



Joy Shepherd took us behind the scenes on the demise of The Hawkesbury Development Company following the catastrophic floods in the 60s.

"It was here I got my first job," Joy told her audience at the 25 June meet-up of our branch at Windsor Library's Tebbutt Room. A well respected local historian in the Hawkesbury, she came prepared with a special presentation showing numerous photographs, some of them she took herself, to tell the little-known history of the private electricity company, The Hawkesbury Development Company Ltd.

Joy was a teenager employed by the company, and her father was worried about his young daughter going off to work and asked her, "What would people think if you went to work?" But as a determined young lady who had completed studies at the Sydney Business College, she was eager to apply her knowledge gained at school on her first job.

During the COVID pandemic, Joy completed the book, and in April 2021, the 36th Premier of NSW, Barrie Unsworth, launched Joy's book in a celebrated event in the Hawkesbury.

Joy wrote about the "pure hard work and guts of the workers" employed by the pioneering electricity company before it closed down during the catastrophic floods in 1961 and 1964.

This interesting book is available for sale at \$30 a copy through the Hawkesbury Historical Society or by contacting Joy through our branch email - nationalseniorshawkesbury@gmail.com.

Photo captions: (Above) Joy speaking at the meeting and showing rare photographs and memorabilia gathered from her research.

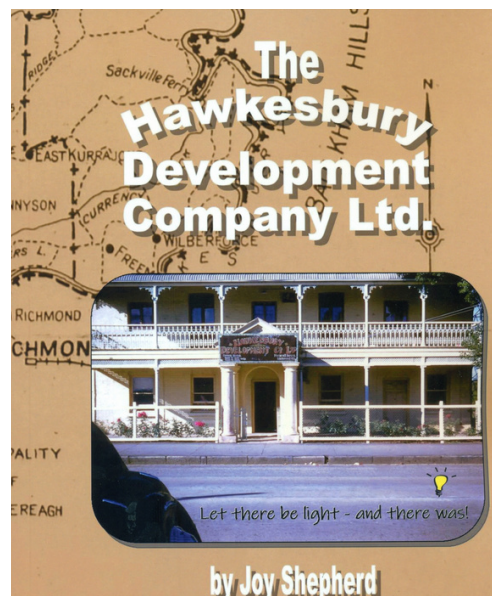
(Right) The cover of her book.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 30 July 2026 - Outing to Western Sydney Nancy Bird Walton International Airport then lunch at Luddenham Village Cafe. Board bus at 9am at McQuade Park, front of St Matthews Anglican Church, Tebbutt St, Windsor. Back at 2.30pm.

Thursday, 27 August 2026, 9.30am-12.30pm - Guests Richmond-Windsor VIEW Club Members provide insights into their community network of local women formed in 1968 and supporting the Smith Family's Learning for Life Program.

Thursday, 24 September, 9.30am-12.30pm We are amateur photographers! A photographer shows us how to create great photos with our smartphones, Three winners of best photos chosen win prizes. All photos submitted by branch members go into National Seniors Hawkesbury Inaugural Yearbook 2026.



NSA Latest Advocacy Updates from Community Engagement Manager Karen Furnivall & Assistant Manager David Hallesy

NSA Community Engagement Manager Karen Furnivall (pictured) and newly appointed Assistant Community Engagement Manager David Hallesy (pictured next page) presented online to our branch members the following updates from the NSA advocacy team.



Private Health Insurance rebate

- Higher rebate for seniors removed
- Seniors moved to standard under 65 rebate level
- Means higher out-of-pocket costs
- Expected to apply from 2026-27 onwards
- NSA is meeting with MPs and Senators from all parties

Under 65 - Current rebate 24.1% - New rebate - 24.1%

Ages 65 - 69 - Current rebate 28.1% - New rebate - 24.1 %

Ages 70+ - Current rebate 32.2% - New rebate - 24.1%

Here's how you can help as an NSA branch member. To click on the links or if you want to share your views and sign the petition, please visit the NSA website.

- Sign and share our petition: https://bit.ly/PHI_Petition
- Share the estimator and health cost campaign with family and friends https://bit.ly/NSA_PHI
- Email the NSA policy team - policy@nationalseniors.com.au to share how the change will impact you so we can share with the media
- Become a member with NSA or Join the Health Cost campaign – this help increase our numbers, increase our weight, and impact! The bigger we are, the louder our voice.



