

# National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

KALAMUNDA DISTRICTS BRANCH INC

NEWSLETTER #213 IN THE YEAR 2020

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
• Vice President – position vacant	• Social Organizer – position vacant
Chris Milne: Secretary 9293 2001	• Guest Speaker Coordinator - position vacant
Patricia Skinner: Treasurer 9293 1113	

**NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 8 September, 10 AM** at Kalamunda CoC Centre, 22 Mileti Road Lesmurdie.

**GUEST SPEAKERS – Rhonda Hardy, Kalamunda City CEO and the Mayor Margaret Thomas.**

It was so good to be back together at a branch meeting with 67 members attending on a bleak winters day, all prepared to accept the restrictions imposed by the pandemic; even the fact that morning tea was cancelled due to lack of space. By the look of things, morning tea will continue to be unavailable until the government lifts restrictions on social distancing. I understand that there were many who didn't attend due to concerns about mixing socially and I am fully supportive of

that decision. It's a personal choice which everyone has the right to exercise. However, those who were there on the day enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with friends and hear information from Florence Cawley and Neil Pember about the latest on Aged Care developments within the Kalamunda district. Clare Arnold also provided the latest information regarding the three day South West tour in October which is definite (as it can be) given the uncertain times, to proceed as planned. I know that there are 45 members who are so looking forward to this event, as it will come as a blessed relief to spend some time away as a group of like-minded people in a relaxed environment. Perhaps the guest speaker provided entertainment of a nature that left the audience with mixed reactions; mine were bordering on interesting/not so interesting at some stages of his presentation. However, in his defense, I admired his

### CONGRATULATIONS

Walter Brown celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on the day of our August meeting. He doesn't look a day over 80 and we wish him well for a year full of all the good things that keep him looking good. Well done Walter.

enthusiasm, his self confidence and his ability to keep a rapid fire dialogue in motion throughout his allotted presentation time. As I said in my summing up and thanks to Nigel: *"We've had lots of interesting and entertaining speakers over the past 19 years but you have certainly given us something different!!"*

**Annual General Meeting** – I have been laboring the point for some time now regarding the three (3) committee positions to be filled but I have not had one response. Does that mean that no one's interested, is it that people are worried about commitment, do people feel incapable, or dare I say; is it a case of *"I'm all right jack?"* At the risk of becoming a cracked record I must reinforce the fact that committee members feed off one-another. That means that we're a team; supportive of each other when issues or problems arise. The speaker and outing roles may also be done in tandem by a couple. We are conducting the AGM prior to the normal September meeting and there's still time for you to lodge a nomination form; just contact Chris Milne and he will be delighted to hear from you; as we all will also!

So, what I'm implying is that it's not hard in taking on a committee role, in fact it's really rewarding and we need an active committee to make sure that members are well catered for and comfortable with their membership. We have been successful for 19 years but I doubt how successful we will continue to be if it's only the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer running

the show! We need guest speakers/entertainers at every meeting and we need monthly outings to provide additional interest and social interaction. Surely with a membership approaching 200 we can fill the vacant positions and ensure a smooth transition into 2021 and beyond. Think very hard about what I have said because if you don't, then the future of the branch looks more than a bit shaky! Finally, I appreciate that we have an ageing membership and there are many who can't be expected to take on a committee role but for heaven's sake, there are several who could – your choice.

**VALE BOB NICHOLS**

Our deepest sympathy to Margaret and family of seven children on the sudden passing of Bob, a long time member of our branch.

One would be hard pressed to find a more genuine, gentle and finer person than this family man, dedicated church parishioner and wood turner extraordinaire. His presence will be greatly missed.

**September speakers** – There's no doubt that this tandem act will be excellent value and the expectation is that meeting attendance figures will climb to a pre-pandemic level; or thereabouts. It's another national seniors act for CEO Rhonda but a debut performance for Mayor Margaret and there's no doubt that we will come away well satisfied with the knowledge gained. You can expect to hear details of what some local organizations are doing in terms of catering/offering people various forms of assistance to ease the burden imposed by the Covid-19 virus as well as initiatives in place to utilize our ratable dollars to the best advantage. Don't be put off from attending the meeting by the AGM; this duo will more than compensate your time and your presence on the day.

**Dropping anchor** – I was

interested to read in the current ECHO community newspaper that our branch member Neil Pember has spent most of his 80 odd years living in Kalamunda. I might add that there are others among us who are similarly placed, as well as heaps of people within the community who have called Kalamunda home for all or most of their lives. I guess this is a contributing factor which makes the area such a bastion of community spirit. That and the fact that in much earlier times, Kalamunda was gazetted as a health retreat for the citizens of the Perth metropolitan area, which gave it an "away from the maddening crowd" image, high on the Darling escarpment.

Two engineering students were riding bicycles across a university campus when one said, "Where did you get the great bike?"

The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want."

The first engineer nodded approvingly and said, "Good choice: The clothes probably wouldn't have fitted you anyway."

I then gave thought to my past 80 odd years and came up with a completely different scenario: Born in Bunbury, moved to South Perth, got married and moved to Collie, moved to Perth city, moved to Ardross, moved to Bateman and then moved to Harvey. Moved to High Wycombe where I have proudly lived for the past 50 years.

I would love to hear stories from those who have stayed put in Kalamunda or moved about the country and from those who have emigrated from another country before settling in the West. There will be places strange to most of us and scenarios that many of us will find hard to contemplate. I think the membership per se would find interest in such anecdotes which I would include from time to time in this newsletter, depending on space available.

**Final word** - Just give Chris or myself a call if you have the enthusiasm to be part of the management team; your decision could well be the catalyst for extending the future of the Branch.