

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Melville Branch – February 2021

I hope that everyone coped with the 5 day lockdown and the further week of wearing a facemask. I know that wearing a mask is not the most comfortable but the health reasons unfortunately justified the need for keeping everyone safe. I was impressed that the Brisbane office made contact with some of our members checking on their welfare. The lockdown proved that we are not out of the woods with the covid-19 virus and that possible further restrictions are not off the cards and can be imposed at the drop of a hat. With the role out of the vaccine to commence I hope that most, if not all, members will come forward and have the vaccine.

17 members went to the Swan Hotel in Belmont on Wednesday and everyone enjoyed a very nice senior's lunch and the entertainment put on by another seniors group who were also having lunch there.

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

A reminder to members that this meeting is on next Tuesday, the 23rd of February commencing at 10.00am.

MEETING FEES 2021

A very big thankyou to the 27 members who opted to pay their meeting fees in advance. This is over 50% of the members who attend Branch meetings. While the changeover to the new arrangements went fairly smoothly, the Treasurer has advised that some members are not aware that the fee per meeting is \$7. Some envelopes had only \$5 in them while some had \$8. Please ensure that those paying at each meeting put in the correct amount in the envelope. I know that some envelopes do not fully seal and that small change can fall out.

CONTAINERS FOR CASH

Thank you to those members who brought in recyclable containers to the January meeting. The branch raised \$24.40 when I deposited them at the recycle depot. Members are encouraged to continue to bring in recyclable containers at Branch meetings as this helps to bring funds into the Branch..

CHRISTMAS WINDUP LUNCH

I hope that everyone who attended enjoyed the meal. The last minute replacement of the booked entertainment by a trio of young sisters did not distract from the quality of the entertainment.

GUEST SPEAKERS

23rd February. Mr Lee Tate. From Have a Go Newspaper

23rd March. Belyssa Radzivanas. Researcher, Performer, Choreographer. Has Egyptian background and adventured in the Middle East.

27th April. Jennifer Marks - Research Assistant from Ear Science Institute Australia

OUTINGS

Annual Branch Breakfast – Wednesday 17th March 2021 – 8.00a.m. This will be held on the Shelley foreshore.

Golden BBQ and Seafood Chinese Lunch – Tuesday 13th April – 12.00pm. Price range \$12 to \$15. Address - unit 7, 280 Bannister Rd, Canning Vale (Canning Vale markets)

Police Museum visit – Wednesday 12th May – 10.30am , entry is a gold coin donation with morning tea \$6. Address 57 Lincoln St, Highgate

THEATRE VISITS, Etc

18th March – 7.30pm – Old Mill Theatre – Last of the Red Hot Lovers - \$20

Barney Cashman is forty-seven, happily married, the father of three children, a successful businessman, and a man going through a midlife crisis. Barney has come to the realization that his whole life can be summed up in one word: nice. And Barney has realized that “nice” simply isn’t enough. He wants to experience his secret fantasies and dreams at least once. Neil Simon’s Last of the Red Hot Lovers examines what it means to grow older, and asks the question, “What do you do when it seems as if your life hasn’t been fully lived?”

AUSTRALIA DAY

WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT AUSTRALIA DAY?

The following article was written by Ray Payne OAM. I found the article interesting reading and learnt some history I had never been taught.

Australia Day does not celebrate the arrival of the first fleet or the invasion of anything.

Captain Cook did not arrive in Australia on the 26th of January. The Landing of Captain Cook in Sydney happened on the 28th of April 1770 - not on the 26th of January 1770.

The First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay on the 18th of January. The 26th was chosen as Australia Day for a different reason; however, Captain Cook's landing was included in Australia Day celebrations as a reminder of a significant historical event.

Since the extravagant bicentenary celebrations of 1988, when Sydney-siders decided Captain Cook's landing should become the focus of the Australia Day commemoration, the importance of this date for all Australians has begun to fade. Now, a generation later, it's all but lost.

This is because our politicians and educators have not been doing a good job promoting the day. Our politicians have not been advertising the real reason for Australia Day, and our educators have not been teaching our children the importance of the 26th of January to all Australians.

