National Seniors Hawkesbury

Issue 1, August & September 2026

We're growing - Welcome Will & Cath, Kath, Chris & Robyn



Welcome new members & committee update

Our branch is growing and we are delighted that Will and Cath Olsen, Kathyrn Scott, Robyn Zanozin and Chris Grocott have chosen our branch to be their base within the wider Greater Sydney Area NSA branches. The nearest branches to us are Greater Sydney who are meeting at Blacktown RSL and Hills whose regular venue is Baulkham Hills Sports Club.

You all are familiar with Annette Acheson visiting us from time to time. She is a Hills member but her parents came from Pitt Town, one of Hawkesbury's popular and pretty townships, and that is why her affinity to our branch is heartwarming. In fact, she was among the Hills committee officers who welcomed the formation of our branch in February this year, alongside their president Hilary Westman and longtime NSA member Pat Hunt, and Betty De Roo, president of Greater Sydney Branch.

I take this opportunity to announce our committee is expanding. Current committee: Branch Coordinator & Acting Secretariat - Elizabeth Frias; Treasurer & Acting Outings Facilitator - Susan Turner; Hospitality Incharge - Barbara Thompson with Isabelle Myron assisting; Welfare Facilitator - position vacant. Anyone interested please email Elizabeth on nationalseniorshawkesbury@gmail.com Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 26 November 2026, 9.30am, Tebbutt Room, Windsor Library - FREE



End of Year Pre-Christmas Party
Guest Speaker - New Hawkesbury Mayor, Mary Lyons-Buckett
Smart casual attire & bring a plate please
Program of the Day - Phone Photo Competition Winners - 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prizes
Raffle Winner
NSA Advocacy Team Karen & David joining online from Brisbane HQ.

September meeting - Phone Photography Workshop with magazine photographer Kathryn Johnston was a hit.

Photo entries have arrived in our branch email, and they are just fabulous. Everyone's creative juices are sprouting in no time. It's uplifting when we see you all showing up and not hiding your talents and skills that you've had in you. Kathryn will have a difficulty choosing the 1st prize, 2nd prize and 3rd prize winners. It will be announced at our Thursday, 26 November meeting for the year before we go on our Christmas break. Thank you to everyone who has submitted their photos with more coming as I was advised by others. Photo captions: Left - Kathryn Johnston & Chris Grocott; right - Will & Cath Olsen.





Caroline Collen is a natural storyteller and an engaging public speaker

As one of our inaugural members, Caroline and her husband Len Collen, has made the second acts of their retirement phase spent proactively doing something on matters they are passionate about. For both of them, its charitable work for the less fortunate and vulnerable people that takes them to many parts of the globe, apart from what they do around here in our country.

They've spent years volunteering in ASEAN countries, as Caroline related to us in her informative presentation at our September event. We do learn about many things from the experiences of our fellow seniors, and it is one of the many things we enjoy as members of the NSA branch in our locality. We look forward to hearing more members' presentations next year when we get back. **Photos of Caroline speaking at our August meeting.**





When our monthly meetings resume from January 2027, we are inviting every member or friends you know who would be happy to share their community volunteering experiences and other community announcements you may have. Email branch coordinator - national seniorshawkesbury@gmail.com about the topic so we can put it in the day's program along with the month's guest speaker or featured activity with mentors.

Treasurer Susan Turner Report

27 August meeting gold coin donations - $18.30
Less morning tea expenses - $15.95
Balance in kitty - $31.55
24 September meeting gold coin donations - $$24.10
Less morning tea expenses - $7.10
Balance in kitty - $48.55

NSA Latest Advocacy Update by Community Engagement Manager Karen Furnivall via online presentation from Brisbane HQ



What the NSA was doing about health rebate cut by the Federal Government, as stated in the NSA Statement to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs.

The Federal Government's proposed reduction in the PHI is intended to deliver Budget savings but risks creating significant unintended consequences for older Australians and the broader health system.

Combined with the annual premium increase, the change is likely to result in one of the largest single increases in out-of-pocket PHI costs experienced by older policyholders. The government's modelling does not adequately capture the scale of this risk.

In particular, its focus on the number of people who will drop hospital cover does not significantly account for those, who will downgrade their cover, increase their excess or make other changes to the price shock.

NSA's survey findings indicate these behavioural responses could be significant, particularly among pensioners and older Australians with lower incomes and savings.

Any Commonwealth budget savings must therefore be considered against the potential transfer of costs in the health system. If older Australians drop or downgrade their private hospital cover, additional demand may ultimately fall on already constrained state and territory public hospitals, while patients may face longer waits for treatment and reduced choice in accessing care.

At a minimum, the government should undertake and publish comprehensive modelling of the impacts on coverage, downgrading behaviour, public hospital demand and costs to other levels of government before implementing any change.
NSA recommends that the proposed reduction in the PHI rebate for people aged 65 and over not proceed.