

# Yarra Ranges Grapevine

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

## MAY & JUNE 2021

### **PLEASE NOTE: Membership Renewals & Joining Members**

Please ensure you use the 'Yarra Ranges NSA Application Forms' at the end of this 'Grapevine' & pay through the Branch. This informs NSA that you are a member of this Branch. The Branch receives an annual payment for your Membership.

[Click here for Membership Form](#)

## President's Report

### Branch Meetings

**Monday**

**10 May meet 7.00pm  
for 7.30pm start**

**'Retirement & Aged  
Care'**

**Speaker – Kristy  
Burrows**

**Yarra Ranges Lawyers**

**Monday**

**14 June meet 7.00pm  
for 7.30pm start**

**'Andrea Doria Wreck'**

**Speaker – Beverley  
Blenner Hassett**

(Ship sunk after colliding  
with the 'Stockholm' off the  
coast of Nantucket USA)

**If you have a suggestion  
for a Guest Speaker  
please let Denise or a  
Committee Member know**



*Hi Members,*

*President Trevor  
presenting our new  
members -Barbara,  
Julie and Colin with  
their Badges and  
'Welcoming Card' to  
our Branch.*

*It was great to see a good number of members 34 in total for the April Branch Dinner meeting at The Crown Hotel.*

*Another tasty lunch was had at Chris's Café also well attended. I wasn't able to be there owing to a very bad cold.*

*We will be back at the Elderly Citizens Hall for the next monthly Branch Meeting at 7 Hardy Street Lilydale.*

*Happy Reading Trevor*

### Vale

*Our thoughts and support are with Chris whose Mum Ivy passed away peacefully on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 at the age of 95. Ivy will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.*

**Yarra Ranges NSA Branch Committee**

**President**

Trevor - ☎ 9735 1104

**Vice President & Welfare Officer**

Pamela - ☎ 9735 5449

**Secretary**

**Newsletter Editor**

Lyn - ☎ 0459 155 527

Email: [yarrarangesnsa@gmail.com](mailto:yarrarangesnsa@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Anne - ☎ 97265135

**Activities Coordinator**

Chris - ☎ 9735 1249 / 0419 528 446

Email: [chrishill3@bigpond.com.au](mailto:chrishill3@bigpond.com.au)

**Guest Speaker Coordinator**

Denise

☎ 9723 1403 / 0400 179 086

**Newsletter Editor**

Lyn ☎ 0459 155 527

Email: [yarrarangesnsa@gmail.com](mailto:yarrarangesnsa@gmail.com)

**Committee Members**

John and Connie - ☎ 5964 4646

Elaine - ☎ 9739 4642

*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 Pamela on ☎ 9735 5449*



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**Congratulations to!**



10 May Shirley

19 June Lorraine Sm

11 May Kathy

30 June Jan

11 May Alan F

15 May Lyn

26 May Sonia

*We would like to celebrate your day!*

Don't forget to email / phone your birthday & month to Lyn

**DIARY DATES**

**'WELCOME' to our BRANCH MEETING Dates - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month**

@ 'Lilydale Senior Citizens Centre Hall', 7 Hardy Street Lilydale @ 7:00pm for 7.30pm start

**Monday 10 May Speaker @ The Hall 7 Hardy Street Lilydale**

**Monday 14 June Speaker @ The Hall 7 Hardy Street Lilydale**

**Monday 12 July Branch Dinner Meeting @ 'The Crown' Main Street Lilydale**



**COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month**

@ Chris' place Meet @ 7.30pm

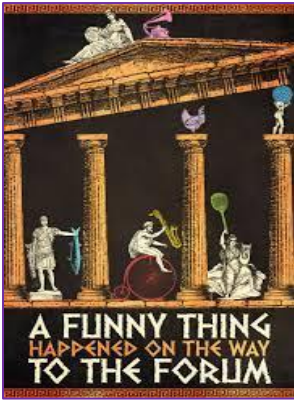
**Monday 3 May,**

**Monday 7 June,**

**Monday 3 July**



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## **'A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM'**

**Babirra Musical Theatre Production  
Karralyka Theatre**

**Mines Road East Ringwood**

**Saturday 16 October @ 8.00pm**

**\$44.50 (50c booking fee) - Payment by 13 September Meeting**

Name and Payment in an envelope to Lyn

(Note: No late bookings can be accepted as it is a Group Booking)



