

# National Seniors

## AUSTRALIA

### Melville Branch – March 2019

The annual breakfast at Heathcote on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March was again well attended. A big thanks to Dorothy Davidson and Helen Richards for ensuring that there was ample food to go around. Also a thanks to those chefs who did an excellent job cooking the food.

It was great to see 10 members of our Branch attending the information sessions given by Sandra Philpott on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of March and Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Sandra is the NSA Membership Coordinator from the Brisbane Office. Members were provided with details on the membership of NSA and the work being done to develop partnerships with corporate Australia. Attached to this newsletter is a copy of a handout given at the meeting which details Advocacy wins and Advocacy campaigns

#### **Vean Elst**

Tom Maher has been able to get an update on Vean's condition from her daughter. The Doctors have been able to stabilise Vean's condition and she is expected to be transferred to the Rehabilitation Clinic at Fremantle Hospital within the next week. She is expected to spend six to seven weeks at Fremantle Hospital after which she will need to be placed in a nursing home.

#### **Leonie Poole**

It is with sadness that I advise members of the passing of Leonie Poole who was a member of the Melville Branch for a number of years.

#### **Henny Ter Steeg and Jane Donald**

Henny had a fall and injured her hip and Jane was recently admitted to hospital. We wish both of these members a speedy recovery.

#### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – NEW CONSTITUTION**

Notice is hereby given that the May Branch Meeting on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> will be 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 has had a lawyer develop the new constitution. Our Branch has recommended changes and as soon as the final draft has been developed it will be emailed to members prior to the May 28 meeting

## NATIONAL SENIORS REWARDS AND BENEFITS

As a member of National Seniors Australia there are a number of rewards and benefits available. Members should log into the website to see whether they can benefit from any of the rewards. The rewards include the following:



### Say hello to the National Seniors credit card

Switch to the National Seniors Visa card and enjoy great rates and secure access to your money. This credit card is open to National Seniors members and their families.

SAVE 50%

## The Coffee Club - VIP Club

Save 50% on membership to  
The Coffee Club's VIP Club



## **BRANCH ACTIVITIES AND OUTINGS**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of April** – Tour of RFDS facility at Jandakot. Tour commences at 10.30am  
Lunch will be at the Berrigan Tavern which offers a \$14 seniors lunch.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - The Christmas in July will be held in the Vic Murray Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 your name in the book and payment must be made to the treasurer by no later than the June Branch meeting

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – AGM followed by a Christmas in July lunch. Details in regard to the venue and cost will be provided at a later date.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Luncheon to be held at the Community Room, Riverside West, 10 Roebuck Drive, Salter Point. More details later.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March** – Margaret Madison – Swan River Restoration Society

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** - Dr. David Cook –Subject, Internet Theft and Reducing Computer Crime.

## **THEATRE VISITS, Etc**

**THURSDAY 4TH APRIL, 11.30 A.M.** BENTLEY PINES RESTAURANT, Luncheon \$25.

**Monday 25th March:** *Just For Your Information.....* Classics of the Silver Screen, Cygnet Cinema, Preston Street, Como. CASANOVA'S BIG NIGHT OUT with Bob Hope and Joan Fontaine. \$9 , doors open 9.15, movie starts 10 a.m. Optional lunch afterwards.

**Thursday 4th April:** Bentley Pines Luncheon, arrive at 11.30. \$25 in an envelope for Lorelie please. Fully Booked.

**Thursday 16th May.** 7.30 p.m. OLD MILL THEATRE. "A Season of Betrayal" by Noel O'Neill. A comedy about three London Gangsters. \$20. Optional dining at 6 p.m. at Mends Street Cafe.

Please place your name in the book at the Branch meeting or email Lorelie on [tlorlie@ymail.com](mailto:tlorlie@ymail.com) or phone 9365 2277 to make your reservations.

### **BNF Chairman's Relections for March**

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

**Les Davey**  
**President**

<b>President</b> Les Davey Ph: 93971002	<b>Secretary</b> Ann Mellish Ph: 94575695	<b>Social Co-ordinator</b> Helen Richards Ph: 94942491	<b>Theatre</b> Lorelie Tacoma Ph: 93652277
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### **ZONE 108 REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR – MARCH 2019**

*Pressing the wrong button* – how often do we hear that expression within the context of everyday life; a saying totally unfamiliar during my childhood and even my early teens. In the middle 1930s the only buttons available in my family home was on shirts, coats etc. and yes, even the fly on your pants; it wasn't until 1925 that zippers were used for clothing on leather jackets. The zipper beat the button in 1937 in the "Battle of the Fly" after French fashion designers raved over zippers in men's trousers; it's not clear when they first appeared in Australia but they certainly weren't around in my youth.

