

Yarra Ranges Grapevine



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

MARCH & APRIL 2026

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 2026

**No Branch Meeting
January 2026**

Monday – 16 March
(NOTE: 3RD MONDAY)

7.00pm for 7.30pm

'The Art of Humanity'

Presenter: George Petrou
OAM

Lilydale Lake Community Rm

Monday – 13 April
6.430pm

'Dinner Meeting'

At The Crown Hotel
Main Street Lil



(Speaker ideas please)

**If you have a
suggestion for
a 'Guest Speaker'
please contact
the Secretary**

President's Report

Hi Members,

Another two months has gone by.

The Neil Diamond story at the Karralyka was a very good night especially for Lorraine who sang along with each song.

Ross McMullin was the guest speaker last month very informative and created a lot of interest in Australian history.

Looking forward to Chris Cafe in March.

Wishing each one a Happy Easter.

Hope to see you all at the 16th March Branch Meeting at Lake.

In the meantime, happy reading.

*Trevor
President*

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 - ☎ 0418 532 595

Vice President & Welfare Officer

Steve - ☎ 0427 394 642

Secretary

Newsletter Editor

Lyn F – ☎ 0459 155 527

Email: yarrarangesnsa@gmail.com

Treasurer

Lyn J - ☎ 0418 598 521

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



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

Congratulations to!

3 March - Judy H

6 April - John K

20 April - Colin C

28 April - Margaret

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

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE:

Monday 16 March @ 7.00pm for 7.30pm

'The Art of Humanity' (NOTE: 3rd Monday of the Month)

Presenter: George Petrou OAM (Patron to TPI Veterans Vic)

(Artist. Graphic Designer & Portrait Artist)



Monday 13 April @ 6.30pm

'DINNER MEETING @ The Crown Hotel Main Street Lilydale'

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 - 2 March

Monday - 6 April

*** NOTE FROM CHRIS ***

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

Email: chrishill3@bigpond.com.au

with any changes you want to make after they have put your 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 4 Mar @ 11.00am
Wednesday 11 Mar @ 12.30pm
Sunday 22 March @ 12.00pm

Monday 30 March @ 10.30am
Wednesday 8 April @ 11.00am
Thursday 16 April @ 12.30pm

Wednesday 29 April @ 12.30pm
Monday 18 May @ 12.30pm
Thursday 4 June @ 12.30pm

'Australian Songbook' – Rene Diaz
'Noojee Pub' Lunch 411 Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road Noojee
'Chris' Café' @ 3 Mangans Road Lilydale - Providing - Nibbles, Spit Roast, Salads, Desserts, Tea / Coffee **SOLD OUT**
'The Eagle Arthurs Seat' Lunch 1085 Arthurs Seat Rd Arthurs Seat
'Cliff Richards & Friends' – Col Perkins
'Redwood Forest BYO Picnic & Chair' Cement Creek Road Warburton East
'Terminus Hotel' 23 Harker Street Healesville
'Branded Burgers Café' 567 Warburton Highway Seville
'Eastwood Golf Club' 332 Liverpool Road Kilsyth South

Musicals & Ballets Please book with Lyn F

Sunday 1 March @ 2.00pm
Sunday 29 March @ 1.30pm
Sunday 17 May @ 2.00pm
Sunday 24 May @ 2.00pm
Sunday 7 June @ 2.00pm
Sunday 21 June @ 1.30pm
Sunday 23 August @ 2.00pm
Sunday 18 October @ 2.00pm

'Swan Lake' Ballet at Karralyka Theatre Ringwood
'The Sound of Music' Musical at The Round Theatre Nunawading
'Alice in Wonderland' Ballet at Karralyka Theatre Ringwood
'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' at The National Theatre St Kilda
'42nd Street' Musical at The Round Theatre Nunawading
'Beauty & the Beast' Musical at Karralyka Theatre Ringwood
'Giselle' Ballet at Karralyka Theatre Ringwood
'The Nutcracker' Ballet at Karralyka Theatre Ringwood

Booking Closed

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

Please Note – Walks start during **EST at 9.00am (Daylight Saving)**. Over **30deg 8.30am**

