

Yarra Ranges Grapevine



The Journal of the National Seniors Australia Yarra Ranges Branch Inc
Incorporation No. A0048800C Branch No 100132

JULY & AUGUST 2025

Membership Renewals & Joining Members

There are new Membership Renewal / Joining Application Forms on the last page of this Newsletter.
The Branch receives a small annual payment for your Membership.

Branch Meetings 2025

Monday – 14 July

6.30pm

'Dinner Meeting'

At

The Crown Hotel

Main Street Lilydale

Monday – 11 August

2.00pm for 2.30pm

'Plastic Free Tips' (MCC)

Guest Speaker

Katherine Greenham

At

Lilydale Lake Community Rm

Monday – 8 September

2.00pm for 2.30pm

'AGM & Inhouse Trivia'

Presenter: Steve Nichols

At

Lilydale Lake Community Rm

(Speaker ideas please)

**If you have a suggestion for a
'Guest Speaker' please let the
Secretary know.**

President's Report

*Hi
Members,*

*Another
two months
has flown
by and we
are now
into the
cold snap
of winter.
Healthy.*



President Trevor welcomes Jean, Chris & John

Hope everyone is keeping warm and

*Members had a very good meal and outing to Rose
Cottage in Monbulk. We thank the hosts of Rose
Cottage for their lovely home-made main courses and
desserts and the cosy open fire.*

*Thank you to Steve for conducting our tour of the
Athenaeum Theatre Lilydale - very interesting.*

Happy reading.

Trevor President



Vale: Colleen Elliott passed peacefully at home.
She was an energetic 'live wire' and will be sadly
missed by all who knew her.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION NOTICE:

JP facilities are available at the Croydon & Lilydale Police
Station on the following days and times –

Croydon	Tuesdays	10.00am to 1.00pm
Lilydale	Thursdays	10.00am to 1.00pm

Yarra Ranges NSA Branch Committee

President

Trevor - ☎ 9735 1104

Vice President & Welfare Officer

Steve - ☎ 0427 394 642

Secretary Newsletter Editor

Lyn – ☎ 0459 155 527

Email: yarrarangesnsa@gmail.com

Treasurer

Anne - ☎ 97265135

Activities Coordinator

Chris - ☎ 0419 528 446

Email: chrishill3@bigpond.com.au

Guest Speaker Coordinator

Vacant

Web Administrator

Patrick

☎ 0413 726 726

Committee Member

Elaine - ☎ 0427 394 642

Kathy - ☎ 0438 257807

Welfare Officer Please contact our WO if you know of anyone who is unwell, having an operation, in need of help or has passed away within the family.

Vice President & Welfare Officer Steve on ☎ 0427 394 642



Congratulations to!

5 July Trevor

17 July Lynne L

27 July John K

14 August Ross

15 August Chris H

17 August Ruth

24 August Alan

27 August Julia

30 August Adrian

31 August Dorne

We would like to celebrate your day!

Don't forget to email / phone your birthday & month to Lyn at yarrarangesnsa@gmail.com

DIARY DATES

'WELCOME' to our BRANCH MEETING DATES - 2nd Monday of the Month

Meet at: 'Lilydale Lake Community Room', Lilydale Lake Rd, off 435A Swansea Rd Lilydale

Monday 14 July @ 6.30pm

'Dinner Meeting'

At The Crown Hotel Main Street Lilydale

Monday 11 August @ 2.00pm for 2.30pm start

'Plastic Free Tips' (Maroondah Council)

Guest Speaker: Katherine Greenham



Monday 8 September @ 2.00pm for 2.30pm start

'AGM & Inhouse Trivia' - Fun for all!!

Presenter: Steve Nichols

Please email your ideas for **Guest Speakers** or **Activities** to –
yarrarangesnsa@gmail.com or **pop in the 'Suggestion Box'**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 1ST Monday of Month

@ Chris' place

Monday – 7 July Meeting Monday – 4 August

Monday – 1 September



*** NOTE FROM CHRIS ***

Everyone needs to please **text or email** Chris - ☎ 0419 528 446

Email: chrishill3@bigpond.com.au

with any changes they want to make after they have put their name down for an 'Outing & About' / 'Dining Out' / 'Morning Melodies'.

