

### 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 GATHERING:** Christmas Lunch, Tuesday 8 December at the Hartfield Golf Club, 90 Hartfield Road, Forrestfield.

There's no doubt that the Corona Pandemic impacted considerably on our Branch with most 2020 meetings having to be cancelled and many members choosing to remain within the safety of their own homes throughout the year. However, despite all that's gone before us in a year that's caused so much trauma and anxiety, 82 members have booked their seat for the Christmas lunch; determined to see the year out on a positive note and I'm sure that they won't be disappointed. The menu looks good, the price is right (thanks to a Branch subsidy) and everyone will depart with a Christmas present, compliments of the Branch. **Note:** Venue staff are busy setting up tables with decorations etc., right up to entry time and that's at 12 noon; so please don't come at 11.30 expecting to be seated. On that note, I appreciate that sitting with friends is important for some people but that's not always possible in a large gathering. Conversing with people that you don't know so well often leads to the forming of new friendships (as proven on the recent 3 day "Down Under" adventure) and I see that as a real bonus! Oh and two other things; **please wear your name badge** (it stops people from having to guess) and **you need to come through the front door to have your name ticked off the register.**

**Something we willingly do** –We have long been supporting people in need within the City of Kalamunda at this time of the year and it's called "Sharing a Hills Christmas." **We do this by bringing donations of non-perishable food for Food Hampers to the Christmas lunch and**

**placing them in boxes provided for the occasion.** This incredibly generous and compassionate event is organized by the combined Churches and supported by schools and businesses in the City of Kalamunda. Enquiries regarding packing and provision of gifts may be directed to 9454 5776 or 0448 812 534.

**Sensitive Aussie Blokes...** Three Aussie blokes working on an outback mobile phone tower: Mongrel, Coot and Bluey. As they start their descent, Coot slips, falls off the tower and is killed instantly..As the ambulance takes the body away, Bluey says, "Well, bugger me, someone's gotta go and tell Coot's wife." Mongrel says, "OK, I'm pretty good at that sensitive stuff, I'll do it." Two hours later, he comes back carrying a carton of beer. Bluey says, "Where'd you get the grog, Mongrel?" "Coot's wife gave it to me," Mongrel replies. "That's unbelievable, you told the Missus her husband was dead and she gave you a carton of beer?" "Well, not exactly", Mongrel says. "When she answered the door, I said, "you must be Coot's widow. " ""You must be mistaken she said. I'm not a widow." Then I said, "I'll betcha a carton of beer you are."

**Another visitor to end the year** – Niel Mitchell from Lesmurdie paid us a visit in November and I do believe we may see him again in February 2021. Some people just come to hear the guest speaker (as in the case of Sabrina Hahn back in February when our attendance peaked at 154) but there are those visitors with a genuine interest in NSA (of which Niel is a

member) who like what we do and keep coming back.

## **Budget 2020 a Missed Opportunity (News item from NSA Brisbane Office)**

*An extra 23,000 home care packages; cash payments totalling \$500 for pensioners and financial initiatives for aged care. These are some of the main 2020 budget announcements that will affect older Australians.*

*National Seniors Australia described the budget as a missed opportunity to address the waiting time for home care. "The waiting list has been described by our very own CEO, Professor John McCallum, as a running sore and this announcement is a band-aid which barely covers the wound, said chief advocate Ian Henschke.*

*The National Seniors campaign to have the Pension Loan Scheme interest rate of 4.5% lowered had also been ignored, he said. This is a missed opportunity to help older Australians access their home equity to help them have a better life, stimulate the economy and assist in paying for their own care. Older people would be disappointed that there is still no commitment and plan to get home care waiting times down to 30 days or less." National Seniors Australia will continue to advocate for changes and improvements in policies involving older Australians.*

**Morning tea at the Dome** – Thirty two of us gathered at the Kalamunda Dome Café for morning tea on Tuesday 17 November. Thanks mainly to Clare Arnold's incredible management skills and the desire of some members to congregate in lieu of no morning tea at our branch meetings due to current restrictions. It's a great initiative, as the closer we become the more we get to know about one another. For instance, Joyce and I sat with Isobel Simpson, a lady whom we had previously known by face but not by name. During our time together we learnt so much about one another's lives and the time passed in a flash. Next time we meet our greeting to one another will be much warmer – just like old friends!

**And there's more of a similar nature** – On Tuesday 12 January 2021 you are invited to gather in Stirk Park near the Chess Board at 5 o'clock for a post Christmas Branch picnic. It is of course a BYO everything including chairs. It's another great opportunity to mingle and share Christmas related stories or whatever else you may want to talk about.

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| **Donald Trump goes on a fact-finding mission to Israel. While in**  
| **Jerusalem, he has a heart attack and dies. The undertaker tells his aides**  
| **who are with him: "We can ship him home for \$50,000, or bury him**  
| **here, in the Holy Land for \$100."** The aides go into a huddle, then come  
| **back and say they want him shipped home. The undertaker is puzzled.**  
| **"Why spend \$50,000 to ship him home when it would be wonderful to**  
| **have him buried here, on sacred ground, for \$100?"** One of the aides  
| **replies: "Long ago, a man died here, was buried here, and three days**  
**later he rose from the dead. We just can't take the risk."..**

| **Final Word** – Despite the dreadful Corona Pandemic and the resulting impact on our Branch activities and personal lives, we have survived 2020 without one person falling ill to the virus. Perhaps there's an element of

good luck to us but more importantly good management skills by the current State Premier and his government; I think that we would all agree with that. All the very best wishes to all our members for Christmas and the New Year from Joyce and myself.

GRAEME 😊

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**And so ends another month without me becoming unexpectantly wealthy!**

# **CARPE DIEM**

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