These 2 photos are from the same walks – do you know where? Answers in next 'Grapevine'
Photos 1 & 2 in the '*January & February*' Grapevine' – Barneong Reserve Walk

Sat 7 March	Mullum Mullum Burnt Bridge
Sat 14 March	Norton Road Croydon
Sat 21 March	Lilydale Lake
Sat 28 March	Lilydale to Mt Evelyn
Sat 4 April	Lilydale Lake
Sat 11 April	Wandin to Seville
Sat 18 April	Barneong Res Croydon Nth
Sat 25 April	Killara to Seville
Sat 2 May	Dorset Reserve Croydon
Sat 9 May	Norton Road Croydon
Sat 16 May	Mooroolbark Comm Centre



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?

Don't let scammers steal your holiday: smart travel tips to avoid scams

January 13, 2026

You've earned this time to travel – to relax, explore, and create unforgettable memories. But while you're planning your dream getaway, scammers may be planning too. Here's how to help keep your holiday stress-free and scam-free.

The friendly stranger scam

A helpful local offers to assist with maps or bags. Sounds harmless – until they distract you while an accomplice steals your wallet or demands cash for their "help." These scams prey on politeness and are common in tourist hotspots.

Tip: Politely decline unsolicited help and keep valuables secure.

Taxi tricks

Unlicensed taxis are a classic scam both here and overseas. Drivers may refuse meters, take long routes, insist on cash, or even stop mid-trip to pressure you into ATM withdrawals.

The Australian Government website, *SmartTraveller*, advises:

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1. Use licensed taxis only
 2. Check official transport options before you travel
 3. Follow airport signs to official taxi ranks
 4. Confirm the fare or meter use before getting in

5. Note the taxi number, company name, and driver's name at the start of your trip
-

Warning: Unlicensed drivers often approach inside terminals. Licensed taxis wait at official ranks outside.

Rental rorts

Car hire scams can involve false damage claims, huge deposits, or even holding your passport.

Tip: Never leave your passport as security. Use reputable companies and photograph any pre-existing damage before driving away and take photographs before returning the car.

Online booking traps

Fake booking websites are increasingly convincing, sometimes using AI-generated content.

Watch for:

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1. No padlock symbol or 'https' in the web address.
 2. Email addresses that don't match the company name.
 3. Poor spelling or odd formatting.
 4. Global platform, Booking.com, states it will never ask for payment details via phone, email, or chat apps. It advises travellers to avoid clicking on suspicious links and never share credit card details through email, text or phone calls.
-

Fake visa websites

E-visas are convenient, but scammers create fake sites that look official.

Tip: Official government visa sites usually include "gov" or "go" in the URL.

Fiji and other countries have recently warned about fraudulent visa sites – so double-check before applying.

ATM skimmers

Card skimming and ATM fraud remain common.

Tip: Keep your card in sight during transactions and avoid using public Wi-F for banking and other sensitive activities.

Use ATMs, inside banks or shops, not on the street and always cover the keypad with your other hand when entering your PIN.

Enabling notifications within your specific bank app for real-time purchase updates can help spot any unauthorised transactions quickly.

Airline impersonator scam

AI tools have fuelled fake customer service numbers online. There are increasing reports from travellers purchasing fake flights after calling scam numbers posing as airlines.

Tip: Save official airline contact details before you travel and use the airline's official app for support.

For smart travel, a little preparation goes a long way. Stay alert, trust your instincts, and make every moment of your well-deserved adventure truly enjoyable.

For further tips and official advice, visit <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au>

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A man absolutely hated his wife's cat and decided to get rid of him one day by driving him 20 blocks from his home and leaving him at the park. As he was getting home, the cat was walking up the driveway.

The Lighter Side of Life!

The next day, he decided to drive the cat 40 blocks away. He put the beast out and headed home. Driving back up his driveway, there was the cat!

He kept taking the cat further, and further, and the cat would always beat him home. At last, he decided to drive a few miles away, turn right, then left, past the bridge, then right again, and another right until he reached what he thought was a safe distance from his home and left the cat there.