## **'JERSEY BOYS'**

**CLOC Musical Theatre Production  
National Theatre**

**Cnr Barkly & Carlisle Street St Kilda**

**Sunday 17 October @ 2.00pm**

**\$52.00 (TBC) - Payment by 9 August Meeting**

Name and Payment in an envelope to Lyn

(Note: No late bookings can be accepted as it is a Group Booking)

## **'OUT & ABOUT' - Contact Chris 'Activities Coordinator' to Book**

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

**Wednesday 12 May**

**'Cranbourne Botanical Gardens'** - Car Pool  
\$8 for 30 min tour in open air bus

**Wednesday 26 May**

**'Seymour Vietnam Vets Walk / Museum'** -  
8.15am Train from Lilydale (use Free Travel  
Voucher)

**Saturday 5 June**

**'Trivia Night Fundraiser for CIRES'** - 7.00pm-11.00pm @ Mount  
Lilydale College. BYO Food & Drinks - \$20

**Wednesday 21 July**

**'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Seniors vs The Village People -  
Friendly Feud'** - 2.00pm @ Tudor Village Community Centre L'dale



## **'DINING OUT' - Contact Chris 'Activities Coordinator' to Book**

**Saturday 29 May @ 6.00pm**

**'Enthaised' Dinner** Casella Street Lilydale

**Sunday 13 June @ 11.00am**

**'Harrow & Harvest' Brunch** Casella St  
Lilydale (church building opp Athenaeum)

**Sunday 25 July @ 11.00am**

**'Ringwood RSL' Brunch** 16 Station Street Ringwood



## **'MORNING MELODIES' 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month - Contact Chris to Book**

@ **'Lilydale International Hotel'** Maroondah Highway Lilydale

**Show 10:30am for 11:00am start** \$2 Donation for CFA Snr Lunch from \$11.50

**Wednesday 2 June**

**'From Doris to Dusty'** with Jenifer Lee

**Wednesday 7 July**

**'Multi-Instrumentalist Extraordinaire'**  
with Brendon Scott

**Wednesday 4 August**

**'The Best Ever Sing-a-Long Show'** with Alex Kyle



**'TRIPS' - Contact Christ 'Activities Coordinator' for details**

- 'NORTH EAST VICTORIA SILO ART TRAIL'** - Monday 17th May to Friday 21st May – **\$1,499.00**
- 'BUSHFIRE RECOVERY TOUR'** - Monday 6th September to Saturday 11th September – **\$1,899.00**
- 'KING ISLAND TOUR'** - Monday 22nd November to Friday 26th November - **\$3,000.00**  
(all inclusive - airfare, accommodation, meals and tours)

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

Walks start **9.00am** unless over 30degrees and then 8.30am  
 These 2 photos are from the same walk – do you know where? Answers in next 'Grapevine'  
 Photos 1 & 2 in last 'March & April Grapevine' were from the Barneong walk

- Sat 1 May** Kimberley Drive Reserve Chirnside Park
- Sat 8 May** Mooroolbark Retarding Basin  
– Park behind Arcade Mooroolbark
- Sat 15 May** Lilydale to Lilydale
- Sat 22 May** Lilydale to Coldstream
- Sat 29 May** Lilydale Lake
- Sat 5 June** Barneong Reserve Croydon North
- Sat 12 June** Norton Road Croydon
- Sat 19 June** Mullum Mullum Burnt Bridge (end of Ringwood Club car park)
- Sat 26 June** Wandin to Seville
- Sat 3 July** Lilydale to Mt Evelyn
- Sat 10 July** Kimberley Drive Reserve Chirnside Park
- Sat 17 July** Mooroolbark Retarding Basin – Park Cardigan St
- Sat 24 July** Lilydale Lake
- Sat 31 July** Lilydale to Lilydale
- Sat 7 August** Barneong Reserve Croydon North



**Tradies Corner**

Carpenter Hans ☎ 0418 111 499	Electrician Shockfree Electricians ☎ 0411 035 345	House Renovations Tandin Constructions Tim ☎ 0412 185 353
Kitchens Touchwood Kitchens ☎ 0418 542 130	Painting Craig ☎ 0421 889 326	Plumber Lachy ☎ 0438 563 788
Tile & Bathroom Renovations Stephen ☎ 0419 894 874		

**OTHER NEWSY BITS!**



***A LOOK AT THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE TO KEEP YOUR 'TEE HEE' (laughter) WORKING!***

The world's cleverest student does the world's funniest book report.  
 Students at a local school were assigned to read 2 books - "Titanic" and "My Life by Bill Clinton.