Also, if you put their name down for an 'Outing & About' / 'Dining Out' / 'Morning Melodies' please make sure you **put it in your diary**, so you don't overlook or forget what you have made a commitment that date.



'OUT & ABOUT' – BLUE

'DINING OUT' – PINK

'MORNING MELODIES' - GOLD



Activities

Please Contact Chris 'Activities Coordinator' to Book and to cancel in time

Please Note: All payments in an **envelope** with **name**, **amount of payment** and **Activity name**.
This will be a great help. Thank you, Chris

'Out & About' – Blue

'Dine Outs' – Pink

'Morning Melodies' – Gold

MORNING MELODIES @ The International Hotel Maroondah Highway Lilydale

Please note: Order lunch before show at 11.00am. Lunch 12.00noon

Wednesday 2 July @ 11.00am

Thursday 3 July @ 12.30pm

Monday 21st July @ 9.30am

Wednesday 30 July @ 12.30pm

'Xmas in July Show' – 70s Girl Power

'Koko Lime' Café Lunch Alchester Shopping Centre, corner

'Games Morning' at Lilydale Lakehouse Community Room

'The Mustard Tree' Lunch 3 / 28 John Street Lilydale (Op Shop)
(opposite Bunnings car park)

Wednesday 6 Aug @ 11.00am

Thursday 14th Aug @ 12.30pm

Monday 25th Aug @ 12.30pm

'Hit Parade' – Andy Baker

'Dorset Gardens Hotel' Lunch Dorset Road Croydon

'Bella Piatto' Lunch Main Street Croydon

Wednesday 3 Sept @ 11.00am

Tuesday 9th Sept @ 12.30pm

Wednesday 24th Sept @ 12.30pm

Wednesday 8 Oct @ 11.00am

'Mr Variety' – Alex Kyle

'Duckies Cafe' Lunch 579 Warburton Highway Seville

'Rowannas Restaurant' 122 Bayswater Rd Croydon South

'Country Music Spectacular' – Rene Diaz

Contact Secretary Lyn for Musicals & Ballet

Sunday 24 Aug @ 2.00pm
Sunday 21 Sept @ 1.30pm
Sunday 12 Oct @ 2.00pm
Sunday 19 Oct @ 2.00pm

'Aladdin' – Victoriah State Ballet @ Karralyka Theatre Ringwood
'Chess' – The Round Theatre Whitehorse Road Nunawading
'Grease' – The Round Theatre Whitehorse Road Nunawading
'& Juliet' – National Theatre Cnr Barkly & Carlisle Streets St Kilda'

'SATURDAY WALKS' - Contact Chris 'Activities Coordinator' for details

Please Note – Walks start **9.00am**

These 2 photos are from the same walks – do you know where? Answers in next 'Grapevine' **Photos 1 & 2** in 'May & June' Grapevine' – Killara to Seville Walk

Sat 5 July	Barneong Reserve Croydon North
Sat 12 July	Dorset Reserve Croydon
Sat 19 July	Lilydale Lake
Sat 26 July	Lilydale to Mt Evelyn
Sat 2 Aug	Wandin to Seville
Sat 9 Aug	Barneong Reserve Croydon North
Sat 16 Aug	Norton Road Croydon
LSat 23 Aug	Killara to Seville
Sat 30 Aug	Mooroolbark Comm Centre
Sat 6 Sept	Lilydale Lake
Sat 13 Sept	Dorset Reserve Croydon
Sat 20 Sept	Mullum Mullum Burnt Bridge



Note: If there is an **all day 'Out & About'** organised, we won't be walking

OTHER NEWSY BITS!

