

Greensborough Gossip

Greensborough Branch Newsletter

Branch No. 100133 Incorporation No. A0044936A

April 2022 — Editor Marlene Goodyear

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hi Everyone,

After an absence of almost two years the Greensborough branch is starting to resume its Activities program.

Activities planned to date are:

- Blackwood/St Erthe Garden
- Werribee Range Zoo

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have been on the Blackwood trip.

Our 3 groups for King Island have all arrived home safely and haven't stopped raving about their wonderful experiences.

See combined report & group photos of the 3 KI trips — pages 5 & 6.

The Travel Committee is willing to organise a 4th group tour later in the year and if you are interested please contact either Marg Wood or Lorraine Oaten. Min Nos required 6x.

Reminder re Branch Excursions:

I would like to re-acquaint members with our booking process.

Members need to pay a \$20.00 deposit if they wish to go on an excursion. When you put your name down on a list at a branch meeting, Peter and I will assume you are going on that excursion. Sometimes people change their mind for one reason or another and don't let us know. We usually find this out when we are chasing members for full payment. However in the meantime we have ordered a bus to accommodate a certain number.

This means we then have to approach the bus company to negotiate a smaller bus, or even cancel the trip if we cannot make the minimum number.

Of course there are always unforeseen circumstances for cancellations and this is taken into consideration.

The bus companies are getting tougher however and their policy is not to re-fund monies if they receive a cancellation less than one week prior to the trip.

So please be proactive and let us know as soon as possible if you have change of mind and decide not to go on a particular trip so ends my pep talk for this month.

Monthly Morning Coffee Club:

After many years Gaylynn Pinniger has decided to relinquish her role as Organiser of the Coffee Club. Gaylynn did a great job and we thank her for introducing us to various local cafes and haunts around the area that we didn't know existed.

If anyone is interested in taking on this role please contact Marlene. A suggestion was made that we select one venue to meet, rather than trying to source a different venue each month.

Regards. Bob Goodyear

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Management Committee
2021/2022

President/Activities Officer

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Email: r.m.goodyear@bigpond.com

Vice President/Activities Officer

Peter Oaten 9434 6795 / 0400 317 279

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Lorraine Oaten 9434 6795 / 0449 594 301
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Marlene Goodyear 9435 2529 / 0418 974 095
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David Hewett 9459 0653
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Membership Officer

Ken Pickett 9435 0076

Fundraising Officers

John Brook 0488 968 654
Ian Schuck 9434 3839

Asst. Membership Officer/Travel Committee Coordinator

Marg Wood 9438 4219 / 0412 687 844

Speakers Sub-Committee

Bob & Marlene Goodyear, Gaylynn Pinniger

Welfare Officer

Judy Harvey 9401 6752

Door Attendant/Registration

Anne Schuck 9434 3839

Travel Committee:

Marg Wood - **Coordinator**, Bob & Marlene Goodyear, Lorraine Oaten, Ian Schuck

To members celebrating a birthday this month



Greensborough Branch

Email Address:

greensboroughnationalseniors@gmail.com

Postal Address:

6 Alex Court, Greensborough 3088



Next Branch Meeting
17 May 2022

Held at Greensborough RSL
Commencing at 10.00 am
(RSL premises open 9.30 am)

Speaker:

Nick Austin - Fire Investigator
Fire Rescue Victoria



To members who are unwell or recuperating, your friends at the Greensborough Branch are thinking of you and send best wishes for a speedy recovery.

If you know of any member who is unwell, please contact our Welfare Officer, Judy Harvey
Tel: 9401 6752 or
email: judy.harvey43@yahoo.com



TREASURER'S REPORT
Lorraine Oaten

Balance as at 01/03/2022	27,363.62
Plus Income:	
Blackwood Hotel	1,754.00
Werribee Zoo	370.00
Memberships	170.00
RSL Commission	99.24
Attendance	232.50
Raffle	130.40
Total:	2,756.14
Less Expenditure:	
Raffle/Door Prizes/ Feb	-54.90
Speakers Gift/Feb	-30.00
Raffle/Door Prizes/March	-55.00
Speakers Lunch/March	-14.43
Mercy Ships Donation	-100.00
Stationery Supplies	-168.54
Memberships	-170.00
TK Computer Service	-90.00
RSL Multiscreen Advertising	-110.00
Total:	-792.87
Balance as at 31/03/2022	29,326.89