One student turned in the following book report, with the proposition that they were nearly identical stories! His cool professor gave him an A+ for this report:

Titanic: Cost \$29.99  
Clinton: Cost \$29.99

Titanic: Over 3 hours to read  
Clinton: Over 3 hours to read

Titanic: The story of Jack and Rose, their forbidden love and subsequent catastrophe.  
Clinton: The story of Bill and Monica, their forbidden love and subsequent catastrophe.

Titanic: Jack is a starving artist.  
Clinton: Bill is a bullshit artist.

Titanic: In one scene, Jack enjoys a good cigar.  
Clinton: Ditto for Bill.

Titanic: During the ordeal, Rose's dress gets ruined.  
Clinton: Ditto for Monica.

Titanic: Jack teaches Rose to spit.  
Clinton: *Let's not go there.*

Titanic: Rose gets to keep her jewellery.  
Clinton: Monica is forced to return her gifts.

Titanic: Rose remembers Jack for the rest of her life.  
Clinton: Clinton doesn't remember anything.

Titanic: Rose goes down on a vessel full of seamen.  
Clinton: Monica ... *Ooh, let's not go there either.*

Titanic: Jack surrenders to an icy death.  
Clinton: Bill goes home to Hilary - basically the same thing.



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## YEA WETLANDS & CHEVIOT TUNNEL

Car-pooling saw a number of members at Yea 'Y Water Discovery Centre' recently. A volunteer escorted us along the pathways and elevated walkways, explaining the indigenous background to the flora and fauna water area. Also how the aboriginal clans lived and used the area. At some stage during a flood period the Yea River actually divided at Yea in the wetlands area and then rejoined again further down stream before flowing into the Goulburn River.



The Y Water Discovery Centre offer educational programs for both primary and secondary students, featuring a wide variety of topics dealing with water, the environment, indigenous studies and wetland ecology to the Victorian Curriculum.

Lunch was at the Yea Country Club Hotel nearby. We sat at benches under the shade of a large tree eating good food.

Afterwards we rejoined one of the volunteers from the *Y Water Discovery Centre* who asked us to follow in a car convey to the *Cheviot Tunnel*, which is a disused Mansfield rail line tunnel, that is now part of a rail trail.

The tunnel took 2 years to build from 1887 - 1889 when it opened in May of the later year for passenger and goods. It is 201 metres in length with a height of 4.7 metres. It took 675,000 bricks approximately to build with two workman safety nooks in the tunnel. The service finally closed in 1978 and is now part of the newly developed rail trail.



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## AN AUTUMN BREAK by Steve, with prompting from Elaine

Our major caravan club had had a rally booked for *Marong* but the latest COVID forced a postponement. As a result, when COVID lifted, the Club combined two rallies – one to *Maryborough*, the other to *Marong* with five nights at each site.



Maryborough is a surprisingly large town with a population of over 8,000 with a range of shops that cover virtually all of your needs. It is situated in gold country and most of the surrounding towns have at some time been mining towns. Possibly the two highlights of the town would be the botanical gardens which include a large lake and the railway station.



A story persists that the station was intended for Maryborough, Queensland but it was actually intended for a suburban station but political machinations saw it built in Maryborough, Victoria. Over the last few years much moolah has been expended to bring the building back to its former glory. A Sprinter railcar connects Maryborough with Ballarat. A quality cafe now occupies what was the main waiting room and provides very good meals at a reasonable price.

Another very good meal can be obtained at the Caledonian Club (sorry, no haggis). As well, there are a number of cafes and take-a-ways that all provide a good product. Also included at the station is a Visitors Centre which has regular displays of local history. The local Lions Club has an excellent second-hand book shop and there are several thrift shops with the *Scouts Victoria* shop probably being the best. Fuel was available at better than Melbourne prices.

