

## COPY CATS WOW AUDIENCE

At the Branch Meeting on Tuesday 18th June, members of COPY CATS entertained the crowd with songs, dance, humor, skits and even poetry.

The group, which formed over 30 years ago, as a number of mothers from a South Road School, have, over the years raised money for various organisations, and the first item purchased was a computer for the School.

Up until Covid hit in 2019 and “lock down” caused a break in their antics, the group have performed in Aged Care Facilities, where they are much loved, Retirement Villages and many other venues.

Amongst acts were Sonny and Cher, Neil Diamond, Helen Reddy, poems by Pam Ayres, and Roald Dahl, “Second Hand Rose”, Dusty Springfield, The Supremes, an item on Fashion, and a grand finale of the Can-Can!

The Brighton Branch were pleased to welcome Copy Cats back... *and who knows, they may return.*



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up on **Tuesday 16th July**, as part of the July Branch Meeting. At that meeting we will elect the Committee to guide us for the following 12 months. We currently have just over 100 members and there would be lots of talented people amongst us. It is useful to have some new people on the Committee to spread the load around and to inject new ideas into the Branch.



## 23rd ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

Don't forget the 23rd Anniversary celebrations of the Brighton Branch. Among happenings will be a lunch on **Wednesday 7th August** at the Flagstaff Hotel, 1497 Main South Road, Darlington. The lunch starts at noon and Seniors get a 15% discount on main meals from the menu, and there is also a Seniors menu. Payment is to be made at the Hotel on the day. If you'd like to attend this lunch, put your name down on the booking sheet.

**CONTACT** is **Graham Gurry** phone 8296 7646.

*Where would YOU like to GO?*

*The Committee would love to hear from you if you have any ideas for Bus Trips for 2025*

There is a form at the back of the hall where you can fill in any ideas

## BRIGHTON BRANCH MEETINGS

Our Branch Meetings are held on the **3rd Tuesday of each month**, except for December when we do not have a meeting. We meet at the Lighthouse Community Church, corner Jetty Road and The Crescent, Brighton, on the beach side of the railway line.

**The meeting starts at 10am**, so arrive from 9.30.

Door entry is \$5 and this includes morning tea and a chance to win a door entry prize. Payment of your Annual Subscription can be made at Branch Meetings. Payment using Visa, MasterCard or Debit Card is available for Subscriptions, Door Entry and Outings

# AWARDS EVENING

On Thursday evening 20th June, three Members of the Brighton Branch, Bill and Lleyan Adams and Graham Sporn attended an Award Ceremony at the Marion Club honouring recipients of Volunteer Awards in the Boothby Electorate.

Louise Miller-Frost, Member for Boothby, presented the awards. Presentations were also made to organisations which had received Federal Grants, Brighton Branch of National Seniors being the recipient of a Grant. The money from the Grant will be spent mainly on a laptop computer and new light weight portable tables.

# NEW MEMBERS

At last month's Branch Meeting, we welcomed new Members Lou and Sue Sevidy, Rob and Margaret Rundle and Ron Tiessman.



National Seniors Brighton Branch Treasurer Bill Adams receiving the award from Louise Miller-Frost

# MORE FROM THE COPY CATS SHOW...



## Round and round the carpark

By Pam Ayres

Round and round the carpark vergn' on despair.  
 Round and round the carpark tearin' out me hair.  
 Round and round up and down anguish on the face.  
 Round and round the carpark tryin' to find a space.

I'm ever so late, I'm ever so late, the whole day's gone to pot,  
 I'm whimperin' round the car park tryin' to find a spot.  
 Why didn't I get here earlier, I'm thinkin' more and more,  
 To park your car successfully, start the night before.

I see a shopping couple, they are laden down and hot  
 "Excuse me are you leaving now?" - "No we're bloody not!"  
 A builder in a transit van, he might be moving soon -  
 Oh no he's eat'n' a burger; he'll be there all afternoon.

There's four behind and four before and four more join the chain,  
 Round we go and down we go and up we go again.  
 A man we see 'e dangles a key, we're off in hot pursuit,  
 Our hopes are dashed he's only stashed a parcel in the boot.

And that's not fair, see that man there, reclin' havin' a nap,  
 Look at 'im snorin', his four by four, down over 'is eyes a cap.  
 It makes me blind with anger, I feel fury I can't stop,  
 I feel like drivin' into him, but - seems a bit over the top.

