

Newsletter #201

Mostly about us with a sprinkling of NSA news when space permits

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Graeme Piggott: President/Editor 0418 109 656	Joyce Everton: Public Relations Officer 6252 7135
Richard Arnold: V/President 9454 6577	Les Guest: Social Organizer: 9454 7522
Chris Milne: Secretary 9293 2001	Maureen Moffett: Guest Speaker Coordinator 9293 0575
Patricia Skinner: Treasurer 9293 1113	Anne Elsner: Minute Secretary 9291 8221

**NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday 13 August at Kalamunda CoC Centre, 22 Mileti Road Lesmurdie  
**GUEST SPEAKER/S** – Jenny Lewis from Kalamunda Historical Society and Jill from the Esther Foundation on the history of Mount Saint Emilie’s (c 1833); today and yesteryear.

The wonders of modern technology bring world events into our lounge room at the press of a button and if we need more we just ask “*Mister Google*”; that is if you have a computer or smart phone. However, I suggest that our July guest speaker took us on a personal space journey to Saturn, of which many of us (including me) would not have been aware. Matt Wood from the Perth Observatory spoke so knowledgeably about the Cassini Mission to Saturn with facts tumbling from his mouth that left us amazed and probably more than slightly dazed: The Cassini spacecraft was launched in October 1997 and was in space for 20 years; it travelled 7.9 billion km’s; it made 294 orbits of Saturn and 453,048 images were transmitted back to earth. The undertaking was described as a mission of firsts that revolutionized human understanding of the Saturn system. An amazing achievement by a team of incredibly talented scientists, technicians etc. and by the manner in which Matt described it, he may well have been one of the ‘etceteras’ leaning over someone’s shoulder when it was all happening!

<p>As I was getting into bed she said, “You’re drunk.”          I said, “How do you know?”          She said, “You live next door.”</p>	<p><b>Attendance still rising</b> - Not withstanding school holidays, associated grand-parenting duties and chilly weather, we still managed an attendance of 111 members and 4 visitors; the latter being John and Shelagh Cale, Doug Lathwell and Laurel Oconnell. The first half of our meeting is structured to give maximum interest and satisfaction with a few laughs</p>
---	--

along the way, whilst the quality of the second half depends entirely on the performance of the guest speaker. However, such is Maureen Moffett’s ability that her selections have provided us with many interesting and entertaining moments and one of the reasons why visitors keep coming.

**The Chris and Gary show** – It would be true to say that most people would be completely unaware of the stress being experienced by the two guys in control of the sound desk prior to the start of our monthly meeting. Because we share the technological wizardry with multiple users, there’s a good chance that what works one month doesn’t necessarily work the next and thereby lies a challenge. It is therefore vital that Chris and Gary need to be in position well before start time in order to unscramble any mess left by a previous user. For those not familiar, let me best describe the control panel of buttons, sliders and lights as that closely resembling the dashboard of a Qantas Boeing 737 (slight exaggeration!) If they’re lucky, the audio, amplifiers and microphones are all working; additional stuff comes into play if the guest speaker wants to run a powerpoint presentation or video. You may therefore imagine, depending on technological circumstances and the amount of time available, that the level of urgency grows greater and the panic levels rise. However, at the end of the day, if it has all worked, they can rightly congratulate themselves on having contributed to the success of the meeting and for that we should all be very grateful.

**VALE HANNY VERNON**  
Sincere sympathy to Frank and family on the passing of Hanny; a most gracious, gifted and good-hearted lady who endeared herself to so many. We will miss her cheery presence and winning smile.

**Are you ready?** – The AGM is nigh; in fact it will be conducted prior to the August general meeting. All management committee positions have been declared vacant. As I have often said at this time; we need to be in a position to expect the unexpected and offering your services as a back-up team member is a sure way of ensuring continuity of the Branch; you can do that from the floor on the day. I like to think that the Branch has been good for the membership just as the membership has been good for the Branch and it's times like this that members need to step-up to shoulder some of the responsibility of management; albeit as an apprentice!

**South west tour** – There are eight (8) seats left on the coach and the August meeting is the deadline for registering your intent as a starter; as well as paying the required \$100 deposit. Thirty eight (38) have already committed to this three day event leaving *Thai on the Hill* Tuesday 22 October and we're all counting the days! Final payment is due at the September meeting. If you have any queries please ring Clare.



**Christmas in July** – 70 of us got pleasure from an excellent lunch at the Mallard Duck; the last under the ownership of Alain and Judy Gaudet with whom we have formed a great relationship over a seven year period. Jean Holbrook, Leonie Howard, Maureen Moffett and Tony Crowder are seen enjoying one another's company and what a great shot of the back of Bette Garside's head!

**NSA Advocacy – how it works**  
*“Our advocacy activities focus on improving the quality of life for older Australians. We combine grassroots feedback and top-level research to form an evidence based lobbying agenda. We develop advocacy campaigns by reaching out to members and*

*non-members through surveys, focus groups and other means.”* Ian Henschke has certainly earned his stripes since coming on board in 2017 and National Seniors has benefited enormously.

**Plan to be there** - We have two speakers in August taking about local historical matters, as well as some proactive issues which will be of great interest. I look forward to seeing you at this important meeting so keep smiling and keep well. - **GRAEME**

## SOCIAL CORNER

**Event** – Dowerin Field Day  
**Date** – Wednesday 28 August  
**Cost** - \$50 per person.  
**Depart** – Thai on the Hill at **8.00AM**

There's one seat left, so if that's for you then call Sheila Jackson on 9293 2645.

Please remember: Outings must be paid for prior to the event – **WE CANNOT RECEIVE PAYMENT ON THE DAY OF AN EVENT**

**Event** – 10th Light Horse Display  
**Date** – Tuesday 17 September  
**Cost** - \$50 per person  
**Depart** – Thai on the Hill at **9.00AM**

Haven't heard of Neergabby; neither have I but that's where we're going to see the display; lunch at the Gingin Hotel.

**VALE MARIE LATHWELL**  
Sincere sympathy to John and family on the passing of Marie; a foundation member of the Branch, a well respected lady within the Scouting fraternity and also the Wood Turners Assoc.. Her ability to attend Branch meetings was curtailed five years ago due to debilitating health issues.

**CARPE DIEM** 😊