DINNER CLUB



Friday 6 May 2022 - 6.30 pm

Templestowe Hotel

23 Parker Street, Lower Templestowe
Tel: 9851 4283

RSVP: By Monday 2 May 2022
Yvonne DeMarchi - 0407 525 497

LUNCH CLUB



Thursday 12 May 2022 - 12.00 noon

Watsonia RSL

6 Morwell Ave, Watsonia
Tel: 9718 2911

RSVP: By Monday 9 May 2022
Lesley Bruce - 0409 232 988



GOLF CLUB

*Golf has resumed on Mondays at
Strathallen Golf Club*

Golf enthusiasts can contact Ian Schuck on 9434 3839 / 0421 062 894



WALKING CLUB



PLEASE NOTE: Walking Routes

FIRST & LAST Tuesdays of the month:

Meet at 9.30 am - Bottom Car Park, Lower Plenty Hotel, Main Road, Lower Plenty.

SECOND Tuesday of the month:

Meet at 9.30 am - Henry Street end of Greensborough Memorial Park.

THIRD Tuesday of the month: is our **Branch meeting day, SO** the group walks on a **Wednesday** (time & venue as per 2nd Tuesday).



A little confusing ???
Contact Coordinator:
Ken Pickett - Tel: 9435 0076

LOW IMPACT WALKING CLUB



NOT UP TO HILLS?

Walkers meet Tuesdays at 9.30 am at Willinda Park Athletics Track, end of Nell Street, Greensborough (except on Branch meeting days when the group walk on **Wednesdays**).

On the last Tuesday of the month the group meet at **9.30 am** at the **Lower Car Park, Lower Plenty Hotel** for a gentle walk.

Upcoming Branch Activities



Monday 16 May 2022
Werribee Open Range Zoo



Incl coach Morning Tea at Victorian Rose Garden and Safari tour of Werribee Zoo. 2-course Lunch at Koorinal Golf Club. Cost: \$75.00/pp. Time: 9.00-5.30 pm. Bus pick-up at Greensborough Memorial Park, McDowell St carpark).

We need more numbers for this excursion.



14-day 'Wonders of the South West' Tour *2-15 October 2022*

This is a 'goer' and we have a number of members booked for this tour.

Please contact Lorraine Oaten or Ian Schuck - see page 2 for their contact details. There a few Twin Share rooms available, but no Single rooms left.

Watsonia Probus Club are planning a Lakes Entrance "Great Gippsland Lakes Tour" 5 Days/4 Nights for 9 - 13 May 2022. Cost: \$825/pp.

They require 30 people and have 28 booked, so they are looking for 2 more people to go.

If anyone is interested please contact Pat Wittison on Mob: 0418 391 295 or Email: pwittison@bigpond.com for further information.

Some funny quotes:

Just once, I want the username and password prompt to say, "Close enough!"

I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's 5 and it's past his bedtime. Today's 3 year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favourite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.

I envy people who grow old gracefully. They age like a fine wine. I'm ageing like milk - getting sour and chunky.

KING ISLAND TRIPS - 2022

This article is a compilation of three separate tours undertaken by members of Greensborough National Seniors Branch during February & March this year, ably led by Marg Wood - Group 1, Lorraine Oaten - Group 2 & Wilma Walker - Group 3.

After 3 attempts (group 3 had 4 attempts) 35 of us were finally off to King Island. Covid had kept us confined for the past 2 years and we were ready to have a good time.

After pick up from our usual meeting place in Greensborough, the first group of 12 sat back and relaxed. Nobody was keeping their eyes on the driver and suddenly we realised we were taking the scenic route through suburban streets. The driver did not have a GPS and had limited English. One of our group came to the rescue and guided us into our destination - Terminal 4 Tullamarine.

Arriving in Currie we were greeted with a warm welcome from our host, Lucinda, and her offsider, Helen, and then taken for a short drive around Currie before arriving at a farm for lunch. What a meal! Delicious and plentiful. Many could not eat everything on their plates.