Further to the above; we turned a knob to switch the wireless on, pulled a chain to flush the toilet, knocked on the door to announce our arrival, skewered bread with a fork to toast and stepped on a button between the clutch and brake pedals to start the engine. These facts of life, as in my early days, simply illustrate some examples of the way it was - there were simply no buttons to press.

Anyway, apart from all that, we can get into all sorts of trouble by pressing the wrong button in today's day and age, as I'm sure you will soon most certainly concur; so read on.

The other night I was engrossed in typing a document on my computer when I suddenly had the need to consult a friend on matters pertaining to what I was doing - picked up my trusty mobile and quickly pressed what I thought was the appropriate connection button. On the fourth ring a female voice said "hello" and I immediately thought, oh oh, that doesn't sound like my friend and it turns out to be a lady that I had purposely been avoiding for some time and she knew it. You can therefore imagine my dilemma in extracting me from a delicate situation with all possible grace, decorum and speed.

Similarly, I have become a scholar of 'verbal texting' on my smart phone but that, as I have discovered, is also fraught with danger. In the flurry of receiving and sending text messages one sometimes doesn't pay attention

to the message being sent and surprise, surprise; I have often been embarrassed by what I have inadvertently committed to the airways. Unless you enunciate your words carefully, what is being recorded can quite easily be interpreted as something entirely different and I don't think the Aussie accent helps! Heaven help the Kiwis!

Let's pursue the matter of conversing with people, friends and strangers alike. You're endeavouring to relate friendly and welcoming tones to someone who is maybe on the periphery of the people you need to know or a close friend to whom you have the highest regard. All is well until you (again) inadvertently press the wrong button within the context of being genuinely concerned or arrogantly carefree about their wellbeing. How embarrassing and how easy it is to say something disparaging in the act of conversation to someone that you wish to heaven you hadn't said.

Now if you think that all that's been said about 'pressing the wrong button' is something that you can handle and relate to, just consider the following:

**HAWAII MISSILE WARNING** –West Australian Newspaper Feb 25 2019. *In the early morning of January 13 a text message went out to 1.4 million residents of Hawaii that a ballistic missile was inbound and everyone should seek immediate shelter. The message was sent in error. The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency took 10 minutes to tweet the error and 38 minutes to send a correction. In that time cars were abandoned on the interstate, children were placed in manholes and many people said what they thought would be their last words to loved ones.*

The original explanation was that an employee had 'pressed the wrong button' triggering panic. However, a further 'politically correct' statement describing the event was posted as; "he selected the wrong item from a dropdown."

Pressing the wrong button can result in consequences beyond our control and comprehension but that's the way it is at the moment; speech therapists will be laughing when verbal instruction becomes the norm!

Graeme

# Advocacy wins

- Energy Supplement retained for new pension recipients
- Pension “Work Bonus” scheme improved (from 1 July)
  - Income exempt from pension test increased to \$7,800
  - Self-employed are now included in scheme
- Extra home care places
  - 14,000 new high-level home care places (Budget 2018)
  - 10,000 high-level packages brought forward (Dec 2018)
  - 10,000 additional packages across all levels (Feb 2018)
- Expansion of the Pension Loans Scheme (from 1 July)
  - Eligibility expanded to pensioners
  - Increase max fortnightly payment to 150% of Age Pension rate
- Age Pension – retain qualifying age to 67
- Aged care
  - Aged Care Royal Commission announced
  - Aged care system navigator trial
  - Increased MBS funding for GPs visiting aged care homes
- Elder Abuse
  - National elder abuse hotline funding
  - Funding for national online register of EPOA documents
- Employment
  - Skills Checkpoint for Older Workers Program (45 – 70)
  - Skills and training incentive for mature age workers (45 – 70)
  - Entrepreneurship Facilitators Program
- Pensioner guarantee on franking credit refunds

# Advocacy campaigns

- Energy Affordability
  - Calling of indexation of Energy Supplement
  - Petition has 1,800+ signatures – need more!
- Housing
  - Exempt \$250,000 of excess sale proceeds from pension asset test for downsizers
  - Stamp duty concessions for seniors (WA Budget submission)
- Health costs
  - Specialist fees campaign – collecting member stories, need more
  - Freeze health insurance premium increases to CPI
- Fix Pension Poverty
  - Independent Pension Tribunal
  - NBN subsidy
  - Rent assistance increase
  - Increase funding for dental
- Franking credit refunds
  - Opposing moves to remove refunds
  - 1200+ signed up to campaign, need more
- Aged Care Royal Commission
  - Participating in proceedings
  - Collecting member stories – need more on home care