

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Graeme Piggott: President/Editor 0418 109 656	Joyce Everton: Public Relations Officer 0409 880 348
• Vice President – position vacant	Glenda Cullenane: Social Organizer
Chris Milne: Secretary 0475 582 118	Maureen Moffett: Guest Speaker Coordinator 0427 084 422
Patricia Skinner: Treasurer 0438 611 835	

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 13 October, 10 AM at Kalamunda CoC Centre, 22 Mileti Road Lesmurdie.

GUEST SPEAKER – Anne Heslop; stories of her father’s time on the Kokoda track in 1942 and her experience walking the same track in 2016 with her two sons.

You will no doubt have already noticed that there’s only one vacancy on the Management Committee and the story behind that is too good not to pass on. You will also no doubt recall, if you were one of the 74 members in attendance at the Annual General Meeting, that there was a total reluctance amongst those present to nominate for any of the positions declared vacant. It therefore seemed likely, that in order for the branch to continue operating in the manner to which we have been accustomed, that Joyce and myself would need to shoulder extra loads. I must admit that I came away from that meeting feeling more than a bit despondent.

Fast forward eight hours and my phone rang. To my utter delight it was Glenda Cullenane telling me that she would like to be part of the committee and that she was willing to take on the role of Social Organizer. Had she been within arm’s reach I would have given her the biggest hug ever but I can assure you that it did happen when next we met!

The very next day Maureen Moffett rang me to say that she was disturbed that no one had volunteered for her recently vacated role and if we would have her back, then she was prepared to continue in her position as Guest Speaker Coordinator - Alleluia 😊 😊 😊 and the same scenario as the previous phone call!

Thank you ladies, your commitment to branch affairs is an act that all members must surely appreciate and without doubt be extremely glad that business will go on, pretty much as usual. I really hope the membership has learned a lesson from this set of circumstances as we came perilously close to blotting our previously perfect copybook.

David the efficiency expert concluded his lecture with a note of caution. "You don't want to try these techniques at home." "Why not?" asked somebody from the audience.

"I watched my wife's routine at breakfast for years," the expert explained. "She made lots of trips between the refrigerator, stove and table, often carrying a single item at a time. One day I told her, 'Hon, why don't you try carrying several things at once?'"

"Did it save time?" the guy in the audience asked.

"Actually, yes," replied David "It used to take her 20 minutes to make breakfast. Now I do it in seven!"

Changing direction – Heard of *Club 55?*; it's a locally owned and operated business based in Perth Western Australia. The business has an extensive range of over 100 day tours that have been specifically designed to cater for (amongst other things) seniors groups such as ours. Their brochure contains details of outings similar to what we have previously been doing at similar prices; an example of which is as follows: **Historic Fremantle Prison, Ship Wrecks Museum and Art Gallery.** *This morning we will make our way along the Swan River and pause for our morning tea at Point Walter. Continuing now onto Fremantle where we will visit the Fremantle Prison for a short tour of this very historic building. After our tour we make our way to Fisherman's Harbour for some fish and chips at the iconic Cicerellos. After lunch you may wish to visit the Ship Wrecks museum for a gold coin donation or simply enjoy the surrounds of Fisherman's Harbour. Back onboard we now*

make our way to the Fremantle Art Gallery; housed in a magnificent building that was once the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum. After our visit here we will slowly make our way home. Cost \$65 per person.

Because Club 55 is so popular, we are required to book at least 3 months ahead in order to secure the date we want and to make sure the venue is available at that time. This means that the selection process will need to be made in the short term in order to facilitate outings in the New Year. Taking advantage of Club 55 will also take the pressure off Glenda in having to search out suitable venues for our monthly outings. It certainly constitutes a change of direction for the branch which should continue to keep us happy, comfortable and well satisfied.

Things we need to know – The city mayor Margaret Thomas together with Nadine Popelier, *Coordinator Community Services*, provided us much interest at the last meeting. The former had the audience captivated with information regarding the City’s intent to fund an extensive range of community facility upgrades together with new projects soon to take shape. The associated costs were quite mind-blowing but then what’s a few million dollars here and there; it seems that the coffers are more than adequate to fund these ventures! Nadine was more down to making sure that we were aware of the range of services on offer and provided heaps of glossy literature which complemented and underpinned her presentation. I wasn’t too sure about the two guys who accompanied them as they certainly weren’t mentioned when Maureen issued the invitation for guest speakers. It turned out that Adam Nankin and Andrew Kikeros were there to talk about the Wayfarer Project being sponsored by the City in order to promote volunteering. The former told us an interesting story about his grandmother being coerced into a retirement village and then, after much cajoling, becoming a prominent figure on the Bowling Green. The latter had us laughing all the way through his take on life as an unpaid volunteer as opposed to a paid worker.

Random lady at store:
“You’re supposed to be wearing a mask.”

Me: “I’m supposed to be wearing underwear too, yet here we are!” 😊

Thirsty work in the audience – we understand why morning tea is not an option under the current social distancing law and that’s why your Management Committee will trial a new initiative at the October meeting. There will be bottles of water on hand for your consumption (no cost); which will at least keep your voice well lubricated - maybe that’s the reason why no one could speak up about nominating for a committee role at the AGM!

NSA news – a press release has been issued by the alliance of six (6) consumer and carer groups, including National Seniors Australia, which outlines 10 shared principles that should form part of the future shaping of Aged Care in Australia. They include: (1) A better Aged Care Act. (2) A simple system where care is guaranteed within 30 days. (3) Full transparency indicators. (4) A trained, registered and qualified workforce (5) Proper support for unpaid family/friend carers. (6) Easy to understand information and local solutions. (7) A strongly resourced regulator. (8) Services that are inclusive, culturally safe and sensitive. (9) A funding model that ensures sufficient taxpayer flexible funding. (10) Better integration of other health and well-being services.

Final word – We move forward confidently with only one Management Committee role unfilled and just maybe, someone will call me with an offer to take on the Vice President’s position. There’s no doubt that things have changed in the way we operate and the “new-normal” is something that we will all learn to live with, both at home and at the meeting place. Please don’t hesitate to call me if you have a concern about what we do or a request which may make things better; in your eyes. Communication is a great tool in any organization so let’s make it work for us in the best positive way. I am very happy to include anecdotes and stories that you may wish to share and it’s nice to publish dates of major birthdays and wedding anniversaries of members within our midst – you need to tell me.

CARPE DIEM

GRAEME 😊

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