

Memories made at new Western Sydney International Airport tour



Mike & Annelise Stockey: “So futuristic; progressive and efficient building designs”

The opportunity to see the new airport was a very exciting prospect. We set out with a very welcoming, friendly group of people who were as interested as we were. Being able to get a “lay of the land” and seeing how easy it will be to travel to the new airport in the near future was reassuring.

It was fascinating to see how progressive and efficient the building design is. It is a little daunting to know that the control mechanisms were so futuristic. The new ILS (instrument landing system) allows aircraft to safely land on the tarmac in zero visibility, such as heavy fog or rain.

The guide was there to answer our concerns and queries, was friendly and knowledgeable. The digital presentation was detailed, rather impressive. There are seven boarding tunnels, each catering to two aircraft. There are plans to expand these facilities in the future. We were glad to get back on the bus; it was very cold, then went to drive around the airport and see the buildings close up. Sadly, we couldn't go inside the terminal and physically see the facilities. We then went to a nearby cafe where we enjoyed a lovely lunch and chat with our fellow travelers. It was A very enjoyable day!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 27 August 2026, 9.30am, Tebbutt Room, Windsor Library - FREE

VIEW Club Richmond-Windsor & Columnist & finance & retirement expert Noel Whittaker AM

VIEW Club president Cheryl King presents their volunteer programs while Noel Whittaker talks about practical insights on money & retirement.

Thursday 24 Sept 2026, 9.30am, Tebbutt Room, Windsor Library - FREE

Learn easy ways to create smartphone photography with Western Sydney Seniors Magazine photographer Kath Johnston. All photos you choose to create go into our Inaugural Hawkesbury Branch Yearbook 2026. Three best photos win prizes, so let's have a go!

Thursday, 29 October 2026, 9.30am, Tebbutt Room, Windsor Library - FREE

Guest Speaker - Hawkesbury MP Robyn Preston plus presentation of smartphone photos and announcement of winners. More details coming.



Miriam Spiteri, Phillip Buckingham & Annette Acheson at the interactive room of the WSI Experience Centre.

Photo captions:

Members and guests of the National Seniors Hawkesbury Social Branch who joined the tour of the Western Sydney Nancy Bird Walton International Airport were the following: Joy Shepherd. Rob Turner, Kerry Glynn, John & Patricia Hayes, Miriam Spiteri and her friends Joyce, Doris, Rose, Schelene and Maree; June Bowran, Robyn Zanozin, Eugene Zanozin; Hills Branch members Annette Acheson and Phillip Buckingham; Mike & Annelise Stockey, Len & Caroline Collen; Windsor Ladies Tennis Club members Jenny, Maryanne, Fay, Bernice, Christine, Tina and Heather; Hawkesbury District Independent Magazine photographer Kath Johnston; Branch Coordinator Elizabeth Frias and Branch Treasurer Susan Turner.

We express our appreciation to the WSI Community Engagement Team and Mark & Bula of the Sydney Wide Bus Hire for a comfortable and safe transport service provided to us on the day.

More photos of our branch outing to the Western Sydney International
Nancy Bird Walton Airport on Thursday, 30 July 2026



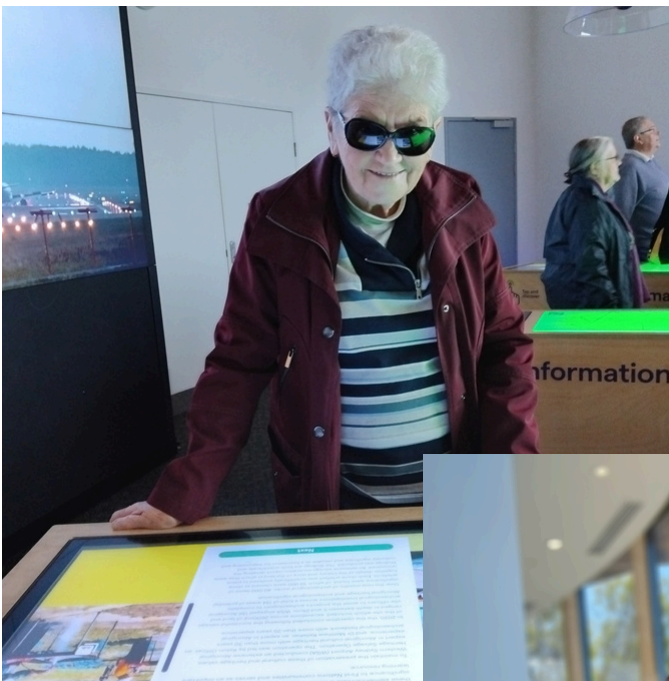
Caroline & Len Collen pictured at the Western Sydney International - Nancy Bird Walton - Airport's Passengers Terminal and made these observations: We had the most delightful and well organised visit to the new airport. It was informative. The new roads were fabulous and the buildings were so beautiful, a state of the art. We will certainly use this new airport for future travels because its close to home. We were joined by many other NSA members, including the Windsor Ladies Tennis Club, in this sight-seeing tour. We started the day at Windsor, then visited the WSI Experience Centre before our bus drove around the airport site so we can see it all. It was a great experience, well worth the trip!





