

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS BRANCH INC

ConnectionS/Newsletter January 2025.



WELCOME 2025

What a first half we had, especially with our major activities being so successful with large attendances by our members. This second half of our year will hopefully produce as much fun and friendship as the last six months of 2024. There are many activities planned for you all to participate in.

This year, we welcomed lots of new members to our Branch, which is great. However, I do ask all members to embrace these new members to make them feel welcome as you were when you joined

this fantastic group.

This New Year celebrates the Chinese year of the "Wood Snake". I know that the celebration up on the coast is not as prevalent as in the capital cities. In the area where

we resided in Melbourne was in the heart of the Asian communities with 80% being Chinese. We had no option but to join in the celebrations and loved it.

It was interesting to note from the National Seniors Branch Update that the Keep Cash project has been acted on by the Federal Government, and legislation will come into effect in January 2026. I urge all members to log on to the NS page to keep up with lots of new ideas happening in branches nationally.

Sue and I would like to wish you all a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

President Bill



2024 BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH



What an amazing, fun-filled Christmas Lunch, held on Tuesday 10th December at the Port Golf Club with 76 of our members! The staff headed by Katie with Michaela behind the bar, did a fabulous job in setting the room up. I know we were all impressed by Dee's meticulous detailed timing roster. From the start when our members arrived for 11.30, it ran like clockwork. The opening of the sliding doors facing the course let a nice cooling breeze in and allowed some to enjoy their drinks and chats on the balcony.



With bread rolls, the very well served and tasty roast main course, followed by a choice of 2 desserts, were delicious and there was little left on plates. The bar service worked extremely well thanks to Michaela, and

CHRISTMAS LUNCH CONTINUED

it proved the point that our own bar can really work.



After lunch, we ventured onto Dee's Christmas Quiz. It was heaps of fun, but there were some very dubious/flexible answers. Each table had the list of questions and on completion had to exchange sheets with another table for scoring. The best score was 16 out of 20, but the other 7 followed closely behind. There was a lot of Googling going on under certain tables. However, chocolate Santas were awarded to everyone for a good effort.



Our surprise Elf guests were Jakob and Wynne, who just blew us away with the fun parcel game devised by Linda Philp.



The result with the exchange of gifts saw a different side to two of the eight recipients, Jeanette and Bill placing lots of humour into the wearing and exchange of a pair of red and green Elf panty hose.

Cameras snapped and the place went up into uproar. A certain person's wife was the first to get a photo sent, and questions were asked on his arrival home. It was all worth it.

MORE OF THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Most of those present, made good use of the contents of the bon-bons. Questions flowed all afternoon. The little toys also saw a lot of fun.



Highlights were Christine playing with the leap frog trying to lobit into a glass; Then there was David who found a new spot for a sticky frog.

The afternoon ended with President Bill thanking all who helped put the day together. Special thanks were given to Dee and Steve, Linda and Alan, Phillip and Sue, James, Joan Mitchell, Helen & Walter, Lesley, and our Elves, Wynne and Jakob. To the 76 members who turned up in Christmas attire, thank you all for making this another event that our branch can be proud of.



The very well-patronized raffles raised \$344 for the charity, our three lucky winners being Frank Liddell, Bob Morgan and James McAdam.

National Seniors Members Discount App

Many of our members would remember the wonderful '*Entertainment Book*' that you could purchase normally through a community group such as Lions or Rotary.

In this book there were myriads of discounted products and services including great deals on dining experiences. For the one-off price of \$90 you could access many discounted services but not always in your area. A further downside was that you could only use the discount once on many offers.

Fast forward to 2024 and welcome in the '***National Seniors Discount app***'. The app is the modern electronic way of obtaining discounts and services and is available to all NSA members. However, there are some major differences between the Entertainment Book and the app. These include.

- There is no cost to members
- You can redeem the same offers every day and watch the savings add up.
- You can redeem the offers online through the app or in person

It is Australia wide so can be used while travelling around Australia. Every member has been sent details on how to download the app. Once downloaded you need to fill in the details to personalise your membership.

However, if you need assistance, please contact the Head Office membership team on 1300 76 50 50

The app is yet another advantage of NSA membership.

By John Urquhart

ANNE'S BOOK REVIEW

"The Greatest Gift" - Author Racheal Johns

Radio host Harper Drummond and husband Simon a lawyer, are career personalities. Having chosen not to have children, Harper wants to make a difference so decides to donate her eggs. She finds the perfect couple. Claire and Jasper are passionate about their thriving hot air balloon business. As a child Claire had leukemia and is infertile, but they desperately want a child. After meeting and finding they are suitable to proceed with the implant they are at the third stage of pregnancy when Claire is killed in a car accident. The baby girl is born Caesarian and is in a crib. When Harper sees the tiny baby, she immediately wants to become involved with the child as its mother. This causes division between Jasper's family and her husband. Can this dilemma be solved?

