

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Words of Wisdom

"Each of us has that right, that possibility, to invent ourselves daily. If a person does not invent herself, she will be invented. So, to be bodacious enough to invent ourselves is wise." — Maya Angelou

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humour, and some style." — Maya Angelou

WELCOME!

You'll find a friendly atmosphere for seniors at our monthly meetings.

We invite informative Speakers on topics of interest to Seniors. We also provide morning tea and time for friendly socialising.

Our Perth Branch has a program of inexpensive outings during the year.

Monthly cost \$5.00 also gives you a free ticket in the monthly raffle.

PERTH BRANCH



de la Ferrière House, for many years a quiet semi rural property next to John Forest National Park in Hovea-Glen Forest, has provided rest & recreation, as well as educational / spiritual workshops, retreats & other programs for people regardless of their affiliations. Editor - Doug Conlan has been fortunate to have spent some time here recently. He will be giving a workshop here late October. The art work above is a glimpse of the property by Doug.

Perth Branch Next Meeting
The Loftus Recreation Centre, Leederville
Friday 10 November 2023
10 am - 11.45 am

You're welcome! Bring a friend!
Call 0429-482-921 - for catering purposes



President Terry Flanagan's Report

Dear Members,

It has been a month of memorable activities for our Branch. The highlight for me was the talk the Hon. Fred Chaney gave on the Referendum that will be held on 14 October on establishing an Advisory Council to present the views of the indigenous people of Australia to the Parliament and Government of Australia on proposed legislation that directly effects them, so they can have a voice before, and give advice, about how their lives can be improved by future legislation.

As stated in the talk, many of our previous interventions, while well-meaning were sometimes harmful, and counter-productive, and in many cases because indigenous people had not been consulted first.

To hear before-hand from the people about whom a new law is to be made, can't be a bad thing they say it is necessary, if progress is to be made and the gap they experience in health, housing and education below their fellow Australians is no longer the rule.

It will be a real test of where the majority of Australians now stand. I like the speaker am voting Yes.

The newsletter details our Coming Events, including our opportunity to join in an event organised by another Branch. Could I encourage members to join in and share, as we have the advantage of an outing arranged by another branch and meeting their members?

We also have our Christmas Function in December. Members are asked to pay for this before you participate, as we do for all functions like held by The Pines.

My thanks again to Adolph and Carmen for standing up in my absence at October Meeting as I had to attend a Funeral in Bunbury of a lifelong friend.

TERENCE FLANAGAN PRESIDENT

Professor David Bohm on the Indestructibility of the Spirit

The following was read at Quantum Physicist David Bohm's funeral service. He had written it for a memorial service of a friend:

In considering the relationship between the finite and the infinite, we are led to observe that *the whole field of the finite is inherently limited, in that it has no independent existence.* It has the appearance of an independent existence, but that appearance is merely the result of abstraction of our thought. We can see this dependent nature of the finite from the fact that *every finite thing is transient.*

Our ordinary view holds that the field of the finite is all that there is. But if the finite has no independent existence, it cannot be all that there is. We are in this way led to *propose that the true ground of all being is the infinite, the unlimited, and that the infinite includes and contains the finite.* In this view, the finite, with its transient nature, can only be understood as held suspended, as it were, beyond time and space, within the infinite.

The field of the finite is all that we can see, hear, touch, remember and describe. This field is basically that which is manifest or tangible. *The essential quality of the infinite, by contrast, is its subtlety, its intangibility.* This quality is conveyed in the word *spirit*, whose root [Ind. Eur. *speis*] meaning is "breath." This suggests an invisible but pervasive energy, to which the manifest world of the finite responds. This energy, or spirit, infuses all living beings, and without it any organism must fall apart into its constituent elements. That which is truly alive in the living being is this energy of spirit, and this is never born and never dies.

In Their Own Words

"What is needed today is a new surge that is similar to the energy generated during the Renaissance but even deeper and more extensive; the essential need is for a "loosening" of rigidly held intellectual content in the tacit infrastructure of consciousness, along with a 'melting' of the 'hardness of the heart' on the side of feeling. The 'melting'" on the emotional side could perhaps be called the beginning of genuine love, while the "loosening" of thought is the beginning of awakening of creative intelligence. The two necessarily go together." — David Bohm

"Atheism & agnosticism signify the rejection of certain images & concepts of God or of truth, which are historically conditioned & therefore inadequate. Atheism is a challenge to religion to purify its images & concepts & come nearer to the truth of divine mystery." — Bede Griffiths