Towns around the district include *Majorca*, once a large village but now almost totally derelict. However, there is a fair bit of building outside the actual town area. *Avoca* is a short drive out and claims to have one of Australia's best pubs for choice of beers along with a baker who has some 40 varieties of pies on the menu, some of which are state prize winners. A highlight is the newly developed garden honouring the early Chinese miners and settlers. The highway has also been upgraded with ample parking and picnic areas. *Dunolly* is also nearby and offers a streetscape of the 1880s to 1920s. Most buildings are in very good condition. Down near the station is a cork tree dating back to about 1855. The area is a wine district and one of the early pioneers planted cork trees to service the wine industry but the cork was not of a suitable standard. This is the last remaining tree.

We also visited *St Arnaud*. We did not spend a lot of time shopping, only a tea break in the original Council Chambers which have been fully restored.



Probably the highlights of *St Arnaud* are the railway station, not for passengers but as an art gallery for local artists and a local artist has been let loose and several building sides as well as two grain silos have been decorated in monochrome.

After 5 nights it was across to *Marong* which is on the Calder Highway, about 15klms from *Bendigo*. The township (?) consists of a pub (very good), a general store, post office and a cafe. However, because it is close to *Bendigo*, there is a growing population. The nearest attraction to *Marong* is the 'Great Stupa', a temple to Buddha. The temple is on the site of the ill-fated Sandhurst Town. Tourists are welcome and it is a place well worth visiting. Apparently there are several festivals through-out the year and the general public is welcome. One nearby attraction is the *Bridgewater Bakery*, just 20klms up the highway. Their specialty is the vanilla slice but all of their products are good. There are good picnic spots within a short walk of the bakery. Most tourist hot-spots are in and around the city of *Bendigo*. Over time there is probably nowhere of interest we have not been. One attraction is the *Central Deborah Mine*. This time we went not to see the mine but to buy a genuine Cornish miner's pastie. And it was well-worthwhile.

At both sites members gathered for morning tea, afternoon tea, happy hour and a half plus community meals, two of which were in pubs. Most evenings the members participated in games which included a card game, 'chase the ace', bingo and trivia.

It was a great get-together catching-up on what members had been doing and their plans for the winter. Several members spend the winter at *Woolgoolga*, near *Coffs Harbour* and were preparing to leave from home while three other members left from *Marong* for a six month trip up through New South Wales and Queensland to Darwin and then to *Broome* before returning through *Katherine* to *Alice Springs* and home.

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## MOVIE REVIEW 'The Courier' by Lyn

The Courier is a 2020 historical drama film directed by Dominic Cooke. The film stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Greville Wynne, a British businessman who was recruited by the Secret Intelligence Service (M16) to deliver messages to and from secret agent Oleg Penkovsky (played by Merab Ninidze) in the early 1960s. Rachel Brosnahan, Jessie Buckley, and Angus Wright also star.



## MOVIE REVIEW 'The Father' by Lyn

The Father is a 2020 drama film co-written and directed by Florian Zeller, based on his 2012 play *Le Père*. A man refuses all assistance from his daughter as he ages. As he tries to make sense of his changing circumstances, he begins to doubt his loved ones, his own mind and even the fabric of his reality. A French-British co-production, the film stars Anthony Hopkins, Olivia Colman, Mark Gatiss, Imogen Poots, Rufus Sewell, and Olivia Williams, and follows an aging man who must deal with his progressing memory loss.



The Father had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on 27 January 2020.

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## 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?***

.....

**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.

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*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.

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

### IS FINANCIAL ADVICE UNAFFORDABLE NOW?

Financial advisers say the cost of advice is too high now there are stronger consumer protections. Yet, do people need financial advice or just information?

Recently, National Seniors featured an article discussing the complaints of the financial advice sector regarding overregulation and high compliance costs. Now the peak body for the sector, The *Financial Services Council* (FSC) has released a green paper calling for changes to the relatively new regulations brought in to protect consumers from dodgy advisers.