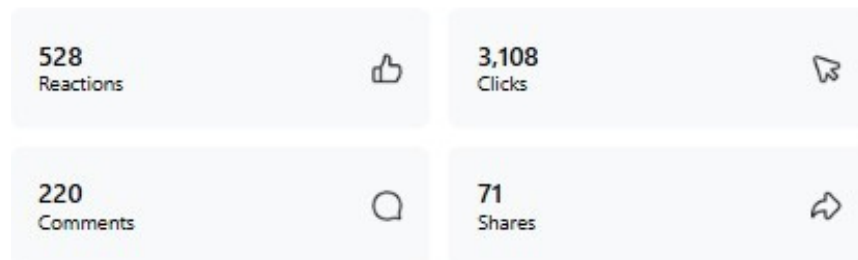
A whopping 4,000 NSA members supported the NSA proposal to exempt work income in the income testing of age pensioners who decided to return to the workforce. Here are findings from recent survey:

- Support for exempting work income from the Age Pension income test is growing.
- We are calling on the government to get on board and **Let Pensioners Work**.
- Please share and like this post to support our campaign. is meeting with MPs and senators from all parties.
- @NationalSeniors on Facebook or https://bit.ly/NSA_LPW



Right: Assistant Community Engagement Manager David Hallesy

4,012 Engagement



Reaction by type



Keep Cash Campaign Photo Frame - Be in it!

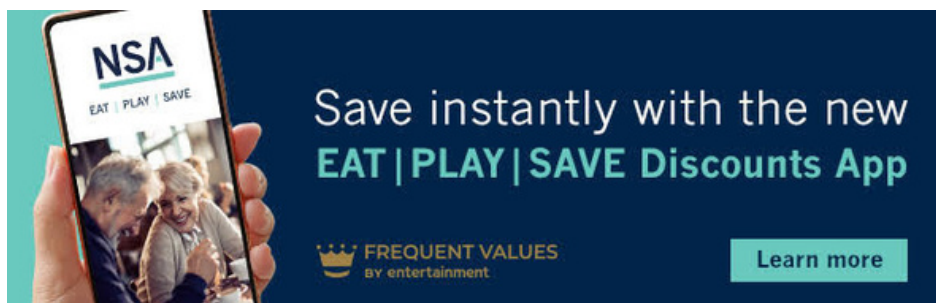
The photo frame is displayed at every branch meet-ups and events NSA branches are holding and don't they look really nice if you are in it, too! Just frame yourself in it, and we snap it. Then we show it around on our Facebook page, with your consent of course.

Keep Cash car bumper stickers and retailer stickers

INSA urges local small business and retailers who accept cash to proudly display our stickers. Let the committee know, we have plenty new stickers sent by head office. A photo with the business owner holding the sticker would be great for reaching more audience.

Photos of Susan & Elizabeth (left) and Heather (right).





Here are some cost-of-living tips from NSA

Discounts available for NSA members available from major supermarkets such as Woolworths and Coles, and Shell Petrol Stations; also Cheesecake Shop at 120 Windsor Road, Richmond offers 20% off on the EAT PLAY SAVE App. Download your app and use it daily, locally, Sydney-wide and interstate.

As of June this year, NSA members saved at total of \$107,836.74. Our Branch members alone have saved \$7,544.90 such as top user Lydia with \$2,074 in discounts from purchases using the EAT PLAY SAVE app. Check out other local Hawkesbury businesses that offer savings.

Treasurer Susan Turner Report

Since our branch was launched in February this year, each of us have generously supported our branch with gold coin only donations for every meeting. Those donations, including some from our guests, have become our kitty we utilise for our morning tea offerings. We thank you for your assistance.

Thursday, 30 March 2026 - \$10.00

Thursday, 30 April 2026 - \$25.00

Thursday, 27 May 2026 - \$21.00

Thursday, 25 June 2026 - \$17.00

Less expenses:

Morning tea supply for 30 April 2026 - \$10.00

Morning tea supply for 27 May 2026 - \$23.80

Morning tea supply for 25 June 2026 - \$20.00

Balance in the kitty as of end of June 2026 - \$19.20

Donations received during The Apron Project Exhibition totaled \$85 deposited to the Rotary Australia Benevolent Society account used to fund a program assisting primary school aged children in Sydney are who survived horrific domestic and family violence.

Donations received during the 25 June event with local historian Joy Shepherd and Tea-rrific Morning Tea for Cancer Council Australia - NSW charity fundraiser totalled \$170 deposited to the NAB account of Cancer Council Australia.

Committee seeking new members to serve

Three committee roles need your assistance as our membership grows, and as we aim to bring more interesting events that cater to our members' varied interests. We need your experience shared to us for the following roles:

- Secretariat - Duties are to prepare meeting minutes, attendance register and correspondence.
- Travel & Outing In-charge - Planning and coordinating branch travels and outings.
- Welfare Facilitator - Arrange assistance for branch members wanting to attend our activities and events, including referral to NSA services to members. Email: Branch Coordinator Elizabeth - nationalseniorshawkesbury@gmail.com.