

# National Seniors

## AUSTRALIA

### Melville Branch – November 2019

I remind members that we will be back in the Meg Olive room for our November meeting which will be the last of the year before we meet again in January.

A very big thank you to all those members who brought in items for the Christmas Hamper. I was surprised by the amount of donations. **However, if you haven't yet made a donation it is not too late to bring items into the November Branch Meeting.** Due to the generosity of members we will now be in a position to have several raffle prizes on the day.

Raffle tickets on the day will be \$2, or 3 for \$5.00. All proceeds will go towards the cost of the professional entertainment which is costing \$325. So please support the raffle.

What an inspiring talk by Linda Bettenay at our October meeting. Matilda is doing a great job in organising speakers but we do need for someone to step up early in the new year as Matilda has indicated that this will be her last year. Having speakers attend our Branch meeting is the glue for holding the membership together. If you would like to step in, Matilda will ease you into the role over the next 6 months.

Norma Davis, Ann Mellish, Lynley and myself all travelled to Sydney in October to attend the Edinburgh Tattoo and were thoroughly entertained. What impressed me while in Sydney was the cost of concession travel that included trains, buses and ferries. The cost was \$2.50 per day and even covered travel further than the distance from Perth to Mandurah. If you ever go to Sydney make sure you get an Opal card prior to going.

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Christmas Lunch is being held at Riverside Gardens, 10 Roebuck Drive Salter Point on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of December. Members should arrive at 12.00pm as lunch will be served at 12.30pm and the entertainment will also commence at this time.

There is limited visitor parking inside the complex so members will need to use street parking on the day. Entrance to the complex is via the loading bay area as shown in the attached photo.

Below is a street view of Riverside Gardens.



## **COMPANION CARD**

The Companion Card is for people with significant, permanent disability who can demonstrate they need high-level support from a carer when attending most community activities or events, and that this need is life-long.

The Companion Card allows a person's carer free entry into **participating venues and events and a full list can be found on the website [wacompanioncard.org.au](http://wacompanioncard.org.au)** or you can phone 1800 617 337 for more information and to check on eligibility.

## **DEFENCE FORCE VETERAN'S DISCOUNT CARD**

A special card for Australian Defence Force veterans has been launched by the Federal Government, offering thousands of discounts.

The card serves as a gesture of appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the country to those who have served the country.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the card would provide access to more than 10,000 offers from some 500 businesses, both online and over the counter.

“Much like the lapel pin gives every day Australians the opportunity to recognise veterans and thank them for their service, the offers available through the veteran card allow the business community to show its thanks,” Mr Morrison said in a statement.

If you served the country in the defence force and would like to apply for the card contact the Department of Defence.

### **NEW SPEED CAMERAS**

The government has introduced new cameras onto our roads. I observed 2 of these when I made a recent trip to Toodyay. At first I was wondering what this thing was on the side of the road. When I got closer I could see the camera inside.



### **BRANCH ACTIVITIES AND OUTINGS**

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

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020** – Branch Breakfast at the Heathcote picnic area commencing at 8.00am

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> November** - Geoffrey Thomas, Aviation Expert, will be the guest speaker.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020** – Mike & Julie Walsh – Niagara Therapy

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020** – Chris Herrmann – Senior Gap Year

**THEATRE VISITS, Etc.**

**THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 8 P.M.** MELVILLE THEATRE CO. \$20

'SIX DANCE LESSONS IN SIX WEEKS'

This two character comedy opens as an aging but still formidable woman hires an acerbic dance instructor to give her lessons. During the sixth and final lesson, she reveals a closely guarded secret and he shares his greatest gifts -- loyalty and compassion!

Chinese Banquet \$22 at 6 pm. at Golden Gate.

**SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2 P.M.** PHOENIX THEATRE 435 Carrington street, Hamilton Hill. \$20

A matinee for a change! "CLUE" THE MUSICAL Comic antics, witty lyrics and a beguiling score.

Licensed bar and kiosk.

Reservations please to Lorelie a.s.a.p. 9365 2277 or [tlorelie@ymail.com](mailto:tlorelie@ymail.com)

**FOR THE NEW YEAR...**

FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY One Act Season at Melville Theatre

THURSDAY 19TH MARCH Agatha Christie's SPIDER WEB at Old Mill Theatre.

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH "Seniors' Moments 2" at State Theatre.

**ZONE 108 CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTIONS**

Graeme's October reflections was received too late to be attached to the October newsletter. Please find attached hereunder.

**Les Davey**  
**President**

<b>President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Social Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Theatre</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
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Associations Registration Number – A1006794T

## ZONE 108 REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR – NOVEMBER 2019

“Value your time – it’s a diminishing resource”

With the year rapidly drawing to a close I continue to write about things that concern me, excite me, disappoint me or confuse me; all in a manner intended to provide interest and discussion at Zone and Branch level. You may therefore be comforted or disappointed to learn that this is my last monthly missive for 2019, a journey that I began four years ago which stimulates my brain, maintains my enthusiasm for National Seniors and hones my typing skills; more importantly, it gives the reader something to think about.

I endeavour to bring current developments of our National Seniors organisation into play as much as I can and you would have to agree that there’s been plenty to talk about over the past twelve months. Areas of Membership, Insurance, Research, Travel and Advocacy are delivering member benefits more professionally and efficiently whilst deliberations at Board level are being communicated more regularly. In fact, I believe that members are currently enjoying a ‘value for money’ standard of service well and beyond the cost of joining.

However, before I get too animated on that score I want to direct your attention to something that has been concerning me for some time and that’s the growing level of bad sportsmanship being displayed by spectators at AFL matches. It seems to me that booing has become standard procedure for most adverse umpiring decisions affecting the home team whilst animated cheering heralds any adverse decision affecting the away team. Local derby matches here in the west bring out the worst in most spectators. Displays of brilliance by opposition players as well as set shots on goal only serve to ignite the level of booing to a higher plane. It’s not only the volume of booing but the malevolent manner in which it is being delivered.

Just recently I stumbled across a world series Rugby Union match between Wales and Uruguay being beamed live on Foxtel television. I was absolutely amazed to see such match control being executed by the referee and the almost reverent manner in which the players and spectators accepted his decisions. With regard to the former, no mouthing off, no tantrums and no attempt to incite spectator support. In fact the spectators were the model of discipline. Acts of player brilliance on both sides were applauded and place shots on goal were watched in ethereal silence.

One has to ask the question “why is it so.” We have recently witnessed scenes of violence at AFL matches, with spectators being fined and banned from attending all football games for varying degrees of time. Heaven forbid that we reach the magnitude of madness being displayed at some world- series soccer matches.

It also seems to me that tennis, golf and cricket are spectator sports where umpiring and refereeing decisions are accepted as given (mostly) with the event played out in an atmosphere of good will and acceptance of good play. The spectators appreciating brilliance in all quarters as the game unfolds.

I understand that attending footy matches and watching sport on television isn’t everyone’s cup of tea, nor is the manner in which match spectators behave. Nevertheless, it’s probably true to say that a greater proportion of the population do and I am interested to know how my thoughts gel with this cohort. It’s my opinion that the AFL should be concerned sufficiently to initiate a media campaign to promote a blunt message for footy fans; in line with that old Aussie adage of ‘giving people a fair go’ and instilling a greater spectator appreciation for all that’s good about Aussie rules football. The obvious way forward is through school and junior based football clinics with AFL players in attendance, where the message is, “it’s not alright to boo players and umpires.”

Thank you for reading and my very best wishes to all for a happy and healthy festive season.

**Graeme**

**CARPE DIEM**