

Melville Branch – January 2020

Welcome to 2020. I hope members had an enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year and hasn't the weather been kind to us after having those 40 degree days in December. However the people in the eastern states continue to experience high temperatures and devastating bush fires. Having your house flooded is insignificant when you think of the large number of people who have lost their homes. Our thoughts go out to these people

What an excellent day our Christmas breakup lunch turned out to be with an enjoyable meal and excellent entertainment.

Our first function for 2020 is the picnic on the Shelley Foreshore at the base of Beatrice Avenue at 6 p.m on Tuesday the 14th of January, with our first Branch meeting being on Tuesday the 28th of January. It may pay to bring a sweater as if the sea breeze comes in it could get cool from the river. You also need to bring your own food, drinks and chairs. Looking forward to a good attendance.

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME

The Morrison Government has delivered on its election commitment, significantly lowering the threshold for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Safety Net from 1 January 2020. This means more than 1.6 million concessional and general patients will get earlier access each year to free or significantly cheaper PBS medicines. The PBS Safety Net eases the financial burden on Australians who spend significant amounts on PBS medicines, such as people with chronic conditions. Once people reach the safety net threshold, they can apply to get free or discounted PBS medications for the remainder of the calendar year.

The safety net thresholds have been lowered from:

- \$390.00 to \$316.80 for concessional patients.

- \$1550.70 to \$1486.80 for general patients.

The changes mean concessional patients will need to get 12 fewer PBS scripts filled in a year in order to reach the PBS Safety Net, and two fewer scripts for general patients.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Are you missing out on rental assistance when you may have an entitlement?

You can get Rent Assistance if you pay rent and you're either:

- getting certain payments from the Department of Human Services e.g. Age Pension
- getting more than the base rate of [Family Tax Benefit](#).

You must also pay 1 of the following:

- rent
- fees in a retirement village
- lodging
- board and lodging
- site or mooring fees if your main home is a caravan, relocatable home or a boat.

You must pay more than a certain amount of rent each fortnight. [How much Rent Assistance you can get](#) depends on how much rent you pay.

If you're living in a retirement village

Using the amount you paid when you entered the retirement village we assess if you're either, a:

- home owner
- non-home owner.

If you're assessed as a non-home owner you may get Rent Assistance. We base the assistance on your ongoing fees in the retirement village.

If you are not getting rent assistance and you think you may be entitled to it then I would recommend that you contact the Department of Human Services (Centrelink)

BRANCH ACTIVITIES AND OUTINGS

Tuesday 14th January 2020 - picnic on the Shelley Foreshore at the base of Beatrice Avenue at 6 p.m.

Wednesday 18th March 2020 – Branch Breakfast at the Heathcote picnic area commencing at 8.00am

Wednesday 29th April 2020 – Day outing to Dwellingup with visit to Visitor centre/Museum followed by lunch at the Dwellingup Hotel. The bus will be leaving at 9.00am and the cost for the bus hire will be \$15 per head which must be paid in advance. We will be limited to 18 so the first 18 to pay Helen will be the cut- off point.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Tuesday 28th January 2020 – Mike & Julie Walsh – Niagara Therapy

Tuesday 25th February 2020 – Chris Herrmann – Senior Gap Year

Tuesday 24th March 2020 – Rebecca Boswell. The Orangutan Project. She is the Administration manager of this project.

THEATRE VISITS, Etc.

THEATRE OUTINGS

Friday 21st February, MELVILLE THEATRE CO.

Four short comedies. 8 p.m. \$15

Chinese banquet at 6 p.m. Golden Gate. \$22.

Thursday 19th March, OLD MILL THEATRE

"Spider's Web" by Agatha Christie - suspense and humour

7.30 p.m. \$20

Reservations please to Lorelie a.s.a.p. (especially for the February play) on 9365 2277 or tlorelie@ymail.com

Les Davey
President

President	Secretary	Social Co-ordinator	Theatre	Treasurer
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