"Transiency hurls itself everywhere into a deep state of being. Therefore all forms of this our world... should be included... in the purely earthly, profoundly earthly, joyfully earthly consciousness that we should introduce what we have seen and touched *here*, into the widest circumference. Not into a 'beyond' whose shadow darkens the earth, but into the whole, into the universe. Nature, the things of our daily contact and use, all these are preliminaries and transiencies: however, they are... our possessions, our friendships, participants of our pain and pleasure, in the same way as they were the trusted friends of our ancestors. Therefore these things should be understood and transformed by us in the innermost sense... in so deep, so painful, so passionate a manner, that its essential nature is 'invisibly' resurrected in us." — Rainer Maria Rilke

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

<p>Friday 3 November – Bentley Pines Restaurant Lunch</p>	<p>Friday 10 November 2 – Meeting Speaker: Peter Snow OAM, Director, Jaycees Foundation Ltd</p>
<p>Wednesday 22 November - Spring Sausage Sizzle lunch at Romancing of the Stone Garden- Maida Vale</p>	<p>Friday 1 December End of Year Meeting and Wind-up Lunch</p>

FORTHCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS

1. Guest Speaker: Friday 10 November 2023

Peter Snow OAM, Director, Jaycees Foundation Ltd. As Executive Chairman of The Jaycees Community Foundation Inc, he took on the responsibility for the restoration and operation of Australia's last whaling station in Albany making it into an award-winning iconic tourist attraction since 1980. The project has generated more than \$40 million into the local economy and in December 2022 it was gifted to the local community in Albany.

The title of Peter's presentation is "**From Derelict to Iconic**". Hear the remarkable story of the gift and view the restoration of a derelict industrial site and its conversion into one of the region's major tourism draw-cards.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Fri 3 Nov: Pines Restaurant Lunch

Brief Description: It is a three-course menu with choices for each course and there is now no restriction on the number of people at the table who can order their choice. Menu will be sent out once people have registered for the meal. It will also be downloadable from Events Tab of our website.

Cost: Members and Guests \$35.00 (this does NOT include a drink). Number of places limited to 40. Payment in Cash can be made at the Meeting on Friday 6 October 2023.

Alternatively, Members and guests can make arrangements for a bank transfer by 13 October 2023

- Bank Transfer details are as follows:

- **BSB Number: 016 499**

- **Account Number: 488094089**

- **Account Name: National Seniors**

Perth Branch

- **Ref: Your Surname and the words PINES**

Wed 22 Nov: Spring Sausage Sizzle

Organised By: National Seniors, Kalamunda Branch

Contact Person: Richard Arnold Tel 0407945465

or clare_richard57@hotmail.com partnering with National Seniors, Perth Branch, Adolph de Sousa at Tel 0413129707

Venue: Romancing of the Stone Garden Cnr. Lillian and Hawtin Roads Maida Vale

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date: Wednesday 22 November 2023

Time: Start 11.00 AM.

Brief Description: The Kalamunda Branch has booked the beautiful Romancing of the Stone Garden Cnr. Lillian and Hawtin Roads Maida Vale for this relaxing day. On arrival, time to enjoy a gentle walk-through Tom Hoggs beautiful garden before joining other members from that Branch for a Sausage Sizzle lunch with salads and dessert.

Please bring your own drinks.

Cost: \$10.00. Payment method. Please arrange a Bank Transfer to the National Seniors **Kalamunda Branch Bank Account** as follows:

Name of Bank: Bendigo Bank Forrestfield

- **BSB Number: 633 108**

- **Account Number: 183467513**

- **Account Name: NSA Conference Account**

- **Ref: Your Surname and the word ROMANCING**

Once you have made the transaction, please send a copy of it to Richard Arnold at clare_richard57@hotmail.com and also advise Adolph de Sousa at Tel 0413129707. This is important not only for account reconciliation but also so that adequate catering arrangements are made. **The Final Date for Transactions is 14 November 2023**

Transport and Parking: Drive there with your own vehicle and parking is available at the Maida Vale Church grounds.

THE VOICE REFERENDUM

Fred Chaney addressed our meeting on 1 September on the subject of the Voice referendum. He introduced himself as a supporter of the Voice who regretted the politicisation of the issue which meant it was being considered as a political issue instead of whether it was good for the country. Because the debate is so highly party politicised he said he would rely on statements and facts which preceded the referendum debate when people were trying to deal with solving problems rather than gaining political advantage.

He made the point but there is no issue about recognition with both the yes and no advocates supporting recognition of First Nations people in the Constitution. The No case revolved around the idea of the Voice, that it was divisive and brought race into the Constitution. In fact race had always been in the constitution and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) were the only group consistently legislated about.

He suggested that members could access the materials he referred to on the web stop and encouraged members to do so because they illustrate having mechanisms to listen to ATSI is not a divisive issue.

His first reference was to the actual words that are proposed to be added to the Constitution by an act called the Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023. It provides there should be a body called the voice which may make representations to the Parliament and Executive Government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It also gives Parliament the power to make laws with respect to the Voice including its composition functions powers and procedures.