Contributions to our Newsletter



*Have you been travelling?
Have you attended a good show?
Have you read a good book?*



Is there something you have experienced, that you would like to share with the members of the Branch?

A story? One-liners? Photos from outings?



'ROSE COTTAGE'

MONBULK

A photo of some of our thirty Members who spent a lovely winter lunch time at Rose Cottage beside a roaring log fire.

Rose Cottage is a lovely 'oldy worldly' original cottage at Monbulk in the Dandenong Ranges.

The food is very good and all home made on the premises by our hosts and staff.

We didn't need a dinner that evening!

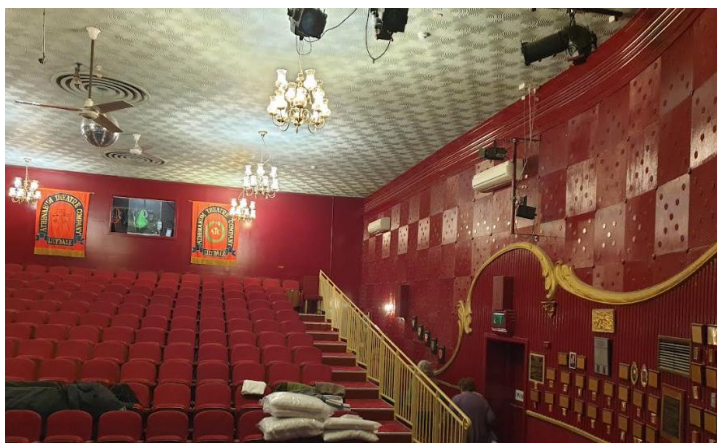
Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Company Tour



Main Street Entrance



Harold Burrows Foyer with some of the past productions displayed



Seating area of the Athenaeum Theatre



Melba Room leads off the Main Foyer

On Monday 23 June 16 of our Members were entertained and given informed on the background to the Heritage Listed building which was originally the Mechanics Institute Athenaeum and Free Library built in 1888 for the towns people of Lilydale.

It has had a rich and interesting history with such uses as – Dances, Concerts, Concerts by Nellie Melba, Roller Skating, Badminton, Lending Library etc and there is a 'secret' under the Stage.

It has a small stage area and the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Company which was founded in 1976 by Russell Johnson and Geoff Page, have many challenges operating in such an area for the staging and actors to operate in.

The 'Green Room' and many storage cupboards for costumes and accessories of every description are down stairs under the back of the stage area. Everything is well labelled and in its place as there is not much room. While we were there the volunteers were building the stage for the next production which is '*The Diary of Ann Frank*'. The Theatre Company stage 5 productions per year with a mixture of comedy, straight plays and a musical. Some of our Members attend the season every year for many years now.



Working on the staging for '*The Diary of Ann Frank*'

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The Lighter Side of Life!

A woman usually took her young son to the library and helped him pick out books, but one week she was busy, so she dropped him off and said he could pick some books while she shopped. When she picked him up, he was very quiet and didn't mention the books, and never mentioned them all evening. She thought that was odd, as he was normally excited about getting new library books. At bedtime, she asked him if he'd like to show her the books he'd picked. He reluctantly took them out of his school bag and showed them to her. She took one look and said, "But all of these books are in French!" He said, "Wow! Really? I thought I forgot how to read!"

This old lady handed her bank card to the teller and said "I would like to withdraw \$10". The teller told her "For withdrawals less than \$100, please use the ATM". The old lady wanted to know why... The teller returned her bank card and irritably told her "These are the rules, please leave if there is no further matter. There is a line of customers behind you". The old lady remained silent for a few seconds and handed her card back to the teller and said "please help me withdraw all the money I have." The teller was astonished when she checked the account balance. She nodded her head, leaned down and respectfully told her "You have \$300,000 in your account but the bank doesn't have that much cash currently. Could you make an appointment and come back again tomorrow?" The old lady then asked how much she could withdraw immediately. The teller told her any amount up to \$3000. "Well please let me have \$3000 now." The teller kindly handed \$3000 very friendly and with a smile to her. The old lady put \$10 in her purse and asked the teller to deposit \$2990 back into her account.

