National Seniors Hawkesbury

Issue 1, October 2026

NSA Founder Everald Compton AM & Hawkesbury's Heather Lee OAM take us on 'Walk in the Spirit' to help those in dire need





'Thank you for your amazing efforts': message from Everald and WITS team

To celebrate his 95th Birthday on October5, NSA founder Everald Compton AM walked 11 kilometres around the spiritual surroundings of Uluru, in the Ayers Rock. He was raising funds for 'Walk in the Spirit' Dorcas Acts Charity, that he also founded 15 years ago that grants $1,000 cash for a vetted individual or family requiring genuinely urgent financial support when all else has been exhausted, and nowhere to turn to.

Our branch members, led by 2019 NSW Senior Australian of the Year, Heather Lee OAM, decided they'd join Everald remotely, at Howe Park's walking path along the Hawkesbury River in Windsor.

At 8am, Heather was joined by Andrea, Rob, Isabelle, Gail, Susan, Sharon and Elizabeth, and raised $100 cash on the day, while others donated online for a worthy cause.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Pre-Christmas Party & Year End Gathering, Thursday, 26 November, 9.30am - 12.30pm, Tebbutt Room, Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor
Smart Casual Attire
Bring a plate & small gift to go in surprise gifts under the tree!
Guest Speaker - Hawkesbury Mayor Mary Lyons-Buckett

We've had inspiring guest speakers in Hawkesbury MP Robyn Preston who shared her daily hectic parliamentary and community-wide engagements while Windsor senior, Miriam Spiteri talked about her childhood in Malta before her family moved to Australia.





Photo captions: Robyn takes a selfie with Miriam and Schelene; and branch members pictured with Robyn.

Phone Photography Competition Winners

The winners will be announced at our year-end gathering on Thursday, 26 November, which is also our Early Christmas Party, as we all prepare to go on an exciting summer holiday with our family and friends.

Latest Advocacy Updates from Community Engagement Coordinator & Digital Skills Mentor David Hallesy (via online)



KEEP CASH Campaign

With ongoing bank branch closures and ATM removals – we continue to advocate for cash to remain accessible and accepted.

• Our ongoing advocacy in the media, and free 'KEEP CASH' & 'We accept CASH' stickers continue to raise awareness, keeping this important issue in the public eye and on the agenda of policymakers.

• The Coalition has announced it intends to put its Cash is King Bill 2026 to the Parliament. If passed, this would expand on the cash mandate NSA campaigned for, by including more types of retailers, increasing the transaction limit to $2,000, and removing the 7am-9pm restriction, all issues that NSA raised in our advocacy on the cash mandate.

• When introduced, NSA will carefully scrutinise the proposed legislation to ensure it delivers meaningful protections for older Australians, preserving their right to access and use cash for everyday transactions.

In 2025, we sent out more than 15,000 free KEEP CASH stickers to help spread the importance of keeping cash, banks, & ATMs.

In 2026, we're aiming to distribute over 30,000.



NSA has developed a PHI estimator tool to help people see the likely impact on their private health insurance policy, as a result of the health rebate cut impacting more than three million seniors.

More than 40,000 people have used the tool to date indicating the level of concern about the rebate cut.

• We've met with 22 parliamentarians in-person or online to put forward NSA's position and research.

• In Canberra, we participated in a Round Table discussion led by Leader of the Opposition, Angus Taylor. There were 10 stakeholders in the room, and NSA was the only peak body acknowledged in the opening remarks.

• In Canberra, we led a Press Conference with the support of Senator Anne Ruston, Rebekha Sharkie MP, and Dr Monique Ryan.

• We formed part an Alliance that wrote to the PM and Health Minister – putting forward our strong position against the cut.



Last year, our members saved
over $140,000 on
EAT | PLAY | SAVE

Here's an example of local offers for Hawkesbury NSA members who have activated their EAT PLAY SAVE app.
Some real savings to stretch your weekly budget this Christmas.

Woolworths ($5 - $500)
Save 3%
$100 – pay $97.00 – save $3.00
1 year - $5,200 only pay $5,044
SAVE $156 a year!Woolworths ($5 - $500)

Coles ($100) / IGA ($20 – $500)
Save 3%
$100 – pay $97.00 – save $3.00
1 year - $5,200 only pay $5,044
SAVE $156 a year!

Shell Petrol ($20 - $500)
Save 3.5%
$100 – pay $96.50 – save $3.5
1 year - $5,200 only pay $5,018
SAVE $182 a year!

Local offers for Hawkesbury NSA members:
Baskin-Robbins, The Butler's Pantry at Redbank e-gift card, Product of Italy Box Hill, Windsor Cakes & Cafe, Midas Rouse Hill, The Cheesecake Shop, FLY Downunder Mulgrave, Holey Moley Golf Club Penrith, Archie Brothers Cirque Electriq Penrith plus more wherever you happen to be around NSW and Australia wide.

If you need help to download the app and how to activate on your smartphone or iphone, call David on 1300 76 50 50 or email branchmail@nationalseniors.com.au

---



Treasurer Susan Turner's Report on 29 October branch meeting
Today's coin donations taken at the door for raffles/morning teas totalled $17. Our expenses were $23 for morning teas. This leaves a total balance of $42.55 in our kitty.

See you all on 26th November Year End Get Together!