The media, as usual, is happy to twist the truth for the sake of controversy.

In recent years, the media has helped fan the flames of discontent among the Aboriginal community. Many are now so offended by what they see as a celebration of the beginning of the darkest days of Aboriginal history, they want the date changed.

Various local Councils are seeking to remove themselves from Australia Day celebrations, even refusing to participate in citizenship ceremonies, and calls are going out to have Australia Day on a different day.

The big question is, why has the Government allowed this misconception to continue?

Captain Cook didn't land on the 26th of January. So changing the date of any celebration of Captain Cook's landing would not have any impact on Australia Day, but maybe it would clear the way for the truth about Australia Day.

The reality is, the Aborigines in this country suffered terribly under the hands of British colonialism. This is as much Australia's history as the landing of the first fleet, and both should be remembered, equally. Both should be taught, side by side, in our schools.

Australians of today abhor what was done under British governance to the Aborigines. We abhor what was done under British governance to the Irish and many other cultures around the world.

So, after the horrors of WWII, we decided to fix it. We became our own people.

On the 26th of January 1949, the Australian nationality came into existence when the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948 was enacted. That was the day we were first called Australians and allowed to travel with Passports as Australians.

Under the Nationality Act 1920 (Cwth), all Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders born after January 1, 1921, gained the status of British subjects. In 1949, therefore, they automatically became Australian citizens under the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948.

Before that special date, all people living in Australia, including Aborigines born after 1921, were called 'British Subjects' and forced to travel on British Passports and fight in British wars.

We all became Australians on the same day! This is why we celebrate Australia Day on the 26th of January!

This was the day Australians became free to make our own decisions about which wars we would fight and how our citizens would be treated. It was the day Aborigines were declared Australians.

Until this date, Aborigines were not protected by law. For the first time since Cook's landing, this new Act gave Aboriginal Australians by inference and precedent the full protection of Australian law.

Because of this Act, the government became free to help Aborigines, and since that day much has been done to assist Aboriginal Australians, including saying 'sorry' for the previous atrocities done before this law came into being.

This was a great day for all Australians!

This is why the 26th of January is the day new Australians receive their citizenship. It is a day which celebrates the implementation of the Nationality and Citizenship Act of 1948 - the Act which gave freedom and protection to the first Australians and gives all Australians, old and new, the right to live under the protection of Australian Law, united as one nation.

Now, isn't that cause for celebration?

Education is key! There is a great need for education on the real reason we celebrate Australia Day on the 26th of January. This reason needs to be advertised and taught in schools. We all need to remember this one very special day in Australia's history, when freedom came to all Australians.

What was achieved that day is something for which all Australians can be proud!

We need to remember both the good and the bad in our history, but the emphasis must be the freedom and unity all Australians now have, because of what was done on the 26th of January 1949, to allow all of us to live without fear in a land of peace.

Isn't it time all Australians were taught the real reason we celebrate Australia Day on Jan 26th?

Ray Payne OAM

Les Davey

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Branch's Westpac account details BSB 036084 and Account Number 434141

Dates of Melville NSA Events 2021

Tuesday 23rd February – 10.00am - Branch Meeting

Wednesday 16th March – 8.00am – Branch Breakfast – Shelley Foreshore

Tuesday 23rd March – 10.00am - Branch Meeting

Tuesday 13th April – 12.00pm – Lunch at Chinese BBQ and Seaford Restaurant –
Canning Vale

Tuesday 27th April – 10.00am – Branch Meeting

Wednesday 12th May – 10.30am - Visit to Police Museum – Lincoln St, Highgate

Tuesday 25th May – 10.00am – Branch Meeting

Tuesday 22nd June – 10.00am – Branch Meeting

Tuesday 27th July – 10.00am – Branch Meeting (AGM)

Tuesday 24th August – 10.00-am - Branch Meeting

Tuesday 28th September – 10.00am – Branch Meeting

Tuesday 26th October – 10.00am – Branch Meeting

Tuesday 23rd November – 10.00am – Branch Meeting