracle will bring in much needed tourism revenue.

**Then, after 8 long weeks and with great fanfare, the Bishop announces the final ruling.**

**"It is certain that some kind of an extraordinary event took place in Murphy's kitchen, quite outside the natural laws of the universe. Yet the Holy See must be very cautious before ruling a miracle. All other explanations must be ruled out.**

**Unfortunately, in this case, it has been declared "No Miracle", because they think that Murphy may have buttered the toast on the wrong side!**

### **MEMBER PROFILE – BRIAN OLD**

**I was born and raised in Northampton England. On completing my school years at Northampton Grammar School my working life commenced with a 5 year apprenticeship as a Quantity Surveyor.**

**At the end of this period I was called to do 2 years National Service with the Army. This had been deferred for a couple of years because of my apprenticeship.**

**Following this I returned to work with the same building company and a month later Valerie and I were married. Soon after that the company transferred me to their Wiltshire Office.**

**A few months later I obtained work with a London company and went out to Nairobi Kenya where they had a contract to build a large complex for the British Army. This was a self-contained town/small city consisting of houses, shops, schools, church, parks etc. Soon after this work was completed the country obtained independence and the whole project was handed over to the Kenya Government.**

**We then moved to Tanganyika where I was employed by a Dar-es-Salaam company to manage their Mwanza office. Mwanza, on the shores of Lake Victoria 1146 km from the capital is a small township – or it was then. The projects I dealt with were mainly road and bridge building Bailey Bridges.**

**Every rainy season the storms were so severe that just about every bridge was swept away and the whole process started again. Because of the nature of the terrain we were never able to fully solve the problem.**

**After about 10 years in Africa we returned to England when our daughter was 9 months old. There I worked in the Architects Dept of the Greater London Council. Part of my work involved the restoration/preservation of historical buildings.**

**After 10 years in England we applied to emigrate to New Zealand. This happened to be the year they had stopped assisted passages etc so it proved to be an expensive and long process before we were approved a year later.**

**On arrival in New Zealand we lived in Hamilton and then Rotorua, the thermal area, where I was Property Manager for the Ministry of Education covering the Bay of Plenty area.**

**Two years after a heart attack I took early retirement and a couple of years after that we sold up and moved to Brisbane.**

### **MEMBER PROFILE – VALERIE OLD**

**I was born in Northampton England, spent my school years there and started my working life there.**

**When I was 15 I met Brian, now my husband, at the local Youth Club and we got engaged when I was 17. Following Brian's return from 2 years National service we were married 4 days after my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.**

**Not long after this we moved to Swindon, Wiltshire for Brian's work and I was employed by the same company.**

**The following year Brian obtained work with a London company and started a new life working in Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. I joined him 3 months later. There I worked for a company that supplied equipment to the Williamson Diamond Mine. Unfortunately no samples from the mine.**

**We then moved to Mwanza, Tanganyika, a small township on the shores of Lake Victoria, again for Brian's work. We had 1 train service a week, a 3 day journey to the capital, Dar-es-Salaam. I ferry service a week, 2 ½ days from Kisumu, Kenya, and 1 or 2 small aircraft a week. In addition to passengers all of these, hopefully, brought in supplies.**

**It was a cotton growing area, all hand picked by the local African women. I was employed by the Cotton, Lint & Seed Marketing Board. One of the few employment opportunities there for European women.**

**The United Nations also had an office there with a small task force. It was a potential plague area so the situation was constantly monitored.**

**As Tanganyika was a British Colony the police force hierarchy were all British, the constables being from the local African population. As Mwanza was a small police force they employed Special Police Constable volunteers from within the European community. As it turned out only 2 people volunteered – myself and another lady. I was employed for evening and weekend work. For this I received the princely sum of Shillilingi Moja – 1 African Shilling a week. The police work was in addition to my day time job. My duties would be to man the radio with the occasional trip out to the outlying islands in the police launch – a little wooden boat. It was during my time with the police that I learnt to drive and shoot..**

**I believe Mwanza has changed a great deal over the years the location attracting foreign investment. During our time in Tanganyika the country obtained independence and the name was changed to Tanzania, a combination of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.**

**Our daughter was born there and we returned to live in England when she was 9 months old. And so ended about 10 years of a quite different life.**

**After 10 years of English village life, living in a 600 year old cottage, we again packed our bags and headed to New Zealand where we lived in the North Island for almost 25 years.**

**We arrived in Brisbane, September 2000. We hoped to be a support for our daughter whose first child was born with health problems. She came to Brisbane when she was 17 and will be 54 this year.**

**Brian and I are 86 and 84 this year, married for 63 years, so Brisbane is where we will end our days, while enjoying being National Seniors members.**

## CALENDAR 2021

### APRIL 2021

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	MahJong	9-12noon	Cancelled – 3 day lockdown	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	9.30am	Jindalee Bowls Club	\$5
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	MahJong	9-12noon	The Hub	
SUNDAY 11 <sup>TH</sup> – SATURDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup>	TRIP TO LIGHTNING RIDGE	7AM	JINDALEE BOWLS CLUB.	
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lunch - 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs April	12noon	Monier Hotel Darra	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee & Conversation	10am	Mt Ommaney Food Court	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	1pm	President's home	

### MAY 2021

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting	9.30am	Jindalee Bowls Club	\$5
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	MahJong	9-12noon	The Hub	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	MahJong	9-12noon	The Hub	
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Coach Trip- Redlands	8.30am JBC	Jindalee Bowls Club	\$60
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch	12noon	Monier Hotel Darra	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee & Conversation	10am	Mt Ommaney Food Court	
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	1pm	President's home	

### JUNE 2021

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	General Meeting	9.30am	Jindalee Bowls Club	\$5
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	MahJong	9-12noon	The Hub	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Dinner	6PM	Thai Rest. Curragundi Rd.	
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	MahJong	9-12noon	The Hub	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Coach Trip	8am.	Jindalee Bowls Club	\$60
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch	12noon	Monier Hotel Darra	
Monday 21 <sup>nd</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9am for 9.15am	Cent.Uniting Church Hall	\$7
Tuesday 29 <sup>h</sup>	Coffee & Conversation	10am	Mt Ommaney Food Court	
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	1pm	President's home	