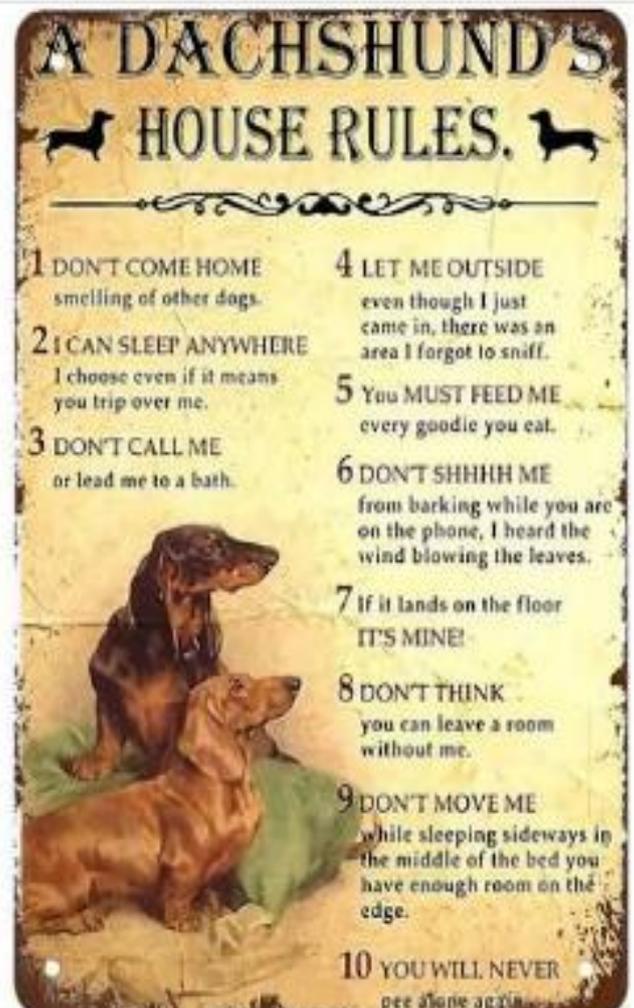
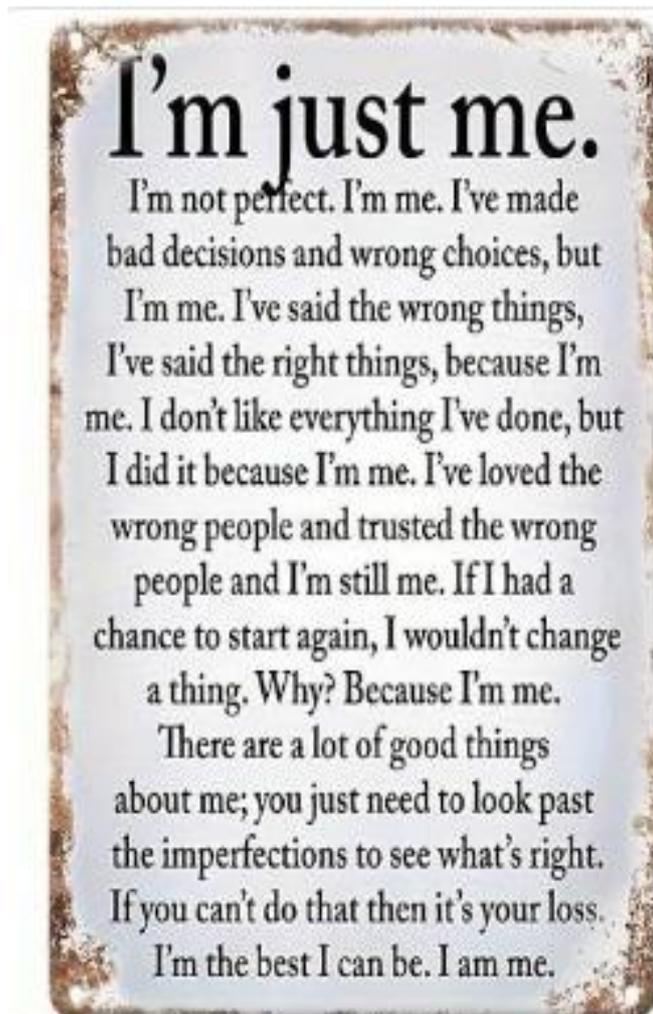
Hours later, the man calls home to his wife: "Jen, is the cat there?"