By Anne Jackson.

Ballina 'Happy Hippy' Trip Away

Our next trip away will be to Ballina in May 2025. The dates are Wednesday May 21st to Saturday May 24th with confirmation of dates to occur early in the New Year.

Day One will have us visit the National Holden Museum in Coffs Harbour and the adjoining Cartoon Gallery. Morning Tea will be at the Brock Cafe. Lunch on day one will be at a local Ballina Cafe; Cafe Boker. After booking into our Resort, it will be time for rest and/or walking or shopping. Dinner on day one will be at the beautiful Ballina RSL Club.

Day Two After breakfast at the Resort we will travel to Murwillumbah to the Margaret Olley Gallery where we will have a guided tour and some shopping before lunch at the Gallery Cafe. After lunch we will travel to Burringbar, to Heaths Old Wares and Collectables and the Natural Wine Shop for a winetasting. Dinner will be a BBQ at the Resort.

Day Three Following breakfast at the Resort (and for some short walk along the Ballina Breakwall) we will travel to Zentvelds Coffee Plantation for a tour and morning tea. From here we travel to Alstonville to Summerland Farm (an Avocado and Macadamia farm) for lunch. Back to Ballina after lunch for your choice of: rest, shopping, walking, Thursday Plantation shop, Maritime Museum, Northern Rivers Community Gallery or Seven Mile Brewery (tasting). Dinner tonight will be at the Resort and is themed '*Happy Hippy*'. Optional Hippy dress up. Entertainment by Port Macquarie National Seniors '*All Stars*'. For those attending you will be part of the Port Macquarie National Seniors '*All Stars*'

Day Four After breakfast at the Resort we book out and head home with a rest stop at either Woolgoolga, Coffs Harbour or Nambucca Heads.

The cost for this trip will be dependent on current negotiations with the accommodation venue and excursions costs. However, I envisage the cost will be around \$650 per person plus petrol/car share costs. Some meals are not included in this cost.

Please carpool where possible and negotiate a share cost arrangement with the other party.

I would like names by the end of the year. Please register on the sheet at the back of our meeting venue.

Confirmation of your registration will include your name on the booking sheet plus the accommodation deposit. I will provide the accommodation details and deposit the amount to registered participants once negotiations are complete.

At this stage numbers are restricted to thirty because of some venue requirements.

We are looking forward to a fun packed and interesting trip.

By John Urquhart

YOUR 24/25 COMMITTEE

Bill Wendt.

President
Newsletter/Speaker Seeker
bssharp@bigpond.net.au
Mob. 0407 565 049.

James McAdam

Vice President
Activities
james.mcadam2004@gmail.com
Mob 0425 293 961

Lesley Cooney

Secretary
Mob 0427 430 631
lesleyc48@hotmail.com

Sue Gardiner

Treasurer
Mob 0413 029 445
sjbaikiegardiner@gmail.com

Phillip Gardiner

Assistant Treasurer
Public Officer

phillipgardiner@iinet.net.au
Mob 0413 124 505

Ron Mitchell

Membership
Web Master
rjmitch1@bigpond.com
Mob 0414 278 605

Linda Philp

Welfare
One Thing About Me
lulu23lp@gmail.com
Mob 0413 306 112

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Malcolm Brown

Sue Cuncliffe

Marlene Davar

Vera gowling

Annie Hall

Adele Jones

Hans Koning O

Dennis Leembruggen

Baz MacDonald

Ken McNaught

Dale Rose

John Urquhart

Duncan Wyndham.O



WHAT OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN UP TO



WAUCHOPE SHOPPING/GOLF/LUNCH DAY

On Friday 13th December, some of our members spent a morning of golf and shopping at Wauchope before retiring to the Country Club for lunch. Although numbers were smaller than usual, all who attended enjoyed the day. Special thanks to Circle of Friends who donated discount vouchers to our shoppers.

GIVE THE KIDS A FIGHTING CHANCE

Lions Club of Tacking Point has created a Go Fund Me appeal to raise funds to assist kids at Hastings Secondary College (both campuses). Funds are needed to provide breakfasts for kids who are starting their school day without a meal. Also, some personal items are provided to kids in need.

Longer term, Lions intends to create a kitchen on the Westport Campus to serve these meals in a proper environment. This is a public high school and funds are genuinely needed. Please go to

<https://gofund.me/1cec6e02>

and donate what you can.

Please also send this link to your friends, family and contacts.



Your help is greatly appreciated.

By Max Carrick 0405 026 315

MEAT TASTING FUNDRAISER

Our Main Fundraiser for the year is our Meat Tasting Event, and we need your support for just one hour.

The Venue is **The Lions Den**. Hastings River Drive next to the Port Home Centre,

The Date is **Thursday 27th March 2025**.