Photo above: Branch members and their families and friends arriving at the WSI Experience Centre.

Left photo: NSA member Joy perusing the list of historic Aboriginal artefacts displayed at the WSI Experience Centre.



Chris, Mary-Ann, Jenny & Bernice looking at the interactive airport map at the WSI Experience Centre.





Photo above: The members of Windsor Ladies Tennis Club: Jenny, Heather, Chris Fay, Tina, Mary-Ann and Bernice with Branch Coordinator Elizabeth (at the back).

Below photo: NSA members Kerry and Miriam with their friends Joyce, Doris, Rose, Schelene & Maree enjoying a delicious lunch at Luddenham Village Cafe.

Latest NSA Advocacy Update by NSA Community Engagement Manager Karen Furnivall



Have your say on Private Health Insurance

National Seniors Australia is encouraging members to have their say on the proposed removal of the higher private health insurance rebate for Australians aged 65 and over. NSA is concerned the change could increase cost-of-living pressures, forcing some seniors to downgrade or cancel their cover and placing greater strain on public hospitals.

The Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs is currently accepting submissions until 21 August. NSA will be making a submission and encourages members to share their own experiences and concerns.

You can also support the campaign by signing NSA's private health insurance rebate petition and using the rebate estimator and submission guide available on the NSA website.

Every voice helps strengthen our advocacy for affordable healthcare.

Good News for Age Pension Eligibility

From 1 July 2026, changes to Age Pension income, assets and deeming thresholds may help more older Australians qualify for a full or part pension. While pension payment rates have not increased this month, retirees can now earn more income, hold more assets and have higher financial investments before their pension is reduced.

The changes may particularly benefit those who narrowly missed eligibility or currently receive a part pension. Updated thresholds also apply to retirement village residents and some aged care arrangements.

National Seniors Australia encourages retirees to review their circumstances, as even a small pension entitlement can provide access to valuable concessions and benefits.



Largest Age Pension Increase since 2023

National Seniors Australia estimates the September 2026 Age Pension indexation could deliver the largest increase since March 2023.

Based on current ABS data, the maximum pension could rise by around \$55.60 per fortnight for couples and \$36.80 for singles, taking payments to approximately \$1,866 per fortnight for couples and \$1,237.70 for singles.

The increase reflects higher living costs experienced by pensioners, particularly for housing, health and insurance.

The largest changes in prices for the six months up to June 2026 using that index were in health (7.08%), housing (5.86%), then insurance and financial services (5.57%). But once the weightings are applied, housing was the largest contributor to the increase, followed by health.

The final increase will be confirmed by the Government in September and may also be influenced by deeming rate changes and asset revaluations.

NSA's Age Pension Indexation Estimator can help retirees estimate their potential entitlement.

Read more on any of these updates on the NSA website.

Treasurer Susan Turner's Report

Current kitty balance as of 30 June 2026 = \$29.20

Sydney Wide Bus Hire Invoice = \$620 - fully paid by National Seniors Australia head office in advance.

Total collections from 29 members & guests at \$20 each = \$580

Note: 1 refund to guest at \$20 unable to go on the day; 1 no show no bus fee collected.
To contact the committee & coordinator:
nationalseniorshawkesbury@gmail.com.