

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Melville Branch – April 2019

What a very informative talk given by Margaret Madison from the Swan River Restoration Society and wasn't it great that Ben Wyatt announced on the following day that the Melville Wave Park had not been approved by the government. This speaker is recommended to other National Senior Branches.

On Tuesday the 9th of April 14 members of the branch went on a tour of the RFDS facility at Jandakot. The talk followed by a visit to each section of the RFDS operations was very informative. I will be recommending to the Branch Meeting that the branch make a donation of \$100 to the RFDS. Whilst we may never have used their services, it does not mean that we may not require their services at some future date.

The visit to the RFDS was followed by a senior's lunch at the Berrigan Tavern. The cost of the meal was \$14 and there was ample food served up on the plate. I doubt anyone would have wanted dinner that night. I would highly recommend this tavern

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – NEW CONSTITUTION

Notice is hereby given that the May Branch Meeting on Tuesday the 28th will also include a Special General Meeting.

1. The *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* contains provisions pursuant to which all incorporated associations in WA have until 1 July 2019 to review and update their rules to comply with the requirements of the 2015 Act.
2. A resolution to accept the new constitution must be passed by the votes of not less than 75% of the Members of the Branch who cast a vote at the Special General Meeting per rule 28.1 of The Constitution of National Seniors Australia Ltd.
3. All voting must be carried out in person, and no proxy votes are allowed per rule 23.6 of your current branch constitution.

The Brisbane Office lawyers have now completed the constitution and a copy of this was emailed out to members on the 11th of April.

The following resolutions will be tabled at the Special General Meeting:

1. That the new Constitution for the Melville Branch, drawn up by lawyers for the the Company (National Seniors Office in Brisbane) be considered and voted on by those in attendance.

2. That the annual financial records for the Melville Branch be reviewed annually by a Review Officer.

In accordance with the the provisions of new act, the Melville Branch falls within the category Tier 1 of organisations (those organisations with a turnover of less than \$250,000) and therefore can have its annual financial records either reviewed by a review officer or an auditor.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES AND OUTINGS

Wednesday 15th May – Fire Safety Education and Heritage Centre (Old Fire Station) 25 Murray Street, Perth. Tour will start at 10.00am. Off street parking is available or catch the train and walk or use the clipper service. After the tour we will proceed to the Cucina Kitchen and Bar for lunch at 12.00pm. The Cucina is on the corner of Hay and Irwin Sts and is approx. 500 metres from the fire station. After lunch people who came by public transport can catch a clipper bus from Hay Street

Tuesday 23rd July - The Christmas in July will be held in the Vic Murray Room on the 1st Floor of the ARC centre on the RAAFA Estate. The cost will be \$30 per head. The Branch meeting, including the AGM will also be held in the Vic Murray Room. Please record you name in the book and payment must be made to the treasurer by no later than the June meeting.

August: Helen is planning a visit to Woodbridge House, that is a National Trust building. The building is only open on Thursday and Friday so we need to gauge how many would be interested in going on a Thursday.

Tuesday 1st October – visit to Parliament House followed by lunch at the Charles Hotel

We will be getting the Melville Care Bus for this tour. Helen will provide further details at the Branch meeting.

Wednesday 11th December – Christmas Luncheon to be held at the Community Room, Riverside West, 10 Roebuck Drive, Salter Point. More details will be provided in the May newsletter

GUEST SPEAKERS

Tuesday 23rd April - Dr. David Cook –Subject, Internet Theft and Reducing Computer Crime.

Tuesday 28th May Speaker Sylvia Marina. Subject, Face Reading

Tuesday 25th June Speaker Iris Thomas. From dept. Consumer Affairs & Housing. Subject, Consumer rights & scams

THEATRE VISITS, Etc.

THURSDAY 9TH MAY, Melville Theatre Co. SENSE & SENSIBILITY, a playful adaptation of Jane Austen's novel. 8 p.m. \$15. Optional Chinese Banquet at 6 p.m. at Golden Gate \$22.

THURSDAY 16TH MAY, Old Mill Theatre. A PICTURE OF BETRAYAL, a comedy with three London Gangsters. 7.30 p.m. \$20. Optional dinner at Mends Street Cafe at 6 p.m.

Please place your name in the book at the Branch meeting or email Lorelie on tlorelie@ymail.com or phone 9365 2277 to make your reservations.

BNF Chairman's Relections for April

This is attached to this newsletter and again makes interesting reading.

Les Davey
President

President	Secretary	Social Co-ordinator	Theatre
Les Davey Ph: 93971002	Ann Mellish Ph: 94575695	Helen Richards Ph: 94942491	Lorelie Tacoma Ph: 93652277

ZONE 108 REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – APRIL 2019

I make no apology for the fact that I have aired my thoughts on Branch membership before but a new phenomenon is happening before our very eyes, one which we are powerless to stop. Most Branches experience tough times when leadership roles can't be filled but another dimension has been added to the dilemma causing Branches to close the door on operations.

National Seniors Association came to Perth in 1997 and some 10 years later the number of Branches had increased to double digit figures, peaking at 19 by about 2009. The incentive driving 65 year olds of that era was infectious; inasmuch that it was capable of affecting the attitudes of others. They were keen as mustard and enthusiastic about growing the Branch which they had so willingly formed.

Things have certainly changed in the intervening years, notwithstanding the fact that we are all a lot older with some ageing better than others; which in turn affects the circumstances in which we live. That's the "other dimension" to which I referred in the first paragraph - and Perth Branches now number considerably less!

The common cause of Branch closure used to be the fact that members were reluctant to nominate for a Management Committee role; pure and simple. However, another invasive factor in this day and age is that “we’re all growing older together” and that’s the root cause of our dilemma. Encouraging younger 65 year olds to join Branches is a formidable problem and finding the panacea to reverse this trend is high on Sandra Philpott’s “things to do” list and here is a lady of vision that may just find a way. Already, after a relatively short time on the job, we are witnessing an increase in national membership with many innovative perceptions starting to bear fruit. I might add that Sandra is well supported in her endeavour by a highly efficient and professional group; small in number but big on ideas.

People enter their retirement years now with a seemingly different frame of mind than those a decade or so ago. I guess that I’m a bloke who ‘wears one’s heart on one’s sleeve’ and I get quite passionate about putting forward matters as I see them before considering the thoughts of others. I simply don’t have time when compiling this document to canvass the thoughts of others and quite frankly, other people’s thoughts would probably turn this ‘one pager’ into a document that you wouldn’t want to read! There’s no doubt that today’s retirees have other agendas when it comes to commitment, which includes looking after grand children, holidaying and being flexible to do other things; volunteering seems to be losing its appeal - it’s mostly about “me”. It’s quite amazing the number of excuses some people will find not to be involved.

I understand that retirees may argue that “we’ve worked hard for all of our paid working life” and it’s now time for some well earned respite. Rightly so and I recall taking the first two years of my well earned retirement to catch up on all of those household maintenance tasks that I had been putting off, before looking for something more mentally demanding and more socially stimulating; and that’s when I found National Seniors. It seems that today’s retirees’ balk at taking that next step and that’s the problem that Sandra Philpott and her team will address. It may be that people need more than the satisfaction of volunteering for volunteering sake. Maybe people today have more mercenary thoughts about “what’s in it for me” so, the membership cost needs to be offset by the number of benefits to be derived from joining.

All not-for-profit organisations are facing the problem of diminishing membership; it’s a global phenomenon. We are so fortunate to have been born in an era where being community-minded was considered commendable and joining an organisation both rewarding and satisfying.

CARPE DIEM

Graeme Piggott