The Cost **FREE**

There will be 3 sittings, 9.45 for 10.00am start, finishing at 11.00am. Session 2, 10.45am for 11am start finishing at 12 noon and session 3 will be from 11.45 am for a 1.00pm start finishing at 2.00 pm Lunch will be at Settlers Inn after.

It is important to note that you will not fill up on the tasting as they are only bite-sized portions.

I currently have 19 names registered. (we need 60 with a few reserves to account for non-attendance).

Please help us get to the finish line and the \$1200.00.

To Register please contact Bill on 0407 565 049 or email bssharp@bigpond.net.au.



Fundraising?

60 people + 1 hr + taste-test Aussie beef or lamb =

\$1200

donated to your organisation / group / club

Fundraising made easy

Don't worry about set-up, supplies or clean-up

WE DO IT FOR YOU

All you have to do is turn up and taste!

No hidden costs

\$1200 donated straight to your group

NO COST TO YOU

No sausages sizzle, no raffle prizes, no baking.

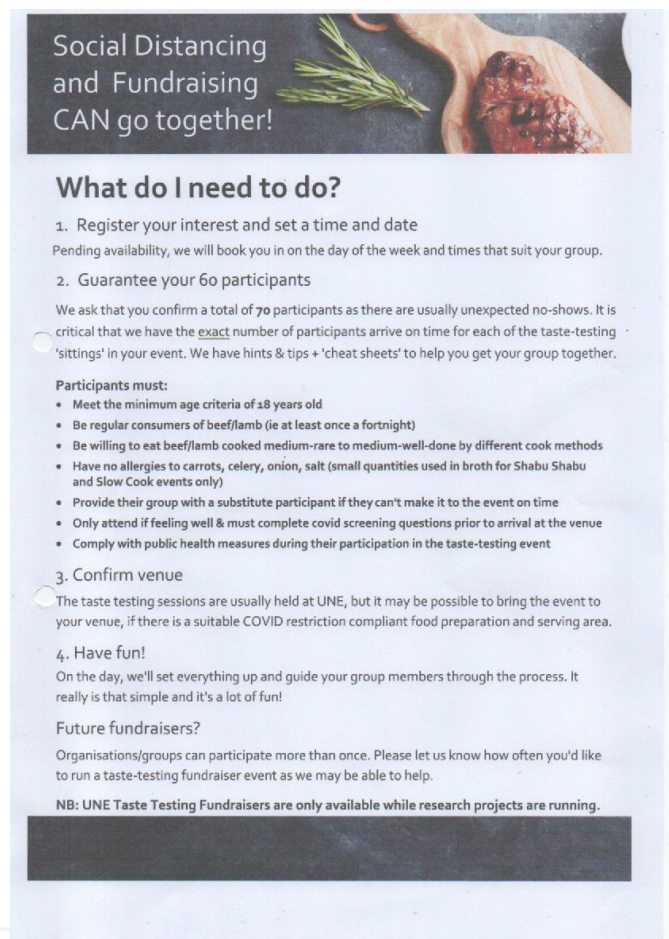
It's really that simple

These events comply with the latest NSW Public Health Order, so that you can get fundraising again!

Raise \$1200 in an hour, just by taste-testing Australian beef or lamb

To secure your place, please contact:
Briony Looker
0482 527 263
sensoryresearch@une.edu.au



Social Distancing and Fundraising CAN go together!

What do I need to do?

1. Register your interest and set a time and date
Pending availability, we will book you in on the day of the week and times that suit your group.
2. Guarantee your 60 participants
We ask that you confirm a total of 70 participants as there are usually unexpected no-shows. It is critical that we have the exact number of participants arrive on time for each of the taste-testing 'sittings' in your event. We have hints & tips + 'cheat sheets' to help you get your group together.
Participants must:
 - Meet the minimum age criteria of 18 years old
 - Be regular consumers of beef/lamb (ie at least once a fortnight)
 - Be willing to eat beef/lamb cooked medium-rare to medium-well-done by different cook methods
 - Have no allergies to carrots, celery, onion, salt (small quantities used in broth for Shabu Shabu and Slow Cook events only)
 - Provide their group with a substitute participant if they can't make it to the event on time
 - Only attend if feeling well & must complete covid screening questions prior to arrival at the venue
 - Comply with public health measures during their participation in the taste-testing event
3. Confirm venue
The taste testing sessions are usually held at UNE, but it may be possible to bring the event to your venue, if there is a suitable COVID restriction compliant food preparation and serving area.
4. Have fun!
On the day, we'll set everything up and guide your group members through the process. It really is that simple and it's a lot of fun!

Future fundraisers?
Organisations/groups can participate more than once. Please let us know how often you'd like to run a taste-testing fundraiser event as we may be able to help.

NB: UNE Taste Testing Fundraisers are only available while research projects are running.