The moral of this story is.... Don't be difficult with old people, they spent a lifetime learning skills

A Biker strolls into a Tattoo parlour, strips off his shirt, sits astride a chair and asks the tattooist for an Indian Chief on his Back. Four hours later, the tattooist is still hard at work.... The Biker says "You nearly finished mate?" The tattooist replies "Give me a chance pal, I've only just finished the Turban!"

MORE STICKERS HAVE ARRIVED!

'Keep Cash' Campaign

We have obtained some more stickers from Head Office in Brisbane for distribution to local traders and retailers who wish to continue receiving CASH. These will be available now.

NSA wants to help buck the 'cashless society' trend and keep cash circulating. To do this, they need our help to encourage retailers that accept cash to display our new '**We accept cash**' sticker.

Let's get our message out there. All we need to do is encourage retailers in our local area to display the '**We accept cash**' sticker for customers to see.



You could even take a photo of the sticker being displayed and email it to us at policy@nationalseniors.com.au Participating businesses are added to NSA website page and shared on our social media.



Update your medicines list now – you'll need it if you go to hospital



A medicine list is a complete list of all your prescriptions, over the counter and complementary medicines.

Now is the time to make sure you have that list up-to-date and easy to find in case you unexpectedly have to go to hospital or visit a doctor or pharmacist who is not familiar with your health status.



Please ensure you have this app installed on your phone – it could save lives and maybe even your own.

Emergencyplus is an app you can put on your mobile. (It was recommended by a trainer who trained the staff at my school.)

You can choose to load onto an Apple or Android system (2nd choice).

When loaded the right-hand screen will appear.



The **000 Emergency**, **SES** & **Police** are live buttons that will automatically call that service when pressed. Also, you will note your 'location coordinates' appear so you can pass the information to the service concerned as to where your location is.



****Some News Items from National Seniors that you may have missed**

Why your devices don't last

Manufacturers have a trick to keep you coming back for more. Here's how to beat it. Built-in obsolescence – also known as planned obsolescence – is a design strategy where products are deliberately manufactured with a limited lifespan.

This approach is common in electronics, computers, mobile phones, and white goods (such as fridges and washing machines), and it encourages consumers to replace rather than repair. While it boosts profits for manufacturers, it often leads to frustration, unnecessary expense, and growing environmental harm.

There are several ways in which obsolescence is built into products. A common method is through hardware limitations. For example, a smartphone may be fitted with a battery that is difficult or impossible to replace, or have key components soldered in, preventing upgrades.

Software obsolescence is another tactic. Operating systems and apps are frequently updated in ways that slow down older devices or make them incompatible with new services, nudging users towards an upgrade.

White goods, which once reliably lasted 15–20 years, are now often showing signs of failure within 7–10 years. This decline is largely due to cheaper components, limited access to spare parts, and digital circuit boards that are hard or costly to replace.

If you're looking to invest in products that stand the test of time, here are some things to consider:

1. **Repairability:** Choose products designed to be opened and repaired. Look for manufacturers that provide spare parts, repair manuals, and support third-party repairs.
2. **Modularity and upgradability:** For laptops and mobile phones, choose models that allow upgrades to memory, batteries, or storage. Avoid sealed devices where components are glued or soldered in.
3. **Software support:** Check how long a manufacturer offers software updates. Some provide extended support, while others stop updates after just a few years, even if the hardware still works perfectly well.

4. Reputation and reviews: Research brands with a strong track record for durability and customer service. Independent reviews and user forums are valuable sources of real-world experience.
5. Right to repair: There is a movement by governments worldwide to give consumers the right to have products repaired at a fair price. This does not exist in Australia – yet.

By being an informed and mindful buyer, you can push back against built-in obsolescence – saving money and reducing waste in the process.