Over 4 leisurely paced days, we explored King Island (which is 64km long & 24km wide). There are lots of forests, huge grassy undulating plains and of course the scenic coastline. We were lucky because the 4-wheel drives took us to places others are unable to go. Interesting commentaries took us into the lives of King Islanders, the industries, flora & fauna.

The Island's main industry is beef cattle. The cattle seemed to know their importance, heads held high and not prepared to get off the roads until they were ready. Local drivers are patient. Our wonderful driver, Helen, has been driving since knee high to a grasshopper. We had great confidence in her driving skills, especially when we ascended very steep inclines and bumped along over rough terrain. Helen, who grew up on a farm and now runs one with her husband, gave us an insight into the beef industry.

Other industries are fishing, cheese making and kelp production. Down by the beach we saw kelp hanging in open racks to dry prior to being exported around the world. Anyone could have stolen from their kelper neighbour and moved it to their own drying rack, but we were in King Island, not Melbourne.

With no predators such as foxes, wildlife is abundant, especially wallabies. We were often greeted by them hopping past our motel windows as we drew the curtains back in the mornings. There were also bush turkeys & mallee fowls to be seen in the bushes as well as other smaller birds. Peacocks & chickens roamed freely around Ian & Lucinda's property. One night Ian drove us to see the penguins waddling ashore. We didn't have to compete with other tourists.

A visit to the lighthouse museum was fascinating seeing old artefacts & photos, learning about the island's history and contemplating the huge loss of life in the many shipwrecks around the island. From there we walked to Cape Wickham lighthouse to see the inner workings of what is the tallest lighthouse in Australia *except for 3 people in the first group who remained locked in the museum until their absence was noticed!*

The second group of 15 included 2 people from South Australia. Diane & Andrew from group 2 enjoyed a swim in the sea and at another beach Dianne snorkelled. Her physio skills came to the fore when she was able to put Lorraine Oaten's dislocated finger back in place after she had a fall.

We did not have to do a lot of walking - the longest was 1.3km to the calcified forest made up of limestone formations. On our return from the walk a wonderful lunch set out with white tablecloths, silver service & wine was awaiting us. This was not the only bush dining as other days we enjoyed boxed lunches. For morning tea we had damper one day and on another scones, jam & cream in the community hall where crafts made from kelp were available to purchase. More historical photos were on display.

Other sights were the floating lake and shellite mines which are due to be reopened. A magnificent golf course had us wondering how many balls ended up in the sea. Vinka entered a hole in one competition to support local charities. We noticed the homes on King Island are quite modest - no mansions or high-rise buildings.

In our motel dining room, upstairs overlooking the sea, we enjoyed breakfasts and happy hours. Evening meals were in Ian & Lucinda's restaurant, 'Wild Harvest'. No wonder it is the No.1 restaurant on King Island. We would be presented with amazing food to guess what we were eating and to identify the flavours. Such a treat!

On the last night we had a magnificent 6-course degustation dinner. Can't wait for Ian's cookbook! The unique way Ian & Lucinda designed and built the restaurant was also fascinating. A regular visitor to the restaurant is 'Squeaky' the pampered black pig.

The overriding sentiment we all had was that we were treated as though we were family. Nothing was too much trouble and we felt pampered. Three of our travellers were keen to follow up friends & relatives living on the island and Lucinda & Helen worked hard to contact them all. Nothing was too much trouble.

The last day we had lunch in a quirky, colourful boathouse. Our final activity was a visit to the cheese factory where Ian & Lucinda provided us with a very generous credit for the cheeses we bought. To top it off we were each given a quiche to take home - "So you don't have to worry about dinner". How could we not have enjoyed every minute of our holiday! Some voted it the best holiday they have ever had. Reluctantly we caught our plane via Burnie back to Melbourne.

The last group of 10 with Wilma Walker in charge had an "interesting" experience when the transfer coach driver was unable to open the side door. After trying for some time, he pushed the front seat forward and asked, "Do you think you will be able to climb through?" Not likely! Finally, after a phone call to the depot he was able to get instructions to open the door. The poor travellers were not quite sure if the problem had been rectified and if, when they arrived back in Greensborough, they would have to spend the night on board the coach.