The FSC claims that an unintended consequence of the reforms has been a significant increase in the cost of advice. It argues that average fees are now around \$3,240 and out of reach of most investors. The FSC claims the regulations have gone too far, imposing onerous and complex obligations on advisers, resulting in high costs and creating inflexibility in the way information and advice is obtained.

The Green Paper draws heavily on work conducted by Rice Warner showing that most Australians either can't or don't want to pay for advice.

While some financial advisers provide excellent professional advice, which is in the "best interests" of their clients, others do not. This is evident in the survey work undertaken by research group *Pollinate* for the FSC. The FSC uses this research to claim that most of the people that sought financial advice agree that it resulted in positive life outcomes.

However, the data is not very convincing



## You can save more \$\$\$ on electricity – here's how

\$900 million in electricity bill savings is now available to households

Electricity prices have fallen almost 9% since the middle of last year and there is \$900 million in potential savings for households in eastern and southern states, new figures released by the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (ACCC) show.



Retail electricity offers now available to households in NSW, Victoria, S.E Queensland, South Australia and the ACT are, on average, 8.8% lower than they were in June 2020, which equates to an average annual household saving of \$126.

The ACCC says the total benefit to all customers in these regions is \$900 million if they switched to lower offers, or benefitting from retailers lowering the prices of their existing plans.

The consumer regulator is also warning electricity retailers that the onus is on them to comply with new energy market laws, and pass on reductions in their costs to existing customers

### Key Points

- Electricity prices are falling compared to previous years
- ACCC says \$900 million savings for some customers
- New laws compel retailers to pass on savings

### How You Can Benefit

There are two ways that households and small businesses can get the hip-pocket benefit of recent reductions in retailers' costs:

- by changing to a new, cheaper plan; or,
- by waiting for their retailer to lower the rates on the plan that they're already on.

The ACCC is urging consumers who haven't seen their bill come down to contact their electricity retailer and ask to be put on the best offer for their circumstances.

Many consumers will be able to achieve further savings by comparing advertised prices and shopping around.

### Compelling New Laws

ACCC boss Rod Sims says new laws require electricity retailers to pass on cuts in the wholesale cost of electricity.

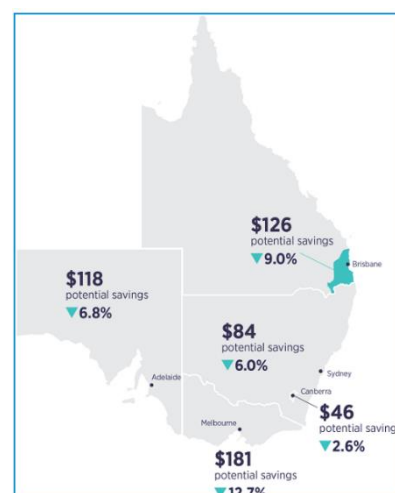
The new Prohibiting Energy Market Misconduct (PEMM) laws that came into effect in June 2020 require electricity retailers to make reasonable adjustments to their prices in line with their costs of procuring electricity. Companies that fail to comply with the laws face serious penalties, including fines of up to \$10 million or 10% of their turnover per breach

### Why Lower Power Costs

Lower wholesale electricity costs are the result of a significant increase in generation capacity attributed to renewable generation and falling fuel costs.

Rod Sims says more good news could be on the way: "We also expect further significant price reductions from retailers over time, as the reductions in wholesale spot prices flow through to retailers' contracting positions."

The ACCC has already approached a number of electricity retailers who may not have adequately passed on cost savings to their customers, and will be closely monitoring the behaviour of many others in the electricity market over the coming months. Estimated annual electricity savings per household: state averages.



Yarra Ranges National Seniors Australia Branch  
Membership Application (NSA ABN 89 050 523 003)

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr First name \_\_\_\_\_ /  
Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ /  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**JOINT MEMBER DETAILS**

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr First name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP AND PAYMENT DETAILS**



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

- 1 Year  Single \$45  Joint \$75
- 2 Year  Single \$80  Joint \$125
- 5 Year  Single \$195  Joint \$295
- Lifetime  Single \$425  Joint \$650

TOTAL PAYABLE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Cheques / Money Order enclosed (payable to: National Seniors Australia)
- Please charge my credit card:  Visa  Master Card

Card number:

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NSA 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](http://nationalseniors.com.au)

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