Brett Debritz

Communications Specialist, National Seniors Australia

Are you paying too much for power?
See how you could save



Find out more

A new way for you to save

Introducing an initiative from National Seniors Australia that helps you find the best deals on the services you need.

It's no secret that prices are going up, including for the utilities and other services that power our everyday lives.

So, if you are looking for a better deal on electricity, gas, solar power, broadband, pay TV, or home maintenance, National Seniors Australia now has you covered.

Our new **Savings Hub** allows you to tap into our partner network to compare plans, pricing, and features to find the best fit for needs.

The service is completely free. Our goal is to help you save money on bills you already pay within your home.

How it works

All you need to do is submit your information through our online form. Choose the type of products that you want to compare – for example, electricity – and select “*Continue Online*” to compare plans, pricing, and features to find the best fit for your needs.

By choosing “*Submit*”, you can organise a call from our specialist team.

If we can find you a better – cheaper – plan that suits your needs, we will receive a fee from the supplier. This does not affect the amount you will pay the supplier.

We recommend using our service whenever there is a significant change in your household needs or expenses. Regular reviews ensure you're never paying too much.

We can also help you switch providers if you find a better deal for yourself.

Once we have identified potential savings through our service, we guide you through the process. We make it as seamless as possible to help you start saving quickly.

Safe experience

In case you are concerned about online security, be assured that your privacy is our priority. We use secure, encrypted connections, and we don't store sensitive personal information.

We are committed to ensuring a safe and secure experience for all our users.

And if you are worried about who you are dealing with, we partner with a range of leading service providers that you've almost certainly already heard about.

They include: AGL, Origin, Energy Australia, Alinta Energy, Ovo Energy, Tango Energy, ActewAGL, Arcline by RACV, Dodo, Optus, More Telecom, Tangerine, Telstra, and Aussie Broadband [.Compare now](#)

Compare & Save On:



Electricity



Broadband



Gas



Pay TV



Solar



Maintenance

National Seniors Australia Membership Application

ABN 89 050 523 003

Please complete and return the following form to begin reaping the benefits of your new National Seniors membership. If you would prefer to talk to a consultant, please call 1300 76 50 50.

Renewing members please provide your National Seniors membership number: _____

PERSONAL DETAILS

Mr/ Mrs/ Miss / Ms/ Dr / Mx First name _____

Last name _____ Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

phone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

JOINT MEMBER DETAILS

Mr/ Mrs/ Miss / Ms/ Dr / Mx First name _____

Last name _____ Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

Are you a current branch member ☐ Yes ☐ No Branch name _____

☐ I would like my nearest National Seniors Branch to contact me about attending branch events (meetings, social get-togethers & more)

MEMBERSHIP AND PAYMENT DETAILS

I / we would like to join for: (please tick) includes GST

1 Year ☐ Single \$49.50

☐ Joint \$80

2 Year ☐ Single \$88 ☐ Joint \$143

3 Year ☐ Single \$120

☐ Joint \$180

5 Year ☐ Single \$220 ☐ Joint \$325

TOTAL PAYABLE: \$ _____

☐ Cheque/money order enclosed (payable to National Seniors Australia)

☐ Please charge my credit card

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

Card number CVC

Cardholder's name _____ Expiry ____ / ____

Cardholder's signature _____

Credit card payments may also be made by phoning 1300 76 50 50

Please return this coupon with payment to:

National Seniors Australia, GPO Box 1450, Brisbane Qld 4001.

National Seniors will keep you informed about special offers, deals on member benefits and other products and services from National Seniors and its partners. You may opt out of receiving emails about these items at any time via the Unsubscribe link at the bottom of our emails, by visiting the National Seniors website nation@lseniors.com.au or by calling our Membership Team.

By completing this application form, I/we agree to the customer terms set out on the National Seniors website nation@lseniors.com.au

National Seniors Australia respects your privacy and is committed to protecting your personal information. You can view the full details of our privacy statement online at nationalseniors.com.au



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