Although all groups were given similar experiences there were some minor differences. Lucinda made slight adjustments according to requests so that all our needs were met. We cannot thank Lucinda & Ian enough for their wonderful hospitality. They should both write an autobiography as their lives prior to teaming up to create King Island Holiday Village & Tours would make a great read.



Crayfish - how's that for a meal!



Group 2 at one of KI's picturesque lookouts.



Group 1 enjoying Dinner in 'Wild Harvest' Restaurant with host, Lucinda.

Group 3 with cold packs full of King Island Dairy Cheeses - their final stop before heading to the airport.



NOTICE BOARD



Member, **Marg Wood** (Mob: 0412 687 844) is a regular visitor to Thailand and would be happy to advise you on:

- **The best shopping places.**
- **Where to buy tailor-made suits.**
- **Pitfalls for tourists.**
- **The wonderful, exciting experiences you can have.**

A must visit is to Kanchanaburi (the Thai Burma railway, the Bridge on the River Kwai, tigers living with monks, elephant rides & beautiful scenery).

Do not pre-book a tour from Australia for Kanchanaburi - you can do so much better if you deal directly with a local travel agent.



Fred Hollows Foundation uses second-hand spectacles and sunglasses to improve the sight of people in deprived communities in our Far North & Australian Islands.

You can assist by bringing along no-longer-used specs/sunglasses. *Cases for specs/sunglasses are also needed.*

Member, Carolyn Matthews, will be happy to collect them at Branch meetings. Carolyn can be contacted on Mob: 0407 094 318.



Fancy a Game?

If you are interested in playing tennis in a very relaxed atmosphere on a **MONDAY morning between 9.30 am — 12 noon**, please see **Glenda Sundstrom at the branch meeting or ring on 0417 357 534** or just turn up (weather permitting) for a game. The only criteria is that correct tennis shoes must be worn.

Cost is \$3.00 per morning (incl a cuppa & biscuit).

The courts are located at the rear of the **Diamond Valley Baptist Church, 309 Diamond Creek.**



BOOK EXCHANGE

We operate a **Free Book Exchange** on Branch Meeting days. We ask only that you return the books to the Branch when you have finished reading them so that other members may have the opportunity to borrow the books.

(See tables at rear of Function Room.)

Coordinator is Ken Pickett

Members, please bring along unwanted books.



WANTED OLD 'ELECTRIC BLANKETS' Any Size for my Wildlife Rescuer Friends

They don't need to be in working order as I will strip out the wires before passing them on.

I can pick up, or you can bring them along to a branch meeting.

Thank you, **Carolyn Matthews - Mob: 0407 094 318**

Garden Workshop Bunnings Eltham



Members are invited to attend the Bunnings Garden Workshop held in their Eltham store on 1st Thursday of the month at 10 - 11.00 am, followed by coffee & biscuits. The topics are interesting and informative, with guest speakers and everyone has a lot of fun.

Bookings are required - please contact:
Sarah Kellett, Activities Organiser - Tel: 9430 0100

Due to Covid restrictions this Workshop is currently suspended. Bunnings hope to have this up & running sometime in the near future.



Eltham Men's Shed

Do you know men with spare time and skills to share?

At the shed we get involved in projects helping out local community groups & school projects.

Feel free to drop in and meet the men involved, you will be most welcome.

We also organise outings & guest speakers.

**Drop in any Monday or Wednesday
10.00 am - 3.00 pm
20 Wattletree Road, Eltham North.**

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Old Colonists' Association of Victoria

is a charity serving elderly Victorians
needing affordable, safe, dignified
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appropriate, practicable continuing care.

Located at 339 St Helena Road, St Helena is an 81 bed
Residential Aged Care Facility, incl 1 Respite Room.

Our facility "**Liscombe House**" comprises 3 sections:

- **Liscombe Wing** - 39 rooms
- **Currie Wing** - 22 single rooms, 4 double rooms located within a totally secure unit
- **Anne Jeffery Wing** - 12 rooms (dementia specific) located within a totally secure unit.

For all enquiries please contact:
Residents' Coordinator - Karen Ernest on 9433 1100

***This Newsletter is printed by the Office of Kate Thwaites, MP
Federal Member for Jagajaga***