Now tempers flare, "Don't you go there, I'm wait'n' for that space!"  
 A man barks from the wind'er, with a snarl upon is face.  
 It's feelin' like a war zone, it is violent and sour,  
 Round and round the carpark for three quarters of an 'our.

Well I'm goin' home, I'm goin' home, I know when I'm defeated,  
 I've heard enough abusive stuff you wouldn't want repeated,  
 I'm goin' home abandoning my circuit jiratory,  
 Perhaps I'll try again, when they have built a multi-story.



# TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As a not-for-profit organisation, National Seniors works hard to achieve better outcomes for older Australians. You can get involved by becoming a member, donating to our campaigns, signing petitions joining our Advocacy Supporters Group, subscribing to our free e-newsletter "CONNECT".

National Seniors is calling for a cut in the fuel excise, which means more spending power to manage the cost of living. Did you know when you pull into a petrol station to fill up, nearly 50 cents of every litre you pump goes to the Federal Government? As of February this year, the government's fuel excise increased from 48.8 cents per litre to 49.6 cents per litre. While 0.8 cents is by no means a dramatic rise, the latest increase will mean close to \$40 in total excise costs per tank for a large SUV with an 80-litre capacity.

**Check out our advocacy wins below to see what we've achieved so far. We couldn't do what we have done without the support of Members. Together, we make a difference.**

## SOME OF NATIONAL SENIORS CAMPAIGN WINS

### ■ Energy Rebate

The Federal Government has provided a [one-off \\$300 energy rebate](#) in the 2024 budget for all households.

### ■ Freeze on Deeming

A [12 month freeze on deeming rates](#) has been provided in the 2024 Budget until June 2025 ensuring pension payments do not reduce as inflation rises. This [extends the initial two year freeze](#) that was to end on 30 June 2024.

### ■ Rent Assistance

A [10% increase to the maximum rate of Commonwealth Rent Assistance](#) was announced in the 2024 Federal Budget. This increase will begin from September 2024 and is on top of the [15% increase](#) provided in the 2023 Budget to assist renters with rising housing costs.

### ■ More retirees to get access to concessions

During the 2022 federal election, the Coalition and then Labor announced changes to income test rules for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC). This has since been legislated meaning some 44,000 low income self-funded retirees now get access to valuable concessions, such as [cheaper medicines through the PBS](#) and state and territory-based cost of living concessions.

### ■ Ending the Medicare Freeze

We continue to pressure governments and industry to [put the brakes on rising health-care costs](#). Doctors blamed out-of-pocket costs on governments limiting the rebates they received for seeing Medicare patients. The cost was passed on to patients. It was a big win when this was acknowledged and the freeze ended.

### ■ National elder abuse plan

In 2016, we made a range of recommendations for action on elder abuse. A new national plan to tackle elder abuse was released in 2019. [We continue to promote reforms to improve protections for older people including a national register for Enduring Powers of Attorney.](#)

### ■ Franking credit cash refunds

We opposed Labor's proposal to scrap [franking credit cash refunds in 2018](#). Many lower-income self-funded retirees, who worked hard and planned their retirement within the rules, would have been significantly impacted by the change.

### ■ Pension stays at 67

We campaigned against plans to increase the pension age from 67 to 70 and were pleased when the then Prime Minister Scott Morrison backed away from the unpopular idea. The decision reverses a policy announced in the 2014 Budget and is a win for common sense.

### ■ Lowering the deeming rate

National Seniors led the campaign to [lower deeming rates in 2019](#). This led to two separate reductions in the deeming rate in July 2019 and May 2020, when government was dragging its heels. [This boosted income for almost half a million part-pensioners and meant more self-funded retirees were eligible for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.](#)

### ■ Home Equity Access Scheme wins

The Home Equity Access Scheme was extended to everyone of pension age from 1 July 2019. This included an increase in the allowable income to 150% of the Age Pension. [We also called for a lowering of the Home Equity Access Scheme interest rate.](#) On 1 January 2020, it fell from 5.25% to 4.5% per annum. On 15 December 2021, it was announced that the interest rate would drop from 4.5% to 3.95% per annum from 1 January 2022 - [a reward for our strong and consistent campaigning.](#)

