

## PORT MACQUARIE/HASTINGS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

Website: <https://nationalseniors.com.au/about/branches/port-macquarie-hastings>

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### NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019

By special invitation our speaker will be The Mayor of Port Macquarie Hastings Council Ms. Peta Pinson talking about issues of interest in our Port Macquarie Hastings area.

Includes a controlled Q & A Session after the mayor's address. Questions have already been provided to our Secretary Lynda.

### FOCUS MAGAZINE

Have you received your April Focus Magazine? If you have turn to page 81. There you will find an interesting article about Port Macquarie National Seniors where you should recognise some familiar faces. Thanks to our Secretary Lynda this special piece was written by invitation and you must admit this was a great opportunity to promote National Seniors Port Macquarie.

### GOOD BYE BLINKY BILL

Is a song written and recorded by John Williamson which was released as a limited edition in March 1986. The song is a conservation song, raising awareness of the decline in numbers of the Australian koala due to deforestation of eucalypts trees, with reference to an anthropomorphic koala named Blinky Bill. Some of the proceeds of this album were donated to the Koala Preservation Society in Port Macquarie



As an introduction to our speaker from the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital our singing group of John, Linda, Nicola and Ian gave us a musical rendition of this much loved favourite.

## VISIT TO KOALA HOSPITAL



Following on from an interesting presentation at our monthly meeting in March, by Sue Stubbs from the Koala Hospital a special visit was arranged for the next day. Twelve members arrived to meet the guide Michael Feeney who gave us more information about the working of the hospital.

There are four categories of koala residents which are:-

- Permanent residents injured or too sick to fend for themselves.
- Injured and rescued Koala's being treated with a view to nursing back to health.
- Joeys too young to care for themselves.
- Those Koala's who have recovered and who are now being rehabilitated and taught how to look after themselves before being returned to the wild.

Our guide was very knowledgeable and took us around to meet all of the koalas whom he introduced by name, giving us a brief history of where they came from and what was wrong with each of them and whether they would be able to be rehabilitated.



Mary who is blind a permanent resident.



The treatment room.

## MORNING TEA at “BITTER SWEET” CAFÉ.

After a busy morning at the Koala Hospital members adjourned to the “Bitter Sweet” café at Lighthouse shops, where the homemade cakes are to die for and very, very tempting.



Megan with Giant Lemon Meringue Pie and Fred with a huge Passion Fruit Cheesecake.



A happy and interesting morning, thank you to Ian for organising the Koala Hospital visit and to Lee for taking us all to “Bitter Sweet.” We will be returning for a second shot of sugar very soon.

## **PRIVATE HEALTH MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO FALL**

Australians' satisfaction with private health insurance continues to fall, a new report shows.

Roy Morgan Research's [Private Health Insurance Customer Satisfaction Report](#) showed the satisfaction level in the year to 30 June 2018 was 70.5 per cent, down from 72.5 per cent in June 2017 and 75 per cent in 2014.

The report was based on in-depth interviews conducted face-to-face with more than 50,000 Australians each year in their own home.

Roy Morgan's Michele Levine said earlier this year, more than 250,000 people said they did not renew their private health insurance when their premiums rose by an average of 3.95 per cent from 1 April.

The downward trend in private health insurance continued to grow, Ms Levin said.

"It's not surprising the major reason given for not renewing is to do with the increasing expense for many households," she said.

## **COMPUTER LESSONS.**

Our computer lessons are due to commence on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am at the home of Chris Wright. Groups will be small about 5-6 people so that each person can gain the maximum benefit of a one on one session. The first session is full, however we are taking names for future lessons. So please put your name down to express your interest and reserve a place in the next group.



## **BBQ BOAT TRIP**

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 twenty one members assembled at Jordan's Boat Ramp at 11.00 am to board two BBQ Boats.

We were all looking forward to a leisurely cruise on the Hastings River, the weather was perfect bright and sunny with a light breeze ideal for a lovely day out.

As we motored towards the Settlement Point ferry we sighted dolphins who came up to the boat to check us out. Then we continued on and visited the Millionaire's row with the beautiful houses and huge boats moored at their jetties.

Further up the river we passed the Whalebone Wharf and the Oyster Barn before deciding to stop for lunch. We dropped the anchor and commenced to enjoy ourselves with a BBQ lunch and a few wines and were all in a light-hearted mood.

At about 1.30pm it was suggested that we motor further up the river, so we proceeded to haul up the anchor and start the motor. This was the point where things became difficult. Nobody had noticed the tide was going out and the water levels had dropped and despite the best efforts of the crew we were unable to move the boats. It was then it was realised we needed help and had to contact the Boatshed. The guys from the Boatshed were quick to respond turning up in a small motor boat to assess the situation. The water was so shallow that when one of the guys jumped into the water, it only came up to his knees.

