

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE NORTH-WEST BRANCH NEWSLETTER

August 2025

Meeting at 1.30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at
Lockleys Baptist Church house, 244 Henley Beach Road, Underdale (parking at rear)

COMMITTEE

President	Brian Mibus (0417 887701)	Committee	Jeanette Molde
Vice-President ..	Trevor Molde (0417 838740)		Heather Dowling
Secretary	Kathy Hancock (0432 101372)		Jenny Mathews
Treasurer	Mavis Smith	Newsletter.....	Trish Mibus (0407 605091)
Activities Coordinator	Annie McCall		

2025 CALENDAR

DATE All dates are Wednesdays	ACTIVITY	AFTERNOON TEA
August 27, 1.30 pm	Annual General Meeting GUEST SPEAKER – Alison Hicks - Genealogy Society	Jeanette Molde
September 10, 12 noon	Lunch – Plant 4, Bowden	
September 24, 1.30 pm	GUEST SPEAKER – Sarah – Scrapbooking Family Trees - Plant Swap	Jack and Jan Dixon
October 8, 12 noon	Lunch/Outing – West Beach SLSC	
October 22, 1.30 pm	GUEST SPEAKER – Mataan Dunning (Fiducian Finances)	Katherine Papanikolas
October 30	National Seniors Zone AGM – more information to follow	
November 12, 12 noon	Christmas Lunch for everyone – Lockleys Hotel	
November 26, 1.30 pm	MyGov and MyAgedCare	Carole Smith

Our July Guest Speaker – Robin Jarman

Professional Tour Guide

Robin lived and trained as a tour guide in San Francisco where guides are trained for organisations all over the world. There were 15 in his class. It was a great course and career for tours on trains, buses, planes and ships. Robin's first exam was a bus tour of San Francisco and to guide a bus driver who had never been to the area before. He had to direct him and describe the area.

His second exam was to Glasson National Park, a glaciated park. He kept his comments short and gave the facts.

In their final exam, each class member had to take a group on a virtual overseas trip with everyone given a different country. Robin was given India and Nepal.

After graduating, Robin's first tour was to take a group to Vancouver Island which has beautiful scenery. Victoria is the capital of the island. They visited Butchart Gardens and drove the bus around the island to view the scenery before driving onto a ship. The bus driver waited in the bus which he had parked in the hull of the ship, leaving the lights and radio on. The ship took the group on a tour of the coastline and when it was time to leave, the bus had a flat battery and the tour group had to wait until all the other vehicles left the ship before they could get someone in to start the bus. Instead of getting back to their hotel at 6 pm for dinner, they didn't get back until 9 pm.

Tour guides have to be ready for all types of situations.

- When Robin took a group of people to Las Vegas, a lady wanted some help to play craps. As her guide, he wasn't able to play the tables, but explained the game to her and left. She won \$5!!
- At a Conference of Tour Guides in Honolulu, Hawaii, Robin was introduced to a lady, which resulted in him working for a US company for 7 years.
- He brought a group of Americans tourists on a 1 month tour of Australia. When the group arrived in Melbourne, one person was missing when they were about to go on a tram trip. The man was eventually found in the bar, with his walker. At Alice Springs, the same man signed up for a hot air balloon ride. They had to tip the basket on its side for him to get in. At the Sydney Koala Farm, the man went downhill sitting on his walker, crashing at the bottom and was covered in blood.
- The group then flew to New Zealand just as Ansett went into liquidation. Robin had to rearrange flights home for all his group.
- When going to Fiji you need a passport, one lady couldn't find hers. Luckily it was eventually located and the lady was able to board her flight.

Cruising was the most enjoyable time for Robin.

- In winter he took tours out of Florida to the Caribbean and walking tours in the Everglades
- He cruised from the Caribbean to the Panama Canal and sometimes played the piano and served

cocktails on board. He was also asked to do a lecture on the Panama Canal.

- He flew to Buenos Aires, Argentina and cruised to Patagonia and the Falkland Islands. The war in the Falkland Islands had just finished and the roads were scarred with mines. A Land Rover driver who knew where the mines were took 2 or 3 people onto the island. They came across hundreds of penguins on the beach.
- Sailing around the bottom of South America a rogue wave hit the ship and the glasses and bottles in the bars went flying.
- The ship sailed through the Beagle Channel and there were glaciers on both sides. The staff captured an iceberg and used a crane to lift it onboard.

Robin flew from Vancouver to Singapore to meet some Americans and take them on a cruise. They sailed to Bali (saw the Komodo dragons) and on to Darwin before sailing down the east coast to Hobart and going on to Milford Sound, where he had to give the commentary from the bridge.

Robin had 2 days warning that he was needed to fly from Vancouver to Tahiti to join a cruise ship. They were travelling down the runway and the plane stopped suddenly. They had a flat tyre and had to wait for another plane to be flown in from New York. When he finally arrived in Tahiti, he found that his luggage had been flown back to New York. He needed to wear a tuxedo to dinner, and one was loaned to him but it was too big and he had to tie it up with a string tie.

One of Robin's clients on a cruise died overnight, and it was found that he was not cruising with his wife, but a helper. After his death, the helper asked how they could collect his insurance money and was arrested and led off the ship in handcuffs.

Bus trips were mainly in America, Canada and Alaska. To entertain those on board, he would start the day with the Slim Dusty song, 'G'Day, G'Day'. He also had a ukulele which he called Su-Zuki and made-up daily songs for all to join in. (Prior to becoming a Tour Guide, Robin was a Music Teacher.)

Robin undertook 48 trips on the Rocky Mountaineer – from Vancouver to Calgary. The train stopped overnight, with the passengers staying in hotels. They saw rivers, lakes, waterfalls.

Robin spent more than 20 years as a tour guide, with all his tours conducted in English. An exception was a bus tour in Europe with Italians where he had to have an interpreter.

He worked freelance for many companies, including APT, an Australian company.

Being a tour guide is not always roses. You have to be first up every day to sort the day out and at the end of the day you have to write up tour notes.

Our August outing was to Semaphore Garden Centre



Robin Jarman, our August Guest Speaker