"Yes", the wife answers, "why do you ask?"

Frustrated, the man answered, "Put that S.O.B. on the phone, I'm lost and need directions!"



1. **Why don't skeletons fight each other?**
Because they don't have the guts!
2. **Why did the scarecrow win an award?**
Because he was outstanding in his field!
3. **What do you call fake spaghetti?**
An impasta!
4. **Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself?**
It was two-tired!
5. **Why don't eggs tell jokes?**
Because they might crack up!





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.

MORE STICKERS HAVE ARRIVED!

'Keep Cash' Campaign

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



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

Keeping cash affordable & accessible

Paying with cash withdrawn from a fee-free ATM is not just convenient, it can be the cheapest way to make a purchase.

The success of the National Seniors Australia (NSA) [Keep Cash campaign](#) tells us that many people want to pay for products and services with cash rather than cards or apps.

Cash remains essential, cost-effective, and inclusive – especially for older Australians who still rely on it for their everyday transactions.

Yet one question persists:

Does it cost more to pay with cash than by card or digital transaction? In most cases, the answer is no – and we'll explain why soon.

First, some background.

Card surcharges, barriers to online banking for people who can't use the technology, and the steady decline of bank-owned ATMs disproportionately affect seniors.

NSA Chief Executive Officer, Chris Grice, warns that *“as cash use declines, so does the number of access points available to withdraw it”*.

He notes that bank branch closures and the removal of bank ATMs particularly impact people who are less inclined to bank online.

In many regional areas, travelling to another branch simply isn't feasible, making it even harder for older Australians to continue using cash just as they always have.

Keeping cash accessible and accepted matters to all Australians. Cash is a basic means of payment and it's a backup in case of emergency. Without cash, if the internet goes down, commerce and essential services come to a halt.

While digital payments are often promoted as cheaper or more convenient, card transactions can have hidden costs. Merchants may apply surcharges to debit and credit card payments – a practice NSA argues should be reduced or eliminated.

However, accessing cash can also be expensive if you use ATMs that charge per withdrawal.

This is where [atmx](#), Australia's largest fee-free ATM network, significantly changes the cost equation.

Launched in 2020, [atmx](#) partners with many financial institutions to eliminate direct-charge fees for their customers, providing millions of Australians with [fee-free cash withdrawals](#) and balance checks across a growing [network of machines](#) nationwide.

With more than 1,750 active devices and a partner base of [25 financial institutions](#), [atmx](#) can now support more than 23 million cardholders with fee-free access.

The company's general manager, Con Tsiknis, reinforces the importance of maintaining access to cash, noting that as digital payments dominate, *“there is a growing need to ensure cash remains a viable and accessible payment option for all Australians, especially seniors who rely on it for everyday transactions”*.

Mr Tsiknis says cash is an essential part of Australia's economy and that [atmx](#) believes fee-free access should be a right, not a privilege.

With an expanding national footprint – including in areas affected by bank closures – [atmx](#) helps many Australians access cash without added cost.

NSA's partnership with [atmx](#) aims to raise awareness among communities, retailers, and policymakers about the continued importance of cash infrastructure and the need to keep cash viable.

The result is a landscape where, when account holders with [atmx](#) partner banks use the [atmx](#) network for fee-free transactions, cash is often the cheaper option, avoiding both ATM withdrawal fees and card-payment surcharges.

Paying with cash does not inherently cost more. In fact, thanks to the fee-free ATM network and absence of card surcharges, it may cost you less.

[Find an atm here.](#)

Disclaimer:

This article and any links provided are for general information only and should not be taken as constituting professional advice. National Seniors Australia is not a financial advisor. You should consider seeking independent legal, financial, taxation, or other advice to check how any information provided relates to your unique circumstances.

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

OurGeneration

Membership includes subscription to *Our Generation* digital magazine.



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