The second reference was to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap of July 2020. This agreement was signed by three Liberal premiers 3 Labor premiers a Liberal Prime Minister and two Labor Chief Ministers of the Territories. This agreement represents what political leaders say when they are trying to solve problems rather than score political points. The agreement includes commitment by all governments to a fundamentally new way of developing and implementing policies that impact on the lives of ATSI people. It stems from "the belief that when aboriginal and Torres Strait people have a genuine say in the design and delivery of services that affect them better outcomes are achieved. Importantly it recognises that change in the way governments work is needed to close the gap. It goes on to say that all governments are now sharing decision making with ATSI people to accelerate progress in closing the gap. It says that the governments will listen to the voices and aspirations of ATSI people and change the way they work in response. Fred said you can't listen or share decision making with people you can't hear- they need a voice.

Fred said that all of this accords with his 60 years of experience and working on these issues. We need to do things differently.

The fact that this is not a party-political issue is reflected by the fact that the previous government (Treasurer Frydenberg) referred closing the gap agreement to the Productivity Commission for advice. The commission's report is available on the website of the Productivity Commission. It confirms governments are not in fact delivering on their commitments which require systemic and structural transformation of mainstream government agencies and institutions and points out the proposed voice to the Australian Parliament and government will or could have a role to play in holding governments to account for actions affecting ATSI people

.and that independent mechanisms like the voice are positioned to shine a spotlight on good and bad practises and advocate for improved policies programmes and services affecting ATSI people. As the Australian newspaper editorialised this is a practical argument for the Voice.

Governments find it hard to listen and Fred talked about the difficulties of dealing with Centrelink as an example how hard it is to be heard. There was a lot of nodding at this example. Fred said that in his view the constitutional proposal did no more then put it into the constitution a signal to government that it should listen before it acted. He gave examples of his own attempts to carry messages from remote communities to the bureaucracy and the value he had gained as a Minister when the National Aboriginal Conference, an elected Aboriginal body, advised him as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on the gap between what government was doing and reality on the ground.

BRANCH MATTERS

2024-25 OFFICERS

President: Terry Flanagan 0429 482 921

Vice President: Adolph de Sousa 0413 129 707

Secretary: Rod McLaren 0412 678 050

Treasurer: Chappie Lobo 0435 583 229

Catering Terri McLaren terrimclaren4@gmail.com

Editor Doug Conlan 0408 080 560

OUR INCORPORATION AND BUSINESS NUMBERS

Our Registration Number under the Association Incorporation Act is A1001978T

Our Australian Business Number (ABN) is 46 458 848 637

OUR WEBSITE AND OUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Our website is at: <https://nationalseniors.com.au/get-involved/branches/perth>

Bookmark it for easy reference

You will find our **Newsletters** there which you can conveniently download.

You will also find an **Events** tab briefly stating the dates of future outings. Clicking the Event of your interest will enable you to get more information on the event and also any flyer if available.

Finally, our **Photo Gallery** will have photographs of our latest events or outings.

Our Email address: PerthSeniors@gmail.com

For the payment Events etc. use our local branch account

Account Name: National Seniors, Perth Branch

BSB Number: **016 499**

Account Number: **488094089**

Ref: Your **Surname** and keyword of the Outing

Please include Surname and keyword in the transfer.

Do NOT combine payments for multiple functions, only pay for one function at a time.

NATIONAL SENIORS AUSTRALIA

NSA is an advocacy group for the over 55s representing issues at WA and National levels. If you have an issue that you would like the NSA Policy Group to consider fill out the online form to start the process. <https://nationalseniors.com.au/research/share-your-story>

Membership Renewals and New Membership One year – \$49.50 single or \$80 joint membership.

Two years – \$88 single, or \$143 joint membership

Three Years - \$120 single, or \$180 joint membership.

Five years – \$220 single, or \$325 joint membership.

Membership payments cannot be paid via our local branch they must be paid directly to the Head Office.

You can do this by one of these three options via the website: <https://nationalseniors.com.au>. Login and pay online using a debit or a credit card.

Through your phone:

Phone them on 1300 765050 or 073233 9191 they will be able to find your membership details and debit your account for the membership payment. If New Membership they will collect details on the phone and charge your account.

By cheque:

the postal address is:

GPO Box 1450,

Brisbane,

Queensland 4001

Please make sure you include your name, club, and the reason for the cheque.



Above: Terry Flanagan, Fred Chaney, Terry Quinn

Below: Group outing to Cicerellos & WA Shipwrecks Museum on Tuesday 12 Sept.
Left to right: *Louis, Tony, President Terry Flanagan, Rosanna, Celestine and Leo.*