### ■ Extra home care packages

In 2020 alone, there were an [additional 29,105 Home Care Packages released at a cost of almost \\$2 billion](#). In total, there has been an extra 73,105 Home Care Packages released at a cost of \$4.6 billion since the 2018-19 Budget [thanks to our pressure on the federal government.](#) We will continue to call for more high-level packages to meet the high demand; and for government to [act quickly on the recommendations of the aged care royal commission.](#)

### ■ Energy Supplement retained for new Age Pension recipients

We opposed the federal government's 2016 proposal to [scrap the Energy Supplement for new Age Pension recipients](#). This would have cost a single pensioner \$365 and a couple \$551 annually. In 2018, we welcomed the announcement that the policy was no longer being considered.

## SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

**SUNDAY 25th AUGUST** - A tour of Historic **KINGSTON HOUSE**, located at 5 Cameron Avenue, Kingston Park. Join us at **2pm** and enjoy afternoon tea as well as the tour. The cost is \$10 paid in advance, and Kingston House have indicated that there will be no refund for cancellations. **The last day to pay is at the July Branch Meeting on 16th July.** **CONTACT** is **Lyndall Ingram** phone 0411 403 033.



**THURSDAY 26th SEPTEMBER - MONARTO ZOO BUS TOUR.** This promises to be a wonderful full day outing to the Monarto Safari Park. The largest safari park outside Africa, spanning more than 1.500 hectares, it is home to



more than 50 species of exotic

and native mammals, birds and reptiles. There is a modern visitor centre and cafe. If you would like to go on this tour, put your name down on the booking sheet. The cost is **\$75** for members, **\$80** for non members, which includes seniors' entry to the park, morning tea and the bus fare. Bring your own lunch or purchase from the cafe. The bus will leave the Windsor Theatre at 9am and return around 4.30pm. Paying reserves your seat on the bus. **We welcome any family, friends, neighbours or to anyone you may like to bring any of our outings.**

*The more the merrier!*

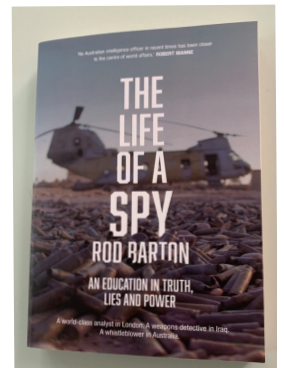
**CONTACT** is **Brian Hockley** phone 0412 995 691.

## UPCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS PROGRAM

At the **July Branch Meeting** on **Tuesday 16th**, as well as the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, we will have a speaker from HEARING AUSTRALIA.

**SAPOL** will teach us about SAFETY IN THE HOME at the **August Meeting**.

**"MY LIFE AS A SPY"** will be an interesting topic by Rod Barton, for the **September** meeting. There will be books written by the speaker for sale.



## REGULAR NOTICES

After each Branch meeting there is a lunch for members who wish to attend. **On 16th July** the lunch will be at the **Seacliff Beach Hotel**, corner Esplanade and Wheatland Street, Seacliff. If you wish to attend, please put your name on the sheet on the back table at the meeting, so we can advise the hotel of the number of members attending.

**CATERING:** Lleyan and her team of helpers would love to have more people to help with Morning Tea. **If you can help in the kitchen from time to time, talk to Lleyan.** Both women and men would be more than welcome.

**THE WALKING GROUP** meets at **9.30am EVERY TUESDAY** except when there is a Branch Meeting. That week the walk is on the following day. Our next walk is on **Wednesday 17th July**. Meet at the NORTHERN END OF THE ESPLANADE at **Glenelg North** (near the ANDERSON AVE. CORNER). Enjoy refreshments at the OAKS PIER HOTEL and return. If you'd like to join the walks (they're quite leisurely - or you can just just meet for refreshments) contact either **Barbara Hansen** phone 0448 223 075 or **Anne Arthurson** phone 0406 722 770. If the weather is inclement, we still meet for coffee and a chat. Phone Barbara or Anne *the morning of the walk* for up-to-date details. The walk on **Tuesday 23rd July**, meet at the Broadway Hotel carpark, walk to Mamma Carmella's Jetty Road, Glenelg and return. On **Tuesday 30th July**, the walk is at **Oaklands Reserve**. Meet near the toilet block in the carpark at the end of Parade West (opposite Hendrie Street).



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