We were told there was no way the boats would move until the tide had turned.

It was decided that small groups of passengers 3 or 4 (ladies first) would be ferried back to the Boatshed. So over the next hour most were rescued, although the mode of transport became a canoe and a flat bottom boat.

As the tide continued to fall three of our members David, John (B) and James could not be reached and therefore had to remain with the BBQ boat until the tide turned. They spent the next two hours reminiscing and telling each other's life stories.

At about 5.00 pm the guys from the Boatshed returned with a flat bottomed boat and the remaining three adventurers were returned back to the wharf.

Where they were greeted by a few of the members who had stayed behind to welcome them back.

It was a very eventful day and one which we shall all remember and talk about for a long time to come

Our grateful thanks to the guys at the Boatshed who did a wonderful job of recuing all the passengers and returning them safe and sound, with no mishaps.

A special gift was delivered the next day consisting of a thank you card, a \$50 gift voucher for Dan Murphy's and a packet of lifesavers.







## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Every Day Morning Cruise – **10.00am Port Jet Cruise Adventures Office 1 Short St. PM.**

Every Day Eco Cruise – **1.00pm Port Jet Cruise Adventures Office 1 Short St. PM**

Every Day Sunset Cruise **6.00pm Port Jet Cruise Adventures Office 1 Short St. PM**

Every Day- Daily Dolphin Cruises. – **11.00am Cruise Terminal Clarence St.**

Every Day Sunset Cruise - **After April 7<sup>th</sup> this will be 4pm. Cruise Terminal Clarence Street.**

Every Sunday – **Jimmy's Vinyl Sunday Sessions – From 2pm The Westport Club.**

Every Wednesday & Sunday Open Nights. **The Astronomical Society. 7.15 pm both nights**

### **Trivia Nights:**

Every Tuesday at Hibbard Sports Club 7.00pm.

Every Tuesday at Westport Club 6.30pm.

Every Wednesday at Settlers Inn 7.00pm.

Every Wednesday at Port City Bowling Club 7.30pm.

Every Thursday at Panthers 6.30pm.

**14<sup>th</sup> April** – Bago Winery Presents Lily Munday. -**11.30am Bago Winery.**

**16<sup>th</sup> April** – U3A Open Day. **10am Lochinvar Place PM.**

**17th April-** Seniors Big Day Out **12- 3pm Cruise Terminal Clarence Street PM.**

**23-24<sup>th</sup> April-** While the Pipers Play- Innes Ruins Sunset Tour **4-6pm Intersection of Ruins Way & The Point Drive.**

**25<sup>th</sup> April** – Dawn Service – **5.15am at War Memorial Cnr Clarence & Horton Streets.**

**26<sup>th</sup> April** –Light up our Museum- **6.30pm Douglas Vale Homestead & Winery.**

## **REGULAR MARKETS.**

Every Tuesday – **Real Food Local Produce Markets.** Port Central Forecourt, **12pm to 6pm.**

Every Thursday – **Kendall Bazaar and The Meeting Place 9am -12pm. Kendall Community Centre.**

Every Saturday- **Flower & Plant Market. The Botanic Merchant. 9.30am to 1.30pm. Bellbowrie St.**

Every Sunday- **Port Macquarie Art Society Market Bazaar. Hamilton House**

198 Hastings River Drive. Time 8am to 1pm.

Second Saturday: **The Foreshore Market** – 8:00am to 1:00pm. (Port Macquarie Hastings Farmers & Artists) Westport Park, Corner Buller and Park Streets, Port Macquarie.

Third Sunday - **Laurieton Riverwalk Market** – 8:00am to 1:00pm Corner Tunis and Short Streets, Laurieton.

Fourth Saturday - **Wauchope Farmers' Markets** 8:00am to 12:00pm Wauchope Showground, High St. Wauchope.

Fourth Sunday – **The Artists Markets 9am – 1.00pm. Maritime Museum 8 William St. Port Mac.**

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If you know of any member who may be unwell, please let anyone on the Committee know. It is important that we offer support if one of our members is unwell and let them know we are thinking of them. If anyone is in need of a helping hand to do a small job, again, let a Committee member know. We can also arrange for transport to and from meetings if anyone is unable to make their own arrangements.

And if anyone is celebrating a big "0" birthday - again, please let a Committee member know.

If you do not wish your photo or personal information to be distributed to other members, or published on our website, please inform a Committee member.

We are now accepting advertisements for the May 2019 Newsletter.

Anyone interested should send their advert to [sandybanks@bigpond.com](mailto:sandybanks@bigpond.com)

the cost is \$5 for 40 words and \$10 if accompanied by a photograph. This cost covers one issue only.

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